

THE
AUSTRALIAN

U.F.O.

BULLETIN



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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial - we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.



Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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INCORPORATED 1988

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Print Post Approved
PP338968/0023

MARCH 1997

Contents

PAGE	ARTICLE
2	Editorial
4	On The UFO Trail
6	The Early Years
7	UFO Potpourri
9	Tonopah, Nevada
14	MUFON - Case Briefs
16	Press Cuttings
18	Australian Sightings
19	Myrree Student Report
21	North Croydon/Wonga Park Sighting
24	Book Review - TOP SECRET/MAJIC
25	South Australian Sightings
27	INUFOR - The Gosford Files - New book
28	Queensland Encounters
29	Tasmanian Sightings
31	Society News

1957 - 1997 V.U.F.O.R.S.
FORTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Judith Magee ©

On the 17th February this year, VUFORS has its 40th Birthday. When I joined this Organisation in 1958, it had not been long since "broken away" from the Adelaide based **Australian Flying Saucer Research Society** directed by the late Fred Stone. When George Adamski, visited this country in 1959 the subject of UFO's received considerable media coverage, although I must say, mostly in 'send-up' form, and interest in the subject was generated.

One of the first of some excellent reports was made by the **Rev. Gill** in 1959 at his Mission Station in Papua New Guinea, where he and thirty eight witnesses observed a large UFO come down to within 400 feet of the mission station. He visited us and gave a most interesting talk at Nicholas Hall in the City of Melbourne. At that time our lending library was commenced and became the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere until some years later, when postage costs rose so prohibitively that the service had to be curtailed and we 'lost' a large number of books and out-of-print titles.

VUFORS was also holding meetings at Kelvin Hall in Russell Street, Melbourne, which continued for some lengthy time, but eventually the hall became too small and we had to look for larger premises. It was not the easiest task to find a meeting hall conveniently situated for easy access from all areas but the Horticulture Hall was selected. It was there we held our first exhibition which was considered successful.

We later progressed to the very comfortable National Mutual Theatre which was more centrally situated and where on one occasion a witness told of her car being immobilized by a UFO hovering above her, of communication by some means similar to mental telepathy. "They" informed that tests she would have would be negative which, six months later, proved to be correct. "They" suggested she inform the Media which was not interested so she contacted 3AW where we heard of her. Her last message was that she was now in control and her car started up 'as if she had turned the key'. There were to be a couple of occasions when we met this witness for further investigation. This experience did not have any lasting effect on her.

Another very dramatic and somewhat disastrous report was that of **Frederick Valentich** (as described in our December '96 Bulletin), We had booked the Museum Theatre for a meeting which we expected to be a large gathering, but the Theatre was triple booked and they found us another venue which is our current meeting place - the **Royal Society**.

The Royal Society is a very old organisation which was originally formed to accommodate Professional people of the 'Invisible College' but since these professions have become 'respectable' it is currently patronized by scientists from all persuasions, including medical. Their facilities are excellent and although the hall is quite small and our meetings well attended, we hope we can continue to utilize this most prestigious venue.

VUFORS - 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE - 1957 - 1997

During our 40 years, we have met, from many countries, some excellent researchers who have learned that we are an organisation not easily swayed from reality into believing that everything reported is a genuine UFO.

Over the years we have had a series of extremely interesting researchers from all over the world - some as follows:-

In 1967 **Dr. James E. McDonald**, Atmospheric Physicist, visited this country on behalf of the U.S. Navy. He spent ten days with our committee members, listening to tapes, travelling to country areas with us to interview witnesses, and went home very pleased with his visit. A book is now being written on him and his Australian visit.

In 1973 **Dr. J. Allen Hynek** came to Melbourne for 3 or 4 days during which time we arranged a Reception at a city Penthouse where he was able to interview witnesses of close encounters, he listened to tapes, met the **Rev. W. Gill** and a number of our members - some of whom are still with us - who spent much of their time organising meals and refreshments for all.

In 1987 we had our first visit from an African researcher. Up until that time we had not heard much about African reports, but **Mrs. Cynthia Hind** who spoke at one of our meetings soon altered that view and we often print material from her publication in our Bulletin. We were very happy to have her spend some time with us.

In 1991 **Dr. Willy Smith** of UNICAT fame and his wife Terri visited Melbourne en route to Queensland for some scuba diving and a visit to the Barrier Reef. Willy spoke at one of our meetings and spent some time visiting

privately and seeing the sights. Quite a number of his "Pearls" have been published in our Bulletin.

In 1992 **Dewey Fournet** and his wife Win (ex Australian) came here on a visit to her folks. Dewey had been an Intelligence Officer during the 1952, Washington radar/visual UFO flap. He was also Liaison Officer for Project Blue Book so we were pleased to be able to hear numerous accounts of his experiences.

More recently a number of well known identities in the UFO field of research came out to Australia for a Conference and among them was **Stanton Friedman**, who is probably one of the world's best speakers on the subject and who addressed a large meeting at the Dallas Brooks Hall in Melbourne. The hall, we were told, holds about 2,000 people and we must have had between 1,500 and 1,800 people present. The speaker stated later that the quality and quantity of questions had surprised him as did the interest until almost midnight. That meeting surpassed any he had attended whilst in this country.

I would like to add here that most of the credit for these visits goes to our Vice President/Investigator **Mr. Paul Norman** who, in his travels, has met these people at Conferences overseas and discussed Australian reports with them, thus raising their interest in both UFO research and knowledge of the country.

Let us hope that this year we do not have the pestilent pranksters of the past few years, taking directions off the "Net" on how to make UFO's, then maybe we will have something more substantial to investigate and perhaps by the Turn of the Century we may have some of the answers, if not all!

ON THE UFO TRAIL

Paul Norman ©

The Whitman Blimp, stationed at Moorabbin Airport, for the past three months has been the source of a number of false UFO reports. The blimp which has been flying around Melbourne advertising chocolates as well as taking passengers on flights, has quiet motors not heard over a short distance and gives the impression of a cigar shaped UFO.

The Russian space station MIR has also been sighted especially when the shuttle was near the station and reported as two lights remaining the same distance apart travelling at the same speed. Many satellites are frequently reported as UFOs. The spy satellites are often in polar orbit travelling south to north or north to south. They are visible up to two hours after sunset as long as the sun is not too far below the

horizon for the light rays to shine on the satellite. Readers who are interested can see them on clear nights.

During the past three months interest was caused by fire balls of which much is to be learned. There were also meteorites reported. The most outstanding one believed to be a bolide that exploded over **Hamilton**, Victoria. It was seen from Mount Gambier South Australia to Hamilton where it exploded. I interviewed ten witnesses at Hamilton some who heard the explosion and five observers who saw the object. Two witnesses were observing the object when it split into two

chunks. One piece is believed to have crashed in the Grampians. VUFORS has appealed through the Hamilton Spectator for fragments if found.

When I first joined the fight to try and end public deception with regard to cover-ups, I did not realise that the field of Ufology was tainted with deception throughout the world.

“Every object that flies through the sky is not a space ship and every dream is not an abduction”

As an example- Last year. VUFORS received a letter marked urgent. Inside was information about an insurance policy against alien abduction offering up to **one million pounds Sterling** if abducted. VUFORS committee members, with years of experience in dealing with frauds and manipulators had their laugh and laid the policy offer aside. Unfortunately there are individuals who think that

people who believe in UFOs will believe anything. This was another attempt to defraud the gullible out of money and was exposed. All that glitters is not gold and researchers must not become gullible but always be vigilant against manipulators.

Even **Dr. John Mack**, regarded by some as the foremost expert in the abduction field was deceived by a woman who faked a story and after being taken seriously admitted she was only trying him out. After this revelation. **Dr. Mack** is on record as saying that he accepted her story in good faith.

On The UFO Trail

Wholly accepting everybody in good faith is not good enough. Every object that flies through the sky is not a space ship and every dream is not an abduction. If what some people who have reported regarding abduction is true then the “ETs” are deceptive and manipulative. Let us hope some good ones are out there. One good rule to follow if the “contactee” or “abductee” is untruthful regarding ordinary things, forget the case when discussing out of this world experiences. This is not intended for people who report sincere beliefs.

Other incidents concerning long streaks of light in the sky have been reported to us and we are informed that the **CSIRO** is using laser beams to check on the extent of damage to the ozone layer from the greenhouse effect. It is

becoming more difficult to separate manmade activity from the unexplained reports, including suspected mind control experiments.

Of prime interest to researchers around the world is the forthcoming probe to Mars. Officials have agreed to give a little bit more attention to the face and pyramids in the **Cydonia** region of the planet. That decision has been brought about because of the criticism from researchers like **Richard Hoagland**, author of the book **The Monuments of Mars**, Professor-Stanley McDaniel, Dr Mark Carlote, author of **The Martian Enigmas**, suggesting possible evidence of artificial structures on Mars. Let us hope the findings will not remain behind the paper curtain of censorship.

Obituary

MIMI HYNEK, wife of the late **Dr. J. Allen Hynek**, passed away on October 10th, last year at the age of 73 due to a sudden heart attack. She met Dr. Hynek in 1941 and soon after they were married. She was the mother of five children.

Mrs. Hynek was very helpful after Allen founded the **Center for UFO Studies** in Illinois. I visited with them in Evanston when the center was located in their home and on several occasions at conferences in the U.S., Canada and the U.K.

Mimi served on the CUFOS board of Directors, hosted board meetings and was editor of CUFOS publications. After the death of Dr Hynek, she took interest in digging for artifacts at Indian locations.

