

# ROUND-UP OF BRITAIN'S AUTUMN FLAP

## Part II

by Dan Lloyd

**These cases have all been culled from newspaper accounts of incidents. We are aware that the reports are often vague where important detail is concerned, but Mr. Lloyd presents them in the knowledge that those researchers who wish to investigate in greater detail will at least have the name of the newspaper, and the date, to provide a lead.**

I WILL take up the continuing chronicle of the autumn wave with the remainder of the reports of **October 26**—and remember, it was during the morning of the 26th that Mr. Angus Brooks, former B.O.A.C. Comet Flight Administration Officer, saw the arrival, twenty-minute hovering sojourn, and swift departure of a remarkable metallic cross-shaped object which was capable of moving two of its arms while hovering.

### Canterbury Tales

A mystery flying object which was seen by a student at the University of Kent, **Canterbury**, at about 8.00 p.m., puzzled the Canterbury police. The object was soundless, cigar-shaped and had about a dozen red flashing lights on it. According to the police it could have been an American plane re-fuelling in the air—that was Sunday's explanation. On Monday, they said it could have been a plane coming in to land at Manston or Southend airport. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.) It is just possible, of course, that it could have been a UFO!

Gloucestershire police received reports of another of the giant white crosses. This one was seen at 11.40 p.m. over **Tuffley**. According to the observer, the giant white cross of a dazzling brilliance appeared out of nowhere. It was enough to light the top of the houses and there was a halo of emerald-green around the top half. There was no noise and it moved at great speed. (*Gloucester Citizen*, October 27.)

Following the reports of mystery objects over **Huyton** on October 25, strange noises were heard in the area. They were heard in the early hours of the morning and were described as sounding like an express train rushing through a tunnel, which changed to a piercing, high-pitched oscillating sound. The noise faded away after about 10 minutes. Nothing was seen. One of the witnesses said that he had never heard anything like it before. (*Liverpool Echo*, October 26.)

A brilliant white object was seen to land about 10 miles from **Astley**, South Lancashire. Just over an hour later, the object was seen to rise again and take off. According to one obser-

ver, the object was the most brilliant light she had ever seen. (*Leigh Reporter*, November 2.)

### Four Crosses Seen

Four star-shaped objects were seen near **Alnwick**, Northumberland. The objects remained visible for 30 minutes and were described as about twenty times larger than any star. The crosses were very plain and there was a kind of glow around them. (*Edinburgh Evening News*, October 26.)

Another of the familiar cigar-shaped objects, this time surrounded by a bright green glow, was seen by a bus driver over the Sussex coast near **Brighton**. Sparks were coming from its tail and for a short time it travelled on a parallel course with the bus. (*Nuneaton Evening Tribune*, October 27.)

At 7.00 a.m. on this day of extraordinary activity, a **Slough**, Buckinghamshire, housewife saw a glowing ball hanging in the sky just before sunrise. It seemed quite low and was about the size of a football. She described it as very bright and hard to look at, and was sort of silvery at the centre with a white halo of light round it. Then it seemed as though it started to spin and it dipped lower and moved in a circle as though it were inspecting something on the ground. It moved off across the sky northwards and went out of sight.

That evening, at about 5.30 p.m., a silver, oval object was seen in the sky near **Maidenhead**. It split up into six smaller discs which moved off as though following the M4 motorway. (*Slough Observer*, November 3.)

To wind up the events of October 26, a bright object, six or seven times bigger than a rugby football and similar in shape, was seen over **Hawick**, Scotland, at about 8.30 p.m. It had a brilliant white light at the centre which faded towards the outer part. After two or three minutes the object revolved in a clockwise direction. Then it began to move slowly in the Carlisle direction. (*Hawick News*, November 3.)

### October 27: A police report

The events of this day got under way at about 4.00 a.m., when Poclief

Constable Earnshaw, on duty at **Bacup** police station, picked up strange interference on the station's personal radio receiver. He went outside and saw a cigar-shaped object about 50ft. in length by 10ft. in diameter hovering an estimated 250ft. above the police station. He watched the object for a minute or two and saw several portholes along the side. There was a low whirring noise. He was joined by two other officers who watched the object for several minutes. The UFO then moved off rapidly towards Bacup golf course. Two of the police constables followed the object in a police car but lost it when the object shot into the sky perpendicularly at a fast speed. (*Bolton Evening News*, October 27.)

In **Birmingham**, two hospital porters on duty early in the morning saw a yellow glowing cylinder high overhead. The object hovered above the East Birmingham Hospital for a minute before vanishing. (*Birmingham Evening Mail*, October 27.)

