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Investigations of

**Anomalous Aerial  
Phenomena**

and an

**Encounter**  
**with an Elf-like Humanoid**

(1974 to 1994)

*D. Martin*

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# Preface

Since the 1960s I have had an interest in anomalous aerial phenomena, or unidentified flying objects (UFOs) as they were referred to until a few years ago by most people who undertook a serious interest in them. They are now often termed UAPs - Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. As a physics teacher beginning in 1974 I soon began to hear reports from students who claimed they they had seen UFOs, so I took it upon myself to undertake some basic investigation and interviewed them in what I believe was an impartial and unbiased way. I also began to receive reports from other people. I did not normally seek out witnesses of these phenomena but acted only when individuals, or a mutual friend, came to me because they knew of my interest.

In total there are only ten incidents which I investigated, most of low strangeness, being 'lights in the sky'. They were nevertheless sufficiently unusual to warrant investigation and remain unexplained. However, the 'Wyche Cutting', 'Kempsey' and possibly the Ledgemoor incidents are different. These, especially the former, cannot be simply explained as misidentifications of aircraft or natural phenomena. Whatever lies at the root of the Wyche Cutting phenomenon, for example, is difficult to explain within the current scientific paradigm.

I have made no attempt to rank the reports in order of "strangeness", but simply place them in chronological order. Although this document was written decades after the events occurred it is based on notes - some more detailed than others - taken at the time from the witnesses themselves. Since I have never asked for permission to give the names of the witnesses, I have used abbreviations. Their names, and their addresses at the time, are on file.

## Milford Haven, December 1976

A brief report of an unusual star-like object was given to me by Mr. P. N. who lived in Milford Haven at the time of the sighting. Some details and information relating to the sighting have been lost, for example:- his address, the exact date and duration of the sighting and whether or not his wife, who accompanied him at the time, also saw it. However, the main details are still on file. I reproduce them here.

At 8.00 pm, sometime in December 1976, P. was with his wife in the back garden of their home. It was a clear evening but there was a slight fog near the horizon. He caught sight of a deep-red object, like a bright star (possibly magnitude zero), at an altitude of about  $30^\circ$  moving slowly southward. It began to "flash on and off", and suddenly "disappeared at great speed in the same direction". No sound was heard. He reported that "I thought it was a star until I checked on a star map".

## Malvern, December, 1976

Two sixth-form students saw an unusual object near the Malvern hills in December 1976. They wrote a report which I reproduce in full below:

DATE: December 1974

TIME: 5.30 pm

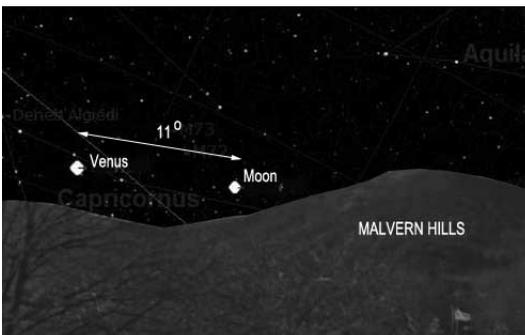
OBSERVED BY: R. M. H. and A. J. C. B.

Whilst walking on the fields to the rear of the Spring Lane industrial estate one weekend, weather conditions cold with some snow and ice on ground, we noticed an object over the hills. The object was slightly East of the range and to the North of middle.

The object if that is the correct word for it had no distinct edges appeared firstly to be rectangular luminous blue, with even illumination over all its area. At no time could the object be seen as truly three dimensional because of its blurred outline. The object appeared to the left of the moon <sup>1</sup> and about the same size.

The object appeared to be very low no more than two hundred feet directly above the hill and remained, apparently stationary, rectangular in shape for around ninety seconds. After this time it gradually, over the course of about twenty seconds, seemed to change shape until it approximated a circle of the same colour with edges still indistinct. It then (moved) very slowly towards the West and sank down behind the hills, in much the manner of a sunset, but taking perhaps another thirty seconds to do so.

