

Warminster UFO Newsletter

Presented as an Information Service for Persons Interested in Keeping
In Contact with Unusual Happenings in the Warminster District.

no7 10p



Report of red, green and silver UFO over city

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object was reported hovering over Coventry last night by a Leamington woman.

Mrs. Katharine Laws said she was in the kitchen of her home at 179, Cubbington Road, Leamington, when she glanced through the window and saw the object. She called her husband, Mr. William Laws, and they spent an hour studying the U.F.O. through binoculars.

The police were notified and an officer who went to the house confirmed that there was an object in the sky.

Mrs. Laws said today it was red, green and silver and appeared to have a fantail. She added, "There was a flashing light like those on top of police cars."

Unusual

The object was first sighted by Mrs. Laws shortly after 11.30 p.m. and it was still in the sky over Coventry, she said, an hour later when she and her husband retired for the night.

"We are certain it was not an aeroplane or anything like that," said Mrs. Laws. "It was most unusual."

A Leamington police spokesman said there were no other reports of the object being sighted.

Coventry police said they have had no reports of UFOs over the city.

The sky riddle

3.

1.

POLICE in Dorset were yesterday flooded with calls from people who said they had seen a large silver object in the sky.

The unidentified object, said to resemble a balloon, was first spotted in the morning in the Weymouth area and later near Bridport.

A Dorset and Bournemouth police spokesman said last night: "We are aware of the object but we don't know where it comes from."

The Navy was also baffled.

"Sometimes we release a six-foot meteorological balloon but none has been released today," said a Portland Naval base spokesman.

● Reports of an unidentified object seen over parts of Wiltshire baffled meteorological experts at RAF Lyneham.

A spokesman said several people on the camp told air traffic control they had seen a white round object overhead, but staff with binoculars failed to spot it.

UFO BAFFLES THE RAF

PEOPLE in the Swindon area spotted a UFO over Penhill early this afternoon.

RAF Lyneham had phone calls about the mystery object from as far away as Caine.

Wendy Eales, of Shelley Street, Swindon, told the Evening Advertiser: "I've just seen a UFO."

"It was about 12.30 when my sister Lesley came in and grabbed some binoculars.

"With the naked eye you could see a white ball. Through the binoculars it looked like white with a ring around it and it was spinning very fast.

FASCINATED

"It didn't frighten me, I was just fascinated," she said.

RAF Lyneham's air traffic control had several reports. So did the operations room. A spokesman said they were looking into the reports.

The cloud base was about 2,800 feet and all reports said the object was above the clouds.

The RAF thought it might be a "met. balloon" but they had no reports of one being missing.

There were also many eyewitnesses in Old Town, Swindon.

5.

Sea search called off

A big air-sea search took place off the Norfolk coast early today after reports that a plane had crashed in the sea.

But R.A.F. helicopters reported that they had found no sign of a crash and the search was called off at 2.30 a.m.

It started after red flares were sighted, and an R.A.F. launch and shipping in the area joined in the hunt.

6.

RE - ITERATION OF POLICY

The Warminster UFO Newsletter exists as an information service for persons interested in particular in the unusual occurrences manifesting in the Warminster district. Our principle aim is to keep persons in contact with these events, by reporting them through the medium of the Newsletter without bias or censorship. The content of issue No 6 has in some quarters been labelled controversial for it's emphasis on the metaphysical or spiritual aspects of the significance of the Warminster phenomenon. We stated the following in issue No 2 and feel that we should re-iterate the statement. 'Many have made the mistake of studying 'Flying Saucers' alone, leaving to one side all other material. One should take care when evaluating and not make the mistake of ignoring or rejecting material which may not fit the pattern of a pre-conceived pet theory. Alas! many cases have been shrugged off because, on face value, they impinge into the realms of 'fantasy'. American journalist John Keel who made an exhaustive study over a period of four years on the UFO enigma writes in his recently published book 'Operation Trojan Horse'....."The real UFO story must encompass all of the many manifestations being observed. It is a story of ghosts and phantoms and strange mental aberrations; of an invisible world which surrounds us and occasionally engulfs us; of prophets and prophecies and gods and demons. It is a world of illusion and hallucination where the unreal seems very real and where reality itself is distorted by strange forces which can seemingly manipulate space, time and physical matter - forces which are almost entirely beyond our powers of comprehension."

