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journal of
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AUSTRALIA

DEFINITION

We define the UFO as the reported perception of an object or light, seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification if one is possible.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

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Editorial

by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

Well, it has come in the mail again - the little green magazine (LGM?) called the "ACOS BULLETIN". Time again to read what others are thinking about (will Keith Basterfield be writing again? We should be hearing from Bill Chalker soon ! Wonder what David Seargent is raving on about this time?)

IS THIS WHAT YOU THINK WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN?

Come on now, be honest. Don't you like to read what THEY are thinking? But if this is your attitude - if you really do see the Bulletin as "their" publication, and if you think of "them" as being some group of experts sitting in hallowed halls of ufological learning at Gosford, Sydney and Adelaide, then we have a surprise for you. "They" are YOU'.

You are ACOS. The ACOS Bulletin is YOUR publication. YOU are the experts in this field (as far as ANYONE is an expert in this field) and it is up to you to keep this Bulletin well supplied with articles of a standard suitable for Australian readership. Only in this way, can this really be YOUR Bulletin.

Think about it for a moment. Do we call this publication the "Basterfield-Seargent-Chalker Bulletin?"

Of course not! They are no more ACOS than anyone else who participates in Australian UFO research. Neither do they set any "policy" any "doctrinal" position to be upheld at all costs. If someone writes an article that makes you bristle - then WRITE! You won't be shot at dawn or taken away by the Men in Black! Looking forward to hearing from you.....

Editorialby Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

"But I can remember back when, for instance, you had to hide your UFO magazine inside your copy of Playboy, or people would regard a UFO-believer with great suspicion.....

"Well, that's what's happening to UFO-believing: everything is getting so scientific and correct and proper that now you have to hide your copy of Penthouse inside a UFO magazine, or people will not think you are in."

So wrote the columnist John Keasler, under the heading, "Everything is so scientific...UFO Believer's Lament", He refers directly to our publication: "One I get every month, quite possibly the best of the lot, puts me in mind of nothing so much as U.S. News and World Report....

Title of this publication is 'International UFO Reporter' and you can read it until any given galaxy freezes over and there is hardly a mention of undersized verdant bipeds. The big Boo quotient is way off...Right beneath the masthead is a quote which says 'There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox - Niels Bohr'."

He asks, "Where are we to go now, all we folk who need, badly need, juicy, near-demented UFO stories?"

Thank you Mr. Keasler, for a profound compliment! Our publication is true to the principles of science. If a UFO report turns out to be an advertising plane, or a hot-air prank balloon, we do not try to make it into a raffish, undersized verdant biped. What purpose would that serve? BUT...when close investigation reveals a truly puzzling case which even we can't honestly explain, then we give the results of our investigations without needless yellow-journalistic sensationalism. The UFO phenomenon is sensational enough in itself without journalistic embellishment. And, as to our masthead quotation - Niels Bohr, a profound philosopher as well as the father of modern atomic physics, knew well that it's the "things that don't fit" into our modern scientific belief system, that lead to breakthroughs. The things "that fit" lead merely to further refinement of present theories. We strongly suspect that the UFO phenomenon - as an overall phenomenon - does NOT fit - and therein lies the Challenge!

The Lama and the UFO.by D. Seargent

Tibet, the once forbidden country, the roof of the world, the home of demigods. Tibet the mystical, the magical; where dream and reality have never been sundered by absolute dividing lines as they are in the West. This was the land of the Dali Lama, the monk-king, and strange beliefs which have always fascinated the Western mind (though seldom has the West been given the true Tibetan teachings - theosophical distortions have seen to that!)

One of the foremost authorities on Tibet and its teachings was Lama Alexandra David-Noel, who died in 1969 at the age of 101 years (that's what the pure air of Tibet does for you!).

In the course of her journeys through the forbidden land the "Lady Lama" gathered together a great deal of legend and teaching and this has been published for Western readers in a series of fascinating books which surely must act as a correction to the great deal of pseudo-Tibetan teaching circulating at the moment (names will not be mentioned, but a certain gentleman, sometimes pictured with a cat on his head, had better take note!).

It is not my purpose, here, to go into details about Tibetan mysticism - Lama David-Neel does this much better than I and her books are easily available. What does interest me, however, is her account (in "Magic and Mystery in Tibet") of the creation of thought-forms or "Tulpas", as this comes very close to my own ideas on the formation of certain parapsychical entities - including UFOs.

A tulpa is a psychic being or projection created by Tibetan magicians, but it is no mere etherial thing. Apparently, adept magicians can even send their tulpas on errands and project them into dangerous situations to appear on behalf of the magician. There are also stories (in true Frankenstein fashion) of tulpas escaping from the power of the magician and creating havoc even turning on their creators and killing them! Lama David-Neel treats these types of stories with a good deal of scepticism, although she certainly does not reject them out of hand. But as for the tulpas themselves, she believes in them. She has to. She has not only seen them, touched them and spoken with them - she even created one herself!

One day, Lama David-Neel was visited by an artist who took especial delight in drawing the forms of the wrathful deities. To her surprise (and unperceived by the artist himself) he brought one of his subjects with him! Standing right behind him was the ghost-like form of one of the deities he had been drawing.

Lama David-Neel actually touched the apparition, only to find that it melted away on contact (shades of angel's hair?). She described its feel as "(like) touching a soft object whose substance gave way under the slight push".

The interesting thing about this tulpa, is that the artist did not intentionally or consciously produce it. Although several other tulpas observed by Lama David-Neel were produced consciously (these were mainly doubles of their creators - doubles so "solid" that they were mistaken for their principles) this one was not, and seems to have been the result of the artist's concentration on the subject of his work. (Curiously, John Keel gives a similar example in his "Mothman Prophecies" of a character from a novel which apparently haunts the author's former home).

Lama David-Neel's own tulpa was a deliberate creation, and took some six months of concentration. Initially, it was in the form of a little fat monk, but gradually it broke away from her power and began to take on a more malignant appearance, seemingly mocking its creator. It followed her wherever she went, behaving just as a human traveller would (walking, stopping to get his bearings etc). and was seen by others who knew nothing of Lama David-Neel's experiment (once a hearsman saw the tulpa in Lama David-Neel's tent and mistook it for a real lama - evidently it appeared quite solid to him

Sometimes, Lama David-Neel even felt the swish of his robe and the touch of a hand on her shoulder.

Eventually, the tulpa became so troublesome that she had to dissolve it - something which took even more effort than its creation.

Now what, you may well ask, has all this to do with UFO's? Briefly this. UFOs ARE TULPAS OF SPACESHIPS!!!!!! At least, that is the hypothesis I am putting forward. But first things first. Let us look briefly at some other phenomena which may be taken as examples of western tulpas.

Ghosts provide a good example I think. In Andrew Green's book on "Ghost Hunting" we even have an example of a ghost dog apparently created by the grieving master's concentration on the rock where "the poor old dog" like to sit. Not surprisingly (in view of Lama David-Neel's experiences) it was not long before a neighbour reported seeing a ghost of the dog sitting on the rock.

There are a number of other examples in Green's book (as for instance, a ghost of a blue donkey created by a clown who owned such an animal and dyed it blue for his act) but to enumerate them all would take too much space here. Sufficient to say that such examples look very much like tulpas.

Then we have the more interesting (from the UFO point of view) cases of the "Black Dogs". These may be looked upon as tulpas created by several minds stirred by fear of lonely places and diabolical forces. It is probable that they started as legends (just as alien space ships started in science fiction stories) and then formed a quasi-reality of their own.

The interesting thing about the Black Dogs is that they sometimes left physical traces - at times in the form of scratch marks on doors and at others in the form of burnt patches on the ground and the smell of sulphur - true!!!

"In some places it is said that, when spots where Black Shuck (i.e., the "Black Dog") has been seen are examined, they are found to be scorched and smelling strongly of brimstone" writes Patricia Dale-Green in her book "Dog". Similarly a correspondent in "Notes and Queries" May 18, 1850, writes "(One witness) on bringing his neighbours to see the place where he saw it (the Black Dog), found a large spot as if gunpowder had been exploded there. "In another incident at Essex, a man went to hit a black dog and was burnt to death, together with his horse and wagon. In yet another case, a farmer was left permanently dumb and paralysed after an encounter with a Black Dog with luminous eyes.

Before these experiences, on August 4, 1577 we are told that a Black Dog appeared during a thunderstorm (electromagnetism again!) and ran down the aisle of a church - with disastrous effects. "It passed between two people on their knees praying, and both were instantly struck dead. Another man whom it touched was shrivelled up like a drawn purse but stayed alive. The machinery of the church clock was left twisted and broken, and there were found marks like scratches of claws on the stones and the metal-bound door of the church. On the same day (about seven miles away) a black dog also ran down a church, smiting the congregation and killing two men and a lad as well as 'blasting' others." (see "Phenomena" by J. Michell and R.J.M. Rickard for these and other examples).

These are physical effects enough for any ufologist, but the Black Dog still retains the characteristics of a tulpa to the extent that it can be conjured up in the rituals of black magic and (as in the above cases) can also appear spontaneously.

Now, the UFO can also be conjured up (see people like Stella Lansing and UFO-prone people like Charles Hickson) and its physical effects are no more dramatic than those of the Black Dog. Also, the activities of the UFO may be the result of what we have (collectively) made it.

What I mean by this, is that a tulpa is said to behave like its original. A tulpa of a horse acts like a horse, for instance. Similarly, if a tulpa is believed to be something demonic (like the Black Dog) it will act this way - attack churches and leave burns and sulphurous smells behind it. But then, would not a tulpa of a space ship also not act in this way - doing those things which alien space-ships did in fiction before the modern "flying saucer" era (such a stopping cars, leaving burn marks on the ground etc.)?

