



CASE HISTORIES

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CONTENTS

Hackney Flurry of UFOs	<i>S/Ldr. A. Prevost</i>	1
Was there a landing near Warminster?	<i>Eileen Buckle</i>	4
The Landing at Franois—2	<i>J. Tyrode</i>	7
Farmer sees UFO take off	<i>Ron Toft</i>	9
Brazilian cases in 1968 and 1969—2	<i>Dr. W. Buhler</i>	11
A remarkable "child woman"	<i>N. M. H. Turner</i>	13
Grand Rapids Spherical UFO	<i>J. S. Gardeski</i>	13
Immense UFO over Maura Lake	<i>Regina Graystone</i>	14
Readers' Reports	15

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Case Histories

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FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW



TWENTY PENCE

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SUPPLEMENT THREE / FEBRUARY 1971



HACKNEY UFO

The UFO moves slowly to the NNE at an estimated altitude of between 1,000 and 3,000ft over Hackney at 11.35 p.m. on November 21, 1970. Specially reproduced by Pauline Bowen from Douglas Lockhart's sketch.

Hackney Flurry of UFOs

by Sqdn. Ldr. Alastair Prevost

Our contributor, now retired from the Royal Air Force, reports follow-up investigations on incidents that received some publicity not only in the local newspapers, but also in the national press, on radio and television.

ON Saturday, November 21, 1970, at 11.35 p.m., a glowing orange-red object was sighted over Hackney, London, by several people. In the company of two friends, Mr. George Butters and Mr. Peter Holder, I interviewed two of the witnesses at their residence in Downs Park Road, Clapton, E.5.

The witnesses

Mr. Douglas Lockhart is aged 32 and a free-lance writer. He lived at one time in the Aberdeen area and has not lost his Scottish accent. We found him earnest, yet open, frank with a likeable personality. He has read four books on the subject, the "standard" works of Adamski, Keyhoe, Menzel and Jung. He has a very enquiring mind and a wide selection of books. His verdict on the subject is: "They are still Unidentified Flying Objects". Some ten years ago, near Aberdeen, he saw a formation of three red, pulsating objects, but at that time dismissed them as aircraft. The following day the Scottish papers were full of UFO sightings.

Miss Maureen Boyle is about 24, attractive, and with a slight Irish accent. She is secretary and P.A. to the Editor of the occult magazine *Man, Myth and Magic*. She had little or no previous knowledge on the subject of UFOs other than from the occasional news item in the papers. She was extremely helpful during this interview, giving clear, precise answers, sometimes in disagreement with Lockhart.

Mr. Bryan Haddon, a friend of Lockhart who lives at the same address, was a part-of-the-time witness to the sighting. About the same age, or perhaps a little older than Lockhart, he is a psychotherapist in a mental hospital and also treats heroin addicts. *He was not interviewed.* Since his experience he has enquired several times whether there have been any further developments.

The Sequence of events

(i) **Inside the house.** At 11.32 p.m. Maureen Boyle was watching television with Douglas Lockhart when she saw something out of the corner of her eye, and her attention was drawn to a bright orange light "hovering" far down, and apparently above, the southern end of Clarence Road (see fig. 1). In actual fact, this light may have been much further to the south, but steadily approaching them along the assumed track drawn on the accompanying plan (fig. 2). It was interesting enough for her immediately to focus her full attention on it, at the same time saying: "Look at that!"

