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CASE HISTORIES

Supplement No. 1
October 1970

Companion journal to the
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1970

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Case Histories

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FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW



FOUR SHILLINGS

CASE HISTORIES

SUPPLEMENT ONE / OCTOBER 1970



**UFOs over Hampstead
also Dinan Humanoids**

NEW VENTURE

Charles Bowen

IT is not my intention to take up the valuable space of our new venture, FSR CASE HISTORIES, with Editorial articles. However, it is necessary, in this Supplement No. 1, to say a few words of introduction, and to state our aims.

Flying Saucer Service Ltd. is launching this new magazine for several reasons. First of all, a number of readers throughout the years have suggested that *Flying Saucer Review* should become a monthly journal, but, working as we do in our spare time, that is not possible. Nevertheless, the smaller *FSR Case Histories*, appearing between issues of the main FSR, will be possible, especially as newly-appointed Assistant Editor Eileen Buckle will be devoting much of her time to helping me with its production from Supplement No. 2 onwards.

Secondly, we have many reports which, for lack of space in *Flying Saucer Review*, might otherwise go unpublished and so never be recorded. Thirdly, we would like to publish for our readers even more reports translated from other journals; journals like *Lumières dans la Nuit*, which has the backing of the highly-organised investigatory team of Messrs. Lagarde and Veillith. Fourthly, we need to encourage responsible non-UFO-buff, non-cultist, non-publicity-seeking readers to become spare-time investigators whose function will be to dig deep into events that have been reported, gaining the confidence of people and officials in their areas of operation, and so learning perhaps of hitherto unreported incidents—the Dinan affair reported

elsewhere is an example of the pay-dirt that can accrue from these methods. As time passes we expect to organise our own investigatory network both at home and overseas, so ensuring that reports come to us for the record—a far better idea than that they should languish, jealously guarded, unknown and unseen, in some organisation's files. Fifthly, we need a vehicle to carry important re-investigations of old cases.

The functions that have been outlined are of the utmost importance, particularly in view of the present general silence of the press on UFO reports. We know that despite that silence UFO events are still taking place, as has been demonstrated in *Flying Saucer Review* ever since the publication of the Condon Report, and as we will demonstrate quite amply in our new pages.

As our circulation increases we will be able to provide more pages than will be found in these early issues of *FSR Case Histories*, so it is up to you to help with contributions of material, and to get your friends to help by subscribing to this new venture. May I say *Thank you* to all who are reading these opening lines. You will realise how necessary this venture is when I remind you of the lines of the great scientist Max Planck:

"A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it."

The prime aim of this new venture is to assist *Flying Saucer Review* in the keeping of the record for that new generation.

The primary function of FSR CASE HISTORIES is to help keep the record of UFO reports.
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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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UFOs seen from Hampstead

H. M. Bishop

Our contributor is a police traffic patrol officer, and a member of the Metropolitan Police Flying Club. He saw service in the R.A.F. as U/T pilot, and in Air Traffic Control, Tangmere, in 1951-53, where he first became acquainted with UFOs on hearing a report from a Meteor jet fighter pilot.

THE sky was lightening with early dawn at 4.00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 1970. Visibility was excellent. There was no low or medium cloud; only a layer of cirrostratus. It was a warm night.

The UFO sighting which is the subject of this report took place over Hampstead, London, N.W.3, towards the west from Lyndhurst Road and Netherhall Gardens.

I was driving west along Lyndhurst Road, accompanied by a colleague who was in the nearside front seat of a Rover 3.5 litre motor car. I saw, low down through the windscreen at the 1 o'clock position, a very bright light which was stationary. At first I thought it was a light on the end of a crane jib of the type used in the construction of the new tower blocks. I don't know why I should have mentioned it as such to my colleague, because they are common enough in the London area, but I think it must have been because of its brilliance. I said to him: "Look at the bright light on the end of the crane." I must make it quite clear that I only assumed that the light was on the end of a crane jib. In retrospect, I think I mentioned it to him in this way because, inwardly, I felt it was something odd, and not a crane light at all, yet instinctively selected an "ordinary" description to call his attention to it.

I had not stopped the car, and the light passed out of sight behind a tree, or house. It then came back into view, and by this time I was approaching the junction of Fitzjohns Avenue. Just before we reached it I lost sight of the light again. My passenger, to whom the light also must have seemed unusual (which he revealed by his manner), said: "Turn right here and let's go on to the Heath."

I had been making my way to Dennington Park Road, and after having turned right into Fitzjohns Avenue, I looked left down Netherhall Gardens. Through the nearside front door window I saw three lights in the sky. I turned left into Netherhall Gardens, and saw that there were two white lights on either side of a bluish-green light, which was slightly lower than its companions, in about the same position you would expect an anal light to be on an aircraft. The distance between the two lights would have been between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch on a ruler held at arm's length.

I stopped the car in Netherhall Gardens. The lights remained stationary for a few moments, then began to move off slowly to the right, not at right angles to our forward line of sight, but diagonally away from us. The way they hung stationary, then the direction and



In Lyndhurst Road. Here the light was first seen. Our arrow helps to locate the position of the object which has been drawn by our artist on this and on subsequent photographs (taken by the author some weeks after the incident)



Lyndhurst Road. Object was here when seen for the second time through offside window of car
 manner in which they slowly moved off, had the appearance of helicopters, or a helicopter. However, it was impossible to distinguish any definite shape, although

it appeared that there might have been some form between the lights, more definitely between the front and middle light.

Strange mode of disappearance

The lights had moved about a quarter of the way across the windscreen (from my position in the driving seat it appeared to move from a point three-eighths of the distance from the left-hand edge screen pillar to a point five-eighths of the distance from it) when the front one disappeared, followed by the middle and then the rear light. This in the middle of the screen, and not going behind a building or tree, but in clear, unobstructed view. I choose the word "disappeared" with care: the lights neither went out suddenly, nor did they fade into the distance, but remained in the middle distance. The object/lights were not seen to be enveloped by anything visible—about the only way I can possibly describe it. By this I mean that the lights passed from view one by one, giving the appearance of passing from view behind an invisible screen. This passing from view took about three seconds.

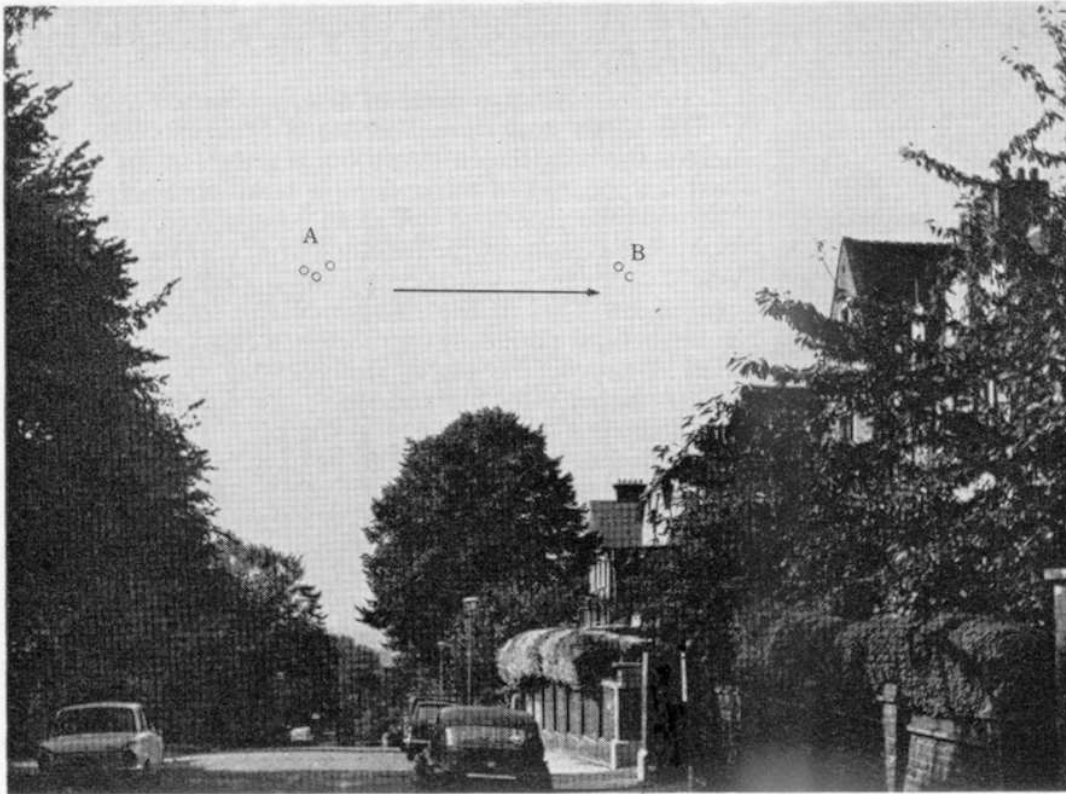
After completing my business at Dennington Park Road, I made enquiries of the *Daily Express* news desk, and the Hampstead Police Station, to see if any reports had been made to them of the object/lights by other observers but received only negative replies. Later that morning I made enquiries of the *Hampstead Gazette* and was told that they had had no reports of anything unusual.

To sum up I would like to say this: I have no idea what I saw that morning, although I do know that it was not a conventional aircraft; its behaviour ruled that out. The first object did not appear to be the second object or group of objects (depending on whether the three lights were interdependent or part of the same object).

The experience was not hallucinatory, and we both



Looking down Netherhall Gardens from Fitzjohn Avenue. Objects as seen through nearside front window of car



As seen (A) through windscreen of stationary car. Our arrow indicates the approximate direction of moving objects disappearing as at B

wrote down separate accounts of what we saw before discussing the incident. We completely investigated and ruled out the possibility of internal or external reflections, for the first light was also seen through an open offside window, and the group of three through the nearside window before we turned left into Netherhall Gardens.

Distances and height

The first light seemed to be within a distance of half a mile. The height would be very difficult to estimate as we were proceeding up a slight incline, after which the ground dropped away, and I would not put it any more finely than possibly between 100 and 500ft.: certainly it was very low. In the second sighting, the group of lights (with the position of the car then being about a quarter of a mile farther on from where we saw the first light) would seem to have been about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles away, and at about 2,500ft. altitude, but this was very difficult to assess in the half-light conditions then

prevailing, and not having any knowledge of the distance between the lights. The above estimate is based on the assumption that the distance between the two extreme lights was about the length of the fuselage of a large jet liner, say a *Comet* or *Trident*.

