

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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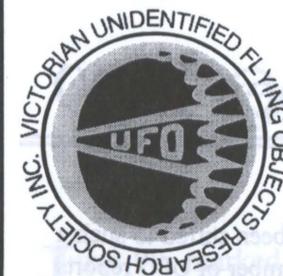
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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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VUFORS Web page at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~vufors>

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It has been a long time since the UFOlogy pot in this State has been stirred to such a degree - years in fact - until the 8th June this year, when an extensive number of UFO reports came in from various sources. So much so, that our chief investigator, Paul Norman's "trips" to interview witnesses have looked a bit like the tentacles of an octopus, going off in all directions from Eastern to Western Victoria. Firstly, we thought this sudden interest may have been caused by some Earthly manufacture such as satellites or space junk, until realizing these objects were travelling from east to west and were reported by people looking to the north.

We believed the object travelled in a straight line until we had an abundance of reports and their viewing times which indicated it was not on a straight line but had veered off on at least two points along its flight path. Several witnesses have also reported seeing the object when looking towards the south which gives us a better reading of the object's progress.

As a direct result of our investigations, a number of country and suburban papers published a brief article on our enquiries, and it has amazed us that most of reports received as a result have been of the same or similar object and also in the same time frame.

We have, and still are receiving other calls which are not related timewise to the initial report, but one report, over a month later, and from an area nowhere near the earlier sighting, described an identical UFO!

After eliminating all other possibilities, we are coming to the conclusion the object was either Earth made or from somewhere else, but until further investigation proves otherwise, it remains an Unidentified Flying Object!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Society Hall - as detailed in the back of our Bulletin--on 6th September and since there were no nominations for new Committee members, the Committee remains as noted on our inside front cover. We wish to thank our Members for their continuous support and our Country Representatives for their co-operation and assistance with investigations, especially the wide-ranging recent spate of reports. We hope we can continue publishing the news-worthy Bulletin which has not had a break for at least 20 years.

ON THE UFO TRAIL

Paul Norman © 1999

June 9th marked the beginning of an interesting period which has led to over 3,000 kms of travel over Victoria and is still continuing

About 9 am on the morning of June 9, an unexpected call came from East Sale, Victoria, that an object had been reported flying across the State at a fantastic speed early the previous evening. An ex Air Force observer, now a Company Director, reported the speed to be over twice the speed of a jet. The observer had only about six seconds to view the object, which he estimated to be at least 20-30 kms away at an angle of 35- 40 degrees. The sighting has involved our investigating representatives across Victoria from Dan Haylock and Wendy Wolfe in the East to James Kennedy in the West and to Jim and Mary-Lou Owen in the North East, as well as myself along the flight path from East to West. The closest approach by witnesses thus far, was near Benalla and the report could not have fallen into better hands than Jim Owen's whose experience as a policeman qualified him to extract maximum information and details from witnesses who had the closest view for only a few seconds.

My first task was to locate where the object was first and last seen, as at this time of writing. The first witness we located was at Lake Tyers. The last witnesses to view the object were looking North from Warrnambool, while those from Horsham were looking to the South, indicating that the object was on a course between the two towns.

A sketch of the object at its closest approach is shown in a separate account, in the interview of a witness by representative Jim Owen. Even though it was dusk, the object was near enough for sections to be observed. The front was a bright light, which was the only section visible at a distance by numerous witnesses who described it as being egg or oval shaped as it sped away on its flight path. The second section was yellow to orange and could not be seen at a distance. The third section was said to be indescribable with an indication of sparks, which were possibly static electricity. The tail was not a vapour or smoke trail, but an important clue to possible electromagnetic effect as described on many other occasions when power failure occurred or aircraft and motor car engines; have been affected and sometimes stopped. Radio and TV interference has also been reported throughout the world.

At its closest approach, the object was elongated which was a similar shape to the object reported by Frederick Valentich prior to his disappearance over Bass Strait and the same as pilot Felix Montcla from Kinross Air Force Base in the United States and many others worldwide.

The most outstanding power blackout caused by UFO's was in the North East United States as far North as Canada during the early sixties, twenty seven UFO's were reported along the power grid by the late Professor James McDonald who was an atmospheric physicist from the University of Arizona.

I became personally acquainted with two colleagues of Professor Herman Oberth who was the co-designer of the V-2 rocket and was considered the pioneer of modern space travel ideas. He was

On The UFO Trail

one of the first top scientists to recognise UFO's as real. His *thinkability* was way ahead of his associates in the scientific community.

I first met his two colleagues while a member of the Arthur Dyer Observatory, Amateur Astronomical Society at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, in the early sixties. My main motive for joining the Society was to corner the monthly speakers during the question period and ask them "embarrassing" questions about "flying saucers" The speakers came from all over America and I was interested in watching their expressions when confronted by the questions, and over the years many of these grins have faded from the faces of the sceptics.

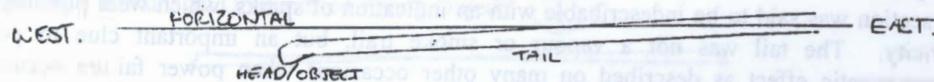
It was also a pleasant surprise when I learned that Drs. Blumrich and Ferdie from Redstone, Arsenal would be the speakers. Dr. Ferdie sent me a translated copy of Professor Oberth's 1954 lecture notes on Unidentified Flying Objects in which he described quote:

"The appearances are usually described as discs, sometimes balls or ellipsoids. It sometimes happens that these discs, placed one upon the other, the largest in the center, the smaller toward the ends to form an object the shape of a cigar, which then flies away at high speed.

Sometimes seen as a 'cigar' UFO, stopping and 'untie' into separate discs. They appear glittering like metal in day time, and cherry red at night if there is not much power necessary for particular movement, for instance, when they are suspended calm, then they also do not shine very much but if more moving power is necessary the shining increases (brightens) and they appear yellow, yellow-green, like a copper flame and in a state of highest speed or acceleration extremely white."

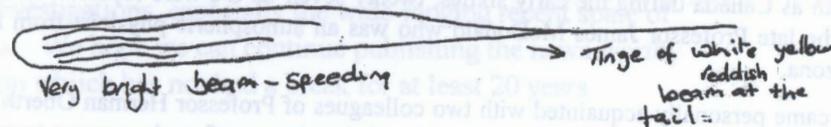
This extremely white light is the most outstanding feature by scores of witnesses' giving the same descriptions depending on the distance from the flight path.

Sketch of the object as reported by G.R. 8th of June at approximately 5.30 pm from Traralgon. Viewing time 6 seconds flying east to west. Viewed to the north at approximately 35-40% above the horizon. Size was far larger and faster than any aircraft he had experienced whilst serving with the R.A.A.F. Outstanding feature was the long light trail.



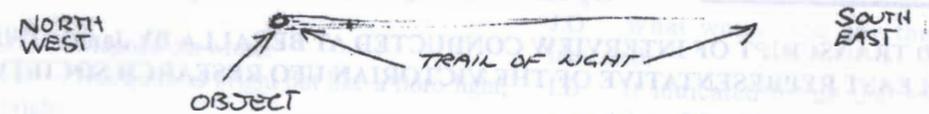
Sketch of the object as reported by F.K. at Lalor, a suburb of Melbourne. The shape was like a beam with a fine bright tail with a tinge of yellow. Viewed to the north for 3 - 4 seconds. Extremely fast.

Statement *"This happens to be a once in a lifetime experience to be able to witness such an effect in the sky. The possibility in believing it would have been a UFO had me astounded and bewildered"*.



On The UFO Trail

P.M. was waiting for his daughter at Geelong railway station when he observed the object flying east to west. Estimated to be 4 times larger than largest star in the sky. Time of sighting judged to be between 5.35 and 5.40 pm. Colour was yellow with white light streak trailing behind at angle of sun visor level.

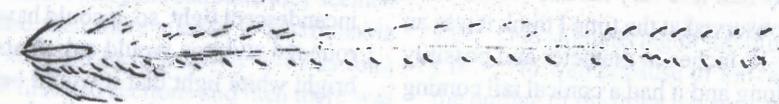


J.A. saw the object while sitting in his car in Alfredton, a suburb of Ballarat. The time was 5.36 pm. The bright white light gave him a headache and sore eyes which lasted for a few hours. His viewing time was only 4.5 seconds as it flashed past - same horizontal level east to west. No indication of descending.

J.G. was walking through the football oval north, toward her home in Glengarry, when she heard a crackling noise above her head. On looking up she noted object above heading northwest. The object appeared oval shape with long white tail which was sparkling. Her calculation of viewing time was 10 seconds.



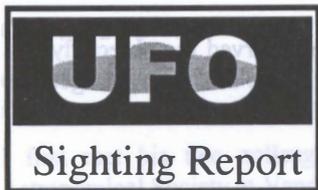
The object with a bright white sparkling tail, although not close enough to be heard, was also seen by a witness at Grovedale. Viewing time was 4 - 5 seconds. Flight path from the witness's location was straight and horizontal. The object at first appeared round but then seemed to roll over and looked more oval in shape. It was flying horizontally with no indication of falling.



On Saturday night July 31st, I was requested to speak on radio 3RRR with an astronomer and an archaeologist, during the course of discussion I told of the information we had at that time. The Astronomer could offer no explanation.

This is an extremely interesting case which presents much of value due to the fact that many witnesses right across Victoria, not acquainted with each other, watched and described the same event.

