

# The Winged Lady in Black

A very weird episode alleged to have happened in Vietnam

*Don Worley*

THE account I am recording here must certainly seem a wild one. However, I have the good fortune to have known the witness, Pfc. Earl Morrison, all his life; he is in fact my step-nephew. Aged 21 at the time of the incident, he was Truck Driver, 11th Motors, Alfa Co., 1st Division Marine Corps. He has no interest in the unusual, no knowledge of the paranormal, and he had never before in his life heard of anything such as he experienced. He is a reliable observer, and he swears that this event is well beyond the capacity of his imagination.

I have transcribed his narrative from tape, and I think you will find Earl Morrison's own words more convincing, particularly in a weird tale like this. But first, let me describe the scene of the incident as told me by the witness.

The event occurred one night in either July or August 1969, before the monsoons. The location was a defensive perimeter near Da Nang, Vietnam. The time was approximately 1.00 or 1.30 a.m. There was no wind, or at most a very slight breeze. The temperature was guessed to have been in the upper 70s and the humidity was high. There were no limiting factors to visibility except darkness, but the witness recollects there was a half moon high in the sky. He remembers these details about the time and the weather that night because it was the only time he was on guard duty in 11th Motors, and also in view of what happened that night he is not likely to forget the details.

There was one outpost and a line of defence consisting of bunkers and "concertina", i.e. barbed wire coiled in big circles and loops. The witness and two other men on guard duty were sitting on top of a bunker watching a certain sector outside the perimeter. The bunker was raised about 6ft. from the terrain for good viewing of the area around, which consisted of swamps with low grass and no trees. The men were talking among themselves, looking out every once in a while in a westerly direction in case they should see anything moving out there. They had lights, but they shone only on the ground, giving a visibility of about 20ft. from the bunker; the lights were to detect anyone trying to cut the barbed wire to crawl under it.

Before recording the witness's story, I impressed upon him to tell me nothing more and nothing less about the incident than he had seen. I asked him to think carefully and be accurate, and to tell me only what he was certain of and not to make guesses. If he was not sure, I asked him to say so. He swore on his honour to do this. The following transcript from the tape is edited where it is necessary to delete unnecessary repetition.

**Earl Morrison:** "So we just talked and looked out there every once in a while. All of a sudden—I don't

know why—we all three looked out there in the sky and we saw this figure coming towards us. It had a kind of glow and we couldn't make out what it was at first. It started coming towards us, real slowly. All of a sudden we saw what looked like wings, like a bat's, only it was gigantic compared to what a regular bat would be. After it got close enough so we could see what it was, it looked like a woman. A naked woman. She was black. Her skin was black, her body was black, the wings were black, everything was black. But it glowed. It glowed in the night—kind of a greenish cast to it."

**Don Worley:** "You mean she glowed, or there was a glow around her?"

**E.M.:** "There was a glow on her and around her. Everything glowed. Looked like she glowed and threw off a radiance. We saw her arms towards the wings and they looked like regular moulded arms, each with a hand and fingers and everything, but they had skin from the wings going over them. And when she flapped her wings, there was no noise at first. It looked like her arms didn't have any bones in them, because they were limber just like a bat.

"She started going over us, and we still didn't hear anything. She was right above us, and when she got over the top of our heads she was maybe 6 or 7 feet up."

**D.W.:** "What did you guys do, just stand there?"

**E.M.:** "We couldn't do anything. We didn't know what to do. We just froze. We just watched what was going over because we couldn't believe our eyes."

**D.W.:** "Nobody went into a panic, dived for the bunker? Nobody fired at her?"

**E.M.:** "No. It's amazing what you would do under certain circumstances. And we just looked at it. We couldn't believe it because we had never seen anything like this before in our lives. So we watched her go straight over the top of us, and still she didn't make any noise flapping her wings. She blotted out the moon once—that's how close she was to us. And dark—looked like pitch black then, but we could still define her because she just glowed. Real bright like. And she started going past us straight towards our encampment. As we watched her—she had got about 10 feet or so away from us—we started hearing her wings flap. And it sounded, you know, like regular wings flapping. And she just started flying off and we watched her for quite a while. The total time when we first saw her and could almost define her until we lost sight of her and were unable to define her was between 3 or 4 minutes."

**D.W.:** "How fast was she going when she came over you?"

**E.M.:** "She was real slow. She blotted out the moon for maybe 10 seconds."

**D.W.:** "How would you compare her speed with a

walking man, a running man, or what?"

E.M.: "It would have to be a walking man, because she was almost floating over the top of us."

D.W.: "How did she move her wings? Like an ordinary bird, or what?"

E.M.: "No, they rippled. That's why I didn't think she had any bones in her arms."

D.W.: "Let's see if I can understand her arms. She had them outstretched like this and they were like rubber?"

E.M.: "Right."

D.W.: "Well, where did the wings come to?"

E.M.: "They came to her shoulders."

D.W.: "Well yes, but you got an arm there. Where was the rest of the wing?"