In short, is our whole attempt to find patterns in the UFO phenomena a useless one? Do we (collectively) put the patterns there in the first place just as Tibetan lamas put the patterns into their tulpas, just as originators of ghosts make the phantoms in the expected image (even to the point of creating the blue colour of the donkey, in one of Green's more unusual cases)? If

we had expected alien space craft to have acted differently, perhaps the UFO phenomenon would be different today.

I realize that this hypothesis will be rejected by many, however it is often rejected for the wrong reasons. This is not a "psychic" theory in the narrower sense. The UFO-tulpas would be solid and objective and may have a considerable life span (UFOs created in USA may end up in Australia, for instance). Likewise, physical traces do not in the least count against this hypothesis. An interesting aside concerns a ghost case in Victoria in which the witnesses complained that the headlights of their car began to act strangely when the will-o-the-wisp type phantom appeared on the road before them. (See "Australian Ghosts" by Frank Cusack Angus & Robertson ARKON edition 1975 p.176). This is in accord with the Black Dog and other phantoms and also with the teaching of the Tibetians for over 2,000 years.

Neither do I say that individual people must create the UFOs. Following the Canadian "Philip" experiment in which a group of non-psychic people deliberately created a pseudo-personality (which, in turn, created considerable physical effects by the medium of psychokinesis) it is not difficult to believe that the desire, of millions of people all over the world, for extraterrestrial contact, could create a "mass tulpa" to be seen by all.

One last point, more an issue of methodology than anything else. I am not attempting to "explain" UFOs in terms of another unknown, viz., parapsychical phenomena (as Bill Chalker criticized me for doing in my book). I deny that I am doing this. What I hope to be doing is to argue that both UFOs and parapsychical phenomena are both aspects of the same thing - this is not to "explain" anything, although it does indicate that when and if the explanation of one is found, the explanation of the other will follow naturally.

Vehicle Effects - Some Further Observations

by K. Basterfield

In recently compiling a catalogue of close encounter reports ⁽¹⁾ I took note of the number of cases where engines and headlights were affected. I have commented previously ⁽²⁾ that "we may not have been gathering enough facts to discount conventional explanations for headlights going off, engines dying etc.", and my observations of the sixteen reported events which I collected in the catalogue seem to bear out this comment in most cases, unfortunately.

However, even with existing data there are a couple of facts of interest which are well worth pointing out and need to be borne in mind by anyone researching this area.

One could argue that vehicles are subject to all sort of mechanical and electrical breakdown and that this might be the cause of these reports, provided of course that one ignores or can explain any associated visual object. With so many vehicles in the world it might appear possible that for all the vehicles which do break down on any particular day, that a percentage of their drivers might at the same time observe an aircraft, the Moon, a star etc., and associate this with their problem.

Firstly looking at the time of cases we find that there is an overwhelming majority which occur between 5p.m. and midnight, with only two outside this, i.e., 1.45 a.m. and 7 a.m. If these "stops" and "stallings" were the result of normal breakdowns and misperception, then why isn't there a corresponding peak in the early morning when just as many people

are going to work both in the city and the country?

Secondly, and more importantly, for this negates the argument that misperception is involved, is that the distance between reporter and the phenomenon is fairly small in these cases. In the reports where this distance is quoted I note that many instances show it to be of the order of 50 metres where engines cut out or headlights went off, and 200-300 metres when there is a loss of power, or the radio is momentarily affected.

One could suppose that this apparent fact suggests the possibility of the necessity for the distance between phenomenon and vehicle to be of this magnitude for the interaction to occur. This distance would certainly imply this if the forces were electromagnetic in origin, as we know that force varies with distance.

However, much more data needs to be collected as new cases occur, and possibly we should examine old cases to see if this data is recoverable. I would once again urge all organisations to utilise the specialist report form which was developed for such reports. (3)

I will list the cases which occur in the Source catalogue for information, below.

18 MAY 63 BEACHPORT SA 0700 hrs 2 min

The radio in a car cut out as a round oval shape was seen over the car. Original report form - little details.

4 APR 66 BOURKE'S FLAT VIC Evening

A car's headlights veered 90° as a column of light was seen in an adjacent paddock.

AFSR (VIC) No. 5 p12. AFSR (NSW) No. 10 p28.

30 MAY 67 PETERBOROUGH SA 2030 hrs

The engine of a car stopped as a disc shape rose from the ground. Original report form - little details.

13 OCT 67 BOYUP BROOK WA 2130 hrs

A man in a car going along at 65 mph said the car stopped dead, lights and motor and radio cut out. Blue object ahead of car shining beam into it. No feeling of deceleration. Suddenly object left and car then going at 65 mph again, but no acceleration.

AFSR (VIC) No. 8 p18. FSR 17.3.29.

20 FEB 69 NORSEMAN WA

A fully fuelled car gasped as if out of petrol as a 30 foot long cigar was seen 80 feet away.

AUFOR No. 10 Dec 69.

8 AUG 71 KADINA SA 1845 hrs 3 min

PMG employee's car engine stopped as 30 ft disc hovered 150 ft above car. Car refused to start until object left. Personal investigation.

25 JUL 72 FRANKSTON VIC 2115 hrs

A car took control of itself as a blue disc hovered overhead and would not respond to driver, until it restarted itself and she was then able to drive away after object left. Original report from Garry Little, Vic.

30 NOV 72 MURRAY BRIDGE SA 2315 hrs 40 mins

The lights and engine of a car "played up" so the driver pulled up. The radio made a "beeping" sound and although he tried the ignition, nothing came on not even the oil light. The wipers and electric horn would not work either. A diamond shape was seen in a nearby paddock. After this left the car was OK.
Personal investigation.

2 MAY 73 KALYAN 1930 hrs 2 min

A Bedford truck's lights and engine cut out for 4 secs and the oil and ignition lights didn't come on. Four secs later they came back on by themselves. The battery was found to be flat next day. Object seen in the distance, may have been a mundane one.
Personal investigation.

22 SEP 74 TAYENE TAS 1720 hrs 3-4 mins

A car radio developed a high pitched whistling noise as an object came within 20-30 metres. The car engine started ok though as the witness retreated from the object.

TUFOIC files.

JUL 75 HOBART 2130 hrs 2 mins

A car became hot then stalled and rolled to a halt. A spherical object was seen 200-300m away. The object left and the car was ok.

TUFOIC files.

MAR 76 TEA TREE ROAD TAS 2200 hrs 30 mins

Five lights orange in colour were seen and EMF effects on headlights of a vehicle noted.

TUFOIC files.

15 JUL 76 WALKERS FLAT SA 2115 hrs

The lights of a car were affected by an object close by. Detail from news paper reported, however couldn't contact alleged witness.

15 AUG 76 BOYER TAS 0145 hrs 20 mins

A utility's radio faded as an object lit up a ute.

TUFOIC files.

22 APR 77 YATALA VALE SA 2345 hrs 4 secs

For a few seconds a car's engine, lights and radio went off as a soundless oval seemed to pass over the car.

UFOR(SA) files.

2 JUL 77 SANDFLY TAS 2300 hrs 1 min

A bright light followed 200m behind a car, the car lost power and had to be clutch started.

TUFOIC annual report 1978 p10. ACOS Bulletin 13 p11.

Notes:

- (1) "A source catalogue of Australasian UFO and related reports", compiled by Keith Basterfield. 57 pages offset printed. Summaries of 350 cases. Available from the author at 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale South Aust. 5127. Price A\$3.50 (incl. postage).
- (2) See ACOS Bulletin 10 p 8. Jun 77.
- (3) As I did in ACOS Bulletin 11 p 11. Sep 77.

One of the main errors UFO debunkers make in order to challenge the existence of UFOs is to try to question their "irrational" behaviour. Rebuttal comes easily. There is of course the argument that "alien" mentality will inevitably produce "alien" behaviour. In addition one can answer that until we understand why UFOs are here, how can we hope to understand why they do what they do? But let us put these points aside and concentrate on another area. Any discussion on rationality presupposes that we ourselves are rational beings and can adequately judge such behaviour. Can we be so assured? Do we behave so logically that we can evaluate the logic of others? Let us cite man's record on UFOs as man has repeatedly demonstrated it and see how man himself stands up under such scrutiny. We will start by looking at individuals and work upward until we take in the whole world.

For over 30 years UFOs seem to have been obsessed with cars; they have tailed, chased, buzzed and stopped them. Meaningless as these actions may seem, is the typical human reaction any less bewildering? How often has the driver of a car seen a light near him and sensing its strangeness, floored the accelerator and begun a mad dash at high speed down the road. And in this frazzled escape the driver always seems surprized that the light can keep up with him. What an odd reaction this is, and yet rarely do we analyze this irrational attitude. Firstly, most such lights simply pace the car. There is little apparent reason for fear. The UFO rarely threatens them directly. (And please no blithe excuse that the witness mistakes the light for one of our craft; and is fearful of some unknown human danger such as criminals. The very fact that he makes a UFO report discounts this.) So we have the driver acting erratically to begin with. But let us probe deeper. Surely if he senses it is a UFO, and all that implies (an interstellar craft to the vast bulk of the public as the psychic aspects are generally unknown outside UFOphiles), the logical reaction might be to try to contact them, certainly not to flee. Hoping to escape an interstellar craft by speeding away in a primitive landbound vehicle like a car is hardly rational. Could the driver really think that a technology capable of making a UFO could not stop his car if it chose?

And as if to prove that very point the next most common type of UFO-vehicle behaviour does precisely that, halts automobiles. And the human reaction? Again the great majority of drivers go into a kind of shock. They see the light, sense the stoppage emanates from it and then incredibly simply sit and wait, after perhaps first taking the common "precaution" of locking all the doors and windows. In one amazing South Australian case the witness sat and waited for over thirty minutes.¹ Is it possible the driver could think a locked car would prevent entry by a superior civilization when it would not stop a teenage thug?