Reports are still coming in and investigations are continuing.



Sighting Report

Benalla, VIC

Tuesday 8th June 1999

By James Owen - North East Representative

EDITED TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT BENALLA BY James OWEN, NORTH EAST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VICTORIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY.

J.O I will just get you now, to tell of the sighting in your own words from the beginning to the end, just for the tape.

I.B On Tuesday evening the 8th of June, between the time of 5.37 and 5.38pm, I was at my front gate and my friend was behind me in the driveway and as I just shut the gate, he said, quick IB look over the roof of the house, there is a large flying object and I immediately turned to where the object was and it was flying in a horizontal plane, just above the line of the roof of the house and it was moving very quickly from an easterly to a westerly direction. I observed this object for approximately 4 seconds and I moved along the driveway to keep it in sight. It disappeared behind the trees and the roof of the next door home. Now while this object went past I observed it to be a long cylindrical object, not knowing the height above the ground or the distance away that it is very hard to estimate the size but as I observed at the time I think it was an object about 18 inches in diameter and possibly 8 or 10 feet long and it had a conical tail coming from the rear which looked very much like the tail of a rocket and it could have been at least 20 feet long. Now the front part of this object seemed to be incandescent white and that could have been up to 2 feet long, and then there was another section behind that, the colour started to fade from yellow down to an orange and it would have been another 2 feet long and there were sparks emanating from the back end of the second stage and then there was an indeterminable piece and then you saw the rocket tail. It all disappeared

within about 4 seconds and my friend V witnessed exactly the same thing as I did. We discussed it over the next two days. That's actually what I saw.

J.O Can you describe what you did when you first saw it.

I.B Hell, what's that V., we both made statements very similar, what the blazes is that, space debris or something, it can't be space debris, it's too regular in its shape. It was extremely regular in its shape. It was flying in such a level plane and it wasn't varying its speed seemed to be holding same, speed didn't vary and it was very fast.

J.O And you described the shape, you have drawn a picture where you have a square front section.

I.B Square front, it could have been, it was that bright, you know like an extremely bright incandescent light, so, it could have been slightly rounded and you would anticipate that if it was bright white light that it would be getting to the point of melting and normally sharp edges would take the heat most and they would be rounding off because that's what I would think, it wasn't, if it wasn't dead square across the front, it was only very slightly rounded.

J.O What were the weather conditions.

I.B The weather conditions were fine and clear.

J.O Any cloud cover at all.

I.B No, well not in the immediate vicinity.

J.O I will just get you to distinguish the colours as per your diagram, the front section was an iridescent white.

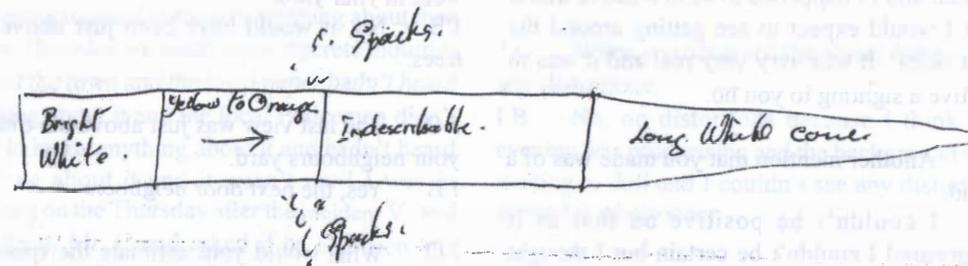
I.B Incandescent, yes like a burning white.

J.O Magnesium white.

I.B Not quite as bright but like a floro light, bright.

J.O And then it went to a yellow.

I.B Yes, it went to just a pale yellow like a temper when your tempering steel you see the colours going through the steel and went to a pale and then went through the range to a quite an



orange and from that end of that section it looked like pieces of burning metal, burning something coming away from it. Probably five or six or eight I saw, they looked like little stars and they seemed to die off and then there was an indeterminable length and it could have possibly been as long again as the first two sections and then there was conical part like the part of a rocket.

J.O That area that you couldn't distinguish was that solid or just nothing.

I.B It could have been solid because I know I looked twice at the yellow spots that were coming away and then the tail caught my eye and that's the thing, what's pushing this thing along.

J.O We will get to the tail now, colouring.

I.B White, pure white, there was no trails or anything from it, you could see that it was sort of flickering, shimmering, you could see a shimmer through it, there was no smoke, no trail from it at all, then it disappeared.

J.O What would you say that shimmer indicated.

I.B It indicated to me that that was the propulsion of the thing was like a jet or a rocket, that what that shimmering indicated to me.

J.O And at the end was it a pointed end.

I.B Yes it came straight to a point and that could have been up to 20 feet long.

J.O Was there anything behind that point.

I.B No, I couldn't see anything behind that point.

J.O No shimmering or anything else.

I.B No well because of the dusk, I could see the outline of the thing because it was also bright and then you got to the end on the tail and because of the dusk, if there was anything there I couldn't see it.

J.O Did the object look solid.

I.B The object looked very solid.

J.O Have you in the past seen meteorites or anything similar, shooting stars.

I.B I haven't seen anything similar to this

before.

J.O Have you seen these before.

I.B I have seen shooting stars before.

J.O Meteorites that leave a nice tale.

I.B I have seen them.

J.O Was this anything similar to these.

I.B No, this was very similar to something mechanical

J.O You made comments that it looked like a rocket

I.B Well I haven't been in a war zone but you see plenty of things available to you on TV items and that and if I happened to be in Kosovo that is what I would expect to see getting around the night skies. It was very very real and it was to positive a sighting to you no.

J.O Another mention that you made was of a sound.

I.B I couldn't be positive on that as it disappeared I couldn't be certain but I thought that I heard a swishing. That was only after the object disappeared because it would be travelling to fast if it was a couple of miles away. Probably would be, sound travels at about 100 ft per second

J.O When we went outside we decided to indicate how big the object was, so we used coins at arms length. We used a 20 cent coin and you suggested that it was to small. We then held up a 50 cent coin. Can you tell me what you indicated to me about that 50 cent coin.

I.B Well the 50 cent coin, the depth of it held at arms length would have been very close to the depth of the object. But the length of it if you went horizontal to the length was at least three coins to cover the length, probably more,

J.O That's without the length of the flame.

I.B About three without the tail and with the

tail you would have to have about 4 and a half. It's maverlous what you can see in 4 seconds.

J.O Now you have indicated to me the distance between you and the object as about 2 miles. Is that correct.

I.B It's very hard, but those are the first thoughts that I had when I first saw it, how far away is it definitely not less than One mile, in the vicinity of between 1 and 2 miles.

J.O Now you observed the object as it was travelling east west.

I.B East west.

J.O Did you observe the object pass behind trees in your yard.

I.B No, it would have been just above the trees.

J.O The last view was just above the trees in your neighbours yard.

I.B Yes, the next door neighbors

J.O What would your estimate the speed of the object. I know this is a hard question.

I.B Say if you observed jets flying at 30,000 ft.

J.O Would it be faster than a jet.

I.B Oh yes, definitely faster than a jet. I would say if it is at the distance I estimated that it would be a kilometer a second, half a kilometer a second I would say I think the maximum would be a second per second but definitely more than half a kilometer a second.

J.O How high do you estimate it at.

I.B Well V. and I were anything between a thousand feet to 3000 feet when were speaking and if you ask me for an estimation of the height, I know how high the little airplanes fly from the local airdrome and they fly at about 1500 feet and I estimate in the vicinity of two and a half

thousand feet and if you sit down and work that out and you can come back and correct that on your angle of inclination from the horizontal.

J.O The weather conditions you have explained as being clear no cloud, any wind.

I.B If there was it was very little, very light.

J.O Was it a cold evening.

I.B Oh yes, pretty cool.

J.O How did it effect you, were you excited startled.

I.B Both of us were very startled and we both have very inquisitive minds and there was intense discussion over the next two days, we had to buy the papers to see if there was anything about then on the Thursday we made some discrete inquiries around the town and the local paper hadn't heard anything about it and the local Policeman didn't want to know anything about it and hadn't heard anything about it and it wasn't until I was in Geelong on the Thursday after the incident V. and I spoke to Mr. C and asked if he had seen any strange objects in the sky and he said that he hadn't but one of his workmen was coming up the Hume Highway to the Warrenbayne Rd and it had just gone dark and he saw what we saw, it tallied up with what we saw.

J.O Is it your opinion that the object was generating observable heat, & can you explain.

I.B Oh yes, very definitely generating observable heat. It looked like molten metal was coming away.

J.O Is there anything else you can tell us about this sighting. For example the sparks and colours.

I.B The sparks that were falling seemed to be coming from the back of the second stage were it had gone into the orange colour and that's where the sparks seemed to be coming from, they were probably coming from the side but you couldn't see because of the colour. The top and bottom

you could see very well, very hard to describe but the sparks were quite visible. They seemed to be coming away from the back of the second section.

J.O What colour were they.

I.B They were an orange colour, the same as what the colour of the second section was.

J.O Did it seem as if the object was breaking up in any way.

I.B It didn't seem as if the object was breaking up, it seemed as if it was very solid and a very, very real object and the sparks could have been emanating away from a heat source or a power source or something like that.

J.O When you observed the object did you see any distortions.

