

SPHERICAL PHENOMENON AT WALTHAM ABBEY

Apparent interference with individual television set

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Our contributor is an independent researcher in South East England on behalf of UFO Investigators' Network (UFOIN).

ON the Eve of Jubilee Day a Waltham Abbey woman was subjected to a frightening experience when a small spherical object, an incredibly strong source of light, hovered over her back garden.

Mrs. Millicent Parr, sixty-eight years old, is a housewife who lives with her daughter at 39, Rounton Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex. On June 6, 1977, the Eve of Jubilee Day, at 11.35 p.m., she was watching the spectacular firework display on the television set in her living room. Her daughter was out. The firework display had nearly finished when, suddenly the television "closed up," in other words the picture closed from top and bottom towards the centre until just a pencil line of light could be seen. Then this too disappeared, and it was as if the TV set had been turned off. Thinking that "a valve had gone," Mrs. Parr got up from the sofa, went across and switched off the set. She then walked into her kitchen, switched on the light, and made a cup of tea. (No other lights were on in the house.) After approximately three minutes, Mrs. Parr returned to the living room with her cup of tea, switched on the light, and sat at a table facing the window, which is approximately six feet from where she sat. No disturbances were noted on her electric kettle or the kitchen and living room lights.

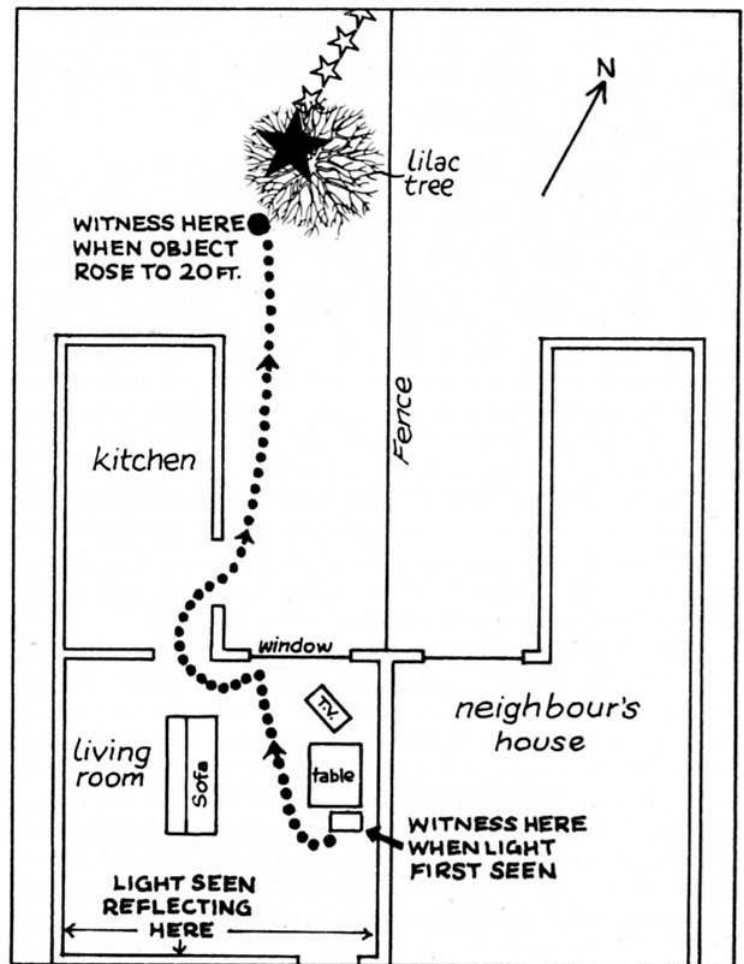
Suddenly the whole living room was enveloped in a blood red and vivid green light. At first she thought it must have been a Jubilee light, but after only seconds she realised it was something quite different. Seeing that it appeared to be coming from outside the window, she walked across, and pulled back the net curtains. To her amazement she saw a brilliantly lit spherical object hovering just 10 to 15 feet above her garden. Its colours were red and green, the red being at the centre and the green around its perimeter. It was approximately 12 inches in diameter, the outer 4 inches of this being the green area. She described it as like the brightness of a searchlight, and spinning. She also said that although it appeared to illuminate the sides of her house, and those of the facing side of her next door neighbour's house, it did not appear to illuminate any other surroundings. It was as if the light was being directed towards her house.

