

Wilmslow P.C.'s Report

By R. H. B. Winder

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POLICE CONSTABLE COLIN CLIVE PERKS, four years in the Cheshire Constabulary, 28 years old, married, was on duty during the cold clear early morning of Friday, 7th January, 1966; and at 4.10 a.m. was checking the back door of one of the shops which border the east side of the Alderley Road (A34) in the village of Wilmslow, 11 miles south of Manchester.

As he faced the door, he heard a high-pitched whine unlike any of the ordinary sounds of Wilmslow in the dark. It was not loud enough to waken the sleeping natives, but had a penetrating quality. He said to us that a high-speed electric motor might sound something like it but he knew of no closely comparable noise. He turned around to look to the east over the car park behind the shops, and the meadow beyond, and saw a solid looking object stationary about 35 ft. above the grass and about 100 yards from him. He had a clear view, unobstructed either by the solitary lamppost (not illuminated at that time) in the car park, or by any haze or mist.

He said that its upper surfaces glowed steadily with an eerie greenish-grey colour. The glow extended into the air around the object but did not obscure its clearly defined outline, as was shown in the sketch he made 20 minutes after the event and which was widely publicised. He explained that the lines across his sketch represent rounded but fairly sharp changes in the profile, matched by shading in the glow. The top dome was simply a continuation of the surface, looking no different from the remainder. He did not notice openings anywhere in the thing.

The base appeared dark, circular, featureless and flat. It was probably horizontal but presented an elliptical outline to his point of view. He mentally compared its major axis with the length of a 30-ft. bus and judged its minor axis to be 20 ft. long. He concluded that the base was a 30 ft. diameter circle.

For five seconds, neither he nor the object moved. He admits to being frightened and attributes his immobility to his fear, but insists that

he kept his wits about him. He also attributes a slight stammer, which persisted for a few days afterwards, to the same cause. His speech is normally free from impediment.

After about five seconds, and without changing its sound, the object moved rapidly away to the E.S.E. passing near a leafless tree, over the evergreen hedge bordering the far side of the meadow, over the suburban road beyond it and out of sight behind the roof of one of the houses on the other side of the road. Gordon Creighton and I looked at all these things, and the grass, when we visited the place with Constable Perks on March 10th, but could find no traces of the object's passage.

We understand that a colleague of the witness looked at the northern end of the car park (behind the Rex cinema) soon after the event and found it thinly covered by glass-like particles. This aspect requires further investigation. Perks did not see the arrival of the object, but its departure line if projected backwards would intersect the area in question.

After the departure, Perks hurried to the station and wrote a report. He also 'phoned Ringway Airport and the Radio Telescope installation at nearby Jodrell Bank: both were unable to assist in his enquiry. His superiors inspected his report but it was not published until March 2nd. In the meantime two Ministry of Aviation representatives interviewed him and inspected the location but gave no opinion.

After publication, one corroborating witness came forward: Mrs. Amy Walker claimed to have seen a pearly green object over Lindow Garage 50 ft. away from her house. I have written to ask her for more detail.

This is a preliminary account of what seems to be an important sighting by a reliable and competent witness. I shall study it further and report again if any more data emerges. It is too early yet to draw any conclusions or comparisons. We understand that our colleagues in the Manchester UFO Society are also active and look forward to seeing what they have to say.

The Cappoquin Sighting

By Charles Gibb-Smith, M.A., F.M.A.

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WITH the sighting and photographing of the UFO near Cappoquin (County Waterford, Ireland) we are perhaps one stage further advanced in the study of what have unfortunately become known as "flying saucers": for here is a sighting by reliable witnesses, accompanied by a photograph of impeccable authenticity, the first which the present writer—after seeing many examples—can vouch for from start to finish.

The UFO was seen near Cappoquin by Miss Jacqueline Wingfield, who is a colleague of mine, and a Danish girl Miss Lisbet Mortensen, between 3.15 and 3.30 p.m. on Sunday December 26th, 1965. Miss Wingfield was driving her car, with Miss Mortensen as passenger. The weather was very fine, with a clear blue sky. As soon as the UFO was noticed—flying across in front of them—the car was stopped (and the engine) and the girls got out to watch the strange object as it flew steadily across the sky, low down, and making no sound.