The message of the UFO contacts differ and are to many unacceptable at face value. Quite often the REAL message, if it exists, is very subtle and heavily disguised. The greatest disguise of this age in respect to these manifestations has been the identification of them as being manned vehicles from outer space - the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Many ufologists when presented with a possible alternative to the 'space ship' theory react quite aggressively. Western man has been brainwashed by fictional invaders from space and the age of space travel. In fact there exists little evidence to suggest that we are being visited by beings of another planet. There is however a mass of evidence to show that the phenomenon has (whether direct or indirect) influences on mankind.

At the same time there is evidence to suggest that there either exists great ignorance on behalf of the Establishment, OR attempts of a MASS COVER - UP IS IN OPERATION. The former is unbelievable, if the latter, then.....

Ufologists will name many incidents where official "explanations" of an incredulous nature have been given to UFO reports.

Take for instance the JUNE 28th fly-past. A UFO was first sighted in the Weymouth area, later over Swindon, near Coventry and lastly Norfolk. A straight line drawn between these sightings (orthotonic) puts the line of flight through Warminster and Banbury. (SEE MAP). see also front cover.

Continued.....

.....June 28th sighting continued.

The reports by witnesses of the UFO as it hovered over North Wiltshire were soon shrugged off and 'explained' by the RAF as being a balloon. This 'explanation' which appeared repeatedly in the Press satisfied the majority, no doubt it's purpose.

Just a balloon

There's no mystery over the UFO seen over Swindon yesterday, according to the RAF.

"It was a met. balloon," said a spokesman at RAF Lyneham today. "Not one of ours but it passed close to Lyneham, travelling north."

Many people in Swindon saw it and the RAF also received reports from people as far away as Caine.

See map on front page.

KEY.

- (1) Between Weymouth and Bridport.
- (2) Warminster
- (3) Swindon.
- (4) Banbury.
- (5) Coventry area.
- (6) The Wash.

Mystery Object Over North Wiltshire And.....

The Weather Balloon That Came From Nowhere !

We telephoned RAF Lyneham on June 30th and spoke to the Public Relations Officer, in a recorded conversation he said :

"It came from the South going North and we've looked on the map and it had every indication that it probably came up from Bournemouth, it may have come up from Herne. We didn't say where the balloon was released from , it may have been blown up from Yeovilton. I don't know. But it wasn't one of our balloons. If you want to talk about Meteorological balloons, I'll put you through to the right section, talk to the Met."

The Met Office had this to say at 11.30am on Friday June 30th.

"It came from Camborne (Cornwall) actually, it was an air balloon, a radio sonde balloon."

We rang the Met office at Lyneham again two hours later to find out whether it was a met balloon that had been released from Camborne. We were questioned as to why we should want to know such information. When we told them that earlier we had been told by their office that the UFO seen over Swindon had been identified by them as a radio sonde balloon from Camborne, it was hotly denied....

"On no authority should anyone have told you that. It could have come from anywhere".

.....So the UFO seen over North Wiltshire on June 28th remains a mystery, even for the authorities. With no thanks to the latter's convenient misleading statements about balloons from 'somewhere' the story will die, shrugged off by most as a weather balloon.

GHOSTLY FOOTSTEPS AT NORFOLK

Whistling sounds and ghostly footsteps of an 'invisible walker' are being heard not only in Warminster. Men at Gt. Yarmouth's new fire station have also been singled out for such manifestations recently.

The station is built on the site of the House of Blackfriars, a 15th Century religious order - and a stone coffin and two skeletons were unearthed by workmen there.

UFO SEEN OVER YORKSHIRE

.....Investigators are looking into the sighting of a saucer-shaped UFO seen over York on June 17th. The witness who was getting into bed saw, through the

APRIL SIGHTING

Three Bristol men, J. Beecham, G. Davies, E. Porter and regular visitor to Cradle Hill Barry Taylor from Bridgewater, Somerset, recorded a confirmed sighting which occurred at 01.10am on Saturday April 15th 1972. The UFO was tinted a dull yellow. It was seen to move in 'falling leaf' stages to the right of the copse atop Cradle Hill. At first the witnesses thought that the UFO had touched down and ran up the track towards the copse but was lost from sight shortly afterward. No evidence of a landing.

HUMANOID SEEN ?

Account recieved from Mrs Diana Granville-Matthews of 24, Pulteney Road, Bath.

Witness/As above. Location/Warminster-Bath Road, Nr Norridge Common.