Douglas jumped up and pulled back the lace curtains

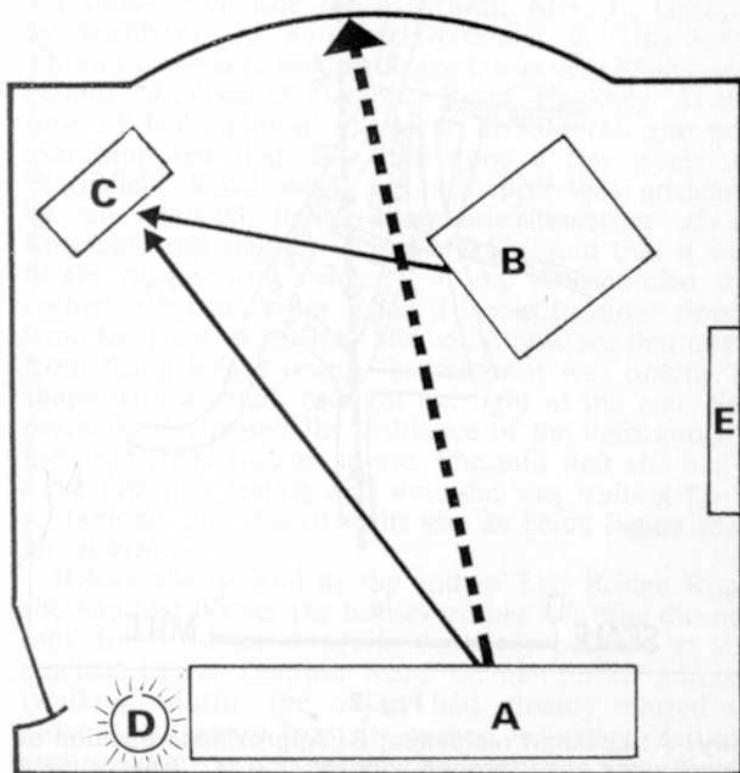


Fig. 1

Plan of Douglas Lockhart's lounge at 97 Downs Park Road

Key: **A**: Settee from which Miss Boyle first saw the object; **B**: Position of Mr. Lockhart; **C**: TV; **D**: Dimly-lit table lamp; **E**: Fireplace

(see fig. 3). It then took them only a few seconds to leave the room and run out onto the street just outside the house.

They described the object at this stage as being very much bigger than when first seen through the window. Then, it was like a deep orange ball of about the same brilliance as the street lighting and gliding slowly towards them. Incidentally, the street lighting is white in colour.

(ii) **In the street immediately outside the house.** Once outside the house Maureen Boyle was struck by the absolute soundlessness of the object. Douglas Lockhart was impressed by the incredible smoothness of its travel. They agreed in principle on the general description of the object which at this stage appeared to be four times the size of the reflection of the street lamp just on the opposite side of the road—an impressive size.

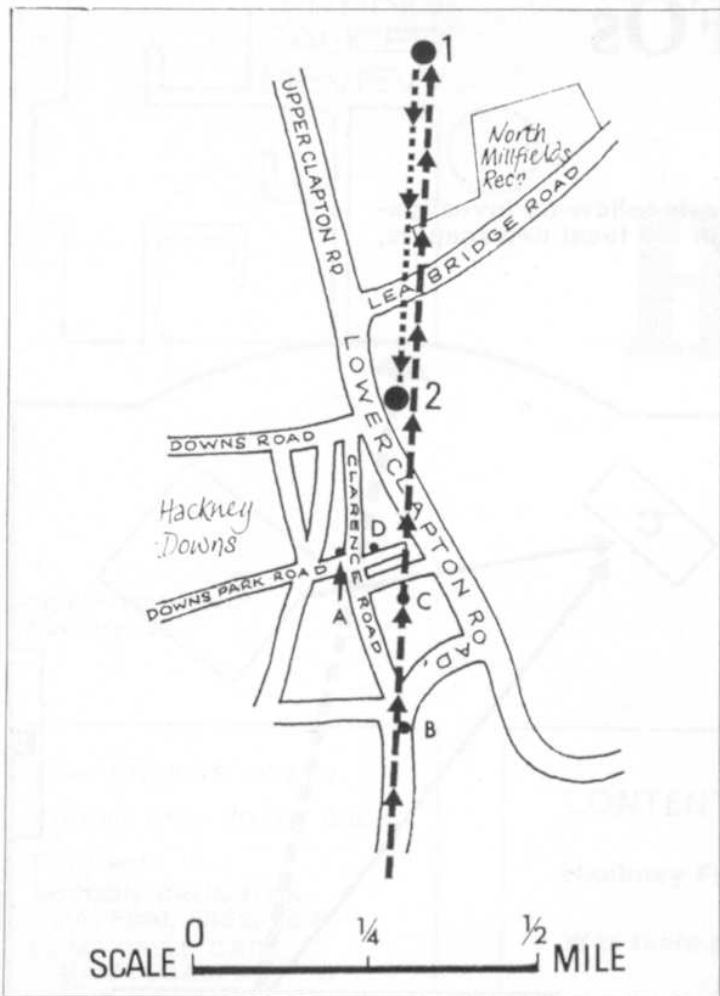


Fig. 2

Key: A: Lockhart residence; B: Approximate position of object when seen through window at A; C: Approximate position of object when first observed by Lockhart and Miss Boyle from street; D: Dairy

