

**SEQUEL
TO
SCORITON**

by

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OCTOBER 1968

Published by Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, London, S.E.12.
and printed by Obelisk Press & Signs Ltd., London, S.E.13.

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FOREWORD

IT MAY BE REMARKED THAT, particularly in chapters 2 and 3, some phrases are very similar to those employed in "The Scoriton Mystery."

One was not in fact taken from the other, but both originated from the same source; that is to say notes made at the time, tape recordings I had made of Bryant and wording taken from the joint talk given to BUFORA about Bryant's story. The psychometric reading herein quoted in a somewhat shortened form is the only item not completely 'common' to both Miss Buckle and myself, though even here, the quotes have been taken from a recording of the same talk where Miss Buckle told of the psychometry experiment.

May I say to those who have not already enjoyed 'The Scoriton Mystery' that I sincerely hope this booklet will have whetted your appetite to learn of the prior investigations and experiences of Miss Buckle, myself and others as related therein. The details of these here given are sufficient to enable the reader to follow the later investigations, but that is all. 'The Scoriton Mystery' covers this ground in very readable and minute detail, and whatever the pros and cons of Bryant's story it should be on every UFO researcher's bookshelf as a most thought-provoking book.

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A LIFE-HISTORY OF BRYANT AS GIVEN BY HIMSELF IN MARCH 1967

"I WAS BORN ON March 27th, 1914, at Malden in Essex, the only child following my mother's second marriage. I had two half-brothers. One emigrated to Australia in 1927, the other was killed in World War One. We moved to Romford in 1918 and I originally went to the council school there. Then in 1928 my mother died at Chadwell Heath; my father and I then went to live at Brentwood. I left school at 14 and went to work at a poultry farm for two years, the owner was the son of a milliner in Brentwood at whose shop I then worked for a further couple of years.

"Then my father died—I was about 18 and a friend of my father's suggested a job in Somerset; this was as a chauffeur-gardener to a Dr. Purvis, an inventor, and I was here from 1932 to 1939. I came down to Exeter, joined the Devonshire regiment and was posted to the 9th Battalion. I went to France, was at Dunkirk, then was posted to Gibraltar with the 4th battalion Devonshires, then went to Security Police for about two years where I attained the rank of Sergeant; then joined the first Commando unit to be formed in the Mediterranean area and for 18 months was involved in sporadic raids on the African coast. I was then posted to 1st battalion Gloucestershire regiment in India, then into Burma; came back to Calcutta to re-form, then to Madras.

"Back in England I was demobbed at Leatherhead, then returned to Exeter. Following a short leave I joined the Forestry Commission as trainee at Haldon near Exeter; was with the Commission for about 5 years, meanwhile had married in 1948. I saw an advertisement for prison staff and applied to London by letter and was on prison staff for 5½ to 6 years, firstly at Exeter first offenders prison as trainee, then at Dartmoor; I joined Devon County Council staff as gardener in 1963."

N.B. Some of the facts given above are known to be correct, others are known to be incorrect. Most of the war and pre-war details are unchecked, but it was thought the reader would like to have biographical details as given by Bryant himself.

The Raison d'Etre

THIS booklet is of necessity mainly of interest to those who have already made themselves fully acquainted with 'The Scoriton Mystery'; it relates the story of the further investigations into Bryant's amazing claims—investigations which lasted for a further four or five months after the final interview recorded in the book—investigations which were in fact still continuing whilst the book itself was being printed.

Let me say straightaway to all my readers, that, just as Eileen Buckle endeavoured to present a detached view in the book, and left definite conclusions to be drawn by others, so, in turn, will I do the same. I will present the additional knowledge of the case—knowledge which I personally guarantee to be accurate; whether or not you then still believe Bryant's story to be true, you think it a hoax in part or in whole, or consider an extra-terrestrial hoax the more likely explanation is entirely left to your good judgement. The reason this booklet has been written is to set down exactly what was subsequently found out, and not leave all those who read, and I am sure enjoyed, 'The Scoriton Mystery' in a hazy miasma as to what really happened afterwards. An additional reason which has prompted me to make these facts public is that having myself initiated the original investigation, I was somewhat loath to allow readers, if I may be permitted to mix my metaphors, to remain stranded in midstream whilst there was additional grist for the mill for them to get their teeth into!

I must emphasise most strongly, however, that in publishing this booklet no slur is intended on Miss Eileen Buckle, whose writing was, I consider, first class, nor any on the publishers of the book. As the course of events turned out, they were unaware of many of these facts until Scoriton itself was being printed, and one could certainly not have expected them to cease printing on this account—in any case Bryant's story was one that had to be told, but I do submit that it has now to be judged in the light of all facts known—not just those that were available up to the time of publication.

My original opinion on Bryant's story was that he was telling the truth, and in fact on p. 200 of 'The Scoriton Mystery' I wrote "I . . . will just observe that Bryant always appears sincere in the relation of his story", this was the belief of most people who listened to the remarkable story he had to tell—Colin McCarthy, for example, after meeting Bryant for the first time in November '66 said to us "I believe this man is genuine" and again on p. 275 Miss Buckle writes "Colin asked me whether I noticed his eyes—they never narrowed when answering any of our questions as a liar's do. The expression on his face was as one trying to look back and recall the past. "If this man is a hoaxer" Colin said, "he's the best I've ever seen, and I've come across some good ones". This was one of the things that was later to set me wondering, as it also was exactly Bryant's expression in interviews (recorded, but unfortunately, not filmed!) when he was to give completely false replies to questions when I was fully aware of the correct answers. He then also seemed utterly sincere, therefore his expression could be no real guide as to whether his answers were true or false, but I am anticipating. First of all, as brief a re-cap as possible on Bryant's claims and their implications, and then the story

of the events following on the interview just referred to, culminating in Bryant's tragic death on June 24th, 1967, and from a Ufological viewpoint, I feel sure that you, the reader, will agree that the full story should be told.

CHAPTER II

A Precis of Bryant's Story

MANY OF YOU will have bought this booklet, having previously read 'The Scoriton Mystery,' and wishing to be brought "up to date". There are nevertheless bound to be a considerable number of readers who either know nothing or have a very sketchy idea of Bryant's story; for those who are already fully knowledgeable on the subject Chapters 2 and 3 may be missed out, though they do provide a thorough recap on the case and its background.

Bryant's story commenced with a sighting reported subsequently as occurring on June 7, 1965, and this was first referred to by him in a letter to the Exeter Astronomical Society in response to a request for anyone who had seen a UFO over the Exeter area to let them know as there had been an orange-coloured UFO reported and they wished to locate other witnesses. His letter read as follows (spelling uncorrected):

"Dear Sir,

After reading . . . of an unidentified flying object over the Exeter area, I am now convinced that I have not been seeing "things" the information I now enclose, I have not disclosed to anyone for obvious reasons.

On the night of the 20th May—(note the discrepancy in dates, Bryant was notoriously bad on these as has indeed been commented on in the Scoriton Mystery)—at approximately 11 p.m. I was on the point of going to bed when I suddenly heard a humming sound—if I may add here briefly, that the village of Scoriton is situated on the edge of Dartmoor, and the only sound that one is accustomed to is that of animals. However, the sound I have described grew in intensity until I was forced to go outside and investigate—on leaving the house I was astonished to see almost directly overhead a pale blue light, the approximate direction of travel West to East, height about 300-400 ft. and moving slowly. I observed this movement for 2-3 minutes, when suddenly it became stationary, this was immediately followed by Vibrations and the light disappeared. In its place I heard a distinct knocking sound which was of a metallic nature, these ceased and nothing more was seen or heard. On the evening of Sunday, June 6th at about 7.30 p.m. more from curiosity I suppose, I decided to look over the approximate area of where I had estimated the object had stopped. I left the lane and entered a field from which I discovered several pieces of equipment of which I feel you would be most interested. I myself have not been able to identify any of these objects. Should this be of any interest to you, I shall be at Broadlands. . . .

Yours sincerely,

Mr. E. A. Bryant."

The pieces of equipment referred to were a turbine fitting with curved blades, several metal parts which would seem to have formed part of

a larger mechanism, a broken bulb and fitting and a glass phial containing a piece of paper or papyrus inscribed with the words *Adelphos Adelpho*, meaning in classical Greek "Brother to Brother". Bryant also said a compass with star-like calibrations was found. Some of the pieces had been taken away by Gerald Aspin, then treasurer of the Exeter Astronomical Society, who subsequently assisted us in locating the remainder of the objects which were found to have been held by the newspaper the Plymouth 'Independent'. Other facts about this sighting were that trees and bushes on the assumed landing site were scorched and withered as was grass in a field which was scorched over an oval area, there being three ring-like marks, also seemingly scorched, arranged in a triangular formation, each mark being about six feet away from the others—a tree over the road from the field had several branches hanging limply down at one somewhat blackened side. So much for the moment, the sighting which was investigated by Dr. Doel and Lionel Beer in the August.

Now in November 1965, as Membership Secretary of BUFORA, I had arranged for a questionnaire to be circulated to all our members, the second question on which read: "Have you ever had a sighting or contact of which we do not have the details?"; purely by chance, as I was inundated with them at the time and was at this point merely filing them away for later study, I noticed there was a "yes" to this, turned the sheet over, and was astounded to read on the reverse that Bryant claimed an encounter with Beings from Space on April 24th of that year (1965), that he had spoken with them, and entered the Saucer they had arrived in. The only other thing he stated here was that he originally intended to tell the whole story when the sighting investigation took place, but he decided not to at the last moment as he thought the whole tale would not be believed. On reading all this I immediately wrote asking if he would give me full details of the contact claim.

A letter arrived back from Bryant on December 6th. This is shown in full in 'The Scoriton Mystery', so it will suffice here to detail its main points:

On April 24th, 1965, Bryant claimed, he went for a walk towards Scoriton Down about 5.30 p.m. When he arrived there he started to turn round and as he did so, a large saucer appeared out of thin air over the field to his right.

The saucer moved like a pendulum and became stationary a few feet above the field in front of him and about 30 yards away (no sound); he estimated its diameter as 60 feet and the height as 12 feet.

An opening appeared in the middle of the craft and three figures were seen all dressed in what Bryant described as "diving gear".

One of them beckoned him—he went forward and when he reached the craft, the three removed each other's helmets. Two of them had very long foreheads, very blue eyes and blond hair; squat noses, no facial hair, bluish mouths. Bryant alleged they wore one-piece silvery grey suits, and that the soles of their shoes were about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and were made of spongy material. He stated they had belts worn with petal-like symbols.

These two had only four fingers on each hand widely spaced; their helmets were not padded and had a type of perspex window, also two coils on the outside at ear level with black tubing, weighing in all some

6 to 7 pounds; Bryant claimed to have picked up one of these after entering the craft.

The third spaceman, Bryant wrote, seemed a youth of about 14 years of age, with dark short hair, brown eyes and normal features; his suit seemed somewhat too large—he was the one who had beckoned, and he “spoke”—Bryant later said he was not quite sure whether it was actually he who was speaking or not, and the voice had a mid-European accent with a touch of American. He warned Bryant of dangers of forces from ‘Epsilon’ who removed people from Earth for procreation; they had also discovered the “dimensional” field, and could be recognised by their ability to leap long distances; they were apparently already here in the guise of poltergeists, and because of insufficient knowledge of the orbital plane remained invisible. This “spaceman” told Bryant “My name is Yamski”, and when asked where they were from replied “Venus”. At one point in the conversation Bryant related that Yamski said “If only Des or Les were here he would understand” and also “One month from today we will bring you proof of Mantell—watch for the blue light in the evening”. He also gave Bryant a message for “Des or Les”,—“It is only now that we appreciate the work he has done on the Sanscrit”.

At an early stage in the proceedings, Bryant stated, he had been assisted into the saucer which consisted of 3 or 4 exactly similar compartments—he was not quite sure of the number; each compartment had a door through into the next and a couch more or less in the centre fitted with straps at the top, centre and bottom; each compartment also had a door similar to that which had outslid into the top when the craft landed, and next to each door was a large convex screen similar to a television but larger, on which were lights with rainbow colours; the compartments were lit by a triangular subdued light in the padded or quilted ceiling or walls, no bulbs or wiring seen. (At a later interview with Bryant he stated that the walls were metallic, and gave a slightly differing description of the lighting). Bryant asked about the motive power, and was told this was Ideo-Motor movement. After going round the craft he jumped to the ground, called goodbye, and the door closed. The craft rose 40 or 50 feet, then vanished, the sheep in the next field apparently moving their heads as though to follow its flight path.

The sequence then of the two alleged events was as follows:

1. April 24th, 1965, the contact, reported by Bryant in the November and investigated by myself and Eileen Buckle.
2. (?) June 7th, 1965, sighting of the blue light, finding of the pieces, etc., investigated earlier in the August of that year by Dr. Doel and Lionel Beer.

No mention was made to Messrs. Doel & Beer by Bryant of his earlier “contact” when they investigated in the August.

Two important facts later divulged by Bryant were firstly that on his tour of the craft there was one thing that reminded him of this world, that being a purple robe or dressing gown with a large red rose finely embroidered on it laid across the foot of one of the couches. Secondly that Yamski gave him the name of a family who had been taken from this planet for procreation purposes, they had lived at a house in Ilchester Road, Yeovil, their name was Richards, they were man and wife with a son, and Bryant further gave it as his own impression that the

house had been empty since their disappearance 8 years before; the son was aged four to five, and the house was shortly likely to be pulled down, together with some other minor details.

