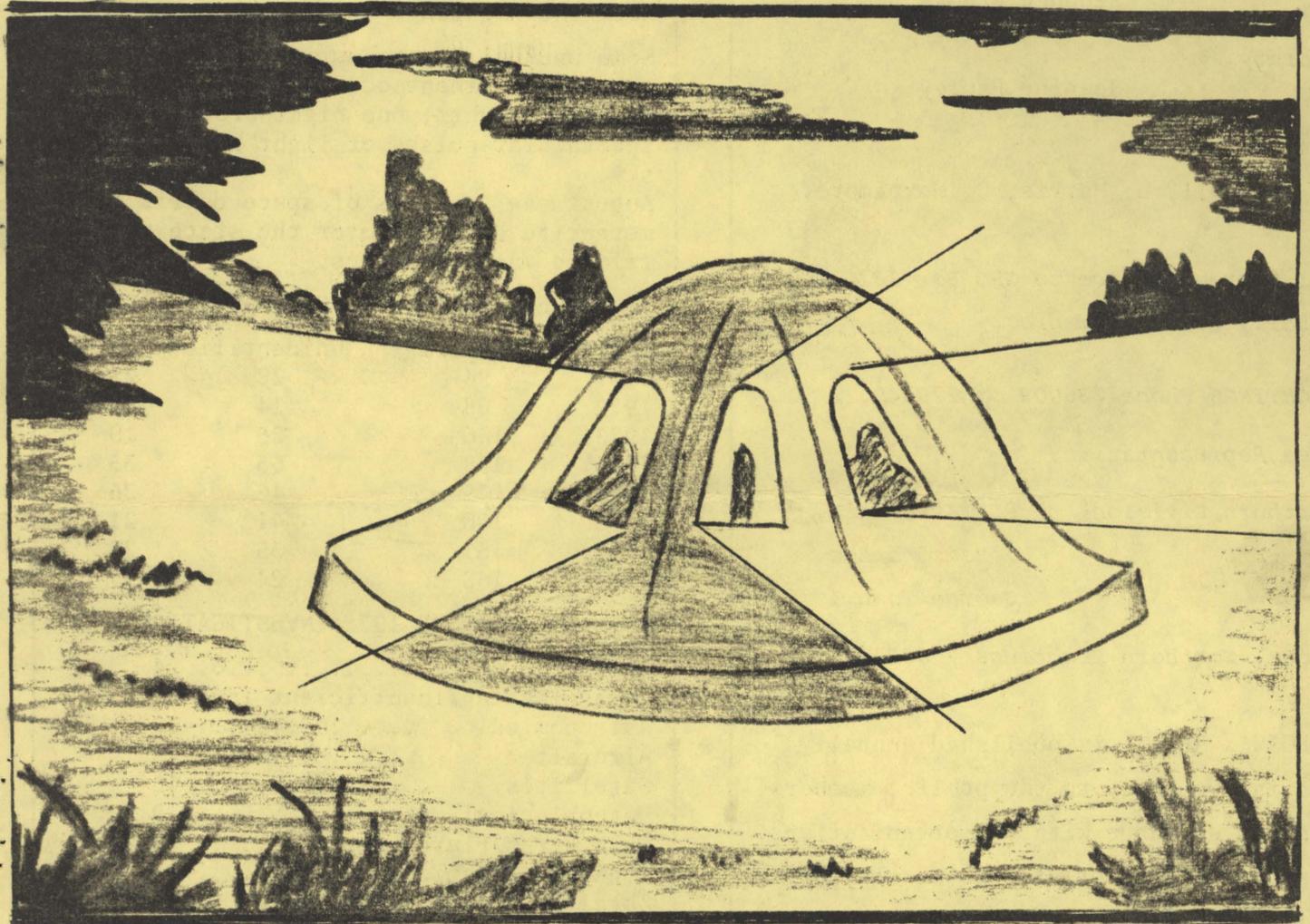


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UFO 1979

Tasmania



By the Tasmanian
U.F.O. Investigation
Centre T.U.F.O.I.C.

EDITION No. 26

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T U F O I C - 1979.

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TUFOIC's Report is published annually and is available to the public, members, and for exchange with UFO organisations. The Centre also prints two newsletters during the year to keep members informed of ongoing sightings. See the back page for application to join the Centre.

DON'T FORGET, TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT TUFOIC.

