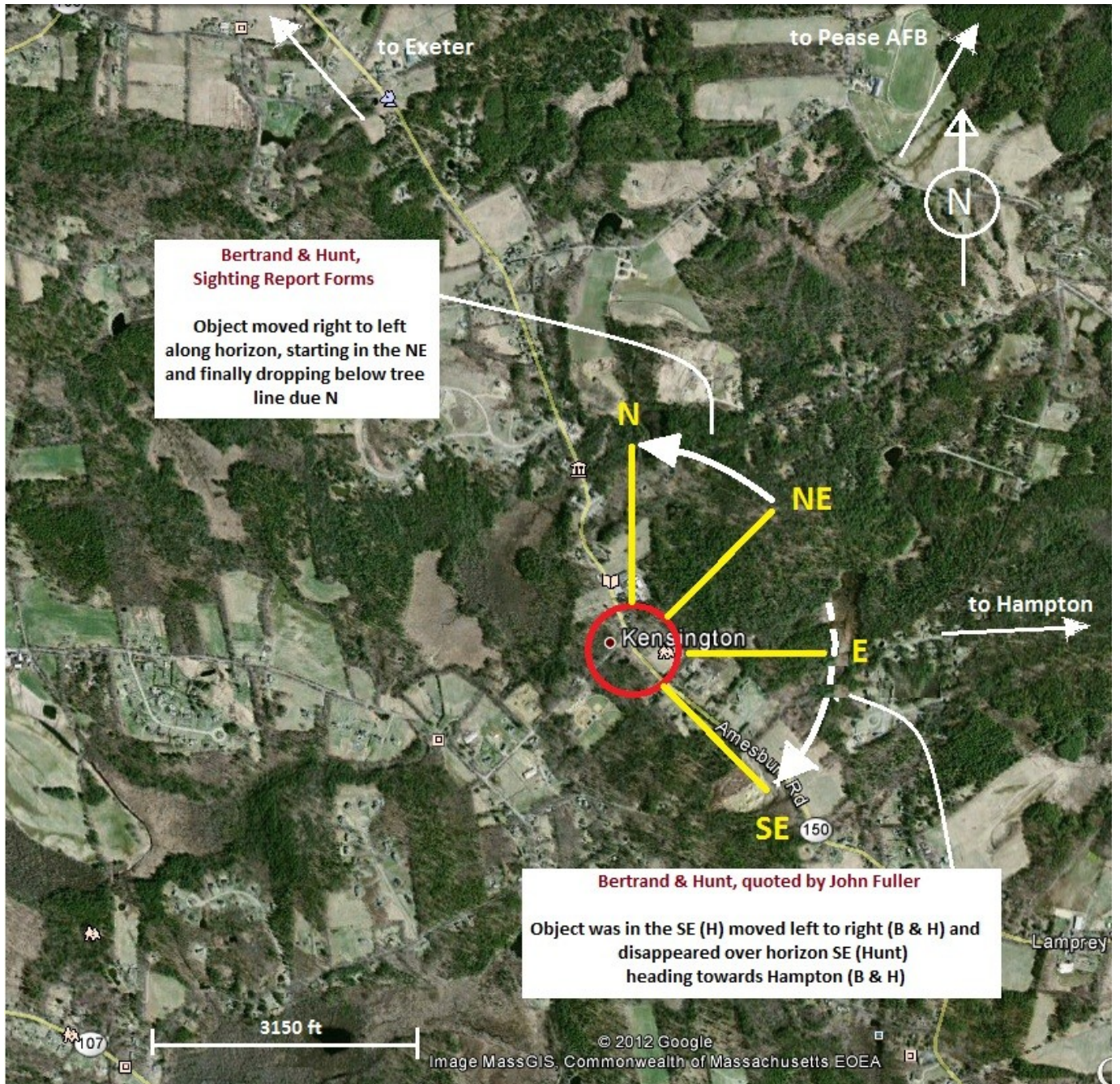


>Greetings List,
 >On my lunch break but I thought I'd ask where we stood on the
 >directions issue for Exeter. The latest information I have is the
 >maps from Mike Swords and the commentary by Martin Shough:

Hi Fran

Thanks. You also have the map from me, don't forget, which illustrates graphically what the problem is.



Let me add another couple of sources of information about this directions puzzler.

1) Here's the first account of the sighting in the NICAP UFO Investigator:

Officer David R. Hunt arrived from Exeter in time to view the UFO for about six minutes. By then it

was moving away slowly, but he saw red lights pulsating in sequence "brighter than headlights at close range." Moving on a westward course, the UFO disappeared below the tree line.