I.B No, no distortions because I think the evening was progressing and the background was starting to dull and I couldn't see any distortion around it whatsoever.

J.O What is your opinion about the control of this object.

I.B Well because of the position of it and the horizontal flight and the speed of it, it seemed as thought it must have been controlled, because all the time I saw it, it was perfectly horizontal and the speed was constant, no variation in speed, very constant, under these circumstances it would have to be controlled. Somewhere along the line it would run out of fuel and where would it have gone then.

J.O Could the tail have been a light beam.

I.B I'm very doubtful, because of the shimmering, if the tail had been a light beam, it would have been much longer.

UFO

Sighting Report

Victorian Sighting Reports Tuesday 8th June 1999

Many reports, from all over Victoria, were reported to our Area Representatives regarding the object seen on the 8th of June 1999. Presented below are some of these reports.

Letter received by VUFORS:

To Mr Paul Norman: 8th June 1999

Whilst travelling west and only a matter of three to four minutes the Yambuk side of Port Fairy, I noticed, what I first thought was a strange looking cloud formation. At this point, I was travelling in a southerly direction, as I followed the highway and it turned westerly I noticed that it seemed to be a vapor trail from a plane of some kind. However it was like none I have ever seen before.

I followed the trail and could see the source of it in the distance for another five minutes before I meet a police car travelling east. I thought to myself as I saw him coming, I should stop him and show him the trail which at this stage I thought may have been the re-entry of the shuttle or the like. But I continued, eager to get to my parents' place to show them what I had seen.

The entity was at about ten o'clock, in my peripheral line of sight, and whilst applying most of my concentration to the road I noticed a flash. Like that, you get from a mirror reflecting a bright light from the source. I again started to keep a closer eye on it for a good two or three minutes before it seemed to flash as it had before.

I put this down to the sunlight reflecting off the body of the entity as it changed direction slightly. I continued to follow it all the way to Tyrendana, where I turned off to cross Mount Clay to Heywood where I live. It is a terrible road for kangaroos so I did not take too much notice of it

James Kennedy, Western District Rep. submitted reports from Beach Forest, Gellibrand and Clifton Springs townships near Colac concerning the sightings of June 8th.

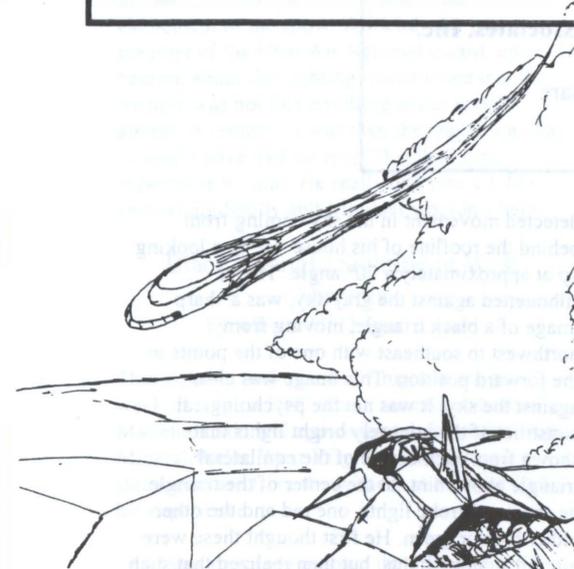
Dan Haylock, South East District Rep. forwarded two reports, one from an observer at Bairnsdale and another from nearby Paynesville who observed the object for three or four seconds.

Wendy Wolfe, Gippsland Rep. interviewed a dairy farmer who observed the object at South Druin for four seconds. At that stage, static sparks were noted.



Ohio UFO Notebook

Combined Issues #19 & 20, Summer 1999



Apollo 14 Astronaut Edgar Mitchell Speaks Out

The following are excerpts from an article quoting Dr. Edgar Mitchell that originally appeared in The People [London, England], 25 October 1998, and later appeared in UFO Magazine, Volume 17, No. 5, pp. 18 and 19.

"I am an American astronaut and a scientist and because of my position, people in high places confide in me. And, as a result, I have no doubt that aliens have visited this planet. The American government and governments throughout the world have thousands of files of UFO sightings which cannot be explained.

"As a former astronaut, the military people who have access to these files are more willing to talk to me than to people they regard as mere cranks. The stories I have heard from these people, who are more highly qualified than me to talk about UFOs, leave me in no doubt that aliens have already visited Earth... I've heard convincing stories about governments all over the world that know of alien visits - including the British government.

"Modern UFO sightings really began with the Roswell incident in 1947, when a crashed craft containing the corpses of several aliens was found in Roswell, New Mexico. Make no mistake, Roswell happened. I've seen secret files which show the government knew about it - but decided not to tell the public.

"There were very good security reasons for not informing the public about Roswell. Quite simply, we wouldn't have known how to deal with the technology of intelligent beings advanced enough to send a craft to Earth. The world would have panicked if we'd known aliens were visiting us. The question of whether aliens are still visiting us is more complex.

"Such is our existing secret technology that what might look like an alien craft may well turn out to be a top-secret military plane. On the other hand, the craft may be an alien spaceship.

"Contrary to rumour, there are no alien buildings or structures on the Moon. I should know, I was there! I even became caught up in these rumours when a theory started that a Moon structure was reflected on my helmet during TV transmissions of my landing. That just isn't true.

"It's that kind of disinformation which stops credible people admitting that they too believe in aliens. Thankfully, things are changing for the better... It helps too that those in possession of documentation of alien visits to Earth are starting to come forward. The military people I spoke to are tired of the secrecy surrounding Roswell and similar cases, particularly as the information is being leaked.

"I firmly believe that this documentation will have to be made public within the next three or four years. And if proof of ETs is finally made public, nobody will be happier than me.

"What I don't think will happen is that I will ever see an extraterrestrial. I'd love to see one, though it's not the biggest priority in my life. But, as they say on a TV show I'm involved with, the truth is out there."



TRIANGLES

MidOhio Research Associates, Inc.

Box 162
5837 Karric Drive Square
Dublin, Ohio 43016

Black Triangle Over Alum Creek Lake by William E. Jones and Dr. Irena Scott

Our witness lives on the north side of Shoreline Drive about 1/2 mile west of the south end of Alum Creek Lake in Delaware County, Ohio. He lives in a subdivision of new two story upper middle class homes that are 'typical' for the housing developments currently under construction and being planned for this area. The southern Delaware County area has been changing rapidly from its rural past as a crowded metropolitan Columbus inexorably moves north out of Franklin County. Dr. Scott's ancestor, Lee Hurlburt, on land inhabited only a few short years before by Native Americans, first settled the area in the early 1800s. Now that area is changing once again as the rural life style disappears and BMWs and Mercedes Benz automobiles replace the farm tractors and Ford pick ups of a few short years ago.

Shoreline Drive runs east to west from Lewis Center Road that runs around this part of the lake. The sighting occurred in October of 1998. It was on a Sunday of that month, which Sunday our witness does not recall. But he does remember it was 8:55 PM because the "X-Files" was coming on in five minutes. He stepped outside into his front yard to get a bit of fresh air. The sky was dark and overcast up high; he remembers seeing no stars.

As he stepped into the yard he heard "a loud rumbling sound" coming from behind him and up in the air. The sound was like thunder heard at a distance, but much louder. It was heard during the entire sighting. He turned northward to face the front of his home. Within a short moment he

detected movement in the sky coming from behind the roofline of his house. He was looking up at approximately a 70° angle. There, silhouetted against the gray sky, was a sharp image of a black triangle, moving from northwest to southeast with one of the points in the forward position. This image was clear against the sky. It was not the psychological construct of the intensely bright lights that shown from each corner of the equilateral triangle above him. In the center of the triangle he saw two strobe lights, one red and the other either blue or green. He first thought these were aircraft running lights, but then realized that such aircraft lights are not that bright nor do they go off and on in the "strobe like fashion" of these lights. This wasn't like any airplane that he had ever seen, he quickly concluded.

The object was as big as his hand extended at arms length with his fingers fully extended and spread apart. The surface of the triangle was uniform in color and appeared to be "tangible." The outline of the triangle was "hard" - very real. The three lights were each about 1/3 the size of the full Moon. These lights were bright and seemed to be pointed directly downward, but he could see no beam or image from any of them. The colored lights were bright, but small like points. They went off and on in about one second intervals, with one light on when the other was off.

Our witness watched this apparent object move across about a 30° arc of sky between the roof of his house and the roof of his neighbor's house next door in a minute or less. It was moving slowly. He could tell neither how high the triangle was nor how big it was, but he said that it was probably relatively low because the lights would have appeared more diffuse had it been

higher. As the object disappeared behind the his neighbor's roofline, he thought about going into his backyard to continue to watch its flight. However the area was dark and a fence was in the way, and the "X-Files" was coming on, after all. He returned to his home and to the excitement of the show. A friend who is a member of the Ohio Air National Guard, upon hearing about the sighting, commented that the triangle was not like anything in our known aircraft inventory. It was then the realization that he might have had his own "X-Files" type experience hit him. He really had seen a UFO and calling Scully and Moulder wouldn't help.