The possible associations involved in this story were of course

1. That the third saucer occupant was a reincarnated or transmigrated Adamski (he had died in the States about 12 hours before).
2. That the "Des or Les" referred to was Desmond Leslie.
3. That the "Proof of Mantell" must be connected with the mechanical pieces of the later sighting—in other words they might be parts of the plane flown by Capt. Mantell which crashed on 7th Jan. 1948 after chasing a UFO over Kentucky only six months after Flying Saucers had been brought into prominence by Kenneth Arnold.
4. That the robe seen by Bryant was similar to the one Adamski had claimed was given to him at the Saturn Council.

So to a summary of the investigations.

CHAPTER III

Claims, Proof and Investigations

IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD that Bryant himself did not claim that Yamski was Adamski, he did not claim "Des or Les" was Desmond Leslie, he did not claim that the pieces were parts of Mantell's plane. At the time we visited him at Newton Abbot in December 1965, he claimed to have read no UFO books at all; after questioning him for a couple of hours we told him of the possible implications, and he seemed astonished, though it now appears reasonably certain he would have known of them; the story of the robe was related by Bryant in January after the first meeting. Bryant certainly did claim that in June '65 he had found the pieces, some of them embedded, in the field opposite Hawson Farm Cottage where he saw the blue light and where he stated he was living at the time.

He claimed, as already mentioned, that Yamski told him of the Yeovil House, and he also told us, as he had told Messrs. Doel and Beer previously, that after the war he himself had worked for the Forestry Commission, followed by employment as a prison officer, firstly for six months at Exeter first offenders prison then for five or six years at Dartmoor, after which he had become a gardener-handyman for Devon County Council at Broadlands, Newton Abbot.

Our first meeting with Bryant was on December 11th 1965, at a cafe in Newton Abbot, a meeting at which most of the story already given was either amplified or elicited. I have often regretted not being able to record that interview, as it was the first time (so Bryant alleged) that anyone had been told the whole story; subsequently I recorded Bryant on five different occasions, and had I been able to go back over this interview in its full detail as I was able to with the later ones it is possible . . . but I digress!

We had learnt that the metal "pieces" found were in the possession of Gerald Aspin whose home was in Exeter, and, accordingly four of us, Lionel Beer, Edgar Hatvany, Miss Buckle and myself decided to go

down to see them on Jan. 11th 1966, and if possible to bring them back for independent examination; meanwhile Desmond Leslie to whom I had written earlier had been in touch with me and elected to go down also as we hoped Bryant could get there as well—this unfortunately turned out not to be possible. We were, however, able to bring back the metal pieces which at that time were thought to be parts of a plane's horizontal trimming gear, and of a drive for a variable pitch propeller. There was also a small black piece of metal and a small lamp holder with a broken bulb. Other objects including the glass phial were with the Plymouth 'Independent' from where they were subsequently recovered by Gerald Aspin who passed them on to us when we made a third visit to Devon on February 12th 1965.

To return for a moment however to the visit in January. Desmond Leslie thought the story rang true up to a point, but was not at all happy with the latter part which referred to the "Epsilonese" and poltergeist activity, and as he pointed out at the time, anyone who had previously read "Flying Saucers Have Landed" and "Inside The Space Ships" could have made most of the story up. There were however, two exceptions to this:

Firstly, there was the little-known fact that Adamski had said he would return as a young boy. This had not been published anywhere, though it had been printed he intended to return and visit us.

Secondly, to have known about the robe, Bryant would either have had to have read Orbit, Vol. 4. No. 3 which gave an extract from Cosmic Bulletin of "Report on my trip to Saturn" by George Adamski, or of course that particular Cosmic Bulletin in which he stated that at a conference on Saturn a robe was given to him to wear which was a delicate shade of blue (not purple) with a rose embroidered on the right sleeve.

On now to the 12th February, on which day Miss Buckle and myself collected the remaining "piece"—a turbine-like fitting, together with the glass phial and silver sand it had contained, from Gerald Aspin—he having obtained them from the 'Independent' as aforesaid. Unfortunately the paper bearing the legend "Adelphos Adelpho" had been mislaid—possibly thrown away with some rubbish, and although a photograph of it had appeared in the 'Independent' together with others of Bryant and the metal "pieces", whilst all the other negatives were on file, the "Adelphos Adelpho" one was missing.

The "pieces" were duly passed on to Leonard Cramp on the Isle of Wight for the IOWUFOIS to make a full report on them which they very kindly did making a most thorough job of it. The report is too long to quote here, and is given unabridged in 'The Scoriton Mystery', but the conclusion reached was that:

"The foregoing examination reveals that these items are in fact parts of aircraft equipment which was **not** installed in the American Mustang Aircraft, and it is our opinion that any claim to the contrary is false"—the "foregoing examination" having revealed that at least one, and possibly three of the items were from a bomb-sight computer made by Smiths Ltd., or Sperrys Ltd. Subsequent enquiries with these companies could neither confirm nor deny this as the particular type of bomb sight was obsolete and none were available for comparison.

The glass phial was analysed and found to have been made from a mixture of sodium and calcium silicates—ordinary “soda glass”. The “silver sand” was found to be . . . silver sand!

Two other lines of investigation bear mention here—the house at Yeovil and the psychometric readings.

Firstly, The House at Yeovil:

This was thoroughly checked by a BUFORA member as related in ‘The Scoriton Mystery’. He found that it was in fact No. 11 Ilchester Road, and that the facts regarding the disappearance were more or less in accord with what Bryant had claimed; he also recalled himself that there had been a T.V. item on “Westward Diary” about it, but could not remember the date. I thereupon wrote to “Westward” T.V. and found that the item had gone out on June 23rd 1965 between 6 & 6.30 p.m. Bryant said he had been told by Yamski that the man’s name was Flight-Sergeant Richards, and we had enrolled assistance to try to trace him on this basis. In fact however, Westward T.V. stated the name was Tom Jones, and our imagination boggled somewhat at the idea of attempting to trace a Tom Jones—particularly when the Westward Diary item had elicited no response. They had filmed the interior and exterior of the house—more of a cottage really, and as I wrote in ‘The Scoriton Mystery’ they found a complete “Mary Celeste” atmosphere, mildewed cups and remains of a meal left downstairs, yellowed papers and a rotting uniform upstairs, as though the place had been vacated at very short notice (it had been unoccupied for about ten years). Later, I was to be interviewed outside the place and this item also went out on Westward Diary—to my amazement, uncut—I’ve a copy of the film to prove it! However the important part was that Bryant could have seen this item on T.V. had he been watching, did he have a T.V.?—Yes, he did, “When was it installed?” we asked him—the reply was “In November 1965”—this was months after the date of the programme and Bryant sent us a card signed by the proprietor of the shop where he had bought the set verifying it; he told us too that his house had been supplied by gas only until comparatively recently.

There was one little thing about the day I went down to Yeovil that niggled my mind for months, without being able to pin it down at all; what it was will be shown in a later chapter.

Secondly (and lastly), The Psychometry Readings:

Scoriton readers should be familiar with these, but the first reading obtained certainly bears repetition, psychometry itself is the ability to relate facts about a person or persons by handling an article or articles which have been in their possession. I believed then, and still do, that this was what actually happened in this experiment—but again, more of that later.

The main “readings” given by the lady clairvoyant concerned were (see ‘The Scoriton Mystery’, Chapter 8):

“Something destroyed—gone. How? A ship, or aeroplane gone into oblivion—it is linked with a party of men—somebody is out of touch, there’s a space, a division—could be someone who has passed . . . I think all these pieces come from one thing—something salvaged or rescued. . . . There is a peculiar feeling surrounding all this. All the people surrounding

this are probing . . . I've a funny feeling these were picked up or found embedded . . . embedded by a FORCE, like when you drop an object.

"This isn't British.

"I have the word—a CLUE.

"All found embedded near each other, but all have not been found.

"They've been *somewhere* a long time.

(Then, picking up and practically dropping the small black piece)

"There's a tragedy around this, I felt as if everything went bang and disintegrated.

"The moment it happened I have this fear I seem to know it would happen.

"Somebody, a man has been killed—a man in outer space, at least, I know I am not on the ground. This was found in England.

"I get such a peculiar humming noise—I seem to be going round and round, almost as if I were in a Flying Saucer . . . I know I shall explode, and I exploded . . . I don't think there was more than one person in the aeroplane. I don't think you will get enough evidence . . . it will be too bitty, patchy; will still leave a lot of gaps for whoever will want to tear it to pieces. . . . Could some of these pieces have been dropped from an aeroplane?

"I can't find a war on. Everything is peaceful and calm. . . . I feel they are trying to elude, escape something. . . .

"I've a strong feeling it shouldn't have happened. Was the pilot on an ordinary run? The thing disintegrated, one man in the plane. Head went funny . . . I don't think the man was English either.

"I can see big black headlines . . . but I don't feel he was a notability. . . . Do you think these have been dematerialised? Anyway, they were flown from somewhere to England."

All these statements, of course, either had a very strong relation to the finding of the pieces or to the tragic death of Capt. Mantell. There were quite a number of Christian names, and other facts also mentioned by the clairvoyant which seemed to have no especial significance, but the bulk of what was said was very apt indeed.

Those who have waded through the claims and proofs for a second time may now heave a sigh of relief, as, a brief reference to the November '66 interview with Bryant apart, the remainder of the story is completely new, and a short summary of some of the items in *Spacelink* excepted has not hitherto been published in any form.

CHAPTER IV

Adelphos Adelpho

I SUPPOSE THE "Sequel to Scoriton" should really start immediately after BUFORA's Annual General Meeting on November 26th, 1966, at which I gave a further talk about Scoriton and the forthcoming book; this was greatly appreciated by all present, not, I suspect, for any inherent merit, but because it followed an extremely dull A.G.M. and did manage to wake up those members who had understandably gone to sleep, and instil into others a certain amount of interest in the proceedings! Be that as it may, whilst having a drink after the meeting, Stephen Smith, then BUFORA's Treasurer, and at the time of writing, Director of

Research, observed it might possibly be that Bryant had obtained the “pieces” from Army/Air Force Surplus stores—maybe even by post. Perhaps a shrewd remark in view of later disclosures.

Nothing worthy of note, however, occurred until after the BUFORA meeting in February 1967 at which Arthur Shuttlewood was the guest speaker in a “Symposium” on the strange occurrences at Warminster—the remainder of the “Symposium” consisting of John Cleary-Baker, Gordon Creighton and myself. After this meeting I was speaking with Capt. Ivar Mackay (now BUFORA’s Chairman), an expert on antiques who suggested he might be able to be of some help in positively identifying the glass phial; I agreed it would be worth a try and accordingly gave him the phial which was inside a padded, sealed envelope. On February 7th. I received a ‘phone call from Ivar who had just opened the envelope in order to examine the phial—the peculiarity of this phial was that it tapered almost to a point at one end which gave it a rather unusual appearance. Ivar told me that he had only to take one look at it in order to identify it—it was not in fact an antique, but what was known as a “phial peg”. These were apparently manufactured in the years between 1957 and 1962, and superseded wooden strips for the purpose of “naming” rows of plants, seeds, or bushes, etc.; one just wrote the name of a plant or plants on a piece of paper, inserted the paper in the phial, placed a cork in the top, and then pushed the pointed end of the phial into the earth; these phial pegs had themselves been superseded by metal strips impressed with the names of plants, and there were very few of them left. Ivar, however, recollected these very clearly, because some six or seven years previously, his father had been given a box of them as a Christmas present.

Not however just wishing me to take his word for it, he went to the trouble of consulting several well known horticultural dealers—not to mention experts at the Horticultural Hall; all agreed that this was in fact, a phial peg. By this time of course it was not in its original condition, our “friend” the “atomic physicist” referred to in Scoriton, having fused one end of the phial together; fortunately this still left the pointed end unscathed, making identification comparatively easy to confirm once it had been shown what type of phial it actually was. It is interesting to note that Bryant described himself as a gardener or gardener/handyman, and on the original BUFORA sighting report form, even Head Gardener.

Bearing the fact of a phial peg in mind, the next thought that occurred was obviously “could Adelphos Adelpho be the name of a plant?”. The search started, and after looking through a number of horticultural works, I came across the words Adelpia, Adelpic and Adelpous: Adelpia—“Collection of stamens into a bundle as in class name Monadelpia”; Adelpic—“Having stamens united into a parcel or parcels”; Adelpous—“Having stamens united into a bundle”.

Most common monadelphous and diadelphous plants were stated to be Gorse, Whin, Furze, Broom and Laburnum, also clover, peas and beans. Yet really the most intriguing discovery made was in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Vol. 1, in which the Greek derivation of the word was also shown, and underneath Adelpous was written “ADELPHOS” in Greek exactly as appeared on the message in the phial.

At this point, of course, every effort was made to find if ‘Adelpous Adelpho’ could possibly be connected with a plant or genus of plants,

but the nearest anyone could come, despite the aid of horticultural experts, books and enquiries to gardening and horticultural periodicals was *Adelphos Adelphico*—this apparently being a genus of some plants found in the Mediterranean area, but the actual words *Adelphos Adelpho* could not be traced as a name.