Paul Norman

THE EARLY YEARS

(A selection of reports from "The Australian Flying Saucer Magazine" published by the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau in the early 1950's)

Santiago, Chile - March 1, 1950

The head of the Chilean Base in Antarctica, Commander Augusto Vars Orrego, reported that several of the explorers under his command had seen and photographed several discs wheeling above the lonely station during the bright Antarctic night. He said they were wheeling and turning, one above the other at tremendous speeds. The Commander discounted the possibility of their being "optical illusions", the pictures corroborated what was observed. Commander Orrego added that whether the photographs would be published or not depended on his superiors as they were the property of the Chilean Navy.

Brisbane, Queensland - January 21, 1953

Two Graceville brothers, Alan and Arnold Schnitzerling, returned from a country trip to report having been followed for two miles by a bright light only 3 feet across. A smaller, dullish red one was noticed close to it at first. As their truck approached the larger light, they said "It shot upwards at terrific speed", then circled and came back at them. It kept level with their truck, which was travelling at 20 m.p.h., and when the truck stopped the light slowed its pace to 10 m.p.h. and landed only 200 yards from them. The brothers did not investigate from then on but both said they thought the object to be "power driven". "It was", said Alan, "terribly bright".

London, England - November 11, 1953

Air Ministry officials admitted that England and America were exchanging "top secret" information about flying saucers. The officials also admitted that many reports of flying saucers in England had been withheld from the public, the reason for which was not given.

Melbourne, Victoria - April 28, 1954

A flying saucer was reported to have almost stopped the 6.00 a.m. Geelong to Ararat goods train between Duverny and Berrybank when it dived directly at the train. The driver and fireman said that they first saw it when the object was about four miles away. It looked a dark purple colour and was diving and banking. Then it remained stationary for about ninety seconds during which the men could see that it was perfectly round.

The dark mass suddenly plunged down at the train. "It screamed down", the driver, Mr E. Smith reported, "then suddenly raced upwards again. It hovered over us like a huge monster and was unlike any aircraft. It came to within 300 feet of us and I had the feeling it was driven. After plunging about the sky, it rose higher and higher and went out of sight."

Mr Colin Beacon, the fireman, described the object as dark blue and black. An assistant station-master said both men were very dependable and he accepted their story without question.

These archives were made available to VUFORS by Mr Murray Bott of New Zealand.

UFO POTPOURRI

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SEPTEMBER 1996

FLORIDA CLOSE ENCOUNTER

From: ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL, 7/10/96
On the night of June 17, 1996 at approximately 10:30 pm, a young Pensacola resident was returning home from work. He was traveling east on Kingsfield Road in north Pensacola, driving his pick up and playing the radio. He noticed lights in the sky ahead of him. He thought at first that it was an airplane coming directly toward him down the road. Driving ahead of him was a truck pulling a boat trailer and a boat. As he drove, he continued to see the object coming toward him. He could see that it was a large triangular shaped craft resembling an equilateral triangle. "It was dark black," he said. "There were white lights, one on each corner. The lights were perfectly round and were shining down toward the ground. There was a red blinking light in the center of the triangle."

As he watched this craft come over his truck, he pulled off the side of the road. So did the truck towing the boat in front of him. The witness found himself directly beneath the large craft which was now hovering over the north side of Kingsfield Road. "When it was over me, I could not see the lights on it that I saw when it was coming towards me, just the ones on the corner and the red one in the middle," the witness stated. It hovered there above him for approximately 20 seconds before moving slowly off to the east and then gaining speed until it was out of sight.

The witness left the area immediately and drove to a friend's house to tell them what he had seen.

When it was suggested that maybe he had seen a conventional aircraft, he said he felt it was not since it had hovered stationary for a period of time. When asked if could have been a Harrier jet, the witness replied, "it it had been a Harrier, my whole truck would have been shaking!"

FLYING TRIANGLE OVER ENGLAND

From: VISITOR, Southport, England, 3/8/96
UFOs hovering over Southport left witnesses stunned this week. A number of shocked motorists have contacted the VISITOR to report close encounters with the unidentified flying object. And now claims have been backed up by experts in extraterrestrial affairs.

One man was driving along Meols Cop Road at about 6 p.m. last Friday when he came face to face with a craft hovering over a field. He said: "This thing was unreal. It was sort of triangle-shaped with a white light in each corner and a square green light

in the middle. It remained motionless for at least five minutes. By that time several cars had stopped and the drivers and passengers were standing by their cars watching in amazement."

"Suddenly, the object started going round the field for a minute or two. Then it stopped and the lights gathered together. Now it was just one big green light and, without warning, it just flew off."

A couple driving home along New Cut Lane at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday also spotted an unidentifiable craft. Mr. Dave Singleton, of Shaftesbury Road, said: "I saw a flash across the sky very high up. Then it came back a few seconds later, leaving behind a vapor trail. It was moving too fast to be a plane."

Merseyside Police say their helicopter was not in the area at the time of the sightings, and the RAF say they know nothing about it.

"We don't fly at night," said squadron leader Nigel May at Woodvale. "I can categorically say it was not a plane from Woodvale."

ANOTHER FLYING TRIANGLE

From: BRECON & RADNOR EXPRESS, 3/28/96
The description of a mysterious formation of lights in the sky near Penlan, Brecon (England), by local mother of two Sarah Barnard fits closely with reports of an unexplained flying object in a national newspaper.

Mrs. Barnard and her children were frightened and mystified when they saw a large ring of lights close to the ground moving towards Groesfordd on Thursday March 14 and told of their experience.

Saturday's DAILY MAIL included an article describing a slow, silent object dubbed the 'Silent Vulcan' or 'Flying Triangle'.

FLYING WEDGE (TRIANGLE) OVER ENGLAND

From: THE WEEKLY NEWS, London, 4/6/96
One of the strangest encounters reported recently by the Civil Aviation Authority after a year-long investigation into a bizarre sighting by two British Airways pilots.

They were approaching Manchester Airport last January in their Boeing 737 when suddenly, at 4,000 feet, a strange wedge-shaped object lit up like a Christmas tree flashed soundlessly by the plane's right side and vanished at astonishing speed. The craft past so closely that one of the pilots actually ducked. The two pilots radioed a near miss but the CAA could find no explanation for what they saw.

LARGE BLACK TRIANGLE OVER ENGLAND

From: SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, 5/5/96

Two teenagers on a fishing trip dropped their tackle and ran when a strange black craft appeared in the sky above them.

Steven Wright, 17 and James Rawle, 16 from Wellington, said they were fishing near Milverton at about 8:30 pm when the craft appeared making a low-pitched humming noise.

They described it as a **large black triangle** with a white light on each corner and another near the center. It passed overhead at about 200 to 300 feet.

Steven said: "It was pretty scary. We thought it was about to get us so we cut loose our fishing tackle, jumped on our bikes and cycled away."

SILENT UFO ZOOMS BY

From: PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland, 2/27/96

Two workers with Highland Regional Council are mystified by a 'silent' UFO that buzzed them early yesterday.

Simon McKenzie and Murdo Macleod were loading their road gritter at Achitibule on the west coast when the strange object zoomed the tops of the telephone poles, without making a sound.

The object then flew off towards the Brae of Achnahaird, four miles north.

Mr. Macleod, 33, said: "We were going up the road and we saw it again stationary above a point of land. It then crossed the brae to another point of land.

"We actually stopped and watched it for about 10 to 15 minutes. It was going up and down, backwards and forwards, all sorts of strange maneuvers."

"Mr. McKenzie, 30, said: "I have no idea what it was. It certainly wasn't a helicopter or a jet. The only explanation is a UFO."

Aberdeen Weather Center said there were no unusual climatic conditions in the area. But RAF Kinloss said aircraft had been flying all through the night as part of a NATO exercise.

CANADA'S X-FILES CLOSED

From: Vancouver SUN, 7/27/96

Canada's X-Files have been shut down. For years, federal bodies, such as the Mounties, have been sending reports from the public to the National Research Council.

Although the National Research Council has collected hundreds of UFO sightings over the

years, it is no longer a beacon for accounts of alien activity.

The official story: The mysterious reports that might shed light on little green men have fallen prey to the federal tide of swelling red ink.

The NRC's Solar-Terrestrial Physics Group is being phased out, the victim of budget cuts, leaving no one to collect and catalog the sighting reports. But when the subject is government knowledge of UFOs, can whispers of cover-up be far behind?

Quicker than you can say extraterrestrial biological entity, the NRC's Fokke Creutzberg moves to squelch suggestions of conspiracy.

"In Canada - a cover up? A conspiracy to hide stuff? Holy smokes," says Creutzberg, a physicist who has spent 30 years studying the upper atmosphere. "We don't have enough time in the world to play games like that."

What about a top-secret, deny-everything campaign at the highest levels, like on TV's *X-Files*?

"There could be," he allows. "Nothing is impossible, OK?"

It seems the NRC, however, got into the flying saucer field almost by accident. The council had an active meteorite research program in the 1950s and encouraged the public to make reports of celestial sightings. Meteor research fizzled in the 1970s, but reports kept coming in, says Creutzberg. "And from then on in, basically, it became the UFO files."

For years, various federal agencies - including the RCMP, defense and transport - have been forwarding reports from the public to the NRC.

The council has transferred dozens of reports annually to the National Archives, where the public can see them, with the witnesses' names deleted to protect privacy.

The sightings reports include police files, letters, interview transcripts and sketches.

V-SHAPED UFO OVER ENGLAND

From: SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, 3/29/96

A "V-shaped craft" with about 20 lights on its flanks was spotted by Southend (Essex) couple Mike and Kay Rose, at about 8:35 pm on Wednesday. The couple, of Boumemouth Park Road, were watching the comet Hyakutake when they saw the craft.

Mick said: "It looked like a formation of ducks, but crossed the sky from east to west in about five seconds." Another woman had a sighting at 9:15.