E.M.: "Well, it was fastened down here by her thigh or mid-thigh, or a little closer to her knee. Then they came up to her arm and straight over to her shoulder. She had them straight out like this with the bottom part hanging down and she was just flapping them like that."

D.W.: "Well, what makes you think this was a woman?"

E.M.: "Well, it looked like a woman. You could see her—she was naked."

D.W.: "What parts did you see of her?"

E.M.: "Her whole—well, if you were standing towards a person it would be the same thing as looking at the front of her."

D.W.: "Well, which position was she flying in?"

E.M.: "She was flying just like she was supposed to fly—the bottom part down, which meant that we saw her face, her chest and her legs."

D.W.: "You mean you saw things here?" [presumably with a gesture towards the bust—EDITOR].

E.M.: "Right! She was a very well developed woman . . . but she had wings. She glowed. She had down all over her body."

D.W.: "Down?"

E.M.: "Yes, just like fur. Or whatever it was. I guess it had to be fur because it didn't look like feathers."

D.W.: "But then still she looked dark?"

E.M.: "Right. Looked like she was negroid, because her skin tone was black."

D.W.: "Did you tell this to anyone the next day?"

E.M.: "Everybody. Nobody would believe us."

D.W.: "Did you report this officially to any officers?"

E.M.: "Of course we did, to our lieutenant and junior executives, and they kind of just looked at us and then walked off. Like we had been on dope or something. That night after it had happened we called the next post down the perimeter and asked them if they had seen anything in the sky. They said: 'No, what are you guys talking about?' So we shut up and didn't say any more."

D.W.: "Did you feel any effect to your person when she went over?"

E.M.: "No, I don't remember anything happening like that."

D.W.: "Why did you all three look at once? Didn't one of you say, look there?"

E.M.: "No, all of a sudden we all three looked at the same time. Wasn't any noise or anything. I don't know, it was just a feeling everybody had I suppose."

D.W.: "Did she have any hair on her head? What colour was it?"

E.M.: "It was black, but it was straight, like the Caucasian race and not kinky."

D.W.: "Did she especially seem to want to come to you guys?"

E.M.: "No, she was looking down at us when she was flying over, but then she put her head back like she was looking to where she was going, like she had some place she was going."

D.W.: "She looked down at you as she went over?"

E.M.: "Right. She didn't veer her course at all. She came straight over the top of us. She didn't look like somebody was flying a kite over us or anything. She looked like a person with wings."

D.W.: "Did she move her feet?"

E.M.: "No, everything was still except her head, and, of course, her arms. The skin of her wings looked like it was moulded on to her hands. Looked like the way she was born or something I guess."

D.W.: "I don't think she was ever born."

E.M.: "I don't believe she was either—maybe created or something, I don't know what."

D.W.: "What did the other two men with you say about this?"

E.M.: "They saw the same thing. Maybe one had seen some detail the other had not. But we were nearly in agreement. We more or less saw exactly the same thing."

D.W.: "Was she solid, transparent, vaporous, or what?"

E.M.: "She was solid!"

D.W.: "Was the edge of her self-luminous, reflecting, or a dull finish?"

E.M.: "It was just bright. Looked like it came from her body."

D.W.: "Was the edge of her fuzzy, blurred, ragged, or sharply outlined?"

E.M.: "It was sharply outlined."

D.W.: "How could it be if you got this fur or fuzz on her?"

E.M.: "Well, like I said, from the illumination—you could see everything and it was sharply clear. Her edges were smooth."

D.W.: "Did you smell anything?"

E.M.: "No, nothing."

D.W.: "Why didn't you hear her when she was right overhead?"

E.M.: "I don't know. She wasn't flying fast enough to go past her own noise."

D.W.: "Was she a skinny, fat, big or little woman?"

E.M.: "She looked medium-sized to me. If she'd been standing up I believe she's have been about 5 foot something. Maybe she seemed a little tall for a woman."

D.W.: "Did you see her eyes?"

E.M.: "I don't remember. I saw a regular face, but don't remember anything about the eyes."

D.W.: "Did you have anything strange happen before or afterwards?"

E.M.: "No, not that I can remember."

D.W.: "What were the names of these other two fellows who were there with you on guard duty that night?"

E.M.: "Oh, I can't remember, I have met so many people. They were just assigned with me that night. They were not special friends or anything like that, and now I don't have any idea what their names were."

D.W.: "Earl, what was the distance to the next bunker on the perimeter?"

E.M.: "150 metres."

D.W.: "Had you or either of the other two men, while in Vietnam, ever done anything mean or wrong to any of the natives there?"

E.M.: "Not that I know of. Of course, I don't know what the other two guys have done, but they didn't say anything about anything that night."

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One other fact might be mentioned here which may or may not be relevant. In September 1970, Earl Morrison became sick and was put into hospital in Japan. He suffered with swollen lymph glands in the armpits and groins which were operated upon. He still has some of these swellings. Swelling of the lymph glands is not an unknown disease, and it may have no bearing on this case, but it is a pity we have no way of getting any information on the state of the glands of the other two witnesses.