A final word regarding the actual piece of paper inscribed with the legend *Adelphos Adelpho*—as already written, the paper itself had been thrown away, and consequently has never been available for inspection; it was, you will remember stated to have been found rolled up inside the glass phial. We do, however, have the photograph from the ‘Independent’—reproduced in ‘The Scoriton Mystery’ to go by, and the words *Adelphos Adelpho*, certainly written in classical Greek appear written across the top of the paper and underlined by a wavy line of varying thickness, almost disjointed in places. The most interesting feature though is probably that there is an irregular portion—very roughly in the shape of a key, torn or burnt out of the paper, from its left side inwards nearly to the centre finishing under the OS of *Adelphos*, and removing part of the wavy line under this word; there are also indications of a letter or letters just above the narrowest part of the tear or burn and immediately below the A of *Adelphos*.

So much for the findings on the glass phial and message—not significant by themselves perhaps, but over the previous few months my interest in pursuing lines of investigation had waned considerably—this new angle made me start to wonder if there were any lines we had neglected to follow up, and on thinking things over I was convinced there were.

CHAPTER V

Correspondence Becomes Considerable

WHAT THEN were the lines of investigation that had not been tried or pursued? After all, we had had the “pieces” examined both psychometrically and scientifically. We had done our best to prove whether or not they were in fact part of a bomb-sight computer. The phial and silver sand had been tested and analysed. We could find no way in which Bryant might have discovered details of the “Saturn robe”, or that Adamski would return as a youth; we could find nothing to indicate that Bryant had previously known of the Yeovil house, and enquiries had been made in many other directions. And yet. . . ?

Bryant had taken us to meet his wife and family in the November, and whilst we were there for only half-an-hour or so, and not a great deal was said about his experiences, it did not seem likely to us at the time that he would have invited us in had he not told his wife the story or were she to be actually opposed to it. (Bryant had previously stated he had told his wife the whole story, which he thought she believed, other than disliking the “poltergeist” and “abduction for procreation” elements). There was just the point, however, that when Colin McCarthy had mentioned Yamski, Mrs. Bryant appeared rather upset and left the room—this we put down as a natural reaction under the circumstances to the strain put on the family as a result of Bryant’s experiences becoming more or less public knowledge.

And yet. . . ? There was something that even then kept gnawing away at the back of my mind, just as there was something about my

interview at Yeovil I couldn't put my finger on. By nature I dislike loose ends, and the identification of the phial had been one. Were there other "loose ends" that might possibly be settled just as easily? On thinking things over very carefully, I decided we had taken Bryant's reputation for integrity far too much on trust—in the last analysis we had only his word for most of what he had told us—the sole real supporting character evidence being from Major Boycott of the 'Tradesmans Arms' who was quoted in the 'Independent' as saying "It would be completely out of character for Mr. Bryant to start a publicity stunt. He is a very level headed and intelligent man".

I finally decided on a course of action and wrote a number of letters, the first on March 3rd 1967 to the farmer, Mr. Webber, who owned the field where the "blue light" was seen and the pieces picked up. Bryant had always indicated that to say the least Mr. Webber was "not too keen" on all and sundry constantly examining his field—after all, who would be? Consequently we had not previously questioned him at all. In this letter, the main question I posed was "Do you know of any natural phenomenon which could have caused the markings, scorchings, withered branches, etc. in the field and on the hedge and trees?" His reply, dated 8/3/67, was as follows:

"Dear Sir,

Thank you for your courteous letter of the 3rd instant, which as you say was somewhat of a surprise, as I was hoping the incident you mention had now been forgotten.

The explanation of the matter is quite simply that the burning of the grass was caused by a bonfire of hedge clippings and parings which also slightly burnt the hedge. The tree referred to has been dead for some years, and the blackening was most likely caused by lightning.

It should be quite obvious to any sensible person that the suggestion which has been put forward is the product of a fertile imagination, as on an inspection of the spot in question the reason for the scorching is quite apparent.

I sincerely hope the matter is now closed, as I am getting a little tired of people coming and going on my property as and when they feel inclined without permission.

Yours faithfully,
D. WEBBER."

The day following my letter to Mr. Webber I wrote to Bryant's doctor, and unabridged details of this correspondence will be quoted in the next chapter—the next one as at a later date I met the doctor, and this section of the later investigations can best be related as a whole.

Now, we had been told by Bryant on a number of occasions, that on leaving the forces after the war he had been employed first of all by the Forestry Commission, then had seen between 5 and 7 years service as a prison officer, starting as a trainee officer at Exeter first offenders prison where he stayed for around six months, then was moved to Dartmoor as a fully fledged officer, and served there for five years or more. On leaving the prison service due to housing difficulties he had obtained employment with Devon County Council as a gardener handyman and was still so employed at the Old Peoples Home at Newton Abbot when

we first met him. He had also told us (Dec. '65) he had been a parish councillor and on Totnes Rural District Council quite recently.

Accordingly I decided to check the authenticity of these statements writing both to Totnes R.D.C. and Dartmoor Prison. I had to wait quite a while for the information from Totnes—actually I consider it was extremely good of them to go to the trouble they did as I asked for a complete list of Scoriton Parish and Totnes R.D.C. Councillors between the years 1960-1966, which in a letter dated May 2nd 1967 they sent in full, quoting the names of the seven parish councillors for Buckfastleigh West (the parish in which Scoriton was situated), together with a complete list of all twenty-seven councillors for Totnes R.D.C. from May 1960 to May 1966. The name of Ernest Arthur Bryant was not to be found anywhere amongst them.

I had sent my letter enquiring about Bryant's prison service to the Governor at Dartmoor Prison, in effect requesting confirmation of the contents of the second paragraph which read "I understand from Mr. Bryant, now resident near Buckfastleigh, that he held the position of prison officer at Dartmoor between the years, I believe 1954 to 1963, though it may not have been quite as long a period as this; he also tells me he was at another prison, but did not wish to speak of this because of the Secrets Act; also that while employed at Dartmoor he resided in Ashburton and terminated his employment because of housing difficulties".

My letter, as I found out, should have been addressed to the Home Office, and it was not till April 24th that a letter was sent from the Home Office in Marsham St., S.W.1. This read:

"Dear Sir,

Re: E. A. Bryant

Your letter addressed to the Governor of H.M. Prison, Dartmoor, has been passed to this department for attention. The delay in replying is regretted.

Mr. Bryant was employed in this department as a Prison Officer Under Training from 4-10-54 until 25-11-54 when he resigned.

We have no knowledge of his working in another Prison prior to service at Dartmoor.

As you will see by the dates given above, he was only employed for a short period. . . .

Yours faithfully, _____"

Bryant's prison service then, amounted not to seven years, but seven weeks!

There is also an interesting sidelight connected with Bryant's alleged prison service. On March 4th, I had also written to the Editor of the 'Independent' asking if Mr. John Theobald, who reported Bryant's blue light in the 'Independent' could shed any further light on the Adelphos Adelpho message which had been lost. In point of fact Mr. Theobald was himself Editor though he could not recall anything connected with the message that might be useful—his letter stated: "The finding of the message still has me baffled, although I personally became satisfied there had been no visitation from outer space".

More recently Mr. Theobald enlarged on this statement by writing that enquiries made by him subsequent to the 'Independent' article threw some doubt on Bryant's reliability which was a reason the story

was not followed up; also that on one of the occasions Bryant himself stated he was not sure that the sighting did in fact take place. Also, Mr. Theobald states, the policeman at Holne told him Bryant said quite definitely at one point that there had been no sighting at all. Admittedly, I have not interviewed the policeman myself, but I would see no reason at all to doubt this. To return to the sidelight, however, on pp. 70–7 of ‘The Scoriton Mystery’, Bryant’s story reads “It was during our conversation that he (Mr. Theobald, the reporter) recognised me, purely from the fact that he met me one day whilst two prisoners had escaped on the moor, and I was posted at Badgers Holt for the reception of the said prisoners. But unfortunately the prisoners were apprehended just over a mile and a half from the prison and I was left for two days at Badgers Holt, and he came down in his car and said ‘What the Blue Thundering Blazes are you doing here? The prisoners are already back.’ So that’s how I became involved with him and that’s how he recognised me.” Mr. Theobald did not meet Bryant under these circumstances, and had not in fact met Bryant prior to his reporting the June sighting.

One final item in this Chapter—it doesn’t quite come under correspondence, but it’s near enough. When we met Mr. Goundry Clark of Ashburton, he had told us he’d invited Bryant over to his caravan when he went over to see him with Dr. Doel and Lionel Beer at the time of the August ’65 investigation. Bryant came over a week later, and altogether made three or four visits. He loaned Bryant some books and magazines—at first he thought only *Flying Saucer Review* but he then recalled, and I quote “I picked out anything I was interested in and I had *Orbits* and *F.S. Reviews* current at the time . . . I don’t think I lent him back ones”, Mr. Clark then checked his bookshelf and said “he couldn’t have had that”—“that” being the *Orbit* dated Sept. ’62 with the ‘purple robe’ story in it—“I only go back to 1963”. Mr. Goundry Clark is a very good friend of mine, and I am not for one moment suggesting he thought other than he said (I certainly couldn’t offhand remember the date I started taking *Orbit*), but the fact remains that on my checking to see if Mr. Clark had been sent the issue with the “Saturn robe” in it, I was told Mr. Goundry Clark took out his first subscription in 1960 and therefore would have been sent this issue. Access to the story by Bryant would consequently have been possible—I do not say probable, and it is only fair to Mr. Goundry Clark to say that he himself cannot remember the story of the Saturn Robe, and does believe Bryant to have had a genuine experience. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that since the *Orbits* he possessed only went back to 1963, it is conceivable that Bryant could have retained one or two earlier ones, though as Mr. Clark told us, Bryant always appeared meticulous in returning borrowed books.

The meeting with Mr. Clark was on Nov. 13th, 1966, and I have quoted from a tape recording then taken, but it was not until the later facts began to come to light that I checked the issues of *Orbits* with Mr. Otley of T.U.F.O.S. This was done on March 27th, 1967.

CHAPTER VI

A Visit to Bryant, the Doctor’s Prescription

In *Spacelink*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Lionel Beer as Editor had asked my permission to publish a summary of the results of the “post ‘Scoriton Mystery’

Investigations" entitling this "The True Facts About Arthur Bryant and 'The Scoriton Mystery'". I had not known this title was to be used, and was not entirely happy it should have been, since whilst the facts quoted therein were certainly true, the title seemed to imply that facts in the book were therefore false. However, understandably, this evoked a reply from Miss Buckle in the following issue which will be referred to in later chapters. At this point I am only concerned with the evidence of Bryant's doctor, and Miss Buckle's 'reply' read ". . . Norman Oliver went to see the doctor, knowing Bryant had claimed to see him after the severe headaches he had reported he had suffered shortly after encountering the Saucer. I was not in favour of pumping the doctor because it is well known that information given in confidence in the consulting room should not be revealed". This implied that the reasons for my writing to Bryant's doctor were medical ones, which was not the case as the correspondence here quoted will show.

Bryant had stated when asked on our visit to him in Feb. '66 that two or three days after his contact he had suffered headaches, but until we raised the point had not associated it with the Saucer. The headaches occurred about every two days and lasted for most of the day. He felt a noise, something like a buzz-saw, and wavy marks, two or three to twelve, getting large—a typical migraine as I know from personal experience. Associated with the headaches was a tendency to double vision. The effect wore off after a fortnight.

The day following my letter to the farmer, Mr. Webber then, I wrote to Bryant's doctor—I am not giving his name, but this correspondence together with the remainder of the evidence is available for inspection if required, and in any case its existence is not in dispute. It had taken several days to find out who his doctor actually was as Bryant had only mentioned the name once, and quite an amount of searching was required to unearth it; even then I did not have the address, but fortunately this omission was soon rectified by a glance through directories in the local library.

On March 4th, 1967, I wrote the following letter to his doctor:

"Dear Dr. Y,

I trust you will not mind my writing to you. . . . The matter concerns Mr. E. A. Bryant of Scoriton (formerly of Hawson Farm Cottage) who over the last year has told of some very remarkable occurrences which he alleges happened to him in April and June 1965; these are shortly forming the basis of a new book on 'Flying Saucers' and he has mentioned your name in the course of relating his story. I am writing to ask if you can confirm what he told me. I realise naturally that you cannot divulge any medical details; however briefly this is what Bryant said.

Having seen a flying saucer, met and spoken with the occupants on April 24th 1956, he visited you a few days later because of migraine and double vision, and was surprised when you introduced the subject of Flying Saucers, saying you yourself had seen them (he tells me he said nothing of his own experience at the time). At a further interview last November he also added that you had been driving along one evening when the headlights of your car suddenly appeared refracted or bent, and that this also was in connection with a Saucer sighting, I am naturally concerned as to whether Mr. Bryant's statements are accurate or not,

and would be extremely grateful if you could confirm or deny them. Should they be true, I will certainly not mention your name in connection with Flying Saucers unless you allow me to do so. Should they be false, I would be obliged if you made no mention of my own enquiry to Mr. Bryant.