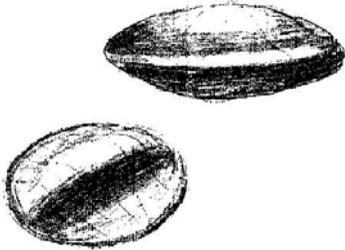
We waited for about two minutes, during which time the object did not reappear, after which we continued.



1. No specific date was given in the report but using a software planetarium I was able to obtain the relative configurations of Venus and the moon for December 23rd. I have superimposed on the star map a picture of the Malvern hills as seen from the Spring Lane area. Could the 'object' they saw have been Venus viewed under unusual atmospheric conditions?

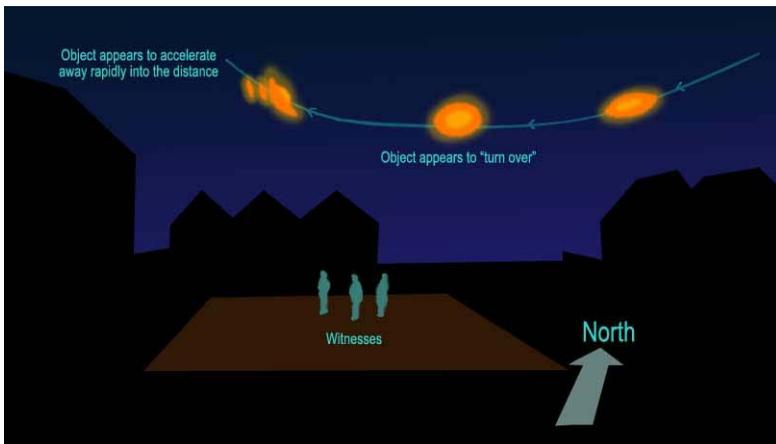
## Milford Haven, September, 1978

On September 1st, 1978 three witnesses saw an unusual object in the northern sky from near their home at Gwilli Road in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire. They were Mr. A. Y., his wife and a friend. It was 9.50 pm and the atmosphere was clear and there was no wind. A. first noticed the



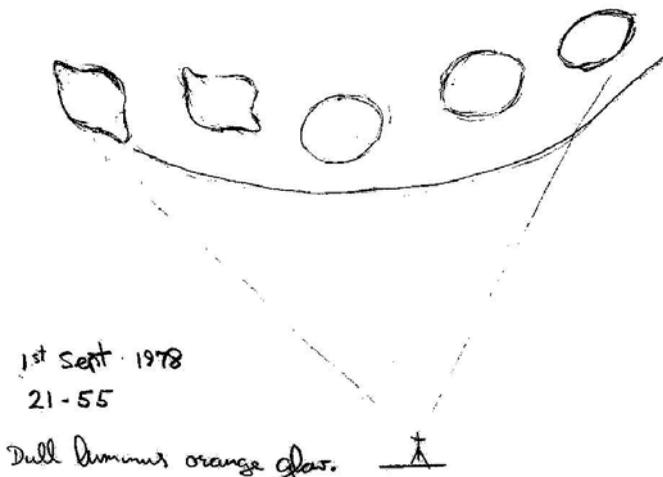
A sketch of the object based on a description given by the main witness.

object at an altitude of about 30° in the north. He described it as having “a definite shape” (see sketch), approximately the size of the full moon, deep orange in colour and surrounded with a “yellow aura”. It moved in a downward arc, towards the west, gained altitude again and finally disappeared in a westerly direction. This final phase of its motion was interpreted as a rapid acceleration, approximately in the line of sight, or as the witness described it: “receded into the distance”.



The path and motion of the unidentified object seen by the three witnesses near their home at Gwilli Road, Milford Haven.

For most of the short duration of this sighting - which was estimated as about ten seconds<sup>1</sup> - , A. was able to view the object through a small telescope with a magnification of 20x. As he followed its path he said the object appeared to “turn over” as it reached its lowest altitude. The other witnesses, without the aid of an instrument, said the object “disappeared” at the end. One of them thought he could see “portholes” at one point.