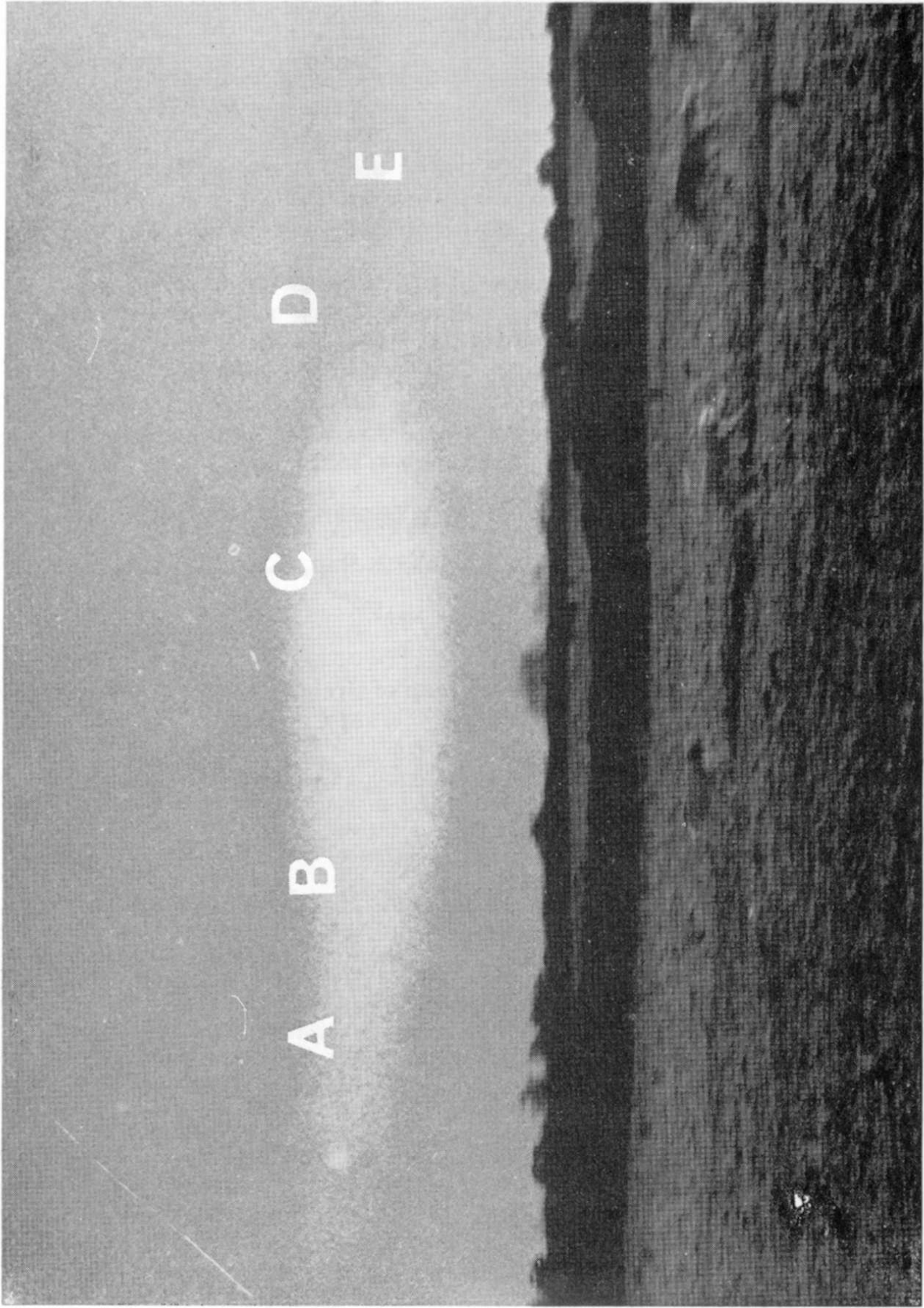
In appearance the UFO was curved and elongated, solid-looking, and of a light colour. Behind it, and seeming almost attached to—rather than emanating from—it, was a "plume", of flame-like brightness; but this "plume" left no smoke trail, or other wake.

Miss Wingfield found she had not loaded her camera, so called to Miss Mortensen to get hers, which was in the car. This was done, and she managed to take one photograph before the UFO disappeared in the distance. The camera used—an Agfa Click II—was luckily a simple instrument to operate, otherwise there would not have been time enough to set it.

Miss Wingfield was somewhat puzzled by the photograph when it was shown to her, as her recollection of the UFO was of a more elongated shape, and of a shorter plume. The former difference might be accounted for by the altered perspective of the machine as it was going away: the latter possibly by the camera registering more of



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Photograph taken near Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, December 26th, 1965
by Miss Lisbet Mortensen.

- A. Efflux clear but sparse following UFO seen to the left;
- B. Efflux bunching;
- C. Dark periphery of shape;
- D. Efflux thinning;
- E. No smoke or vapour trail.

the plume than the human eye.

