

UFOs OVER BRIDLINGTON FACTORIES

Robert Morrell

The investigators of this incident were John Cree, Syd. Henley, Robert Morrell and Philip Fargus, of Nottingham UFO Investigation Society (NUFOIS), and the report has been prepared especially for UFOIN and FSR.

THE eye witnesses to this sighting were three women who, as they insist on remaining anonymous, will be referred to as Mrs. A, Mrs. B, and Mrs. C. In age they range from the late 20s to the late 50s. At the time of the sighting they were employed as factory cleaners on the Bessingby Industrial Estate, which is situated on the outskirts of the Yorkshire fishing and holiday town of Bridlington on the East Coast. One of the eye witnesses, who has since left her job, flatly refused to be interviewed or co-operate in the investigation, her reasons being domestic. The other two witnesses co-operated fully.

The setting

The Bessingby Industrial Estate is set in an area of open flat ground on the outskirts of Bridlington. It is flanked on one side by a railway track, on another by one of the main roads out of the town, on another by open land, and on the fourth side by a housing estate, this side being rather hilly. There are several small factories on the estate, mainly situated on each side of a road which turns in to the estate from the main road referred to above. Several of the factories make electric equipment, while others are concerned with making wood products and bedding. There is also a fruit and vegetable warehouse. Another road which branches off the main estate road leads to the housing estate; this road is closed to traffic. When visited, this road was found to carry a small but steady flow of pedestrians. On the right hand side of the road as it approaches the main cluster of factories is a large area given over to allotments. This is faced on the other side of the road by the wood products factory and its associated wood-yard.

The sighting

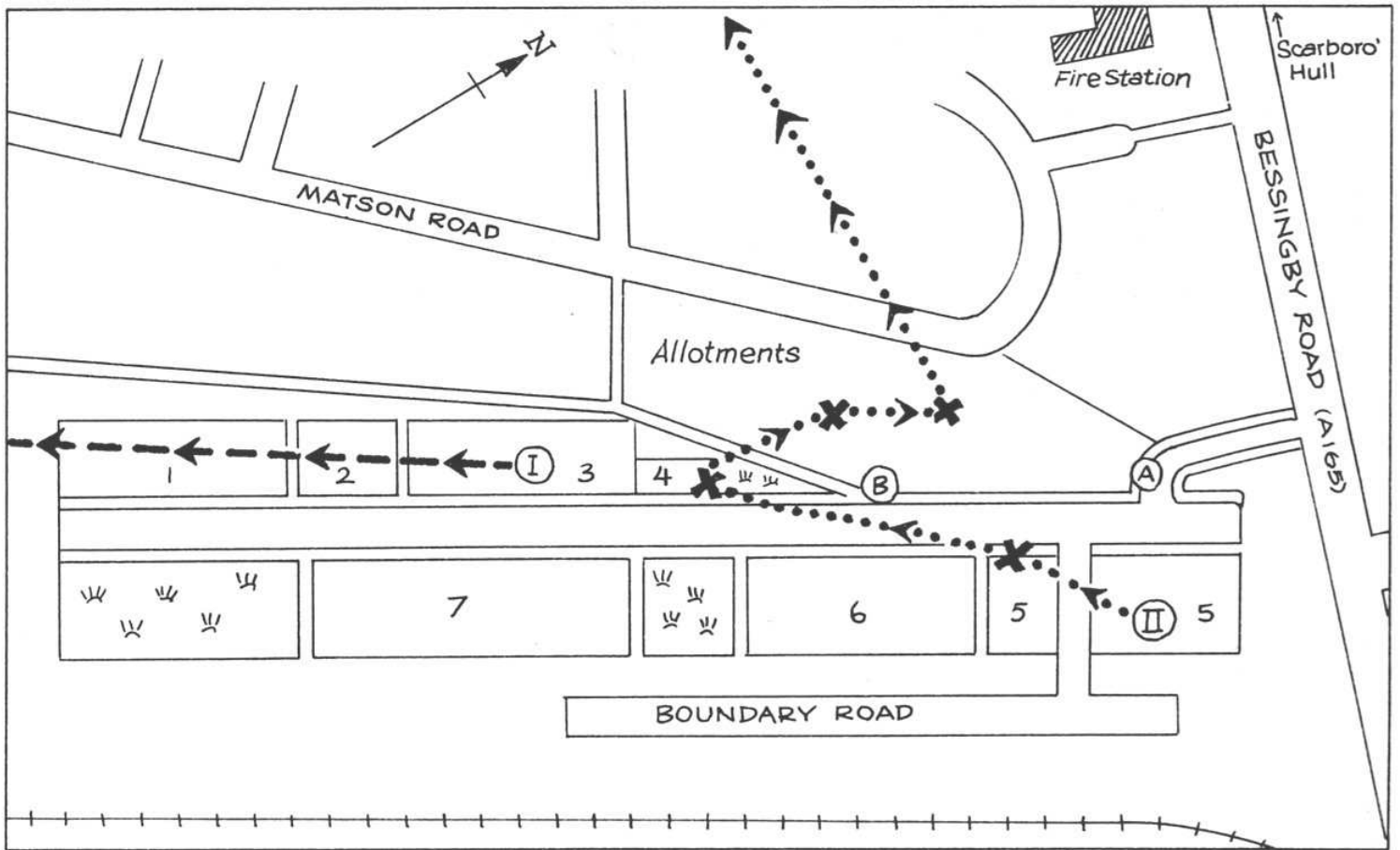
The sighting is said to have taken place at 16.45 hrs. on January 21, 1977, while the women were making their way to work. They were walking along the right hand side of the estate road when, just before it makes a sharp swing to the right in the direction of the main factories complex, the women saw what appeared to be a hazy object hovering above the factory to which they were going (Britax PMG). They could make out no details. It was dusk at the time and cold or very cold, the two witnesses interviewed could not agree on this. Almost immediately after seeing the first object they spotted another hovering about a hundred yards ahead of them over the wood-yard, this was also 'hazy.' The

