

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Official lips sealed at Bampton

From the *Western Morning News* of December 22:

"People at Bampton are wondering why there has been such a fuss over a kite-like object which landed by parachute at night in an orchard.

"It was recovered by 16-year-old Paul Munn, the son of a butcher. For three days he and his friends played with it in his father's back yard in Newton Square.

"Last Tuesday members of the Royal Observer Corps held a dinner in the town. A senior officer heard about Paul's find, had a look at it, and took it away with him.

"Paul's father, Mr. L. R. Munn, said: 'The officer started to get in a bit of a flap about it.'

"A Corps member, Mr. Bill King, of Meadow View, refused to say anything on the matter. Observer Officer Malcolm Tett, of Bradninch, who took the object away, was also secretive. 'I am under the Official Secrets Act, and I am sorry I cannot discuss it,' he said. 'I appreciate your interest, but my lips are sealed,' he told a reporter.

"Mr. Tett said that if any member of the Corps said anything they were liable to imprisonment because of a security risk. 'You can do me a favour by not asking them,' he said, advising that all inquiries should be made at the Corps' headquarters at Exeter.

"There a spokesman was no more helpful in solving the mystery. He had seen the object, but did not know what it was. 'Try R.A.F. Chivenor,' was his advice.

"At the Barnstaple base an officer said: 'We have not received anything here, and I haven't a clue what it might be.'"

(Credit to Mr. D. J. Ward of Dowsland, Yelverton, Devon.)

Large lemon coloured object

The following report from Mr. C. M. Needham of Milford House, Heybridge Lane, Prestbury, arrived during January:

"With reference to 'Star like Objects'. During early November 1964, my wife and I, while motoring home near Prestbury, Cheshire, at about 8 p.m. saw a bright lemon coloured object rapidly pass over the sky in front of the stars, and dip into the horizon.

"It was much brighter and larger than a Sputnik and travelling steady but fast. I would estimate the total time it was visible would be about 25 second over the whole of the arc. I presumed at the time this could be a Telstar or similar Satellite, and unfortunately did not log exact time, etc.

"However, to get the sun's rays it must have been very high, perhaps 50 miles, but why was it so very large?"

Mystery Animals

A puma, not necessarily the animal featured in the November/December issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, has been reported in Buckinghamshire. The *Slough Observer* of November 20 carried a substantial feature, and was inclined to treat the subject in a somewhat frivolous manner.

After detailing the early morning encounter between two policemen and a "puma" near the Thomas Grey memorial at Stoke Poges, and the surprise face-to-face meeting between a reporter and the mystery creature on Littleworth Common, the newspaper launched itself into its own piece of fantasy—the *Slough Observer* Puma Expedition, complete with "white hunters" and pith helmets.

We shelved the report, and waited for the mystery animal to show up elsewhere. It did—and it seems that the *London Evening News & Star* was

unaware of the November report from Slough when it carried this item on January 27:

"The hunt for a puma reported seen in Surrey for some months has been switched to Bucks following the discovery of prints in the snow. The prints have been photographed by the police and sent to London Zoo for identification.

"The prints were discovered in deep snow in the garden of a policeman's house in Princes Risborough.

"R.S.P.C.A. inspector Mr. Peter Halliday said today: 'I did not see the prints but from their description I would say there is a strong possibility they belong to a puma. If the Zoo confirms this a full-scale search will be launched.'"

Then on February 3, again the *Evening News & Star*:

"Children who ride ponies in the 4,000-acre Hurtwood Common area near Guildford, Surrey, are warned today to watch out for the puma reported roaming in Surrey in the past year.

"The common's ranger, Mr. Ron Ware, said he believed the puma was wintering on the common. 'A pony could easily rear in fright at seeing this animal and a child could be thrown,' he said."

And just before going to press, we found this item in the *London Evening Standard* on February 4:

"Police today warned day trippers to be on the look out for a 'leopard-like' animal which is on the loose in the New Forest. They believe that it could be the prowling Puma, which has been hunted by police in four different counties for nearly a year.

"The scare started when a huge animal sprang out of some bushes in front of 17-year-old Felicity White-way, as she was cycling home near Alpine Road, Ashurst, last night. 'At first I thought it was a horse,' said Felicity, of Hazel Grove, Ashurst. 'But when I got over the initial shock, I took a closer look at it. It was stand-

ing about 15 yards away. It was huge and had enormous ferocious looking eyes. It looked just like a leopard. It ran away into the forest when a car passed by.'

"Police and local residents combed the area at the edge of the forest. Said a spokesman: 'From the description given to us by the girl, it is quite possible that this animal is the puma that has been roaming the countryside killing livestock for many months. We are searching for any sign of dead animals in the forest. That might give us a lead as to where the animal is.'"

One mystery animal, or several? As a friend remarked, if all these reports refer to only one "puma", then it must have a motor-bike.—EDITOR.