Unusual characteristics

First sighting: its brilliance, size, nearness, and lack of dazzle.

Second sighting: the three lights being stationary in the sky, and the colour of the middle light. None of them conformed to navigation lights. The manner in which the lights moved off, again far too slowly for a jet aircraft to have remained airborne. Above all the manner in which they passed from view.

Time observed (total)

One and a half to two minutes overall.

Second sighting: 20 to 30 seconds *after* having turned into, and stopped, in Netherhall Gardens.

WANTED . . . READERS' REPORTS

Readers are invited to send in reports of personal experiences and of those of other witnesses in their locality; anything, in fact, that could lead to a fruitful investigation. This first issue of FSR CASE HISTORIES contains 10 cases which came to us in this way.

It is our aim to ensure that everything of value is given a permanent place in the record. Reports should be addressed to the Editor, FSR Case Histories, 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2, England. Please mark envelopes "R.R."

UFOs over the Strait of Dover

Charles Bowen and Dr Bernard E. Finch

FOUR unusual lights in a "diamond" or "box-shaped" formation—described even as a "cross-shaped" formation in some reports—speeding silently beneath 2,000ft. cloud cover over the Strait of Dover, and followed minutes later by a similar formation of lights, were the bare bones of a remarkable UFO report. Remarkable mainly because here, in July, was the first UFO report of any substance to reach the pages of a British national newspaper in 1970—the mass circulation London *Evening News*.

It was decided to write to the named witness, Mr. John Male of St. Martin's Road, New Romney. Dr. Finch had just done this when we received from reader P. Dunn of Folkestone, a clipping of an item which appeared in the *Folkestone and Hythe Gazette* of July 8, 1970. It was this account which gave the figure of 2,000ft. for the altitude of the cloud base. From this account we learned that another of the several witnesses was Mr. Nicholas Ashman (17) of Cheriton Road, Folkestone.

On July 10, Mr. Male replied to our letter, giving fuller details of the incidents than had appeared in the press. We learned that he works at Lydd Airport, is accustomed to viewing aircraft and observing satellites, and that he is well acquainted with meteorology. As interesting points were mentioned we decided to invite Messrs. Male and Ashman to meet us at the Finch residence, and the outcome was a pleasant, informal discussion over a meal.

The observations

Very late in the evening of July 3, 1970, Mr. Male and Mr. Ashman were sitting by the shoreline at Folkestone, at the side of the Lower Sandgate Road. With them were three other friends, including Miss Lucille Courterie. They had just left Toft's Club, Folkestone, but had not been drinking—and, as Mr. Male added, they do not

take drugs. At nine or ten minutes before midnight four "bright objects" were spotted by Mr. Male. He alerted his companions.

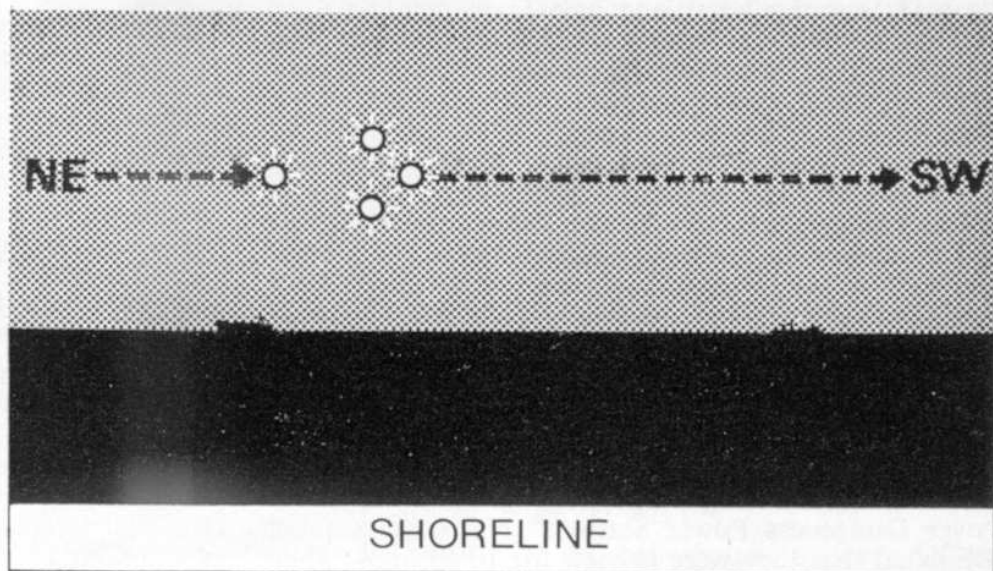
The objects were moving from N.E. to S.W. at considerable speed and without sound. Mr. Male estimated that they were between the observers and the horizon at a height of about 4,000ft. He added that there was quite heavy altocumulus clouding at the time, about seven to eight-tenths cloud cover, with a star visible here and there through the occasional breaks.

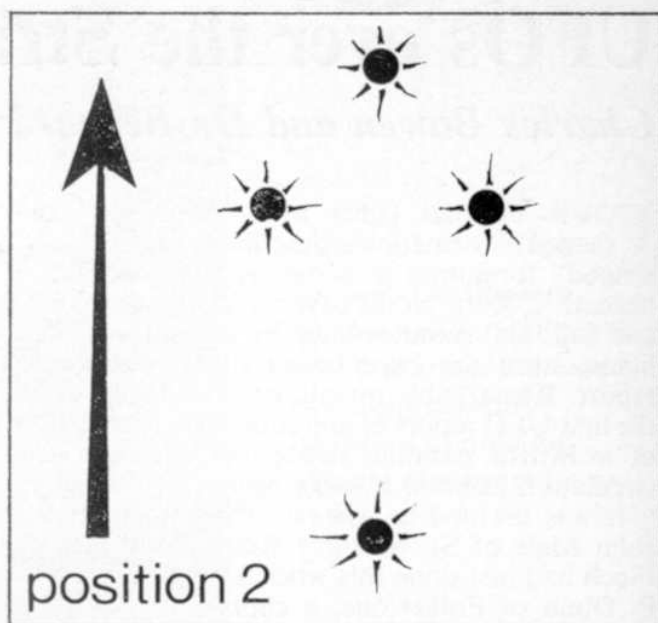
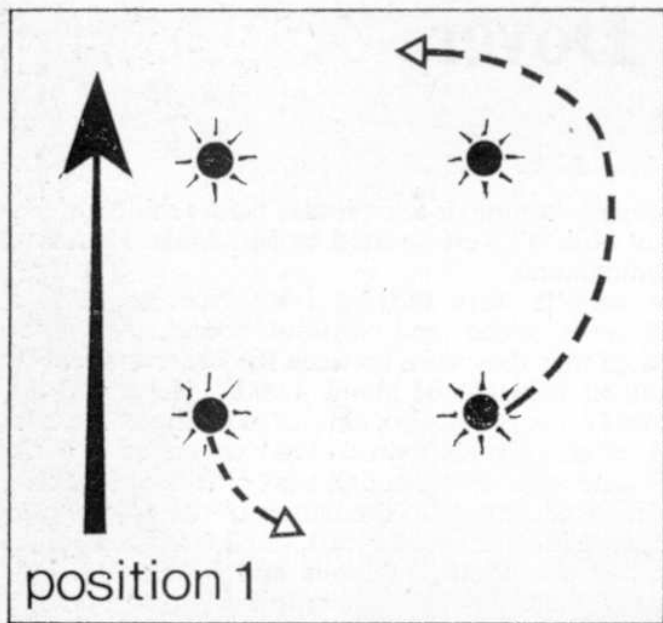
Some discussion as to the nature of the objects went on between the five, and aircraft, satellites, car headlight reflections on clouds, balloons and Venus had been ruled out when, at about three minutes past midnight (and, therefore, July 4) Mr. Ashman called out: "Hey, look, four more!" The same objects, or, perhaps, four different objects of similar kind, this time seemingly closer one to another and at an apparently lower altitude than those previously observed (their outlines seemed sharper this time, giving the appearance of solid structures) were moving in the same direction as the first group.* Their brightness was described as the equivalent of that of Jupiter at dusk.

The passage of this group across the sky took slightly longer than the first group, and they executed a manoeuvre before increasing speed and departing in an arrow-head or cross-shaped formation. This manoeuvre, which is shown in Fig. 2, was the reason for Mr. Male's describing what he and his friends saw as "objects" rather than as four lights on *one* object.

* According to the *Folkestone and Hythe Gazette* account, the objects returned, travelling *up Channel*. This was attributed to Mr. Ashman, who, when we interviewed him, was adamant that the direction of the second group was the same as that of the first group.

Artist's impression
of scene, based on
Mr. Male's sketch





How the manoeuvre from "box" to "arrowhead" or "cross" formation was effected

The party waited for another ten minutes or so, hoping for another "fly past", but nothing more happened, so they drove off to Folkestone Police Station to report the sightings. In his letter Mr. Male added that they did not report anything to the press.

In a postscript to his letter, Mr. Male had stated that it was impossible to estimate the size of the objects, but guessed that they may have been about 90ft. in diameter. Their speed, he said, was about twice that of a conventional jet airliner, in other words, about 1,200-1,250 miles per hour.

Answers to further questions

Nicholas Ashman, whose father is a police officer, had some small prior knowledge of the UFO phenomenon, having read two paperback books by Brad Steiger. John Male, an aircraft storeman at Lydd, has, since the incident, read one Donald Keyhoe book (he cannot remember which) and one of the Steiger books, and is quite open-minded on the subject of UFOs.

John had much to say about aircraft flights in the area. He said that the last plane into Lydd on July 3, a Skyways HS 748 from Beauvais, had landed at 11.45 p.m. He told us that these aircraft approach at 2,000ft., and, based on this, he estimated that the cloud base on the night of July 3/4 was at between 4,000 and 6,000ft. The objects seen were well below that level. Many airliners overfly the district; *Tridents*, *Comets*, Boeings 727 and 737 are regularly seen on the main Continental routes coming into the London Airports (Heathrow and Gatwick). The paths of the unidentified object formations was right across these regular flight lanes.

The brightness of the objects in the first group was akin to that of Jupiter at dusk, but more diffuse. The size of the objects, or lights, was about the equivalent of three match-stick heads held at arm's length. All objects in each group were similar.