Now compare the behaviour in the two types of cases and see if they make sense. In the former where the UFO makes no aggressive act the witness charges away in frenzy; and in the latter the witness, forcibly detained and perhaps threatened with capture, waits patiently. At best these reactions seem contradictory. As humans we may understand that the drivers feel that their cars offer them shelter - either as a means of retreat or a shield - but looked at from an observing (and no doubt testing) UFO it would not seem logical. And in all honesty it isn't. To expect an automobile to protect us from a spacecraft is totally absurd.

These however are at least responses which are neutral: they do not provoke the UFO. What of the numerous cases, one of which even the authors have investigated,² where the witness takes his gun and fires it at the UFO? Hynek mentions a case where a witness fired and "hit" one of the occupants.³ In what framework could such behaviour be called logical? And can

rationality be ascribed to those pilots who have fired cannon and rockets at UFOs? Surely, of all people they should be aware of the awesome capabilities of the craft.

And how did the UFOs behave under such provocation? Did they respond in kind? No, of course not. Yet what would be the odds that we humans would not retaliate against such insane behaviour if we flew in the UFOs and creatures fired weapons at us?

However these examples deal with individuals: we can "justify" their actions by claiming fear and panic. Perhaps on a group scale human behaviour becomes more reasonable and logical.

Alas, the absurdity and irrationality become so evident they alarm. In individual cases the witness at least senses he has seen a rare event and his very report shows that he accepts it at that minimal level, spacecraft or not. The group response becomes unreal.

Since 1947 UFOs have been reported over the entire world. Tens of thousands of cases have been collected. Surveys prove that for every reported case up to 20 unreported cases exist. Over 20 million Americans alone have claimed to have seen UFOs.⁴ Even at a 10% unsolved rate it still means perhaps 2 million Americans have seen genuine unknowns. Compute the world figure based on the population ratio of 20:1 and the number of people who may have seen genuine UFOs is staggering. The military of the Western nations and the Soviet bloc keeps tabs on them. The President of the United States has professed seeing them. The most reliable experts from airline pilots to astronomers to astronauts have verified their existence. The U.S. Air Force has set up a program to look into the phenomena, and advised its trainee officers to treat UFOs seriously. The authors could go on and on as indeed we are sure the cognizant reader could.

So what is the logical conclusion from all these facts? What is the result of this increasing public awareness and acceptance of UFOs, as attested to by numerous surveys? Huge funds? Vast projects? Private and government research scientists clamouring for more and more data?

The result is - nothing.

That is nothing but a few, often bickering, amateur groups of dedicated people spread thinly and financially bereft throughout the world. And while we clubs have the right to be proud of ourselves, frankly, as we are sure you will agree, it is not enough.

Of course the accusation "Cover up" is hurled. This is the alleged reason of the wholly inadequate reaction. True or false, this begs the question. With the kind of public awareness shown, no government should be able to sweep the issue under the rug; and our existence as UFO clubs belies this simplistic premise. No, at the heart of the problem lies something deeper and more disturbing.

We ourselves; and the struggle to believe and not to believe. This is the trouble: the idea of belief itself. The whole issue hangs not so much on the facts, but on our emotional response to them. Even the very term "believers" shows our predilection. From the world's point of view rational discussion of the phenomena is not the issue, only the emotional acceptance of it. Indeed, how many of the very debunkers who challenge UFO behaviour have really looked at the phenomena with an open mind?

Nowhere is this clearer than in the Condon Report. This report published the conclusions of the Condon committee whose purpose was to invest-

igate the UFO phenomena to see if it warranted further study. Its negative answer caused the single project given to UFO research, Project Bluebook, woefully inadequate anyway, to be terminated. For those of us that have read this amazing document we can only hope that if intelligent aliens are visiting this planet they have not read it as well. For this report - supposedly an attempt to analyze the phenomena - dismisses it with an unreason which is infamous. For example: a naval photographer took some of the best known movie films of UFOs at Tremonton, Utah. The film was analyzed by the U.S. Air Force and Navy photographic sections. Both agreed that the objects apparent on the film were anomalous. Among the exhaustive Naval conclusions was the elimination of planes, balloons, clouds, and birds. Soaring birds, though they might have fit the flight pattern of the objects, would have been too far away to have reflected the sun as the objects had and if they had been any closer they would have been identifiable as birds. One of the reasons for this verdict was the witness's testimony. Another was the Navy's conclusion that the objects were self-illuminated. The Condon experts decided that they were white birds, most likely sea gulls. How you may ask? Simple, they ignored the witness's testimony, and then decided that the Navy's equipment was faulty⁵. And how did they discern this latter opinion? They deduced it, using the logic that if the equipment was broken the films could be explained. Indeed, but what phenomena could not, if we shift the data as we choose? But this is a single example. In other various reports on UFOs submitted to the Condon Committee when the case seemed impossible to repudiate, conclusions on the case often reduce to comments such as interesting. The report literally abounds with many such analyses. For irrationality the very report the debunkers hearken to as their bible is unsurpassed. In fact the Condon report was so full of unreason and evasion that many scientists only decided to look again into the UFO phenomena after reading the negative Condon report.

And so we come full circle back to the debunker's argument and realize it carries no real weight. Yes UFO behaviour is often puzzling and seemingly irrational, but as an argument against their existence it is absurd. Human behaviour is equally illogical and irrational. Indeed the authors wonder if man would, or even could, behave so temperately if Earth were a foreign planet and he were in the UFOs.

References:

1. "Paranormal & Psychic Australian", Australian UFO Car Stalling, K. Basterfield - p.10
2. Private files - R. DeLillo & R.H. Marx
3. "The Edge of Reality" J. Allen Hynek & Jacques Vallee P.129-141
4. Sydney Morning Herald 21/12/77, quoting the New York Times (AAP)
5. "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects", Dr. Edward U. Condon; Daniel S. Gillmor, editor; Vision Press Ltd. 1970

Continuing this discussion on illogical human reactions, next time the authors wish to explore an old case and see if we missed a chance at contact.

A Psychological Explanation for a Reported Entity Event

by Keith Basterfield Aug 78
(This article is copyright)

Several years ago I was involved in an investigation of a close encounter type three (entity report type A) report, which had all the ingredients of a really good case. The details were duely obtained and the report and investigation notes were published,⁽¹⁾ although my investigation notes ended with the

following conclusion. "Taking all available details into consideration and given that at the moment we have not been able to interview the driver, we consider that there are reasons to query this observation as a part of the phenomenon we are studying. However the details are related and documented for future reference."

This doubt in my mind was brought about by several features of the report which to me cast strong suspicion on either a misinterpretation of a conventional stimulus (I suggested an old oval shaped caravan) of a dream.

Firstly, let's take a look at the report to see what was described. I will underline and note the points I wish to discuss later.

At about 3am on a day believed to be the 6 Sept, 73 a Miss R. had been asleep for about an hour in the passenger's side of the cab of a semi-trailer, travelling between Adelaide and Perth. At the time the semi was near Ivy Tanks, South Australia. She relates hearing a voice telling her by name to wake up and look out of the window.

She looked out of the left hand side window and saw an object off to the left hand side of the road, stationary. As the truck continued on along the road at about 70-80 kph she closely studied what she states was clearly visible as an egg shaped object on the ground, illuminating its surroundings.

A 'figure' was noted walking towards an opening in the object with another 'figure' inside it. Then the glow around the object died down leaving only one small white light shining. The whole event, she estimated, lasted for only a few seconds, then she asked the driver to stop. By the time he did so, and looked back, only the single white light was visible.

The Object:

As the semi-trailer travelled along the road, the object was on the left side at an estimated distance of 15 metres, and stationary at all times. As Miss R. watched, she firstly had an end/side view, then a front view and finally a view of the other end/side. It was on the ground with the bottom portion hidden by scrub. Appearing oval shaped, it had openings which Miss R. said "looked just like a window and a door." Total overall size was estimated as about 3m high by 5-6m long.

The entire thing was "alight" with a white glow which seemed to come from all over and inside it. This glow illuminated the ground and air, gradually fading off as distance increased from the source. She is uncertain, but feels that the oval may have been semi-transparent as she thinks that she followed the movement of the one figure getting in and moving around inside other than by seeing through the door and window. Outside this was a point source light on the right hand side of the shape, looking like a normal electric bulb.

The "Occupants":

As soon as she noticed the object she was also aware of two figures. One was visible through the window and was seen from the shoulders up. He appeared to be looking upwards. The other was noticed walking along the ground into the circle of illumination from the right hand side as she viewed it. This figure appeared to be looking at something held in one hand because the one arm was upheld with the head pointing downwards towards it. He walked to the door and stepped in by raising one leg then the other and moved to the left, appeared to talk to the first figure, reached up an arm to the back "wall" and then the "glow" died.

This action of the glow going out was described as completely unlike anything she had ever seen before, not like switching off a light. The glow seemed to shrink in size from its fullest extent, bit by bit until it was just above and around the edge of the oval, then the luminosity dimmed to nothing and it was dark apart from the one white light. However, this single remaining light did not illuminate the object or the ground.

Details:

The illumination was good, something that Miss R. emphasises that remained vivid in her memory twelve months after the event. She was at a loss to compare the colour and glow to anything she had ever seen before.

Although only in sight for a few seconds, because of the level of illumination she noticed the following details of the figures, especially the figure outside. They were human height, about 1.9m tall, of average build with neck, head, two arms and a body as ours. There were no differences to seeing a human being there.

The figure who walked into the object was wearing a one piece loose fitting white or silver coloured outfit which seemed to be gathered in at the ankles and wrists. The other figure was dressed in the same way as far as could be seen through the window.

Reactions:

At about 2 to 2.15am Miss R. felt tired and intending to sleep for several hours curled up on the seat. At about 3am she was asleep when she "heard" a male voice "warmly" and softly telling her to look out of the window. In reaction to this she woke up feeling fresh and immediately looked out of the left hand window to see an object there. Apparently at no stage was it visible to the driver.

