



Newsletter

'S'-types on TV—*Strange Report*



ITV title card

Strange Report is a British television detective drama broadcast from September 21, 1969 to January 11, 1970 on ITV. The series was brought back on UK satellite channel Bravo in 1996-97, and on UK digital channel ITV4, in 2005-6, (the episode *Report 4407: Heart - No Choice for the Donor*, starring an 'S'-type, was not screened by ITV4).

The *Strange Report* is little remembered unlike other ITC Entertainment productions in which **we have found our beloved 'S'-type**: The *Baron* (Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 5), *The Champions* (Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 4E), *Gideon's Way* (Newsletter Vol. 8, Nos. 5 & 6), *The Persuaders!* (Newsletters Vol. 5, No. 3 and Vol. 7, No. 4E), *The Protectors* (Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 4E), *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* (Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 4E), and *The Saint* (Newsletter Vol. 9, No. 3).

Those series were produced primarily to be sold to the American market. *Strange Report* was also created in collaboration with an American network, NBC's films unit. The idea was that the first season would take place in the United Kingdom and the second would see Strange visiting the United States. This idea fell through and only sixteen British episodes were filmed. But NBC did broadcast *Strange Report* in the USA from January 8, to

September 10, 1971 on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The series originally shot on 35mm film, was digitally restored in 2003 and released on DVD in the UK as a 5 Disc Special Edition in 2004 and as a 4 Disc Edition in 2005. The series was also released on DVD in Australia in 2007.

A paperback novel of on the TV series was written by John Burke and published by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. The book is based on



Strange Report, John Burke, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., 1970

the first two episodes: *Report 5055: Cult - Murder Shrieks*, about an electrocuted pop star and a cult masquerading as a charity, and *Report 0649: Skeleton - Let Sleeping Heroes Lie*, in which a World War II-era skeleton is dug up in a bombed-out house.

In the TV series, the two star cars are Adam Strange's 1957 Austin FX3 taxi and Ham Gynt's 1946 Norton 16H motorbike. Burke only mentions Strange's taxi twice in the **book, once as an "old taxi" and later as just "taxi"** while Ham Gynt's motorbike is never referred to.

Our beloved 'S'-type, the action star of the series, appearing in 13 of the 16 episodes, is never mentioned specifically. A black 'S'-type police car appears in five scenes and

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a total of nearly one-minute on screen, in the first episode. In the second episode, it is in three scenes for over one-minute. The author sparingly included "squad car", "police car", and "two police cars" in a few scenes and mentioned "police driver" and "two uniformed men". The book was reprinted in the USA by Lancer Books, New York.

Adam Strange (Anthony Quayle), a retired Home Office criminologist, devotes his time, on an unofficial basis, to solving unusual cases that hap-

pen to catch his interest. He uses the latest (at that time!) forensic equipment and techniques in a laboratory in his flat in Warwick Crescent in the Maida Vale area of London. He is assisted by two young friends, Hamilton 'Ham' Gynt (Kaz Garas), an American scholar based at the British Museum, and Evelyn McLean (Anneke Wills), an artist and model.



DVD cover

Adam Strange drives a

1957 Austin FX3 black taxi, registered TWK822 (a Coventry



Registration), and Ham Gynt rides a 1946 Norton 16H motor-bike, with a single cylinder 490cc side valve engine, registered MMC656 (North East London).



Strange Report differs from the other more fantastic and escapist thriller series of the time, dealing with the reality of late '60s London and tackling such subjects as illegal immigration, racism, student militancy and euthanasia. Filming the episodes in recognizable contemporary London adds to the realism and authenticity and makes the episodes a car watchers delight.

There are 16 fifty-minute episodes of *Strange Report*. 'S'-types appear in thirteen of them with a total of 39 scenes. Three different 'S'-types are in the series. The most appearances are by a black 1966 'S'-type police car, registered BHE884C (Sheffield). It is in nine episodes with all being three-star roles except for one. There is also a white 1966 'S'-type, registered LMU364C (North East London). It makes three appearances, all three star roles, two as a police 'S'-type and one as a civilian car driven by bad guys. The other 'S'-type is a red car that that is seen moving in

the background in a scene in episode 14. See table on page 6 of this *Newsletter*.

Episode 1 of *Strange Report*, *Report 5055: Cult – Murder Shrieks*, was first broadcast September 21, 1969. Guitarist Jay Brand is electrocuted while playing at the fundraising rally of the Cypress Fund, a religious organization run by a Norwegian, Lars. Brand's singing partner, Maggie Jones, comes to Adam Strange because, although the verdict was accidental death, she suspects foul play. Brand thought that Cypress was a crooked cult.