Black Triangle Sighting in West Virginia

by Alberta UFO Study Group

This sighting took place one night in the last week of August 1997, about ten miles south of Marietta, Ohio and approximately six miles from Mineral Wells, West Virginia. The following statements are from the witness as he described his experience:

"As I was proceeding down the highway (I-77), my partner yelled, 'Look at that!' He startled me so bad I almost lost control of the truck. Anyway, I looked out my side window and to my total astonishment, I witnessed a large, black triangle heading eastward just above the hills. I gathered my senses and pulled the truck off the road. We both got out of the truck to look at it. As I held my arm straight up and made a fist, it was about twice the size of my fist [estimated by the witness to be about 50 to 60 feet, tip to tip]. If I had a rock, I could have hit it.

"I could see, plainly, that it had a non-reflective, kind of like flat-black, surface. On the bottom of this craft were four lights. They looked as if they were on dim. That is to say, they did not shine brightly but were definitely visible. It had one red/orange light in the middle and a beige light at each of the three corners. The lights appeared to be somewhat recessed, although not deeply. The one thing that caught my attention was that it made no sounds, what so ever. It just seemed to float. It was moving so slowly that I could have out-raced it on foot.

"We watched it for at least ten minutes, then it moved over the hills and we lost sight of it. We got back into the truck and went south a few

miles and I pulled over to see if I could see it again. We did not see anything again that night."

Dark Triangular Craft Seen Near Toledo by Anonymous

This report about an Ohio case is a summary of the original that appears on the National UFO Reporting Center's web site at <http://www.ufocenter.com>. We asked the Center if they would be able to put us in contact with the author, but no response was received to this request. If anyone has heard about this case from another source please contact us.

On or about 02/15/98 at approximately 23:35 hours I observed a large charcoal gray to black UFO. This craft was slowly traveling across the sky from northeast to southwest at between 1000 to 1500 feet in altitude. There was a very low rumbling, more felt than heard, coming from the craft. It was approximately 100 to 150 feet long, and 100 feet wide at it's widest point. There were three strobe lights shifting from dull green to bright blue on this craft, one at each of its *three tips*. I would estimate the original speed of the craft at between 150 and 200 MPH.

This sighting took place within 3 to 5 miles of the Toledo airport. I heard two Ohio National Guard F-16s take off and head in my direction. Both passed directly over my head. The large craft suddenly increased it speed, then tilted upward at I would say was an almost 90 degree angle and continued to accelerate. Both F-16s attempted to stay with the craft, but soon broke off the chase and headed back toward the airport.

Dayton, Ohio Triangle Report by Jim Spangler, Dayton, Ohio

Jim Spangler received the following report from a witness who lives in the Huber Heights subdivision of Dayton.

I "accidentally" saw a genuine UFO from my yard Sunday night, May 2, 1999. I was sitting out by [a] campfire by myself. It was about 10 PM. I had just brought out my binoculars to do a little look around the sky... There were a lot of stars but a lot of ground light [as well] since we live about a block from Brandt behind Marian Lanes. A full moon was just beginning to come up. I looked up at some star in the northeast... I saw nothing until I put up the binoculars. I

immediately saw a big triangle. It was long and isosceles shaped, with a white light on all three corners. The back end was the short side being approximately 1/3 the length of the other two sides. It was gliding straight down slowly.

The back two lights are what I first saw then realized that it was real black between them (I couldn't see any background stars). I moved the glasses down slightly and then saw the nose light. I could hardly believe it. I couldn't hear anything coming from it but I had the feeling that it was way up in the heavens. Its lights were about the same brightness as the other stars. The whole length was slightly longer than my field of vision. I had to move the glasses down to see the whole thing, which I did several times. I tried to see if I could see it with unaided vision, but I couldn't. Then I couldn't locate it again with or without the binoculars.

The sighting lasted about 10 seconds. I think it was real far away and "HUGE."

Colorado Triangle

An unusual triangular like craft was seen in 1998 in Colorado. While not an Ohio sighting, it so unusual we thought we would report on it here along with the local sightings. This report appeared in an article entitled "Reports of Unusual Aerial Activities These Past Few Months" by Chris O'Brien in the January 1999 issue of the *Crestone Eagle*, page 8.

"Monday, September 14, at 6:15 am. Highway 285 north of Monte Vista. Colorado: a Monte Vista resident, while headed north on 285, witnessed a 'V-shaped craft hovering over the tops of the mountains to the west.' The sun was above the horizon and seemed to reflect off the object 'like the sun reflecting on an airplane wing,' but the object's structure was still plainly visible to the witness. The witness described the object as looking like '2 big rectangular pillars put together in a V shape...the size of three commercial airliners.' The witness observed the craft for over ten minutes before he traveled too far north and left it behind him - still hovering over the mountains. No one else was driving on 285 seemed to notice the object which puzzled the witness because. "it was so big."

Rhode Island Triangle With Logo

Now that we are getting away from Ohio triangle sightings. I don't think it would hurt to quote a very unusual report that is found in *Filer's Files 18 - 1999*, published on Internet by MUFON UFO Network Eastern Director George A. Filer.

"Dennis reports that on February 15, 1999, a triangle passed overhead heading west to east while he was driving on Route 138 north of Woodville. He lost sight of it due to the trees. A few days later on February 20, he and his wife were sitting in their sunroom at 11:40 PM. They were watching a fox feed on bread they had out outside, when a craft appeared headed in a southerly direction. They stepped out on their porch for a closer look. Dennis states: The craft passed over us silently, slowly, steadily and very low. The underside of it was dimly lighted by a hazy white light, thus making it possible to see the logo. The logo was a triangle edged in yellow containing the Earth being struck by two lightning bolts with the number '1' in the right hand corner. As it approached, a feeling of serenity and calm came over us making it a wonderful feeling to watch as it passed overhead. I estimate the speed of the craft at five to ten miles an hour. The size was approximately forty feet in length and forty feet wide at the rear of the craft, with the nose of the craft forming a point. The craft looked similar to a Stealth fighter, however it was a much larger plane. The altitude of the craft was about one hundred feet. I repeat there was not a sound from the craft and it did not even create a breeze."

George talked at length with Dennis who states that the logo or insignia was five feet in diameter and at the front was the Omega symbol. The two lightning strikes began at the 11 and 1 o'clock position. George said that Roman soldiers who conquered ancient Britain used a similar lightning symbol.

Space mystery

SCIENTISTS cannot explain a mysterious celestial object.

Despite three years' research, astronomers still can't say what the pinpoint of light is, or even determine its distance from Earth.

Astronomers hope the Hubble space telescope may be able to shed some light on the object.

Herald Sun,

Thursday, August 19, 1999

Australian Sighting Reports

<p>January 1974 23:00hrs Near Ballarat VIC</p>	<p>Several witnesses were having a barbeque in the bush, when they observed a large triangle shaped object, estimated about 200 yards away above trees. It was silent and hovering. The object had pale yellow lights along each side. After about two minutes it slowly banked, turned west and sped away.</p>
<p>February 1997 Time: dusk South of Elliminyt VIC</p>	<p>A mother and her 12-year-old son observed what they thought was a meteor going from southeast to southwest leaving a long white tail. They thought no more about it until the sighting of 8th June 1999, with details described in local papers appeared very similar to what they had seen. On the night of their sighting 18 months ago, the mother heard a news report that Adelaide airport had tracked a UFO that was faster than any aircraft in the area. They had also read in the newspaper about other reported sightings between Melbourne and Adelaide. James Kennedy, Western District VUFORS Representative, secured this report.</p>
<p>26 November 1998 8:12 Near Ballarat</p>	<p>BZ reported a saucer shaped object with a dome on top. The object was shining like metal. Viewing time was 12-15 seconds. Size was about the same as a large car. When it was first seen, it was hovering before speeding away.</p> <div data-bbox="1626 826 2340 1090"> </div>

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

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SIGHTING REPORT
MILDURA VIC - 25TH JULY 1999
ALLAN WILSON
SUNRAYSIA REPRESENTATIVE
V.U.F.O.R.S

It was Monday the 26th July 1999 at 13.30 hrs when I received a telephone call from the Mildura Weather Station. informing me that they had received a call from a Mildura woman who had stated she had seen strange lights over Mildura in the early hours of the morning on the 25th July 1999.

The Weather Station, with my approval gave this woman my telephone number so she could contact me with details of the sighting.

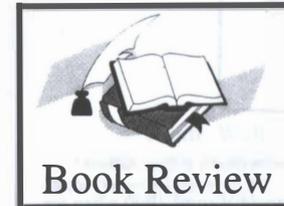
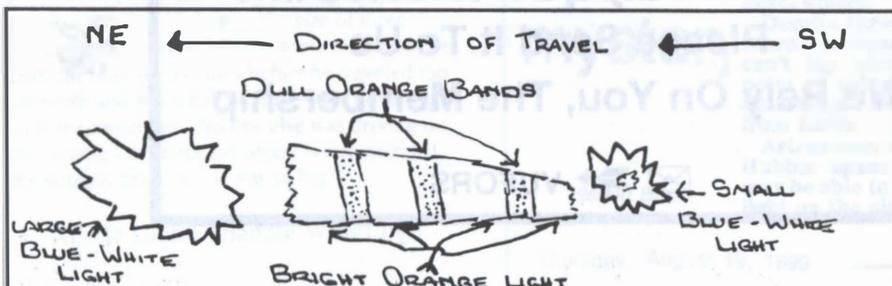
A short time later the female resident who we will name. Mrs E contacted me. After a brief discussion regarding the sighting I asked Mrs E if she would like to fill in a Sighting Report Form. which she was very pleased to do. An appointment for an interview was made for Monday. 2nd August 1999 at 13.30 hrs. The interview took place at my residence for a duration of 2 hours. with the process of elimination there was no air traffic or air borne weather equipment for the Department of Meteorology in the area of sighting.