According to John Male, the first group disappeared "over Dungeness Power Station." Nicholas Ashman estimated that they were in view for 10 seconds; John Male suggested a longer time of the order of 20 seconds.

Again, there was a divergence of views regarding the colour of the objects: John Male said they were greenish, while Nick Ashman insisted that they were orange-coloured. Both were adamant that they were not aircraft navigation lights, and said that they looked like glowing discs.

John said there was little wind (direction of what wind there was was not mentioned) and that he had heard that a Manston Airfield spokesman had offered a "weather balloon" explanation. He had heard "through the grapevine" that there had been no radar reports of the strange objects. He also said that a satellite explanation should be discounted because they are relatively slow in their passage across the sky, and because, on this occasion, they would have been hidden by the cloud. The sight of the objects was uninterrupted, and their trajectory was too straight and "disciplined" for them to have been birds.

* * * * *

We asked the young men if they had been surprised or alarmed by the experience, and if they had "felt" anything. It transpired that Miss Courterie had been a trifle apprehensive, and had been unable to sleep that night. John Male said he had had a tingling feeling, rather as one might experience from a low-voltage electric shock (not a chill up the spine as one feels when watching a horror film). We told him of other 'physiological effects' UFO cases, but he said he would never have associated the feeling he'd had with the objects he'd seen, until he had heard of those other cases.

Nicholas Ashman said he did not "believe his eyes" when he first saw the things, and he "put his spectacles down." He said he remembered a slight sensation, but only during the second passage. He suggested it could have been similar to the sensation of being exposed to ultra-violet light. Neither of these young men has experienced any post-sighting physiological effects, and they were found to be physically fit.

Danish Police Officer snaps UFO

Dr. Bernard E. Finch

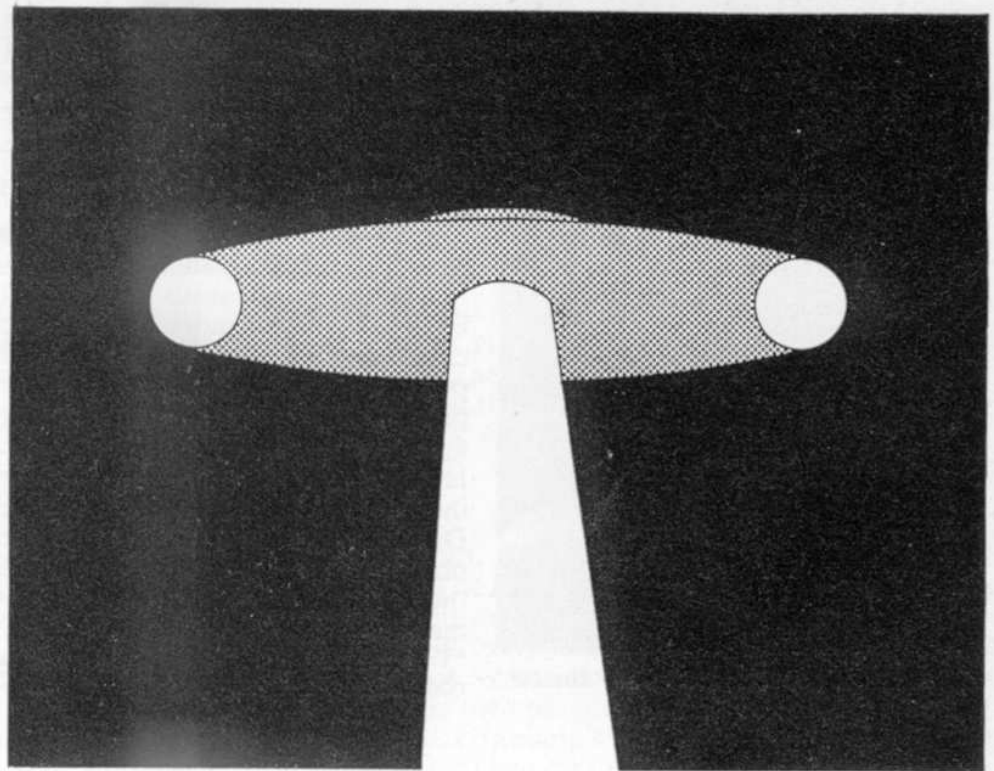
Policeman's sketch of what he saw when looking out

AS soon as I learned that a Danish police patrol officer, E. H. Maarup, had had something of a nightmare experience, yet had contrived to photograph the UFO which had caused it, I wrote to him for an account of the incident, and telegraphed money for prints of the photographs. These, presumably

because of the policeman's official position, had been handed to a press agency for disposal.

Here is his reply, which was written in English (it has been carefully edited—a minor, but important necessity):

"I thank you for your letter and telegram.



"You have asked me about my experience with the 'Flying Saucer' which I saw on August 13, 1970, between 10.50 and 10.55 p.m.

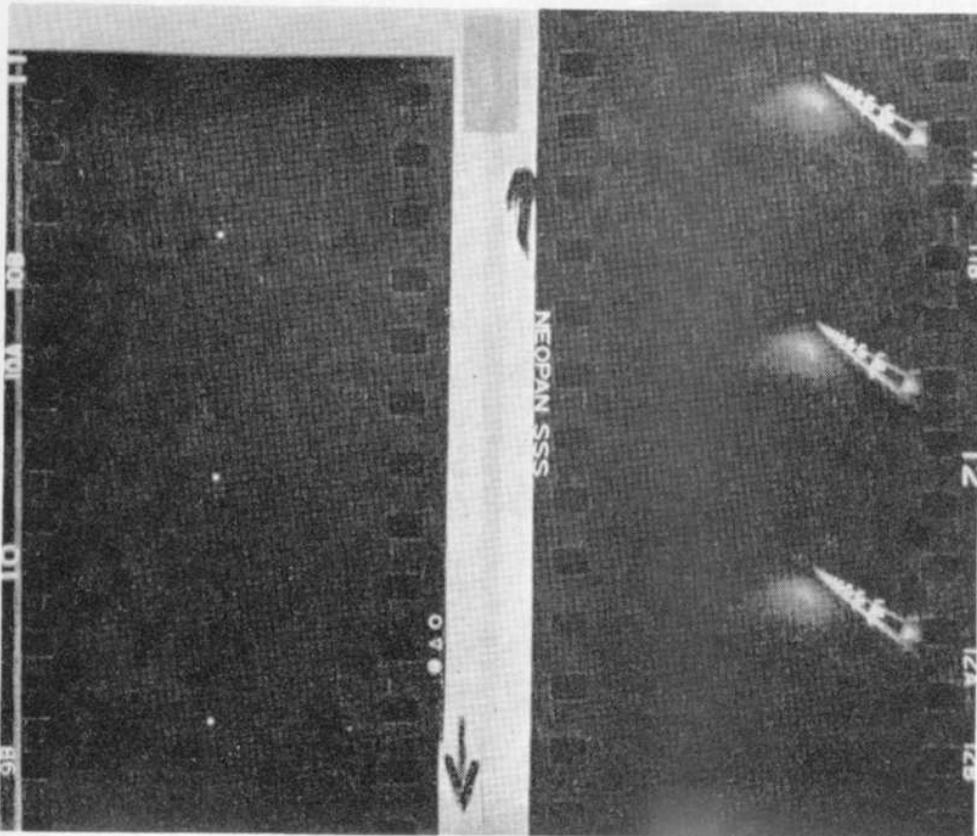
"I was driving in the patrol car, northwards along highway A 10 from the town of Haderslev. At the 6½ km. stone, I turned right, in an easterly direction. I had been driving about 10 kms. when the car's engine stopped and the lights went out. A powerful, bright light was playing on the car from above. The temperature inside the car increased until it was like that of a very hot summer's day.

"I tried to call up the station—Haderslev—on the car's radio-telephone, but the radio was dead. I tried again, with the same negative result.

"Suddenly the bright light began to move away, and I managed to take six photographs with the camera which was lying near the window. I looked up and saw the light clearly against the sky. It appeared like a big oval plate about 15 metres in length and 5 metres across. Suddenly it looked like a big grey shadow some 25 metres up in the air, and after that it disappeared at a very high speed.

"It was a clear night, and the moon was up."

In his report to me, Officer Maarup did not state whether the



Scaled-down replica of the six photographs

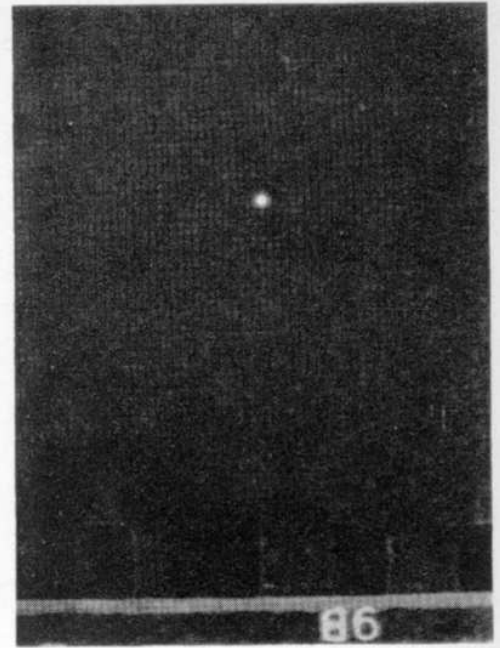


Brilliant light by boundary fence

lights of the car came on again when the UFO left the scene, but it is possible that he would have tried the switch when they failed in the first instance. As he returned to the station in good order, it is presumed it was a case of "all systems go" when he tried them after the departure of the strange intruder.

Perhaps our Danish friends will be able to throw more light on the case, particularly on these last points, and also on the nature of the presumably man-made object that appears in the first three snapshots*. Is it a fence, or crash-barrier, or insulated cables, or what? The Danish caption accompanying the photographs states that "maybe they show light from the electromagnetic field of a flying saucer."

*We have now learned that this is a roadside barrier—ED.



Departing object

Wiltshire Revisited

The Rev. Howard Bell

Our contributor writes to say that before he became a parson, he had spent fifteen years as a pilot—mostly as an instructor—and three years as a representative for a petroleum company. He has now moved to a different parish from that mentioned in his article.