It had ceased raining, the night sky clear and starspeckled. The road surface was wet and shining. At 2.30am she saw an orange disc, perfectly circular to begin with but ovalar when crossing the path of her vehicle. It came from a hedgerow to her left and sailed down to the road level, no more than twelve yards in front of her car, before lifting and careering over another hedgerow to her right and away out of sight....

She was startled and temporarily bemused, if not frightened, by this ball of yellow light. She did not stop to investigate, alone on that isolated section of road at that early morning hour. No sooner had her dazzled vision grown accustomed to the road outlines again, some few hundred yards ahead of her first shock, then she received another jolt in her journey... Walking towards her, on the far side of the road, came a tall figure dressed in all-white clothing. His legs loped along the road and she noted little about his face or colouring, but he was a giant of a man. "After seeing the UFO not many moments before this, I was quite stunned by this figure walking towards me along that quiet road at that unearthly hour.

I pressed hard on the accelerator when I saw the tall figure striding along through deep pools of water at the roadside. Perhaps the two were connected - the UFO and this giant being - but I was too scared by then to dare stop and find out what he was doing out at that hour".

Mrs. Granville-Matthews arrived home and went to bed. At about 5a.m. she was awakened as though from a dream by a sharp rapping sound on her front door and a voice calling, gently and insistently, that reached her ears clearly. Yet she could not determine the words. She got up, wrapped a dressing gown around her, and went to the door, unlocked and opened it; looked out but saw nothing and no one.

The following information was submitted by: Mrs. D.Y. Fear, 21, Boreham Fields Warminster, Wilts.

Friday 21st May 1972 "Between 4.00pm & 4.30pm whilst on my way to the shops I saw dark clouds over Starr Hill. They then seemed to part and I saw a round silver disc shape in the gap of the clouds, the latter then coming together to fill the gap. The process took about 10-15 minutes."

Tuesday 30th May 1972 "Between 00.30am & 01.30am, I was in a phone box calling the doctor as my son was ill. Whilst waiting for him to answer the phone I looked out of the side windows and saw a red ball shape in the sky over the trees along the Dene which I presume was over the roadway to Heytesbury. It was still there when I left the phonebox."

Thursday 1st June 1972. "After going to the pictures with my daughter and small granddaughter I returned with them to the flat they live in at Woodcock House and had a cup of tea. I left at about 10.15pm and on my way home I saw over Kingsdown School a queer shaped white-coloured cloud. The sky was clear but there were no stars. It was visible for approx. 10 minutes and then disappeared. Later at 00.30am my son Clive who was ill in bed told me that he could hear a queer humming noise over the house. I looked out of the window but could see nothing. But I could hear the humming noise. He said "Well mum, you believe in UFO's, so I guess I just heard one". The sky was clear with no wind to carry any noise, and the army were not on exercise."

N.B.

Mrs Fear states in her report that she has since heard similar noises with no apparent cause ranging from 'bangings, as if a hammer against an anvil' 'scratchings on windows', the latter probably caused by branches on trees she adds.

EARLIEST REPORT ?
oooooooooooooooooooo

Whilst browsing through the 'UFO' cuttings file in the Daily Express Library, Fleet Street, an interesting cutting relating to what must be one of the very earliest UFO reports of the 60's. Dated 11th November 1960 the report reads :

.....
An army officer last night reported seeing what could have been a satellite coming into land. Captain J. Massey-Berisford of Knook Camp Warminster, saw the object while walking in the camp. A brilliant white flash lit the sky briefly blinded Captain Berisford, remained stationary for a few seconds. Then it moved to the North leaving a wake of bright sparks. Four other people saw the object including a few sentries.
.....

This report incidentally coincided with the initial firing in this country of the American Honest John guided missile which was launched from Larkhill Rocket range a few days earlier. The launch was a failure!

It is unlikely that the object Cpt. Berisford saw was a satellite coming into land, nor a meteor as it remained stationary for a few seconds.

(UFO ?) TAILS AIRCRAFT

The following account of a strange object following an aircraft MAY possibly have been an experimental drogue employed by the Royal Air Force. However since no research has been undertaken it is in the interest of the UFO enigma that we publish, unbiased, on our part and leave you dear reader to conclude for yourself. (editors)

Witness : Sally Pike.

Location: Witnesses home, Trowbridge, Wilts.

Date : Wednesday, 8th September, 1972. Time : 11.45a.m.

Weather : Sunshine, clear and cloudless.

