

ICE FALLS

BS

Wife cracks ice from sky riddle

SUNDAY EXPRESS
6 JAN 1984

Hail blitz kills 3

THREE people were killed and 300 hurt yesterday as hailstones the size of tennis balls battered Munich in West Germany.

Millions of pounds worth of damage was done to nine passenger jets and 120 light aircraft at the airport.

More than 20,000 cars were damaged, and many—including at least one Rolls-Royce—were wrecked.

DAILY M. P. 16 JUL 1984

ERIC and Peggy Bitten were settling down to a quiet evening at home when a tremendous crash sent them rushing outside.

On the paving stones by their back door and up against the garage wall lay large chunks of splintered ice.

They were in no doubt what had happened. The ice must have fallen from an aircraft, narrowly missing their house.

Carefully, they collected together the larger pieces and placed them in their deep freeze as evidence. They informed the local

police. The next day, Mrs Bitten also telephoned Heathrow Airport—only 20 miles from their home in Coulsdon, Surrey—and told them what had happened.

The official she spoke to sounded concerned and put her in touch with the Safety Data Unit of the Civil Aviation Authority, responsible for all incidents involving planes within the United Kingdom.

Once again Mrs Bitten explained what had happened. A Safety Data Unit official told her that the incident would be thoroughly investigated.

He told her that water was sometimes expelled from aircraft, falling as ice. But it should not happen in a built-

up area, he said. An investigation was called for.

Mrs Bitten was told to keep the ice in her deep freeze and it would be collected by a unit official for analysis.

But the next day an extraordinary thing happened. For while Mrs Bitten was inside the house, there was another gigantic crash from outside. She rushed into the garden and stared in astonishment.

On the roof of the conservatory and all around lay large chunks of ice. Instinctively, she looked upwards and there overhead was an aeroplane.

Was it really feasible that ice from aeroplanes could have fallen on exactly the same spot in so short a time?

This time Mrs Bitten decided to inspect the pieces thoroughly.

There seemed to be leaves encased in some of the chunks of ice. That, surely, was not possible if the ice had fallen from an aeroplane, she thought.

She began to grow suspicious and went to ask her neighbour, Mrs Margaret Franke, if any of her children were playing in the garden.

Mrs Franke said that her son Richard had just come in from the garden with some friends.

Confession

Mrs Bitten expatiated what had happened, and it did not take long for the two women to extract a full confession.

Ten-year-old Richard admitted that he and two friends had been playing with ice from their garden pond, and had been throwing it over the fence into the Bitten's garden.

"I felt an awful lemon," said Mrs Bitten. "I had to telephone the man who was going to examine the ice and explain that it had all been a mistake."

Now an uneasy atmosphere has built up between the Bittens and the Frankes.

Mrs Franke, who has four sons, said: "We have not spoken recently, but I am hoping that things are beginning to grow more peaceful between us and the Bittens now."

"Richard has been told off and it certainly won't happen again."

AIRCRAFT ICE BOMBS WOKING

A MAYBURY man and Woking police had a close encounter of the cold kind on Bank Holiday Monday . . . when a giant lump of green ice fell out of the skies over Woking.

It narrowly missed Mr. Frederick Shears, of Balmoral Drive, who quickly contacted the police and informed them of the unearthly object.

WPC Sue Harris arrived to find the "UFO" broken into three large chunks.

"They were coloured like crème de menthe and smelt like cleaning fluid," she said. Mr. Shears estimated that the object had been nine inches wide and dropped "like a bomb."

A sample was taken to

Woking Police Station and kept in a fridge while people racked their brains as to what the alien iceblock was made of.

After various unsavoury suggestions, one of which prompted the object's removal from

the fridge and hence destruction, it was discovered to be anti-freeze from an aircraft. The Civil Aviation Authority have been notified and will look into the incident. — Tim Masters.

WOKING NEWS AND MAIL 31 MAY 1984

Icy bolt from the blue

A PENSIONER escaped yesterday when a huge block of ice smashed through the roof of her bungalow.

Beatrice Dixon, 78, was in bed at home in Leicester when it plunged into the kitchen after ripping a 10ft hole in the roof.

She said: "It was terrible. I thought I'd been bombed. As plaster fell from the ceiling she scrambled to safety out of the window and raised the alarm."

The Civil Aviation Authority said a similar thing happened in Sussex three months ago, where the ice was analysed and found to have fallen from an aircraft. "We will be investigating if Mrs Dixon complains," it said.

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26 OCT. 1984

DAILY M. P. 26 OCT 1984

Terror of falling ice

A BLOCK of ice, believed to have fallen from a plane, smashed a 10ft hole in the roof of 78-year-old Beatrice Dixon's bungalow in Leicester at six o'clock yesterday morning. She was shaken but unhurt.