After watching it for some few seconds, she felt an urge to get a closer look, so she went through her kitchen, and out of the back door. It could be clearly seen now, and appeared to be just a few feet above the lilac tree that stands some 12 feet high in the centre of the garden. She moved towards it, and almost went underneath it, before it slowly rose up

vertically, and then started to move away towards the north, rising gently as it went, and just missing the rooftops of some houses approximately 100 yards away. As it moved a tapered tail of white could be seen. This commenced the same diameter as the sphere, tapered down, and then widened at the end to finish in a spherical shape. The object was finally lost to sight behind the rooftops.

The total incident, from the moment the television had "closed up," had lasted for approximately 4½ minutes, the last 1½ of these being from the time the light was first seen. No sound had been heard during the incident. One further point is that when Mrs. Parr went into the garden, she was no longer aware of any strong light source, and she could not remember seeing anything being illuminated by the light.

After the object had disappeared Mrs. Parr



returned indoors, and thought she could still see a red and green glow in her living room, although in retrospect she realises it was probably persistence of vision. She then realised she must tell someone of her sighting, so she knocked on her wall to attract the next door neighbour's attention. The neighbour, a Mr. Jardene entered through her back door, and she explained to him what had happened. Mr. Jardene confirmed this to us, and stated that neither he nor any of his family had seen or heard anything during the encounter, and had noted no disturbances on electrical appliances.

The following morning, there was a street party for the children in Rounton Road, and Mrs. Parr noticed a photographer from the local newspaper, the *Waltham Telegraph*. She approached him and explained what had happened the night before; he seemed interested and asked her to go along to their offices the following morning. This she did, although eventually she gave details to another reporter, a Mr. McDougall. He then passed on details to Mr. Ken Phillips, National Investigations Co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, who in turn passed details to me. After some delay, due to the witness not having a telephone, I was able to interview her at her home on Saturday July 23. An article appeared in the *Waltham Telegraph* on June 17, entitled "Woman's midnight terror - Flying saucer lights up her living room."

The Witness

Mrs. Parr has lived at 39, Rounton Road for the last twenty years. Before this she travelled the world with her late husband who was in the army. She gave the impression that she was relating a real experience, which she wanted me to know about in real detail. She appeared very talkative and slightly eccentric in explaining things.

Although she has never read books on the UFO subject, she has a general interest in the unknown.

Mrs. Parr has had several psychic experiences during her life, several of these being premonitions where she has felt a person would be in grave danger if he or she did something or went somewhere. She says that occasionally she can foretell exactly what people are going to say or do. She could also sense when her husband was close by, particularly when he was on his way home from work. Mrs. Parr also said that some years ago one of her relatives checked back on the history of their family, and it would seem that a hundred years or so ago, a great, great, great grandfather was one of the most respected romany gypsies in the country who, when he died, had a big procession, with many gypsies at his funeral.

Mrs. Parr had a heart attack on March 30 this year, and had to go into hospital for some time. Three weeks after the sighting she had a relapse and went back into hospital. When I visited her she had only been out of hospital for a couple of weeks. She does not connect her relapse directly with the sighting, although she says that she feels very emotional when talking about the encounter, and indeed she did show signs of being emotional several times during our interview. She also has a very high blood pressure for which she is now being treated. Her doctor advised

her not to speak too much about the sighting as it seemed to affect her to some extent.

The Television interference

Although the failure, or "shut off," of the television set happened some three minutes before the object was seen, it seems these events could be connected in some way.