I HAD become interested in UFOs, and had just read my second book on the subject from the mobile library, when I had occasion to visit Mrs. G., a widow, in the course of my job as Vicar of several small villages near Pewsey, Wiltshire. I do not want to name the village where Mrs. G. lives, because it is so small that the people concerned could easily be identified. Any form of publicity would be anathema to these unsophisticated folk.

When I was leaving Mrs. G's house, I saw that she also had books from the library, and remarked that I had just read one on "Flying Saucers". Casually she remarked: "Oh, perhaps that's what we saw about four years ago when my husband was alive." After finding out that she had never read anything about UFOs, I asked her to tell me of her experience. This is the story:

In mid-winter, 1965, the couple had been sitting watching the television in the evening, when they heard a noise outside (not described) and went to the door. They saw a glowing object (I would guess, the normal "30ft." saucer) stationary, 100ft. above the field below the manor.

"Something from Boscombe Down," they thought, and went back to the "telly". A few moments later, the

picture flickered and failed, so they went back to the door in time to see the UFO tilt and move off, quite slowly, at 100ft. until out of sight near the next village, three-quarters of a mile to the west. They then sat down and the television came back on of its own accord.

They thought no more of all this, and until my conversation with Mrs. G., it had passed from her mind.

From her house the field below the manor cannot be seen, but she was very precise in giving me the line of sight. I was able subsequently to plot this on a six-inch/mile map, and the bearing confirmed her suggested location.

* * *

Mrs. G's story brought to mind something told to me with much hesitation by one of my most intelligent and thoughtful villagers, Mr. W. I therefore went straight to his house and without any explanation asked him to describe again what he had told me several years before. He obliged me, and here follows a summary of his account:

At 5.30 p.m. on December 21, 1960, he had taken the dog for its usual run in a field beside the manor. It was a very misty evening and he could see nothing.

Suddenly he heard banging as if someone was bashing a dustbin and then what sounded to him like the beating of many powerful wings—by that time the dog had let off for home in a panic.

The sound seemed to come from the field below the manor, and to lift above the ground before moving off to the west. A moment later it returned, very low and very fast, so Mr. W. threw himself flat on his face. The whole mist seemed to be vibrating, but he could see nothing.

After "it" had gone, he found difficulty in balancing but managed to get home where his wife at once recognised his state of shock. It was about two hours before his balance was restored.

These two occurrences at the same place could easily have been at an exact interval of five years. Does this fit a pattern? Are these routine visits to check the rate of development of our environment? What was the "dustbin" noise?

The "wings beating" sound could well be the countryman's description of the whirring, often reported by other people.

The location is 14 miles from Boscombe Down as the saucer flies.

Luminous objects over La Souterraine

Jean-Claude Baillon

M. Baillon is president of the Cercle d'Information et d'Etude Scientifiques des Phénomènes Insolites (CIESPI) of Poitiers. Together with Messrs. Yannick Robuchon, Robert Robuchon and Georges Cartier he was responsible for the investigation which he describes. Translation by John C. Hugill.

ON September 3, 1969, a little before 4 a.m. local time, M. Laguide, a resident of La Souterraine (Creuse) was driving his friend M. Zamit to his home, "Bridiers", about 2 kilometres east of the town.

On reaching the junction of the R.N.142, on the edge of town just before the railway bridge, their attention was drawn to a light on the left (point No. 1 on the map). "When I turned that way, something caught my attention to one side behind the trees," said M. Laguide.

It was only after going on a few more yards that they clearly saw a luminous ball.

After losing it from sight for a few seconds behind various obstacles, they saw it again "almost along the same line as the road", at point No. 2 on the map. M. Laguide was very intrigued, and continued to drive slowly (a rally driver, he normally drives very fast).

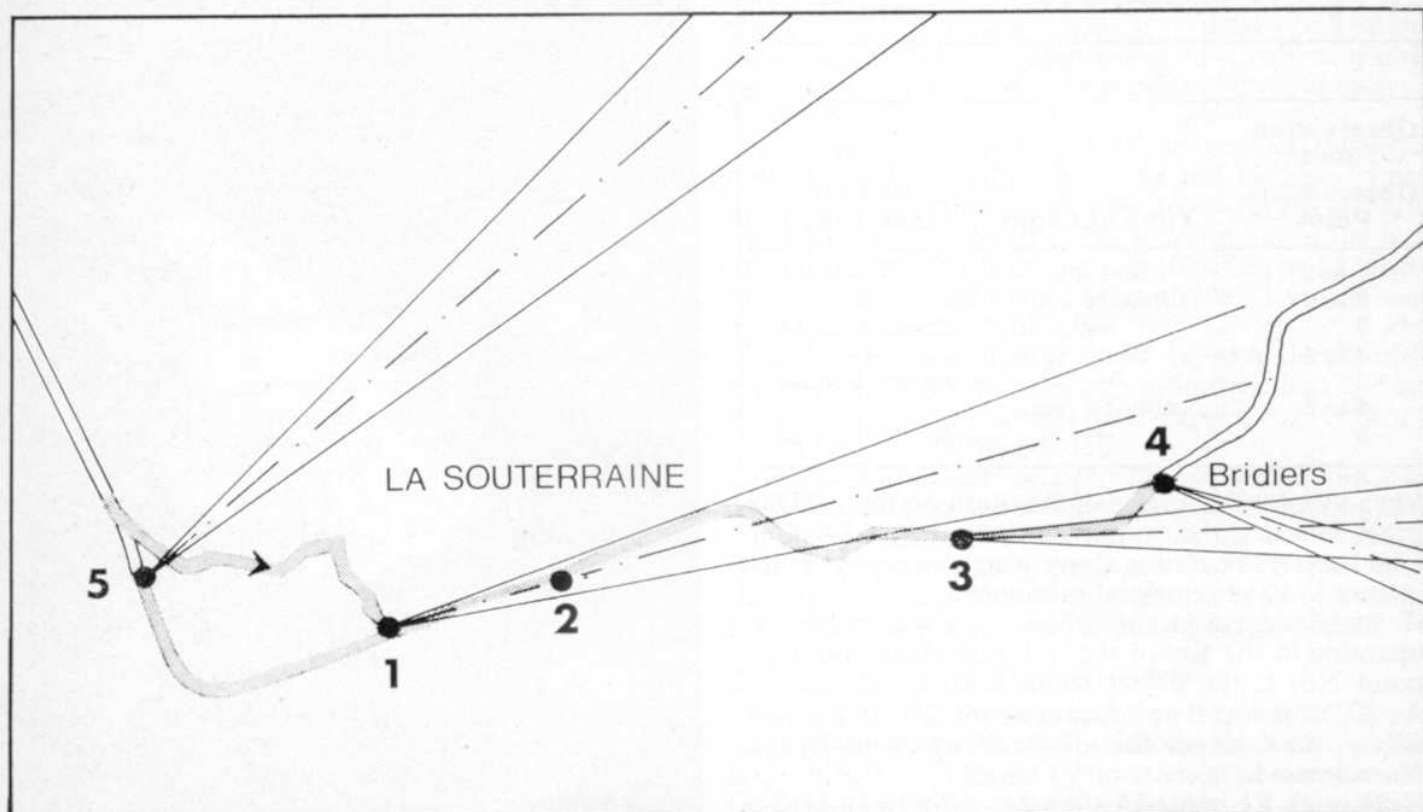
At this time the ball seemed to be following a rising curved trajectory (which seemed to be confirmed by the fact that at this point the road runs uphill and if the ball had maintained the same altitude, it would have seemed to come closer to the horizon). Furthermore, its size grew less. They again lost it from sight at a corner, and then found it again right in front of them. They stopped at a crossroad (point No. 3 on the map), got out of the car, crossed the road, and watched the object for a period of about ten minutes or so it seemed. Then a

kind of unease took them. They started off again, forked left on the R.N.151 bis, and stopped outside M. Zamit's house, about 180 metres from the crossroads (point No. 4 on the map). They again watched the ball for five minutes, and then Zamit went indoors and went straight to bed.

The photographs

For his part, Laguide suddenly thought of his camera, which he had left in his home when cleaning out his car. He returned flat out to La Souterraine.

When he got to the Place Amédée Lefauré, he found four insurance agents bound for a convention at Le Mans, and his own parents, who were all watching the luminous ball. Grabbing his camera (a Kodak Retinette IA, f/4.5) he snapped off one after another the last three exposures remaining on the film, on instantaneous exposure and keeping the same setting; however, he cannot be certain of what the aperture and shutter settings were. The odd fact however is that, on developing the film, it appeared that the image was completely off centre on all three photographs, high and to the right. This despite his assurance that he had lined up the object carefully. This off-centre effect could mean that the ball was moving, slowly but steadily, upwards and to the right.



Observation points on the road transversed by M. Laguide ; photographs taken at point 5

After Laguide had taken his photographs, the witnesses went on watching the ball for about another quarter of an hour, until it disappeared "as if behind a cloud", although Laguide seems to remember that the sky was clear at the time of observation. A light persisted for some seconds behind this "cloudy mass".

According to the descriptions of M. Laguide and his mother, which were recorded separately, the object was very bright, to the extent that they could not look at it for long without a prickling of the eyes. It was white in colour, and its brightness was comparable to that of a neon sign.

After his photographs were developed, M. Laguide was able to establish that the object had a clear and complex shape and that it was surrounded by a halo which gave it the appearance of a luminous ball to the naked eye.

The witness entrusted his negative to us, and we were able to make a number of trial prints. We discovered that an over-exposure (up to 10 minutes at $G = X25$) was necessary to thin out the halo and reveal a clear shape.

