

# A SIGHTING FROM NEWLANDS CORNER

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Our contributor is Chairman of the NE Surrey Group "Contact" (UFO Investigation), a post which he accepted after making the sighting described in this article. The incident is one of those included, in condensed form, in Dan Lloyd's compilation in our November/December WORLD ROUND-UP column.

LET me say at the outset that before this experience neither my wife nor I had anything to do whatsoever with UFO Associations, we knew nothing about their work, and the last thing we expected to experience was this unusual phenomenon of an unidentified flying object. It was only because similar sightings had been observed in this area about the same time that we contacted the local UFO organisations, and became subsequently involved.

About 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 1967, a fine, sunny day with no clouds, my wife and I were walking from Newlands Corner due westwards along the top of the Downs south of the fringe of trees, towards One Tree Hill Road where we had left our car. Looking across the countryside towards Albury Church we observed a white, elongated object, about three times the size of a horse, which appeared to be travelling fairly rapidly up and down (North and South) in a straight line on the ground well to the West of a large L-shaped field lying to the South-West of Albury Church, and about a quarter of a mile from the church. This field is situated about 1½ miles from the position from which we looked across the valley which borders the Wonersh-Albury main road.

We observed this movement for about ten minutes (how long it had already been doing this we do not know). The object then hesitated when it reached the hedge at the top of the field, which sloped at this point, then appeared to become quite circular like a silvery white disc or balloon, and then proceeded quite slowly to go Eastward close to the hedge. It continued on its way along the ground (incidentally going through a barbed-wire fence which at that time we could not see) until it came to an open part of the field: it there seemed to pause for a few seconds, then proceeded across the open field towards a number of cows which were grazing just below it. The object passed within ten to fifteen yards of the cows who appeared to pay no attention to it, or even to see it.

On reaching a large avenue of trees which border and overhang Birmingham Lane, the object paused some

yards from the trees (the branches overhang considerably here) and to our astonishment slowly rose in the air and appeared literally to walk along the tops of the trees quite slowly, and then to descend into the next field in which Birmingham farm is situated. It continued on its course, proceeding Eastwards, passing not more than twenty yards or so from the farm (which we subsequently investigated). We last saw it still proceeding slowly across this field along the ground, again through another solid fence without appearing to rise over it, towards the next belt of trees in the direction of Albury Park. It was now after 1.30 p.m. and my wife wanted her lunch, satisfied that she had seen what we subsequently knew was a UFO or "Flying Saucer".

## Follow-up

Having contacted the Secretary of the NE Surrey Branch UFO Investigation Group some days later, the Secretary (Jimmy Goddard) and his father, my wife and I visited the sighting position the following Tuesday (July 4). We then proceeded to the field after obtaining the permission of Mr. Blake of Weston Farm, Albury, who owned the field of 68 acres.

On arriving at the position in the field where we first saw the object moving rapidly from North to South and South to North, we found a wide track (about twenty yards across) of numerous pieces of sandstone of various sizes, on a number of which appeared markings of triangles and/or crosses.

The largest of these had a perfect triangle (possibly sandblasted) cut on it, the apex had a small line cut and pointing due magnetic North and exactly towards the spot on the other side of the valley where we first observed this object. No other part of this very large field appeared to have any pieces of sandstone. We found this piece in the centre of the track of the UFO. It was about 18 in. × 12 in. in size and could just be lifted by two persons.

We then followed the track of the UFO, and just before the open space that it traversed we found a barbed-wire fence and two large beams of wood between two posts by the hedge

dividing the field at this part. This fence can be seen from the sighting position with good field-glasses—which we did not have at the time of the sighting. The UFO *did not pause or rise* at this position as it proceeded on its course.

We followed its course across the open field where it appeared to have passed a few yards from the last post which supported an electrified cable which went from this post down the field to the bottom. The UFO passed just beside it and quite close to the cows.

We then reached the avenue of very tall trees whose top branches overhang quite considerably. I mention this because if this object had proceeded right up to the hedge against the trees it could not have risen above them without retreating quite a few yards backwards. Otherwise it would have got caught underneath the overhanging branches.