1: First hovering position (where also first seen by Mrs. Oxford). UFO then returned along path indicated by dotted line (Mrs. Oxford watched this move from Lea Bridge Road) to 2

2: Second hovering position before UFO again moved to the North beyond Lea Bridge Road

N.B.: Mr. Lockhart and Miss Boyle were standing in Clarence Road between A and D when they observed the UFO hovering at pt. 1 and then return to pt. 2 before making off to the North

The object appeared to consist of a central nucleus surrounded by a corona. The nucleus was oval in shape and was of a diffused mixture of orange and red, which remained constant in both colour and intensity of luminosity. Around it was a slightly diffused black line or edge, distinguishing it from the corona.

The corona was described as being blood-red by Douglas, and as orange-red by Maureen, but they agreed that the colour of the setting sun would be a fair description. The edge of the corona was lacerated, or irregular. Douglas described the overall shape as being "top and bottom heavy", i.e. like two deep soup plates placed one upside down on top of the other. The length of the corona was about twice its depth. He also maintained that it underwent a subtle change

in colour from a deep to a lighter tone (a gentle pulsating?), but Maureen did not notice this.

They agreed that throughout there was no sound and that the object must have been at an altitude of between 1,000 and 3,000 feet. The angle of elevation at this stage was about 55°, and its apparent size was described as that of a single decker bus seen at a distance of 100 yards.

(iii) **Round the corner in Clarence Road.** The object was sliding or gliding slowly along on a straight course. This meant that they had to run round the corner into Clarence Road to get a better view. They had to stand in the centre of the road because of a large van that was parked on the left-hand side.

The object proceeded on a N.N.E. course almost parallel above Clarence Road, keeping to the same altitude. When it appeared to the two observers to reach the end of Clarence Road (in point of fact, from

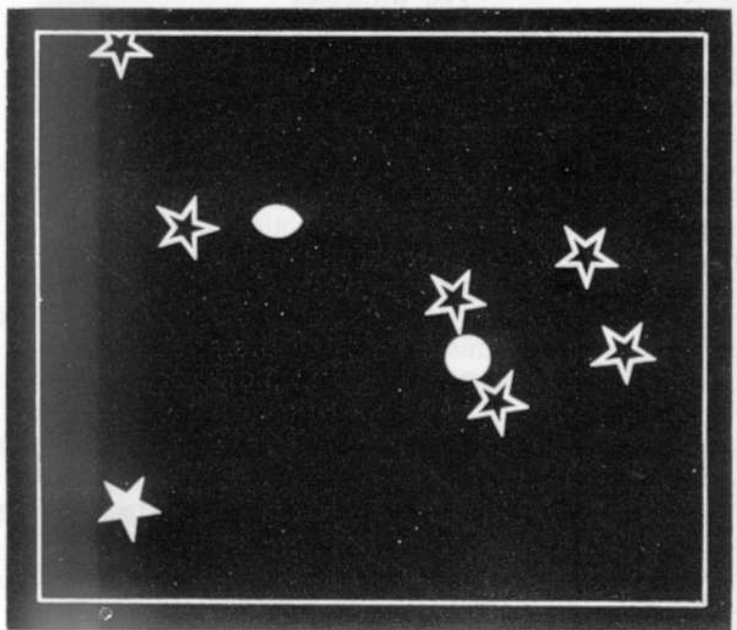


Fig. 3

View through main centre window of bay window showing grouping of street lights

Key: ☆ Street lights (white)
 ● Object first observed at 11.32 p.m. in this position
 ☆ Red public house sign which was used as a guide to the size of the object
 ○ Approx. position of object when first seen from outside the house.

the evidence of another witness, Mrs. Oxford, it was then approximately over Millfields), they saw it stop. Maureen then noticed a street clock which indicated 11.35 p.m. Just prior to stopping they agreed that the colour and shape changed to that of an orange ball (probably because it was very much further away). It remained stationary for about 5 to 10 seconds.