Calculations

In the course of his enquiry, Jean-Louis Becquereau, a member of G.E.P.A., whom we thank for his very valuable help, worked out the following table of angles:

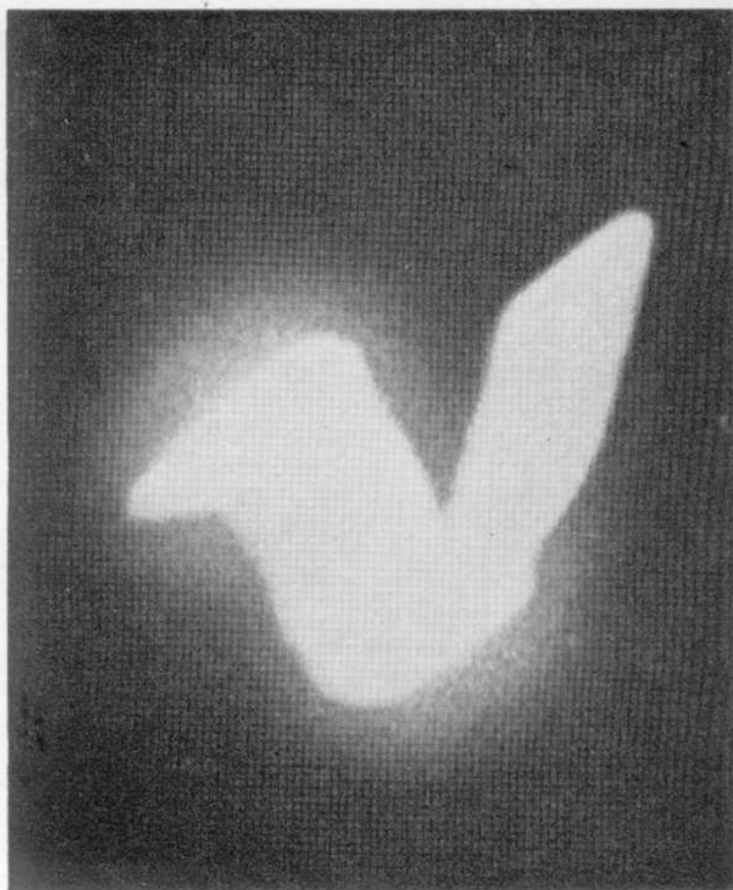
| Observation Point | Azimuth | Elevation |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | $75^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ | 20° |
| 2 | $75^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ | about 30° (less than 45°) |
| 3 | $90^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ | 20° |
| 4 | $110^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ | 20° |
| 5 | $50^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ | about 20° |

| Observation Times: | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Observation Point | Time of Flight | Halt for Observation |
| 1 to 2 | 30 secs. | — |
| 2 to 3 | 1 min. 10 secs. | — |
| 3 | — | about 10 mins. |
| 3 to 4 | 50 secs. | — |
| 4 | — | about 5 mins. |
| 4 to 5 | about 1 min. | — |
| 5 | — | about 15 mins. |

When we plot the angles of elevation on the 1/25,000 map, we find that the azimuths at points 3 and 4 intersect, and determine a zone above which we may suppose the object to have remained motionless.

M. Laguide gave us the following estimates of size: comparable to the size of the full moon, say about 30° at point No. 1, the object to an angular diameter of about 20° at points 3 and 4, and about 10° at point 5. However, we shall see this diameter was considerably under-estimated.

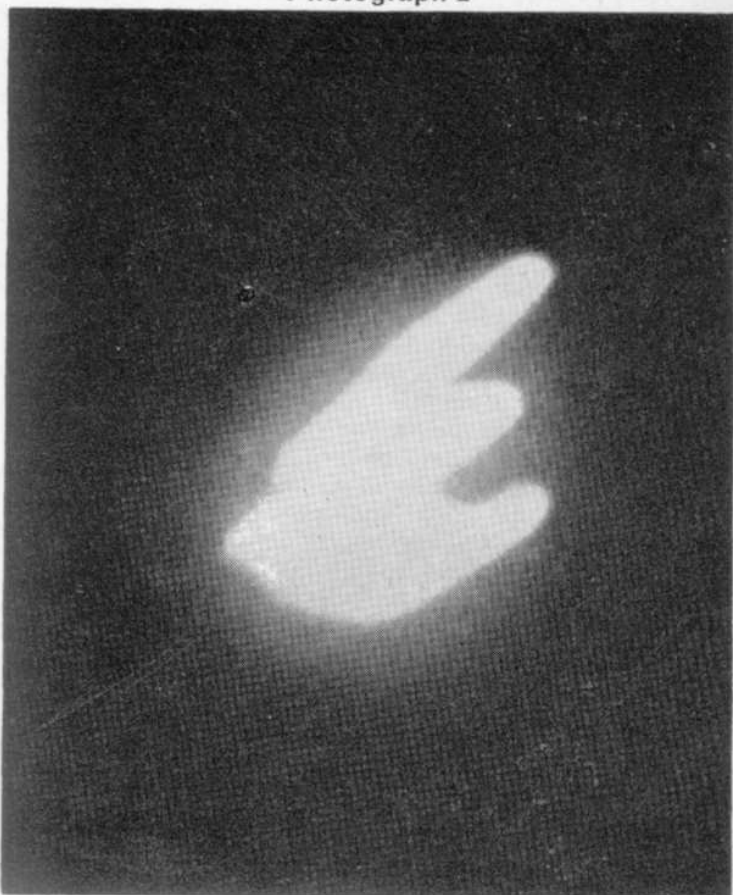
The Kodak Retinette IA (film 24×36) has a field of 43° , and image No. 1 on the negative is 1.8 mm. long.



Photograph 1

From this we can calculate exactly that the angular diameter of the object when photographed by M. Laguide measured 2° .

Photograph 2



Jean-Louis Becquereau asked the Met services Limoges station for the weather conditions in the region for September 3, 1969. From the reply of Meteorological Chief Engineer for the South West, M. Molenat, it emerges that "the sky was completely covered by 7/8 stratus cloud at between 240 and 280 metres and probably a layer of alto-cumulus at about 2,500 metres.

From this one can deduce that the object was slightly lower than 250 metres, and that it had a diameter of about 20 metres.

If we keep to the proportions suggested by M. Laguide (point No. 5—diameter = 10° and points Nos. 3 and 4: diameter = 20° —about double) we get the same diameter at the intersection of the mean azimuths at points 3 and 4 (see graph) taking an angular diameter of 4° .

It will be noted that, with sunrise at 06.11 (local time), an object with an angular diameter of 2° at an elevation of 20° , would have had to be at an altitude of at least 321 km. to be lit by the sun, and thus would have had to have a minimum diameter of 10 km. or so. No confusion could have occurred with the moon, then in its last quarter.

M. Molenat's letter, and the Met information gathered by the La Souterraine police, tells us further that a light wind (10 k.p.h. or so) was blowing from south south-west to south. If one examines the azimuth tables, it appears that the object must have been moving, during the course of the observations, perpendicularly in the direction of the wind.

This eliminates a second possibility, the radio-sonde balloon. M. Molenat prudently records that he had "no knowledge of the launching or descent of a balloon in this region; but of course this does not mean that there wasn't one!"

As the region is uraniumiferous, a third possibility comes to mind, namely plasma. However, time, for one thing, and the size of the object for another, combine to argue against this. As to time, it appears that the length of life of plasma varies from a few seconds to a few minutes (we refer the reader to the work of Prof. McDonald on the Klass theory) and in the present case the sighting lasted for almost an hour! As to size, that of plasma rarely exceeds a few decimetres. So we are left with the UFO hypothesis.

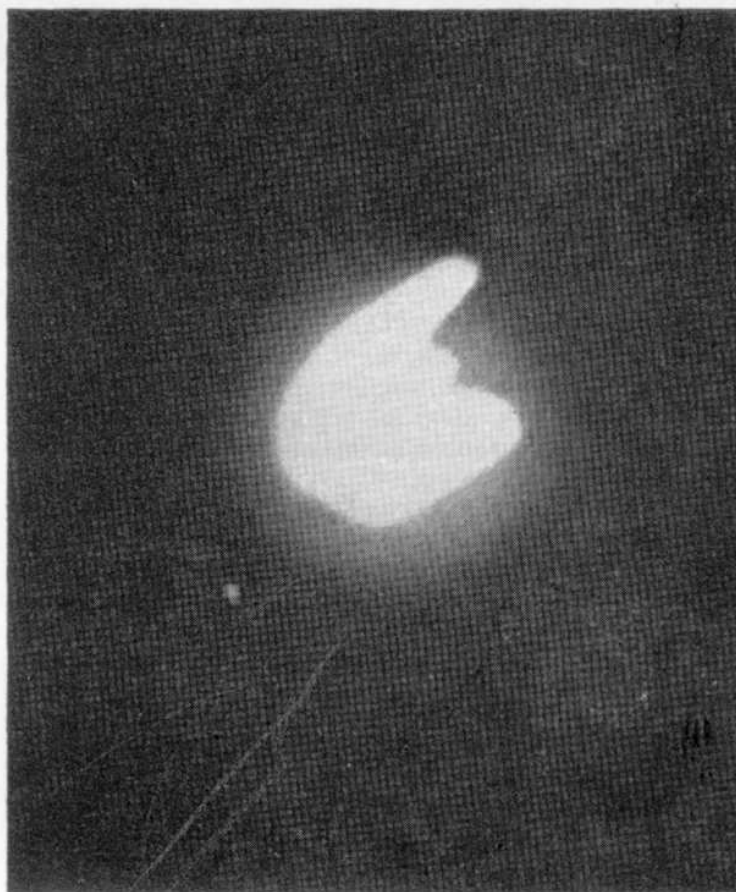
Dr. Guérin's suggestion

Finally, we must mention a very interesting theory propounded by Professor Pierre Guérin, Director of Research at the Astrophysical Institute of the National Centre for Scientific Research, to explain how the witness greatly underestimated the angular diameter of the ball:

"The only immediate answer is that the object photographed was emitting light in the ultraviolet and not in the visible band. The ball radiating in the visible band in the centre of the object was smaller than the phenomenon photographed." This theory would also explain the prickling of the eyes experienced by the witnesses.

Jean-Louis Becquereau having sent him the negative, Professor Guérin has authorised us to publish the following comments:

"1. Any detailed, or even approximate photometry is impossible when one does not know the exact



Photograph 3

exposure, aperture, or developing conditions.

"2. Anyone can photograph anything at night, against a dark background, without reference to the landscape (e.g. a lamp) and call it a UFO.

"3. If one accepts the honesty of the witness and the relevance of his snapshots to his visual observations, then one can bring up the matter of a halo and ultra-violet excrescences around the object since, visually, he only saw a ball."

For our part, in the course of conversation during the renewed meeting with this young and likeable witness, we were never able at any time to doubt his sincerity. The one fantastic detail of his sighting lies in the luminous form imprinted on the film. Besides, as he himself says: "If there hadn't been the photos, I would never have said a word about it."

Backed by this tangible proof, he gave details of his sighting to the authorities at La Souterraine, and sent the pictures to the regional daily paper *Centre-Pressé* of which he is the correspondent.