Cover: Channel Close Encounter of 1976. (Page 7).

YEAR'S SIGHTINGS STATISTICS.

For the fifth year in a row the Centre received over 150 sightings to investigate. However, although the UFO percentage has varied there has been a gradual drop in actual unexplaineds.

Over half of the year's UFO reports occurred during the September to November period, the reports coming from a wide area of the state. For comparison 1976 most UFO cases occurred in Feb/March, whilst in 1977 more than half the sightings were in May to June.

Some unusual events during the year were several prominent occurrences of the Southern Lights, one night brought spectacular pulses of light over the whole sky.

August saw a series of space debris or meteorite burn-ups over the state that tricked many witnesses.

INVESTIGATIONS ..COMPARATIVE FIGURES.

Year.	Reports	Unidentified	UFO%
1971	94	22	23
1972	68	14	20
1973	136	26	19
1974	158	53	33
1975	175	46	26
1976	190	41	21
1977	151	35	23
1978	168	24	14

ANALYSIS OF 1978 INVESTIGATIONS.

Unidentified	24
Investigating/Insufficient Info	17
Astronomical	63
Aircraft	25
Satellites	13
Meteorological	9
Bush Fires/Flares	5
Other Explanations	12
Total Investigations.....	168.

TUFOIC MEETING DATES 1979.

Meetings are held at the BP Theatrette City Mutual Building, 47 Liverpool St. commencing at 8pm. Prospective members and persons with sighting information are welcome.

1979 Dates.

February 9th.	August 10th.
April 6th.	October 12th.
June 8th.	November 30th.

A YEAR OF CONTRAST

It was a year of contrast for the Centre, commencing with one of our quietest ever periods before finishing with the Valentich incident and a run of cases with a high strangeness. Will the UFO phenomena ever be the same again in Australia following the Valentich disappearance over Bass Strait last October? Did he encounter some unknown phenomena that led to his crashing into the sea? Just what really happened we will never know for sure. However, the UFO subject was suddenly front-page material around Australia, probably for the first time ever.

Everyone wanted to know whether Valentich had encountered a UFO, other sightings received press coverage, the dailies carried articles on the UFO subject in general. Most stories only illustrated a lack of knowledge by the media about the UFO phenomena and just what was the set up in Australia with Research groups. A few good items did appear but others had trash such as mention of important moments in UFO history and listing George van Tassel's Convention to meet the UFO's at his Giant Rock Airport in California.

The later half of 1977 saw a sudden drop in unexplained reports. The Centre still received calls but were able to explain a high percentage. The trend continued into 1978 with a few isolated incidents keeping us on our toes. After the peak flap years of 1974-76 sightings had to ease off at some time or other. At least this was in keeping with Worldwide established patterns.

Despite the lack of reports prior to October the media gave the Centre considerable assistance - TV appearances, radio talk backs and press coverage brought at times overwhelming response from the public. One meteor burn over the State resulted in over 40 calls in some 24 hours. The media though, had one failing in always assuming that sightings (unexplained) in Tasmania were on the increase, or at least near flap proportions.

There is hardly any need to say that following the Valentich disappearance the Centre received an average of a sighting a day to check out for the best part of the following month. Witnesses were not as reluctant as they have been to tell us of some strange incidents that had occurred, both new and old. This could be one of those times when the intense media coverage created a run of reports. In the past we have experienced the opposite - no publicity but many strange events such as in 1974.

It was felt that the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" could start a wave of sightings of unprecedented proportions. This was not to be, although some organisations reported an increase in old sightings as people realised what they had seen was just one of the many UFO similar sightings. The film had no effect on the local scene: we were already in a lull that lasted many months after the film had departed from the State.

The Centre, through the hard work of our new Northern Representative, has now an active group in the north of the State. We hope this will mean a wider coverage of any UFO activity, also the uncovering of many old but interesting cases.

From our French contact Jean Sider, we have heard more on the French Government-backed investigation into the UFO phenomena. This investigation, together with private groups in the USA and our own ACOS, continue to gather data that shows the UFO is a world-wide phenomena. In isolation the Tasmanian sightings mean nothing, but when added to the overall scene it can be noted how they fit into the patterns.