It was in the early hours of Sunday morning 03.15 hrs, the sky was full of stars, cloudless, no wind or breeze. A cold frosty early morning when Mrs E saw these strange lights. she had dropped a friend off home and just turned into her own street when she saw these strong lights through the windscreen of her car. Mrs E told me these lights appeared low in altitude an approximately 30 degrees up from the horizon, they were moving from right to left. From this information and knowing Mrs E's direction of travel, the object would have been travelling South West to North East. The lights as they moved became very bright then quickly faded out. with the duration of the sighting only lasting about 2 to 3 seconds. I was very surprised when Mrs E gave me a description of her sighting.

Description of this sighting is as follows:- The object or objects at the height of brightness was an extremely bright Blue-White light which would have exceeded the size of a 20 cent piece held away at arms length. A little distance from the primary large Blue-White light was a very bright orange light of a wide tail appearance. very much like that you would see from a space rocket from NASA. In the bright orange tail there appeared to be about 3 vertical bands in a mottled appearance of a dull smoky orange colour. At the end of the tail part of the object there was another star coloured light only about 25 percent the size of the primary light.

I said to Mrs E it was a very detailed description. when the sighting lasted only 2 to 3 seconds. Her reply was, I have told you what I saw. it was beautiful and sent tingles down my spine. I was excited and wished it would come back again.

Mrs E at this time is the only witness to this sighting in the Mildura / Sunraysia area. Enquires will be still made in reference to this case. I have no doubt that Mrs E had seen something in the sky which can not be explained at this point of time. I thanked Mrs E for her time an comprehensive report. "Name and Address supplied"



Beyond Roswell & The Communion Letters

By George Simpson

The Author of "Communion", Whitley Streiber has written a few books on the subject of UFO's and Alien abduction. Some of his critics claim that he combines all of the details of such events and claims them as his own. Other critics say that there is no way that so much attention from extraterrestrials would be given to one human being in one lifetime. Of course, none of it can be proven one way or the other, but it makes interesting reading if you consider that it may afford some insight into the intelligence behind the UFO's that have been observed around the globe for the last 50 years.

Streiber's best book that I've read so far would have to be "The Communion Letters". Strangely enough, it was not written by him at all, but by thousands of people who responded to his last page in "Communion". His wife Anne helped him to edit the apparently huge pile of letters and select the best ones for this book.

Can you imagine a policeman having an almost pathological fear of green traffic signals? Once you read his account you begin to understand how it could be so even though it sounds ridiculous. The overall result of reading this book is that there are many thousands of events occurring which may never be revealed because the victims fear ridicule or harsh criticism. The visitors are definitely setting the agenda and their agenda makes little sense to us, but then that's just what you would expect from another species, or several, from different places in our vast universe.

Another book worth reading is "Beyond Roswell" coauthored by Philip Mantle of BUFORA and German UFO Researcher Michael Hesemann. The detail of events and circumstances surrounding the Roswell event is staggeringly comprehensive as is the list of military personnel involved.

One of this book's most interesting anecdotes involves a story told by the American Indian Robert Morning-sky. It's another of those unprovable tales that may give us some added insight into ourselves or may just be folklore. Morning-sky claims that his grandfather told him that at the time of the Roswell incident there was one surviving occupant of the crash who escaped the scene and was discovered by some Indians. A bond developed and the Indians helped it to survive, in spite of the U.S. military forces repeated attempts to recover it. It taught them much about the stars, the universe and its philosophy. Apparently, the thing that surprised it the most about us was that we have become self-determining as a species. We had supposedly been created as a race of slaves for some other extraterrestrial race, so our freedom from slavery was something it just never expected.

After some years passed the creature was picked up by its buddies and returned to its home in the skies. Well, it's a nice story but there is no way of verifying it.

Shirkey writes book on Roswell incident

FELIPE MENDOZA
 RECORD STAFF WRITER

After years of silence regarding the 1947 Roswell incident, Roswell resident Robert J. Shirkey has written a book released this week called "Roswell 1947: I was there."

"Three hundred or 400 books, maybe more, have been written on the subject," Shirkey said. "This is the first one written by someone who was there."

According to Shirkey, he was assistant group operations officer for the 509th Bomb Group stationed at Walker Air Force Base when the incident occurred in July, 1947.

Shirkey got involved with the alleged UFO crash four or five days after the incident occurred.

Shirkey reportedly set up the flight plan for a B-29 that transported materials found by a rancher to Fort Worth, Texas.

"When the rancher brought items that he found on his property and took it to the sheriff, then the secrecy was broken," he said. "Now the civilians knew about this."

"The first four days it was just military who knew what was going on."

"I saw pieces of metal from the craft."

"The first four days it was just military who knew what was going on."

Robert J. Shirkey
 Author of "Roswell 1947: I was there."

Shirkey said, "I saw the I-beam with the strange markings on it."

Shirkey added, "The airplane took off at 2 p.m."

That morning Lt. Walter Haut was asked by Col. William Blanchard to write a news story that appeared in the Roswell Daily Record.

"That's when they had the big headline about a foreign craft having been found," he said.

Walter Haut and Shirkey shared an office in Roswell for several years but never spoke about the incident, Shirkey said.

Although Shirkey was never threatened, "some people claimed they were threatened

with death if they talked."

"Walter and I never spoke about it until 1990 when we went to a conference in Washington on the UFO."

"That's when we found out what the other did 45 years ago."

Shirkey said he was motivated to write the book after watching a colonel on a television program who said most people around in 1947 "were old enough to be senile."

"The government said that it never happened," he added. "That it was not a UFO. It was a weather balloon."

"Those of us who were involved immediately knew we'd better keep our mouths shut."

According to Shirkey, he chose to write about the incident because so much information has come out since 1980.

Shirkey also said many explanations regarding the incident have been released by the Air Force since 1990 — "All of them untrue."

"I'm trying to get people to understand there's more behind the scenes and that we'll get the true story out," Shirkey said.



New Book on Triangles

For those of you who feel that these triangles just might be Terrestrial in origin, there is a new book on the market that explores this possibility in a lucid and objective way. Tim Matthews'



book, UFO Revelation – The Secret Technology Exposed?, is published by Blanford with a 1999 copyright date. It is available from Amazon.com for \$10.36. The book is without political rantings of an extreme Nazi-like nature found in some of the literature that looks back to the early 1900s for the early history of the triangles. Perhaps we have been on the Extraterrestrial kick for so long that we are missing some important alternatives to at least part of the UFO mystery. Highly recommended.

UFO POTPOURRI

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July 1999

PROTECTION AGAINST ONLINE CRITICS

From: Wall Street Journal, July 7, 1999

Anonymous online critics posting accusatory information, false information, or allegations of misdeeds that can harm or defame another person may be found, prosecuted and put out of business.

This is what happened to Richard Scrusby, chief executive officer of HealthSouth Corp. He found improper allegations against him and his company posted on an Internet bulletin board. When this happened, he hired cybersleuths and shoe-leather detectives to unmask the message writers. He has sued some of the individuals, but many of the anonymous posters aren't even aware that HealthSouth knows who they are and may sue those whose messages it deems defamatory. In one case he sued and pressed criminal charges of harassment and stalking. The culprit had been found and his actions resulted in his loss of employment.

The message in this story is that online stalkers and harassers can and will be caught. **TEN PERCENT OF ALL PILOTS HAVE SEEN UFOs.**

FEW DARE TO SPEAK OUT

From: The EXPRESS, London, England, February 8, 1999

It was a clear summer day in 1967 as Captain Graham Sheppard and his crew cruised along the main flight path from Scotland to London. It was a routine commercial flight with good visibility. The message from Preston Radar Control – like the astonishing object it described – came out of the blue.

"You have fast-moving, opposite direction traffic in the airway," it warned. Captain Sheppard and his two co-pilots looked out of the windscreen when a 30 foot wide disc-shaped craft raced into view. The object sped within meters of the airplane. The airman had no doubt about what they had seen. The disc had been in full view for nearly five seconds.

In March of the same year on a flight from Gibraltar to Heathrow, Sheppard and his crew had witnessed two unidentified objects in a 10-minute acrobatic display over the Bay of Biscay. Although radar control had confirmed the unidentified track, the crew chose not to report the incident.

In 1993, Sheppard finally went public on the TV program with the sighting. As a result, he was brought before the British Airways Public Relations office and told that talk of UFOs would not be tolerated. He was given a letter directing him to avoid any contact with the media. A year and a half later he took early retirement.

Now flying as a freelance pilot, Sheppard devotes more time to UFO investigations. His experiences have convinced him that there is a wealth of information about UFO activity from commercial and military pilots. "I would estimate that about 10 percent of pilots have had some sort of experience; however, they are afraid of being ridiculed and unwilling to attract the attention of extreme UFO enthusiasts, so few speak out."