We then attacked the problem of determining a size corresponding to the different negatives, leaving aside the theory (arguable it is true) that the object did not change its form during its evolution. We must admit that the problem is a very complex one, and we submit it to whosoever has the patience to grapple with it.

Another incident

We have felt bound to append to this dossier a further sighting report by Mme. Barthelot, an account of which is given below, followed by an attempt at interpretation by CIESPI member Robert Robuchon, of the evolution of the object seen on September 3.

During one of our talks, M. Laguide told us of another interesting sighting at La Souterraine, a short time before his own. A CIESPI investigator, Christian Villevarlange, made enquiries on the spot, of which I later obtained details in correspondence with the witness.

On September 2, 1969, between 19.30 and 20.00 hours (thus nine hours before M. Laguide's sighting), Mme. Solange Barthelot, employed at the home of M. and Mme. Picoty, was alone at her employers' chateau at La Souterraine, with the Picoty's young son, aged 11.

The latter went outside to play while Mme. Barthelot was cooking. After a moment, he called her and she saw in the sky, which was still quite bright (the stars were not yet visible) a luminous object of unusual shape (see sketch).

"The object was very small in the sky (smaller than the quarter moon) but one could distinguish its shape very well. The outline must have been a little fuzzy, but had no halo. One could look at it without discomfort to the eyes." So wrote Mme. Barthelot, and later she added: "The two parts which formed the object were approximately of the same length."

The object remained motionless throughout the sighting, which lasted, say, between one and two hours. Very quickly it changed from yellow to red (or vice versa, Mme. Barthelot could not be sure of this point). During the change of colour she noticed no variation in luminosity. She then went back to her kitchen and when she came back a moment later, the object, still in the same place, had turned white.

It was almost overhead (60° - 80° above the horizon) and somewhat to the eastward. It then "disappeared as if hidden by a cloud, which was odd as there was no cloud in the sky that night."

The similarities between the two sightings will be noted, first the date and the place, but also the mode of disappearance, which is described in identical fashion by both witnesses. All the same, Mme. Barthelot said she had made the sighting without any prickling of the eyes.

M. Laguide went to see her on September 3 to talk about his sighting and showed her the photographs two or three days later.

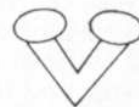
On seeing these photographs, Mme. Barthelot felt able to say: "There is a definite similarity in shape with the object I saw. I think also that the object in the photo (M. Laguide's photo No. 1) is the same as the object which I saw in the sky, but seen from a different angle."

Young Pierre Picoty had the presence of mind to make several detailed sketches of the object. He was kind enough to make another during Robert Robuchon's visit on June 28 last. This sketch exactly matches that by Mme. Barthelot.

Comments on the La Souterraine photographs

Percy Hennell

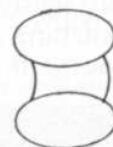
OBVIOUSLY I am in no position to hazard even a guess as to what it was that was photographed. The lack of information on the length of each exposure does not help, but if it had been in the region of one tenth to one second, the negatives are consistent with what I would expect to see from a luminous object which hovered, moved a little, and hovered again. Print No. 1 is consistent with a slow downward and upward



movement, hence the shaped ribbon of light, and the other two with short quicker movements and more prolonged hovering.

From the appearance of the images I would think that the object was cigar-shaped, or else, if circular, observed edge on, thus presenting an elliptical view. In photo No. 2 the pattern of movement is strikingly similar to that in one of the St. Leonard's photos* thus:

Stationary



Movement

Stationary

The movement pattern is usually less exposed and thus less brilliant than the stationary images. It is important to remember that against a dark sky, any number of images can be recorded of a single object on the same frame, if it moves from one position to another, just so long as the shutter is open. Another important point is that if the object is cigar-shaped or spherical, it will appear so from any angle, but if it is disc-shaped, it will vary from a circle to a narrow ellipse according to the angle of view. In several cases that I have examined for you the object, apparently, has been elliptical, but has changed its own angle to the viewer in successive photographs, and presented a circle or wider ellipse.

* See FSR, Vol. 14, No. 2 (March/April 1968).

TOO ALL INVESTIGATORS . . .

The arrival of **FSR Case Histories** provides a vehicle for good new reports of investigations. So please let us have preliminary details as soon as you are onto a new case.

Spectacular Landing at Dinan

J. Cresson

A hitherto untold story which is reported to have taken place in the Cotes-du-Nord, France, in 1955. From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 106 of June, 1970. Translation by Gordon Creighton.

ONE Saturday in May 1955, Monsieur Droguet was returning from the cinema at about 11.45 p.m. He was living at the time in quarters on the premises of the College for Girls in Dinan (Translator's Note: 48° 28N., 2° 02 W.).

He interrupted his journey to see a friend at the Place du Clos, and got back home at about fifteen minutes after midnight.

He opened the small door leading into one of the courtyards of the College. This door, being of metal, made a certain amount of noise as it slammed, and he had scarcely had the time to lock it again and take a few steps when he was flooded with light. A sort of bluish-green beam was directed at him, blinding him so completely that momentarily he was quite unable to see anything. He felt extreme fear, his knees were knocking, and he felt the hairs on his head standing erect.

A few seconds after this harsh flash of light, his eyes now growing accustomed to it, M. Droguet was able to make out an enormous object which was hanging totally immobile at a height of about 1½ metres above the ground in the courtyard. He was amazed that such a machine could stay in the air like this. He heard no sound, but merely felt a sort of continuous vibration.

Suddenly he became aware that there were two beings near the machine. They were wearing a sort of outfit which made it likely that they could not have heard him enter the courtyard. At least this is what he thought, for the two beings seemed to disregard him.

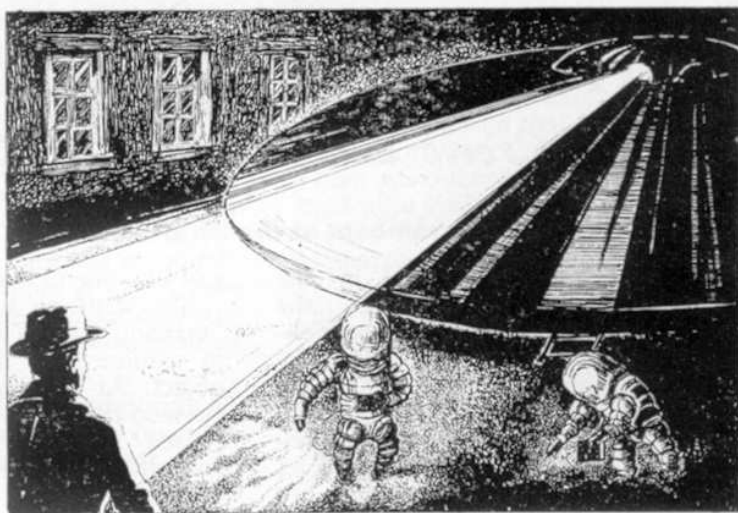
He felt his terror mounting, and would gladly have fled, but he was literally "nailed to the spot," and so quite incapable of crossing the distance of six metres separating him from the door through which lay his way out of the courtyard. Later, he was unable to say precisely whether it was his fear that had paralysed him, or the effect of the bluish-green beam thrown on him.

The two beings were dressed in a sort of metallic one-piece grey overalls, and somewhat resembled the "little men" in the advertisement for Michelin tyres. (See *Contact Casualty On Réunion*, in FSR for January/February 1969.) He was unable to see their heads, which were encased in bulky helmets. Their hands were not bare, but covered with gloves of a kind. On the abdomen each had a black box with many leads coming from it. One of the beings was engaged in picking up something here and there from the ground (probably pebbles). The other one was inspecting the surroundings and at one point he stooped to look into a window behind which there was a disused furnace.

The witness had the very clear impression that somebody was watching him from inside the machine and was responsible for shining the beam of light on him. At

the time it had all seemed quite long-drawn out to him, but in retrospect he estimated that at the very most the sighting had lasted but a few minutes, and in any case not more than a quarter of an hour.

At the conclusion of this interval of time, the two beings walked towards the machine, and he saw that on the under-part of the craft there was a black hole from



Impression of the Dinan landing by J.-L. Boncoeur

which there hung a metallic ladder of just a few rungs. The two entities were not very big—about 1.60 m. he estimated. They walked with difficulty, like divers with their leaden soles. Movement was hard for them.

Just as they were entering the craft, M. Droguet distinctly heard a metallic sound emanating from their feet as they trod. When they had entered the craft, the ladder was drawn in and there was a sound like the intake of air. He felt a displacement of the air, a sensation of suction. The machine, still lit up, rose vertically to above treetop height, without any sound. He was now able to see the black hole in the centre of the underpart of the craft, and to perceive that the hole was circular. The craft was rotating very rapidly, but the black hole did not seem to be moving.

When the machine had reached treetop height, its lights went out. Recovering his faculties, M. Droguet dashed straight for his quarters. For several days his nerves were very much on edge as a result of the experience, which had given him the greatest fright he had ever had in his life.

Realising that nobody would want to believe his story, he told it only to his wife and to some very

trustworthy friends. The Headmistress of the Girls' College was informed about it at the time, and she advised Monsieur Droguet not to let the affair become known lest it cause a "scandal".

Prior to the experience Monsieur Droguet had not had any belief whatsoever in the existence of flying saucers and had been wont to laugh about them. He has certainly changed his opinion now.

It was only by a fortunate chance that, fifteen years after its occurrence, I got to hear of this sighting.

* * * * *

Note by Editor of L.D.L.N.: It was not entirely *by chance*. Mons. Cresson was making enquiries and investigating, and as he moved around he learnt a lot of things of which we shall speak later. Even the most trivial enquiry, and even of events in the past, assists in the discovery of contacts, and these contacts can hold some staggering surprises for us . . . Our friend Tyrode once wrote to us that he had gone out to make two

investigations and brought back eight. People often write to tell us that nothing has been happening in their area. It just is not true; every time a keen investigator makes his rounds he comes back with a harvest of facts. The facts don't come looking for the investigator. *He* has to go and search for *them*.

Geology: An expert in this field, M. Cresson has sent us a detailed report, from which we give just a few passages.

The College is erected on a zone where different terrains converge. To the north-east, flaked granitic granulite. To the south-west, granulite.