The French study, after a year's work, advised that there was a Material Phenomena involved. It somehow propelled itself through the air. They suggest a continuing study of the phenomena could be fruitful in increasing mankind's knowledge and future techniques. The remarks by the French study may not seem very dramatic, but it is the first time a Government-backed body has favoured the theory that the UFO phenomena is actually there.

It is disappointing that such information never rates a mention in the news media whilst a UFO kite that caused a London traffic jam was given good coverage. It is interesting to note that the kite was still a UFO to the media even though the stimulus for the report had been discovered???

Close Encounters, Valentich incidents, more media coverage, the UFO phenomena will never be quite the same in the future.

FIRST A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

The Centre's first unknown for 1978 occurred on a farm near Sorell on January 31st. It was a fine clear morning. The witness was staying at her daughter's house to look after the children for a few days. On the morning in question she had woken up early and gone into the kitchen for a cup of tea - the time on the stove clock was 4.10 a.m. Glancing out the kitchen window to the south-east she noticed a star-like white light over the distant hills.

Over the period of about a minute the light gradually approached directly towards the farm, growing in size all the time. Eventually the object passed in front of a tall gum tree about 400 to 500m distant. She now felt a little concerned that "it" was going to land in the paddock next to the farm yard.



Instead the now well-defined object performed a circular movement over the paddock coming within a metre or two from the ground. The UFO when at its closest, looked to be elliptical with sharp ends. It had two very bright white lights in the centre, when pointing at the witness it was hard to make out anything but the lights. When it turned away over the paddock she could see the glowing silver shape.

The UFO circled the paddock a second time coming within 200 m of the farm, then it gained elevation and passed in front of the tree a second time. The object circled yet again, but, after passing the tree increased speed, gained height and in 10 seconds had disappeared to the north-west. The object had moved slowly over the paddock, being visible for some 4 minutes. The witness felt held by the event and wanted to see what was going to happen; as a result she did not wake anyone else at the time to see the UFO.

There were no aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting; it is not many kilometres to Hobart Airport but nothing was seen by Control. The low elevation of the object would have hidden it from any but the closest of witnesses had they been up at that early hour.

A DAYLIGHT DISC

The second sighting for the year came a couple of weeks after the Sorell incident, but this time it was a daytime report, a type of sighting that does not seem as prevalent as in earlier years. A motorist and his passenger reported the sighting on February 18th at 10.15 a.m. (Eastern Summer Time). They were travelling north between Granton and Bridgewater at the time en route for a day trip to Launceston.

Initially two white spherical objects were seen, one behind the other, fairly high in the northern sky. They seemed to be stationary at first and reflecting the sunlight. This effect was pronounced on the side facing the sun. As the witnesses swung onto the causeway across the Derwent to Bridgewater the two objects started to move to the north east. The witnesses were surprised to see one move ahead and just disappear. The car window was wound down to eliminate any chance of reflection.

Then the first object reappeared and they both now looked a brown colour and had changed shape to more disc-like in appearance. The puzzling thing was that the objects were still in a clear sunlit sky. The two objects then reverted to their original shape and colour and came close together again.

The objects were lost to view as the witnesses passed through Bridgewater but they were able to locate them again after leaving the town. The objects were then picking up speed and travelling away to the north. They were out of sight very shortly over hills in the distance.

The sighting could not be accounted for by aircraft, in fact later on the witnesses saw a light aircraft which at no time bore any resemblance to the metallic appearing objects. Mention in the press failed to reveal any other witnesses to the sighting but it was only due to the reflection from the UFO's that the two unexplaineds were noticed in the first place.

SIGHTINGS (CONTD.)

IT'S JUST LIGHTS

The year's events continued in low key with 3 cases of Nocturnal Lights coming to the Centre's attention. There was one similarity in the reports which all had two lights involved.

The first report came on March 27th from Gregory Harwood who was with several friends at a Highcroft (Tasman Pens) shack. They had noticed an orange light travel north at great speed about 8 p.m., two minutes later a second similar light was noticed. At 8.07 p.m. two orange lights appeared to the north-west with an orange to silver glow around them. They moved slowly east in an undulating motion. The lights maintained their position but after 3 minutes converged on each other and there was a red flash. They separated at once and began to descend slowly before fading out as if turned off.