Douglas then suddenly remarked: "Look, it's coming back." He said that it came back exactly on its original track, a 180° reversal. Its colour and shape remained that of an orange ball and its size remained the same.

(iv) **Maureen fetches a third witness.** At this stage Maureen decided to run back into the house to fetch

Bryan Haddon as an additional witness. In the meantime, Douglas had estimated that the object could not have moved back more than about 100 yards (I think this was just an apparent distance from the point of observation; probably it was more like 300 yards) before stopping and hovering for the second time, again for about 5 to 10 seconds. By this time the other two had arrived.

Maureen remembers first saying to Bryan, in the house: "Come and look at this peculiar thing in the sky," and Bryan immediately went with her, without protest. On seeing the object he exclaimed: "Good God! What's that?"

They now saw the object begin to move off again on its original course but still at the same silent, gliding speed, and at the same altitude. Almost immediately, Maureen said, she thought that she could see it tilt slightly as it then began to take on a slight swerving course, left and right, disappearing behind the chimneys of a tall block of flats. Bryan confirmed that the object appeared round, and of an orange hue.

Total time of the sighting

Douglas and Maureen agreed that from the time that Maureen first saw the light through the window, to the time all three of them saw it disappearing over the roof-tops was a total period of approximately seven minutes.

Eleven days after the event they were still in agreement over basic details and still regarded the whole affair as being far from a normal experience, and indeed, not attributable to known phenomena or man-made objects.

Meteorological Report for 2300 hours on November 21, 1970 from the London Weather Centre

Wind

Surface—Light south to south-west

3,000 feet—225°/30K

Cloud

Amount—2/8

Base—20,000 feet

Small amount of cumulus at 8,000 feet about midnight.

Confirmation by other witnesses

The following Monday, November 23, the *Hackney Gazette* carried a report of the sighting by Mr. Freddy Gould of Kingsland Road, E.8. That day, Maureen Boyle and Douglas Lockart were interviewed by a team from Thames TV and their story was put over on Eamonn Andrews' programme *Today* at 6.10 p.m. It included a further witness, a man who lives in Curtain Road, near Liverpool Street Station, who saw the lighted object *very* low down, oval-shaped, and with flashing perimeter lights (pulsating corona?).

Part of the interview took place in the street, watched by the proprietress of the grocer's shop which is almost opposite Lockhart's residence. Afterwards she told him that at about the same time that evening, both she and her husband had seen an unusual light shining in their window, behind their pink curtains in their bedroom. The room had been slightly illuminated by this light, which then disappeared, but soon came back

again, finally going for good. They did not get out or bed to investigate. Their bedroom, which is on the third floor, faces almost up Clarence Road, their shop being on the corner of Sladen Place and Clarence Road.

During the *Today* interview, a woman from a tailor's shop, situated about 15 yards from the dairy shop, described the object as a "big ball". Two children were also interviewed by the *Today* team. They said that they had been told by another child that he or she had seen the object.

I interviewed one other witness, Mrs. E. Oxford, by telephone on Sunday, December 6. This lady, whom I guessed to be middle aged, was very honest and helpful. She lives at Fletching Road, Hackney. At the time of her sighting, at about 11.30 p.m., she was exercising her dog. She had gone a few paces up Wattisfield Road when her attention was attracted by an unusual light, apparently hovering above Millfields and slightly to her left. She said that it was bright orange and rather low. As she rounded the corner into Lea Bridge Road it began to move slowly from her right to her left. She could now see that apart from being bright orange in colour it was oblong in shape with a small, brilliant red light at the rear. She particularly stressed the brilliance of the light and the fact that there was no sound. She said that she had a most uncanny feeling and that she was waiting for it to explode. She described its size as being bigger than an aircraft.

Before she arrived at the end of Lea Bridge Road she had lost it over the houses on her left. She did not look for it or see it again, probably because as she reached Lower Clapton Road on her return journey (walking south), the object had already started to move north again from its second hovering position, and walking on the left of the street her view would have been masked by the houses on her left.