The failure occurred during the final five minutes of the spectacular firework display at about 23.30. The picture suddenly appeared to close up from both top and bottom towards the centre, until only a thin pencil of light across the screen could be seen, which then also disappeared. The sound also cut-off as the picture closed up, and finally all that was left was a black screen. This had all happened within about two seconds, and after a few more seconds, Mrs. Parr turned off the television under the impression that a valve had "blown."

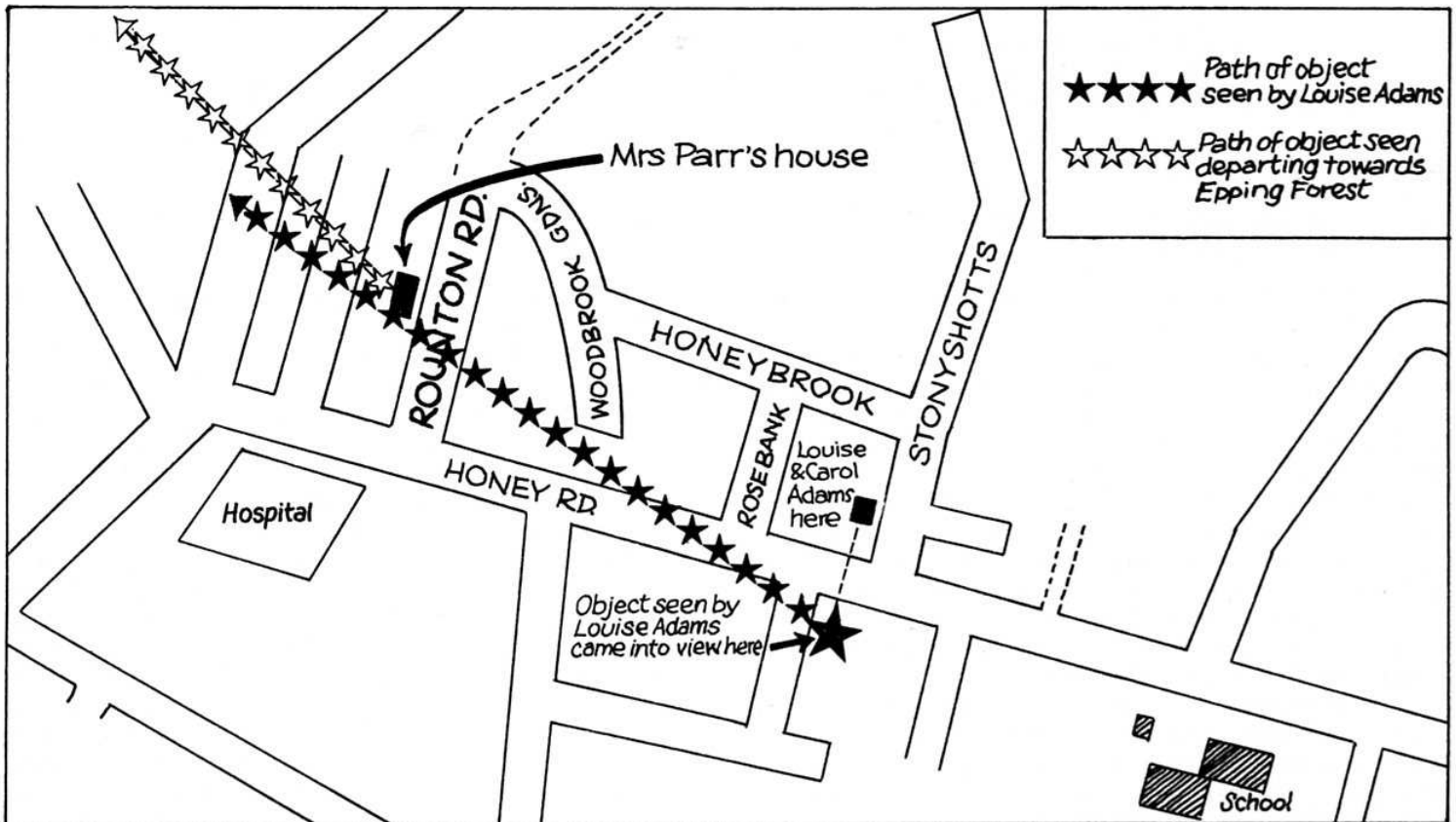
The set is a three-month-old Thorn Consumer Multi Broadcast model 7742. It is rented and has not acted in the same way either before or since the incident. On the rear of the set are two knobs, a red one for colour control, and a black one, the reset button which acts as a fuse and "pops" out if the electrical circuit is overloaded. It was this button that was found by Mrs. Jardene, the next door neighbour, to have popped out the morning after the encounter. She just pushed it back into position and turned on the set which worked perfectly. It must also be noted that the effect caused by the reset button "popping-out" is exactly similar to that described by Mrs. Parr.

