

# File on The Thing stays a secret

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MR. DAVID HOLTON, a scientist, yesterday threatened to destroy a dossier on "The Thing" at Warminster rather than disclose its contents to a public meeting next Friday at the Town Hall.

For several years Mr. Holton (who is a consultant in medical jurisprudence) has investigated aerial phenomena in the West Country. He has also spent months checking on reports of weird noises and strange objects in the night sky over the southern area of Warminster.

But he refuses to recognise the meeting called by Warminster Urban Council chairman, Mr. Emyln Rees to discuss the phenomena.

Mr. Holton who lives at Sutton End, Crockerton, near Warminster, says that other places have had similar manifestations. He claims that French atom scientist Pierre Michel is investigating four cases in France at the moment.

"This meeting is not the right way to go about it," he said. "This is a serious matter and must not be thrashed out in a half-hearted way by local people in front of newspaper men and television cameras.

"If I gave evidence at this meeting—which is not official—I would have to reveal the names of witnesses and people who have helped me. I just cannot betray these confidences."

## PIGEONS KILLED

Many local people, especially children, have grown anxious about The Thing ever since the first reports just after Christmas Morning of 1964. They claim to have heard a tremendous crack-

ling in the sky which killed pigeons in flight, peppered dormice with holes and stuns animals, partridges and pheasants. Some people say they have been knocked down by a strange force.

Mr. Holton, who is a spare-time geologist, naturalist, and archaeologist, claimed weeks ago that the happenings indicated that people in Warminster would soon be seeing objects in the sky.

Shortly afterwards, the Vicar of Heytesbury, the Rev. Graham Phillip, and his family, reported seeing a glowing, cigar-shaped object over the south of the town from the vicarage in the village. It remained motionless for over 20 minutes. Their 12-year-old son, Nigel, had a close-up view of The Thing with his telescope and drew a picture of it.