Account :-

"I was sitting in a deckchair in the garden, when I noticed a transporter aeroplane flying very low over our estate towards, I presume, Keevil airport. Following this came a second plane. I think it was the second plane that had its side door open and as it was so low, I could almost see inside. Following the first plane and chasing round its body and tail, I noticed a silver object flashing in the sun. I picked up my husbands binoculars which were close by and observed that the object was bell-shaped and certainly like no other craft I had seen before. I would estimate it as being 6 - 8 feet across, and it made no sound at all that I could hear, although the noise of the transporters would have probably drowned it out anyway. The object seemed to be playing 'tag' with the plane although the pilot gave no visible indication that he had observed the object. (The plane was low enough for me to see the pilot quite well through binoculars). After a minute or so the plane moved across the estate and gradually I lost sight of both it and the bell-shaped object.

I then rushed indoors and phoned Mr. Arthur Shuttlewood and my husband to tell them of my sighting. When I went outside again, some fifteen minutes later I glanced up and caught sight of a glint high in the sky. I didn't have time to get the binoculars again, but watched as this flashing object, which may have been the ufo once more, moved rapidly off and disappeared from view.

(signed) Sally Pike.

Following interest in our Local Tales and Legends section in issues 3&5, we present a further selection from our files.

ELEMENTAL AT JOBS MILL ?

A fisherman near Job's Mill, Crockerton passed on the tale warning 'never to go down the left bank at night during Michaelmas without taking care not to fall foul of a black slug-like creature that slithers along the bank leaving a foul smell and slimy wake'. Elementals, when seen, vary in appearance from a large slug-like form to a tree like creature (refer to Issue No 1 of strange bush-like form seen at Starr Hill) with variants in between. They are entities said to be with more force than form produced in certain places. They are not indestructable, though they last hundreds of years in the right circumstances and when their place - marsh, wood, moors etc. is left undisturbed. They are said to have no conception of right and wrong, the consciousness being most rudimentary and are apt to draw power from animals and people much in the way poltergeists do.

BATTLE WITH THE DEVIL ?

A lady historian by the name of Mrs. White chronicles the quaint expression "The Crocodiles and the devils is allus a-fightin'" in reference to a battle between the people of Crockerton and Deverill.

BLACK DOG GHOST OF COLLINGBOURNE

Often seen on the path between Everleigh (scene of many recent UFO activities) and Collingbourne Kingston, in a copse. One of the tracks between the two villages, if extended to the south west would pass through Cradle Hill. The 'dog' appears as a green light, or two. There is a black dog farm to the N.W. of Warminster just south of Potterne. Nearby is Dewey's Water, a name which reminds one of the Dewers Stone, on the southern tip of Dartmoor, associated with the hounds of the Wild Hunt. Strange lights and fearful sounds. Dogtail Plantation, aligned with Black Dog Farm and the Collingbourne Kingston Black Dog area is just south of Urchfont. Black Dog Hill on the Bath/Warminster Road which skirts Black Dog Farm and woods is not only a UFO prone area, but a notorious accident black spot area.

DANCING CROCKERY HERALDS APPROACH

A Corton story speaks of a ghost heralding his approach by making the crockery dance on the table. The voice led a woman down the street at night to point out a certain brick in a wall. A hundred sovereigns lay hidden behind it. A repetition of the events on the second night revealed a hundred shillings, and on the third night a hundred pence.

THE HAUNTED SHEEPSKIN

Here is a legend in which a sheepskin was ineffective; perhaps because it was not turned inside out. About midway between Warminster Downs and the White Horse are the deserted ruins of a farmhouse. The last occupant was a farmer who lived there alone. One night he heard a commotion downstairs, and on going to investigate saw the forms of three men removing the carcass of a sheep he had killed. He threw his stick at them, which passed through a form without injury, whereupon they turned on him with such horrible grins that he fled to his room. The rotten floor broke beneath him, and he fell through, to land in the midst of the ghosts - for so they must have been. The sheep's skin was there and in terror he huddled himself on it. Away it slid with him up and down stairs all over the house. He screamed, but the ghosts only screamed louder, "Scream as aloud as you like for there is no one on the downs to hear you," adding, "Some day you will be one of us."

Daylight came, to his relief. The sheepskin was pegged down, the house was set ablaze, and away he tramped in search of lodging in Westbury.