At Brand's funeral they learn that he left all of his money to the Cypress fund. Strange decides to investigate further and finds a rune code imbedded in the fund's computer system. Maggie disappears. Hamlyn Gant infiltrates the organization, is discovered and locked in a basement with Maggie. Strange figures out that Cypress is diverting shipments of food and material for the needy and selling them illegally. He convinces Inspector Morrell and Scotland Yard agrees to raid the Grant Waterman & Co warehouse.

A black 'S'-type police car, registered BHE884C, is the first to arrive on the scene. They find evidence of smuggling and head for Cypress fund headquarters. The 'S'-type leads a maroon police Austin A60 Cambridge (with Strange and the Inspector in it) and a Wolseley 6/110 MkI police car. They race through the countryside and when they arrive at Cypress HQ, find out that Lars has left for Paris in a helicopter, taking a black attaché case full of money. They rescue Maggie and Gynt, learn that a traitor substituted the attaché full of money for one with a bomb in it. Strange warns Lars, but the helicopter is over London and he will not throw the bomb out. The helicopter blows up.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrElu_Byvvs&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=2&t=0s

The second *Strange Report* episode was aired September 28, 1969, *Report 0649: Skeleton – Let Sleeping Heroes Lie*, begins with a



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man being murdered in London during a World War 2 air raid. When the body is found thirty years later, someone breaks into the coroner's office and steals the body's personal effects.

Strange is curious and when he learns that there was a key among the effects, but that it was missed by the thief. He begins to investigate. He and Ham trace the key to a house in the East End where the chauffeur to a wealthy tycoon had lived during the war. Remnants of Nazi occupation currency are found hidden in the house. Strange teams up with the Military Intelligence (MI) agent who had killed the man during the war and is still tracking a traitor. They confront the tycoon and Strange is kidnapped.

The black police 'S'-type and the Wolseley police car race to an old quarry to rescue Strange. His taxi cab, with him in it, had been pushed into the quarry pond. The police pull Strange from the sunken taxi, arrest the kidnapper and the traitorous tycoon is shot by the MI agent.



See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpN2kRLXZg&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWk95CNAvbQ&index=3&t=0s

Episode 3, Report 2641: Hostage – If You Won't Learn, Die! was broadcast October 5, 1969. **The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Sung-Lee** is kidnapped while attending an art exhibition. The Chinese demand an independent investigator so Inspector Cavanaugh takes Strange to the Chinese embassy in the black police 'S'-type.



The kidnappers want Edward Deeds, who is being held in Peking, released. As Strange's investigation gets closer, the British government says the exchange will go forward. But the Chinese tell them Deeds is dead. Ham impersonates Deeds for the exchange, the kidnappers (Deeds psychotic brother and a journalist who had also been held by the

Chinese) are arrested and taken away in two black Wolseley police cars.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGu7K_Ay9pc&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWk95CNAvbQ&index=4&t=0s

Report 0846: Lonelyhearts – Who Killed Dan Cupid?, Episode 4 of Strange Report, was broadcast October 12, 1969. After the meeting of a lonelyhearts club, Stevan Milner, the organizer is found dead out walking his Corgi. A black 'S'-type police car responds and an ambulance takes the body away.

Strange discovers that one of the women at the meeting is associated with a gang that is planning a large diamond robbery. Milner had discovered the plot and was going to tell the police.

Strange, working with the police and a security company, pinpoints the robbery location. The police arrive in two Rover police cars and the black 'S'-type. After a shootout, the gang is arrested and the briefcase full of diamonds is recovered.

See full episode at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10UcLGD11G0&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWk95CNAvbQ&index=5&t=0s

Episode 5, Report 8319: Grenade – What Price Change?, was broadcast October 19, 1969. Violent student demonstrations and protests followed the May '68 Paris upheavals. Redcliff University is planning to undertake defense research on their campus. There are two opposing views and each group plans to protest on Foundation Day. The police receive a sample of the weapons to be used at the demonstration – a lethal light-bulb bomb. Police superintendent Shaw takes Strange and Ham into the country, in a white 'S'-type police car, where they explode the bomb.

Ham infiltrates the university as a student, Strange gives a lecture on criminology and Evelyn gets a job with the firm that prints posters for the groups. Ham traces the origin of the light-bulb bomb to Mr. Pater who has strong political views and a connection to the



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student group favouring force. Evelyn finds a connection between the printing firm and a dealer in military surplus equipment. Ham tails one of the protest leaders on a bus (a mk2 is seen behind the bus) to a rendezvous with a lorry full of light-bulb bombs.