Another two orange lights were reported by a fishing party at Lake Crescent half an hour after sunset late in March. The two orange lights approached out of the northern sky, moving at a steady speed, silent and well apart. It took only a few minutes for them to pass just east of the witnesses. As the lights moved away to the south they took slightly different courses, one disappearing to the south, the other to the south-west. Some time later an aircraft was heard coming from the north; it passed well to the east but its lights bore no resemblance to that of the two earlier lights. Both sightings have similarities with the Maydena lights of early 1976.

The last of the two light events was on March 31st at six in the morning. The witness who is also an Aero Club pilot, was checking the sky as he drove home from shift work. Passing Montrose on the Brooker Highway he was surprised to see a Venus sized light rise up from behind the hills to the west. He pulled up his car and noted a second light follow the first. Number 1 light stopped whilst the second light dropped back down. It was soon followed by the first light which just went back down on its ascent path. The lights had been in view 30 seconds. Our witness waited several minutes but nothing else occurred.

ANSONS BAY UFO

Maybe the first report to indicate that the lull was nearly over occurred at Ansons Bay on June 4th. A strange light was noticed south east of the little holiday resort on a cold clear night about 10.30 p.m. There were several witnesses. The spherical object emitted a pulsating series of different coloured lights. There appeared to be separate rays of light beneath that resembled the flash of an electric welder.

The object stayed in the same area during the entire sighting but the entire area of the bay was illuminated as far as the beach front. There was light apparent on the surrounding hills. Another strange factor was that a low pitched humming noise could be heard.

The Centre's Northern Investigators uncovered another possibly related event the same night from Ansons Bay. At 3.30 a.m. in the morning one of the witnesses to the earlier events was woken by a strange noise and noticed it was very bright outside. Thinking it was the start of daybreak the witness fell asleep again. It was ascertained the next day that an elderly resident of the resort had also been woken by the same phenomena. She told of being woken up in the early hours by a terrifying noise and vibrations which shook her shack. She was forced out of bed and thought there was a helicopter over the shack.

The road to Ansons Bay was the scene back in 1974 of an auto stop that left a very frightened witness. Also there were sightings at the Marshes nearer the Bay. The Centre would be very interested to hear of reports from any other holidaymakers who may have visited Tasmania's North East.

The only July report to the Centre was again lights seen from Blackmans Bay on the 7th in the early hours of the morning. A family watched a group of 8 lights moving back and forth, disappearing and reappearing out over the ocean at an elevation of about 20 degrees. The lights gyrated inanely about each other with one larger white light stationary in the middle.

After an hour's watching the family felt tired and went to bed. The son awoke near 5 a.m. and noticed the lights were still there and performing their manoeuvres. Being tired he returned to bed and nothing was visible to explain the cause for the lights when he got up about 7 a.m.

SIGHTINGS (CONTD)

AUGUST INCIDENTS

A couple of sightings came next from the Lake Country, scene of a UFO Flap back in early 1975, but this time there seemed to be only two reports that the Centre logged as unexplained.

The Foster family were witnesses to the first report at 11.30 a.m. of August 5th. They had taken two boats out on Lake Crescent, one to have its engine tested. The two boats took up positions about 1½ to 2 kms apart; Mr. Foster was in the boat to the south. Foster's son saw the object first travelling from the north-east part of the Lake on a westerly heading; he called the attention of the other two in the boat to the object.

It looked like a thin cigar, estimated at 30m long but only ½m in thickness. It was only 1 to 2m above the water and from the distance it covered during the sighting a speed of 150 to 180 kph was estimated. The ends of the object seemed to be tapered. Despite the choppy surface of the lake the UFO travelled smoothly. It was a black to brown colour.

The object was in view for about a minute before it passed behind trees into the north-west corner of the lake. The sky at the time was overcast with low cloud. There were no other boats on the lake.

Mr. Foster tried to attract the attention of his companions in the boat to the north, but, on seeing him waving they looked to the south and missed the UFO which quickly passed by to their north

SECOND SIGHTING

That night about 9.50 p.m. there was second sighting. This time by a Hobart family staying, as they have done many times, at their Interlaken shack. An intense white glow appeared in the Dogshead area to the north-east and soon lit up the overcast sky and reflected across the lake. The source of the glow was hidden but there seemed to be weaving beams coming up from the glow.

Then a white light appeared on the opposite foreshore some 2kms distant; it dashed back and forth in the bush over a distance of 2kms for the next 20 minutes. It looked to be just above ground level and could be seen passing behind trees as it went along. The light would cover the distance in a few seconds; one witness saw a beam pointing upward from the light. Binoculars were used but didn't assist in seeing anything further.