### Another police sighting

Another early-morning mystery visitor appeared over **Glossop**, Derbyshire, and was seen by six men from the Cheshire police force stationed just over the Derbyshire border, and two members of the public. The object was first seen by two constables at 4.15 a.m. Fifteen minutes later it was spotted by another constable nearby, who reported the object to be moving from side to side over Glossop. The object eventually disappeared into a misty cloud. (*Derby Evening Telegraph*, October 27.)

At 4.40 a.m., a sound like the "revving" of a high-powered motor attracted a housewife's attention to a brilliant, bluish object travelling in the sky towards **Dunston**, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. The object appeared to be a brilliant, inverted "V". It hovered over Dunston power station and then disappeared. A few minutes later it appeared again and was watched for a long while before it finally vanished. (*Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, October 28.)

That evening, at 9.10 p.m., a red light was noticed in the sky above Ealing. Two bright lights were seen close together, each in a perfect cross

shape. There was some kind of red glow either in the middle of the object or behind it. (*Middlesex County Times*, Ealing, November 3.)

### October 28

A bright, cross-shaped object was seen in the **Warrington** area at about 6.30 p.m. It was bright golden in colour and hovered over fields adjoining the motorway. It was circular and had two cross-shaped projections. A piece of metal was seen to drop from it and then the object vanished completely. (*Liverpool Daily Post*, October 30.)

### A landing near Southend ?

That night a taxi driver watched a huge object with flashing lights hovering above trees near **Eastwood**, Southend. It appeared to be about 500 yds. from him and was ringed by fluorescent light. At one point it dipped down towards the trees, then it returned and hovered and all he could see was a red flashing light. After he had watched it for some five minutes, the object rose with astonishing speed and disappeared behind cloud. He did not see it again. Earlier in the evening the taxi driver had seen the same craft about 200ft. above the trees. He first saw a flashing red light on the dome. As the object went over nearby fields, he saw huge green and white flashing lights. On the two occasions that he saw it, the object made no sound. (*Southend Standard*, November 2.)

A bullet-shaped object was seen hovering for a few seconds over an electricity sub-station near **South Shields**, Durham. It was seen by three boys who described it as 8ft. in length, with a glowing green outline. As they watched, it rose quickly and noiselessly and disappeared. As it flew away, a white spot glowed on its underside. The boys claim that some brown lines, apparently burn marks, on the roof of the building were left by the object as it flew off. They say the burn marks were not there prior to the object's appearance. (*Shields Gazette*, October 30.) Here is yet another instance of the unusual interest these unknown aerial objects appear to be taking in power stations and their like. This time it appears to have been a burning interest!

At 7.40 a.m., two brilliant white lights were seen hovering below a bank of deep cloud near **Staines**. After about a minute they climbed into the sky at a fantastic rate and were lost to sight. (*Staines and Egham News*, November 3.)

### Officially explained: "Balloon"

A silver-grey shape with a bright silver streak down the middle and with four lights at the bottom was seen hanging motionless amid trees by a

**Merthyr**, South Wales, housewife shortly after midnight on Friday, October 27-28. Frightened, she went to bed without telling anyone. By the morning the object had disappeared. The Meteorological Office explanation is that it was probably a radio-sonde—or weather balloon—which had got caught in the trees. (*Merthyr Express*, November 2.) If this is so, then presumably the balloon must have been leaking to have made a descent to tree-top height. As the object was not found when police investigated the area, are we to assume that someone repaired the leak in the middle of the night in order to release it again? Perhaps the Met. Office would care to explain this aspect of the mystery!

### Auto-stop

We are very familiar with cases in which UFOs have stopped cars when nearby. Another incident of this nature appears to have taken place at 6.45 p.m. near **Tunbridge Wells**, Kent. When their car stalled, the occupants looked up and saw what appeared to be a triangular shape in the sky in front of them. The object, the base of which was hidden behind the houses and trees, was composed of six very bright white lights, and was shaped "like a church steeple". The lights seemed to give a hazy glow to the shape, which was described as of a whitish colour. There was no noticeable sound from the object. The object then moved off very slowly towards Brighton. (*Tunbridge Wells Advertiser*, November 1.)

### October 29

There was another spate of sightings on this day. Just after 6.00 a.m., a **Shrewsbury** woman glanced from her bedroom window and saw a triangular shape and several glowing lights in the sky. The triangular-shaped object was just "under" the moon and glowing brightly. It stayed there for a few seconds and then turned over and disappeared. Then a ball appeared in the sky and suddenly a bright light came up "on top" of the moon, with a smaller light close to it. This smaller light suddenly broke into two before they all started to travel slowly across the sky until they were out of sight. (*Shropshire Star*, October 31.)