Mr. C. H. Sharp, the farmer who owns Birmingham Farm, had no reports of anything similar being observed by anyone at this time, and no one in the vicinity of Albury Village appears to have seen this object, which must have been quite conspicuous (if visible to anyone within close proximity to it). Mr. Blake also states nothing observed, and as far as he knows nobody has been over that field recently for any purpose whatsoever. It is somewhat inaccessible, and in a remote part of the countryside, being seen better from the other side of the valley (sighting position) than Albury itself.

Mr. Ransome, of the Drummond Arms Hotel, Albury, has heard no reports either.

## Observations

The weather was perfect, visibility 100%. Sun overhead, no shadows. Wind very slight southerly, which could have had no effect upon the object as at the southern side of the field, and alongside the hedge, there is an extensive wood which completely shelters the field from any southerly breeze. In any case the object first progressed North to South and South to North, then turned due East. The



Arrowed; the L-shaped field

point at which it changed direction to East appeared to be marked by a circular depression about 4 to 5 ft. in diameter and about 6 to 8 in. deep, entirely of sand, with no grass at all.

The object looked at first like an

elongated white balloon, but when it changed direction it became perfectly circular like a spinning disc or a balloon. It looked very white and shining. It appeared to move Eastward quite slowly and deliberately, as though it were probing or measuring,

and its movements were certainly not haphazard; it appeared to be motivated by some deliberate force.

When it paused before ascending to the treetops, a very slight pulsating appeared on the top left-hand side, like inflation and deflation, but it was difficult to be quite sure of this owing to the distance away from us.

The site on the Ordnance Map is marked as "Birget Hill", which is situated at the top (southerly) side of the field against the hedge by the wood along which the object passed.

As it progressed along the tops of the trees it appeared just to touch them very lightly before gently descending into the next field.

The fences through which it passed appeared to offer no problem, and we saw no sign of pausing or rising at these obstacles. It progressed definitely along the surface of the ground without stopping at all. It obviously took care not to touch the electrified cable which ran at right angles to it, it kept clear of the last post which connected this cable by quite a few yards. Parallel to its course on the other side was a line of newly-sown earth, which it kept some yards to its right (South). It had to change its course very slightly to the left to avoid these obstacles as it crossed the open part of the field.

## TWENTY YEARS BACK-4

### by Briusley Le Poer Trench

**D**URING the last year many UFO reports have come from police officers stationed in various parts of England. However, sightings by police officers are nothing new, certainly not to the police force of Portland, Oregon, in the U.S.A.

More than twenty years ago, on July 4, 1947, the citizens and police of Portland were participants in a real-life drama staged in their city which went on all through the day.

The curtain went up for the first scene at 11 a.m., when the first report came into police headquarters from the occupants of a car near Redmond who spotted four discs speeding past Mount Jefferson.

Then the police got in on the act. At 1.05 p.m. a policeman was in the car park at the rear of the Portland City Police Headquarters. He first noticed something unusual when some pigeons started to behave in an odd manner, fluttering around as if scared. He looked up and spotted two large discs travelling south and three more going east. The objects were oscillating as they flew. This seems to be a common feature of many saucer sightings. The ones that Arnold saw on June 24, earlier that year, moved in a strange fashion, too. A few minutes later, two more police

officers (both ex-pilots) reported three UFOs flying in a line.

The scene now changed again. This time it was the turn of the Harbour Patrol to take the stage. They contacted headquarters with a report from four patrolmen who had seen several discs travelling at high speed and these also oscillated as they flew.

Then the citizens of Portland came on again. Ruppelt reported in his excellent book that a man saw one disc going east and two going north. At 4.30 p.m. a woman contacted police headquarters to report that she had seen one.

Our story is not entirely devoted to Portland. Other places do have part in this amazing day. In Vancouver, Washington, *between twenty and thirty* discs were seen by sheriff's deputies.

The last act of this fantastic day was a report from the pilot of a United Airlines plane flying near Emmett, Idaho. The crew saw five objects shortly after the plane took off from Boise at 8.04 p.m. The pilot said afterwards that they were not aircraft, clouds or smoke. The plane followed the UFOs for about 45 miles before they finally disappeared.

And so the curtain came down on one of the most eventful and dramatic days in the flying saucer story.

#### Reference

*The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* by Edward J. Ruppelt. Former Head of the United States Project Blue Book investigating flying saucers. Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1956.