Meanwhile the glow had moved very slowly southwards passing over the Tunbridge Road; a car was noted coming from that direction and the witnesses feel the driver must have seen something. However, the car went straight past their shack. The glow moved around to the south east, at one stage it was thought there was a little light at the base of the glow near ground level.

The glow then faded away and at the same time the little white foreshore light just went out and was not noticed again. A minute or so later the same or similar glow appeared south-west of Interlaken. This time it was not as bright and seemed to be further away. The glow was visible for some time after but gradually diminished in size and brightness as if continuing to move away from the witnesses. The sighting lasted about 25 minutes.

NEW ZEALAND OCCUPANTS (Credit Xenolog, Timaru, New Zealand)

Mrs. Arnevich was on holiday at her family's Martin's Bay shack just north of Auckland. Early one morning she awoke to an unusual "buzzing" noise. Looking out, Mrs. Arnevich saw what appeared to be a link-up between a mother ship and two smaller craft for a repair job.

For more than an hour she watched in amazement as 3 men appeared to climb ladders between the UFO's - and beam coloured lights at various parts of them. The night was clear and the 30 foot high rectangular objects were about 100 ft. up in the sky.

During the sighting Mrs. Arnevich's dog became frightened and at one stage she had to abandon an attempt to go closer to the objects because of the dog's fear. The lights were silver, gold, and orange. As the lights flashed she saw a ladder hanging down at the mid-section. Part of the ship was in semi-darkness. It was then that she saw a man dressed in a wetsuit-like garment climb the ladder and join two others.

The UFO's manoeuvred gently around each other and flashed beams between themselves during the hour that she watched.

Contd..

NEW ZEALAND OCCUPANTS CONTD.

Finally, their repairs finished, they headed out towards Tiritiri and disappeared over Rangitoto Island. For some time after her sighting Mrs. Arnevich experienced the weird "buzzing" noises.

A TALE OF TWO FIGURES

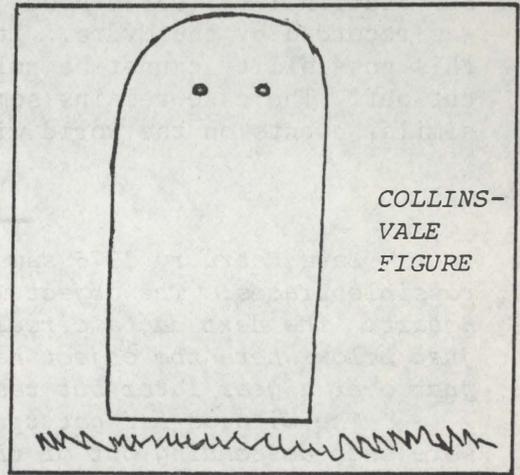
The year saw two reports of unexplained figures or shapes. One dated from Winter 1976 - the other November 9th(1978). Both cases have some similarities. Just a shape being seen in a floating above the ground movement. Their similarity with cases from around the world is also of interest. In fact there must be cases of this type in prolific numbers. No UFO was reported in either case but had the figures been seen at a distance we would have classified the reports as "nocturnal lights".

COLLINSVALE 1976

The witness ran a milk delivery run at the time of the sighting; he was on his normal rounds in the district when the incident occurred. It was about 8.30pm one winter evening. The weather was fine but overcast. C had stopped to talk to one of the patrons on the run and it was when he left the house that he first saw the figure. C had backed up to the large garden at the house, there being a wide entrance at which he had parked his milk utility. There was no gate, just bushes each side with the garage and road beyond. C's first reaction was how did he manage to drive up without seeing the white something now at the back of of the utility and stopped rather surprised to see the figure.

He could see a cylindrical shape about 1½m tall and ¾m wide. It was bent over as if looking at the milk cans in the back of his utility. As he watched it straightened up, then seemed to turn and as it did two black spots he took to be eyes became visible in the top of the cylinder. The shape was white but did not seem to cast any light onto the utility or surrounds.