A golden object in the shape of a rugby football was seen resting on the **Sussex Downs** at about 6.45 p.m. At first it glowed like an electric light and then it turned blood-red. Police searched the area with tracker dogs but nothing was found. (*Worthing Herald*, November 3.)

Three **Dundee** boys saw a red light moving slowly across the sky about 200ft. up. Every now and then it would stop. No sound came from the object. (*Dundee Courier*, October 31.)

### Low-level visitation

**Northampton** joined the list of places visited by UFOs when two teenage girls saw a silent, orange-coloured, cigar-shaped object approaching from an easterly direction at about 4.45 p.m. It flew around them and came down and hovered over the grass. All the time it was changing colour from orange to yellow, then white, and finally reverted to a dull grey. Then it flew off. One of the girls said that when the object came down there was a funny green haze around it, but that this went when the object left. (*Northampton Chronicle*, October 30.)

**Rothbury**, Northumberland, appeared to be under surveillance between 10.30 and 11.00 p.m. A shimmering white and blue object hung motionless in the east. It was bigger than any star and about as bright as a car's dipped headlight. After twenty minutes the object started to rise into the sky, slowly moving from side to side, and eventually was obscured by thick cloud. The object made no sound. (*Northumberland Gazette*, November 3.)

Another mysterious flying cross was spotted in the sky over **St. Annes**, Lancashire, at 1.30 a.m. The object was about 750ft. long and travelled at about 150 m.p.h. towards the southwest, then tilted, revealing a cross, and shot off at a terrific speed to the north. (*West Lancashire Evening Gazette*, October 30.)

A mystery object was seen over **Burnley** at 7.00 p.m. It was bright red and irregular in shape, and was about twenty times larger than a star. There was no noise as the object slowly approached the town centre. (*Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, October 30.)

### Astronomer watches unusual display

Possibly the same objects that were seen by the Shrewsbury woman reported above were seen by an amateur astronomer in **Hartlepool**, Durham, in the early hours of the morning. Looking through his telescope, he spied two white objects moving through the sky. Seconds later a third white object appeared. "They moved across the sky in an inverted "V" formation and then stopped dead," he said. He watched them for an hour and they never moved. Then they started to zig-zag towards the moon, changing colour first to green, then blue and finally a bright red. He could not see any details because the red colour seemed to enshroud them. It was very bright but he could see that they were oval in shape. When they "reached" the moon, all three objects disappeared and he could not pick them up in his sights again. (*Northern Daily Mail*, October 31.)

An object that flew over **London** at a

fantastic speed at about 4.45 p.m. was variously described as orange and golden. It first appeared to be an orange ball with three long trails coming from it. When it turned it was like a huge cigar. Another report described the object as appearing like a golden-coloured cigar-shaped object which hung vertically in the sky. As the object vanished it left vapour trails behind it. (*Western Mail*, October 30.)

#### October 30

A mysterious cigar-shaped object was seen in the sky over **Halifax**. The time was about 7.30 p.m. and the object appeared to be hovering in mid-air and was giving off sparks. Then it vanished. (*Halifax Courier & Guardian*, October 31.)

On the same day a UFO was seen over **Ashford**, Kent. The object was shaped like a vacuum-cleaner and passed over the town in an east-west direction. It was greyish in colour and made no noise. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.)

Two Devon schoolboys claimed to have seen a 50ft.-long cigar-shaped object travelling over **Exmouth**. The object, which they watched for about fifteen minutes, was fairly low in the sky. At times, two large red lights seemed to shine from it. (*Glasgow Herald*, October 31.)

#### October 31

Two **Sidmouth** men saw a bright object in the sky shaped like a rough cross with an oval ring around it. The object, which was stationary, appeared to be about 1,000ft. up. The time was about 6.15 p.m. and the sky was dark and clear. The object was described as being orange in colour and unlike anything the witnesses had ever seen before. (*Exeter Express & Echo*, November 2.)

Two rapidly spinning objects, shaped like saucers and light grey in colour, were seen near **Great Yarmouth**. The objects finally went up swiftly and disappeared in the clouds. (*Western Mail*, November 1.)

A mystery ball that glowed like red-hot coals in the centre with a white perimeter was seen near **Midhurst** at about 2.30 a.m. The shape was something like a rugby football, but irregular at the rear and sides. As it changed direction, sparks were seen to come from the rear. A sound like a suction noise was also heard. (*Brighton Evening Argus*, November 1.)