This diagram, with brief notes, was made within minutes of the sighting by one of the witnesses. It shows the path of the object, its apparent rotation and gives some idea of its shape.

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1. In retrospect, I assume that that this is the duration of the observation made using the telescope. Otherwise it seems most unlikely that he would have had time to fetch the instrument, if he had not had it with him before the object was first sighted.

## Malvern, Autumn, 1978

M. R., a sixth-form student, gave me a short, very concise handwritten report of an object he saw. The details are as follows:

The location was Malvern sometime in the early autumn. It was about 7 or 8 pm and the sky was not quite dark. He observed an orange spherical object, "definitely not a point source", with an apparent diameter of one third that of the full moon, moving "fairly slowly" in an easterly direction. M. said it was difficult to estimate the speed "because it was going directly away", presumably meaning that it was moving away in the line of sight.

He observed it for a duration of 2 to 3 minutes, adding that it was "still visible when observation discontinued".

## Upper Colwall, Herefordshire, December, 1978

The witnesses, Mrs R. S-S. and her daughter, C., were not known to me personally at the time of their encounter. I learned of this from a mutual friend who related it to me about a month after it occurred. R. and C. kindly agreed to meet with me to give any details I required about the incident. I had already received a type-written account which R. had presented to another mutual friend, Dr Chris Oliver, a physicist working at the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (R.S.R.E) in Malvern. He passed it on to me with a hand-written note at the foot of the letter. This is a detailed description which I reproduce here in full, with added footnotes of my own. These are their accounts:

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your phone call. I thought I would write down exactly what happened on Saturday (December 2nd) afternoon so that having told a scientist, and a Christian, about it, (you will know what importance to attach to it,) we can forget it.

Unfortunately I have *no* scientific knowledge or language, haven't even seen a science fiction film or read a book about it, so I don't know how to tell you what you want to know. I am not easily unnerved, but this thing, this instrument, gave the impression of tremendous power without limit and we were transfixed, just like a rabbit in the head lights of a car. My mind still rejects what we saw.

Words are so limited. Saying it was round and gold gives the impression it was like the sun. It is NOT like the sun, or moon. Anyone who has seen it would never never confuse it with them. But it is round and gold.

Saturday was a snowy, dismal, foggy day. I can time it almost exactly. We had people to lunch and forgot C's driving lesson. Mother, who lives next door to her instructor in The Crescent, Colwall, phoned and said. "Do you realise it is 3.15 and Mr. Birchall is waiting outside in the car for C." So we ran out of the house, a short distance to the Wyche Cutting where our car is garaged in Grundy's Meadow, got it out and drove down towards Colwall. C. is a logical, highly intelligent seventeen year old who accepts nothing until she has proved it to her satisfaction.

As we drove past the Hill School and the Church we saw a very large pale disc through the mist and I said to C. "Ah, the pale winter sun!" She said "Yes it looks as it is moving through the fog." I said, "of course it does, we are." We drove past the entrance to Linden Manor drive towards Kevin Walton's house, and drove right out of the known world. C. whispered. "What *is* it? What ever *is* it?" In the sky, low down, between Manor drive and the Walton's house hung a large gold disc, brilliantly light and clearly defined. It came nearer, its colour like burnished

metal, but brighter than anything I've ever seen. The light from it - no *in* it - seemed focused on our corner of the road.

I wavered to a halt at the side of the road, nearly mounting the pavement, and to my astonishment a black car or van which must have been following us, passed and the driver either waved or shook his fist as he looked back at *us*. I can only assume he was watching my unexpected driving and wondering what I was going to do, and didn't lift his eyes to the extraordinary thing in the sky, for he went on.

The thing came nearer and nearer and the light intensified to an agonising degree - the power seemed to have been turned up. When the Priory service was televised the cameras first focused the lights on us and then gradually intensified them until they were very bright indeed. It was rather like that, except the light wasn't white, but golden and many many times more intense. When we looked at it it didn't blur like the sun does when you try and look at it and become a wavering blob of light, it stayed a definite circle. Circle not a globe.