C took a few more steps then halted as the figure slowly turned and moved directly away from him. It was just above the grass & moved off like a "hovercraft". Reaching the bushes the figure turned left and disappeared behind the bushes. C now was galvanised into action. He dashed to the utility and made a flying start down the road. He says the owners complained about his leaving skid marks on the lawn. He did not look to see what happened to the figure in his haste to get away. The incident was confirmed by the owner of the house and from our enquiries it appears C is a reliable witness who has lived in the area all his life. He claimed that he had no prior interest in UFOs any any related phenomena before his Collinsvale encounter.



It became apparent that C was not the only person to see a strange figure in Collinsvale that winter. The other cases, due to time, lacked details & follow-up could not be made as the Centre wished. On 2 other occasions a similar cylinder-like shape was seen near an old disused quarry. It was also white and had a rounded top & straight sides. August of that year also saw a motorist encounter a figure & screen-like effect on Ten Mile Hill, a location some kilometres away over the mountains on the Midland Highway out of Hobart.

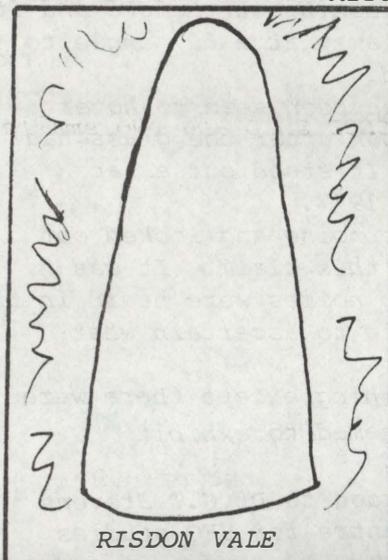
RISDON VALE

"Mystery figure horrifies cabbie". So reported the Mercury after taxi driver Lloyd Wright encountered a puzzling shape at 3.15am on Sugarloaf Road on November 9th(1978). Shape rather than figure would be a more accurate description for the luminous green something seen by Wright.

Sugarloaf Road at the sighting point runs through light bush and some paddocks before it swings south into the first houses of Geilston Bay. The weather at the time of the sighting was light rain although there appears to be no weather phenomena to account for the sighting. The witness went straight to Hobart Police Station to report the incident and arrived in a rather shocked state.

The event was all over in 10 to 20 seconds as Wright returned from dropping off a passenger at Risdon Vale.

He had travelled to the suburb on the same road 10 minutes



earlier but had not noticed anything out of the ordinary. The first indication of anything strange was when he noticed the green shape at the roadside ahead.

The green luminous shape looked to be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. tall and maybe $\frac{3}{4}$ of a metre wide at the base. It was narrower at the top and tapered up from the base. Things happened quickly - the shape drifted out across the road, some 300mm off the ground. Wright heard his cab radio go blank and a high-pitched squeal which, he assumed came from the shape. Wright braked very hard and the cab skidded to a halt on the damp road, stopping 5m from the shape. He was then rather shocked to see the shape just vanish into thin air. His radio came back on and the noise stopped at the same time. Wright drove at once to the Police to report the event. Hobart police were satisfied that Wright was not making the story up, in fact he had nothing to gain from the event.

TUFOIC went to the site of the encounter but found nothing that could account for the sighting. A Risdon Vale caller reported hearing a strange droning noise in the early hours of that night. The noise seemed to be above the house for some 5 minutes before it moved away and faded to the south-east. The encounter with the shape occurred more to the south of the noise event. A Hydro-Electric Commission Sub-Station is situated about 300 m south-east of the sighting but nothing untoward was recorded by the Hydro. It was suggested the witness could have fallen asleep and this possibility cannot be ruled out, but what of the noise and the cab radio being cut out? The case remains something of a mystery but can be compared with many similar events on the world wide scene.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Late February 1976 saw Tasmania's closest encounter with a UFO that left possible traces. The object was observed close to the ground in a country area near Hobart. The next day a circular patch of scorched grass could be seen apparently just below where the object had hovered. The sighting came to the Centre's notice just over a year later but tests on samples taken at that late date proved negative.

The witness had got up to attend a child when what looked like aircraft lights were seen descending out of the eastern sky. It had a white beam like a landing light. Thinking that an aircraft was in trouble the witness, after watching the lights descend behind a small bank a few hundred metres away, went outside in case help was needed.

The witness crossed the intervening ground and on going over the low rise found himself just 25 m. away from a dome shaped object. It was 2.5m lower down the slope.