"I must have spoken to 20 pilots who have had sightings but all are adamant that they do not want any publicity." This reluctance is frustrating because, when they do talk, pilots are convincing witnesses. ★★

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA UFO

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

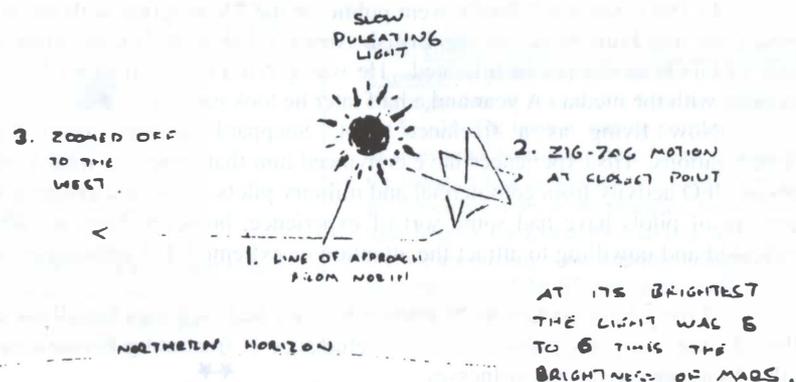
Three self employed men in their 30's had a 20 minute sighting from 9:30am on 22 April. The silvery/white object appeared like a star but was more square in shape and also had a black line in the middle of it. It was estimated to be 80-100000 feet in altitude and was heading east until it eventually faded out of view. The men had time to gather a telescope and binoculars to view the object with.

ADELAIDE - 22 APRIL 1999



WOODCROFT - 23 APRIL 1999

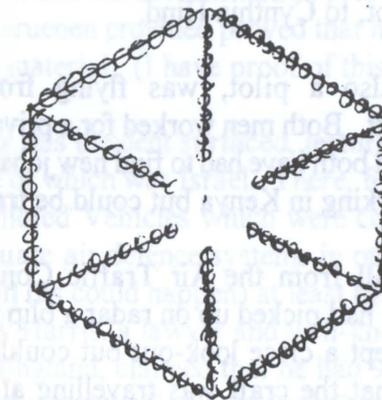
"My wife and I were driving home through the southern foot hills when I first saw the strange light, after watching it for a few minutes we pulled over and both got out of our car to see it more clearly. It approached us from the north at an average speed (like a plane) then it began to slow down and dance around in a zig-zag motion for about ten seconds before zooming off to the west at an unbelievable speed (much like a shooting star) My wife was very frightened and I was very excited!" Randall Shipway and his wife witnessed the object at about 11:30pm from Bains Road at Woodcroft, in the Northern skies. The red colour and the pulsating behaviour is what attracted the attention of the couple. The sighting lasted approximately 5 minutes.



SIGHTINGS

CUMBERLAND PARK - DATE UNKNOWN

A 71 year old retiree had a 10 minute sighting from 7:30pm. Several white hexagonal objects were seen from the sightee's Cumberland Park home. The objects disappeared for approximately five minutes and were seen again almost directly above. The objects had gained altitude and were no longer as bright as a result. The sightee telephoned his son and daughter during the sighting but they were unable to see the objects from their location. The small circles on the sketch represent the lights seen.



EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND - 27 FEBRUARY 1999

Moonta Police Officer, Norm Elliott was on holiday in Scotland in February this year when he sighted 3 objects between 1400 and 1500. The silver orb shaped objects appeared to be ball like and the duration of the sighting was only one minute. Being a tourist, Norm was actively sight seeing and the objects came within his field of view. The sighting left Mr Elliott perplexed. "The first two orbs moved across the sky parallel to each other with approximately 100 meters between them followed about 30 seconds later by a third orb on the same path/same speed. All were equal in size." Norm is still bewildered by the sighting and qualifies his sighting - "I am by virtue of my occupation a sceptic and am not one to accept observations/versions without some corroboration/proof however, what I saw can not be explained. I do not think it was an illusion caused by climatic conditions, I am left with the only other explanation - that they were UFOs"

★★★★

ADDRESS.

All correspondence to-
GEMINI, P.O. BOX MP 49
HARARE ZIMBABWE.

UFO

AFRINEWS



PILOT SEES LIGHT STREAK

South Africa

Reported by Paul, a pilot, to Cynthia Hind.

A friend of Paul's, also a pilot, was flying from Cape Town to Johannesburg at 30 000ft. Both men worked for a private airline which has subsequently closed, and both have had to find new jobs. The pilot involved is now, Paul thinks, working in Kenya but could be traced.

The pilot received a call from the Air Traffic Control at Cape Town Airport, to say that they had picked up on radar a blip following his plane. He and his navigator kept a close look-out but could see nothing. Cape Town informed them that the craft was travelling at Mach 12 (12 000 Kmph) and then that it was close behind them. They could now see two objects on radar.

At this point the pilot and navigator saw a streak of light pass them but could not identify anything. Air Traffic Control said the two blips had now disappeared into cloud at Mach 14 (14 000 Kmph).

This occurred in August 1998, exact date not known.

Comment:

Further information on this case will be published if, and when, it comes to hand. - Ed.

For sometime now I've suspected the technically advanced Armscor/Kentron company of South Africa having access to unmanned aerial vehicles. Ever since the South African/Botswana border alleged crash of a UFO engineered and hoaxed by James van Gruenen, I knew that no UFO had been shot down by a SAAF pilot. Basically because the documents presented by van Gruenen were so badly formulated; inexcusable spelling mistakes (I counted 14), completely inaccurate information, incorrect ranking of officers, and mixing of metric and imperial measures.

I served with the SAAF and have always respected the high qualities demanded of its officers and the documentation presented. Besides, all the evidence which van Gruenen provided proved that he was merely after the highest bidder for his material. (I have proof of this!)

I also, some time after this incident surfaced, lectured in various countries around the world, one of which was Israel. There, for the first time, I heard of these Automatic Piloted Vehicles which were controlled from a secret base and sent to evaluate air defence systems in other areas or countries. If they were shot down (as could happen) at least there was no loss of life. I also knew that Harry Harris, a lawyer and well-known UFO investigator from Manchester, in England, claimed that he had 90 pages of documents from Mossad, which involved the South African/Botswana border incident. One of van Gruenen's claims was that a South African naval vessel named 'Tafelberg' had first spotted the UFO at sea, and I have recently been informed by a person involved in government at that time, that this ship was in dock when the incident was reported!

Thus I was left with the puzzle of how did it all start, as something must have triggered van Gruenen's devious mind into perpetrating this whole incident. (For fame and money, I suspect!)

Then I discovered that Kentron, quite openly, admitted in 1994 that they had produced a triangular-shaped unmanned aerial vehicle. Well then, I thought, what if one of these had crashed on the wrong side of the border

THE EARLY YEARS

A selection of reports from various magazines published in the 1950s and 1960s

Walkerton, Ontario - November 1, 1958

The UFO Investigator (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena)

Four policemen, in constant communication by police radio, saw a bright, white pulsating UFO at about 12.40 a.m. Constables Edward Johnston and John McCutcheon first spotted the object while patrolling near Burgoyne. "It was off to our left", said Constable Johnston. "The prominent colour from it was white but it constantly changed. It appeared to pulsate and at times looked as if there were four lights coming from it"

When the policemen notified headquarters a second police car carrying Constables Douglas Washburn and William Reis was dispatched to a point one mile east of Walkerton. The men sighted the same object. From their viewpoints some 20 miles apart, the two teams compared descriptions by radio. The officers calculated that the object was hovering three miles north-east of Paisley at a height of about 3500 feet.

Taunton, England - May 21, 1962

LUFORO Bulletin (London UFO Research Organisation)

Flying a Viscount airliner at 17,000 feet above Taunton at midday on a flight from Cork to Brussels, Captain Gordon Pendleton of Aer Lingus (Irish International Airlines) spotted what at first he thought to be an aircraft, then thought to be a balloon. As it passed beneath his aircraft he could see that it was brown, appeared to be round and had a number of projections "looking like antennae" on its surface, according to the Irish Times "I have never seen anything like it before", he said. First Officer Peter Murphay also saw the object. Captain Pendleton, flying at 400 knots, estimated the object's rate of closing to be about 1,000 knots, and its distance to be about 3,000 feet below the aircraft. He calculated its velocity to be about 600 knots in the opposite direction to that of his aircraft.

Devonport, Tasmania - July 21, 1965

The Australian Flying Saucer Digest (Allied UFO Groups in Australia)

A Devonport woman yesterday described how she and her mother watched two mysterious objects in the sky off the coast last Friday week. She decided to report the sighting after reading about similar events in other parts of the world and the interest of the Royal Australian Air Force in sightings of this kind. The woman is Mrs Ray Devlin who with Mrs V. Kowarzik used binoculars to watch the objects from the top of Mersey Bluff. Mrs Devlin said she and her mother first saw the objects as they drove along William Street towards the Bluff. "The day was perfect and we could see the two silver objects quite clearly. At first we thought they were aeroplanes but when we studied them through binoculars from the top of the Bluff we could see they weren't. They looked like two silver balls. One was smaller than the other and it darted about. One had big red lights which would go on for a few minutes and then go off". Mrs Devlin said the two women watched the objects for about twenty minutes between 11.50 a.m. and 12.10 p.m. before they disappeared.