#### November 1

On November 1, a similar object was seen again over **Midhurst**. It was seen at about 2.00 a.m. and was observed to change shape from round to oval and alter colour from red to green to white. It had antennae like a

sputnik and these were white. (*Hampshire Telegraph*, November 9.)

Two strange objects visited **Cork**, Eire, at about 10.30 p.m. Both objects were stated to be circular in shape and to have been about two miles apart. One had a glow of white light around it and the other a glow of orange light. They appeared to be stationary and remained in the area for about forty-five minutes before disappearing. (*Cork Evening Echo*, November 2.)

Eleven workmen saw one of the familiar flying crosses at 3.15 a.m. near **Fordwich**, Kent. Although the star-shaped object moved slightly, it remained in relatively the same position until dawn. (*Kent Messenger*, November 3.)

**Guildford**, Surrey, was also visited by UFOs. Two mysterious bright yellow lights were seen to come from opposite directions and stop very close to one another. Then they separated, closed up again and went into the distance and faded. Their speed was described as fantastic. (*Surrey Mirror*, November 3.)

#### November 2

There were two sightings on this day. The first was our old friend the flying cross. It was seen at 6.15 a.m., over **Billericay**, Essex. It was described as extremely bright with sparks coming off it just like a sparkler firework. The object, which was watched for some one-and-a-half minutes, floated over the police station. The edges of the cross-shaped object were blurred by the haze of light. (*Basildon Standard*, November 3.)

The second sighting was reported over **Exmouth** at 7.40 p.m. The object, a "bright glowing golden" colour, about the size and shape of a grapefruit, became stationary and started to blink on and off every few seconds, about six times in all. Then it seemed to become redder in colour and it started to move off in the direction it had come from. Climbing rapidly, it soon disappeared among the stars. (*Exmouth Journal*, November 4.)

#### November 3

A ball of white light and a fast-moving oval-shaped red object were seen over **Stafford**, but the most interesting item was the "Canterbury Comment" by the *Kent Messenger's* news editor, Oliver Petts. After mentioning that many of the UFO sightings in Devon and Sussex were made by policemen on patrol in the early hours of the morning, he relates that there was an amusing sequel when the Chief Constable of East Sussex (see October 25) got all his night crews out of bed to meet at headquarters where they were all persuaded that what they had seen was the planet Venus.

The source of the Chief Constable's privileged information, other than divine inspiration, is not given. But then the wee small hours are traditionally reserved for messages from above!

#### November 5

There was a dramatic sighting by long-distance lorry driver Mr. Carl Farlow as he travelled along the main Salisbury-Bournemouth road at **Ibsley** late at night. (Charles Bowen mentioned this case in the November/December issue of the REVIEW.) At 11.30 p.m. a cigar-shaped object, about 12ft. in length with a white dome underneath, landed in the road in front of him. Mr. Farlow said that at the same time a Jaguar car was travelling in the opposite direction. The lights on both the lorry and the car failed and both vehicles stopped, though the Diesel engine of the lorry continued running.

After about two minutes the UFO, which was showing green lights, became airborne again and flew off towards the east. Then the lights of both the lorry and the car came on again. (*Southern Evening Echo*, November 6.) Here we have yet further confirmation of the paralysing effect of these strange craft on the electrical systems of vehicles which come into close contact with them.

Another incident involving a lorry driver and a UFO was reported in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of November 7. The date of the incident is not given, but it occurred while Mr. Dave Stotter was driving along the M6 motorway from Darwen, Lancashire, to London. Mr. Stotter had reached the turning to **Holmes Chapel** when he realised that "a thing was above him".

The "thing" was a black circular mass with purple-blue flames coming from the outer edges. At the forward edge was a cluster of lights. For about six miles the big saucer hovered overhead and when Mr. Stotter pulled in to get a good look at it, it veered off and swung north up the motorway. On this occasion, there appeared to be no interference with the lorry's electrical system.

#### November 6

Why UFOs should take particular interest in moving vehicles is not known, but interest there undoubtedly is, for on November 6, at 6.15 a.m., a glowing, pulsating object followed a car for several miles on the outskirts of **Burnley**. Eventually the disc-like object was joined by another, similar object, and the two craft travelled in front of the car until the driver reached his home and called out his wife, who also saw the two objects. At one point the driver of the car switched off his engine

and opened the window, but he could hear no sound from the strange objects, nor could he discern any colours, as he is colour-blind. (*Halifax Courier & Guardian*, November 7.)

