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Excerpt from Chapter 18

The Extraordinary Incident at Rendlesham Forest

We went to the site where something had landed, and found the three indentations 1.5 inches deep and approximately 12 inches across on the ground in a triangular pattern. We took readings and discovered mild radiation and physical evidence, including a hole in the tree canopy above and broken branches. There were abrasions on the sides of trees facing the landing site. While documenting this examination by speaking into my tape recorder, I noticed some very strange sounds, which I thought were the nearby farmer's barnyard animals. "They're very, very active, making an awful lot of noise," I recorded on the tape.

Only seconds later, one of my men first observed a bright red-orange oval object with a black center in the forest. It reminded me of an eye and appeared as though blinking. It maneuvered horizontally through the trees with occasional vertical movement, zigzagging around the trunks as if under intelligent control. Here's an excerpt from my tape recorder as I watched, with some agitation:

Lt. Colonel Halt: We just bumped into the first light that we've seen. We're about a 150-200 yards from the site. Everything else is just deathly calm. There's no doubt about it, there's some kind of strange flashing red light ahead.

Sgt. Nevilles: Yeah, It's yellow.

H: I saw a yellow tinge in it too. Weird. It appears to be making a little bit this way?

Nevilles: Yes sir

H: It's brighter than it has been...It's coming this way. It's definitely coming this way.

Sgt. Ball: Pieces are shooting off!

H: Pieces of it are shooting off.

Sgt. Ball: at about eleven o'clock.

H: There's no doubt about it - this is weird!

When approached, it receded silently into the open field to the East. We watched in amazement for a minute or two. I recorded more on the tape:

H: Strange. One again left. Let's approach the edge of the woods at that point. Can we do without lights? Let's do it carefully, come on... OK we're looking at the thing, we're probably about two to three hundred yards away. It looks like an eye winking at you, it's still moving from side to side and when we put the star scope on it, it's sort of a hollow center right, a dark center, it's...

Lt. Englund: It's like a pupil...

H: It's like the pupil of an eye looking at you, winking...and the flash is so bright to the star scope, err.... it almost burns your eye.

The reflection from the object flickered brightly on the west windows of a farm house across the pasture, on the side facing us, and I was concerned for the residents' safety. We could see the Orford Ness Lighthouse further to the right and a mile or so away, on the far side of the farm house, throughout the event.

Suddenly, the object exploded into five white lights which quickly disappeared. We went into the field and looked for residue, but found nothing. We then observed several objects with multiple red, green and blue lights in the northern sky, which changed in shape from elliptical to round and moved rapidly at sharp angles. Several other objects were seen to the south and one approached at high speed, and then stopped overhead. It sent down a concentrated, white beam - a small, dense pencil-like beam, like a laser beam - very near to where I was standing. It illuminated the ground about ten feet from us, and we just stood there wondering whether it was a signal, some type of communication, or maybe a warning. We really didn't know. The beam switched off, and the object receded, back up into the sky. I reported on this, once again, into my pocket tape recorder.

An object also sent down beams that night near or into the weapons storage area. I was several miles away, but we could see a few beams, and they were reported on the radio from the location. Later, others from the weapons storage area told me they had seen the beams. That caused me a great deal of concern. What was it doing there?

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