You know how the pupils of eyes dilate, and without getting much larger you can see much deeper into them. The focusing light became brighter and deeper as if the inside of the circle was opening out at a deeper and ever more intense level of light. I said to C. "Turn away, try not to look." And we tried to turn away our heads. The disc came in closer until the whole world seemed to be nothing but the centre of it <sup>1</sup>. The feeling of impending doom was overpowering and I said something to C. I would never have said in my right mind and frightened the child further. I really felt we were going to be destroyed, just shrivelled up like maggots. " We must go back and get Lionel. We must all be together in danger like this."

My mind seemed to split into different sections. I knew we were mesmerised and ought to move; part of me totally rejected what was happening said it wasn't and that we must hurry for C. would be late for her lesson. My head was ringing although there was no apparent outside noise. Inside my head was a receding and coming forward hum like coming round after gas. Then it move back. It didn't seem to move as we understand movement, like a plane or a comet. It seemed to telescope into itself as if it were pulled from the back, then like the Cheshire cat it disappeared and reappeared towards British Camp, I thought <sup>2</sup>. I was able to drive on then and kept asking C. "what do you see now?" for she watched its progress. (I'm interested that she refers to it as a ball.) She said. "We were being mesmerised. I don't like it. I don't like things I don't understand and I don't want to talk about it."

When we arrived at mother's I looked at the clock and it was just twenty five minutes past three. The whole thing had taken place in less than ten minutes and it seemed eternity.

If we hadn't Christ as our pivot and rock, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, one's reason would really be unsettled by these experiences and their implications.

I still can't enjoy the glorious view of the heavens from our house as I used to - I keep wondering if there is an intruder there. Fortunately C. is happily preoccupied at the moment and I hope it will just pass out of her mind.

[Signed by hand: *from R. S-S.*]

P.S. Have seen today Saturday 9th a TV programme, my first on UFO - the mind boggles, even though some people are decidedly odd, some of the reports sound true in the light of our experience. You may use this letter as you wish, but I will never talk about it in a newspaper on TV or broadcast!

R's daughter, C., gave her own brief written account of her experience that afternoon:

I saw a large gold ball in the sky with a dazzling bright light coming from it. It had an almost hypnotic effect as it travelled very fast following us from the Wyche Cutting down into Colwall. Eventually it disappeared behind a cloud and after that all I could see was a purple <sup>3</sup> light in the sky which gradually faded.

[Signed by hand: *from C.*]

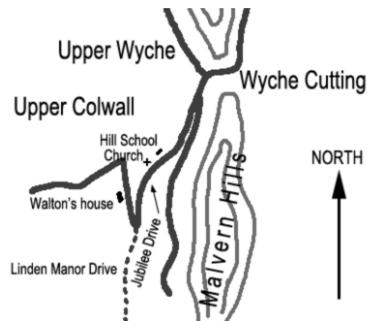
At the foot of their joint letter, Dr. Oliver wrote:

I talked to R. about this at some length as she was very frightened at first. She talked about a "tingling sensation" so I asked her to let me know if she found she got at all sunburnt. She did within the next three days - only on exposed areas so the radiation (UV?) was stopped by clothing.<sup>4</sup>

[Signed by hand: *Chris Oliver*]

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1. I asked R. if she could give a better indication of the size in the unlikely case that it could have been the sun seen under unusual conditions. She took me to the exact spots from where they saw the object. The first spot, just past the Hill School and the church is at a higher level than the second, nearing the entrance to the Walton's house. Both spots are on the western side of the hill and at an altitude of 223 m looking out almost due west towards Hereford. She described the object as so large she could see practically



nothing else. While in her house she said it would have been “as large as as one of the walls in the room”. From what she described to me at the second spot, the object would have been just at about tree-top level. She added that it definitely obscured the horizon.



Jubilee Drive, driving south just past the church. The object, when it was first seen behind the trees, would have been at eye-level and to the right of centre in a south-westerly direction.



Jubilee Drive, past the sharp bend and between the entrance to Linden Manor drive and the Walton's house. This is the view looking southwest just before the object disappeared and reappeared in the south.

