

Strange Places: Events on the Shilbottle Road, Alnmouth, Northumberland

by Gloria Heather Dixon

In September of 1963 Jill (pseudonym) and her father were returning home from a long journey from Leicester to Alnmouth, Northumberland at about 3.30am. They were on the Shilbottle road and estimated they were about ten minutes from Alnmouth. During this time they become aware of a glow emanating from a huge 'light/object' above them, which was very low and they estimated its altitude as being about one hundred feet above them. With no frame of reference for what this object could be, they felt terrified and Jill's father told her to switch off the engine. They clung to each other with their car stationary in a dip in the road.

Beams of light appeared to come down from the central underside of the object, which Jill describes as being like 'searchlights'. In what appeared to be not much more than a minute, it moved away at extreme speed and was gone within five seconds in the direction of the North Sea. As it moved away, Jill states that she observed portholes in the object. Her father started the car again and they both arrived home in a state of disbelief about what they had observed and feeling that it had taken longer than normal for the short distance home.

The following day they contacted RAF Bulmer, who informed them that they knew of no military aircraft in the area on the previous night and there appeared to be no further information or other sightings at this time. Although there was a farmhouse very close to where Jill and her father saw the object, it seems no one living there saw or heard anything.

I looked into this report in the mid-nineties and unfortunately Jill's father had passed away prior to this, so I was unable to verify and confirm Jill's statements. However during all the years up until his death he had never changed his story and both Jill and her father felt that what they observed that night defied any rational explanation.

This obviously remains as an anecdotal story, but is interesting and was reported to the Tyneside UFO Society at the time, although they disbanded in the late sixties. This was documented in their magazine.

An interesting footnote here is that Jill gave me a simple drawing (as remembered by her) of their car and object above them. This illustrates the size of the object against the size of their car, the object being huge in comparison.