All round about, there is a volcanic "chimney", or throat of basalt rocks. Some six kilometres to the south-east is silver-bearing quartz which has been exploited. This same region contains uranium-bearing deposits which have been investigated by Dr. Roptin of Dinan.

Dinan lies on an anticlinal undulation. There is no recognised fault shown on Geological Sheet No. 60. The soil is almost everywhere siliceous, and the landscape has little timber.

Mirror-Ball UFO seen at Stirchley

Alan K. Crewe and Malcolm H. Drew

Our contributors are members of the Birmingham UFO Investigation Group.*

AN item which appeared in the correspondence column of the Birmingham *Sunday Mercury* on February 15, 1970, led us to interview Mrs. J. Hayward, of Windsor Road, Stirchley, Birmingham, who told us how, at 6.25 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, she saw a very unusual object from the front bedroom of her terraced house in a busy suburb of Birmingham. It was a cold, dry, moonless night, with intermittent cloud. Mrs. Hayward rises early to awaken her son and daughter-in-law who also live in the house.

Said Mrs. Hayward: "This started like a very tiny star, and it was very brilliant and then it gradually got bigger to the size of a golf-ball, then to a tennis ball, then it gradually grew and grew until it was the size of a football, then it grew massive (Mrs. Hayward described a large circle with her hands) and all the while it was buzzing."

While watching the object, she gave a running commentary to her husband who was in bed in the same room. Mr. Hayward, who is a semi-invalid, was unable to join his wife at the window, but was able to hear the continuous "buzzing" sound, clearly audible although the window was closed.

"You know the cuts on a diamond?" asked Mrs. Hayward. "Well, you could see those . . . you know those big lights they have in ballrooms which flash as they go round (mirror-ball?) . . .

just like one of those."

She went on to describe how the "buzzing" sound appeared to increase in volume with the approach of the object. At its largest Mrs. Hayward claimed that the object almost encompassed the width of her bedroom window. The window is approximately 4ft. wide. It then receded to its former star-like appearance, and vanished behind cloud which seemed to be illuminated by a "silvery light". By now, Mr. Hayward had raised himself up in bed and was able to witness this effect. The whole sighting had lasted approximately two minutes.

Mrs. Hayward was most emphatic that the object appeared to be solid and of a well-defined shape. She could suggest no logical explanation for what she had seen. Her son and daughter-in-law, who sleep at the rear of the house, saw and heard nothing, and Mrs. Hayward's dog did not, to her knowledge, react in any way during the sighting.

It was apparent to us that Mrs. Hayward was unfamiliar with the subject of UFOs, but it was established that some twenty years ago she had had a telepathic experience involving her husband, and a previous psychic experience when she was a young girl. These, together with her present UFO sighting appear to be her only experiences of unusual phenomena.

Mrs. Hayward also told us that on the evening prior to our visit she had

been interviewed by a man who claimed to be connected with the Ministry of Defence. After obtaining details of her sighting and her signature on an "official" form he said that this would be "chronicled".

* * *

On February 22, 1970, the *Sunday Mercury* published another letter concerning a UFO sighting in which a Miss Ann Cottrell wrote as follows:

"I was interested to read Mrs. Hayward's letter about the UFO she saw on February 3. On the same day, but at 9.00 p.m., I too saw something unusual. I saw a 'star-like' object enlarge, then fall. When this happened, it left a red, glowing trail.

"It appeared to be travelling from Balsall Heath towards Five Ways. At first I thought it was a 'shooting star' but it was too large."

Miss Cottrell lives in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham (approximately three miles N.N.E. from Mrs. Hayward's home) and from the details in her letter the object she sighted would appear to have been travelling in a north-westerly direction.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have been unable to secure an interview with this witness but we are pursuing the matter.

* Address: 511 Warwick Road, Birmingham 11. Tel: 021-706 1917.

Readers' Reports

Dorset Multi-shape UFO

Dear Sir,—On November 5, 1969, while working in the Portland, Weymouth area, I saw a curious object. What it was I do not know, but I decided to write and tell you about it.

The time was about 2.55 p.m. and I first saw the object whilst travelling towards Wyke Regis, from Portland. The day was fine with a few clouds about, and there was little wind. At first I thought the object was a helicopter, as there are a few at Portland, but this was so bright that it couldn't have been one. This bright light appeared to be about 1,000-2,000ft. above the ground over Charlestown, or in that area. I say "above ground" because when I first saw it it appeared thus, but because of our movement, it later appeared to be over the coast.

The funny thing was that it kept changing shape and colour, but never seemed to move.

As we went through into Wyke Regis, both my driver and I were curious to see what it was, and so we stopped the van on the highest part of Wyke Road, and watched it for about 13 minutes.

From alignment with certain features on the ground, I saw that it moved neither up, nor down, nor sideways.

At first sighting it looked sausage-shaped and very bright, but from our new position on Wyke Road, it changed to a cross, still brilliant white, but with hazy edges, and dark spots at the ends of each arm of the cross.

It changed once again, and all that could be seen were the dark spots on the ends of each "arm".

Next, quite suddenly, it seemed to change to a dog-bone shape, except that the bottom was very black, and the top had two lumps at each end, which, glowing brightly and with hazy edges, still had the dark spots in the centre of them. This time there were two dark spots at the ends, instead of the three that were there before in the cross shape.

Once again the aspect changed. The bottom appeared in a "bowed" section, black as before, but the top seemed to be "squared off"—at first a greyish haze, and shortly afterwards with a distinct outline, still greyish. Then, out of the black bottom there seemed to come two "teeth", as when the undercarriage is let down from an aircraft. These were of the same blackness as the bottom of the thing.

As more work had to be done, we could not stay, and so left the position from which we had observed the object. It was still there and I was very disappointed at having to leave.

Although it was bonfire night, I can assure you that it was neither a firework of any kind, nor was it military—at least I don't think it was. I have never seen anything stay quite so still, and change its shape without appearing to move.

My hobby is aircraft, and during my Army service I was a radar operator. I have received your excellent *Flying Saucer Review* for some years, but in no way has it influenced my letter to you.

Alan Christopher, Parkstone, Dorset.
May 6, 1970.

Dividing UFO

Dear Sir,—On May 4, 1970, we interviewed a Mrs. Christine Powell of Hall Green, Birmingham, concerning the sighting of an object, which she had made the previous evening.

On Sunday, May 3, Mrs. Powell was in bed at her home, and, being unable to sleep, was looking at the sky through her bedroom window. After a while, at approximately 11.30 p.m., she noticed in the sky a bright round object which appeared to be growing larger. The object grew until it was about the size of a cricket ball held at arm's length, then it divided into two objects of a similar size as the original one. These objects then remained motionless for some time. The witness became frightened and did not leave her bed to investigate further. She eventually fell asleep with both objects still in view.

Mrs. Powell's dog, which was with her in the bedroom, was apparently aware of something unusual, as he appeared restless, barked and eventually left the room altogether.

The weather on that particular night was warm and dry with no wind. There was intermittent cloud but many stars were visible. There was no moon.

Mrs. Powell described the object/s as sharply outlined, self-luminous and "... glowing as if they were white hot." She heard no sounds during the time of observation.

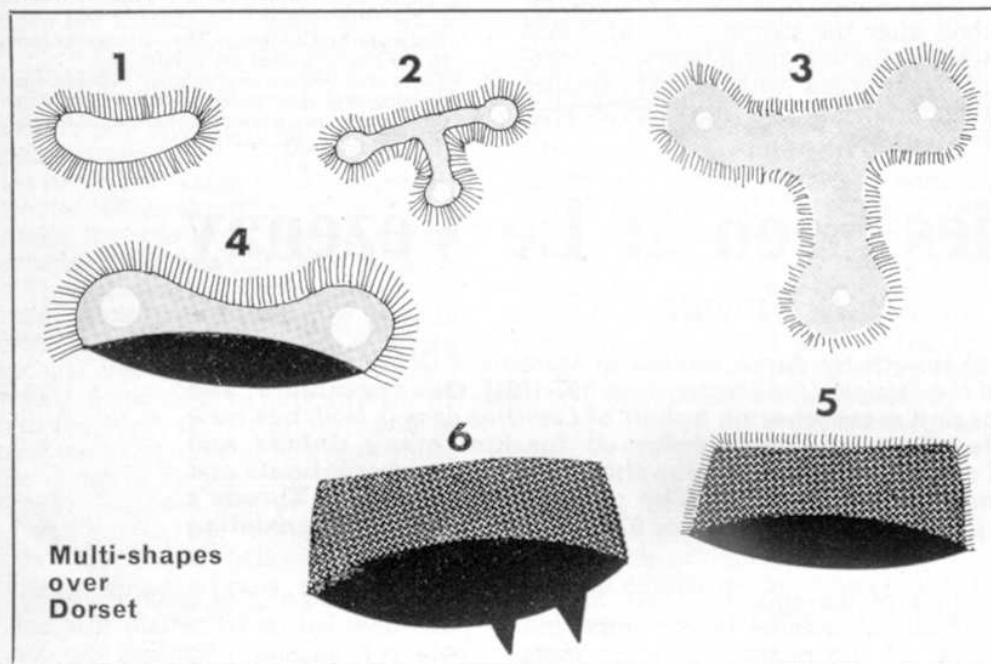
Mrs. Powell is in her early twenties and has one young child. She is employed as a secretary in Birmingham. She had no prior knowledge of UFOs or flying saucers, and has never read any books or magazines concerning them. After talking to her we were satisfied that she had given an accurate account of something very unusual which she had seen on the evening of May 3. She herself could suggest no logical explanation for what she had seen, but was emphatic that she had not fallen asleep and dreamt the whole episode. Her bedroom is at the rear of the house and overlooks open playing fields. This seems to rule out the possibility of street-lamp or car headlight reflections.

This part of Hall Green is a busy area even at night time, but to date no further reports have been received and nothing has appeared in the local press.

Birmingham UFO Investigation Group,
511 Warwick Road, Birmingham 11.
May 8, 1970.

Space Ships?

Dear Sir,—The following may be of interest. Should I awake at night, my view is unrestricted over the water and across towards the Snowdon National Park of which many peaks are over 3,000ft.



Multi-shapes
over
Dorset

Twice during this last winter, in December and January, instead of closing my eyes to regain sleep, or switching on the light to read, I have instead observed the stars and the easily-seen panorama.