NOTES:- A critic writes :- 'This is an interesting local variant of the Germanic Ruberzahl story - type found as the horse of brass, or the magic carpet in other folk tales; of also the bed in 'The lad who wanted to shiver and shake', in Grimm. A magic calf - skin of a much more romantic sort appears in 'The dream of Rhonabury, in the Mabinogion'. Keats in his eulogy of the Mermaid Tavern described a sheepskin as responsible for the flight of both inn-sign and host to the Mermaid in the Zodiac.

GHOST LANE

All houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses....
The spirit world around this world of sense
Flaunts like an atmosphere

a consciousness of the supernatural and a life after death, and so interest the psychologist. Because of them pagans have provided ancestor worship. With us two classes are common, the malignant ghost or poltergeist who delights in destroying furniture, and the harmless ghost, who usually directs folk to the hoard which he died without divulging. A wizard or a priest can exorcise a ghost, and in Wilts, a sheepskin can ward off.

WARMINSTER IN RETROSPECT

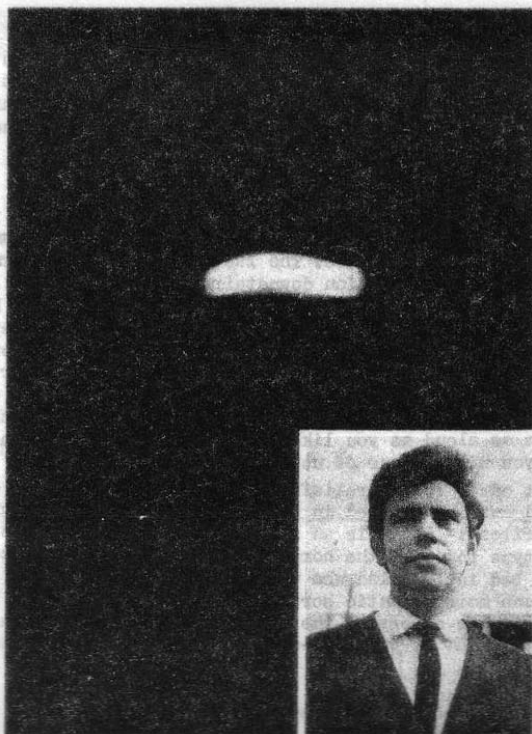
Witness : Stephen Gunstone. Andrew Pike.

Location : Westbury White Horse.

Date : Early 1966.

Account :- In early 1966 Stephen Gunstone a photographic shop salesman was on the Westbury White Horse with a friend Mr Andrew Pike of 344, Frome Road, Trowbridge.

At 5.30pm on a Sunday morning on the third weekend they had spent looking for UFO's, they saw one. "It came to the right, looking towards Melksham, beyond the cement works," he said. "It was travelling pretty quickly. I looked at it through binoculars but I couldn't see any detail. It was fairly distant and it looked like a cylinder. It was just like a light in the sky, but it was not a round object." It was silent and hovered there for 15 to 20 minutes then it went. It was like somebody switching out a light." Stephen and Andrew took a number of photographs of it. Stephen took four on a £34 Zeiss Ikon automatic with a normal speed exposure. One print came out, when it was developed by Mr. Philip Harris, owner of the shop where Stephen works.



Witnesses : Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Tilt.

Date : Late October, 1966; 11.28pm. (October 22nd)

Weather not stated.

Account : Dennis Tilt and his wife were driving homeward from Basingstoke and neared the quiet village of Chitterne at around 11.28pm. Just on the far side of Chitterne both noticed "three flame-coloured lights in triangular formation on the ground, on land belonging to a farm on our right." Dennis stopped the car, his curiosity aroused, stepping out onto the road to get a clearer view. A trifle nervous, sensing that all was not as it should be along the otherwise deserted highway, Mrs. Tilt advised her husband to get back into the vehicle and continue their journey.

Mr. Tilt climbed back into the car and they drove a little further up the road. When they turned to glance back, they noted that the strange lights had fused together. The object had lifted off the earth and was now huge in the sky. Both testified that it resembled, at this joined stage, "a frying pan without a handle." It was hovering some fifty feet up, looming large and quite silent.

Dennis, prompted by his wife, put his foot hard down on the accelerator pedal, sharing the unease at that moment of his wife. As the car surged into full power and tore along the nightshrouded road, the couple kept looking in the rear and saw that the object did not appear to change its distance from them at all, although they were moving at top speed. The wife maintained constant watch on the UFO, which gave off a yellow glow, and Dennis managed glimpses backwards as he negotiated bends and corners. Both found it disconcerting and a little frightening that they were unable to shake off their aerial pursuer for several miles of that homeward run.