She is adamant that it was not the driver who woke her as he then asked her what she was doing when she woke and moved slightly to look out of the window. The driver did not mention seeing anything as the truck approached the spot where presumably the object was stationary on the ground before Miss R. awoke.

Miss R. watched for seconds not saying anything, wishing to take in every detail and then when the glow had gone she asked the driver to stop. Her recollection as to whether they got out of the truck or merely looked through the window is uncertain. However she does recall that the driver was not particularly interested in a white light she could see, so they drove on.

Personal Details:

Miss R. was English and 32 years of age, originally coming from East Anglia about 1971. Since then she had spent her time travelling around Australia just seeing the country and working in various places. At the time of interview she was working in a retail store. She related that she had heard of accounts of UFO abductions, and said that she determined not to stop the truck until the glow went out.

Analysis:

Now, let's examine the account as outlined above. We have a woman who woke up feeling fresh after an hours sleep. She awoke in response to a male voice which called her by her christian name and told her to look out of the window. Upon looking out she was aware of an oval shape which seemed to be semi-transparent and radiating a white light from inside and outside. She found it hard to describe the colour and nature of the glow. When the glow went out it did so in a very unusual way. The driver of the vehicle

denied waking her up and did not see either the object or the figures. Only when she asked him to, did the driver stop and he did not seem particularly interested in the white light she could see. One has to admit these details are puzzling.

Another thing which puzzled me was the discrepancy in time reported. If one calculates from the speed the semi was doing and the distances and sizes she relates, the time necessary to observe all the details which Miss R. relates, one does not agree with her estimates. In fact there is a strong disagreement between the physical time she could have had (due to angle of vision, semi's speed, window location) and the time she says it took.

Overall, one senses a dream like quality to the report, in a short form, unusual perception. Of course one could say that Miss R. was mentally woken up and directed to observe the object and "occupants" whilst the driver was 'blocked' from seeing them. This is one interpretation placed on this and similar events by overseas researchers. However, I feel that there is another very positive (if not certain) explanation for the event and this is that I would propose that the lady was in fact perceiving what are called HYPNOPOMPIC IMAGES - the event was in her mind and not a physical event at all.

Recent reading of certain psychological literature⁽²⁾ has revealed that this type of imagery - self generated perception of something which is not input through the eyes as are normal events - is encountered in normal healthy people in the period between sleep and wakefulness.

Hypnopompic images most often occur with eyes closed, but may also occur with eyes open in a darkened environment. Their content is visual or auditory in the main, but may also involve sensations of heat/cold/smell/touch. They may be reproductions of the events of the day or strange, foreign or bizzare images, which can at times be pleasing or frightening. A person has little control over the appearance, departure or content, and one of the most basic auditory images is of 'hearing' one's name called, bringing one to one's full senses. The images range from simple to truly integrated scenes.

Very often they are vivid and realistic, and there is an unusual clarity of detail. Durations range from a few seconds to minutes, and persons experiencing these images comment on the unusual quality of colour and lighting using phrases such as "strange luminosity".

The incidence of some kind of imagery amongst healthy individuals has been found from surveys to range from 51-77% of the population.

How then does our Ivy Tanks account rank point by point with what we know of hypnopompic images?

<u>Ivy Tanks</u>	<u>Hypnopompic Images</u>
"had been asleep for an hour"	Occur on the borderline between sleep and wakefulness
"a voice called her name and told her to look out, awakening her"	Most common auditory image is hearing your name called as you wake up
Eyes open - dark environment	Eyes open - dark environment
"a white glow seemed to come from all over and inside it"	
"the oval may have been semi-transparent"	Unusual clarity of detail

(cont'd)

(cont'd)

Ivy Tanks

Hypnopompic Images

"this action of the glow going out was described as completely unlike anything she had ever seen before"	Unusual quality of lighting and colour.
"the illumination was good"	
"she was at a loss to compare the colour and glow to anything"	
"apparently at no stage was it visible to the driver"	Visible only to the individual perceiving the images
"She is adamant it was not the driver who woke her"	
"the driver was not particularly interested in a white light she could see"	
Dream like quality, time distortion	Image - not reality

I feel that one would have to agree that what was reported here does not in fact need to draw on either the ETH (extra-terrestrial hypothesis) or GON (good old nature, e.g., meteors, ball lightning etc.) to be explained. The answer lies within the mind of the observer. Only one question remains to be explained and that is why her mind chose to generate the event when it did, remembering that she was in a semi-trailer during the middle of the night travelling along an isolated stretch of road.

I think the answer to this lies in a statement she made during our interview and here I quote from the tape recording made at the time, "... and this voice seemed to come from a person like that, that wanted me to see this thing and knew how very much I wanted to see one of these things..".

She had wanted to see a UFO, here was an ideal opportunity, she saw nothing so her mind generated her concept of a UFO for her alone to perceive. This I think explains the Ivy Tanks close encounter type three report. However, it leads me to pose a question. A while ago⁽³⁾ I pointed out that there was a pattern amongst close encounters that certain night time reports concentrated in the period 1.30am to 4.30am and took a very similar line. Six reports were located where a person or persons had woken up during these hours to see an object or entity at close range. Four of the reporters were individual women, the other two were family groups with the majority of individuals being female. Five of the reports centred around the observation of entities after a noise or voice awoke the percipients. Could hypnopompic images explain these cases? Further investigation is certainly necessary.

It would seem that here we may have come across a mechanism which would explain a percentage of UFO reports which until now have been firmly "unidentified". Only time will tell.

References:

1. "UFOR(SA) Newsletter" no.10. See also "Psychic Australian Feb. 1978
2. "The Psychology of Anomalous Experience" G. Reed, Hutchinson University Library, London 1972
"Experience and Behaviour" P. McKellar, Penguin 1968
3. See AODS Bulletin No.10, Jun 1977, article entitled "A Possible Time Pattern for Certain Close Encounters" K. Basterfield & D. Seargent

A glance at the released sightings from 1977 in Australia will show a trend towards the number of 'unidentifieds' that the Australian Air Force has on file. In 1977 they released 25 reports of UFOs to ACOS of which seven were designated unidentified, this means that approximately 28% of the total sightings reported to them were unknowns.

Upon further inspection it becomes evident that over recent years these unknowns have increased and it can only be surmised that something strange is happening. Either the UFO sightings have increased or some pressure is being applied to them, for the amount of unidentifieds to be increasing each year means something significant indeed.

In 1960 and up until 1963 the Air Force managed to find answers to all the reports submitted to them, a great effort indeed. Then things went a different way, from 1964 to 1966 they had 7 reports out of 143 that were unable to be explained - a combined percentage of 15.2%.

From 1967 to 1968 they again managed to find answers to all the reports they received. They never achieved this amount of success again for from 1969 onwards the UFOs eluded complete explanation, this must be disconcerting to a body charged with the protection of our airspace, having unknown objects flying around would be a problem but what to do about it? If we take the project Blue Book theorem "It can't be, therefore it isn't" the problem is solved. But theorem or not, the UFOs are still there and we have the Air Force statistics to prove it, one could say that the reports received by them are of low probative value or the witnesses concerned have given insufficient data to work with, this is untenable because private UFO groups are working with these same quality reports every day and it only after an exhaustive study of the available information that we obtain facts which cannot be denied, facts that attest to unconventional airforms invading our skies.

The American Air Force has been involved for many years in the study of the UFO phenomena and they must have the best collection of data available. Why conceal it? Why hide the truth? Why dismiss many reliable people as heretics? The statistics are increasing and we want to know why!

Back to those statistics.. from 1969 the percentage grows, 1970 produces 10.8% unidentified - 1971 had 11.5% unidentified and 1972 had 12.6%

It dropped off a little in the intervening years of 1973-1974, but it again increased, and increased dramatically. 1975 produced 10.2% unknowns - 1976 had 15% unknowns and as already mentioned, 1977 had a massive 28%

What are we to make of all this, surely 1% is enough to cause concern, what do we do about it? Do we all sit back and say great, all our efforts have been worthwhile or do we press for more. If apathy on this subject is allowed to persist then we deserve all we get, if UFO groups don't take the initiative then who will?

Some of the cases that have been 'identified' deserve some thought, explanations ranging from "Reflection of Sun onto Cirrus cloud layer" to meteor" smack of Blue Book days. How much of an effort does the Air Force put into each report?, people have been led to believe certain things when in reality the opposite is true. An increase in public awareness is evident over recent years and more and more people are asking the same questions, they want to know the truth about the UFO reports and they want to know now. What will it take to get the truth out in the open?, does a report from an honest, reliable person count? Why doesn't this subject get closer scrutiny from the Air Forces of the world? Perhaps in reality it does but we are not being informed, what a sorry state of affairs this would be, for through-

out history people have had the courage of their convictions to report to the authorities of the time what they have seen only to be ridiculed and dismissed with the lame excuse that they were probably seeing things. If an opinion poll could be conducted tomorrow in Australia I'm sure it would rival or even surpass the percentage found in the U.S.A. in which the majority of the population believe UFOs exist and are seen by many.

The authorities have caused themselves much criticism in the past by their continued silence, there may be nothing in this cover-up situation after all but the mounting evidence says there is, one way or the other we want the truth!

A Short Comment on the RAAF Annual Summary of
Unusual Aerial Sightings 1977

by K. Basterfield

The Department of Defence (Air Office) summary of reports received and investigated by the RAAF for the year 1977 reveals a percentage rate for unknowns of 28%. This appears quite a departure from the usual 1%⁽¹⁾ or 3%⁽²⁾ the RAAF has quoted in the past.

I looked back at the figures given in the yearly summaries over the last few years to see if this high percentage for 1977 was only a one off occurrence. I'll list these below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Reports</u>	<u>No. Unknown</u>	<u>Percentage Unknown</u>
1973	192	4	2
1974	67	3	4.5
1975	39	4	10
1976	39	4	10
1977	25	7	28

Overall, on my count, between Jan 1960 and Dec 1977 956 reports and explanations have been shown in the nine summaries to date, with 49 described as "unknown", which gives a 5% 'unknown' rate average.