Strange and superintendant Shaw set up a road block with the white police 'S'-type. The Lorry (with Ham in the rear) turns around and a four minute car chase ensues. Ham throws light-bulb bombs out of the lorry to help the pursuing police. The lorry turns into a quarry and the police car misses the turn. Ham throws another bomb and the police car reverses, and finds the quarry where, after a fight, the bad guys are subdued and arrested.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXfqMTECJE8&list=PLZjO_fnl7gHjO_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=6&t=0s

Report 3424: Epidemic – A Most Curious Crime, Episode 7, broadcast November 2, 1969, examines the issues of illegal immigration and people trafficking. The brother of a **Pakistani colleague of Ham's** arrives in London. At a welcome party he falls ill and is taken away by two Englishmen. He is then found in the river Thames and Strange determines he has been murdered – and was suffering from Cholera. An immigration officer asks Strange to join his investigation.

In a one and one-half minute sequence, the **black 'S'-type** police car and police Wolseley cruise through the Pakistani colony broadcasting instructions for all people to come to a medical van for **vaccination against cholera**. The 'S'-type is seen many times.

Strange's investigation uncovers a human trafficking ring and the police bring them to justice.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zllknagg26s&list=PLZjO_fnl7gHjO_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=7

Episode 8, Report 2475: Revenge – When a Man Hates, was broadcast November 8, 1969. James Hanson is released after seven years

in prison. He vows to his wife that he will kill the three people responsible for sending him away – the judge, the prosecutor, and Adam Strange.

The judge is shot in his black Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud. The prosecutor goes **abroad to get out of harm's way**. **Hanson's wife fears for her son** and visits Strange to ask for help. Strange and Inspector Jenner, played by a young John Thaw (who would later star in *The Sweeney* and play Inspector Morse) race to **the Hanson boy's school in a black 'S'-type** police car only to discover Hanson has already been there and taken his son to a country cabin.

They head off and are joined by the black police Wolseley. Travelling some rough lanes they reach the cabin and Strange talks Hanson into giving himself up.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-puFx9LML0&list=PLZjO_fnl7gHjO_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=8

Episode 9, Report 1021: Shrapnel – The Wish in the Dream, was broadcast November 23, 1969. There is an **explosion at Halliday's Chemicals**. The white 'S'-type police car, the black Wolseley police car, an ambulance and a fire truck respond. A researcher, Paul Weber, who should have been at a military reunion, is dead.

Strange receives a tape with a coded message. Ham decodes it. It says the explosion was **n't an accident**. **Strange begins to investigate**. **Weber's wife and Halliday have been having an affair**. The autopsy finds that Weber was dead before the explosion and a piece of Japanese shrapnel is in the body – but Weber did not serve in the Pacific.

Then Weber re-appears. He had suspected his wife and boss were having an affair and plotting his death but they **couldn't go through with it and weren't charged**. So Weber found a body, blew it up the laboratory and planned a murder suicide for them. **Strange discovered the plot and both a black 'S'-type police car and a white 'S'-type police car** are seen for about one one-half minutes during the arrest and under the final credits.

See the full episode at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>



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[v=R7vMh5OEasQ&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7vMh5OEasQ&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=9)

Episode 11, Report 1553: Racist – A Most Dangerous Proposal, was broadcast December 7, 1969. The episode deals with immigration and the effects of racism in the wake of Enoch Powell's infamous 1967 'Rivers of Blood' speech. MP Glyn Crowley, a rabid racist, speaks **out strongly against Britain's immigration policies.** A shot through the window of his house kills a clergyman attending a meeting promoting integration organized by his daughter Jill. Strange is asked to investigate as Scotland Yard does not want to arrest Crowley unless his guilt can be proven.

Crowley's team point the blame at an Afrikaner named Brandt.



Strange tricks Brandt into thinking the police are closing in and he makes a break for the Continent in a Humber Sceptre. Strange and Ham, in the FX3 taxi follow him to

Lydd airport in Kent. At that time, air ferries were popular and significantly faster and not much more expensive than the sea ferries. The cars are backed into the Bristol Freighter as passengers board.

Brandt has a nervous breakdown and confesses that the whole thing was **planned by Crowley's handlers.** Strange explains it to Inspector Matthews. The **black 'S'-type** police car is in two scenes as they go to **Crowley's office to make the arrests.**



See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4e4iqSUSME&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=11

Report 4821: X-Ray – Who Weeps for the Doctor?, Episode 13, broadcast December 21, 1969 begins with the death of a brilliant young neurosurgeon Dr. John Anders. He had just been diagnosed with a fatal brain tumor and, as a diabetic, had injected himself with an overdose of insulin.

But the autopsy does not show any tumor so Strange is called in. Ham **finds that the hospital's filing system would allow x-rays to be easily switched.** Strange discovers that Nurse Cole had **assisted Anders' suicide** believing he was really dying.