Rayleigh astronomer Royston Dean, from the Astronomy Resource Center in Hawkwell, is baffled by the sightings. He said: "I am at a loss to explain them."

TONOPAH, NEVADA

NOVEMBER 23, 1957

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UNICAT Project
8011 SW 189th Street
Miami, FL 33157 USA

In principle, this is not a case deserving inclusion in the UNICAT Project data base of high-quality UFO incidents. because although it involves a close encounter with four landed objects, it has only one witness and lacks supporting evidence, and the official investigation was only perfunctory. What makes the sighting unusual is how it was handled by Blue Book, and thus it typifies the extreme means used by the Air Force in its efforts to eliminate those incidents at odds with the official line, even to the extent of sacrificing one of its officers if necessary. It is also a neat example of how the label '*psychological*' was used.

The occurrence took place on November 23, 1957, at a time when Capt. George T. Gregory was the head of the Blue Book Project (Hynek, 1977: 25). During his tenure Capt. Gregory distinguished himself by his anti UFO posture, which is evident in his communications as well as in the hand written notes he added in the margins of the official files. The case was listed by Vallee in his *MAGONIA* catalogue (Vallee, 1969), and Dr. Hynek considered it interesting enough to be included in his book (Hynek, 1977: 182). Our main source is, however, the Project Blue Book Files (BBP: #31).

THE INCIDENT

1st Lt. Joseph F. Long was a member of the 97th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, with headquarters near Wilmington, Delaware. An officer with a distinguished service sheet, he was selected to take an advanced course at

Survival School at Stead AFB in Nevada, and while returning from that assignment, he had his sighting. As per the official records, Lt. Long started driving from that base on November 22, 1953 at 9:30 in the evening.

The only place named in the files is Reno, Nevada, and apparently the witness travelled all night, taking only 2 hours rest. The record is not clear about this point, as the distance from Reno to the place of the incident is about 200 miles, and can be easily covered in 4 hours. If Lt. Long started at midnight, the trip was not demanding or tiring.

At any rate, this is Lt. Long's narrative. At 6:30 AM, when it was already daylight but before the sun emerged from behind the mountains, his car started to fail and finally stopped, and it was not possible to restart it. As the Lieutenant descended from his vehicle, he became aware of a steady high-pitched whining noise and then noticed four objects on the ground at a distance of 300 to 400 yards to the right of the highway. The objects were totally unusual, and he decided to approach them for a better look. He walked several minutes until he was about 50 ft from one of them, and this is how he described them (Hynek, 1977: 182)(BBP: #31):

The objects were identical and about fifty feet in diameter. They were disc-shaped, emitting their own source of light causing them to glow brightly. They were equipped with a transparent dome in the center of the top which was obviously not of the

same material as the rest of the craft. The entire body of the objects emitted the light. They did not appear to be dark on the underside. They were equipped with three landing gears each that appeared hemispherical in shape and about two feet in diameter and of some dark material. The SOURCE (i.e., Lt. Long) estimated the height of the objects from the ground level to the top of the dome to be about ten to fifteen feet. The objects were equipped with a ring around the outside which was darker than the rest of the craft and was apparently rotating.

As Lt. Long reached a point about 50 ft. from the nearest object, suddenly the noise intensified in pitch and the objects lifted off the ground, moving slowly away until they disappeared behind some hills toward the north. The total duration of the incident was about 20 minutes, of which 10 to 15 were used while the witness approached the object by walking on the desert. After the objects disappeared, the witness examined the landing area:

There was no evidence that any heat had been present or that the ground had been disturbed in any other way than several very small impressions in the sand where the landing gear had obviously rested. Impressions were very shallow and bowl shaped, triangular in pattern. SOURCE estimated the distance between the impressions to be about eight to ten feet.

Lt. Long returned to his car, a 1956 Chevrolet, which started without difficulty; and he drove to the nearest Air Force base in Indian Springs, Nevada, where he reported his experience to the base Security Officer.

THE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

The first official report is dated December 27, 1957, more than a month after the facts, and is lengthy and detailed (BBP: #31, a). It is an important document, as all the directives to follow were based, one way or another, on this initial interrogation. The file copy also shows revealing marginal hand written notes added by Capt. George T. Gregory. Whenever possible, we have transcribed the script in italics.

1st Lt. Long was 24 years old at the time, and had considerable education, which included 4 years of college, where he studied speech and related subjects for subsequent work at TV stations or the like (*Note. Important Clue! Possible motive. GTG.*) He was also well qualified with attendance at all-weather instrument school, and flight training in the F-84 and T-33. His reliability was never in question, and in fact the report reads:

SOURCE appeared intelligent and he was friendly and co-operative. Initially he appeared somewhat nervous, but it is believed that this was due to his uncertainty as to how his information would be received..... During the latter part of the interview, while working on SOURCE's narrative description of the incident, his commanding officer and his adjutant were present in the room. Both spoke favourably of SOURCE's ability as a fighter pilot and of his character. His C.O. passed remarks to the effect that he, for one, believed SOURCE.

Curiously enough, the names of the C.O. and his adjutant are not mentioned. The next section of the report is the description of the sighting, partially transcribed above, followed by the comments of the preparing officer

(Capt. Benjamin C. Kenyon), who after stating that the weather was excellent, summarizes that after rejecting all conventional explanations, the witness concluded that the objects *were 'not of this Earth'*. Two paragraphs deserve to be repeated here mainly because of the notes added by Blue Book's head:

5 The investigator was able to ascertain that SOURCE was not unfamiliar with science fiction literature of a "higher" type. SOURCE did not deny knowledge of such authors as Leinster, Bradbury, Heinlein, Sturgeon, Azimov, etc. (Science fiction and "saucer" writers. GTG)

6 SOURCE's motives for possibly manufacturing such a story remain mere conjecture to this investigator (Conjecture!?!? See 5 above as well as "education" for clue to motives. GTG)

Finally, the Intelligence Information Report closes with remarks by the Approving Officer (Colonel John W. Meador), whose opinion is that the reliability of the SOURCE cannot readily be questioned, and that he (Meador) is forwarding this sighting as UNKNOWN.

A RELUCTANT PSYCHOLOGIST

The interesting part of this sighting begins when that 12-page report reached the hands of Capt. Gregory, who clearly perceived the consequences that such a case could have for the Air Force, as the witness was not an insignificant civilian, but an Air Force officer well considered by his superiors.

The files contain an undated draft of a memo having a paragraph directly addressing this concern:

5. The matter will require discreet handling. The fact an Air Force pilot insisting and officially testifying that he walked up to, and observed "four flying saucers" at close-hand, following immediately on the heels of a nation-wide TV presentation to the effect that after a decade of searching, the Air Force has yet to prove the existence of one, would, if unwittingly released to the press or public, undoubtedly result in immediate and violent repercussions to the embarrassment of the Air Force. It is for this reason that all avenues and aspects be explored, before such drastic measures as a lie-detector test be given consideration.

A similar paragraph, obviously based on the above text, appears in the Summary of the Incident prepared for General Watts and is quoted by Hynek (Hynek, 1972: 184).

The need for a review and analysis from the psychological point of view was agreed upon, and the choice fell on *Dr. Paul M. Fitts* a member of the Department of Psychology at Ohio State University. From reading the files it is evident that Dr. Fitts had collaborated with the Air Force in the past, having performed 212 psychological analyses of UFO sightings, as well as having prepared a special report on the subject for the Air Force.

But Dr. Fitts was not now so ready to collaborate, perhaps because, having previously worked with the Air Force, he knew it would place him in a delicate situation, and he skilfully avoided getting involved for many weeks (from a first phone

contact on February, 1958 to his report dated April 3, 1958), as documented by five pages of messages in the Blue Book files. But finally Capt. Gregory sent him the file (essentially the 12-page report discussed above) by special messenger, and Dr. Fitts reluctantly wrote a report which starts with a disclaimer: "*On the basis of the evidence of the folder I can only offer conjectures regarding the nature of this incident*" Nevertheless, he presents three conjectures, as guidance for the collection of additional evidence.

a) **hoax.** Even an AF officer can perpetrate a hoax. Recommendation: investigate 1st Lt. Long's personal background

b) **road hypnosis.** Brought on by excessive fatigue and loss of sleep. Recommendation: complete hour-by-hour analysis of 1st Lt Long's activities during the previous 72 hours.

c) **lack of observation of specific details.** This conforms to the pattern of many previous "flying saucers" reports, where the observers simply did not see clearly what was actually there, in which case one can't speculate as to what was actually seen. Recommendation: check for possible helicopter or other activities in the area.

As already pointed out by Dr. Hynek, what the psychologist did was to dismiss the case, appending the label "road hypnosis" on very little evidence, if any. Of course, Dr. Fitts knew what was expected of him and produced it. Never mind that no inquiries were made about the medical records of the witness, or his possible history of mental stability. Not to mention that Dr. Fitts never had a face-to-face

interview with Lt. Long, because, as we read in the files:

A vis-a-vis psychological examination of the source, concurrent with his report was not considered advisable.

So much for the report that Dr. Fitts took six weeks to prepare! I suspect that the psychologist did not read the documents sent to him with his most concentrated attention, for if he had, he would have known, for instance, that Lt. Long really provided quite a bit of detail. He would have discovered that, although the total duration of the incident was about 20 minutes, the witness walked for several minutes before reaching the landing site, more than enough to dissipate any effects of road hypnosis. Therefore, his time in the proximity of the objects was very limited, and if he did not *observe structural details, such as antenna, trade name of the tires, etc.*, as apparently Dr. Fitts expected him to do, it was simply because they were not there to report. If anything, this observation weakens the possibility of a hoax, for in such a case the witness would have presented minute details.