2. From where we were standing, British Camp is in a southerly direction. In fact, at the time of their encounter the sun would have been almost exactly southwest (azimuth  $225^\circ$ ) at an altitude of  $3.7^\circ$ . But what she saw, or said she saw, rules out the sun since she said the object disappeared and reappeared in the south. As the time was 3.25 pm, and the sun would have been due south at about noon (GMT), I think we can rule out misidentification of the sun.

3. This detail is significant, as it points to an external physical stimulus. The object was bright "gold". If we think in terms of yellow or orange, the colour of the after-image perceived by the retina would indeed be purplish.

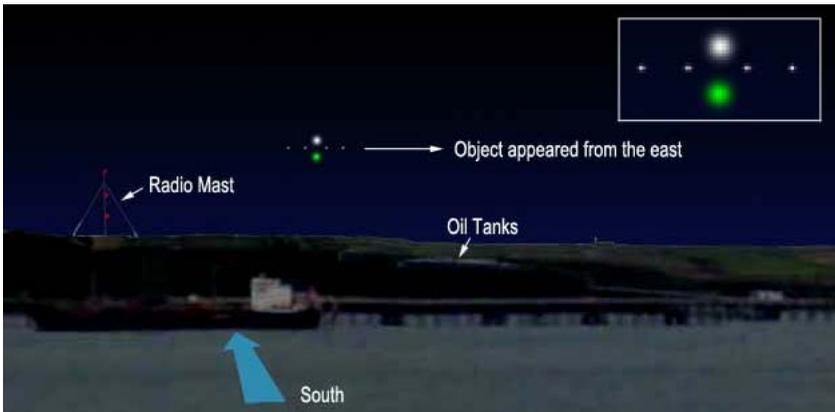
4. Not only did she receive 'sunburn' but her hair was 'bleached'.

I was informed soon after I spoke to R., but I can't remember by whom - it might have been Chris Oliver - that she had sustained some damage to the retina of her eye.

## Milford Haven, January, 1979

In late January 1979 my mother wrote me a letter in which she described a strange object which she and my father both saw from the bedroom window of their house in Wellington road. The window faces south and provides an unobstructed view of the southern skyline.

My mother, Joan, had just retired to her bedroom at 12.45 am and looked out of the window, as she usually did, before getting into bed. It was a clear night and the stars were visible. On this occasion she was surprised to see a group of five or six lights moving from the east just above the southern horizon, at approximately the same level as a tall radio mast (50 m?) which stood near Popton fort where, at that time, BP had a number of petrochemical storage tanks. The configuration of the lights was as follows: A “very bright”, possibly white light on the top, a row of three or four fainter white lights below it, and underneath, a bright green light. She described its initial speed as about that of a light passenger plane, but definitely not that of a jet aircraft. When the lights reached a point above the tanks it stopped and “hovered” for about five minutes. While it hovered it “swayed very gently and slowly”. There were definite “movements from end to end”. There were no sounds and she was cer-



The path and motion of the lights seen from the south-facing bedroom window at Wellington Road, Milford Haven.

tain that it was neither a plane nor a helicopter, and that it was too high to be the lights on a ship’s mast. As she continued to watch the “object”, she described the lights as being “only visible every second or so”, i.e. they blinked on and off - which gave the impression that “the only shape it took on was when all the lights were visible”, and then it seemed to be cigar shaped. Then suddenly it disappeared. The whole sighting lasted eight to ten minutes.

## Wyche Cutting, Malvern, February 1979

While I was visiting R. at her home on the Herefordshire side of the Malvern Hills, (see page 6) R.'s daughter C. was relating the incident of December 2nd when she decided to tell me about a "creature" she saw the previous Sunday (February 4th) at about 2 pm while walking near the Wyche Cutting on the hill near her house. She was with her father (who, incidently, saw nothing unusual: he is short sighted, and saw only what he thought was a "little old lady"). It appeared from behind a gorse bush and was like neither a male nor a female, i.e. it was "without any shape". Its body was thin, and would have been about average height and the legs and arms thin and "shapeless". She didn't see or notice any hands or feet. The face had "sunken cheeks", a pointed chin, and a slit-like mouth. It had a nose but the eyes were hidden under a long, straight fringe of dark hair.