My concern is to obtain confirmation or denial of Mr. Bryant's veracity in this context, and not to obtain details of any experiences you may have had yourself though should his statements be correct, I would naturally be interested to hear whatever you might feel free to divulge about the occurrences.

I would just add that I am a member of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, but am investigating Mr. Bryant's claims purely in a private capacity.

I look forward to the favour of your reply.

Yours sincerely,
Norman Oliver."

Before quoting the doctor's reply, I must mention here that when visited by Miss Buckle, Mr. & Mrs. McCarthy and myself in November 1966, Bryant had spoken about the "bent headlights" incident. His actual words, taken from a tape recording at the time were:

"He (the doctor) was going one evening to a certain area and he saw something unusual and in fact he picked up a passenger, this was almost certainly early in the morning, and he mentioned about his headlights—they were bent, it was a strange and unusual thing and the doctor said he thought for a moment the lights of the car seemed to go at a completely different angle, but he said don't quote me on anything like that or I'll really be for it".

This report by Bryant was of course highly suspect as only a few months earlier a case had been reported which so far as I am aware is unique.

It had occurred on April 4th, 1964, when Mr. Ronald F. Sullivan was driving along the Bendigo—St. Arnaud Rd. in Victoria, Australia, at night when the headlights on his car were suddenly diverted to the right for no apparent reason—if he'd followed them he would have run straight off the road; however, being an experienced driver and knowing the district well, he managed to stop in time. He then saw a display of gaseous lights in all the colours of the spectrum in a nearby paddock and an object rose about 10 feet in the air and disappeared. Three days later a 19-year-old driver, Gary Taylor, was killed when his car ran off the road at the same spot and depressions were found in the nearby paddock.

The BUFORA Journal, Vol. 1, No. 9—Summer 1966, carried the above details and as Bryant was still a member of BUFORA he would have received a copy.

The doctor's reply dated 9th March 1967 was as follows:

"Dear Mr. Oliver,

Thank you for your letter of 4th March. I cannot recall for what medical reason Mr. Bryant came to see me last year.

I do however remember discussing with him flying saucers. His story at that time was that he had seen a flying object which came down. . . .

As it approached the earth it gave out a blue light which lit up the ground below it. . . . All this got in a local paper and it was ascertained that the blue light and flying object was in fact a flare fired by some troops on an exercise. . . . I am sure he never mentioned to me that he had spoken to the occupants of a flying saucer and I am equally sure that he brought up the subject of flying saucers.

It is true that I believe flying saucers may in fact exist as I have seen two very unusual flying objects in the last 10 years, but I have never had the headlights of my car refracted or bent, and in fact Mr. Bryant's story is completely inaccurate and I do not know where he got all his facts from.

My own experiences with flying saucers are quite unrelated in time and place, and only the second episode was witnessed by two other people. The first was when I was a Houseman at a London hospital in the summer of 1957; it was in the early hours of the morning, and I was returning to my room from a ward in the hospital, when a cigar-shaped object flew across the sky silently and disappeared in a remarkably short time, it appeared to have lit windows along the length of it and had a rocket-like trail for a short distance behind it. I am quite convinced it was not a shooting star. . . . The second episode was in the summer of 1965 at about 10 p.m. This occurred before my discussion with Mr. Bryant". (Author's note—from this it would seem that Bryant did not actually visit his doctor until later in the year than April).

I again saw a flying object proceeding at considerable speed across the sky in a South-Westerly direction. It was again cigar-shaped, had lit-up windows, but I do not recall seeing any rear-end sparks. I pointed this out to my wife and next door neighbour, who were standing close by. It became partly obscured by a fir tree and never reappeared the other side as one would have expected with a normal flying object. We were not at all shattered by this phenomenon as all three observers believe there may be more to flying saucers than most people imagine.

As I have said before I feel that Mr. Bryant's reports are completely inaccurate, and certainly some of his statements concerning my experiences are completely untrue.

I shall be grateful if you will . . . not mention it to Mr. Bryant.

I have no objection to my name being quoted on the other two instances. . . .

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Y."

The letter was typewritten, but underneath appeared a written signed P.S.—

"This is a note from Dr. Y's partner who employed this man as a gardener handyman for some months—he is a notoriously bad witness and can "tell a tale" (i.e. fabricate)."

By this time I felt that another visit to Mr. Bryant was called for—I had no intention at this stage of challenging his story—it did not follow that it was necessarily false, but I did want to get his replies to a number of points on tape if I could, realising of course I should have to tread very warily to avoid disclosing I was making further enquiries.

Bob Erskine, the friend who had driven me down to Everleigh (see 'The Scoriton Mystery') called a few days later, and we arranged to see

Bryant the following Saturday—March 18th. Bob had not previously met Bryant though he was fully conversant with the details of the story. We duly met Bryant and all went along to the same public house in Holne patronised the previous November. This had had a very pleasant atmosphere, a secluded corner with a large fireplace very convenient for recording, and a plaque stating “Oliver Cromwell slept here!”.

This is how the conversation turned when the subject of the doctor’s ‘saucer’ and ‘bent headlights’ was brought up. . . .

Me When I was here last you mentioned that your doctor had seen a couple of UFOs. Were any of these over this way?

Bryant One was here, in actual fact there were three, one was over here, one at Buckfastleigh and the other one at Sidmouth. They all happened at unusual hours of the morning, and he was at that time a G.P. and taking over from another doctor, and he was going to an expectant mother at about half-past two in the morning; going along the road he met a chap, you see and gave him a lift for half a mile or so, then he dropped this chap and just after he started off he saw this wretched thing go across the front and his headlights bent—and that was when I first heard about the sort of bending of the headlights; and of course I said—go on, you’ve been drinking, man!

Me Let me get the times quite right; you actually went to see him a couple of days after the April contact, and that was when he mentioned saucers to you, was it?

Bryant Yes.

Me He brought the subject up?

Bryant Yes, he did.

Me And you saw him again in August, did you, after the ‘Independent’ article?

Bryant Yes, I saw him again, I didn’t make an appointment; every so often he comes into this district and from time to time we talk; That’s when he mentioned it; and the second instance he brought up when he and his wife were on holiday at Sidmouth, and quite a lot of people saw one near to the beach on the coastline.

After a couple of hours chat with Bryant, Bob and I drove back to the guest house where we had booked in earlier. We decided to see the following morning whether it was possible to have a few words with the doctor, before keeping a luncheon appointment with another BUFORA member in the Newton Abbot area.

Sunday morning I ’phoned the doctor, who very kindly arranged a meeting. Dr. Y. was an extremely pleasant man, quite young and very helpful. In the course of our conversation I suggested playing over the excerpt given above from the recording of the previous evening. He listened with obvious astonishment, then laughed his head off and said “There’s absolutely no truth in it other than I already told you in my letter”. It then transpired that Bryant had actually been employed with the doctor’s partner for three days a week between the years 1961 and 1963 as a gardener, working the remainder of the week for a family who had now left the district; again of course this conflicted with when he was supposedly working at Dartmoor, and as I had not at that time heard from the Home Office, the doctor was good enough to ’phone

his partner's wife to make sure of the dates. She did this, and also confirmed the assessment indicated by the P.S. at the end of the doctor's letter. Bryant, we were told, had previously worked in a market garden at Stormsdown, near Newton Abbot. We asked if by any chance 'phial pegs' had been used by the doctor's partner but drew a blank here, they had not.

During the early afternoon we located the market garden at Stormsdown, which unfortunately had changed hands some while previously, and so this lead could not be followed up. The production of the glass phial did not produce any signs of recognition—they did not use them either.

CHAPTER VII

The Yeovil House Again

WONDERING ABOUT further lines of investigation brought that niggling thought concerning the Yeovil house from the back of my mind to the fore-front. After the interview in March 1966, when Westward T.V.'s representative David Middlemiss had chatted to me about the case for an hour or so, he told me the original item about the Yeovil house had been passed on to other regions who may have used it and I now recollected him saying he thought also there had been a small item on it in one of the Sunday papers, probably the *News of the World*; my thoughts immediately flashed to the rally at Tony Wedd's (readers of 'The Scoriton Mystery' will remember that the Saturday after Whitsun, both Bryant and Gerald Aspin had been invited for the weekend to the home of Tony Wedd, founder of the Star Fellowship, so that "Star" members might have the opportunity of meeting them). Bryant had then said—"The Scoriton Mystery", p.68—"I don't normally get the daily newspapers, all we have at home are the Sunday papers, the *News of the World* and you know that tearaway paper the *People*. . . ."

The thoughts came crowding in—which issue, if any, had contained the item on the Yeovil house?

Would it have contained sufficient detail for Bryant to have gleaned his information from this source?

Did any of the Sunday papers follow it up, and if so which?

I started off by assuming it had been reported in the *News of the World* and it would have been in an issue soon after the showing of the original T.V. item—June 23rd 1965. This would narrow the search considerably, as I only had to check the issues for several weeks after this date. I searched and searched, nothing was in the issues for 27th June, 4th July, 11th July, 18th July. Should I go on? I hesitated, it was probably only a very small paragraph if indeed there was anything at all; finally I decided to check the next four issues up to August 15th, then cry quits—no, nothing! You can well imagine my chagrin, therefore, when having found nothing whatsoever, Kenneth Rogers to whom I had mentioned my search—at that time he was a BUFORA Committee member, and as a newspaperman knew exactly where to look for such things—discovered in the "Missing Persons" file of his own paper a cutting from the *News of the World* dated August 22nd 1965—the issue after the one at which I'd stopped.

This cutting was no mere paragraph—it was headed HOUSE OF MYSTERY in letters around an inch high and covered three columns. Bryant couldn't have missed it if he'd tried! The article confirmed—as we already knew—that the name was Tom Jones and it stated it was in January 1953, that he, his wife, Kathleen, and their four-year-old son Terry disappeared from their 100-year-old terraced house at 11 Ilchester Road, Yeovil. It described tables and washing-up as they were left, clothing, including an R.A.F. sergeant's uniform upstairs; the Deputy Town Clerk of Yeovil was quoted as saying that the demolition of the house as part of a road-widening scheme was likely to take place soon. It was also stated there was a pile of letters and bills inside the front door (also 'predicted' by Bryant).

Two items in Bryant's story concerning the house were not covered by the *News of the World* article. Bryant had also predicted there would be a stove standing on the left of one of the rooms, and on it would be a frying pan—this had been confirmed (see 'The Scoriton Mystery,' p. 93.) The other remaining point not covered was that Bryant had stated the sergeant's service number to be 1405237, and when pressed as to whether he was absolutely certain of this, stated he was; nevertheless when a couple of hours later I asked him to repeat this, as I "couldn't find the piece of paper I'd noted it on" (not strictly true, but justified, nevertheless) he gave it as 1403257. As about six weeks later he was to quote an utterly different number to Ron Caswell of IGAP, it is purely an academic point anyway; the figures quoted were almost certainly made up.

Another cutting, this time with photographs of the house (not showing the frying pan on stove) and people concerned, came to light at this juncture. It is extremely unlikely that this could have been utilised by Bryant, as although in the *People* which you will remember was also taken by the Bryants, it was dated March 31st, 1957—some eight years previous.

The details given of the house were very similar to those already quoted, but it also stated the couple were known to have been quarrelling, and of Mrs. Jones and the son it read (this was 1957 remember): "Until a year ago, Mrs. Jones is known to have been in London with her mother Mrs. Hickey. They lived in a basement flat in Folkestone Road, Walthamstow, and they had the boy with them. Then the two women and the child also disappeared".

This certainly seemed to indicate that no extra-terrestrial was concerned in the matter, whether for procreation purposes or otherwise! What, however, of Tom Jones himself?

In April 1967, after I had seen Bryant for the last time I stayed overnight at Paignton with Mr. & Mrs. Thorpe, whose son Brian is the organiser of the Torbay Astro-Research Society, and he produced a cutting from the *Sunday Mirror* of March 26th 1967 which gave the same details as the previous cuttings but added that the house was soon to be compulsorily purchased and efforts had been revived to trace the family, failing which the £1,000 purchase money would be deposited with the Bank of England. A further short paragraph the following week announced that the missing Tom Jones had been traced to a mental hospital in Carmarthen where he had been a patient since 1955.