Dr. Fitts favors the third conjecture and closes his report by saying what he thought he was expected to say:

In summary, I strongly feel that this is just another case of mistaken identity or confusion in perception under unusual circumstances. This opinion, I must confess, is based primarily on comparison of this with thousands of previous reports.

But he was wrong, as the Air Force chose road hypnosis as a more credible possibility.

FINAL DISPOSITION

This is the title of the last document that closes the case in the files (BBP,#31. b) and summarizes the information to be presented to General Watson for his decision: it is mentioned here for completeness, as some passages are very revealing.

For instance, the comments made by Capt. Gregory about 1st Lt. Long are not very flattering, as Gregory obviously favors the hoax hypothesis, even if he doesn't dare to voice it:

Mouthed same thread-worn statements used by majority of pseudo-scientists and 'flying saucer' authors, i.e. not of this earth - propulsion by electromagnetic forces - believe they were space ships

With reference to Dr. Fitts' report, he states that the most likely conjecture was road hypnosis, which is incorrect. Capt. Gregory adds some reflections about why a polygraph examination would be undesirable:

A polygraph (lie detector) test be given to Lt Long. Consequences: test would definitely establish if subject was lying or was disposed toward exaggeration or hoaxes. If he actually believed he saw three strange objects (because of fatigue, road hypnosis, etc.) the case would remain inconclusive, with the observer's story

being strengthened, with the probability of anger and resentment toward the Air Force on the part of the subject.

One notices that we talk now of *three* instead of four objects, an error that repeats in this final document. Is this an indication of how fed up Capt. Gregory was with Lt. Long? Be that as it may, the Air Force decided that the best course of action for all involved was to accept the road hypnosis conjecture advanced by Dr. Fitts, and that is what they did: the **CONCLUSION** on the incident record card now reads **PSYCHOLOGICAL**. As in many other incidents, the Air Force's explanation of the sighting is the less probable.

And of course, the files are silent concerning the fate of Lt. Long, or if he was ever interrogated again. The world will never know what happened to that promising young pilot or where he ended up.

Since the Air Force never carried out the recommendations of Dr. Fitts, the files do not contain enough information for a truly scientific determination. The possibility of a *hoax*, perhaps inspired by the then current Levelland incidents of Nov. 2-3, 1957 (McDonald. 1968), cannot be set aside, but it is clear that the case never moved into the public domain and that Lt. Long did not profit from his adventure.

CASE BRIEFS: EXPLORATIONS & REVIEW

Case Briefs Editor, MUFON Northern

California, P. O. Box 7668, Landscape Station, Berkeley, CA 94707-

Issue #12

0688.

Northern California Affiliate

July / September, 1996

MYSTERIES IN MEXICO:
A UFO REPORTBy Ruben Uriarte
MUFON Assistant State Director
and Field Investigator

In the past year I have traveled to Mexico twice to do research and interview witnesses directly involved with some of the thousands of sightings reported throughout the country over the past five years. This article is about my most recent research trip to Mexico from April 13 - 20, 1996.

Serving as tour guide and group interpreter, I traveled with twelve people through Beyond Boundaries Research Expeditions. The group consisted of several MUFON members from northern California and other areas of the U.S., several research scientists and interested individuals wanting to obtain more information on the UFO phenomenon. We also had two researchers from the Bigelow Foundation which has a section that funds UFO/aerial phenomena research. Our expedition took us to Metepec, Atlixco, Tepoztlan and Mexico City.

One of the "hot spots" since 1991 are the towns of Metepec and Atlixco in the state of Puebla. While there, I received a lot of assistance from Noberto Solgado, President of Investigacion del Fenomeno OVNI E Inteligencia Extraterrestre - Grupo Atlixco (IFOIEGA) of which I am now an honorary member. The IFOIEGA organization has an observation campsite called "Punto Marcon" approximately 5-10 miles from Mt. Popocatepetl, the 4th largest active volcano in the world. The IFOIEGA members have built a small house on the campsite that serves as a "club" house and shelter from the weather.

Volcanic activity, UFO sightings and anomalous lights have been observed over the volcano on numerous night watches. Noberto indicated that one UFO which he described as having a "reddish" dome or sphere came close to his group. They have made the campsite available to any local or international research groups and people such as Dr. Steven Greer of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI) who have come to this site on several occasions. Noberto will continue to fax reports to me on their night watch activities.

We met several "contactees" during the trip, including a young boy named Claudio, in the small town on Atlimayaya, famous for its trout fisheries and restaurants. Claudio and a friend saw three small beings several years ago while they were herding goats. The boys were sitting along a rock ledge when suddenly a bright, intense light appeared. Claudio said he was able to see three small "beings" wearing tight fitting clothing. He described them as having large heads, strange faces and no mouths. He described one of the beings as having strange markings on its head and a small beard. Claudio said that the beings spoke to him and his friend. He could hear a garbled voice within his head - possibly telepathic communication. He said that the beings were there to prevent "the others" from erupting the volcano. The goats behaved in a very frightened manner and formed a protective circle. A month later a large beam of light from the sky lit his entire home in the evening. His father and mother were terrified and told the children to remain in the home.

CASE BRIEFS: EXPLORATIONS & REVIEW

We also interviewed architect Mario Torres Ramirez who has observed numerous disk-like craft flying in formation in and out of the volcano. He provided me with some fantastic sketches of his sightings.

Our group was introduced to Adriana, a 16 year old girl who has had three visitations within the past nine months. She has scoop marks on her foot, abdomen and chest area. During the first experience she was awakened at night by an intense green fluorescent light and saw a "round oval craft" land on the front lawn of her home in Metepec. She decided to go back to bed thinking that it was all a dream. The next day her father discovered an oval shaped ring formation in the front lawn. Her father told me their neighbors have seen green fluorescent lights and heard strange noises around the neighborhood. Each visitation left trace landing marks on the front lawn (see following data).

<u>Data</u>	<u>Trace Landing Measurements</u>	<u>Time</u>
6/20/95	10 meters	2-3 a.m.
10/28/95	6 meters	2-3 a.m.
3/26/96	11.8 meters	2-3 a.m.

We also met Carlos Dias and his wife, Margarita, who spoke to our group about their experiences with the "plasma ships" in Tepoztlan. Carlos is a professional photographer who has witnessed these extraordinary orange and red luminous objects for a number of years. He showed his photographs and video footage. He said that he was once taken onboard a plasma craft and had telepathically communicated with an intelligence. Carlos has recently been on a speaking tour in the United States.

Jaime Maussan, President of "Programas de Investigacion" and well-known investigative journalist throughout Mexico and Latin America, gave our group an informative presentation regarding Mexico's UFO activity. I was invited to his home in the wooded mountains of Mexico City. He is an environmentalist and his home is built directly into the wooded hillside. He showed me many of his indigenous artifacts, along with his rose quartz crystal skull.* (This is the third crystal skull that I have come across within the last 18 months!) Jaime is a very gracious and hospitable person, and I look forward to working with him on future expeditions.

It is believed by many Mexicans that the UFO events are a sign that the "gods are returning." According to the Dresden Codex,** we have entered into the beginning of the "Sixth Sun," the sun of Quetzalcoatl, the plumed serpent god. Jaime Maussan has given the following closing statements at a number of his presentations regarding this subject. He says that there will be many Earth changes. "The new lord is coming, the old lords will die or leave. A new order will be born." The eclipse*** indicates a return to roots, the knowledge of the Ancients, of the indigenous people, to the reign of the gods. In the Sixth Sun, we will meet the "Lord of the Stars" (1).

1. *The Cosmic Connection*, Michael Heseman, Gateway Book Publishers, 1996.

* The crystal skulls are human sized and shaped made of natural quartz and discovered in various archaeological dig sites in Mexico and South America. Their age is unknown, but some researchers estimate they may be over a thousand years old. So far, only 14 are known to exist. People who possess a crystal skull claim it can impart information of a metaphysical nature when held.

** The Dresden Codex is an interpretation of Maya hieroglyph writings.

Author's note: The still continuous 'flap' of sightings in Mexico City began during an eclipse in July, 1991. A shining metallic disk was seen and filmed by many people during the eclipse of the sun over Mexico and Central America.

OBITUARY

Carl Sagan, the stellar storyteller

By Peggy Andersen,
Seattle, Saturday

CARL SAGAN, who rhapsodised about a universe populated by "billions and billions" of stars, was a rare star himself - a celebrity astronomer who helped make the vast unknown a little less mysterious.

Sagan died of pneumonia yesterday at age 62 at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre. He had suffered from the bone marrow disease myelodysplasia for two years and had a bone-marrow transplant in 1995.

He leaves behind a generation inspired by his enthusiastic lectures, books and documentaries about space and life.

Sagan won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 1978 for 'The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence'.

In 1980, his acclaimed 13-part Public Broadcasting Service se-



Carl Sagan: celebrity astronomer.

ries 'Cosmos' became the most-watched limited series in the history of American public television, a record since surpassed by 'The Civil War'.

The series, seen by more than 500 million people in 60 countries, made Sagan a celebrity, caricatured in cartoons and parodied by comics who seized on his references to "billions and billions" of stars.

A Cornell University professor

with more than a score of honorary degrees and a decorated NASA adviser, Sagan had the rare gift of being able to communicate his enchantment with science to the masses.

Asked to explain the public's interest, he said: "They're not numbskulls. Thinking scientifically is as natural as breathing."

Sagan's research focused mostly on the chemistry of the planets. But he also contributed to the search for habitable worlds and intelligent life beyond the solar system, as well as theories about life's origins.

Purists complained that Sagan oversimplified and made interpretive errors but he had the full confidence of his department chairman at Cornell University.

"Carl was the best teacher of science in the world," Professor Yervant Terzian said. "It is difficult to think of a more positive, compassionate and intelligent person."

