

LPS INVESTIGATION

Nuthampstead

Former RAF Nuthampstead

16th May 2014

For our investigation in May we headed to northeast Hertfordshire to investigate the haunted RAF Nuthampstead airfield, once used by the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) Eighth Air Force 398th Bombardment Group (Heavy). We had visited the site in October 2012 and found it to be an interesting site, well worth a second visit.

Background: Being an aviation enthusiast Adam Gurney decided to pay a visit to the old airfield at Nuthampstead along with an old school friend. It was 1984 and by that time the airfield was a mere ghost of its original form with only a few remaining buildings and a section of runway in a very poor state.

It was just after dusk when they drove onto the runway and at first everything seemed alright. Twenty minutes later Adam suddenly felt compelled to look into his rear-view mirror and when he did he was surprised to see a ghostly horse and rider bearing down on the car at full gallop. Adam nudged his friend who looked round at the figure then quickly locked his door. This was all too much for Adam and he drove off as fast as he could, given the condition of the runway. Realising he couldn't go fast enough Adam drove around a clump of trees on the runway and turned off his car's engine and lights. When the figure did not appear Adam drove back onto the runway only to find that the horse and rider had vanished.

Four years later Adam Gurney met with Kerry-Leigh Parish, another aviation enthusiast, who was very interested in his story of the ghost. Kerry-Leigh tried to persuade Adam to take her to the airfield but it wasn't until the autumn of 1989 that he acquiesced. It was again just after dusk when they entered the airfield and Adam pointed out the area where he had encountered the ghost. Kerry-Leigh noted that at the time that the airfield was unusually quiet and that she felt uneasy and cold. After a while they started to explore the rest of the airfield and were on another track when they saw a pool of what at first they thought was water. Closer examination revealed it to be a 1.2 metres diameter pool of what looked like blood.

General: The night was a warm and dry one. There was very little wind and the sky was fairly clear with sparse cloud cover and a moon that was just past full. This area is a very quiet one with just the occasional sound of cars on the narrow road that runs from Nuthampstead to Cheapside, and passing aircraft. At the start of the investigation there was the sound of voices coming from the direction of the Woodman and the sound of wildlife, most likely deer, in the wooded areas.

Pre-Investigation: Whilst travelling in the car with Sarah C and Andy G, Dee finds herself talking a bit about horse riding, which comes into her head. Then, while walking along the access road to the main runway site for the investigation, Dee first has a very strong impression of 'human' activity over to her right across the field, hearing what sounds like people shouting or cheering/chanting (?). Then further along the access road, Dee has the sudden feeling that she wants to get on a horse and speed off along the grassy stretch to the left and mentions this to Andy F.

Investigation: We had originally planned to park near the Woodman Inn and take the short walk onto the airfield but all of the possible parking places were occupied. Instead we parked in nearby Park Farm Lane which, fortunately, was only 250 metres away. From there we walked back to Stocking Lane where the Woodman stands then along the lane to the perimeter track of the disused airfield.

Sarah had no feelings to report on the walk to the main site. Once at the main site at the crossroads the ambience changed to one of more on edge.

Once on the perimeter track we turned southwest by south to follow the track for 700 metres until we reached the southern end of the main runway. All that remains of the runway is a 3 metre wide strip of concrete, the rest of the runway having been removed and is now a wood stretching for 550 metres.

At the end of the runway we discussed what we were going to do for the investigation. Dee was drawn to the perimeter track as it continued around the airfield running northeast by east so she chose to head that way joined by Donna. The rest of the team chose to walk northeast along the main runway as far as the end of the wood.

Bill leaves his sound recorder at the end of the main runway on the edge of the shrub-line that borders the wood.

During the walk Andy F used his Ovilus 3 and it came up with the following information:

The name **Veronica** followed by the word **Female** then **Return**. A short period of no further information as the team returns back down the path then the Ovilus 3 bursts into life with the words **Glance**, **Suffix** and then **Life**, **Laugh** and **Holiday**. There is no further information recorded along the rest of the walk.

Sarah had nothing to report on the walk out, but on the walk back to the crossroads meeting point Sarah (and other members) felt warm spots on the breeze, possibly coming from thermals across the field.

To start Dee and Donna entered the wood of Scales Park which lies to the south of the airfield entering it via a path from near the end of the main runway which ran southwest into the wood.

The following is taken from Dee's digital voice recording, as she took no written notes:

21:32 Donna 'sees' a man standing some distance away by a tree. She says his name is *John* and he wants to know what we are doing here. Dee cannot see him, but does sense a busy atmosphere some distance away beyond the trees to her right (as facing the start of the runway).

21:36 After leaving the first area in the trees, Dee and Donna set off along the path near the treeline on the right side of the grassy runway and both stop in their tracks when they see a solid figure in the dimming light. The figure (who they believe at first to be one of the other LPS members or a local dog walker) is standing approximately 45 metres in front of them to the left side of the path near a small clump of grass. The outline of the figure is extremely clearly defined, but within 15 seconds has faded away completely. Both Dee and Donna are dumbstruck by the experience. They begin to move forwards along the path again.