New solar system, new notions of God

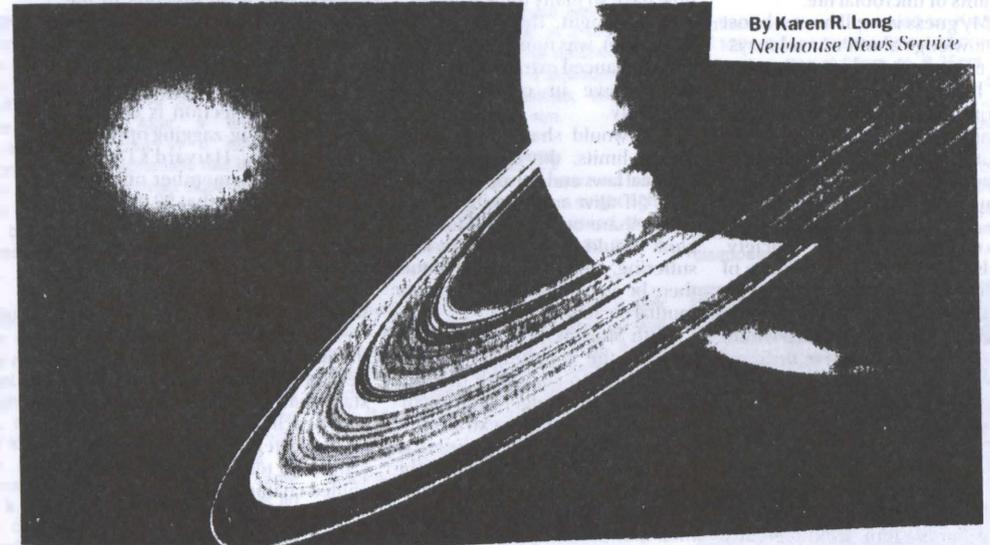
STAR TRIBUNE, Minneapolis, MN - May 1, 1999 CR: R. PanLener

Discovery enlivens theological debate

Associated Press

The discovery of a new solar system, rendered here by an artist, has prompted some theologians to examine how the discovery of extraterrestrial life might recast notions of God.

By Karen R. Long
Newhouse News Service



The possibility that humanity is not alone in the universe has heated up with news of the first solar system outside our own.

Astronomers meeting with theologians at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History rushed to update their slides and reword their presentations. After 11 years of painstaking observations, researchers announced April 15 that they had detected a trio of planets orbiting Upsilon Andromedae, a star similar to our own sun about 44 light years from Earth.

"You can expect the announcement of dozens of new planets over the next several years, gaseous as well as rocky planets," declared Harvard University astrophysicist David Latham, who is running his own search at the Keck Observatory in Hawaii.

The eclectic crowd of 400 included Noble laureates and Montessori teachers, Mormon scientists and brown-robed monks, a retired Dallas couple who learned of the conference on the Internet and a 14-year-old Ohio boy whose parents thought he might be interested. Also attending was Jill Tarter, director of SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project and the model for Jodie Foster's character in the movie "Contact."

Into this mix waded a few theologians, who are starting to work on how the discovery of extraterrestrial life might recast notions of God. What might happen to the three Abrahamic religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity, with their concepts of "the chosen" and "the special elect" if God turns out to have other children?

"Any encounter would be a chance to broaden our understanding of the divine," said John F. Haught, a theology professor at Georgetown University. "The fact that we have SETI illustrates our cosmic impulse at socialization. It would not be so surprising that other civilizations are centralized and reaching out toward us."

Owen Gingerich, a Harvard University professor of astronomy and a conference organizer, said, "From a perspective of religious humility, we are not in a position to limit God's creativity to us."

Some scientists, such as Harvard University anthropologist Irvan DeVore, don't care how many planets the astronomers manage to count. "I personally cannot discern a shred of evidence for a benign, cosmic presence," he said. "I look at evolution and I see indif-

ference and capriciousness. What kind of God works with a 99.9 percent extinction rate?"

Looking for life

Researchers are eager to find out. Kenneth Neelson, NASA's top astrobiologist, is leading a quartet of Mars missions over the next decade designed to retrieve rocks from the surface and scour them for hints of microbial life.

"My guess is we'll have a boost of knowledge about our solar system equivalent to the Apollo coming back from the moon and putting samples into our hands," he said.

Although SETI rents radio telescopes and systematically listens to portions of the night sky for signals that might indicate an advanced technological society, Neelson suspects the majority of life in the universe would be of a more humble sort. "From the point of view of SETI, Earth would have scored as negative until we developed radio waves about 70 years ago, despite the pyramids and everything else here," Neelson said.

Nevertheless, the drive to keep looking goes very deep.

"Finding a second Genesis in our solar system would greatly strengthen the argument for plentiful life in the universe," Tarter

said. She also thinks it might mean a lot to humanity.

"I always have this Pollyanna hat I wear," she said, "that given independent evolution of life somewhere else, we would have to recognize the differences between ourselves and any others would be vast, and this would trivialize any differences among humans, the tribal differences with which we now have so many difficulties."

But Haught, the Georgetown theologian, was more interested in what advanced extraterrestrial life might have in common with humanity.

"ET would share our cosmological limits, the constraints of physical laws and entropy," Haught said. "If alive and intelligent, ET could share our capacity for religion. Would ET know about fate, suffering, death or guilt? Would there be a possibility of sharing our mutual creation stories?"

Seth Shostak, a SETI scientist, warned the religionists against becoming too cozy with the idea that they can rejigger their theology to make room for extraterrestrial intelligence. He pointed to the 18th-century reaction of the people on the South Sea Islands when Capt. James Cook sailed into their harbors.

"They took one look at his ship, his guns, his wheels and assumed

his religion must be more advanced," Shostak said, "and they threw off their religion for his."

Evolutionary doubts

Some of those least inclined at the three-day Smithsonian conference to sit still for such speculation were the evolutionary biologists.

"It's not at all obvious to me that the evolution of intelligent life is inevitable," said professor Sara Via, a University of Maryland expert in ecological genetics.

"Natural selection is ongoing and blind, a zig-zagging opportunistic course," Harvard's DeVore said. "If you remember only one thing, remember that 99.9 percent of all species have gone extinct. With perhaps 50 billion species over the history of the planet, only one achieved the ability to send radio signals."

Tarter and Shostak wager that the universe is so big there must be more, because there are more stars than grains of sands on all the beaches of Earth. At SETI headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., the team keeps a bottle of chilled champagne on ice.

"Even if the evolution of biological intelligence is very rare," Shostak said, "it can't be zero probability, because we are here."

The MoD commented: 'Our people have been looking at it but we are not investigating.'

One UFO spotter declared: 'Well, they would say that, wouldn't they?'

CONSPIRACY theorists had a field day yesterday over reports that a UFO 'the size of a battleship' had been spotted 28,000ft above the North Sea. Both the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence confirmed they were aware of the alleged sighting but denied they were investigating it.

'This may sound silly,' said the CAA, 'but it is a matter for the MoD.'

The mysterious craft - said to be silver-coloured and pencil thin with square windows along the fuselage - was reported by a pilot on a private charter flight between Linköping, in Sweden, and Humberside on February 3.

The pilot, from the Luton-based airline Debonair, was flying a BAe 146 jet off Denmark when the cockpit was immersed in 'incandescent light'.

A CAA spokesman said 'He saw an unidentified bright light below the aircraft. The area was illuminated for ten seconds.'

'Three other aircraft reported seeing it moving at high speed, or static. As far as we are concerned, the matter is closed.'

Debonair refused to name the pilot. 'He is on four days leave,' said a spokesman. 'He definitely saw a big red light.'

-UFO ENCOUNTER-

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Brighton Sun 24.1.99 3.45 am

A woman observed a stationary light to the NW at an angle of 60 degrees elevation. It flashed once every 14 seconds, and was observed for 45 minutes. On Wednesday 27.1.99 it was seen again at 3.30 am. While the field of stars moved, it held a fixed position in the sky.

Thornlands Wed 21.1.99 3.16 am

A Ham Radio operator observed a faint light with a slight tail in the Eastern sky at an angle of about 60 degrees elevation. It seemed to move to the NE in a slight arc and pass "behind" a star. He watched it for about 30 seconds before it disappeared. He had seen many satellites, and this object seemed different to him.

Bankstown (Sydney) 1974

The above Ham Radio operator was one of seven witnesses who saw a bright light coming from the West at high speed, do a U turn and then shoot straight up over a period of 5 seconds.

St Lucia Sat 9.1.99 3.35 am

Two witnesses observed a spherical ball of fire in a clear sky. It rose from near ground level at a sharp angle of climb to what seemed to be a height of 2000 feet and became stationary. After a time it continued climbing but in a different direction. One of the witnesses had been a pilot for 10 years. It seemed close enough so that engine noises would have been heard, but there were none. Its apparent size was like that of a small coin at arm's length.

Murwillumbah Mon 11.1.99 8.50 pm EST

A man was outside walking his dog on a stormy night with light cloud cover and saw a bright light to the W on two occasions. The light was about half the size of the full moon, of constant brightness and shone for 15 to 20 seconds. The first time it was at an angle of elevation of about 45 degrees. The second time the light came on at a different position in the sky, at an angle of elevation somewhat lower and seemed to "flick off" abruptly. The lights were at rest when seen. There was distant lightning, and no stars were visible.

Bundaberg Tue 12.1.99 10.15 pm

Two witnesses observed a "really bright star" over a neighbouring house. It moved from side to side, flashing red and green colours, rose, faded out and appeared again. It was seen for about 10 minutes, the sky was clear, and no sound was heard. The following night the witness reporting this incident called back to say that they had had a similar sighting at 9.30 pm.