Sagan never shied away from

the label of science populariser, declaring in 1994 that "I wear the badge proudly". While he had a flair for making scientific ideas comprehensible and exciting, Sagan built up an impressive research record.

He earned a physics degree from the University of Chicago in 1954 and a doctorate in astronomy and astrophysics in 1960. He was appointed lecturer and assistant professor of astronomy at Harvard in 1962.

In 1971, he became a full professor at Cornell, where his lectures drew standing-room-only crowds. His research dipped into the environmental consequences of nuclear war, among other things.

Sagan helped design robotic missions for NASA and played leading roles in the Mariner, Viking, Voyager and Galileo expeditions.

He was a firm believer in the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Associated Press

Correction

Source of XITH Century UFO report from China, page 19 of the September, 1996 edition is from DELVE, a newsletter of unusual reports on various subjects. An exchange publication only with others of like nature. Published by Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale Ontario Canada M2M 1X5

Have You Seen A Press Cutting That
VUFORS May Be Interested In?
Please Send It To Us
We Rely On You, The Membership

✉ ➔ VUFORS

Cosmic conman

LONDON — A \$3.5 million insurance payout to a man allegedly abducted by aliens has been exposed as a fraud.

Simon Burgess, whose firm insures against odd risks, said he paid the money to a man who took out a \$200 policy.

The man produced photos, a video and an alien claw as proof, Mr Burgess said.

But *The Sunday Times* said it was a set-up to sell more policies. After the publicity, Mr Burgess sold 1100 similar policies, it said.

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William E. Jones

This is a slightly different version from the interview we had in our Ohio UFO Notebook. I am sure it was given by Cooper at a later date.

UFOs ARE REAL—I'VE SEEN THEM, SAYS NASA ASTRONAUT

Exclusive interview with Gordon Cooper blows lid off 50-year cover-up

Space hero Gordon Cooper, one of the original "Right Stuff" astronauts, says he knows that UFOs exist — because he's SEEN them!

In a world exclusive interview, Cooper has broken his silence to become the first astronaut to speak openly about alien spacecraft. He says there's been a massive government cover-up of UFOs for nearly 50 years — and insists the American public has a right to know the truth.

"I know other astronauts share my feelings," declared Cooper, 69, who went into space aboard a Mercury craft in 1963 and on a Gemini craft two years later.

"And we know the government is sitting on hard evidence of UFOs!"

Cooper said he first encountered UFOs as a military pilot in Germany in the early 1950s, when unidentified craft were spotted over an air base.

"We thought they could have been Russian — we regularly had MiG-15s overflying our base. We scrambled our Sabre jets to intercept and got to our ceiling of 45,000 feet . . . and they were still way above us traveling faster than we were.

"These vehicles were in formation like a fighter group, but they were metallic silver and saucer-shaped. Believe me, they weren't like any MiGs I'd seen before! They had to be UFOs."

In 1957, Cooper was one of an elite band of test pilots at Edwards Air Force Base in California, in charge of several advanced projects, including the installation of a precision landing system.

"I had a camera crew filming the installation when they spotted a saucer. They filmed it as it flew overhead, then hovered, extended three legs as landing gear, and slowly came down



HARD EVIDENCE: Gordon Cooper, one of our original space heroes, saw his first UFOs as a military pilot in the early 1950s. Today (left) the famed astronaut speaks out. "America has a right to know," he says.

aged to get within 20 or 30 yards of it, filming all the time. It was a classic saucer, shiny silver and smooth, about 30 feet across. It was pretty clear it was an alien craft.

"As they approached closer it took off."

When his camera crew handed over the film, Coop-

What the government doesn't want you to know



about me not looking at the film. That's what I did when it came back from the lab — and it was all there just like the camera crew reported."

When the Air Force later started Operation Blue Book to collate UFO evidence and reports, Coopers says he mentioned the film evidence.

"But the film was never found — supposedly Blue Book was strictly a cover-up anyway."

Cooper revealed he's convinced an alien craft crashed at Roswell, N. Mex., in 1947 and aliens were discovered in the wreckage.

"I had a good friend at Roswell, a fellow officer. He had to be careful about what he said. But it sure wasn't a weather balloon, like the Air Force cover story. He made it clear to me what crashed was a craft of alien origin, and members of the crew were recovered."

Why has the government kept its UFO secrets for so many years?

"It started in World War 2, when the government didn't want people to know about UFO reports in case they panicked," said Cooper. "They would have been fearful it was superior enemy technology that we had no defense against."

"Then it got worse in the Cold War for the same reason.

"So they told one untruth, they had to tell another to cover that one, then another, then another . . . it just snowballed."

"And right now I'm convinced a lot of very embarrassed government officials are sitting there in Washington trying to figure a way to bring the truth out. They know it's got to come out one day, and I'm sure it will."

"America has a right to know!"

— JOHN COOKE

- Australian Sightings -

Witness names changed for confidentiality purposes.

On 22/11/96 I received a telephone call from a Mr. Kilo wanting to report what he described as a U.F.O. sighting. He, a Mr. Sierra and a Ms. Papa were outside their place of employment enjoying a morning tea break and admiring the weather. It was this climatic event that drew their attention to the sky. The sighting took place near Colac.

Mr. Kilo and Mr. Sierra both asked each other if the other was seeing what they saw. It was agreed they did. What was reported was visible for one minute. Silently four objects sped overhead, flying straight in a South Westerly direction. One object veered off Southerly while the others remained on their present course.

The objects, although viewed from a distance, were described as round, black and as something never seen before.

I telephoned my press contact in Warrnambool who had not had any reports. I also contacted the local Police who had not heard anything either. As yet no other details have come to light from others. Mr. Kilo and Mr. Sierra both willingly completed U.F.O. sighting report forms.

I accompanied Mr. Kilo to the spot where he viewed the objects. He informed me that he never had any feelings strongly either way on the subject of U.F.O.s. This had been severely altered by his sighting. (Mr. Kilo is now a firm believer.)

All witnesses hold Senior Management positions in their field of employment and have little to gain from hoaxing.

J.M.KENNEDY. R.M.R.N. ©

Western District Representative.
Investigations Officer.

MYRRHEE STUDENT REPORT

Mary-Lou OWEN.

LOCATION

This sighting took place at Boggy Creek Road, Myrree. Myrree is sparsely populated and is a farming community. The location is approximately 10 kms south of the small township of Moyhu and roughly 35 kms west of Wangaratta. The closest airport to this area is Drage Airworld, Greta Road, Wangaratta, which is about 20 kms away. There is a private airstrip situated about 12 kms away on the Upper Fifteen Mile Creek Road, Myrree, and is seldomly used and only then for light aircraft. Myrree is a pretty little place nestling in a valley surrounded by hills and has a stream running through it.

WITNESSES:

NAME	L
OCCUPATION	Student.
AGE	11 yrs.

L is the only daughter of a family who recently reported a U.F.O. sighting to us. During a recent visit to our house with her mother to report what they'd observed, L made mention of something unusual she'd seen in the sky back in September 1995. L and her mother D, have shown great interest in the U.F.O. phenomenon, L father P, is interested but didn't want to become as involved as L and D and declined when asked if he'd be willing to fill out a Sighting Report Form. L is a bright and cheerful 11 year old.

She was very helpful during our investigations. The family are honest and truthful people.

CIRCUMSTANCES:

During our meeting, L told us she was playing outside near her house on the 1st. of September 1995 at 5pm, she recalls throwing a ball up in the air, as she did this she observed a brown coloured oval shaped object. It was a cloudy evening, although L remembers a pink sunset. The object passed L directly overhead, she estimated it's speed at 20 kph. In her initial report (A Form), L thought she observed the object for one minute, but in her 5 page report form (which she filled in a week later), she stated the duration of the sighting being only 10 seconds, but all other details are identical. L said the object was half the size of the moon or the size of a one cent piece, maybe a bit bigger. L stated the estimated distance between herself and the object was 100 metres. L watched the object until it went behind a cloud. She admits to being quite startled by the object and was also excited. She ran into the house to tell her parents what she'd seen. She remembers feeling disappointed about not being totally believed and wishes someone else had seen it too. D recalls L telling her about the object she'd seen and admits to being a bit doubtful in relation to her daughters claims. L told us of her passion to study Astronomy, she skywatches on a regular basis, more so since her parents witnessed a strange light in the sky from the end of February 1996 to the beginning of March 1996 Report has been forwarded to V.U.F.O.R.S.). L has a keen interest in the U.F.O. subject and is considering joining the V.U.F.O.R.S.

Myrree Student Report

CONCLUSION:

With the recent spate of unidentifiable objects and lights in the skies over the Myrree area it is difficult to say just what L had seen on this occasion. My husband's experience with interviewing children and adults over the years with the Police Force has developed his ability to tell whether a person is being honest or not, and with everyone we've interviewed thus far in relation to U.F.O. sightings all have been honest. Some have been tricked by the dazzling brightness of Venus but believe they've seen something unusual and others may have been lucky enough to witness spacecraft from other worlds. We believe L was one of the lucky ones. We know L can

tell the difference between a weather balloon, a hot air balloon, the 'Whitmans Blimp', and aircraft, we believe what L witnessed on the evening of 1/9/95 was not of this earth. We believe in encouraging young people to accept the idea of life on other planets and to observe the skies, because you never know what you might see. L was happy to have told us of what she saw and that finally someone believed her. With the activity that's been observed in the skies in the north-east region in the past and in the present, we believe this rife should remain open and the object L saw be classed as unidentifiable.

Mary-Lou OWEN.



EXAMINER, Bellefontaine, OH - Nov. 30, 1996 CR: J. Timmerman

How to classify a close encounter

Remember the Steven Spielberg movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*?

