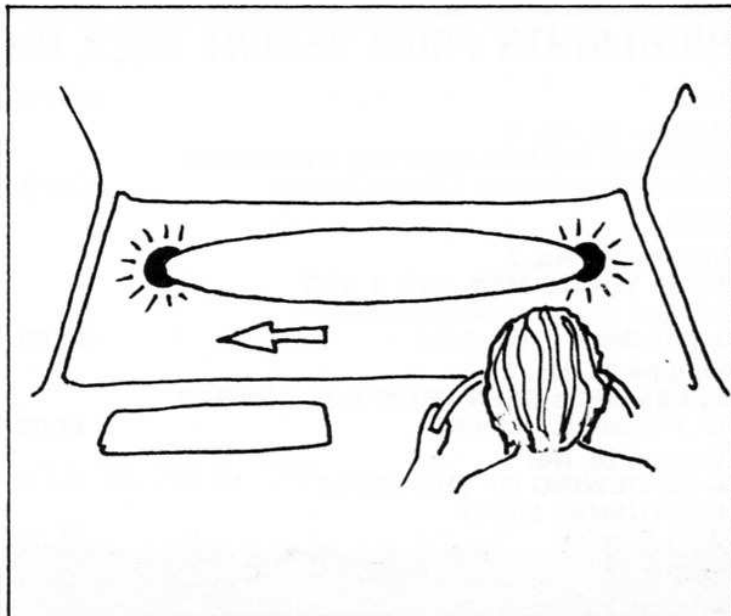


Coincident with this second sighting he noticed that his steering wheel, which he was gripping, had suddenly become unbearably hot. He had to wrench his hands from it but nevertheless suffered a nasty burn which left a mark on his left hand. This required treatment afterwards and took some days to heal up. Meanwhile the steering wheel returned to normal quite rapidly and he was able to proceed. While this was happening the object had disappeared.

This unusual effect is not entirely without precedent. Readers are referred to the terrifying close encounter at Barnard Castle, Durham, in June 1977, reported in FSR Vol. 23, No. 5. Here a motorcyclist found his machine suddenly turning very hot (in fact evaporating from its surface a great deal of excess water, as it was raining heavily). He also suffered burns.

One further correlation concerns the location. The incident took place within 1½ miles of the village of Exhall. In FSR Vol. 24, No. 4 Ken Phillips reported an unusual sighting made at this point in December 1977. Here an object was seen to leave a hole in the cloudbase after its disappearance.

The only explanations which spring to mind in this present case are either a meteor or ball lightning. The latter seems to be refuted by the huge size, and total lack of other witnesses of a meteor that large and so early in the evening; on a clear night the chance that nobody else should report it is virtually zero. As for ball lightning, there were no conducive weather conditions. It remains a



The huge object, with ends glowing red, filled the whole of the windscreen of the car.

puzzle as to how heat should be generated only in the steering wheel, and not be felt by the witness on his unprotected face, or on other parts of his body. Comments on this factor would be appreciated — c/o Jenny Randles, 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6PQ.

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