## Readers' Reports

### Low-level UFO at Halesowen

Dear Sirs,—I must bring to your attention a report of a UFO sighting over Halesowen which, to the minds of myself and my friends, may be of great note.

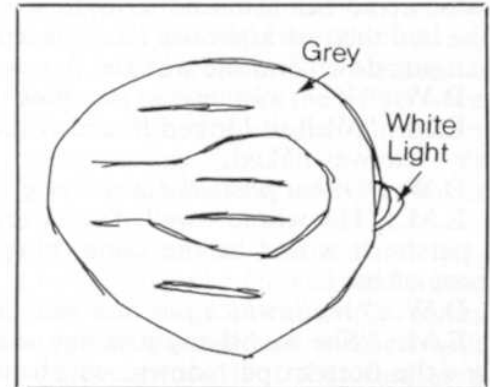
The sighting (one of many in our area at present!) was clearly and concisely reported. The individuals who saw the UFO are two 13-year-old boys, and one of 12 years. I consider them to be sound and reasonable, and, as I know them personally, can vouch that they have good backgrounds.

On January 20, 1972, the three boys were supposed to go swimming with

my father, who is Captain of the local Boys' Brigade, to which all three belong. They decided to walk around for a time as the night was clear and fresh.

At 9.05 p.m. approximately, they sighted the object. It remained clearly in view for some 10 minutes.

The object, like two saucers lip to lip, appeared to spin about its axis, and wobbled while remaining over a three-storey block of flats a few hundred yards from my home. The object had red lights around the rim, and one green light on top. At one point it also had a white light (as shown in the sketches). The object also had markings



The underside of the object as drawn by Gary Whyley, aged 13 years.

underneath, and one of the boys drew them for me.

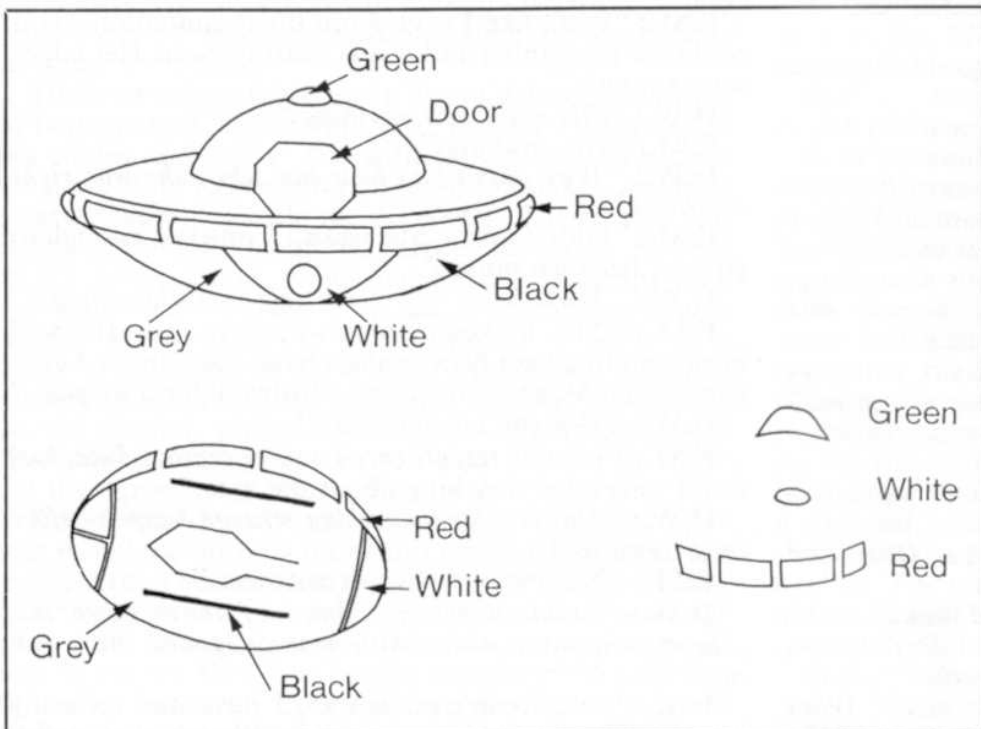
After a few minutes of watching the boys became frightened, and ran for my house hoping I would be at home. Unfortunately I was out, but my mother conveyed their message to me. The following evening I interviewed the boys with the aid of a friend. We consider their stories to be true, as we interviewed them separately and found little or nothing by way of discrepancies in their accounts. The only differences were in the way they sketched the object.

Dorian Panero, 12, of Howley Grange, has read books on the subject of UFOs. Nevertheless he was physically distressed by the incident.

Gary Whyley, 13, also of Howley Grange, was less shaken, but became very annoyed when we insisted that he must have seen an aeroplane or helicopter. He said he knew exactly what planes and helicopters look like, and this was neither.

Carl Fogarty, 13, of Blackheath, was shaken by his experience, and he also became annoyed when my colleague tried to laugh their story off.

The boys heard no sound, felt no peculiar sensations and smelt nothing unusual. They said that when they fled from the scene, the object appeared to



Illustrations of the object, based on sketches received from Gary Whyley