That phrase was coined by Dr. I. Allen Hynek, who served as a consultant to Mr. Spielberg while making the movie that proved to be a box office hit in 1977.

There are three classifications for sightings that occur within 200 yards of a witness.

They are referred to as close encounters of the first, second or third kind. They are also known as CE-I, CE-II and CE-III.

CE-I Though the witness observes a UFO nearby, there appears to be no interaction with either the witness or the environment.

CE-II These encounters include details of interaction between the UFO and the environ-

ment which may vary from interference with car ignition systems and electronic gear to imprints or burns on the ground and physical effects on plants, animals or humans.

CE-III In this category, occupants of a UFO, whether they are human-like or not, have been reported. There is usually no direct contact or communication with the witness.

How to file a report about a UFO ...

The following is a list of steps that should be taken before filing a report:

1. Try to get another witness or as many other witnesses as possible.

2. Take several pictures and don't worry about getting a perfect picture. When taking a picture, get as much background and foreground detail into frame.

3. Immediately after the sighting, make complete notes of everything that was seen. Write down the appearance, color, motion

and size of the UFO as well as what you were thinking and feeling when you had the experience. Write down the names and addresses of other witnesses.

4. If the UFO touched the ground, do what can be done to protect the area but don't disturb it. Take photographs of the area where the object landed.

After following those steps, call CUPOS any time at (312) 271-3611. An investigator will be in contact as soon as possible. Or call

John Timmerman at 843-3834.

The center's home page address is <http://www.cufos.org/index.html> on the World Wide Web.

About 90 to 95 percent of all UFO reports prove to be identified flying objects or IFOs.

In order to distinguish between a UFO and an IFO, an investigator must find out as much information about a sighting as possible without leading a witnesses into giving false details.

Sighting Report North Croydon & Wonga Park

As received by VUFORS

DATE: Tuesday, October 8, 1996

TIME: 11.00 P.M.

AREA: North Croydon & Wonga Park.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clear still night, no cloud or wind.

I was driving home from a meeting, heading North along Humber Road (where I live) when I noticed two very large, bright lights (like car headlights) to my right (East).

I slowed down till I came to a spot where no trees or houses obstructed my view. The object was extremely low, just above the next hill and was heading in my direction (West), at a slow speed.

I continued home and lost sight of it behind trees at the rear of my house. I went inside to get a camera and binoculars, couldn't find either.

I then went out side with my two eldest sons (aged 18 & 17) and the object was again in view, about 80 metres away and about 40 to 50 metres above the ground (25' to 30'). These estimates were made by where we stood to block out a street light and where the object was, relative to trees.

It made no sound. Just before it disappeared the sound of a distant jet engine could be heard. This sound did not come from the object as the object was so close and had been for some time. This sighting lasted 5 to 9 minutes.

The object was then at its closest point to us. It had a large bright light at either end, with 4 Possibly 5 smaller lights in between. At either end, behind the large lights there were very small red and blue lights that were not easily visible. These smaller lights looked like portholes. The large light on the leading end went out and there was a dimmer light coming from inside, similar to an interior light of a car shining out the windscreen. We then lost sight of the object.

My wife then found the binoculars, so we (myself and two sons) decided to follow it to a high point in Wonga Park to see if we could get a better view.

We spotted it again in front of our vehicle as we were travelling in a Northerly direction on Yarra Road, Wonga Park. The object appeared to be travelling North then headed West.

We parked the car and watched it travel West towards Warrandyte. It was at this time, through binoculars that I noticed a row of 5 or 6 small green lights under the object. No matter what direction the object was travelling in, the same side appeared to face us.

Following are sketches made independently by the witnesses of the object.

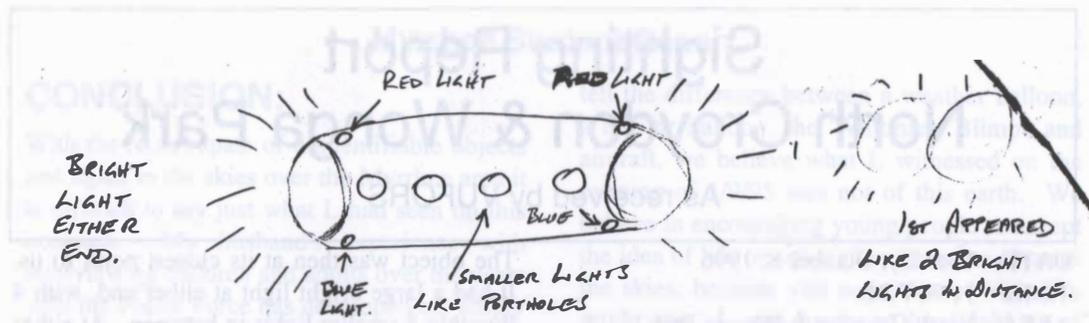


Fig. 1 - Father's first drawing of the object.

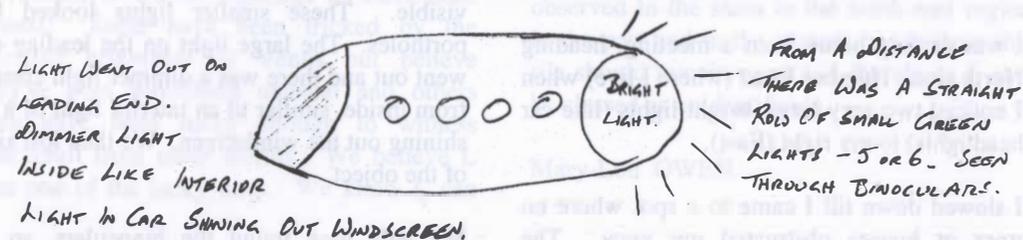


Fig. 2 - Father's second drawing of the object.

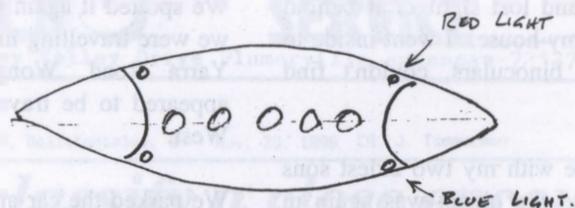


Fig. 1 - Drawing by 18 year old son

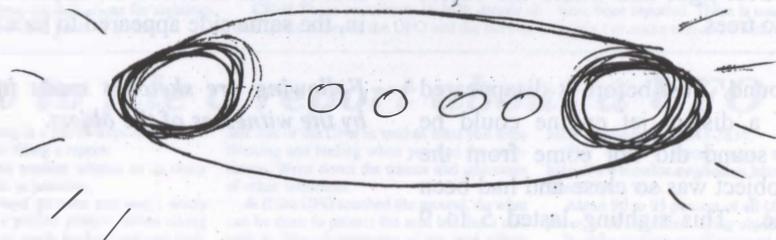
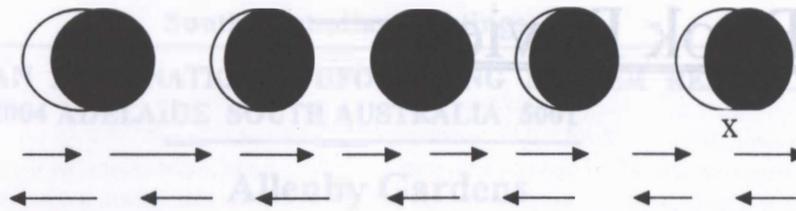


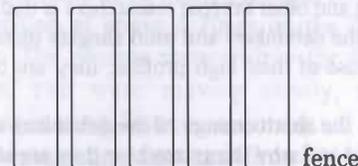
Fig. 4 - Drawing by 17 year old son



DARKER OBJECT APPEARED AS A SHADOW TO THE ONE BEHIND IT IN THAT IT WAS DARK, HOWEVER, I COULD STILL MAKE OUT OUTLINE OF SECOND OBJECT. THE FRONT OBJECT WAS ALSO PARTIALLY TRANSPARENT, THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE BACK OBJECT STILL COULD BE SEEN THROUGH THE FRONT ONE. THE BACK OBJECT WHICH WAS BRILLIANT WHITE/YELLOW IN COLOUR DID NOT MOVE, ONLY THE ONE IN FRONT OF IT KEPT COVERING/UNCOVERING IT. AT ONE STAGE I NOTICED WHAT APPEARED TO BE SOME FORM OF CLOUD/SMOKE/VAPOUR ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE SPHERE. (MARKED BY AN X ON ABOVE SKETCH)

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO DEFINE THE ANGLE OF THE OBJECT TO THE GROUND.

X (objects)



I WAS STANDING APPROX. 10 FEET AWAY DIRECTLY OPPOSITE FENCE. OBJECT APPEARED ABOUT 2 FT ABOVE THAT HIGH UP IN SKY.

X (my position)

THERE WERE SOME CLOUDS IN THE SKY (STREAKING, THIN) MOVING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THE DARKER OBJECT WAS MOVING ACROSS BRIGHTER OBJECT FROM RIGHT TO LEFT THEN LEFT TO RIGHT. SOMETIMES REMAINING STATIONARY EXACTLY IN FRONT OF IT. (AT THIS POINT, ONLY A THING CIRCUMFERENCE OF BRIGHTER OBJECT COULD BE SEEN). THE LAST TIME IT WAS VISIBLE, THE DARKER OBJECT WAS COMPLETELY COVERING THE BRIGHTER ONE THEN AFTER A FEW MINUTES THEY WERE BOTH GONE. NO MORE THAN 1 MINUTE LATER

A PASSENGER CRAFT (AIRBUS SIZE) FLEW IN THE EXACT AREA WHERE I HAD SEEN BOTH OBJECTS.