firm which owns the wood-yard is called K.B. Dixon Ltd. The direction of the first sighting was 235°, and the second, 160°.

The second object started to move off almost as soon as the women saw it, keeping to their walking speed and ahead of them. It halted briefly above Dixon's offices before moving forward again to stop above the factory part of the timber merchants. Just below the halted object was a ventilation pipe which came out of the factory wall, and which had built into it an air-pump. This pump was the only source of noise. Mrs. B. stated that at this time there was a smell like that "caused by a chimney fire," and she went on to describe this as "strange." While the object hovered here the haze, or 'vapour' disappeared and the object became distinct in appearance. According to the witness it was "larger than a double-decker bus" in size, rather like a rugby ball in shape, had a dark grey top and bottom and a flat central section which carried a row of "portholes" through which could be seen a corridor and its wall. The "portholes" emitted "a brilliant light." At the "back" (on this the women were not sure whether it was in fact the rear of the object) was a "tube"-like structure, also described by Mrs. B. as "a telegraph pole." The same witness said that when the object moved off from the factory and across the road ahead of them to go over the allotments, it did so "backwards." She decided on this because the "telegraph pole" was then on the "front" of the object in terms of its movement, it having moved off with the pole being carried on the part facing the allotments.

Before the object actually went over the allotments it hovered over the premises of Pickering and Bull, Ltd., Fruit Merchants, for a second or so. Having done this it went off over the allotments, paused briefly and then moved off again, coming down to about six feet above ground level. About half-way over the allotments it stopped and lowered its "telegraph pole" and appeared to take a "polythene bag" up this. It was noted by the interviewers when they examined the site later that such bags were used by many allotment holders to contain waste materials. The object then rose and made off rapidly at 260°. The first object went off at about the same time, not having moved at all, in the direction of West Hill (290°). West Hill is the site of the housing estate mentioned earlier.

Total time of the sighting was estimated by the witnesses as 5-6 minutes and 10 minutes, the longer time being that given by the older woman.



UFO flight paths at Bridlington, based on a sketch by John Cree

Key to above:—

1. Adcock Shipley, Ltd.	Approx. length 200 yds
2. Turner Bros. Candlewick, Ltd.	" " 75 yds
3. Britax (PMG), Ltd.	" " 200 yds
4. Pickering & Bull, Ltd.	" " 50 yds
5. K.B. Dixon, Ltd. Woodyard & factory	" " 200 yds
6. Rig Holdings.	" " 200 yds
7. Britax (PMG), Ltd.	" " 250 yds

A Position of witnesses when they first observed the objects.

B Position of witnesses when objects last seen.

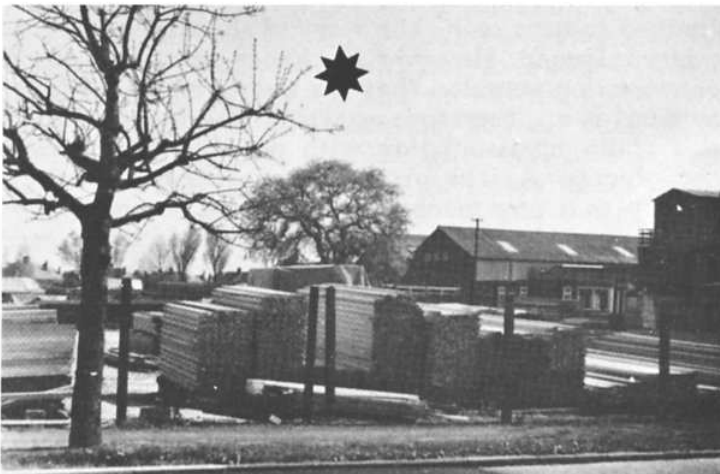
(I) Position of first object throughout the sighting.

