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"That's not a flying saucer. That's a discus thrown by that Meadow Gold Milk drinker out at D. U. Stadium."

Flying Disc Visits Texas; Boy Vows He Touched It

AMARILLO, Texas, April 9.—(UP).—A 12-year-old boy swore today he actually touched a junior-sized flying saucer before it "made a whistling noise and took off" after a lone-minute stay on earth.

Furthermore, the lad had the word of his companion to back up his claim—plus a red arm and face he said resulted from a gas or spray emitted by the strange object.

Both insisted their stories were true.

Believed It Balloon

David Lightfoot told the Amarillo Globe News he and his 9-year-old cousin, Charles Lightfoot, were fishing yesterday about 10 miles northeast of here when the weird episode began.

David said they sighted what they first thought was a balloon. The object passed only a few feet over their heads, he said. The contraption landed just beyond a slight hill.

The boy described it as about the same circumference as an automobile tire, and about 18 inches thick.

"It was rounded on the bottom with a top resembling a plate. The top part was separated from the top by about one-inch of space, but the parts were held together

by some sort of screw in the middle," he said.

David said he noticed the small area between top and bottom was "real red, like it was on fire or something."

Top Was Spinning

The youth said the top half was still spinning as he approached. "My fingers barely touched it," he said. "It was slick like a snake and hot, too."

Before he could get a firm hold, David said, the top began spinning faster "and made a whistling noise and took off." It disappeared in less than 10 seconds.

The boy said the blue-gray object released a gas or spray in taking off which turned his arms and face a bright red, and caused small welts.

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1963 - 1972 - Australia (various)

From the Joint Intelligence Bureau of New Zealand's Ministry of Defence (a division with close ties to the British MOD's Defence Intelligence Staff), I learned that numerous such 'spheres' had been recovered throughout Australia in the period 1963 to 1972, and, curiously enough, all had been claimed by US authorities as having originated with their space programme.

All of the spheres were approximately two feet in diameter, and had been recovered in areas including New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland. Whether the Australian authorities were satisfied with the explanations put forth by the Americans as they sought to explain the discovery of the spheres was not made clear from a reading of the files; however, it was evident that the governments of New Zealand and Australia were involved in the recovery of at least twelve such spheres in less than ten years. The New Zealand Joint Intelligence Bureau went as far as to classify its findings at 'Restricted' level.

By far the most interesting piece of evidence made available to me by Australian and New Zealand authorities was a 1972 newspaper clipping that referenced one of the 'sphere crashes' on Australian territory in 1963. According to the report, two spheres had been recovered approximately one hundred and fifty miles north of Broken Hill, and the Broken Hill Police had arranged to have the objects flown to the National Weapons Research Establishment (NWRE) at Adelaide for examination. Unfortunately for the police, the pilot of the air-craft refused to allow the mystery spheres on board lest they explode!

Ultimately, the police were forced to transfer the spheres by road. However, after examination by specialist staff at the NWRE, it was determined that the spheres were neither Soviet nor American in origin. From where, then, did they originate? The newspaper apparently did not know, and those in authority were saying nothing. It was yet another bizarre episode in my attempt to chronicle the many and varied UFO crashes that had occurred throughout the world since at least the late 1940s.