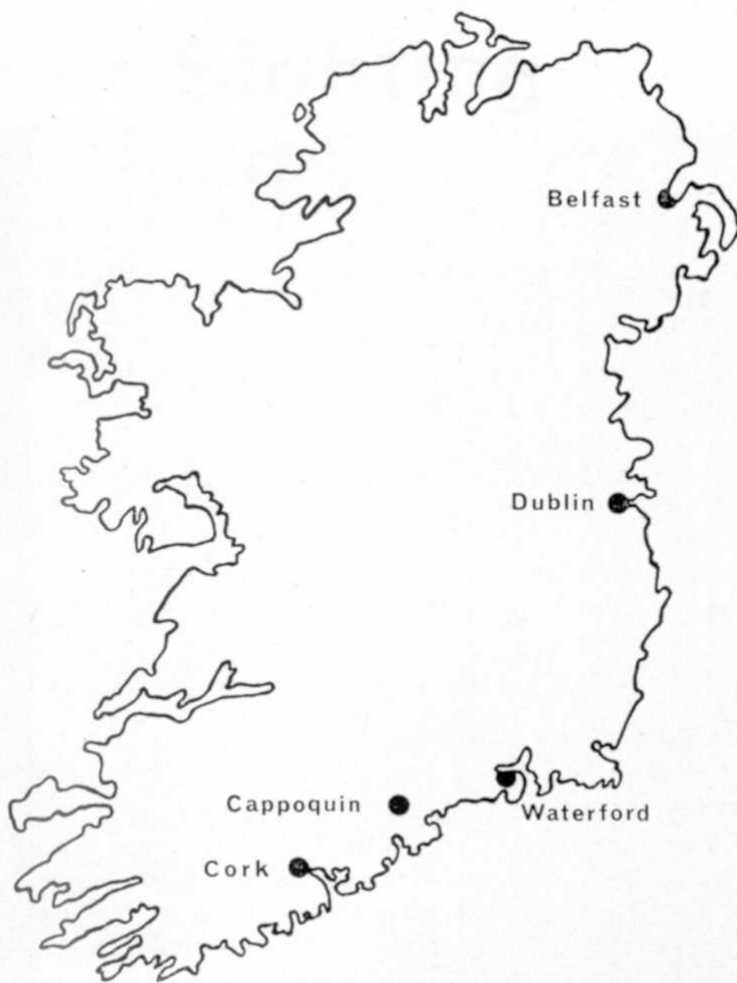
The film was brought to me, and for some days we were in doubt as to the best way of getting it expertly dealt with, to ensure that the best results would be obtained were anything significant to be present on the negative. But, by good fortune, my friend Mr. Percy Hennell—a photographer of world repute—came into my office shortly after, and generously offered to have the film processed and printed in his private studio under his own eye. With this offer, I knew that the film was in the hands of a man not only of the highest technical ability, but of the highest integrity.

Here is what he had to say.....

“I received a sealed roll of Agfa Isopan F film from Miss Wingfield. The film was processed under my supervision and in my presence by my assistant in the recommended developer, with a normal development time. The frame in question was one in a series of holiday landscape snapshots. I have now examined the camera, which is an Agfa Click II, a comparatively simple type of snapshot camera with a simple lens system of a fixed aperture of f8.8, the focal settings of which can only be fixed from 8 to 13 feet, or 13 feet to infinity.

“I examined the negative, and feel certain that it would be impossible, even with forethought, to fake such a negative, quite apart from the conditions of the photography in this case precluding this possibility. My reasons are, 1. The presence of the extraordinary dark periphery of the shape; and 2. The remarkable coarse grain clearly shown within the dark edge, and particularly at the left end of the object, which has no similarity to the normal photographic grain, the latter being shown in the surrounding areas of the enlarged prints.

“A series of enlargements of increasing density were made on contrasty paper to bring these features out, I naturally left all the prints free of re-touching. In the lightest of the prints, it is obvious from the movement in the foreground image, that the camera had been swung during photography in order to keep the object in the view finder; and the type of camera would suggest that the exposure could not have been more than 1/50 second, and was more probably in the region of 1/25th. I am well aware of the ways in which a superficially similar effect might be produced under laboratory conditions, after development. Not only was the film developed in a sealed tank, but also it was not examined until development and fixation were completed. The negative, as it exists now, could



Sketch map of Ireland showing the location of Cappoquin.

be examined by any photographic chemist, who would confirm that no after-treatment was attempted on this negative.

(Signed) Percy Hennell

January 19, 1966.”

The reproductions of the photograph, which appear both on the cover and on the adjoining pages, have been made from an enlargement deliberately printed as dense as possible to emphasize the remarkable features.

I am having the negative examined by a number of experts in various fields of science and technology: opinion is hardening against it being a “Sun dog” phenomenon, or parhelion, which has been suggested as an “explanation” in some quarters. A report on the findings of the experts will be prepared in due course but I must warn readers that this will take some considerable time.