(II) Position of second object when first observed.

x. Position of second object when hovering.

Effects

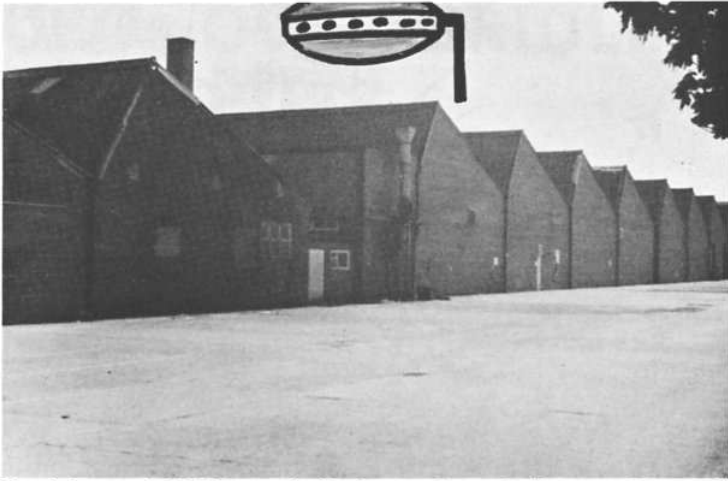
The woman claims to have been physically affected by what they saw. The two interviewed claim to have developed bad throats and to have had "odd sensations." On arrival at work they were in a state of fright and "had a cry." They said this was also true of the eyewitness who refused to be interviewed. Mrs. A. said her watch stopped at 16.52 hrs. Both witnesses stated that the day after the event they developed bad colds, and Mrs. B. also added that her whippet dog, which was usually quite affectionate, refused to go near her for three days after the sighting. The women also asserted that a machine at Britax



First object first seen from here. Woodyard to the left, allotments to the right



Second object first seen from this point as witness looked over woodyard



Position of UFO and "telegraph pole" over Dixon's factory

(PMG), which was housed in the room over which the first object observed had hovered, called, by them, 'the mill,' and which was used to cut rubber, stopped and took several days to put right. The interviewers discussed these claims with the production manager of Britax, who had met the women three quarters of an hour after their sighting and who, the women stated, was the only person who believed them. He, Mr. Norman S. Hudson, stated specifically that no machine had stopped at the factory. He pointed out that the close-down sequence commenced about 16.50 hrs. and thus a machine, or machines, could well have been turned off at the time. The women had referred to 'a mechanic' telling them of the machine stopping; unfortunately we were unable to locate this person. Mr. Hudson confirmed that he had been told of the watch stopping, but when questioned about the state of the cleaners he said that they were not frightened but, instead, excited and anxious to tell everyone they met about the events.

The allotment

As the second object was said to have appeared to have taken something from one of the allotments, which are called locally the Hilderthorpe Allotments, the investigators went to see the Chairman of the Allotment Committee, Mr. H. Morris. He told us that he knew of no thefts, interference or damage at the allotments on the date of the sighting, however, he did state that the allotments suffered badly from vandalism and any damage, etc., might well have been put down to that. However, he could not recall any. The next person seen was Mr. A. Redshaw, who cultivated the allotment over which the object had hovered, and from which it seemed to have taken something. Mr. Redshaw appeared rather indifferent about the matter, but stated firmly that as far as he could recall there was no damage or anything missing in so far as his allotment was concerned on January 27th. As the offices of the wood factory and the adjacent wood-yard faced the allotment, we checked with Dixon's to establish whether any of their staff was working in their yard when the object had been seen over it, or whether any staff had observed the object from the office windows while it was over the allotment. Their reply was negative.



Point over allotments where UFO took up bag

Publicity

Although two of the witnesses wanted to contact an organisation to which to report their sighting, the older going to considerable trouble to find one, they insisted on no personal publicity and had not contacted the local press. The older witness had, it emerged, contacted Radio Humberside, but due to their sceptical attitude she had broken off contact and Radio Humberside does not appear to have made any effort to 'follow-up' the story. The women stated that in general the employees at the factory adopted a very sceptical attitude towards their story. The production manager, who as noted earlier accepted the truth of the story, was vague when it came to details.