At about 8.55 p.m. on the same day, a bright object like a "distorted Mercedes 3-pronged emblem" was seen by two men near **Reading**, Berkshire. When the object was almost overhead, something seemed to drop from it and burn up. (*Reading Evening Post*, November 7.)

Another of the mysterious yellow crosses was seen hovering over **Bradford** at about 4.00 p.m. After a few seconds, it seemed to shudder, diminish in size and then disappear.

In the evening a bright object flickering like a star was seen over the Bramley area of **Leeds**. A compass bearing was taken on the object as it approached from the south-west. When it suddenly veered north, the needle of the compass began to swing violently backwards and forwards. (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, November 7.) Here is another demonstration of the powerful magnetic effect that is exerted by UFOs. It would be interesting to know whether any of our UFO detector owners in the area had an alarm that would coincide with this sighting.

Hundreds of spectators at Wigan's Springfield Park football ground took

their eyes from the floodlit game to watch a massive strip of golden light hover overhead for six minutes, vanishing occasionally and reappearing. (*Bolton Evening News*, November 7.) The game appears to have had unexpected supporters!

#### November 7

At 4.30 a.m., Mr. Fred Bissell was awakened by a bright light shining in the window of his home at Walton, near **Clacton-on-Sea**. He looked out and saw an object resembling a dustbin lid hovering over Walton Pier. The object hovered backwards and forwards, with a bright light beaming down from it. No noise could be heard from the object, which suddenly shot off at a terrific speed towards Harwich, turning on its side to resemble a cigar. It then returned and again hovered over the pier before shooting off southwards. Two police officers at Clacton reported seeing orange lights at about the same time. The description of this UFO corresponds closely with that given by four yachtsmen off Clacton at about the same time on September 12. (*East Essex Gazette*, November 10.)

At the same time as Mr. Bissell's sighting, Mrs. Mabel Allen was awakened at her home in **Wirral**, Cheshire, by a terrific roaring noise.

Looking out, she saw a huge light in the sky, stationary and high up. With the naked eye it looked like a blurred cross. She woke her husband who fetched his binoculars and they watched the object for five to ten minutes. Through the binoculars, the object appeared to be saucer-shaped with lights all round it. Mrs. Allen described it as "enormous". Then the object swiftly rose higher and vanished, the noise also dying away. (*Liverpool Echo*, November 7.)

#### November 9

The last report for this period of intense activity is of a sighting at 5.30 p.m. over **Great Billing**, Northamptonshire. The dazzlingly-bright object was in the shape of a cross and changed colour from brilliant white to tangerine. It was seen travelling very fast, then very slowly and finally stopping. In all, the object was observed for ten minutes. (*Northants. Evening Telegraph*, November 10.)

Summing up, the most that can be said about this "flap" is that more people than ever before saw things in the sky unlike anything they had ever seen before. We are no nearer to solving the UFO mystery, but at least we can point to an increasing number of people, many of them trained observers, who were witnessing "bilge" with mounting interest!

(Continued from Page 29)

#### PERU

##### UFO squadron over Lima

From the São Paulo newspaper *Noticias Populares* of March 10, 1967, we learn that—

— "In a densely populated area of Greater Lima, hundreds of people witnessed the appearance of UFOs. The objects, about 15 of them, were flying low and caused great excitement among the public.

"According to the Lima paper *La Prensa*, the event occurred in the Comas district, not far outside the city. Witnesses told reporters that the objects were flying around at low

altitudes 'as if they wanted to get to know us better'. They were very large and of a silvery colour.

"Later, according to the same Lima paper, a policeman said he had watched a flying saucer near the International Airport. He said the brilliant circular object disappeared towards the north, and had appeared from the south."

Credit: Nigel Rimes.

#### CHILE

##### Three saucers alarm populace

Again from the São Paulo *Noticias Populares*, edition of June 21, 1967, we find that—

"Agricultural workers have seen a

squadron of three flying saucers flying very fast in zigzag movements over the town of Mulluri (2,300 km. to the North of Santiago, and in the neighbourhood of the Bolivian frontier). The three objects emitted a powerful and strange light, which kept changing from orange-red to light blue. After wheeling about overhead for almost a quarter of an hour, the objects vanished, leaving the populace of the region in an uproar."

Credit: Nigel Rimes.

#### MAILBAG

(Continued from Page 22)

##### Defective vision ?

Sir,—Dr. Bernard E. Finch in his article *Can they see us?* (March/April 1968 issue) suggests that imperfections in the vision of UFO pilots may account for apparently erratic course and reported near-misses. This theory will not stand a moment's examination on any count. For one thing, crashed UFOs would not be particularly uncommon.

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March 27, 1968.

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