As can be seen the percentage in recent years has deviated from the RAAF's previous statements. It would be interesting to hear from anyone who may have seen more recent RAAF percentage 'unknown' figures.

- (1) "Australasian Post" 26.10.72 p.14 - seemingly based on 595 cases 1960-71
- (2) Letter to H. Griesberg 1975 from RAAF quoting 3% between 1960-64 based on 868 reports. However, on my count the percentage in that period was 3.9%.

CREST: A Major Step Forward

by David Reneke

CREST stands for Citizens Radio Emergency Service Teams. It is a citizens radio emergency service and operates Australia wide. The Sydney Regional headquarters operates from Northpoint Tower, 100 Miller St., North Sydney where volunteer monitors listen for CB emergency calls 24 hours a day as in most major population centres throughout the country.

Working closely with official agencies, CREST can relay instant information on all sorts of incidents saving those precious seconds where time is of extreme importance. Many times this professional group of volunteers have been instrumental in giving vital aid during life saving missions. They

are a Government recognised body and from nowhere 2 years ago they have become the controlling influence on all CB operations within Australia and will soon be allocated an 'official' channel exclusively for their own use.

Bill Payne, the founder and now National Director of CREST, was recently approached by UFO Research (N.S.W.) with a view to setting up an affiliation between the two organisations. There is interest in forming a combined and closely allied network in conjunction with Crest's normal duties which would give UFO investigators, who's name and phone contact number are registered with them, immediate access to reports as they may come in.

This would be accomplished by the CB operator who either witnesses a UFO or hears of one closeby relaying a direct message to Crest's nerve centre. The message would then be tabulated by the controller and a telephone call to the nearest UFO investigator would be made.

Upon hearing of the report the investigator would make his way into the area reported to him and, being equipped with the necessary detection and investigative equipment, he would be in a very good position to obtain vital information on the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

A meeting with Mr. Payne and Co-ordinators of UFO Research (N.S.W.) has been successful and a working program has been fully established. CREST headquarters have on file certain names and contact numbers with specific instructions on how to use them, the whole metropolitan area of Sydney is now covered and it is envisaged that soon Australia wide country areas can be included in this combined investigative network.

This form of involvement is welcomed and could surely accelerate progress to the degree hoped for by many 'spotters' widely spaced throughout the country instantly reporting a sighting to the investigator; it may be possible to uncover that vital piece of data so often lost through time delays in getting to the scene and even if the whole operation produces just one piece of quantitative data then it would be considered a totally worthwhile exercise. It is hoped that other groups can arrange this same sort of relationship with their respective CREST teams thus giving the study of the UFO subject a much wider scope than ever before.

Our sincere thanks go to CREST Australia and we look forward to a rewarding and long association.

Footnote; Mr. David Wynn, National Secretary of CREST Australia, has advised that CREST will be forwarding a copy of the list of contacts to each of their State Executives for their information and dissemination to CREST Regions and Divisions in their States.

Statistical Notes from UFOCAT:

Sighting Duration by Report Type

by Fred Merritt

A useful analysis can be made of reported sighting duration by UFOCAT report type, which is both a description of the event and an index of strangeness. All UFOCAT primary entries were tallied by report type and sighting duration, and the results summarized in ranges of duration: less than a minute, 1 to 4 minutes, 5 to 14 minutes, 15 to 29 min-

utes, and 60 minutes and longer. The results will be presented in groups of 3 report types in increasing order of strangeness.

LOW STRANGENESS REPORTS:

Figure 1 shows the contrasting profiles of the three least strange report types.

UFOCAT Type 1 refers to reports of lights or objects that are stationary, or moving at the same apparent rate as astronomical bodies. These reports are characterized by long viewing times, and although the lights or objects may appear puzzling to the witnesses, most such reports are readily attributable to stars, planets, and even distant tower lights, seen under unusual atmospheric conditions.

Type 2, lights or objects in continuous motion, are characterized by very short duration sightings, and frequently turn out to be meteors, aircraft, satellites, etc.

Type 3 refers to lights or objects with a single discontinuity of motion. This may be a continuously moving light or object that makes one definite turn; more often, it refers to lights or objects that move after remaining stationary, or vice versa. Although some of these reports are attributable to optical illusions or a combination of, say, an airplane and a star seen as one object, many of these reports do remain puzzling. And the viewing time distribution peaks in the ranges of 1 to 14 minutes, typical of 'unidentifieds' as opposed to 'identifieds'.

MEDIUM STRANGENESS REPORTS:

Figure 2 shows startlingly similar distributions for three different kinds of reports.

UFOCAT Type 4 refers to lights or objects with multiple discontinuities of motion; that is, more than one stop or turn in the apparent flight path, even though the object may be quite distant. Some of these reports are attributable to helicopters, ad planes, or illusion. But many remain puzzling.

Type 5 refers to close encounters, usually within 500 feet of the witness (es); Type 6 refers to landings.

Each distribution peaks dramatically in the 5 to 14 minute range, where witnesses have ample time to observe the phenomenon and realize that it is unusual. And each of the three types has enough observations of an hour or more to give the graph a noticeable upturn.

HIGH STRANGENESS REPORTS:

Figure 3 shows a different kind of distribution with interesting similarities and differences among the three kinds of reports, which in increasing order of strangeness are occupants, interference, and contact.

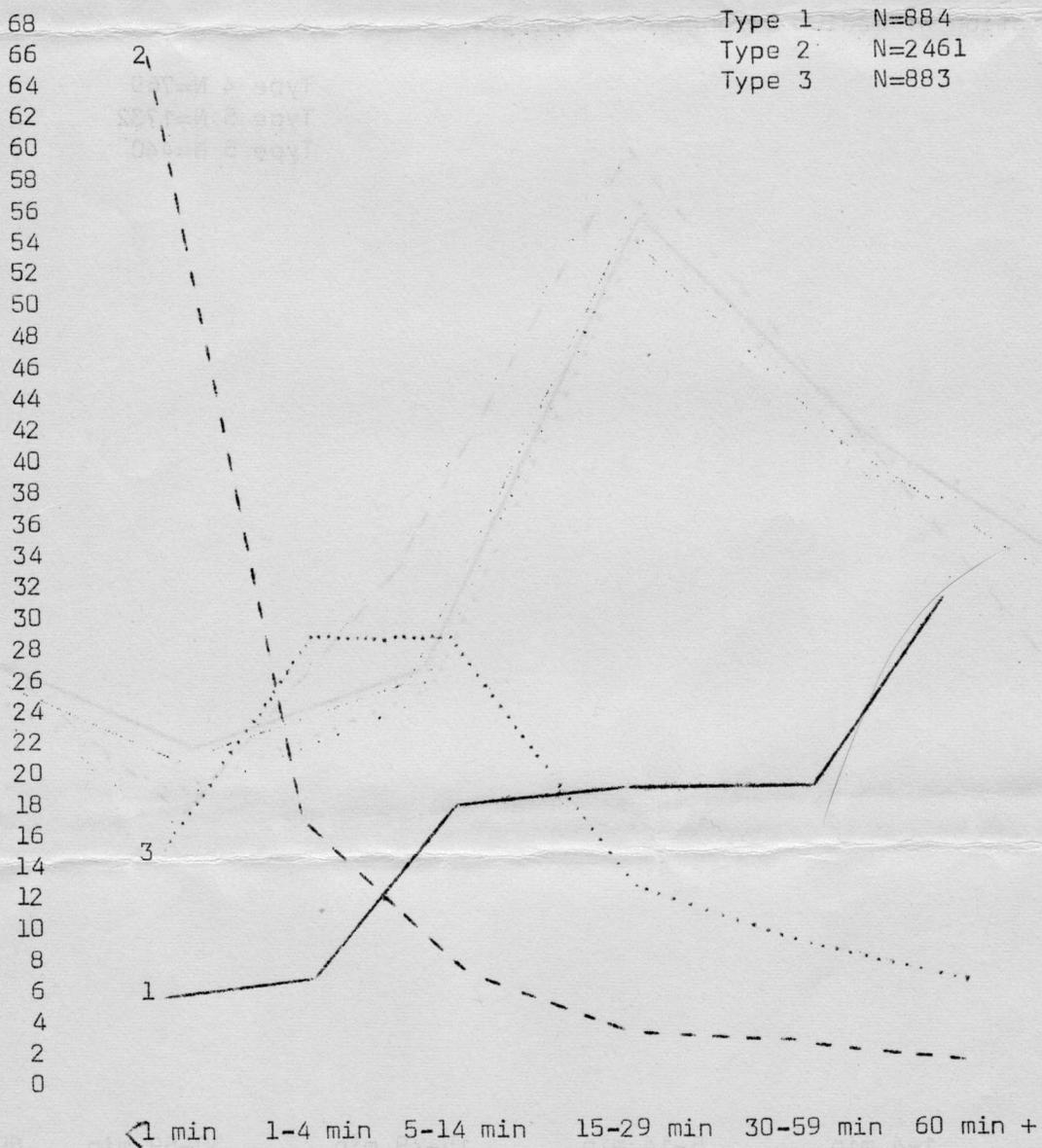
UFOCAT Type 7 refers to reports of occupants seen outside the object, or in some cases to entities with no UFO. There appear to be two dominant kinds of occupant report - those very brief (less than a minute) encounters, and mid-range encounters of 5 to 14 minutes, or more frequently, one of an hour or more. It is possible that abductions account for many of the long term reports.