Conclusions

Although the investigators found no reason to doubt the sincerity of the witnesses when interviewed, neither did they obtain any evidence to independently corroborate the story told. Indeed there was a degree of difference between some of the things the women claimed and what we later established in our interview with the production manager. The women claimed to be in a state of fright on arrival at the factory, yet some thirty or so minutes later they were described as "excited" rather than frightened, and anxious to tell people what they claimed to have seen. The story of the watch stopping was confirmed. However, a chance remark made in conversation revealed that the owner may have failed to wind it up, therefore no weight can be attached to this claim in association with possible effects from the objects. As the production manager denied explicitly that any machine had broken down, and he, if anyone, should be in a position to know, and the women were unable to identify the person who told them that a machine had stopped at the time of the sighting, we are unable to give any weight to this tale either.

Initially the women denied knowing anything about UFOs, yet during the course of a very long interview they, particularly Mrs. B (who was the person who contacted Radio Humberside and made very strong attempts to contact a UFO organisation),

(continued on page 10)

TALKS WITH BETTY HILL: 2-THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN AROUND HER

Berthold Eric Schwarz M.D.

ON DECEMBER 7, 1975, Marianne Cascio, a lady of Agawam, Massachusetts, who claimed that she was blinded by a UFO when eleven years of age, and that she had had possibly related psi experiences such as telekinesis, telephoned Betty Hill.

The Mystery Helicopter

Marianne wanted to speak about the Agawam mystery helicopters. Marianne said to Betty: "I'll try ESP to send the 'helicopter' to you so you can see what it looks like."

In her notes about Marianne's experience, which dovetailed with what Marianne and YD (pseudonym) had told me on the phone at the time, Betty wrote: "YD called from Marianne's home. He had gone to take her some doughnuts when they heard the helicopter. He went out with her Polaroid camera to get some pictures. He took three, but the helicopter did not appear on these. He was flabbergasted, for he had framed the pictures carefully, having a tree in one corner and a power line showing. The craft was between these two but did not appear on the film. The third picture he took was dark and overexposed."

[I (BES) later confirmed the conversation and notes by interviewing YD in person and also examining his memorandum and Polaroids. His notes stated: "...completely clear. Not a cloud in the sky. We called Betty Hill and reported it to her. Three pictures of a helicopter, yet when the Polaroid film was developed, no helicopter could be seen in the pictures."]

Betty received Marianne's "mystery helicopter" call when she was visiting her mother in Kingston, New Hampshire. Betty was preparing to leave for Portsmouth at 9.00 p.m., when she noticed a huge light that came up from the ground and stopped. Her mother and neighbours went out to watch it. When Betty got out of the car and started the motor, the light "...started to toy with me. It went back to its former position. Two smaller lights were on each side of it, and they followed me for several miles in the direction of Exeter.

"Later, at 11.30 p.m., Marianne called again and said that she had made a mistake and that the 'copter' she tried to send did not arrive, but three UFOs did. True."

From 6.00 to 10.00 p.m., instead of 6.00 p.m., she had seen several small bright flashing lights in the sky. Betty recalled how Marianne also 'phoned Mrs. Stella Lansing who drove to Agawam and took motion pictures using three cameras.

Betty continued:

"Marianne said that she called Westover Air Force

Base in Chicapee to report the UFOs. The base operator told her that everyone was calling in and that most of the lines were tied up. She was put through to Security Police, who told her that she was giving the twelfth report they received. We talked about my sighting this night, and it was agreed that we would try an experiment for me to obtain the book that was given to me on board my UFO. I would exchange my world atlas and my globe for this, or any possession they wished.

"The next night, on December 8, 1975, I [Betty] was returning home about dusk, when I saw two rows of puzzling lights in the sky. Four red lights on the right and four green lights on the left which formed a V. As I turned in my driveway, I discovered this was a helicopter, for it flew down low, over my car and the garage and barely missed the tree in my backyard. As it came down, the only light visible at that moment was one large white light in the front of the craft. No white light on the tail, and it disappeared swiftly from sight. I called OJ, a local UFO investigator, and he didn't believe it, but then the helicopter was over his house."

In her report Betty also included an additional mystery helicopter experience involving Marianne. "Marianne came on the phone to say that on Thursday night a helicopter had appeared and circled her house. She could hear the motor, which died and then returned later. Also, its flight pattern was unusual in that it was not a true circle at times, but it seemed to be moving back and forth, making sharp angles. It appeared three times... While we were talking, the 'copter returned. Marianne's eleven-year-old daughter Chris stood at the door and described this one, different from the others, which were grey without markings. This one was blue and red with markings running in a vertical pattern. Chris described [and sketched the craft and the symbols]. The craft had a rectangular box in front from which a light was shining."

Betty's unpublished study *Mystery Helicopters*⁶ (1976) presents this and much related data with documentation. She also wrote about another episode that she described to me during her Montclair visit: "A friend of mine in Wells, Maine, who is a commercial farmer had been seeing strange lights around her farm occasionally for about two years. Last summer she thought that one had landed in one of her fields but did not investigate this. On February

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