Cheltenham sighting

The following account appeared in the *Gloucester Echo* of November 24:

"A young Cheltenham couple were puzzling today over the identity of a strange object that they saw in the night sky near their home.

"Mr. Brian Peart, a local government officer, and his wife Margaret, of 66 Cleevemount Road, were returning home from a walk at about 10 p.m. last night when they saw a light moving above them—and took it to be an aircraft. But after a few moments it became clear that the 'thing' was not moving in any particular direction.

"Mrs. Margaret Peart (21), described it as like an oblong window, with lights on each side of a dark line down the centre; when it appeared to come closer they could see a silver-grey 'halo' right round it.

"In the 20 minutes that Mr. and Mrs. Peart watched the object it covered a large area of sky, travelling up and down, fast and slow, with its lights dimming and becoming brighter. Eventually it got smaller and disappeared.

"'We wanted to believe it was a 'plane,' said Mrs. Peart. 'We didn't believe in flying saucers. But now . . .'"

(Credit to Miss Wodehouse of Stroud)

Strange Lights and Two-stroke noise

From the *Nuneaton Evening Tribune* of January 6:—

"Mrs. Burden of 43 Spon Lane, Grendon, claims she saw the mysterious lights seen by Nuneaton postman Donald Blount on Monday night. Housewife Mrs. Burden said today: 'I first saw the lights at 4.30 p.m. They were coming from Tamworth and passed over Grendon. The lights were like two car headlamps and the object was moving very slowly. I thought it was a new kind of aircraft. But later when I went outside again the object hovered above our house. The lights were very bright and the craft was V-shaped. I could only just see it but it looked like a delta plane.'

"'I heard a noise like a two-stroke engine. For a moment I was petrified. I last saw it at 7 p.m. travelling towards Atherstone.'

"Her family laughed when she told them about it, but her neighbours also heard a sound like a motor cycle.

"Four men in a car travelling from Coventry also saw the lights. The driver, Mr. R. A. Field of 32 Edward Street, Nuneaton, said today: 'We spotted the two lights as we went into Corley. It attracted our attention because it appeared to be stationary for long periods. It was travelling towards Coventry and we lost sight of it in Wood End Lane. It was exactly as Mr. Blount described it. My three passengers talked about it all the way home.'

"His passengers were Mr. Thompson of Clevely Drive, Nuneaton, Mr. Tony Wright and Mr. Barry King of 20 Victoria Road, Mancetter.

"Miss M. Wright, of Boot Hill, Grendon, said she saw similar lights over Tuttle Hill five weeks ago."

SCOTLAND

Highland flashes and discs

The following reports were taken from the *Highland News* of Inverness:

"After reading about flying saucers in the *Highland News* last week a reader has asked if anyone can explain the bright flashes in the Northern sky in the early hours of Saturday morning. On his way from Cullen to Elgin the reader saw six or seven white flashes go horizontally across the sky similar to lightning behind a cloud; the flashes however, were at no time accompanied by thunder and came at intervals of about ten to fifteen minutes—very

bright indeed.

"Another reader similarly determined to remain anonymous (name and address supplied) noted a strange object in the sky on Tuesday in the lunch hour. From Drummond Road, Inverness, this lady saw what she described as a gleaming metallic disc moving southwards in the sky. 'It was travelling slowly and it certainly wasn't a plane,' she said.

"Any explanations?"

"Last Friday evening Mr. Duncan MacIntyre, Fort William, and Mr. Hector Kennedy, Corpach, saw what they reckoned to be a satellite. Said Mr. Kennedy, 'We watched it quite clearly as it moved swiftly across the sky to vanish in the clouds.'"

WALES

Cardiff "flying dustbin"

From the *Western Mail* of November 26:

"Motorists left their cars in a Cardiff street last night to watch a mystery 'glowing red' object hurtle across the skyline.

"The object—like an 'enlarged dustbin'—was visible for three to four minutes and was moving from west to east.

"One man who saw it, Mr. John Griffiths, an engineer, of Birchgrove, calculated that it was under cloud level—about 500 feet. He said last night, 'I was driving along Heathwood road when I first saw the object. Lots of people stopped their cars and left them to look at it. I saw it for about four minutes and at the time it was moving quite slowly. It was glowing red and we could all see it quite clearly.'

"Mr. Griffiths said he had telephoned Cardiff Airport to find out the cloud level. 'It was 500 feet and this object must have been under cloud level,' he said.

"Another Cardiff man, who telephoned the *Western Mail* to say he had spotted the object, said it was like a 'small moon'.

"'It was an unusually large object travelling at a tremendous pace,' he said. 'I first thought it was a balloon or a comet. I looked through a pair of binoculars and saw it was perfectly round with no tail.'

"Cardiff Airport did not know what the object was, and a spokesman for R.A.F. St. Athan said, 'We have