

# WHAT WAS IT THAT LANDED AT WIMBORNE?

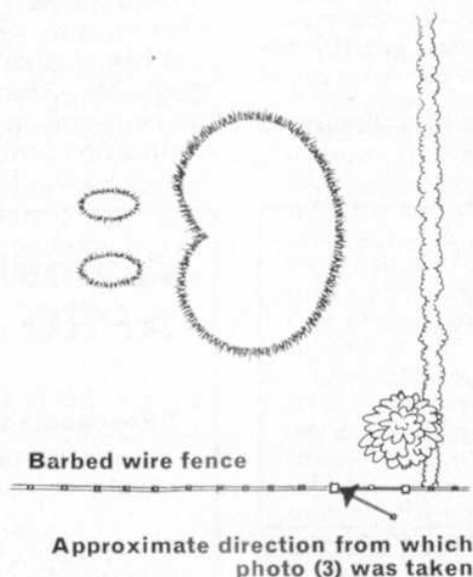
Leslie Harris

THE Bournemouth *Evening Echo* of June 1, 1971, published a letter from Mrs. Valerie Newman of Leigh Lane, Wimborne, Dorset, which gave details of an unusual occurrence at her home on May 6, 1971. I interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Newman on the same day as the publication of Mrs. Newman's letter, and found them to be sincere people, obviously puzzled by the incident, and hitherto sceptical regarding the UFO subject. Their testimony was convincing, and there is no doubt in my mind that it is completely authentic.

It was about 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, that Mrs. Newman and her mother were sitting in the lounge, when they heard a sound which was described as like a washing machine (spin drier?) as it speeds up; or a humming top being set in motion. In other words, a "wheeee" sound, increasing in pitch, and lasting for a few seconds. It was not very loud, and had the television been on at the time, would probably not have been heard. The two women looked at each other, wondering what it was, but made no attempt to investigate. Ten minutes later, the same sound was heard again, and this time Mrs. Newman went to a window, pushed the curtain aside, and looked out. She saw nothing.

Meanwhile, Mr. Newman, who was doing paper work in the kitchen, heard nothing. He laughed when his wife told him about it, and some joke was made about "little green men".

Some three-quarters of an hour later (about 10.15 p.m.), Mr. Newman opened the door to take their dog, Sam, an 18-months-old Lakeland Terrier, out for his walk. But Sam would not go. He was coaxed and persuaded, and finally dragged by the collar, but he absolutely refused to set foot out-



side the door. Normally, he shoots out directly the door is opened, but on this particular evening he behaved in a way he never has before or since. However, the Newmans did not, at that time, connect his odd behaviour with the "science-fiction" type sounds, and thought no more of the matter.

The next morning, Mrs. Newman's mother was in the garden, when she noticed something strange in the field beyond the end of the garden. She went back indoors and told her daughter about it, but her daughter would not believe her. However, she eventually managed to persuade Mr. and Mrs. Newman to investigate, and sure enough, her eyes had not deceived her.

The field was of very long grass, and an area had been flattened in a clearly distinguishable elongated heart shape, with two smaller egg-shaped areas flattened close by (as shown in the sketch). The heart shape was about 17ft. in length, and 13ft. wide. The egg shapes were 4-5ft. long, and 2ft. wide at the widest point. These two egg-shaped areas were about 6ft. apart,

and about 6ft. from the main heart-shaped area.

The grass seemed to have been compressed lightly in a clockwise direction, and there were no other marks leading to or away from it, ruling out the possibility of the grass being flattened manually. Neither could the weather be blamed, for that night was calm, with no rain and very little wind. The grass had definitely not been flattened the day before.

I visited the Newman's bungalow at about 8 p.m. in the evening of June 2. I was shown the garden, and the field adjoining it. I crawled under a barbed wire fence to reach the flattened area, but found that after nearly a month the action of the weather, and the growth of the grass, had altered the appearance of the area. The grass was still flattened, but in no distinguishable shape, and it was impossible to take measurements. The field has now been mown.

The length of the garden is about 70ft., and the flattened grass was a further 15ft. from the garden fence; therefore the distance from the lounge to the flattened grass was about 85ft.

The lounge window faces down the garden, but there is a smaller window at right-angles to it from which it is quite impossible to see the field. It was through this smaller window that Mrs. Newman peeped on the evening in question. The main window, which faces the field, had curtains drawn over it, overlapping in the centre. Mrs. Newman was certain the sound came from the direction of the field, but when she peeped out she was uneasy, and *hoped* she would see nothing. This would explain her looking out in the wrong direction.

The dog, Sam, is very lively, bolts out of the back door at every opportunity, and even leapt un-



1 The rear of the bungalow showing the main lounge window, and the smaller window at right angles to it



2 The view from the lounge window, looking down the garden. The field can be seen beyond the dark hedge



3 The general area of the flattened grass, just above the centre of the picture



4 A close-up of a small area of the flattened grass

bidden, like a miniature whirlwind, into my car. It is significant that he refused to leave the house on the

night in question, when such behaviour is so completely out of character. Indeed, it was this fact

which convinced Mr. Newman that something uncanny, yet real, occurred that night.

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**UFOs IN TWO WORLDS** (see page 2)