With all this in mind, it seems that the cause of failure was a sudden surge of electrical current from somewhere. One of the most frequent causes of a sudden overloading causing the reset button to react, is an electric storm, although this is unlikely to be the solution as The London Weather Centre reported no storms in the South East England at all at that time. In fact there was only 3/8 cover of cloud. An alternative is that a component inside the TV set malfunctioned and caused the overload, then miraculously repaired itself before the set was switched on the following morning. A technical adviser at IIT (Service Division) was consulted concerning the possibility that a component was the cause of the malfunction, and he said that indeed it could have been, although failed to give an explanation why it worked perfectly the following morning and, in fact, ever since.

The only other explanation seems to be that an unknown electrical force was involved which resulted in a circuit overload and caused the reset button to react. When the reset button was pushed back into position the following morning the set functioned perfectly.

Confirmation of sighting

During my interview with Mrs. Parr she told me that a lady from the British Legion, when on a house to house call, had mentioned that she had seen the article that had appeared in the previous week's local newspaper and stated that his daughters had



The district around Mrs. Parr's house: presumed path of object

seen something the same night as Mrs. Parr. As the woman only lived "round the corner" from Mrs. Parr, I paid her a call the same day. The resulting information is interesting:

It would appear that Louise and Carol Adams, in their late teens, of 4 Cross Terrace, Stonyshotts, had just returned from a Jubilee party and had gone to bed. They share a room, with Louise having a clear view from the window which faces north-east.

The time was between 23.30 and 23.45 when on the left hand side of the window, a circular orangy-yellow light came into view. It was travelling slowly and silently from East towards the North. Only Louise saw it, and she described it as really bright; so bright that it lighted the interior walls of their bedroom. Louise told her sister, although she did not seem too interested, but confirmed the orangy-yellow reflection on the walls. Louise kept her eyes on the light moving slowly across, until it suddenly stopped, paused, then slowly descended, vertically, behind the rooftops to the North. Although Louise thought it may have dropped some distance away, possibly in the Epping Forest area, there is a chance that she misjudged the distance due to the size of the object.

Postscript to Nemingha (continued from page 22)

"How do UFOs obey the exhaust emission control laws?"⁴ — raises this possibility.

The Nemingha precipitation case, and others like it, generate speculations about the causality of close encounter trace cases and certainly provide food for thought in more tantalising speculations, particularly, in relation to the coincidence of "strong mists" and alleged teleportation cases.

Conclusions

I am certain from the evidence we have, that a strange spherical object was the cause of a frightening incident in Mrs. Parr's garden on June 6, 1977. The fact that she has had several psychic experiences cannot be overlooked. All too many people with previous psychic experiences are having physical UFO sightings that cannot be explained. After returning from my interview I could not help thinking that she resembled Mrs. Joyce Bowles, with her mannerisms, expressions, and complete puzzlement over the incident. Although we will probably close this case with a verdict of unidentified and then forget it, I feel it has not ended.

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References:

1. RAAF Investigation report — personal files.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Scientific Study of UFOs* (The Condon Report), Section IV, Chp. 7, "Atmospheric Electricity and Plasma Interpretations of UFOs."
4. ACOS Bulletin, No. 7, September 1976. Article by Dr. G. Stevens.