(NICAP UFO Investigator Vol 111 No.4 (Aug-Sept 1965) p.3)

No doubt this relies very heavily on Ray Fowler's first-hand info direct from Bertrand and Hunt. Note again the direction of disappearance given here, "westward" – right to left across the northern treeline, as stated and drawn in both officers' report forms. Nothing here, or (as far as far as I can tell) in Fowler's field report, or in the report forms, or anywhere else, suggests that this "last" view of the UFO in the North was not really the last. I can find no hint of anyone saying that it came back again. We ought to place a lot of weight on these sources, right?

2) Now here's a very late (1979) interview with Bertrand which shows that he still stood by the different scenario that he and Hunt gave to Fuller and others in 1965:

We got back to the cruiser and Officer Hunt showed up. The three of us watched it for a minute. It took off and headed towards the coast, making no noise, just about treetop level. ... Well, I was talking to Hunt. We watched it until it disappeared and I asked, "Where do you think it is now?" He said, "I think it's probably over to Hampton." Just then we got a call on the radio. We heard Hampton talking — and they had just got a call that some man in Hampton had a red object swoop down at his car.

(Bertrand, 1979 Exeter High School student interview)

Note that the object disappears left-right, west-east, heading for Hampton "towards the coast".

3) Here is a similarly late interview with Muscarello. (In fact, this is the only interview I know. I can't find any contemporaneous sources in Muscarello's own words other than his AF statement, which as we know mentions no directions.)

I observed pulsating lights coming from the north, heading in a southwesterly direction, towards where I was. I assume the speed must have been something terrific because it came up on me all of a sudden, like this! (Snaps his fingers.) Very distant, pulsating erratically I couldn't make out any distinct pattern, circles or anything like that. It was just very bright. Could not make out a silhouette at all. I didn't know what it was. There was absolutely no sound, other than the fact that I heard horses in Dining's field, raising holy hell, kicking the bam. Crickets seemed to just quit.... My attention was fixed on these lights. I didn't know what it was. Passed over, kind of like disappeared. I don't know what direction it went in. I was kind of dazed. My eyes were like, you know, seeing spots you go through when somebody takes your picture with a camera. Got my eyes cleared ~ son of a gun — here it comes again. I don't have to tell you, you get kind of nervous out there. I mean I'm all alone; there's nobody else standing there to refer to. I mean, is this guy smoking something? I just froze up. I didn't know quite what to do. I got scared. I ran across the street. I didn't actually dive, I fell, because I tripped on something and I fell into the ditch, and I lay there with my head down. And I looked up, and it was like the whole side of this house which was next door, the next house down from Dining's --I didn't know the people at the time, but I found out that it was Mr. Russell later -- the whole side of the building seemed to turn out like a blood red. And yet the lights weren't completely all red either. It was a white house and these lights were still pulsating in erratic positions. I couldn't make out any design or silhouette at all, and then (he whistles), it took off. I don't even know what direction it took off in because I had my head down after that.

(Muscarello, 1980 interview by staff and pupils Exeter High School)

So here is what Muscarello says he actually remembered about where the UFO went: Nothing.

What is the source of the assumption we are making that Muscarello's object (sighting #1) disappeared to the SE? I had this idea in my mind, same as Mike, and I thought – as I explained before – that this might explain Maj Griffin's confusion about the directions reported by Bertrand and Hunt if he was lumping the sightings together. But it looks as if this theory doesn't work out. Actually Muscarello never says exactly where the object went (please let me know me if I'm missing something), Instead the various accounts of what he said imply or suggest that it "backed away" towards the treeline, more or less back in the direction it had come from from. This is vague, but he is clear that the object appeared to approach from the N heading SW, so the indicated reciprocal direction of departure would be more or less opposite to "SE".

The only thing I can come up with is this: We know that Griffin interviewed Muscarello, and we know that Bertrand's and Hunt's reports had the object vanishing in the North, so we have made the assumption that the "South East" departure direction in Griffin's report must refer to Muscarello. But there is actually no evidence that it does. On the other hand there is very good documentary evidence that a departure "SE" was described many times by Bertrand and Hunt – in direct contradiction to both their report forms.

My suggested explanation is that for some unexplained reason the accounts collected by Fowler, and recorded in his field report and in his AF report forms, ignore the *second* half of the event where the object reappeared and then headed for the coast, whilst the accounts collected by Fuller and others ignore the *first* half of the event (for reasons even harder understand) where the object vanished in the opposite direction before coming back. I admit this is not a good explanation at all. But I can't do better without taking a hatchet to the testimony. Can anyone else do better?

Martin