21:38 Dee experiences severe chills and feels that she is being followed. Then she thinks she hears a shout coming from the treeline.

21:39 Dee states that the area feels a little bit more ominous and she witnesses flashes somewhere ahead that seem to light up the whole sky (like faint fireworks behind a hill).

21:40 Dee and Donna check out the area near the grassy clump where they had seen the solid figure minutes before and establish that there is nothing that could have caused an illusion. Dee sees more flashes seemingly across the sky.

21:42 Dee gets a strong sense of wanting to go (along the grassy runway) at great speed, but not in a plane. Nothing to do with planes. Speed. Racing cars? Horse racing?

21:45 Donna says someone has come up and asked her for a light (for a cigarette) and that she'd earlier heard the name 'Jay'. "Not a very British name" she says! Dee senses people milling about, going about their business some distance over behind the trees somewhere (as earlier).

21:46 Dee feels somewhat overwhelmed and can't single out anything specific...she is not entirely sure it is not residual energy and still maintains that things are 'busy' out beyond the treeline.

21:47 Dee becomes aware of the scratching sound to her left beyond Steph. It now sounds more clearly like munching; maybe a rabbit in the undergrowth at the edge of the field next to the pond area.

21:48 Dee sees another flash across the whole sky – even the central grassy field lit up momentarily.

21:51 Dee hears somebody calling out what sounds like 'Hey!' somewhere in/beyond the treeline.

21:54 Dee notes that she is not getting any sense whatsoever of planes.

21:57 While Dee and Donna are on their way back to where they started the vigil (the treeline is now on their left), Donna suddenly throws her arm out reflexively in front of Dee because she catches sight of what she believes to be the arm/hand of a real person walking out of the trees to cross their path. Interestingly, it is in the same general area that Dee had heard 'Hey' called earlier.

22:04 Dee is overcome with an incredibly strong feeling of wanting to get in a car or on a horse and just "go hell bent for leather down there" (grassy runway). Simply a "sense of speed". Donna asks Dee if it's a plane and Dee replies "Not sensed planes at all, which is really odd, as it's a bl**dy runway!!"

22:09 Dee says "Definitely feel like I want to race down there!" (Once more referring to the far end of the grassy runway).

22:15 When the other members return to the start of the runway, Dee asks Bill if the airfield was used for racing at some point; horse racing or vehicles. Bill acknowledges that the reputed haunting has something to do with horses, to which Dee is shocked "Can't be to do with horses, it's an air base!" She feels almost embarrassed to have mentioned horses at all!

22:16 Andy F's Ovilus (affectionately known as 'Oliver') interestingly pipes up with the word **Haste**.

The team decided to hold a vigil on the outskirts of the treeline to the east of the perimeter track where Donna and Dee had had their unusual experiences. Andy F chooses to go and sit in the middle of the trees nearby; Bill chooses to walk further along the perimeter track and do a quiet, seated vigil while other members continue with the investigation on the perimeter track in the area specified by Donna and Dee.

This side of the runway backed on to a deeper wooded area. Sarah noted this path felt much more loaded/heavier. When Andy G commented on the fact that he could sense two men (maybe more), Sarah could actually see the black outline of one man through the trees silhouetted against the lighter sky behind. The man looked as though he was moving from one foot to another. Sarah asked Andy G if this was where one of the men was and he confirmed this. Sarah could also see shimmers, moving in front of trees and shrubs by the path line at different times through this vigil.

Sarah has three photos to send in with interesting orbs in, and a possible shape by a tree.

The Ovilus 3 gives the name **Harriet** and this is quickly followed by the words **Solo**, **Lost** and **Killed**. There is no further information after this and at one point during this vigil Andy F is aware of a cold spot behind him. This is followed by all the electrical equipment Andy F is using suddenly switching off including the camcorder which has a fully charged large battery attached to it, and the sound recorder which actually records a loud whistle-like high pitched sound prior to being terminated. Andy F then undertakes a battery change and notices the cold spot has gone.

22:20 Andy F sets his radio off accidentally at which point the Ovilus says **Jerk**. Dee mentions that this is very much an Americanism.

22:22 Dee asks for “you guys” to come and talk to Andy F.

22:23 Dee says to Bill that she still gets the feeling of wanting to race something down the central strip (“get into a vehicle or horse or whatever”)...but is also getting a sense of “people going about their business back here” (indicating beyond the treeline). Dee has been sensing this all the time.

22:24 Andy F’s Ovilus says **Jerk** again!

22:28 Dee says “People are very busy going about their jobs over here” (all along beyond the trees).