Type 8, the highest strangeness UFOCAT type, refers to reports of con-

tact, defined as two-way intelligent communication between the witness(es) and an entity. Although the numbers in the tally are small, there appear to be two distinct situations - the more common 5 to 14 minute chat, or contact of an hour or more. These longer encounters may be associated with abductions. (It's important to remember that reports are assigned the highest applicable type in terms of strangeness. For example, an abduction report with occupants that involves two-way intelligent communication would be coded as contact (Type 8) rather than as an occupant report (Type 7) or an abduction (Type 9).

There are some interesting possibilities for further research here; sighting duration may turn out to be a useful report characteristic for classifications.

Figure 1 Duration of Low Strangeness Reports



Data for all graphs:

UFOCAT TYPE

Min	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
< 1	6.0	66.2	15.1	9.4	15.4	17.0	25.6	6.4	8.8
1-4	7.5	16.4	28.7	19.2	20.5	20.0	13.6	5.3	5.9
5-14	17.8	9.0	28.5	31.1	28.1	28.6	29.4	25.5	44.1
15-29	18.9	3.5	12.1	16.4	12.6	12.3	9.9	7.4	2.9
30-59	18.4	2.8	8.5	10.3	10.2	9.1	10.3	16.0	5.9
60+	<u>31.4</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>7.1</u>	<u>13.6</u>	<u>13.2</u>	<u>13.0</u>	<u>11.2</u>	<u>39.4</u>	<u>32.4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 2. Duration of medium strangeness reports.

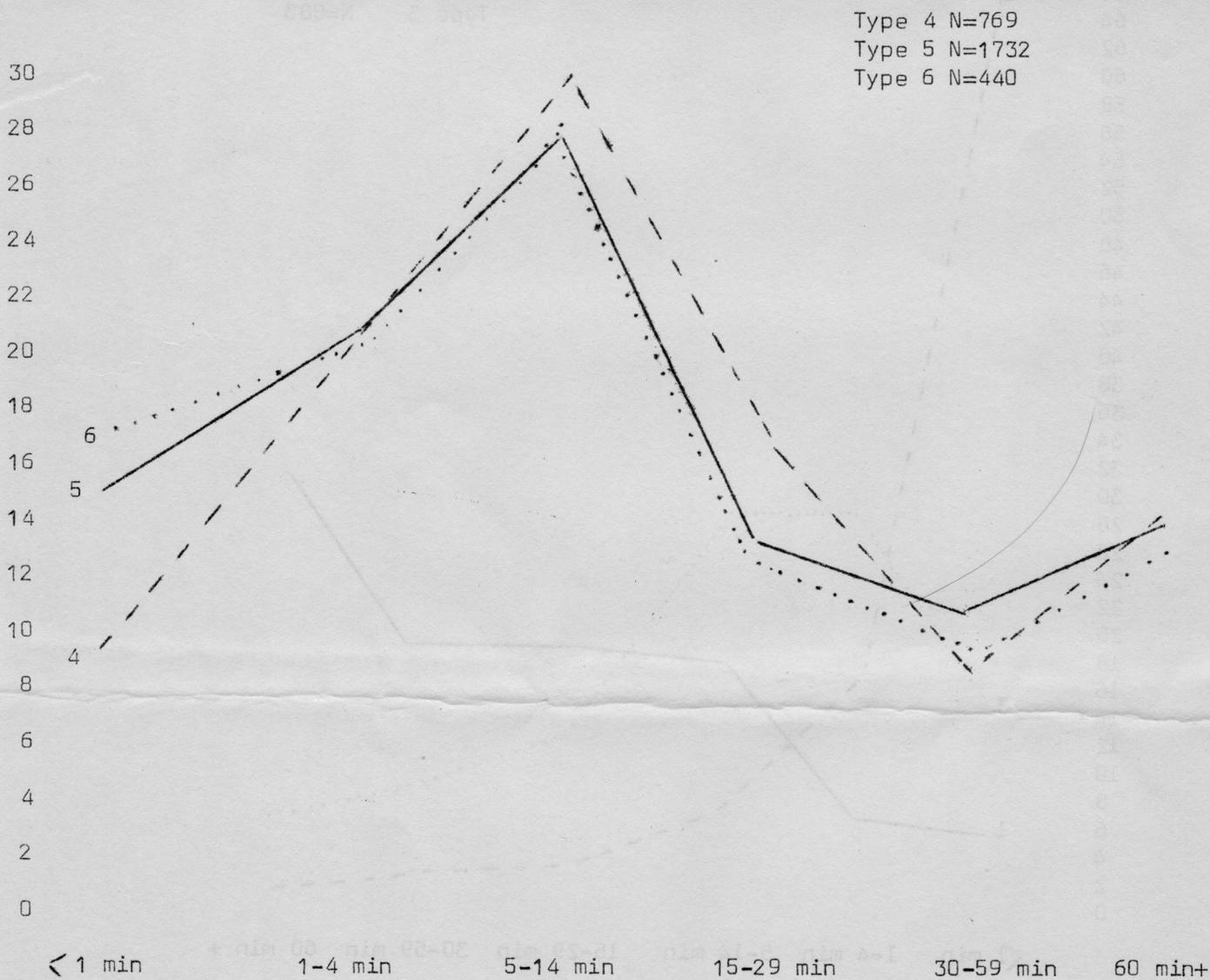
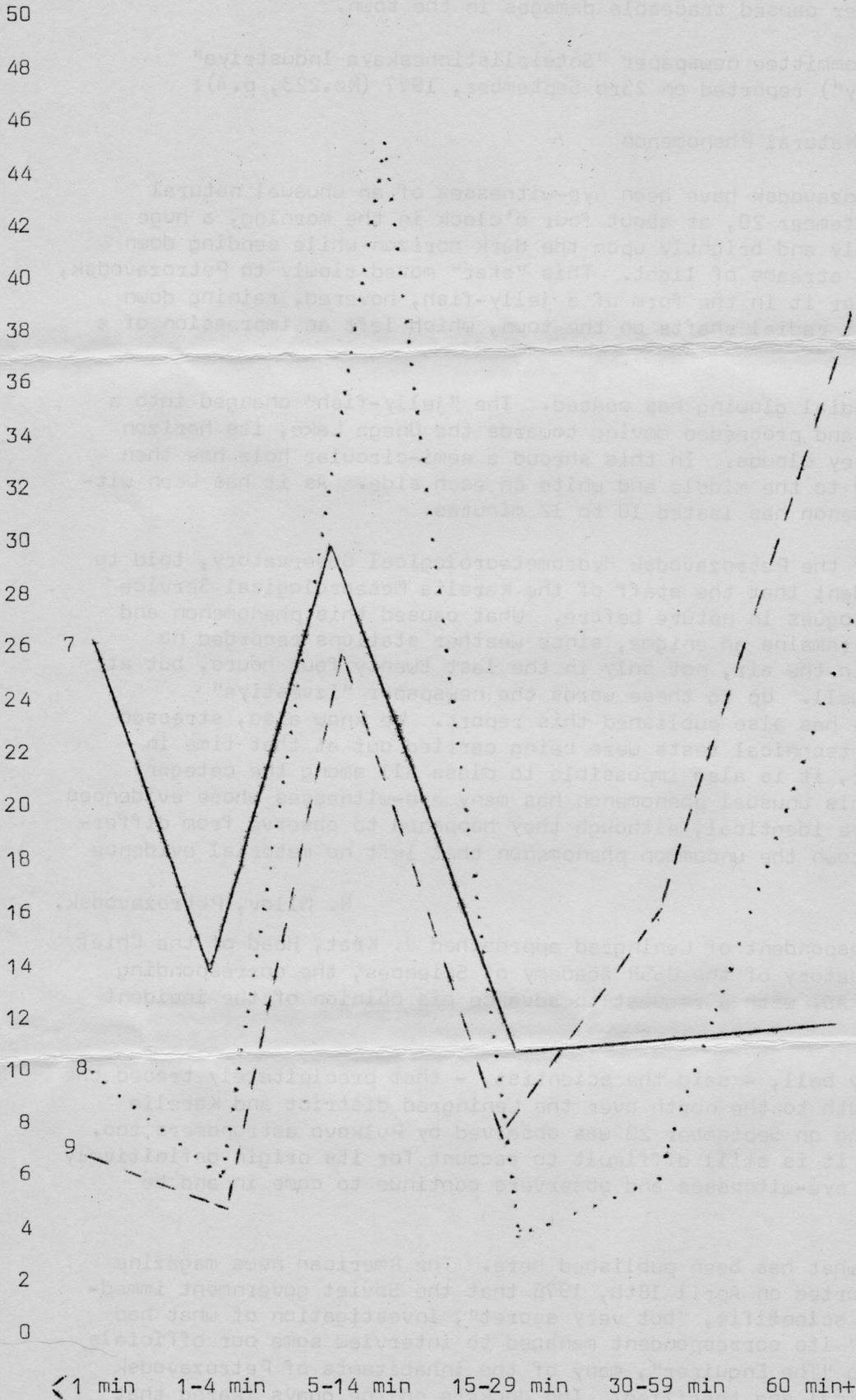


Figure 3: Duration of high strangeness reports.

Type 7 N=242
Type 9 N= 94
Type 8 N= 34



1977 USSR UFO Sighting

An unusual UFO sighting in Petrozavodsk (Karelian ASSR) last year is the first to be reported publicly in the USSR yet caused no attack against UFOs in the press, however caused traceable damages in the town.

CPSU Central Committee newspaper "Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya" ("Socialist Industry") reported on 23rd September, 1977 (No.223, p.4):

"Unidentified Natural Phenomenon

Inhabitants of Petrozavodsk have been eye-witnesses of an unusual natural phenomenon. On September 20, at about four o'clock in the morning, a huge "star" burst suddenly and brightly upon the dark horizon while sending down to the earth pulsed streams of light. This "star" moved slowly to Petrozavodsk, and on spreading over it in the form of a jelly-fish, hovered, raining down scores of the finest radial shafts on the town, which left an impression of a pelting rain.

