

J. M. G. (SGPT 1984) 9:91

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Table 14: MONTPELLIER (altitude 5 metres, latitude 43°35'N, longitude 3°58'E).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
T _x	17.9	18.5	20.8	24.2	26.9	31.2	33.7	33.1	30.1	25.0	20.8	17.4	34.5 °C
T	5.9	6.9	10.0	12.6	15.9	19.8	22.6	22.1	19.3	14.7	10.2	6.7	13.9 °C
T _n	-5.9	-5.9	-2.4	1.6	5.4	8.8	11.9	11.1	7.8	1.9	-2.0	-3.3	-7.9 °C
dress	n	n	n	n	s	t	t	t	s	n	n	n	-
p	56	30	72	56	47	33	20	40	100	95	70	90	709 mm
dp	8	6	8	8	9	5	3	8	7	9	9	10	88 days
Sun	145	166	206	251	275	323	369	304	249	185	145	124	2742 hr
%	50	56	56	62	60	70	79	70	66	54	50	45	61%

Table 15: PERPIGNAN (altitude 48 metres, latitude 42°44'N, longitude 2°52'E).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
T _x	19	21	22	24	28	32	34	34	33	26	22	19	36 °C
T	8	8	11	14	17	21	24	23	20	16	12	9	15 °C
T _n	-3	-3	1	4	8	12	15	15	11	5	2	-1	-4 °C
dress	n	n	n	n	s	s	t	t	s	n	n	n	-
p	39	52	66	39	52	38	24	31	82	74	55	87	639 mm
dp	5	4	7	4	6	5	4	4	5	6	3	7	60 days
Sun	163	171	217	256	263	283	320	284	226	183	157	140	2663 hr
%	56	57	59	64	35	62	69	66	60	53	53	50	60%

'CRYSTAL' BALL LIGHTNING

The *Nottingham Evening Post* of 5 June 1984 reported a recent ball lightning occurrence at the home of Mrs. Elsie Haigh, 172 Arnold Road, Basford, Nottingham (press clipping sent by David C. Osborne). Mrs. Haigh described seeing an 'electric' ball which was 'a sort of white colour, like a glass ball with a light inside.' In order to obtain the fullest possible details I wrote to Mrs. Haigh, and her reply to my questions are reproduced herewith.

Thank you for your letter and interest shown in my experience with ball lightning.

On Friday 1 June 1984 at approximately 5.45 p.m. I was in my kitchen. The window and door were both closed. I was standing with my back to the window when I heard a 'boiling noise' and a noise which sounded like glass splintering - a crash sound. I was very scared and turned around to face the window and saw a large glass-looking ball, approximately 10 inches diameter (25 cm), slightly oblong (oblate), with a white filament in the middle. This was floating on a bowl of water which was in the sink. I ran into the bathroom, and seconds later I heard an explosion and splintering glass. When it was quiet - I think a few seconds elapsed - I returned to the kitchen. The ball had gone and there was no damage. I can only describe it as a miracle.

I learned from my neighbour Mrs. Johnson that prior to my experience she was waiting at the bus stop on the same side of the road from my house with Mrs. Timson when they were 'struck' with the ball lightning. It went through their bodies and they had to be given brandy. Mr. Smith, another neighbour, saw both women waiting at the bus stop. He saw the ball roll down the lamp post (which is at the bus stop, the lamp is sodium I think) but he did not see where it went to. I can only assume it came into my house. My daughter telephoned the weather office at Watnall and they said it was ball lightning.

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I am now very interested to know what it really was and how it happened. As far as I can remember, the ball looked like clear glass with the white filament in the centre.

G. T. M.

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