When they eventually reached St. Johns Road the shining apparition overhead had faded from their gaze. When Mrs. Tilt later went up to the bedroom of their children, glancing out of the window as she straightened the curtains, she was staggered to see the object again for a few seconds. It was a shining ball in the sky before suddenly changing to an elongated egg shape and blacking out. So sure were the couple that they had seen something inexplicable by earth standards, that Mr. Tilt arose early next morning and was at the farm making enquiries about the resting place of the mysterious objects that merged together before flying unerringly in rear of his car the previous night. He drew a blank, however. The farmer was unable to enlighten him with regard to the lights. In spite of a diligent examination of the field, and search of the surrounding area, the plastering contractor could not discern the spot where the object had taken off. He contacted the Army and asked relevant questions, answers convincing him that troops were not the culprits. When first seen by the couple in the car, the three lights forming a triangle were flame-coloured or orange-red. The composite object chasing the car was silverish and gave off a pulsating glow or radiation.

LORD'S HILL UFO'S FORM FIGURE IN SKY

Bristol hairdresser Mr. John Lewis and his wife Joan of Cotham, Bristol saw mysterious white lights in the sky near Warminster, on May 18th. They were driving along the main Shaftesbury to Warminster road, when three lights in triangular formation appeared stationary over treetops near Cow Down Hill. Mr. Lewis stopped the car, and the couple watched what they called "incredible sight, quite uncanny and unworldly." Two lighted objects blinked out and left one gleaming brightly then the other two flicked on again. Six more followed suit until nine glowing orbs studded the sky. "They stayed in the air three minutes, drifted slowly to our left and the pattern they made face on was to us like a figure two," Mr. Lewis told Warminster police sergeant Jack Bosley.

It was 7.09pm when first noticed. Cow Down is at the foot of Lord's Hill. Situated nearby is the Bedfordshire UFO group's automatic ufo detection equipment.

LANDINGS AROUND WARMINSTER?

The following sighting reports were made and submitted by a gentleman from Croydon who would prefer us to publish only his initials HSJH, whilst on visits to Warminster. The full name and address are known to us. The witness is pretty sure from information received that something is going to happen pretty big in this quarter very shortly. He was particularly interested in reports dating from three months back in the district - and would be paying particular interest to the next three months also.

Saturday April 1st 1972 20:10hrs

With two witnesses observed two balls of light orange/red in colour the light of which reflected onto haze and cloud. The lights moved in an upward/downward motion above and behind trees. Viewed from Cley Hill. Distance of objects from witnesses estimated approx 1 mile over Bucklers Wood.

Saturday April 1st 1972 22:05hrs

On the return journey to London, between Heytesbury and Chitterne (A.344 road). About a mile before the village of Chitterne an orange/gold light was seen to descend and land. The light was bright enough to reflect on low cloud. After the light had landed it slowly diminished in brightness. Seen to the left of the witnesses in the north.

Friday April 7th 1972 21:45hrs

With two witnesses on the B.390 road midway between Shrewton and Chitterne. To the right facing north approx 1 mile distant. Suddenly a round gold light appeared. It hovered about 50 ft up. The sky was very clear. Witness got out of car to take a photograph. Simultaneously the light faded out. The duration of sighting was approx 20-30 secs.

JUNE 17th 1972 22:15hrs

Watching from Cley Hill facing direction of Arn Hill. Over Upton Cow Down witness sighted a big flare-up of orange light in the sky. It dowsed right down and flared up again, dowsed, and went right down in an "S" form descent.

The witness has reason to believe that this object was a "crash-landed craft" and that it remained at ground level until the following tuesday morning.

The witnesses have all seen on various occasions the orange flares used on Salisbury Plain by the Army on training exercise and are quite familiar with them. None of the sightings they record, they say, could account to these explanations.

The Warminster UFO Newsletter

The Warminster UFO Newsletter is published monthly as an information service for people interested in keeping in contact with unusual happenings in the Warminster district. Available at 10p per issue or £1.10 per annual subscription. All correspondence should be addressed to:

9, Preston House,
East Street,
Warminster, Wilts.

Please keep your newsletters. In December we will have published 12 editions. We shall be issuing a special binder which will house 'Volume 1.' of what will be an informative encyclopaedia on the WARMINSTER MYSTERY.