After a time the radial glowing has ceased. The "jelly-fish" changed into a bright half-circle and proceeded moving towards the Onega Lake, its horizon being wrapped in grey clouds. In this shroud a semi-circular hole has then come up, bright red to the middle and white on each side. As it has been witnessed, this phenomenon has lasted 10 to 12 minutes.

Yu. Gromov, Head of the Petrozavodsk Hydrometeorological Observatory, told to the TASS correspondent that the staff of the Karelia Meteorological Service has never seen analogues in nature before. What caused this phenomenon and what is its nature remains an enigma, since weather stations recorded no sharp divergences in the air, not only in the last twenty four hours, but at their approach as well. Up to these words the newspaper "Izvestiya" ("The News") to date has also published this report. We know also, stressed Yu. Gromov, that no technical tests were being carried out at that time in our parts. However, it is also impossible to class all among the category of mirages, since this unusual phenomenon has many eye-witnesses whose evidences in many respects are identical, although they happened to observe from different places of the town the uncommon phenomenon that left no material evidence of itself.

N. Milov, Petrozavodsk.

The TASS correspondent of Leningrad approached V. Krat, Head of the Chief Astronomical Observatory of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the corresponding member of the USSR AS, with a request to advance his opinion of the incident in question.

- Bright fiery ball, - said the scientist, - that precipitately traced the heaven from the south to the north over the Leningrad district and Karelia early in the morning on September 20 was observed by Pulkovo astronomers too. For the time being it is still difficult to account for its origin definitively since reports from eye-witnesses and observers continue to come in and be analysed".

So far as to what has been published here. The American news magazine "The Enquirer" reported on April 18th, 1978 that the Soviet government immediately asked for a scientific, "but very secret", investigation of what had happened, "and yet" its correspondent managed to interview some of our officials and scientists. To "The Enquirer", many of the inhabitants of Petrozavodsk were rather hysterical and terrified. The dockers on the quays feared that the town was a target for an American nuclear attack and cried: "this is the end!".

Aleksander Kazantsev, a soviet fantasist, told "The Enquirer" the rays of light from the UFO had made holes in window-panes which were carried away to be examined. A special commission from the Academy of Sciences of the USSR could confirm that these holes must be caused by the light from the UFO. "So far as I understand", he says, "this must have been a reconnoitring space vessel from without". Kazantsev also referred to a report from eye-witnesses telling about an ambulance driver, driving entirely out of control, together with a surgeon and his assistant, when the UFO turned up. These witnesses also observed the strange light-rays streaming down from the object to the ground. The UFO suddenly disappeared north-east over the north part of the Onega Lake and into a cloud.

The physicist Vladimir Azhazha (Moscow) described the incident to "The Enquirer", or, to be more precise, "The Enquirer" describes it according to the story of Azhazha in this way: The object came low down to the harbour and floated over a ship about 465 feet long. By comparing the size of the UFO with the ship, one has found that the diameter of the UFO must have been about 350 feet (116m). The UFO stood quite still above the water. After a while, however, a smaller object came out from the greater one, rushed down into the water and at the same time the UFO took off and disappeared behind a thick cloud cover.

The TASS correspondent Nicolai Milov, author of the report in "Izvestiya" and "Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya", told "The Enquirer" that he had interviewed a hundred of the inhabitants of Petrozavodsk, and confirmed the enormous size and the shape of the UFO. He said that one of the holes burnt through the window-panes was somewhat smaller than a hen's egg and that pieces of glass were brought to Moscow by the investigation committee. Milov told further that people having seen the UFO behaved in a strange way and seemed to be mentally confused afterwards. Some were hysterical, and it was true that some dockers believed it to be an American nuclear attack when they observed the UFO above their heads.

Milov also told that later a UFO had been seen floating over the town 5-6 times each month, but there was no damage on these prior occasions. The last time was on February 20 this year.

Yu. Gromov, according to "The Enquirer", told that a small thing loosened from the UFO, and the UFO afterwards changed not into a semi-circle as above, but into an ellipsis, light red in the middle with white borders (i.e., this time the colour of the UFO, not that of the hole in cloudiness as above). It then moved towards a cloud over the Onega Lake. A reddish hole made in the cloud soon gradually disappeared. Gromov confirmed also that the object could not be a ball lightning.

"The Enquirer" continues that according to Azhazha, as soon as the official investigation began, the whole affair would be veiled, with prohibition of news, etc., V. Zakharenko, editor of a technical youth magazine, has been reportedly warned by the USSR Academy of Sciences not to publish any theories about the strange flying object, but he confirmed that the investigation commission had found out the holes in the window-panes and flagstones must have been melted out.

One of the TASS senior editors told that the news office had received 1500 letters with questions whether or not it was safe to live in or go to Petrozavodsk after the incident. The TASS editor, according to "The Enquirer", told further that before answering these questions the letters had been confiscated by the authorities, and they also had carried away all reports from the eye-witnesses.

Thus "The Enquirer" correspondent, presumably, overcoloured. Vladimir G. Azhazha, cating head of the Submarine Research Section of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in his unpublished report "Are we alone in the Universe? Intelligence in the Cosmos: Facts and Hypotheses" presented to APN officers on November 24th last year, and in another report "Life in the Cosmos" presented elsewhere made the following information to the case.

At night on 19/20th September, i.e., at 4am on September 20, last year the object was seen over Petrozavodsk. Before to appear here, the lightball passed over Leningrad district, and made a giant eight in vertical plane over Pulkovo. A pilot of the aircraft flying Kiev-Leningrad reported that he was followed by a UFO.

After passing at terrific speed over the Leningrad district, the object hovered over Petrozavodsk in the form of a lightball, which then expanded in the form of a jelly-fish, with eight "petal-rays" downward. Before it so expanded, many inhabitants awoke out of anxiety and feeling of fear. In fear were those who observed the phenomenon in the street. "We became terrified", they told. The eight "petals" of the jelly-fish UFO have been perceived as a fiery shower. Two smaller objects which looked each like an electric torch came out of the main UFO and passed over Lenin Prospect at a great height.

A local pilot, on approaching Petrozavodsk, asked the flight service about an aircraft in his path. They replied: no aircrafts in the air. The pilot reported that he saw a fiery ball, from which a black tail protruded.

The UFO descended to the harbour, over a ship 140m long, and by comparing, the size of the UFO was found to be circa 105m.

The UFO then moved toward the Onega Lake, and many drivers tried to follow it in their cars. The UFO hovered over the lake and was observed from the ship "Volgo-Balt". A smaller object came out of the UFO and dived into the water, then the UFO disappeared in cloudiness. (Here the story ends)

This story slightly differs from the report in "The Enquirer". However Azhazha mentioned rumours that this UFO might be an American test of a neutron bomb transportation facility. And a smaller object from the UFO, according to the reports by Azhazha, dived not into the water of Petrozavodsk harbour, but into the Onega Lake.

V. Azhazha considers this object to be a real UFO. He told "The Enquirer" that, in his opinion, the object seen over Petrozavodsk either must have been a UFO inhabited by intelligent beings or an energy field created by such a UFO.

Aleksei V. Zolotov, geophysicist, leader of the 1958 Tunguska expedition to solve the mystery of the 1908 Siveria explosion, said to the correspondent, "In my opinion the object was a typical flying saucer. The reports available leave no doubts about that. I know this to be a real UFO".

And, at last, Felix Yu. Zigel, astronomer, head of the UFO Research Group from the Moscow Aviation Institute, agreed that the object must have been a UFO. "No doubt", he says, "its behaviour was like that of a UFO."

At UFOCON 3 a paper (1) was presented, in which I suggested that "we are not working with accurate, factual records of reports, but an altered view which has been moulded in parts to fit an original investigator's line of thought." I gave the Salisbury (SA 1962) and Plympton (SA 1964) (2) entity cases as examples of this distortion through time and the general willingness to accept the accounts as described.

After UFOCON 3 I decided to take an indepth look at the documentation level of Australian reports and as a first step searched around for existing collections of cases. However, it soon became evident that despite all the good work done in the past, nothing of this kind had even been prepared. (3)

I therefore started off with the files of UFO(SA) and from these plus my own files prepared "A catalogue of reported close encounters, South Australia". This reaped fifty four events varying in documentation from an early alleged RAAF confiscation of photographs (SA 1954) (4) to Birdwood (SA 1977).

I also collected summaries of 33 reported South Australian events where physical trace effects were reported, and found that many presented classic descriptions of fungus rings a slime mould, although never identified as these by the original investigation. Even as recent as April 1978 a "ring" found in Adelaide was ascribed as a "saucer ring", despite the fact that the Botanic garden positively identified the cause as "slime mould".

As mentioned in my paper, people's interpretation of the ufo phenomenon relies to a large extent on reports to enable formulation of hypotheses. If we are working with incorrect base data, then no wonder we are confused at times.

From here I decided to compile an Australian wide catalogue of close encounters to see if the documentation level is different elsewhere. After the collection process I ended up with over three hundred such events, which I put together in a 57 page source catalogue, in order to retain a permanent record.

In preparing the catalogue one comes across cases of similar events e.g.,

- a. Confiscated photos - Wilcannia (53), SA/WA border (54), Off Bouganville Reef (65) and Tully (66).
- b. "Angel hair" - Caulfield (53), Pt. Augusta (55), Mt. Hale (61), Caroda (62), Grafton (69) and Gawler (73).
- c. "Beams of light affecting people" - Central Aust. (1893), Central NSW (1919), Fiji (1957).

There are also cases which occurred within a few days of each other or in certain areas, e.g., 12/3, 13/3, 23/3, 31/3 1959 near Adelaide, or 24/5, 27/5, 28/5 1965 Queensland.

At first glance the cases in the source catalogue present quite an impressive body of evidence for the reality of the ufo phenomenon. However, suppose you take a good look. Unfortunately by the time you remove fungus rings, slime mould, hearsay cases, rumours, cases where no investigation was done, and poorly documented events you'll end up with a much smaller core of cases. It all goes to prove that documentation is lacking.