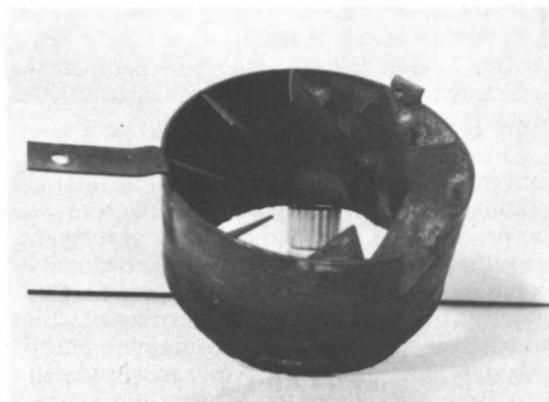
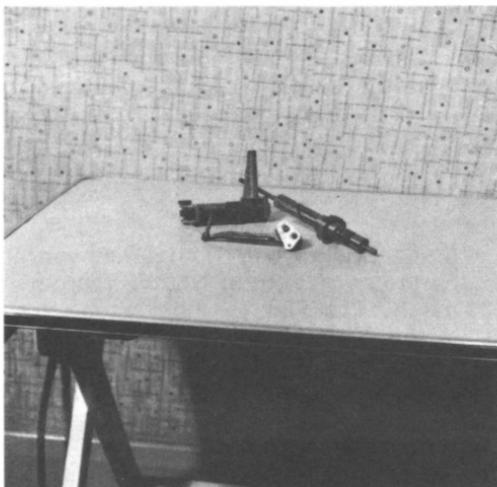
ERNEST ARTHUR BRYANT

THE HOUSE AT YEOVIL—
NOW DEMOLISHED



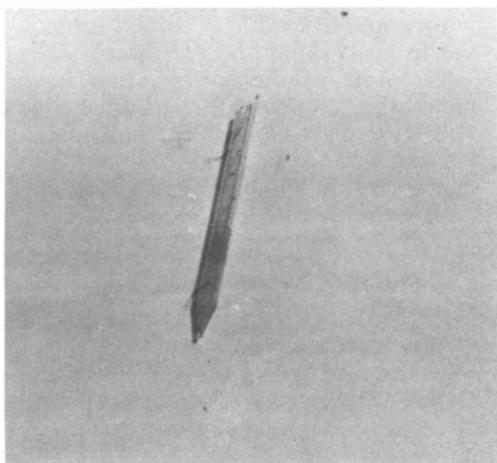
THE AUTHOR
Photo by Brian Simmonds

THE PIECES—"FOUND
EMBEDDED"



"TURBINE FITTING"
FOUND IN TREE

THE GLASS PHIAL



Having at this point neither the time, money nor inclination to continue enquiries in Carmarthen, there the matter rests, unless any startling development has taken place since that date.

CHAPTER VIII

I See Bryant for the Last Time

SINCE BOB ERSKINE and I had journeyed down to see Bryant on the Saturday evening in March, there had been quite a number of developments. The visit to the doctor on the Sunday morning; the discovery of the *News of the World* article; I had heard regarding Bryant's service as a prison officer, and so on. The way things were shaping it seemed that there were strong grounds for suspecting parts at least of his story. As I indicated at the beginning, having initiated the investigations I was determined now to see them through. I have said this to many people before, and I now reiterate it. The prime loyalty of anyone investigating UFO claims and sightings is to UFOLOGY; it is not to the sighting or contact claimant, it is not to fellow investigators, it is not to any Saucer Group, Society or Association; if, in the course of his investigations he comes across relevant information it is up to him to record that information, not to suppress it in part or in whole out of a misplaced sense of loyalty to others. That axiom I have followed and will continue to follow, whether or not it conflicts with earlier beliefs of myself or others.

However, let me jump off my soap-box; I decided it would be a good thing to sound Bryant out on a number of things that had been uncovered; perhaps even confront him with the evidence, and ask if he still maintained his story. To this end I first thought it might be as well to have someone else along (as a witness, not for protection!). Bob had another engagement, and others I approached were either not available or else understandably not over-eager to make the journey, so in the end I hired a car for 29th April and drove down by myself, arriving at our usual meeting place in Scoriton at about 6 p.m. I had with me a small booklet containing part of the proofs of 'The Scoriton Mystery' and also a pre-publication publicity handout, and when writing to Bryant indicated there were one or two points I would like to finalise with him before the book finally appeared.

Having waited for around five minutes, I was astonished to see not one, but two figures approaching—Gerald Aspin had heard I was coming down and accordingly turned up as well. The pub at Holne again served us in good stead and the three of us talked for a couple of hours, almost the whole of the conversation being recorded. I had abandoned any idea of a 'confrontation' in favour of some more unobtrusive (I hoped!) questioning, as whilst the information I had unearthed indicated a very strong doubt, so far as Bryant's story was concerned, availability of the necessary details had been shown in a number of instances, but this did not *prove* that he had actually seen them. Also, Gerald's presence complicated the position as I was unsure of how his own ideas had developed.

I will now present some brief excerpts from the evening's conversation, although unknown to me at the time, the last time I was to see Bryant.

The conversation started off with quite an exchange of ideas between the three of us on the subject of the pieces, and in fact consisted for a while very largely of myself expounding on the theme of how they had

been examined by the Dr. N. of 'The Scoriton Mystery', and enlightening both of them concerning this gentleman, hoping in this way to induce a "confiding" atmosphere.

The first rather carefully phrased question I put concerned the phial. I reasoned thus; this had not been given to Gerald when the other pieces were collected; if Bryant was hoaxing, was it possible he did not even bring this into the story until after having met Gerald, never having in fact obtained it from the field in the first place.

Me I was trying to work out exactly when you found the message itself, the 'Adelphos Adelpho'; Gerald didn't collect it, did he?

Bryant Not at that time—no, he hadn't, that went to the Plymouth 'Independent' and was found four or five days after the occurrence.

Me I see, it was available at the time, but you didn't have it handy?

Bryant Yes, that's right. At that time there was so much coming and going we never knew when we could meet at a given time or anything.

Some conversation concerning the glass phial followed here, as in between my own visits, Bryant had been enlightened by Miss Buckle regarding our knowledge that it was a phial peg, and I was doing my best to allay, at any rate temporarily, any suspicions that Bryant might have, treating the matter lightly, and to some extent "putting him in the picture" as to how this had been found out. Here I asked "Was the phial actually stuck in the ground or lying on the ground?"

Bryant Just lying on the ground.

Me The point wasn't used, in other words.

Bryant No, it wasn't used to suggest being stuck in.

Me It was reasonably visible was it—not covered over?

Bryant Oh, no.

Here Gerald broke in with the very pertinent question "Is there any flower in existence which would have the words 'Adelphos Adelpho'?" I duly enlightened him with the result of enquiries about this.

Bryant The message certainly seemed to be there for a purpose, didn't it?

For a while we continued talking about the message, the phial and the sand, and not least Dr. N.—I wanted to see how Bryant would react to suggestions of other people putting forward extraordinary claims which had no basis—he remained impassive, however.

We then spoke of the various people who had written to Bryant and he said amongst others John Cleary-Baker wrote to him suggesting a post-hypnotic condition might be involved. I asked him was he sure it was John who got in touch with him and not vice versa, as I thought it unlikely. His reply was "Yes, most definitely—he wrote to me, I was very surprised". John later assured me, however, that as I suspected it was Bryant who initiated the correspondence. John had, of course, never thought very highly of the story from the beginning.

Bryant then spoke of the compass allegedly found with the other pieces but hitherto not produced. This had been seen also, he said, by Charles Boycott, stepson of Major Boycott at the 'Tradesman's Arms'. Unfortunately it had slipped off the bonnet of a car and smashed.

An interesting sidelight now occurred. Ivar Mackay had said to me before I went down that the next thing you'll find is that Bryant is either getting messages on tape (shades of Philip Rodgers and Myself) or getting strange 'phone calls (shades of Arthur Shuttlewood at Warminster). Bryant changed the subject to tape recordings as follows (I must emphasise that all the time Bryant seemed completely sincere as I mentioned in an earlier chapter, even when I knew what he was saying was false).

Bryant " . . . was out recording bird songs late one afternoon on the moors—Evelyn's got a very good collection, and we had a voice come over and it sounded like IVOR or IVAN—we wiped the tapes clean before."

(This somewhat astounded Ivar Mackay afterwards!).

Me Sorry, I'm not quite clear, who was actually with you?

Bryant Evelyn, my youngest daughter—just us two.

Me And you had a portable tape-recorder?

Bryant We had a portable tape-recorder—yes.

Gerald And have you got that tape at home now?

Bryant Yes—yes, we have.

Gerald Could we listen to it.

Bryant By all means, yes.

Gerald You can accept that as an order.

A short silence followed, then:

Bryant I'm extremely eager to have a look at the book.

Me Well, advance copies should be coming out next week, and I imagine you'll be sent one. I think you'll find the story of Garry Myers quite intriguing.

Bryant I'm rather glad other things have been incorporaetd really, rather than it being centred on the one particular story.

Bryant here went on to speak about Brian Thorpe, at whose Paignton house I would be spending the night, and gave me a book to return to him. After a while:

Me One thing I never realised was that Charles Boycott (from the 'Tradesman's Arms') was the chap on the bike when we came up in January—you referred to him as "the lad from the 'Tradesmans'" if you remember.

Bryant Oh, I never realised that, because he played quite an important part.

Me How long did he know of the whole thing, the contact as well?

Bryant Oh, he came in, I should say, about a week afterwards; he actually came in when we picked some pieces up from the fields.

Me You mean a week after the sighting?

Bryant That's right, I told him the whole of the story then.

Me So he knew the whole story well before the July at any rate.

Bryant Yes.

Conversation ensues about dates, diaries, etc. etc.

Me Did Charles have any interest in UFOs before your experience?

Bryant I've never heard of any, I really introduced him to the subject—it was his father of course who told us what the Greek message was about.

Here a game of darts nearly blotted the recording out! When it finished we continued as follows:

Me I've a number of questions here—always questions! Not mainly from me but from other people who've asked me questions as well. (Actually all were mine).

Me Do you remember seeing any sort of jelly-like substance at the time of the June sighting?

Bryant Yes, that's quite true, there was, that would have been the following morning, June 8th.

Me In the field?

Bryant Yes, in the field. I didn't attach any importance to it at the time, there wasn't much of it.

Me In the middle or at the side of the field?

Bryant Quite near where we found the pieces, very near the edge (not hedge) near where Gerald first found the scorched ring marks, to the right of them.

Me Did it evaporate or disappear?

Bryant It was still there when I left, but it wasn't there the following evening.

Me Did it smell at all?

Bryant No, not that I can remember, it gave me the impression at the time, honestly, that it was moving.

Me Was there a moon at the time of the sighting? (It was in fact just after the first quarter and fully visible if the date was June 7th 1965)

Bryant I don't remember seeing one at the time.

Me Were there two sets of scorch marks or only one—there was one by the hedge wasn't there, was there another set in the middle also? (Bryant had given at least two completely different locations to various people.)

Bryant Not in the middle—I suppose about 40 or 50 yards from the hedge. (This would have been in the middle). They could have been one and the same set. (!!)

Me Can you remember if the blue light hovered just before it disappeared.

Bryant Yes, it had the appearance of hovering, not that I saw any object to suggest that it was hovering—it obviously came to a stationary position.

Me You didn't actually see it take off and disappear?

Bryant No, I never saw it take off; the thing that fascinated me was that it was able to almost descend and vanish—no sign of a light.

Me How long ago did the 'Independent' reporter see you at Badgers Holt?

Bryant About ten years, possibly eleven, previous to this.

Me Possibly 1955.

Bryant Yes, that's about right.

Me How long did you say you were actually at Dartmoor?

Bryant About five years.

Me Did you say the walls of the Saucer were metallic?

Bryant Yes, they were metallic.

Me Did you ever work on Bank Holidays? (When Bryant had picked up the pieces it was a Bank Holiday, and he'd said he was going to work).

Bryant Oh yes, quite frequently, to attend the boilers.

Me Who first mentioned Adamski to you?

Bryant Ron Caswell (this answer shook me as I'd mentioned Adamski to Bryant before Ron knew anything about Scoriton).

Me You went direct to Dartmoor from Devon C.C.?

Bryant That's right, yes.

Me Did the April Saucer move horizontally before it disappeared?

Bryant It completely vanished on the spot.

Me Can you tell me about the Saucer sighting Charles Boycott had recently?

Bryant It had two or three appearances as a matter of fact—I wasn't at home at that time and he said he had seen it over my house—it appeared to change shape—rather misty in outline and was about 20 feet above the house; he knocked, but of course I wasn't in and when he looked up it had gone. He saw something in the sky on the moor one evening too. I wasn't there, but his motor cycle engine cut out and he finished up in the ditch, but I don't quite know what happened.

Here I brought up the word association test I had tried Bryant with at our first meeting; although we had written in notes then that his answers came readily I had private reservations about this and decided to try another one; the questions, though apposite, were now almost unimportant, what I wished to determine was the gap between question and answer, and it worked out like this. I'll just give the answer to the first question and then the time gap between questions and answers.

Me Library.

Bryant Did you say library?

Me Yes.

Bryant Library—You did say library?

Me Yes.

Bryant I'm sorry I wasn't quite sure, er, library, er, library, er, stationery.

A total of 27 questions resulted in the quickest answer coming in two seconds, the longest in seventeen, and gave an average of around six seconds per question which really made the whole thing seem quite ludicrous.

There followed a short session of spontaneous word associations between Gerald and myself.

Bryant then requested that I would remember his service at Dartmoor was governed by the Official Secrets Act (he had talked of various occurrences that were supposed to have taken place then) "just a point" as he put it.

Just before we went, I handed Bryant a document (reproduced below without comment) asked him to read through it, and if he had no objection to signing it to do so, giving as my main reason that technically we hadn't his permission to quote from tape recordings I had made, but stressing not to sign it if he had any reservations.

Finally, I showed him some of the proofs; he was most interested in them, but his words were rather hesitating as he said "I suppose the book will get down here . . . do you think" as though he was rather hoping for a negative reply.