C's drawing of the humanoid figure she saw on her walk near the Wyche Cutting.

The ears were normal size but pointed. The thing seemed to be "staring" at her, even though she could see no eyes, and it had a slight grin. When I asked

her about the colour of the skin, she described it as "white and anaemic looking". It wore a red garment, rather like a track suit with navy blue around the bottom of the legs (see drawings). It walked away in a "strange quick manner".

C. didn't even tell her father at first, and only told her mother after some considerable time. She was reluctant to tell people because she feared ridicule.

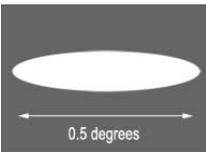


A sketch I made of the humanoid's face based on the description given to me by C. She confirmed that it was an accurate likeness.

## Kempsey, Worcestershire, December 17th, 1979

Before I describe the details of this sighting it might be relevant to provide some background information about the witness. Miss H. A., who was living in a flat in Malvern at the time when I interviewed her (December 24th, 1979), described herself as a person with psychic sensitivity. She told me she was sensitive to the “feelings” associated with places. She mentioned two places specifically: the Malvern hills, especially near the Wyche Cutting, and Glastonbury, where she experienced “an evil force” which prevented her from climbing the Tor. She also volunteered that while at Alum Bay in the Isle of Wight, she experienced hauntings.

Her sighting took place at Kempsey, ten kilometres northeast of Malvern, on December 17th, 1979. It was dusk. The sky was clear with no clouds and there was little or no wind. She was getting into her car at Brookend Lane at about 3.45 pm when her attention was caught by a bright object in the northeast at an altitude of approximately  $45^\circ$  above the horizon. It was bright <sup>1</sup>, pure white and about the size of the moon - which, according to H., was also visible in the sky as a crescent <sup>2</sup>. It was cigar shaped, with clear edges, but with no other detail visible. It was motionless and made no sound. For about half a minute



it disappeared and reappeared twice. She got back into her car and drove to Main road, turned left for fifty metres and right into Windmill Lane, where she got out of her car “for a good look” at the object. She saw it again for a for a brief period (another half a minute?) before it disappeared not to return.

What makes this case even stranger is that at this time of day, and in this location, it is normally busy with traffic and pedestrians. But on this occasion H. described the scene as devoid of all traffic, quiet, with “not a person in sight”. She felt no fear and no unusual sensations during or after the sighting.

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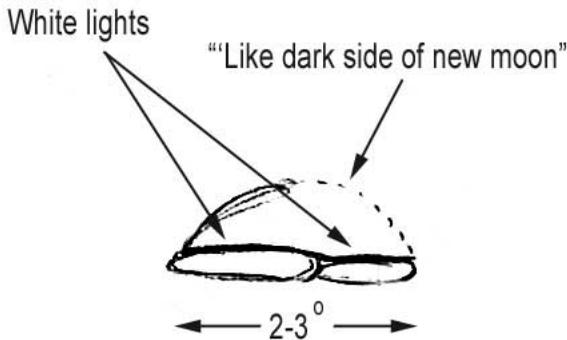
1. When I asked her for some idea of the intensity of the brightness she compared it with a light bulb at a distance of about one metre.

2. She must have been mistaken if the date of the sighting was December 17th. On this date, and at this time of day, the moon’s phase would have two days before new moon with only 3.75 % disc illumination - difficult to see in daylight. Also, it would have just set below the southwestern horizon before sunset.

## Colwall, Herefordshire, June, 1981

F. E., the thirteen year-old daughter of a friend, and one of my students, came up to me while I was on my way to lunch in school and told me of a “UFO” she witnessed the previous day. She provided a brief sketch on a piece of scrap paper, which I then annotated as I asked her some questions about her sighting. This took place on June 4th at 8.45 pm in Colwall on the western edge of the Malvern hills.