Earlier Hackney incidents

On Friday, November 20, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Knapp of Blenheim Avenue, Ilford, were visiting friends in Hackney. Twice during the course of the evening an unusual flashing red object was sighted. I interviewed Mrs. Knapp by telephone on Friday, November 27 and Monday, November 30. She appeared to be a very sincere witness and gave a description to the best of her ability. Her husband, who was with her throughout the evening, did not appear to be interested at the time of the sighting. He had been an Anti-Aircraft gunner during the war and subsequently said to his wife: "If that thing had been in my sights during the war, we would have shot it down; it was at about 2,000 feet" (in both sightings).

The first sighting, outside Hackney Hospital

At 7.20 p.m., on getting out of the car, Mrs. Knapp was attracted by an unusual flashing red light. This was accompanied by four distinct steady white lights.

The light cluster was travelling as slow as, or slower than a glider. There was no sound at all. Mrs. Knapp stated that there were aircraft about that night and that there was no doubt in her mind that this was not a jet

(Continued on page 6)

Was There a Landing Near Warminster?

by Eileen Buckle

ON a cold, wet, mid-November afternoon three members of the FSR team, namely Charles Bowen, Bryan Winder and myself, went to Warminster to investigate a report of a landed UFO said to have been seen not far from the town. Arthur Shuttlewood, the well-known Warminster journalist and author of two books* first alerted us to this case and on our request he kindly arranged for us to meet the witness, twenty-eight-years-old army truck driver Barry Canner. The conclusion we reached by the end of the afternoon was that this was a "light-weight" case but one, nevertheless, which had some interesting aspects, and we felt the visit very worthwhile.

A pleasant and informal conversation with Barry took place over the dining table of a High Street restaurant. A Yorkshireman, whose home-town was Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Barry was sparing in his words, of rather quiet disposition but not without a sense of humour. What I noticed about him particularly was his inward-looking, almost dreamy-looking eyes. He seemed clearly of the introvert type and on his own admission was a "lone-wolf", often going out alone. Cross-country running is one of his main spare-time activities, and we had already learned he had trained for a time under Mary Rand, the Olympic Gold Medallist. It was whilst on a training run on a lonely trackway that he spotted an unusual-looking object in a field.

The first question put to the witness was whether or not he had read anything about UFOs, either before or since making his sighting. It turned out that he had been given a few magazines, some two months before we met him, by Bob Strong, an enthusiastic UFO investigator well known for having teamed up with Arthur Shuttlewood in his night-time skywatching vigils, and one who has also claimed innumerable sightings. These magazines were in his car and he afterwards showed them to Charles Bowen. They were: *The Merseyside UFO Bulletin*, *Cos-Mos* magazine and *BUFORA Journal*; he had not seen *FSR*.

Barry Canner knew Bob Strong well, because they both worked in the same kind of job as civilian truck drivers for the Army. Bob talked a lot about his sightings and Barry, who had kept quiet about his experience for three days, said the reason for his silence was that he had waited until he found Bob. He wanted to tell Bob about it, as he was knowledgeable on these matters. He did not inform the police, he said, for fear of them laughing at him. Bob Strong subsequently introduced Barry to Arthur Shuttlewood, whom he had never met before, and thus we came to hear of the case.

* *The Warminster Mystery*, published by Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield St., London WC1; also *Warnings from Flying Friends*, Portway Press, 17 Portway, Warminster, Wiltshire. Mr. Shuttlewood says he is working on a third book, which, he states, will include Barry Canner's story.



Barry Canner on the path down which he returned from his practice run

Description of the sighting

Barry Canner described the incident carefully, perhaps a little hesitantly, as follows. It occurred on September 28. That evening he left his car at the side of a trackway at Lord's Hill. He knows this path well and often uses it for running practice as it is quiet and he is bothered by no-one. He began his run at about 8.00 p.m. and returned to his car at about 9.30 p.m. By this time it was quite dark. A few stars were out, but there was no moon visible.



Barry at the gate looks at the spot where he claims the strange object was standing