After dropping Gerald and Bryant at Scoriton, I went on to Paignton for the night and returned home the following day,

DOCUMENT SIGNED BY BRYANT

I, Eric Arthur Bryant, of Scoriton in the County of Devon, hereby state that the information given by me to the various people stated on the following occasions regarding my experiences of April 24th 1965 and June 7th 1965 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, these occasions were visits by:

Dr. Doel and Lionel Beer in August 1965.

Myself to the home of Mr. A. J. Dunkin Wedd in 1966.

Norman Oliver, Eileen Buckle and Mr. & Mrs. McCarthy in November 1966.

Norman Oliver and Robert Erskine on March 18th 1967.

Norman Oliver on April 29th 1967.

I further state that tape-recordings of these visits may be used by Mr. Oliver in any way he sees fit. Also that the statements on the tape of March 18th 1967 made by me wherein I said that after World War Two I was employed (a) by the Forestry Commission (b) in the capacity of Prison Officer, first at Exeter Prison then at Dartmoor, in all being a prison officer for five or six years (c) by Devon County Council, these being my only places of employment since 1948 are absolutely and unequivocally true. Lastly I state that prior to December 1965 I had not read or seen any books or publications relating to Flying Saucers.

(Signed) E. A. BRYANT. Date 29th April 1967.

Witnessed by Myself, Gerald Aspin also being present.

For comparison, Bryant's Affidavit to the truth of his contact was signed on 18th February 1967 (See 'The Scoriton Mystery').

CHAPTER IX

An Urgent Summons

SOON AFTER returning from Scoriton on the 29th April, I wrote a short letter to Bryant returning some papers he had loaned me, and asking him to let me know immediately if there were any further reports of Saucers at Scoriton—in view of the doctor's sighting, I wanted to be able to check with anyone he mentioned that they had actually seen UFOs. I had already written to Charles Boycott, but unfortunately for me, he had just joined the R.A.F. and I couldn't get in touch with him.

I was a little surprised when a fortnight elapsed without hearing from Bryant—he was usually very punctilious in these matters, but the reason for this was very soon explained when I received a long letter dated May 16th from Gerald Aspin in which he now expressed grave doubts about Bryant's story, and told me what had occurred since our last meeting. He wrote . . . "On the 6th May I visited Bryant and found him unwell (yellow colour) though apparently coherent as usual. Two or three days previous to the 6th he had been, it seems, very bad. I advised him, as had his wife, that he see a doctor at once. He would not. 'It was nothing' he said. . . . Then I left. On the Friday, 12th May, I visited Brian Thorpe's home mainly to see his parents. Mr. Thorpe told me that Mr. Clark of Waterleat had rung him about Bryant having been admitted to hospital. . . . I believe him to have gone in sometime about Tuesday afternoon when he was taken bad finally at his work." Gerald did not know exactly what was wrong but from the way he wrote it sounded a mental illness of some sort. He suggested I came down as soon as possible and brought the glass phial, pieces, the airman's button found by Dr. Doel and other items. He went on " . . . through BUFORA coming onto the scene real stuff has been intermingled with Bryant's story, but probably in actual fact are completely unconnected. As you have gone along he has made up farther. . . . The hospital have been told by Mr. Clark and me about Mr. Bryant's 'contact' so they probably have his case in hand one way or another. . . ."

I wrote back saying I would come down either on the next Saturday, May 20th or the following Saturday, with whatsoever material I could get together; it turned out to be Saturday 27th in the end as I had to stay at home with a severe cold the weekend before.

In the meantime I had 'phoned up Mr. Goundry Clark, who confirmed what Gerald had written, telling me that he had been called to Bryant's place of work at Ashburton a few days earlier when Bryant had been taken ill, and that he had been first of all at a hospital in Torquay, but had now been transferred to the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, where he might have to have brain surgery.

This was about the last thing, I believe, that anyone had thought might happen, with perhaps the possible exception of Bryant himself, and whilst obviously, the news might be regarded as detrimental to the book, my immediate sympathies lay more with Mrs. Bryant and family.

CHAPTER X

The Other Side of the Coin

ON MAY 27th then, I drove down again to Devon; this time my first port of call was the Aspin's house in Exeter; I arrived there about 6.30 p.m. and then, accompanied by Gerald, and Mr. & Mrs. Aspin proceeded to Scoriton to see Mrs. Bryant. Bryant had had brain surgery at Bristol and was now in hospital in nearby Ashburton—he was able to walk around, but there was not believed to be very much hope of a recovery—the tumour had had too great a hold.

Mrs. Bryant was at home, together with her son Michael aged 18 and daughters Yvonne 13 and Evelyn 10; let me say straight away to those readers who might think of the Bryants as a parochial, "roots in

the soil" type of family, that they are in fact both charming and intelligent, and at the time most helpful, considering the circumstances.

A copy of "The Scoriton Mystery" had been sent to Bryant at his home and, as he was then in hospital, had been received by Mrs. Bryant, who, by the time I saw her, had read the whole book. Apparently her husband had told her the majority of the story, but speaking of it as a science fiction story that was to form the basis of the book in which Miss Buckle and I were collaborating. Referring back to the incident in the previous November when she had suddenly gone out of the room on hearing Colin McCarthy mention Yamski, she told me it was then she realised that part of the story at any rate, was being taken as fact and not as fiction.

At this point, since I consider it relevant, I will digress a little and refer again to Miss Buckle's "reply" in *Spacelink*, Vol. 5, No. 2, to my article in the previous issue. A further excerpt from this read:

" . . . To those who have not read the book, however" (? why not those who *have* read the book as well—Author) "there must appear to be the comic spectacle of a former leading exponent doing a hurried about turn, scuttling out with a face-saving gesture, confronted by new evidence which would seem to knock the bottom out of the whole story. This view would be somewhat justified, for Norman Oliver, having stuck his neck out somewhat dangerously in the first instance has now gone to the other extreme and is leaning over backwards to discredit Bryant and to publicise his dissociation from the claims. His motives are best known to himself but as author of the book I am obliged to correct the slanted picture he presents in his 'exposé'.

"To begin with, Norman Oliver tries to make his attack on two separate fronts: (a) Bryant had a brain tumour and therefore his story was hallucinatory; (b) Bryant committed a pretty elaborate hoax (albeit one which might have snowballed from a small beginning).

"As a layman, Norman Oliver might think these two 'explanations' are linked and compatible with one another, but if he had obtained a special psychiatric opinion then he would have had to think again. The opinion of Bryant's general practitioner should not be given more credit than is due. The amount of training in psychiatry given in medical schools is virtually nil. It is perfectly understandable that the doctor should have had Mrs. Bryant's interests first and foremost, and done his best to quell her anxiety. So easy to brush the matter off as hallucinations of a sick man and thereby exonerate her husband of responsibility" . . . and later . . . "Norman Oliver states that Bryant had possessed 'occult books'. This is a very vague statement to make when one knows that the books in question were merely books on fortune-telling—Bryant, it appears, was a bit of an amateur fortune-teller, probably stemming from his gipsy blood. Terming the books as occult leaves quite a false impression. . . ."

No comment on the first paragraph—my motives are sufficiently covered elsewhere. As regards the brain tumour however, to the best of my knowledge the opinion of Bryant's G.P. has never been quoted. It was in fact, the doctors attending Bryant at both hospitals, including neuro-surgeons, who considered his story hallucinatory! I have since asked many people, including psychiatrists, as to how the tumour might have affected Bryant and in each case have received a different reply. I

take leave, therefore, to suggest it could well be the case that Bryant, whilst overtly hoaxing on one level of consciousness, was himself convinced of the truth of his own story. I do not say this is so, just that it seems to me the most likely probability.

With regard to the "occult books" referred to by Miss Buckle—I am not sure who the "one" is who knows that they were merely books on fortune-telling, but that "one" is wrong, as Mrs. Bryant told me in the presence of the rest of the family that these were in the nature of small occult and supernatural encyclopedias dealing with all aspects—including fortune-telling to a limited degree; they had had in fact been "dipped into" from time to time by all the family. It was true that Bryant did tell fortunes occasionally (not professionally, of course) and perhaps this is where the confusion arose.

Other information given by Mrs. Bryant was that they had been living at their present address since 1963 and were not at Hawson Farm Cottage (as Bryant claimed) at the time of the June sighting, consequently many of the details given on the report form did not make sense.

I was told they had had T.V. (and of course, electricity) since 1963 (the card Bryant showed us could not therefore have been signed by the T.V. dealer) and that the original programme on the Yeovil House was seen by the whole household. Bryant had even gone to the extent of composing a letter to Westward T.V. about it (they had invited possible explanations) though whether he had ever posted it was not known.

The pieces, said Mrs. Bryant, could well have come from a wooden box full of gadgetry purchased by the Bryants from a Naval Surplus Store in Doncaster in 1964. There were probably hundreds of bits and pieces altogether, though it should be said the pieces Bryant produced (I'd brought them with me) could not be identified with absolute certainty as being some of these though she and her son considered it very probable.

The aforesaid doctors also thought it very likely that Bryant could have woven everyday items into his story—one example of this being the button with an American Eagle on it picked up by Dr. Doel in the August from the "sighting" field. Mrs. Bryant showed me its exact twin which had been in her husband's possession.

On leaving Scoriton, I stayed overnight at the Aspins, and the following morning paid a visit to Mr. Goundry Clark at Ashburton. Mrs. Bryant had requested that no-one outside the family should visit her husband at this time, and whilst I would naturally have liked to do so, I respected and understood her wishes. Mr. Goundry Clark promised to keep me posted on events and I duly returned to Town.

During June I heard several times from Mr. Goundry Clark until finally towards the end of the month he phoned to tell me Bryant had died on June 24th—by a coincidence National Skywatch Day.

CHAPTER XI

Was this what happened at Scoriton?

I AM HERE going to give what I consider to be a *possible* reconstruction of what actually happened. Though I have worded it very positively, I emphasise most strongly that this is merely in my opinion the most likely explanation—I do not exclude others, it would be wrong to do so; there are also the possibilities of variations on my own theme; of

others collaborating with Bryant. (Personally, I would put this second in the list of possibilities.) Also of Bryant being in a post-hypnotic state; of a space hoax, or that despite all the further discoveries, Bryant's story could still be true; this is for you, the reader, to decide.

I have not in this booklet referred to the tape 'messages' received by Miss Buckle and myself, as I do not now consider they could have any bearing on Bryant's story. To put it this way, I now believe it quite possible these were hoaxes (human ones), and the method adopted to have been quite extraordinary, but to go further into this would, I regret to say, lay myself open in several directions as it would be completely unprovable.

From the foregoing I would not like it to be thought that I am 'anti-contactee'—nothing is further from the truth. I believe that the close examination of landing, near-landing, and contact cases be they physical, mental, scientific or esoteric is the only way in which the UFO enigma will be finally solved. It just happens I consider there now to be too much evidence against Bryant's story for it to have happened as he said, though I would not entirely exclude the possibility of some form of external manipulation.

Here, then, is the *suggested* reconstruction:

The phenomena at Warminster commenced on Christmas Day 1964; these were duly reported in the press and may well have fired Bryant's imagination and (for the sake of clarity taking June 7th 1965 as being the actual sighting date, though other dates have cropped up) he believed he saw a UFO—the blue light; whether or not he did see one is an open question. He then decided the story of his sighting would sound better if there were some concrete evidence of the UFO's presence left behind and decided to introduce the 'pieces' (from the gadgetry obtained at Doncaster) and to tell the story firstly at his workplace in Newton Abbot. It is to be noted that the family were never shown these pieces; also the only photographs they came across were in the 'Independent' in August 1965 of the tractor piece which was almost certainly not included with the gadgetry and might have been picked up anywhere, and of the glass phial which was introduced into the story at a later date than the 'pieces'.

A workmate told him of the appeal by Hedley Robinson of the Exeter Astronomical Society in the *Western Morning News* asking if there were any witnesses of an orange UFO over Exeter or similar phenomena anywhere near, and on June 27th Bryant wrote in and told of his sighting with the result that he was seen, firstly by Hedley Robinson and Gerald Aspin, and then Gerald Aspin alone. (He had meanwhile spoken of it at home with a resultant letter to a paper from a lady in Buckfastleigh) Gerald stresses he was never shown the phial or 'Adelphos Adelpho' message, or indeed was it mentioned up to this point, the point at which Gerald took away the box containing the 'pieces'. Originally, Gerald did not mention that he had shown any Adamski books to Bryant, but at a late stage in the proceedings agreed he had done so. (This would be roughly mid-July 1965).

It was here, I believe, that the idea of further elaboration first came to Bryant. 'Adelphos Adelpho' as 'Brother to Brother' bears significance whether or no a prior contact was alleged, and when Bryant first produced this message he could have well intended it to refer only to the one sighting, to show that the occurrence happened to him because he was

'one of them', and he did not then have in mind an earlier event as well I think, however, he did form a prototype of his contact story here, but a tame one compared with what finally emerged.