JANUARY 1997

Book Review

TOP SECRET/MAJIC

This is the title of the latest book from the nuclear physicist, Stanton T. Friedman. The curious spelling comes from the majestic twelve document itself, a document which is strongly defended by Friedman. He cites numerous criticisms made by Phil Klass re the form of the document (form criticism) and the print font used, date format etc and dispels these criticisms with apparent ease. Once again, the high profile sceptics have managed to damage their own credibility by failing to do even the most basic research into the case, and have subsequently come out looking pretty foolish.

The archivists have seen so much of the author that they know him personally, he spends that much time visiting the archives, doing actual research! The high profile sceptics such as Klass and the late Carl Sagan have never been seen looking up files or researching the archives, and there are probably good reasons for this.

If you have already reached a conclusion that something does not exist or never happened, you would not bother to research for evidence to the contrary. In fact, the idea would not even occur to you unless you had doubts, it would be an apparent waste of time.

Friedman points out that it is not Scientific to begin with a conclusion. You must begin with an open mind and a quest for evidence. And further to this, any evidence found must be checked out objectively as well as being tested for authenticity.

The greatest source of frustration for Friedman and other intrepid researchers is that while they go to great lengths to verify and validate information, the debunkers and mud slingers merely sit back and criticise without leaving their armchairs, but because of their high profiles, they are believed by many, and so the damage is done.

The diligent work of Mr. Friedman shows up the shortcomings of the debunkers and gives a good explanation as to why things developed as they did and why things are how they are at present. It also presents new information regarding the Mj 12 and their ability to maintain secrecy. It puts the whole "can of worms" into perspective.

Friedman also points out that the discovery of the "Transistor" was announced by U.S. scientists in late 1947, and he suggests it may have been the result of some "back engineering" carried out in that year. He also cites a recent development, a new alloy "Selenium-Cobalt" which produces the most powerful permanent magnet and is found in the best Ghetto Blaster speakers. Apparently, such a combination would never occur to engineers. Stanton suggests this too is probably the result of more back engineering of Alien artefacts.

If you missed Friedmans' recent lecture in Melbourne, or want to review it but in greater detail, it's all here. You could say that it is one of the best examples of thorough, logical and systematic UFO research available, and hopefully has the "Top Brass" a little concerned.

George Simpson. Feb. '97.

South Australian Sightings

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL UFO FLYING SAUCER RESEARCH INC.
GPO BOX 2004 ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5001

Allenby Gardens

At 11:35pm on the 7th of September Charlotte Costain was outside and "just happened to look up" when she noticed a circular orange-coloured object in the north-western sky.

"I knew from it's shape, size and colour that it was definitely *not* an aeroplane. It's motion was, at a guess, twice the speed of an aeroplane."

"It travelled across the sky and then changed it's direction. It then appeared to be stationary for a period of about 1/2 to 1 minute before continuing it's journey."

The object was within Charlotte's sight for approximately 3-4 minutes before disappearing into the distance towards the east.



THE OBJECT WAS ALMOST A PERFECT CIRCLE AND JUST GLOWED WITH A BRIGHT ORANGE LIGHT. IT WAS SO BRIGHT A FUZZY HAZE WAS AROUND THE OBJECT.

Clearview

Leslie White, an electronics technician from Clearview, witnessed (with one other person present) three orange objects flying in formation at about 1:10am on the 28th of July. The objects were visible for five minutes, two were moving slowly, the third was moving fast.

"This sighting only confirms what I already believe, that we are not alone. I had another sighting about 30 years ago

while working in Bordertown, and that one was not a fake. It blocked out the stars like the scene in 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. It would have to have been several hundred feet long with no lights or noise. My attitude is that if a being were to stick his head out a window, I would say 'G'day, welcome to Earth'. As you might have gathered, I am not afraid but excited about there being other life out there."

Craigmore

An RAAF (Royal Australian Air-Force) airman and two other witnesses saw two bright gold/white lights at 8:35pm on the 14th of July.

"We assumed at first that it was a star which had suddenly appeared, until it started to move toward the south-east," recalled the Craigmore airman in his report. The lights were blinking alternately "like large car lights", and one looked like

it was "above and forward of the other".

"We watched for two to three minutes. Then, as it reached south-east of us [from the north-east], it just vanished. There was nothing to block our view—no trees, buildings, lamp-posts etc. We viewed two normal aircraft in the vicinity. We are also on flight-path approaches to both Adelaide and the RAAF airbase, so we are used to aircrafts coming and going at night."

Sighting near Moree, NSW

Stan Williams, a 52 year old farmer from Moree, was driving a land rover home at about 10pm on the 7th of April 1976 after visiting his neighbour. As he approached a hill he saw streaks of lights through some trees straight in front of him (due west).

"After travelling another 100 yards I reached the top of the hill and saw, on my right, the object [emitting the light] very close to the ground in a ploughed paddock," stated Stan in his report.

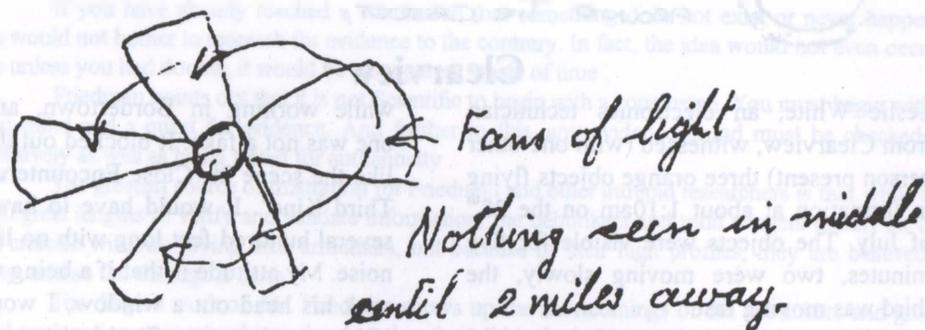
He describes the object as a silent, violet-red ball about 20 feet in diameter.

"After looking back to the road for a few seconds I looked again and the light just snapped out. My rover had almost

so I decided to keep going for another 50 yards when the sky lit up with fans of violet red light (just like the Japanese flag with the sun taken out). I could not see anything in the centre to make the fans of light until about 2 miles away, when the object must have rolled over at about 300 feet above the ground. All the trees were lit up like a bushfire as it turned south-west and flew over the mountains."

His experience lasted approximately 7 minutes, during which he felt "as if he was being watched."

Stan returned the next day to the site where the object hovered, but couldn't find any marks on the ground.



stopped.

Sighting at Kimba, South Australia

A 45 year old folk-artist from Kimba was driving in her car when she noticed a bright red light. The time was about 5:45pm (on the 19th of June), and the object she noticed seemed to be motionless in the sky. There were 5 other witnesses present, and they all watched the object for about 10 minutes.

There was a buzzing sound (like a bee) which seemed to be coming from her glove box. Curiously though, it hasn't

made that sound since.

What made this sighting even more mysterious was the fact that there was power problems in the town that evening. The electricity was off intermittently 5 or 6 times, each lasting approximately 10 seconds. Eventually the electricity returned to normal, but the witness did not hear any reasons for why these sudden power failures occurred.

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SIGHTINGS

"Nests" in Moorina, 8.12.96

Several markings resembling UFO Nests were found near Caboolture on Monday 9th December. According to the witness, they must have been produced on Sunday night the 8th December, because he had been moving about that area and would have seen them, had they been there earlier. The nests appeared in a crop of Sorghum about 5 feet tall, and the plants were bent over and broken at ground level, and laid down in a spiralling woven pattern. The largest was oval in shape and about 50 feet across, a smaller one being 20 feet in size. No significant rain or wind had been noted at that location in recent days. Arrangements are being made to obtain permission to inspect these markings, and an investigating team is being assembled.

Orange Light near Tamborine 8.12.96

A couple observed a bright orange light which hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, and then moved off slowly. It was seen from Tamborine in the Gold Coast Hinterland on Sunday 8th Dec., at about 10.30 pm to the NE. When it started moving to the North, it was seen for a further 3 to 4 minutes, and seemed to disappear into a distant hillside. When first seen it gave the impression of a plane on fire.

Light Cluster, Beaudesert, 30.11.96

Members of a family in Beaudesert heard a noise and then saw a cluster of green and white flashing lights to the North which was hovering at first and then moved quickly to the East. The lights were arranged in a circle and the flashing was irregular. The object was not like a plane. It was seen for about 3 minutes and finally lost behind trees. Inquiries were made by the witnesses with Brisbane Air Traffic Control, but no flight information matched their sighting.

Probable Shuttle sighting, Samford & Woodford, 30.11.96

Two separate reports were received of a bright white light followed by a dimmer light moving East across the sky, from Samford and Woodford on Saturday 30th Nov., at about 7.30 pm. Both sightings were estimated for a duration of about 20 seconds, the Samford sighting passed directly overhead and the Woodford sighting was a little to the South of overhead. The N/S separation of the two observers was about 40 km, and this observation suggests a height of 200 to 300 km. At that time the shadow of the Earth over Brisbane was about 300 km deep. The Samford observer later called back and left a message saying that he had obtained information about the Space Shuttle Columbia, which indicated that it and a satellite released by it were the objects of the sighting. The data given is generally in agreement with this interpretation, except that times of observation 40 to 50 seconds rather than 15 to 20 seconds would be expected.

Huge Object over Calamvale, 8.11.96

A couple and a number of children saw a large object the size of an aircraft carrier directly overhead for about half an hour at 9.45 pm on Friday 8th Nov. After that time it suddenly vanished and a large cloud appeared in the place of the object. The man reporting this stated that he has had extraterrestrial contact for many years, and that he received a communication later on the night of the sighting. We are awaiting a more detailed report from this witness.

