

28th May, 1985

RAF Rudloe Manor,  
Att'n. Flying Complaints Flight,  
Hawthorne,  
Wiltshire SN13 OPQ

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to confirm the information I gave by telephone to the Duty Officer, RAF Operations, at approximately 0110 on Saturday 25 May 1985.

I reported that during a visit to friends at Cowley Hill, a little north of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, I had seen - at some time between 2100 and 2130 hours on Friday 24 May 1985 - a triangular array of lights in the direction of Elstree. They appeared to form an equilateral triangle of white to yellow lights, self-illuminated, with the base parallel to the horizon, at an elevation of 30 to 40 degrees. I reported the azimuth as being about South East, but telephoned the Operations Room again at about 1730 on Saturday 25 May 1985 to say that this was clearly in error: the azimuth was certainly South West rather than South East.

I heard no sound and detected no movement in this array of lights. It appeared to be stationary in the sky below cloud cover which I estimated at about 10/10ths stratus. The sighting lasted for about 2 minutes, suggesting to me that I was not observing an aircraft in (for example) the Heath Row circuit.

I can make no estimate of distance. But the angular dimensions of the object were (approximately):-

- a. About one sixth of the diameter of the moon for each of the three lights (viz. five or six minutes of arc).
- b. About five or six diameters between each of the three lights, viz. each side of the equilateral triangle must have been of the order of 40 or more minutes of arc.

As a former member of the British Astronomical Association (which I only recently relinquished on moving to London, where telescopic observation is impossible) and as an ex-RAF navigator, I rather doubt that I am easily deceived by aerial phenomena. My distinct impression is that I perceived an event for which no ready explanation is possible in wholly conventional terms. Astronomical phenomena are, I think, ruled out by the extensive cloud cover as well as by the very regular, triangular formation of the three lights seen. And aircraft lights seem a very unlikely explanation.

In view of the impossibility of estimating a precise distance for the sighting, I was not able to answer the questions put to me by the Operations Room and again by the Duty Desk at the MOD Main Building, Whitehall, about whether the sighting was near to high-power voltage lines, bodies of still water or a local town. There is a reservoir near Elstree; high-voltage lines are endemic in Hertfordshire; and the county abounds in towns. But I can give you only the angular dimensions of the object(s) seen; and the precise distance must remain