It is my submission that Bryant had in his mind the word 'Brother' as being associated with Space People from seeing a book of Gerald's, (probably 'Inside the Space Ships'). He may or may not have been told of or noticed his resemblance to Adamski—this does not necessarily affect the 'Adelphos Adelpho' message, and by a coincidence (stranger ones than this do happen, quite frequently), he picked up a Greek book, either at Major Boycott's (the Major is an expert on Classical Greek) or at the library at 'Broadlands' or Newton Abbot, and came across 'Adelphos Adelpho' with the translation beside it; this he copied out slowly and carefully on to an old scrap of paper, burning the paper in one place both for effect and because he had written another word on the paper that he subsequently thought might 'give the game away'; placed it in a phial peg probably obtained from 'Broadlands', and would have produced it to Gerald at a later visit, but the 'Independent' reporter got in first.

Here Bryant acted quite cleverly—he realised he would have to be cautious, not having anticipated the advent of the press, and made no reference to an earlier occurrence as he hadn't yet perfected the story. He made no claims himself as to what the 'pieces' or the 'message' represented, but left it to others to do so—this in fact applies almost throughout.

When the reporter arrived I suggest he brought up the possibility of the Saucer being of Russian origin to Bryant. (Bryant always tended to go along with the ideas of those he was with at the time). He went along with the Russian idea for this reason, and also that the reporter might think it too far-fetched if he brought space craft and perhaps space-people into it also. His idea with the phial had been, I believe, only to impress Gerald Aspin, the Exeter Astronomical Society and any other 'Saucer-conscious' person he met—he had not allowed for the press, and had no intention at that time of making very much more of the story. The reporter having suggested a Russian origin, Bryant (successfully) tried to push any suspicion away from himself by saying he thought the 'message' had been in Russian too. It should be emphasised here that this part of the affair did not create such a furore as Bryant led people to believe; the farmer was the worst off, but Bryant's family were not unduly pestered by reporters and others as Bryant alleged, and they believe that comparatively few people in the village (or near it) read the account in the 'Independent'. (Bryant said at one stage that he himself had not previously heard of the 'Independent').

It was after the article appeared in the 'Independent' that Bryant was seen by Dr. Doel, Lionel Beer and Mr. Goundry Clark. By this time he had worked out the idea of a previous 'contact' having seen that the earlier hoax had been quite successful—this would have included many features of the final 'contact' story that emerged, but he had not at that point thought of making one of the occupants a reincarnated Adamski, and consequently the 'Des Les' and 'Robe' parts, etc., would have been omitted and the contact merely reported as being of a similar type to those Adamski claimed, adding things he had come across in the occult

books and putting in the House at Yeovil in order for the story not to be too alike. He did have the thought of involving Mantell here. (The 'pieces' would fill the bill nicely, and Mantell's crash is recorded in 'Flying Saucers have Landed' and 'Inside the Space Ships'.) However, on meeting Dr. Doel in particular, he decided that the story of a contact might not be viewed too favourably and he even went a good deal in the other direction on being 'taped', when he indicated to Dr. Doel he thought the blue light could at the time have been from a helicopter or plane instead of, as indicated in the 'Independent', being a Russian satellite or even a Russian Saucer! Bryant had also told of the queer echoing noise, not claiming it was a 'Saucer in trouble' but leaving others to come to this conclusion of their own accord.

Other points at this stage were, I suggest, that Bryant either 'seeded' the field before showing it to people, or dropped nuts, bolts, buttons, etc., in appropriate places when he showed them round, this accounting for the American button picked up by Dr. Doel which turned out to be the twin of the one in Bryant's possession. I would suggest here too, he heard Dr. Doel mention that a jelly-like substance had been left behind by a UFO in Dumfriesshire and he also recounted this as occurring at Scoriton.

I would think Bryant, wherever and whether he had a UFO sighting, deliberately chose this particular field for its official site, because of the very definite traces left by the earlier bonfire and lightning, and circular markings in the field. It is pertinent to add here, that these markings were stated to be in different places to different people. At one time they were said to be in the middle of the field, at another to be on both sides of the hedge and yet again to be on *either* side of the hedge, so disposed that the saucer must either have landed or left markings on both sides of the hedge at the same time, and that hedge was then some twenty feet high. It is also interesting to note that Bryant has at different times stated the 'scorching' of the hedge was (A) 'most definitely caused by blight' and (B) 'most definitely *not* caused by blight!

Having picked the spot Bryant realised he couldn't have seen this properly from where he actually lived, so he subsequently stated he was then living at Hawson Farm cottage opposite the field.

After meeting Dr. Doel, Lionel Beer and Mr. Goundry Clark, Bryant went round to see Goundry Clark. (Even here, he wrongly told us that Goundry Clark had come round to see him.) Mr. Clark loaned him the *Orbits* and the Adamski books, etc; Bryant joined BUFORA and would have been sent the issue of the Journal with the Adamski obituary in. From these he learnt the additional details necessary to concoct the Yamski part of the story, and then superimposed this on top of the saucer contact story he had already thought of telling, i.e. the previous story would have been of a contact with a saucer and two or three spacemen, with all the Mantell and Poltergeist trimmings, but no mention of a reincarnated Adamski. I think it worth mentioning here that Bryant usually had one detail different from what it should be, this to me indicating he was trying very hard not to make too exact a copy of what was known already in case people became suspicious. Examples:

'Four fingers instead of five';

'Yamski instead of Adamski';

'Richards instead of Jones at the Yeovil house';
'The robe being described as purple, not blue'.

Poltergeist, Epsilon, Karma, Orbital plane references, etc., could well have been obtained from the occult books he had. The one thing he could not have known of was Adamski's promised reincarnation as a youth; he would, however, have had the opportunity of learning that Adamski 'would not return as a baby', and the idea of a boy of 13 or 14 would seem to me to be, although a coincidence, a logical 'next step' to take—it also carries forward the 'one detail different' policy mentioned above.

Other examples of this were that whilst his plan (on the report form) of the saucer resembled a 'Saturn scout ship' (commented on by Desmond Leslie) the elevation shown did not continue the similarity. Also whilst the 'Venusians' had long blond hair, and were in some respects similar to Adamski's Venusians, other features were dissimilar and were in my opinion deliberately made so in order that they should not seem to be 'copied'. It seems pertinent here to observe also, that were it a space hoax, and the occupants trying to fool Bryant, they would have made a better job of appearing as similar to Adamski's Venusians.

In my opinion, Bryant had the complete story made up by October 1965, and took the next month to 'brush it up'. I believe he was not really sure who to relate it to, and probably even toyed with the idea of abandoning it altogether; he may not even ever have intended to launch it, but only have made the story up, perhaps even written it to show that he too could make up as good a tale as those he watched on T.V. His family all agree he was a devotee of science fiction and saucer serials, etc., on T.V. However, my circular in the November presented him with a very useful chance; I think he had absolutely no idea how far the hoax would lead him, and once he started it off he found he couldn't control the spread of the story, no book originally, of course, being even faintly visible on the horizon. He probably thought his second report would mean just another visit from a couple of BUFORA people, be written up in the Journal and end there.

Comments

There are indications that Bryant on occasion made up some of his subsequent predictions and impressions he related to various people, by passing on information obtained from one person or source to another, perhaps in slightly varied form.

It is impossible to say exactly how the tumour could have affected Bryant, which is why I have here omitted any reference to it; I would, however, consider that there was no sinister reason why this came to a head at the time of publication of *The Scoriton Mystery*. As will be remembered, when I last saw Bryant I showed him Spearman's new book list and the proofs of some of the illustrations, and whilst commenting on how good they were, he also passed several remarks such as 'I wonder if anyone in Scoriton will see it', and 'It will be on sale in these parts I suppose?' and it seemed to me then that he had only just realised how impossible it was for him to escape the results of his own hoaxing, and he was, in fact, a very worried man. I strongly suggest it was this worry which caused the tumour to become active at this particular time.

The foregoing was a *suggested* reconstruction, and I am fully aware there may be other explanations which is why the next chapter is devoted

to other people's views, and why Philip Rodger's beliefs are presented in the final chapter. Many BUFORA members will have heard Philip speak about his tape recordings. He is a grand chap, unfortunately almost blind; we correspond regularly by tape and have had many a friendly argument on the merits and demerits of Bryant's story. He knew I was writing this booklet and I suggested he might like to put his own views in it; this he has done, and I am delighted to present them also, albeit they differ considerably from my own.

CHAPTER XII

Opinions and Conclusions

I TRUST THAT those quoted here will forgive me for not quoting them in full—space is the problem, but I have done my level best to ensure that brevity has not meant distortion, and I hope that in this my efforts have been successful.

First of all, John Cleary-Baker, Editor of BUFORA's Journal, wrote after hearing of the subsequent investigations:

"As of now ('now' being July 4th 1967) my feeling is that something like the following might be a reasonable verdict on Scoriton. The Scoriton contact tale cannot be true at face value. It is possible that the whole affair was the result of a hoax organised by E. A. Bryant and attributable to the brain tumour from which he suffered and which eventually killed him. There are, however, indications that third parties were involved and that these may have been concerned to discredit private UFO research in general, and BUFORA in particular" . . . John posed the burning question. . . . "Was the tumour responsible for the UFO or the UFO for the tumour?"

Captain Ivar Mackay, at the time of writing BUFORA's chairman, wrote: "I tend to think that Bryant may well have had a sighting of some sort, possibly a near sighting which may well have either caused a tumour or accelerated the growth of an incipient one.

"If the Scoriton contact was a hoax, I do not believe that it was engineered by extra-terrestrials. The whole exercise and its 'props' were far too childish and inadequate to be really convincing—unless of course the extra-terrestrials had literally 'become as little children' in spite of their tremendous technological achievements. I sincerely hope not, as my opinion of them would suffer a severe set-back. I would hate to find myself hobnobbing with a lot of Billy Bunters or the inmates of St. Trinians."

Alice Wells, of the George Adamski Foundation, writing in the June 1967 *Cosmic Bulletin*, quoted in *Orbit*, Vol. 8, No. 2, whilst apparently being under some misapprehensions which resulted in several mis-statements, made the point that 'Yamski' had a far lesser knowledge and wisdom of the Universe than George Adamski had passed over with and quite clearly thought little of Bryant's claims.

Gerald Aspin it was who suggested the probable answer to one of the enigmas, of this case, the psychometric evidence pointing to the pieces being from Mantell's plane. Now it had already occurred to me that assuming the 'pieces' to have been parts of Mantell's Mustang, there would probably have been absolutely no reason why he should have touched any of them, much less held them or had them in his own possession for any length of time; they did apparently, too, record his death, after

which he would certainly not have been physically in touch with them. How then, came the 'imprints' of what happened to be 'read' from the pieces? Gerald's suggestion was that they came from himself, he had certainly handled the metal pieces since July 1965 and latterly for at least four weeks prior to my obtaining them from him in January 1966, during which time he had been aware of the whole of Bryant's story. The reading was done only a few weeks later. Gerald had known of the Mantell implication and was trying to prove it himself. Gerald has a very strong personality and I consider this a most likely explanation.

The opinions of Kenneth Rogers, at the time a BUFORA Committee member and at present a prominent member of Contact U.K. are well worth recording. He wrote . . . "I place no credence in the 'space hoax'. If the UFO denizens are supposed to be of a higher intelligence, then I very much doubt the possibility of their hoaxing earthmen. In my opinion it is more likely that they could have, in some form, erased portions of their contact with Bryant and superimposed a 'tale' on his brain."

Miss Buckle, in her *Spacelink* article, wrote . . . "It must be admitted that there is something odd indeed about the Scoriton story. If Bryant really met some benevolent Adamski-type Venusians, then they certainly made a hash of things . . . it could be that the saucer entities themselves wish to detract attention from their true purpose in coming here, or there is yet another explanation, the entities concerned need not be the saucer people themselves, but negative astral beings who try to bring disruption. . . ."

Mr. Eric Biddle who had examined the evidence on behalf of BUFORA offered the following alternative conclusions:

1. We can take the story as true in the way that Bryant told it, that he had a visit from benevolent beings who would eventually use him as the vehicle for the disclosure of 'revelations' destined to be of great importance to the world;
2. We can say that Bryant was a fraud pure and simple, and that he made up the whole story after reading some UFO literature and possibly after a genuine UFO sighting;
3. As we know that Bryant was suffering from a brain tumour, we can accept that his alleged experience was hallucinatory, or
4. We can say that the whole of Bryant's experience was hallucinatory in the sense it was the result of hypnotic influence exercised by some external intelligence(s)—whether connected with UFOs or not—for some purpose of their own. We can only conjecture what that purpose might be. But it is at least possible that it may be a rather clumsy attempt to lull us into a false sense of security as to the real eventual aims of the UFO entities.

That, I think, very neatly sums up the alternatives; my own opinion veers in the direction of number 2, but, who knows? One thing I would like to make absolutely clear. The fact that I am now inclined to disbelieve Bryant in no way affects my belief in the inherent possibility of such a contact occurring. In my opinion the only way in which we are likely to reach some understanding—I do not go so far as to say solution—is by recording, examining, comparing landing, near-landing and contact cases of *any* description, whether or not the contact be of a mental or

physical nature, and whether or not there are any 'occult' elements present also. I feel quite sure that many more people have had contacts, particularly mental or telepathic, than are popularly believed, and I would personally be most interested to hear from anyone who has had any experience they think may have had a connection with saucers or space beings, no matter what form that experience took. I guarantee there will be no such intensive personal investigations as occurred with Bryant. One such investigation in the course of a lifetime is quite enough! I am now only interested in hearing of people's experiences and comparing them with others, no longer in checking up on them! Now for Philip's opinions.