Red Light over Brisbane, 10.11.96

Whilst driving, a member of committee observed a red light moving S to N between 7.05 and 7.10 pm on Sunday night, 10th Nov. It did not look like a plane and the colour of the light was a constant red. It was first seen at an elevation of about 45 degrees till it was lost near the horizon. No sound was heard.

Lights at Atkinson Dam 10.11.96

A family holidaying at Atkinson dam saw a number of lights on Sunday night 10th Nov. at around 7 pm. These lights moved in a generally Northerly direction, one changed from white to orange and another seemed to zig-zag as it moved. The duration of the sightings was typically a few minutes.

West End, 1.11.96

A witness reports "In (the evening of) 30 October 1996 ... just before 10.30 pm ... the sky was completely cloud covered. I saw a bright white light to the Southwest, approximately 15 degrees above the horizon, which I took to be an aircraft. When the light remained stationary for a minute, I looked more closely. I thought it must be Venus visible through an unusually tiny gap in the clouds, although this sharp circle of white light looked slightly larger than Venus at its very brightest and seemed to be too far South. ... the light did not twinkle: it was sharp edged ... Venus at the moment is seen in the morning ... After some 3-5 minutes the light suddenly decreased in size and brightness ... It vanished in under five seconds."

UFORQ Inc.
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TUFOIC

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TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION CENTRE

Northern Flap

The year 1996 has seen the return of the UFO sighting to Tasmania in numbers similar to the UFO Age of the 1970s. Sightings showed signs of an increase in the later half of 1995 before peaking in the Tamar Valley about May/June, since then reports have tailed off although the Centre still has a number of cases to finalise (see Recent Reports). Probably the reports of note were the series of cases from Swan Point followed by the daylight cylinder sightings which culminated with the Midland Highway event on June 10th.

The first daylight report came on May 22nd about 3.30pm, when a motorist on the West Tamar Highway near Brady's Lookout noticed an upright vapour-like trail to the north towards the George Town area. The trail changed into an upright bronze coloured cigar shape which somehow just disappeared in front of the witness's eyes. This type of disappearance was a feature in a number of cases.

The next report was just before 7am on May 24th, when a West Launceston witness preparing to go to work noticed what looked to be a strange pink saucer shaped cloud to the east. The witness pointed out the cloud to her husband, both were amazed to see it suddenly move off to the east disappearing over the distant hills.

Mrs W travelling from Hadspen to Launceston, was next to spot the daytime object. She and her husband were heading east on the Bass Highway at 11.50am when they spotted a silvery cylindrical object. It was a long thing with no wings or tail fin. It was to the south of the highway and seemed to be going nowhere. A tree branch obscured the cylinder for a second and Mrs W was surprised to find the object was no longer in view.

A sighting from Launceston occurred on May 29th about 1pm. This time a vertical misty type cloud was seen against the clear blue sky, it looked to form into a vertical upright cylinder which seemed to have a long hole. The witness and a friend who had observed the object looked away for a second only to find the object had disappeared in that brief time.

One of the major reports during the flap was the sighting from the Midland Highway on June 10th at about 2pm on a bright afternoon with a clear blue sky. The UFO sighting was covered in depth by the Hobart Mercury on Sunday, September 1st. Together with an account of the event there was an excellent graphic panel of the object seen by the witnesses.

A and S were heading north just past Symmons Plains when they saw a bright white horseshoe shape in the sky ahead. The bright shape shot in front of the car from east to west finishing up on A's side of the car. Then it appeared to come at the car and took a position some 500 meters ahead, changing its appearance to a solid bright cylinder shape.

S accelerated the car as it was now only some 500 meters ahead and looked as if it was going to land in the roadside paddock. The shape at this stage could be seen against the background of the trees ahead and to the right of the road.

The object suddenly increased elevation and moved away to the distant east, and before they reached Perth, the object had been lost from view. A and S went at once to the nearby Airport but found no one who could help with their strange encounter.

Continuing on to Launceston they were surprised to spot the thin cylinder shape in the sky ahead, this time it changed to more of a cigar shape. S managed to take a photograph from the car but it is only a blurry picture probably due to the movement of the car. Eventually the object was lost into the north eastern sky

Recent Reports

The run of cases earlier in the year has eased but the Centre is still following up on a number of more recent sightings.

June 11th 20.30. Bell Bay. Single witness reports a dull grey domed top object low over buildings. Lights appear beneath the object as it curves towards the witness's location. The witness hurried inside and did not view the object again.

July 20th 21.00. Hobart Airport. A trainee pilot reports that a bright white light seemed to be behind the aircraft no matter which way they were heading. It was seen by a group of witnesses from the ground later on.

August 23rd 20.30. Campbell Town. Two witnesses were travelling north on the Midland Highway just south of Campbell Town. They initially noticed a silver/grey cigar shape low to the west of the road. It then crossed the road ahead of their motor vehicle and took up a position over paddocks east of the highway. The witnesses drove past the object and did not see it again.

Heard of a sighting? Tell the centre about it.
write to PO Box 174, South Hobart, 7004.

September 10th 22.30. Devonport to Launceston. The witness in our next case has often travelled late at night during the course of her work commitments. Initially travelling from Port Sorell towards Devonport she noticed a traffic green light out to the north west, which she took it to be an approaching aircraft. However, to her surprise the light appeared ahead as she travelled south on the Bass Highway. Later the light dived out of sight behind some road side trees. A second time she was surprised to see the light reappear once more over the road ahead. On the run from Deloraine to Launceston the light was at times to the south and north of the highway. Arriving home she could see it in the southern sky, by now it was late so the witness did not watch any longer.

September 18th 23.25. Burnie. Witness was travelling home on Bass Highway on a rainy night when a set of 5 large bright orange lights were noticed out over the sea alongside the highway. The lights did not appear to be moving and were only seen briefly by the witness, who felt that they were low and close just out over the sea, The witness looked away at the road and when she looked back there was no sign of any lights.

September 24th 22.15. Burnie. Following an item in the Burnie Advocate the Centre contacted the witness for details of an erratic light. Upon going out to search the sky for satellites the witness almost at once saw a flashing orange/yellow light low to the south. The light then shot up to the 60 degree elevation before falling back to its original location. The light kept up these manoeuvres for some 30 seconds, then to complete the show it shot off to the north west and was out of sight in about 4 to 5 seconds.

Snails go Cosmic

By SIMON BEVILACOUA

The bizarre "cosmic slime" found in Tasmania this year was most likely snail eggs, says the state's UFO investigation unit. The slime, found at Kempton and in the North-West of the state two months ago, was rumoured to have been linked to a number of UFO sightings in the regions. The Tasmanian UFO investigation centre sent a number of slime samples from different locations for laboratory analysis.

Results returned last week revealed one sample to be the eggs of some form of mollusc and other samples to be a jelly-like substance found in potting mix or fertiliser. UFO investigation centre spokesman Keith Roberts said the sample taken from near a Kempton service station, which turned out to be mollusc eggs, sparked a series of slime reports across the state.

"Most of these things have reasonable explanations," Mr Roberts said. A national UFO report body is still waiting on its slime analysis.

The UFO Information Hotline, a national phone operation which charges \$3 a minute to receive reports, sent slime samples to laboratories in Perth and Melbourne. Hotline spokesman Ross Dowe said he believed the slime to most likely be man-made and to have been picked up and deposited by a storm. Mr Dowe said the news of Tasmanian cosmic slime had sparked a series of slime reports nationwide. "We expect to get results of the analysis back before Christmas," Mr Dowe said.

Mercury Newspaper (Sunday Tasmanian) - Hobart - 22/Dec/1996

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Standard
WARRNAMBOOL

Bright and noisy night object might simply have been a special fireball that's been around a bit

UFO researchers and an astronomer say a bright, loud object with an orange "tail", seen over south-west Victoria on Saturday night, was a natural phenomenon.

"I think it was a natural phenomenon — a meteorite bursting up or it could have been space junk," Victorian UFO Research Society vice-president Paul Norman said yesterday.

Mr Norman, who has been touring the south-west, has heard several reports from people who saw the light.

"One person in Hamilton said it was so loud it had hurt her ears," he said.

Alan Wright, principal astronomer with the CSIRO-operated Parkes Observatory in western New South Wales, said reports indicated it could have been a

meteorite known as a bolide.

He said bolides resembled fireballs and ranged from the size of a golf ball to a soccer ball and could be seen up to 30 kilometres away.

"From what I've heard, it would be a larger one than average but there are probably a handful of these on average going around the world every day," Mr Wright said.



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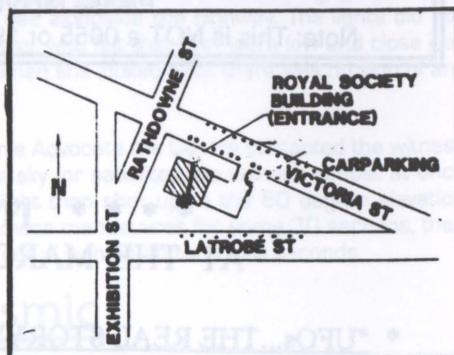
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For Your Diary

MARCH	3 rd , 1997	DISCUSSION
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SEPTEMBER	1 st , 1997	"
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TIME 8.00 p.m.
WHERE The Royal Society of Victoria
 Victoria Street, Melbourne
 (SEE MAP)

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SOCIETY HISTORY

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered – this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

In 1978, following the resignation of Mr. Peter Norris the current executive, Mrs. Judith Magee, Messrs. Paul Norman and Clive Yates, was placed in control, ensuring the continuing prosperity of V.U.F.O.R.S. The Society has held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in general meetings and discussion nights and maintained the largest U.F.O. library in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the loss of books, probably due to the high cost of postage has forced V.U.F.O.R.S. to discontinue this service to members.

Membership of this Society – which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere – is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

2/6 97

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