Woodridge Mon 18.1.99 10 pm

Two witnesses observed an octagonal object low in the Northern sky by eye and with a telescope. It seemed to be far away and flashed colours. After about 45 minutes it suddenly moved away rapidly to the N and was lost to sight in 1.5 to 2 minutes.

appeared to be over the vicinity of the Toowoomba airport. Enquiries by Karim to the local showgrounds and the airport have failed to reveal any events that could explain these sightings.

This newspaper article further stimulated a report from a woman dating back 24 years when she was driving through the town of Ingewood and was startled by an orange object that "jumped" in front of the car and performed acrobatic antics before disappearing. By the time she arrived in Toowoomba that evening there was already an article in the paper from a recent previous sighting reporting very similar events to those of the 12th of June this year.

Another report was received by Karim for the 12th of June but the time was one hour earlier between 8.25pm to 8.35pm. This report involved a woman and her father who saw 2 orange lights stationary in the sky, one below the other. They turned to see an aeroplane in the opposite direction and when they turned back the bottom object rose to meet the top one and the two either merged into one or disappeared behind the other before rising further and disappearing.

Editors Note: The following reports have been recently received from Keith Douglass, who operates the *Australian International UFO-Flying Saucer Research* organisation in Alice Springs. He is also a UFORAS contact person. We hope to regularly present some of Keith's more interesting reports in *UFO Encounter*.

Wycliffe Well, NT 21.7.1988

The morning was clear with no cloud, no wind and good visibility. The witness (a pilot) was returning to Alice Springs in a light aircraft at the required altitude of 5,500 feet. He had been flying for about 35 minutes after daybreak in a S-SW direction, and after flying over Wycliffe Well (400km north of Alice Springs) he was conducting a regular 'dead reckoning' check of his flight path. He looked down at the ranges and observed a faint movement at about a 45 degree angle from his position, and sighted what appeared to be a dull, silver frosty round disk-like object. He first thought it may have been a balloon as it was travelling slowly, and he could observe an elongated shadow upon the ground. As it was just after daylight, the shadow was cast a long distance and gave the impression of a balloon, due to its long shape. Alice Springs flight service was contacted, transcript as follows:

UFO FLAP OVER TOOWOOMBA

Recently the Toowoomba Chronicle Newspaper contacted our representative for the area, Karim Hashim-Jones, after a woman reported seeing unusual objects in the sky. This prompted further reports to Karim from approximately 14 other witnesses who also saw unusual objects. The reports related to a sighting that occurred on the 12th of June between 9pm and 9.30pm involving orange lights that, according to some witnesses, appeared to form an irregular diamond shape or a diagonal line. Some of these witnesses reported that something that looked like molten lava, fire or flames dropped from the objects towards the earth. Most people reported the objects splitting into two groups whilst making no noise and

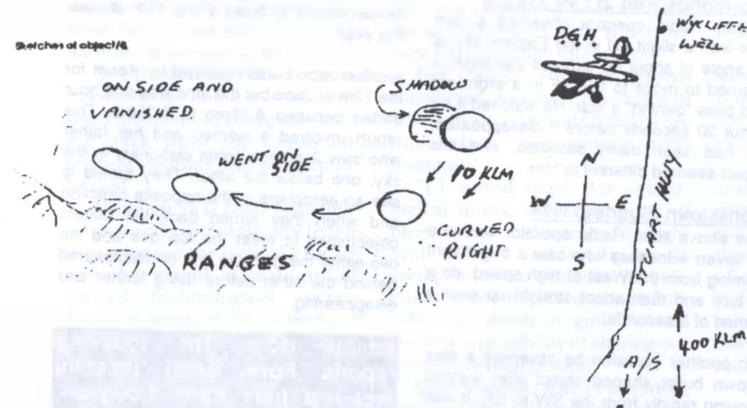
DAILY MAIL, London, England - April 27, 1999

Riddle of a silver UFO 'the size of a battleship'

Witness: This is DGH 5,500 feet, 25 nautical miles S-SW of Wycliffe Well. Do you have any known traffic in the area?
 Alice Springs: Wait out.
 W: Acknowledged.
 AS: DGH this is Alice Springs.
 W: Copy.
 AS: Re your last known traffic, confirm sighting and position of other aircraft.

The witness thought this was an odd way to frame this request, as normally the flight service would say "confirm position and apparent altitude of other aircraft". At that

Sketches of object/A



particular moment, the object, which the pilot had been watching as he flew over the top of it, suddenly accelerated towards some ranges 10km away. As the witness watched - and he still thought it was a balloon at this stage - it accelerated rapidly towards the ranges and curved to the right, as if to travel parallel to the range. It then turned on its side and disappeared on the spot, into thin air! At this point, the flight service requested the pilot to acknowledge their last contact. The witness was completely dumbfounded and returned the message: "Disregard, it appears it may have been an optical illusion."

The witness recorded this incident in his flight logbook, which he still has. His impression was that the object had been listening in on his transmission, because it had vanished as soon as contact with the flight service was made. He also recalls that his Non-Directional Beacon arrow, which points in the direction the aircraft is travelling, had moved in the direction of the object, and 5 minutes after the object had disappeared, it returned to its original position. This Beacon arrow can be diverted by tropical storms, but as the morning was clear the witness can find no explanation for the movement.

The object had no visible markings, and was a large dull silver-frosty disc that cast a large shadow, which meant it was close

to the ground. It was at least 3 times as big as a house. The pilot has flown over this area numerous times without incident.

Coconut Grove, NT, February 1999

The witness (a mechanical engineer specialising in science and technology, industrial psychology and an employee of NT University) had not been feeling well for 2 days. The story, in his own words, follows:

During the night I had a bit of sleep, and the next decided to see my doctor. Since my regular doctor was not in, I saw

another doctor and was given some flu antibiotic and drops for my nose. After arriving home and still feeling sick, I went to bed early, but couldn't sleep at all. And then things started to develop. At first I felt a very strong headache. The some energy, or what seemed to be a force, was penetrating my head and through my whole body. My head became very heavy, and I thought I was going to die. I suffered so for about 2 hours with a lot of pain in my head, and then I said something like 'what the hell was all that about'. I was awake, and then somehow the headache wasn't that strong, and suddenly I was seeing in my mind a picture like a large movie screen, where was projected some writings. The writing was like a very long formulae, the letters not like latin letters but like a kind of numbers with brackets and so on. After I watched that large screen in my mind, I said loudly "what the hell is that?" as soon as I mentioned those words, the voice of a male person said that it was the formulae for a very special material used for making certain parts and components. The voice then continued, and told me that the material is used in the building of spacecraft and advanced technology. I then asked what the material might look like, and the voice of an old male told me that I should look at the components of the object where the material was being disclosed to me. I looked at that large screen in my mind and

observed a large object that was oval and like metal melted together. There were no visible signs of welding, bolts, screws, of anything at all. It was of a gray metallic colour, with a smooth surface and a glossy finish. The picture of that component remained in my mind for a long time after the picture disappeared. I continued to lie on my bed in the dark after the image and voice had gone, refreshing my memory of the experience. I was certain the experience was not a dream, and I lay awake all night.

I consider my experience to have been real, and I believe that I what I was shown was not from beings of this planet.

Alice Springs, NT, 17.4.1999.

10:35pm

The witness and his wife noticed an orange light moving on the east side of his house. It was travelling south to north. He went outside the house and witnessed a large flaming ball at approximately 800-1000 feet altitude. As he observed, it changed altitude to about 200-300 feet and behaved in such a way that it was totally unfamiliar to him. It made no noise and changed position very quickly, moving back, forward, and stopping, with no pattern to it. It then changed position to the north, and hung at an elevation of 60 degrees to the horizon. It had an oval shape, a definite outline and was orange with a tail that did not trail like a flame, but moved position to be above, before or behind the object. It moved very slowly to the north and then changed direction, moving slightly upwards at incredible speed until it was out of sight. The witness feels he is sane, has had 35 years experience with the aviation industry and that the object was not a known aircraft. He had taken reference bearings and later measured these bearings with a prismatic compass.

The witness also related an incident in 1967, when he was flying at 20-30,000 feet in the company of 3 other aircraft, each having 2 pilots, at Jarvis bay, New South Wales. They sighted an unknown aircraft in their airspace, which they were unhappy with, and wondered who else was in this area at that time. One of the aircraft diverted to intercept this craft in order to obtain a closer look. As they got within 5 miles of it, the object took off at an inconceivable speed, in a southerly direction. All 8 pilots had witnessed this object, so they filed a report of the incident. Later other reports were filed by regarding similar sightings in the area, and they were later informed that this craft was an Airforce Neptune (a plane that does not fly at altitudes over 10,000 feet) on an exercise.

SOCIETY NEWS

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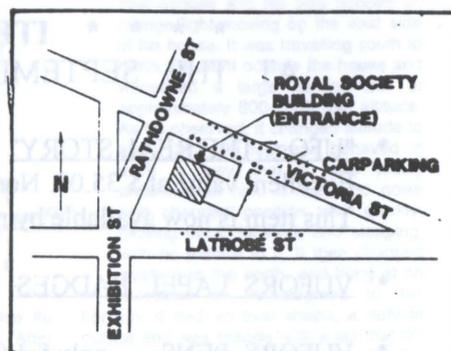
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For Your Diary

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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.

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