I would therefore like to once again urge all ufo organisations to spend time researching their own files and publish (5) good "hard core"

cases for fresh study. As a start I have forwarded copies of "A catalogue of reported close encounters, South Australia", "Physical trace cases, South Australia" and "A source catalogue of Australasian close encounters" to each Australian group for their information and use. If you would be interested in a copy/additional copies of these documents, please write to Keith Basterfield, 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale, South Australia 5127 Cost - \$4.50 per copy.

Notes:

1. "On the accuracy of belief" K. Basterfield, Sep 77.
2. Cases where entity reports occur are being published as "Case documents" by the Australian Entity Study Group.
3. Attempts to compile yearly lists of reports were published in the early editions of Aust UFO Review.
4. See the Australian Saucer Record, 5/3/13.
5. Either in the ACOS Bulletin or their own newsletter, or specials.

Live Beings "Came from UFOs"

from "The Sun" Wed. October 11, 1978

Scientists in Portugal had tested living organisms from outer space 19 years ago a seminar has been told. Raul Berenguel told the closing session of a congress on Unidentified Flying Objects in Porto that the organisms were dropped from two UFOs over Portugal in November 1959. Mr. Berenguel said he had personally observed scientific studies made on the micro-organism for two years. A picture of what was said to be the extraterrestrial organism was published by the Porto newspaper Jornal de Noticias. Witnesses said that for 4 hours in broad daylight, they saw 2 UFOs drop a cloud of cotton-like filaments. Organisers of the Porto Congress said the filaments later turned out to be "living things about 4 millimetres long, equipped with tentacles ending in a three-pronged fork, and which took up defensive postures." Mr. Berenguel said it was able to bear weights up to 350g during the two years it survived after being captured. It reportedly also put out a network of filaments several times, apparently in an attempt to get out of the glass container. Mr. Berenguel said the organism underwent gradual fraying and completely broke up at the end of two years. He said that "the persons who followed this phenomenon are above suspicion. "They all believe that this living being is utterly unknown to our biology," he said.

A.C.O.S. NEWS

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Notice to all Groups: The Australian UFO Report Forms supplied by UFOR Inc. (S.A.) are now out of stock. Mr. Lad Godic of UFOR Inc. (S.A.) asks all groups to advise him, as soon as possible, quantity of forms required for the ensuing 12 months so that printing can be arranged. Note - only ordered quantity will be printed and upon receipt of forms payment is expected. Please direct orders to: Mr. L. Godic, UFOR Inc. (S.A.), 2A Castle Avenue, Prospect. S.A. 5082.

NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

A new comet has been discovered by amateur astronomer David Seargent (one of the ACOS co-ordinators).

First seen by Seargent about 4.30 am on October 2nd last, the comet has since been confirmed and photographed and officially listed as "Seargent's Comet". Marginally bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye (though difficult in practice, because of its low altitude) the comet is one of the long-period variety; a preliminary orbit calculated by astronomer D. Herald of Canberra showing elements indistinguishable from a parabola and, therefore, a period of not less than many hundreds (probably many thousands) of years.

Orbital calculations show that the comet was nearest the sun (about 54 million kilometers) on September 15, although it could not have been discovered then, due to its proximity to the sun in the sky. It will be nearest to earth (about 100 million kilometers away) about October 25th., when it will be visible in small telescopes near the south celestial pole.

U.F.O. REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA.

So far this year, we have on file, the following reports.

UFOR (NSW)	7 N.L.	1 CE1	1 CE2	1 DD
UFOR (CC)	4 N.L.	4 CE1		
K.Blackman	1 N.L.	1 CE1		
UFOR (SA)	1 N.L.	2 CE1		
TUFOIC	3 N.L.	1 CE1		3 DD
UFOR (QLD)	1 N.L.	1 CE1		
UFOR (FNQ)	7 N.L.	1 CE1	2 CE2	
Contact Int. (Aust)	1 N.L.	1 CE1		
UFOR (WA)	3 N.L.	1 CE1		1 DD
U.P.I.B.	6 N.L.			

Reports.

NA78001 1st January 1978 0015 N.L. UFO Research (NSW)

A 74-year old woman was watching the fireworks bring in the new year, when her attention was attracted to a bright self-luminous orange light which she at first thought was a flare. The notion was dispelled when the object, instead of exploding, continued on its trajectory for the next five minutes. The object emerged from behind a neighbour's rooftop and travelled in a straight line SE towards the horizon. When she called a friend to witness the light, the light had changed direction now heading W in a straight line parallel to the southern horizon, until it disappeared behind trees and houses.

NA78003 10th January 1978 0400 CE2 UFO Research (NSW)

A single witness observed 2 luminous lights as he was driving between Grafton and Armidale. One moved over the mountains and the other hovered above the ground a short distance from the witness. It began falling in a stop-start fashion, finally maintaining a level elevation 30-40 feet above the ground. It emitted 'sparks' as it hovered and he shone his car headlights and a pocket torch on the object with no reaction noted. He drove on down the road and alighted to see a huge elongated object with 'portholes' along it's side hovering above the ground. Photographs were taken but produced no tangible proof due to incorrect settings and lighting problems experienced at the time.

(cont.)

The witness ran into the paddock where the object was hovering but returned to the roadway when he heard a car approaching. The driver slowed down and passed the witness who, by being in an agitated state, must have appeared to be mentally affected and gave the wrong impression to the driver of this vehicle. The witness again ran into the field and saw the same vehicle tearing back the way he came at high speed. When he again looked for the object the witness noted that in its place was a strange 'mist' that retracted up the creek and then returned to encircle him. He heard a distinct humming sound directly above the mist. The mist departed along with the object and the witness then continued on his journey. He placed an advertisement in the local paper the next day and other witnesses contacted him to relate similar incidents in the area. The witness suffered much discomfort after the event and he could not sleep for 5 days and nights after it.

NA78005 19th January 1978 2350 CE1 UFO Research (NSW)

A single witness observed a large circular object hovering in the sky near his home. His wife had just gotten out of their car and had walked inside when the witness sighted the object. He called out to her but she was too late and arrived as the object was observed to accelerate straight up, being lost from sight in seconds. The witness described seeing square windows on the outer rim of the craft and it emitted a 'bleeping' sound as it hovered. It was estimated at about 30-40 feet in diameter.

NA78024 13th March 1978 1820 N.L. UFO Research (NSW)

At approximately 6 pm., a large quarter-circle object with two bright white lights, moving slowly over Sydney Harbour from S to N was sighted from the Manly Amusement Pier by a Belrose Family of 3.

NA78038 12th April 1978 0540 N.L. UFO Research (NSW)

At sunrise, a woman spotted a rotating yellowish orange 'fireball' dive in and out of the water off Newport Beach. The most probable explanation, according to present information, is that she saw a type of ball lightning.

NA78057 11th February 1978 2310 N.L. UFO Research (NSW)

A bright yellow light moving slowly across the sky from NE to SW, over a complex of railway buildings, was noticed by a young schoolboy, who was at that time standing on the balcony of his home unit at Mortdale.

NA78064 18th June 1978 1330 DD UFO Research (NSW)

At approximately 1.30 p.m. on a Sunday, a very bright white/silver light was sighted in the NW sky by a 25-year old man, travelling in his car in the Frenchs Forrest area.

NB78002 8th March 1978 1945-2105 CE1 UFO Research (CC)

At 1945, several people saw 2 bright lights coming in from the sea. As the lights came closer, an outline could be seen. It was described as being triangular in shape, the flat part facing forward and the point being towards the back. The two white lights were facing forward. The underneath of the object seemed to be a "burning glowing red", like hot metal. The two lights on the front then began to flash on and off for some time. The object was then reported to hover over a small park in the Point Clare area of the Central Coast where several other people saw it. It then moved north picking up speed where more witnesses reported seeing it as it slowly disappeared.

TA78084 5th August 1978 2150 N.L. TUFOIC.

A family of 5 near Interlaken saw a huge area of glow with beams, north east of shack, also a second NL in a localised area going back and forth at high speed. The glow moved slowly, then reappears to SW and fades away.

TA78089 5th August 1978 1130 D.D. TUFOIC

Two boats were out on a lake at Lake Crescent, when one group of 3 witnesses see an object travelling fast across the water, passing behind the second boat before disappearing. It looked like a thin cigar, near 30 meters long but only $\frac{1}{2}$ meter thick. It was 1 or 2 meters above the water and from the distance covered in the minute visible was travelling at 150-180 khp. The ends were tapered. No smoke or lights were visible. It was a black-brown colour.

WA78006 27th March 1978 1935 N.L. UFO Research (WA)

Two people were walking outside their home in Mt. Pleasant when they watched an object for 10 minutes. The object, which was seen by 8 people altogether is described as bell shaped, bright-white and pulsating with red, green and gold lights underneath, and 1 gold light on top. It was finally lost to sight heading North.

WA78007 28th March 1978 1840 N.L. UFO Research (WA)

A 50-year old woman was standing on the bank of a dam, when she noticed a light moving just above tree-top level, in a straight line westward, and disappearing from sight as though it had been "turned off". The light was white in colour with a pale blue vapour trail. She also noticed her dog became agitated and was barking towards the object.

WB78001 12th January 1978 2245 N.L. U.P.I.B.

Two people observed an object which had blue lights around the top and red lights along the bottom. The object was described as being oval in shape.

WB78002 18th February 1978 2033 N.L. U.P.I.B.

A man was fishing in a river at Eaton when he observed a oblong red/green light in the south, moving slowly to the east. It seemed to curve to the south east when out of sight behind a large tree. It appeared again still heading generally east, and suddenly changed to a golden colour and increased size to about 4 times its original size, when it suddenly expanded and vanished leaving a series of golden dots which hung briefly in the sky and then drifted away.