22:33 Andy G mentions that he senses activity that long predates the airfield. He describes the individual he believes Dee and Donna saw earlier as wearing “white shirt with ruffles; black waistcoat; flat, low black hat – broad with small square bit on top. Can’t see his legs (standing back in the trees). No name...won’t speak. ...Injury to the back of the head. This is 1600s.”

22:39 Andy G says: “[This guy] is part of a group. Highwaymen? This is their area. Path runs right through to village.”

22:45 Andy F’s Ovilus changes mode on its own as Andy sets up for a vigil back in the trees.

22:46 Dee mentions that she thinks she “saw someone crouching just off the road towards the trees near a stump in the undergrowth”. It gives her the shivers.

22:47 Dee sets up her chair on the concrete path and settles down to do some observation into the trees (has her back facing the grassy runway). At this point Andy F falls over and lets out a rather colourful expletive.

22:50 Dee notices how very quiet it has become once everyone has settled into the investigation along the path.

22:56 Dee becomes extremely uneasy very quickly and notes “Feel like someone’s standing behind me” (there is no one).

22:57 Dee says “Do feel like someone’s sneaking up on me.”

22:58 Dee says “There’s definitely somebody creeping up behind me.”

22:59 Andy G comes over and says “He’s coming across this way.”

23:00 Dee sees something in the trees but isn’t sure what. She asks Andy G if the man “has something wrong with his hand?” To which Andy G replies “He’s very good with a knife.” Dee then asks Andy G “Does he sneak up and [she makes the indication of having her throat cut]” and Andy replies “Yes.” Dee realises this is possibly what she has been sensing.

23:01 Andy G starts to taunt a bit. “Come on, you ponce, stop skulking in the shadows.”

23:02 Dee suddenly says “I think he’s deaf.”

Andy G wanders away a bit and he and Donna begin talking quietly several metres away.

23:03 Dee leaps suddenly from her chair because she feels someone/something grab her right shoulder. It frightens her very much, as she could feel the fingers of a hand squeeze her. She turns immediately and there is no one near her.

23:05 Andy G says “This is a stand-off. We’re not going in there; he’s not going to come out.”

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Dee reiterates that she senses that "he is deaf – or one of them is."

the trees. Asks 'them' to intimidate him, steal his camera, push him off his chair, speak into his Ovilus...

23:17 Andy F comes out of the trees.

23:19 Ovilus says Choose.

23:26 Steph comes over to Dee and mentions that she feels someone walk past her and that she feels it was more residual than aware of her (like Dee had felt).

23:29 Dee doesn't feel upset about being in this area (as some members do), but is uncomfortable. Andy F joins her and asks if she is picking anything up. Dee mentions that she senses quite a lot of people just getting on with things; "busying about, like they're..." When Andy F asks her if she can be more specific, she struggles to explain, just stating "Busy area [indicating back over the treeline somewhere]...people doing their jobs. Can't see any buildings, but..."

23:30 Ovilus cuts in with Store.

"...going about their business and doing their jobs. Vague impression this has something to do with the base. Don't get anything dodgy. Uncomfortable because I'm in the middle of activity. Physical activity. Only sense it – I kind of see it in my mind, but not that clearly. I hear it and feel it. I'm actually feeling the activity – over beyond the trees (where we were before)."

Post-Vigil: At the end of the vigil Andy F is approached by Andy G and Dee who informed him that they had sent a spirit that they were in communication with over to him with the instruction to annoy him. Andy G describes this male spirit as being from the 16th Century with a large round hat and white shirt. The spirit in life had been known to cut people's throats and during this investigation had been observed by Andy G standing right behind Andy F and making it known what he would have liked to have done to Andy F.

En route back to the cars, Dee is worried about being followed, then begins talking to Andy F about 'Oliver' (the Ovilus) and says it [Oliver] is her favourite musical and starts singing "Oliver! Oliver! Never before has a boy wanted more..." A few minutes later, as we got to the path from the airfield to the village, the Ovilus suddenly said Twist!

Post-Investigation: It must be noted that on the journey home, Sarah hit a hare on Hare Street, near to the March Hare pub (damaging the car valance). During the first vigil Andy F had a result on the Ovilus that said March and on reflection Sarah thought that maybe what Andy F picked up was relevant to the whole area, and did not mean "to march".

On reviewing her photographs and digital recordings, Dee reports that no anomalies were found. Also, she felt shaken by her experience of being grabbed on the shoulder for several days!

Supplementary: During the investigation Marion, who could not attend the investigation, worked at home using an aerial photograph.

Marion picked up a man who worked on a farm on this land and lived in the area. He was born in 1898. He served in WW1, working with horses some of which came from the farm. He was shot in the head and badly injured. Marion feels this is the left side of his face. The injuries healed but left him with some damage so that he was never quite himself again. His head now lolled to the left. He wasn't capable of working on the land any more but still able to trot round the land which he was allowed to do. His horse was a chestnut and he died in 1955. Marion is getting the surname Roberts with this man.

Report by Bill King