Most times there is nothing much to see, so eventually sleep returns. However, on the above-mentioned nights I saw a yellow object pass over, going from south to north. It was visible only for a very brief time, perhaps three seconds. No noise, no trail, and height impossible to estimate.

It could have been anything, and its altitude ten thousand feet or ten miles, but obviously the speed was beyond our present known abilities for a flat trajectory.

Not a descending, almost vertical, golden piece of meteorite, which quickly burns out.

Not a widespread electrical flash which are usually white or blue.

How could it be a man-made object like a missile? The missile take-off, and descent to a pre-arranged target would be very public, and moreover all the seas from Scotland to Iceland hold thousands of trawlers.

Also "Notices to Airmen" have to be given out as air lines are now converging from all directions, and anything below 40,000ft. is a prohibited area.

So what were these things? Not a sputnik or imilar, as they are quite steady and slow, golden in the sun's rays, and very easy to observe.

If it was a large "spaceship," very high, very fast, it would also reflect the sun's rays and this could very well be the explanation.

Yours truly,

Charles M. Needham, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, North Wales.
June 22, 1970.

Tower view

The following report is taken from a collection made by M. J. Matson, B.Ed., and forwarded for publication

by Arthur Shuttlewood, of Warminster.

On December 5, 1969, at 07.40-07.50, B.S.T., Mrs. Ethel Smith of Arthur Punshon Tower, Oliver Close, Leyton, London E10, was looking from the window of her fifteenth floor flat. She noticed an object which appeared to be about three miles away in a west-north-westerly direction. The object was about 400ft. above the ground and was estimated to be as large as several airliners.

The object was observed through binoculars. After remaining stationary for some time it suddenly moved off towards the south-west "at an incredible speed; much faster than any aircraft." It then vanished "in thin air".

The object was described as being a row of powerful lights: no outline of a solid object was noticed. From the position of the lights, however, the witness thought that the object was circular. It was like "a ballroom" in the sky. The lights were white. The object appeared solid.

This was not the first time that Mrs. Smith had seen something of this kind. On two occasions previously (dates not known) she had experienced an identical sighting; same time, description, movement, and so on. On the first occasion the object was visible for 5 minutes, on the second occasion for 2 minutes and on the last occasion for 10 or 11 minutes.

Mrs. Smith is accustomed to watching aircraft approaching London Airport (Heathrow), and she says that there is no chance that what she saw could have been an aircraft. On the third occasion she called her 11-year-old son, and he arrived in time to see the thing move off at high speed and then disappear "somewhere towards the West End". He too emphasised the immensity of the object.

Mrs. Smith noted that for several days after the sightings the air-space towards the west-north-west was abnormally crowded with aircraft smaller than airliners, "as if they were looking for the object."

Wanstead school report

Michael V. Matson also reports that on February 6, 1970, at 07.40 hrs. B.S.T., a schoolboy, R. W. Allingham, of Wanstead, London E11, in company with another boy, saw what he described as a "reddish-yellow-white oval-shaped" object to the south-west. The object was hovering behind some bare trees: the witness believed it to be about 500 yards away over Hollow Ponds. The object was slightly larger than a pea held at arm's length, and "too large to be Venus."

Young Allingham is interested in the problem of unidentified aerial phenomena, and spends a good deal of his spare time sky-watching. For this reason Mr. Matson thinks he would be experienced in identifying natural phenomena as well as conventional aerial craft.

Yellow bell-shaped UFO

Again, from Mr. Matson's collection, we learn how, on February 6, 1970, at 07.45 hrs. B.S.T., a middle-aged clerical worker¹ of Villiers Close, Leyton, London E10, was taking his motor cycle from the garage. To the west-north-west, at a distance of approximately two miles, the witness saw a pale yellow object which had the appearance (in outline) of a flattened bell. The upper part of the object had a distinct outline but there was no distinct outline at its base. The UFO was close to the skyline but its top was above the tallest buildings.

The width of the object was greater than the width of several tower blocks. The witness saw an object identical in appearance at the same time of day and in the same location on an occasion about ten days earlier.²

Mr. Matson's notes:

¹ The name and address of the witness is known to me but he wishes anonymity.

² There is a degree of similarity between this sighting and that of Mrs. Ethel Smith. Also there may be some correlation with the sighting of R. W. Allingham.

The Entities Seen at Le Vézenay

J. Tyrode

This case was reported at length by Aimé Michel in *Mystérieux Objets Célèstes* (pp. 239-241) [*Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (pp. 197-198)]. Our contributor, and indefatigable investigator and researcher on behalf of *Lumières dans la Nuit*, has now traced the witness, Mlle. Bourriot, who confirmed for him many details and emphasised a number of others, on the condition that her present whereabouts and her name (she is now married) be withheld. The edited report, with M. Tyrode's comments, appeared in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 97 of December 1968. Translation by Gordon Creighton.

AFTER a lapse of fourteen years, Mme. Z, as she is now, was found to have retained a vivid memory of all

details of the episode. There are no substantial changes in her story, but some of the nuances and the more

subtle aspects of it as described by her have now led us to certain new and bold conclusions, regarding the cor-

rectness of which readers must of course decide for themselves.

The date was October 18, 1954. Mlle. Bourriot was living at Montperreux, and was returning home on her motor-scooter from Malbuisson, where she worked. It was 10.45 p.m.

As she was travelling along National Highway 437 towards the village of Le Vézenay (Doubs) she saw a bright red light ahead of her, shining on the road and on the first houses of the village. Thinking it must be caused by a car ahead of her, she drove on. The light vanished suddenly, and she passed through Le Vézenay without noticing anything abnormal.

It was only after she had gone about a hundred yards beyond the last houses of the village that she noticed something very strange. Standing on the left-hand side of the road, and facing her, about 60 cms. or so from the footpath, motionless as a statue, there was a man of average height. Her lights showed him up clearly. He was about 1 m. 50 or 1 m. 60 in height and wearing a darkish overcoat or raincoat. (Aimé Michel wrote that he was wearing "light-coloured overalls," but Mlle. Bourriot insists it was a coat, and neither very dark nor very light in colouring.)

Although suddenly seeing a silent stationary man at this hour of the night was a bit strange, Mlle. Bourriot had no reason for alarm. The man did not look at her, but was gazing across the road, i.e., towards her right.

However, as she was just about to pass him, she suddenly perceived that, standing beside this man, on his left, there were two small completely black beings, also motionless.

As she approached, these two little beings walked across the road, passing at a distance of less than ten metres from her scooter and heading towards a small bus passenger-shelter standing on the right-hand side of the road. The normal-sized man meanwhile remained motionless, and showed no sign of being aware either of the presence of the two small beings or of the passing scooter. Mlle. Bourriot was suddenly struck by the eerie nature of the situation, and she accelerated in panic.

Three kilometres further along, the road climbs, and she stopped there to look back and see whether anything peculiar was to be seen behind her. She beheld a red object rising straight up into the night sky. It appeared to be oval and to be more or less right above the village of Le Vézenay.

Mlle. Bourriot told of the incident in due course, but found few in the area who would believe her. Most thought she was a crank, but she never budged from her story.

She told me that those two small beings stood out as clearly as ever in her memory, as though it had all been yesterday and not fourteen years ago.

Folk told her that the man and the two little beings must have been a scoutmaster and two scouts—because of the shape of the hats worn by the two small beings. She rejected this as nonsense.

She said that next day several people examined the spot and found very clear small footprints leading from the road towards the shelter and making a right-angle turn behind it. (Aimé Michel wrote that the prints were visible in the field from which the small beings had come. Mlle. Bourriot says however that this is incorrect.)

* * *

In my opinion, the red light seen beforehand and the rising object seen afterwards are good evidence that a UFO landing took place. As for the boy scout theory, firstly, boy scouts are all at school at that season of the year, and secondly, they are certainly not out at 11 o'clock on a Monday night.

As for the man, it seems clear that he was a man—a terrestrial. Mlle. Bourriot says that everybody living in the region knows everybody else, and that he was therefore from elsewhere, a stranger. Was he a tourist? There were very few tourists in 1954, and there were even less likely to be any tourists facing the asperities of the weather in the Jura during October. The nearest hotels (at Malbuisson) were closed at that time of the year.

Even if we do accept that the man was a tourist, it would still be odd that he should be out there so late at night and that he should have shown no curiosity, made no movement of any sort, no gesture or look in the direction of the scooter as its light shone on him as it advanced towards him out of the darkness on that deserted road.

It would be an odd sort of scoutmaster who would remain so passive and so immobile at the moment just when two of his "scouts" were about to cross the road right in front of a vehicle that was only a few metres from them. Even if there was no danger for the boys, one would expect that he would at least have looked about him to take in and sum up the situation.

In my opinion the event did occur as Mme. Z, the former Mlle. Bourriot has described it to me, confirming in every detail her account of fourteen years before and confirming Aimé Michel's report made at the time.

I must emphasise that when I visited her first, Mme. Z refused at the outset

to talk about the event which for her had had such unpleasant repercussions owing to the widespread publicity given to it. It was only at her husband's request that she finally agreed to discuss the case with me. In each of our several interviews, I was struck by her affability, her lucidity, and the great willingness with which she answered my questions (on the sole condition that my report should not be communicated to the newspapers).

At present my own opinion is that the man seen by her was a terrestrial man and that his behaviour rules out his having been some night prowler or his having been in charge of the smaller beings. Nobody resembling him was ever seen subsequently in the district.

Moreover, he and the two small beings were *together*, and must therefore have been known to each other. They were side by side, and neither the larger one nor the two smaller ones seemed to react at the sight of the other. It is improbable that the man and the two beings should not have been in some kind of relationship to each other prior to Mlle. Bourriot's arrival on the scene.

In fact, to have remained thus so unresponsive to the events occurring around him, the man must have been under the influence of a drug or some sort of "power".

Given their strange behaviour, the two small personages do not seem to have been human.

More and more do I have the conviction that the red light, the man, the two small beings, and the red object rising, are all facts that are closely related.

Did a UFO land and put down its occupants—occupants accompanied by an Earthman—perhaps their prisoner? This would be entirely possible.

Needless to say, we found that the inevitable geological fault-line was present—as is most usually the case in our investigations—in this case being not far from the spot.

* * *

[The sketch on the cover of LDLN No. 97 from which this is taken shows the "terrestrial" as hatless, but in fact M. Tyrode ascertained from Mme. Z that he was wearing a hat—G.C.]

* * *

Note:

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