Strange traces the x-ray exchange to a Miss

Collingford whose husband's x-rays had inadvertently been switched and had died during an operation by Dr. Anders.

The black police Wolseley leads the black 'S'-type police car to the hospital where Strange prevents Miss Collingford from jumping off the roof and Inspector Franklin arrests Nurse Cole. They are taken away in the two cars in a minute and one-half closing scene.



See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yckthp6Y5kE&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=13

Report 2493: Kidnap – Whose Pretty Girl Are You?, was Episode 14, first broadcast December 28, 1969. A contestant in a beauty contest is disqualified. Then she goes missing and a ransom note is left. Adam Strange is called in to determine if it was a real kidnapping or a publicity stunt.

The ransom exchange is to take place in Hyde Park near **speaker's corner.** As Strange is watching, a glimpse of a red 'S'-type is seen going north on Park Lane. What started as a stunt to raise money for a charity turns deadly. Strange, with Inspector Lowe in the Wolseley, catch the real villain.



See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WOLYNbqdO8&list=PLZjO_fnL7gHj0_JeABE1wWkbb95CNAvbQ&index=14

Report 4407: Heart, "No Choice for the Donor" was the next-to-last episode, broadcast January 4, 1970. An infamous South American dictator, Banaitos, needing a heart transplant, is in London. A noted heart surgeon, Dr. Sanders, has disappeared. A professional Tennis player is found dead.

Strange discovers that the tennis player had the same rare blood type as Banaitos, believes he had been chosen as a human heart sacrifice, but had been found by the police before the surgery could be performed by Dr. Sanders. Banaitos will need to find another involuntary heart donor.

Strange publicizes Ham Gynt as a physically fit English channel swimmer, having the same blood type as Banaitos. Gynt is taken by **Banaitos' men in a white (black interior) disc-wheeled 'S'-type** registered LMU364C.

The drive to the deserted mansion, where the heart transplant is to take place, is the final part of the



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episode and is about seven minutes in length. Strange, and the police, are watching in a dark maroon Rover 3-litre Mk2 and follow as the 'S'-type heads north on the A16 and through traffic.

A red Vauxhall Victor joins the pursuit as the 'S'-type proceeds down country lanes narrowly avoiding a tractor pulling a hay wagon, which blocks the police until they veer off the lane to overtake it.

Ham begins to get suspicious, so they inject him with a drug. The 'S'-type comes to a side lane closed for road works. They open the barrier and proceed. The police miss the turning. The 'S'-type enter the grounds of an empty mansion. Ham is taken from the 'S'-type, put onto a gurney and wheeled into the mansion for the operation.

The police figure it out, arrive at the mansion, overpower the guards at the gate house, and



stop the operation. Ham is saved. Dr Sanders is shot by one of the gang, but recovers. Banaitos is sent back home to die.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOv5J0DJc3Q&list=PLZjO_fnl7gHj0_JeABE1wWk95CNAvbQ&index=15

Report 4977: Swindle – Square Root of Evil, was the 16th and last episode of *Strange Report*. It was broadcast January 11, 1970.

Britain's largest banknote printing firm is swindled out of £30 million in foreign currency.

Strange is called in to investigate. He determines that the foreign ambassador's voice on the telephone was an impersonator and tracks down the American comedian who did the impersonation. He gives up the location of the gang. Strange and Inspector Peters arrive at the flat in a white 'S'-type police car, but the flat is empty.

The smell of fish lead them to the docks and a fishing trawler where they make the arrest with the white police 'S'-type in the background.

See the full episode at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KEIBIUwUAs&list=PLZjO_fnl7gHj0_JeABE1wWk95CNAvbQ&index=16

The Trailer for *Strange Report* can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2piBdim6A> and shows part of the hay wagon car chase in the Heart episode (but not the 'S'-type!).



'S'-type Appearances and Roles in Strange Report

Episode	Title	white S'-type police car LMU364C	black S'-type police car BHE884C	white S'-type civilian car LMU364C	red S'-type civilian car
1	Cult		5 scenes 3 star		
2	Skeleton		3 scenes 3 star		
3	Hostage		1 scene 2 star		
4	Lonely Hearts		1 scene 2 star		
5	grenade	4 scenes 3 star			
6	Cover Girls				
7	Epidemic		3 scenes 3 star		
8	Revenge		3 scenes 3 star		
9	Shapnel	2 scenes 3 star	2 scenes 1 star		
10	Hand				
11	Racist		3 scenes 3 star		
12	Sniper				
13	X-Ray		2 scenes 3 star		
14	Kidnap				1 scene 1 star
15	Heart			7 scenes 3 star	
16	Swindle	2 scenes 3 star			