I'm Backing Bryant

by PHILIP RODGERS

THOUGH suffering from very poor sight, I have been following the Scorton affair very closely indeed. Moreover I know most of the characters concerned and was particularly friendly with the late Mr. Bryant, with whom I corresponded frequently. After having carefully analysed the evidence I have come to the conclusion that the incident did, in fact, occur, pretty much as the witness described it and for the following reasons:

1. The incident is too complicated and there is far too much evidence for any but a master mind to have contrived. And although Bryant was a very intelligent man, no one would, I feel sure, have described him as a genius. Alternatively, the whole thing might have been thought up by a small group or gang. But the evidence seems to point to Bryant acting entirely on his own.
2. Every Ufologist knows that quite a number of hoaxes have been perpetrated in connection with sightings, landings and contacts with saucers and their occupants. But if this was one, it must rank as one of the most brilliant on record.
3. Whether he acted singly or in collaboration with others, Bryant must have had a pretty strong motive. And as financial gain is the most powerful driving force these days, one would have expected him to try to cash in on the incident. But as far as I can tell, he made nothing out of it financially. As for personal aggrandisement as a possible motive, we all know that not only he but his family suffered considerably from the publicity it aroused. It is true that he alleged receiving several offers of marriage. But he was already a well established family man, and these would avail him but little.
4. It has been suggested that Bryant, possibly owing to his brain tumour, did honestly and sincerely believe that the incident took place, whereas in reality it was an hallucination. True, he might have found an old incinerator top. (This was pointed out to me on visiting Mrs. Bryant as one of the 'everyday items' Bryant could have woven into his story, and it did in fact bear a remarkable resemblance to his diagram of the April saucer. Author). Also he might have possessed a button belonging to an American Army Air Force uniform, read science fiction and books on flying saucers, and consequently built up the entire incident within his own mind. And it is also true that any deluded man can say that he went to some isolated spot where he encountered a flying saucer and its crew. But he could not produce

the evidence Bryant was able to show to his investigators. For this reason I consider the hallucination theory to be completely untenable.

Regarding the evidence, I am dividing this into two types, referring to them as the PHYSICAL and the MENTAL. Let us take the latter first:

1. Though Bryant might have known of Adamski's death from the *BUFORA* Journal, Vol. 1, No. 4, and *Orbit*, Vol. 7, No. 1, in which it was stated that he promised to return to earth without the tedious stages of normal physical birth, babyhood, etc. (as in the conventional reincarnation theory), he could not have known about Adamski promising to return as a teenage boy. This was known only to Alice Wells and a few intimate friends.
2. Though he might have been aware of his resemblance to Adamski, he did not know of the latter's part-Romany origin. This is not disclosed in any of Adamski's books, at least not in 'Inside the Space Ships' or his contribution to 'Flying Saucers have Landed', the only books to which Bryant had access. It was in fact disclosed to him by Miss Buckle and Mr. Oliver. If anyone sees a completely unrelated person resembling themselves (in other words his double), he does not usually refer to him as 'Brother'. It is more likely that one half-gypsy would use the word when addressing another half-gypsy. For this reason the message enclosed in the glass phial—'Adelphos Adelpho' (meaning Brother to Brother) has little significance; at least it would have meaning only to one who knew both men to be of Romany origin.
3. In 'Inside the Space Ships' Adamski certainly does mention Desmond Leslie, who visited his home (see chapter 13, 'Days in Palomar Terraces'). But there he is described as "Desmond" and not as "Des" or "Les". It has since been established that Adamski did in fact address him as "Des" at times.
4. Whilst it is true that Mr. Goundry Clark did lend Bryant some copies of *Orbit*, it is highly unlikely that he was given the issue for September 1962 containing "Preliminary report of my visit to Saturn", by George Adamski. It was in this that the description of the purple robe with a rose embroidered on one sleeve, appeared. It seems that Mr. Clark had been taking *Orbit* right from Vol. 2, No. 4, in 1960. This means he must then have received some 20 copies in all. I do not know how many issues he lent to Mr. Bryant, but the chances of this particular one being among them cannot be very great. Besides, Mr. Clark stated he did not lend this copy to his friend, and if he had forgotten having done so, we have no proof that Bryant read it.

If the reader insists that Bryant learned of these things through clairvoyance, telepathy or extra-terrestrial thought communication, he will be confronted with RODGER'S LAW. (See 'The Scoriton Mystery', pp. 168/169).

Though I consider the above points significant, my main defence of Bryant rests on the physical evidence he was able to produce. This can be divided into three parts, which I shall consider separately:

1. THE GLASS PHIAL

a. It has been established that this is, in fact, a PHIAL PEG, used by gardeners since the Second World War, for enclosing labels to identify certain plants. It has since been replaced by aluminium tags. This disposes of the theory that the object was planted by some schoolboy about a hundred years ago when Greek was taught more in schools than it is nowadays. It is quite possible, however, that Bryant had one of these in his possession. But it is the message it contained that concerns us here.

b. Any hoaxer, taking the trouble to plant a phial peg containing a piece of paper must, by all the laws of hoaxing human nature, have included some message purporting to come from outer space. And whilst it is true that Bryant was not in the habit of concocting a long sermon of the George King variety, he would at least have produced a pithy sentence claiming to be a message from Venus, Yamski or some other extra-terrestrial source. This could either have been in English or (as in the case of Adamski's famous negatives) in some system of heiroglyphics. But to give it in classical Greek would be absolutely meaningless, even to Bryant who was definitely not a Greek scholar.

c. As already mentioned in point No. 2 of the previous section, Bryant did not know of the part-Romany origin of Adamski. So the actual message "Adelphos Adelpho" would have very little meaning.

d. It has been established that there is no plant bearing exactly the name "Adelphos Adelpho". We can therefore abandon the idea that the "message" contained in the glass phial was nothing more than a gardener's label.

e. There is, however, an adjective ADELPHOUS, describing plants of the sweet pea variety. It strikes me therefore that, assuming this contact to be genuine, it is in fact a joke—on the part of the space people. Knowing Bryant to be a gardener, they would give him a message reminiscent of the name of a plant. In other words it is a kind of space pun. There is a fair amount of evidence (including some of my own) that the space people often have a great sense of humour. However, Bryant was merely a gardener, and no botanist; it is likely that such a play on technical terms would have been lost on him.

f. According to Mr. Oliver's description of the photograph of the message, the paper appears to have been partly burned from the left side inwards; also, not quite burned away, there is part of a letter, possibly the beginning of a word below the start of Adelphos. This points to the paper having been originally the upper part of a page, possibly taken from an old book. Had Bryant produced this, why had he not simply cut it off with a pair of scissors? In this way he could have assured there would be no other word, this giving the game away.

g. How did Bryant obtain the page (or book). The answer is possibly from amongst the books of Major Boycott who is a Greek scholar. If it were possible to produce that particular book with a missing page, from Major Boycott's collection, then the case against Bryant would be greatly strengthened.

h. Assuming "Adelphos Adelpho" to be from the upper part of a page of a book, it seems this must have been some sort of title or heading. If it were the actual title of the book itself it should be possible to trace a copy of that same book in the British Museum. If, however, it was a chapter heading, surely it would be preceded by the Greek equivalent of "chapter So-and-so".

2. THE PARTS (*picked up after the second contact*)

a. It has been established that Mr. and Mrs. Bryant paid a visit to Doncaster in September 1964 and bought some construction pieces of gadgetry for their son from a navy surplus store. But there is little to show that the pieces came from these unless it was a "do it yourself" kit to build a full-sized aircraft, which would have been far too big for the Bryants to take home to Scoriton!

b. Mrs. Bryant was unable to identify these as parts which were then purchased.

c. Surely an expert hoaxer (which Bryant must have been) would have produced pieces purporting to have come from a flying saucer. I certainly would have done. And in view of the elaborate nature of the hoax, it would have been well worth his while to have the pieces specially made for this purpose.

d. I have handled these pieces, also similar ones in the possession of Dr. N. (See 'The Scoriton Mystery', chapter 10), which he claimed to have picked up in Kentucky after the Mantell crash in January 1948. Though I was unable to tell whether they fitted each other exactly, they certainly did seem very similar.

3. THE RINGS IN THE FIELD

a. Apparently there were at least two sets of rings: those shown to Lionel Beer and Dr. Doel were on one side of a high hedge, whereas those shown to Miss Buckle and Mr. Oliver were in a triangular formation in the middle of the field, presumably where the saucer landed.

b. It has been suggested that those rings had already been there a year or two. But this is unlikely as they would surely have been overgrown. Does this imply that Bryant searched the Devon fields to find one with rings in it? And besides, you would have to explain how they got there in the first place.

c. It would appear that the only way the rings could have been faked would have been by means of an object such as a large cylindrical oil-drum, and a heavy one at that. But unless two people had carried the drum, it would have to have been rolled all the way to the site. As I have never been to the field I cannot say whether or not this would have been possible, though I understand there is a very steep bank from the road with a fence on top. This means that a couple of men and a sizeable crane would have been necessary to hoist the drum into the field. Anyhow, there must have been a deep track leading up to the rings, owing to the full weight of the drum being concentrated at the point of contact with the ground.

d. We presume the same drum would have been used to make all the rings in the field (of which there were at least six.) And as it must

have been left there standing for some time in order to produce one ring only, we gather that the operation must have taken several days. And besides there would have been a connecting track between each ring.

e. Surely such an elaborate and lengthy operation could not have gone by unnoticed, particularly by the farmer who owned the field, and further, so far as is known, Bryant did not possess an oil drum.

f. Had this been a hoax, surely Bryant would have concentrated on the three rings in the middle of the field. Why waste time and risk detection producing the others on either side of the hedge?

I think the reader will agree that, in view of all this evidence, that the chances of the story being a hoax are very slender indeed, so much so as to be negligible.

Although it is said that all comparisons are odious, I think it relevant to compare this with the contact claim by the Virginian scoutmaster, Desverges. This is described very fully in Capt. Ed. Ruppelt's book "The Case for the U.F.O.". On meeting him for the first time Ruppelt liked the man, though he spoke very little, and was impressed with his story at first. After investigating his background, he found that Desverges' career had not been without blemish. Besides, parts of his story did not hang together, so Ruppelt somewhat reluctantly dismissed it officially as a hoax. However, there were three things in Desverges' favour:

1. The two boy scouts in his car testified to seeing a light in the wood, which Desverges went to investigate alone, armed only with his machette.
2. There was the evidence of his cap which had been burned, though the sceptics insisted he could have made the other burns on his arms with a cigarette lighter.
3. Most impressive of all, a piece of turf was removed from the ground, and it was found that, whereas the blades of grass were undamaged, the roots had been burned. Ruppelt suggested that the only way this effect could have been produced would have been by a portable electric induction furnace.

Ruppelt admitted in his book that the Desverges account, if exaggerated, was not without a grain of truth. I think the same thing applies to Bryant's experience.

Let the reader remember one thing. No matter how much we wish to disbelieve a contact story of this kind, the witness need produce only one piece of incontrovertible evidence for his story to be credible. I think Bryant did a great deal more than this.

I am inclined to the opinion that the contact was, in fact, a hoax, —not by Bryant but by the space people. Certain parts of it, such as the mention of Epsilon and poltergeists do not ring true to me. The same applied to the mention of "Ideo-Motive Power" and the fact that the two elder men had cat-like eyes and four fingers only. Maybe the bogus space people had in fact obtained aircraft parts, though these were not necessarily from Mantell's Mustang. I am not being dogmatic but am simply stating my own personal view. The motive? To confuse us and cause dissension, blinding us to the true purpose of the space people.

For this reason, although in my opinion this is a genuine contact and is certainly most fascinating, I doubt whether it will go down in UFO history, as have other classic sightings and contacts, such as those claimed by Arnold, Gorman, Chiles and Whitted, Adamski, Captain Mantell, Fry and Captain Howard's Goose Bay sighting.

The evidence has now been given; possibilities explored and opinions stated. What do you believe happened at Scoriton?

Books, Magazines and Societies mentioned in the text:

THE SCORITON MYSTERY *by* Eileen Buckle.

FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED *by* Desmond Leslie *and* George Adamski.

INSIDE THE SPACE SHIPS *by* George Adamski.

THE WARMINSTER MYSTERY *by* Arthur Shuttlewood.

All the above may be obtained from Lionel Beer, at 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1. (A new edition of 'Flying Saucers have Landed' is due in Autumn 1968.) Send for book and magazine lists.

BUFORA—The British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association. Secretarial address: 'Bramhall', Claremont Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

CONTACT—U.K. Membership Sec.: William Herschell, 325 The Greenways, Epsom, Surrey.

ORBIT, the Journal of TUFOS—obtainable from J. L. Otley, A.R.P.S., 41 Deanham Gardens, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne 5.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW—Sub. address: 49A Kings Grove, London, S.E.15.

SPACELINK—obtainable from Lionel Beer, address as above.

COS-MOS commences operations on the first of January 1969, and aims at the Contact Of Space-Men Or Saucers. Affiliated to SAUCERS, full details will be sent on application to Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, Lee, London, S.E.12.