It appeared like a dark hemispherical shape with two white lights underneath, and appeared about four or five times larger than the moon. The dome-like structure was dark, “like the dark side of the moon”. It moved slowly in what she thought was a northerly direction and passed almost overhead. The lights “flashed on and off”, and then it vanished.



A sketch of the object provided by F. E. with annotations added later.

## Ledgemoor, Herefordshire, September, 1994

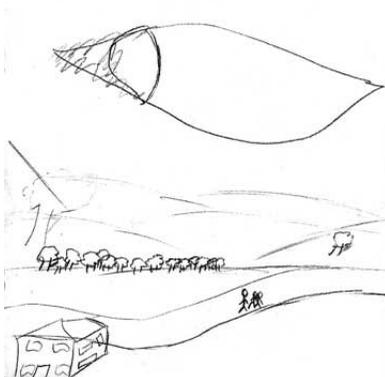
The last case which came to my attention, if taken at face value, is quite extraordinary. It was reported to me by two thirteen year-old girls, A. M. and M. M., both students of mine while I was a teacher at Weobley High School in Herefordshire. They came to me at lunchtime on September 9th, and after they enthusiastically recounted their experience I had them write down their accounts, while separated from each other. From the information they provided I have constructed the following account.

The were imprecise about the date of the sighting. A. gave the date as “about 3 or two weeks ago”. With the help of a software planetarium, and with a drawing of the moon’s phase at the time by A. the best estimates of the date would be late July or early August; that was three to four weeks previously; or it could have been late August or early September; that would place it less than two weeks previously.

The time was given by the girls as about half an hour past midnight. There was a lot of cloud but the moon was visible in its first quarter and would have been rising in the eastern sky. There were five witnesses, including the girls’ mothers. The object appeared in the western sky opposite to the moon, as M. wrote: “The moon was sometimes visible but in the opposite direction”. It was extremely bright. According to A. it was “A very bright orange”. Brighter

Close up

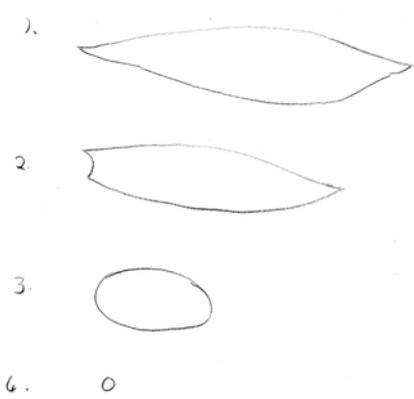
Far away



M.'s sketch showing the relative sizes of the object as it appeared to recede into the distance and then return. Notice her attempt to scribble out the mistake of drawing a pointed end on the left edge.

than the sun”, while M. wrote: “The colour was luminous orange and [lit] up the sky around it and the ground below it”.

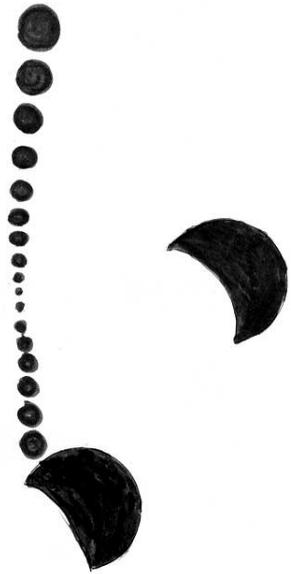
According to A.’s report: the object moved “back and forth” two times, and at one point it was “bigger than the sun



in the day”, while M. described its motion in these terms: “One minute it was really big and the next it was smaller than a pea. If it would have come close up it would have been bigger than the earth nearly”.

A second sketch by M. showing the object's sizes as it appeared to recede into the distance.

it is getting smaller and then gets bigger again it did this two times



A sketch by A. showing the object's sizes as it appeared to recede into the distance and return. The larger moon-like shapes are meant to represent the shape of the object. Both A's and M's sketches show a characteristic curved 'indent' on the left side.