The object was emitting a bright white to yellow light through three or four windows. There was also an electric type humming noise. The object was described as dome-shaped with ribbing from the top and a small ledge around the base which had a short vertical side. The colour from the bright light of the windows was aluminium in appearance. The UFO was estimated to be 8 to 10m wide.

Through the windows there appeared to some shapes. The centre window showed a cylinder-type object, similar to a ship's compass stand. Through the windows to either side there were two identical greyish shapes. They reminded the witness of car seats viewed from the rear, the shape of a human head and shoulders. There was no apparent movement.

The humming noise grew in volume as the witness stood looking at the UFO and it slowly gained elevation before increasing speed as it climbed away at a 60° angle to the east. It receded into a point source and then disappeared.

The next day the top of the rough grass where the UFO had been seen to hover only a metre or so up was all scorched in a circular area. Soon after the grass had all died off. It was soon replaced by greener tougher grass. It stood out as an olive green circle when seen by the Centre's investigators in 1977.

It was rumoured that some neighbours had also heard the noise and looked out to see the object depart. The Centre was unable to follow up this claim. It was also reported by residents that a week later buzzing, rumbling noises were heard in the same area whilst a green light lit up the area. No one was able to ascertain what the source of the light was.

Samples from the vegetation tested in Hobart proved nothing except there were a number of varieties growing in the circle. The grass had seemed to exhibit stimulated growth.

Late in 1977 further soil samples were taken and forwarded to Dr.G.T.Stevens Consultant for the Australian Co-ordination Section for the Centre for UFO studies.

based in New South Wales. Measurements for the thermoluminescent properties of the soil were taken. Results showed that the soil was not strongly heated (i.e. not over about 155°C) and no evidence was found for any ionizing radiation. The lack of strong heating effects indicates the UFO was not generating large amounts of microwave energy.

END OF YEAR FLAP

The relative calm of 1978 came to an end with an increase in reports in September/October. Many coming to light because of the increased publicity following the Valentich disappearance over Bass Strait late in October. Even at the time of writing (December) we have been unable to finalise all the reports that came to our attention.

UFO Affects Power ?

The evening of September 18th saw the appearance of a large light just west of Maatsuyker Island. Four witnesses on the island watched the round thumbnail sized (apparent) light from 9.20p.m. until it disappeared about 10.55 p.m.

The light was first seen over the Needles at 20° elevation. It remained at this height throughout the sighting. Although other stars were noted to have moved their positions the glowing white light never moved. At 9.30 p.m. all the power in one of the houses went off. The lighthouse continued to function as usual. The power generator continued to work and a check at the rime of fuses and circuit breakers failed to find a reason for the lack of power. After 5 minutes the power came back on.

The light still maintained its position but a red light was now visible in the centre of the light. Later the red light moved to be located to the side as if the object had turned. The power went off a second time at 10.10 p.m., this time for 15 minutes. Again nothing could be found wrong. Binoculars were brought to bear on the light but they revealed nothing extra.

The light finally departed at 10.55 p.m.-after appearing the same size throughout the sighting it just got smaller and smaller as if departing directly away from the witnesses. The weather had been fine and clear. No noise was heard at any time. Maatsuyker was the location of a prolonged series of lights sightings back in the 1965-66 era.

King Island Sightings

Our Attention switches from one end of the State to the other. This time King Island seems to have had its own run of reports culminating in the Valentich affair. A number of flare sightings were reported in late August and again September. Whether this has anything to do with the UFO phenomena we cannot say, but in each case no ship was reported in distress. At the time of the August report there were heavy seas and the flares were seen more than once that evening.

The earliest possible sighting pre-dates the flare reports (probably June). An anonymous writer to the King Island News tells of being followed by a slow moving light as they drove into Currie. The writer claims others had seen a strange light pass over their house and of another seeing beautiful strange lights outside, but on investigation, they had disappeared.

The writer then recounts a sighting on September 12th near Camp Creek. The light seen was very large and bright and seemed to light up the area as if it were daylight. The light was oval shape. The Centre regrets it was unable to contact the writer of the letter. However, details were obtained for a report some days later on September 20th. This time George Newman and his 2 sons reported seeing a similar phenomena at 9.30 p.m. The party was returning from a shooting trip when, whilst travelling along Reekara School straight, a bright white light in an oval shape began to follow them. It then disappeared towards the sea when they reached the butter factory. The light had been alongside them for about 6 miles. It reappeared in the distance as they neared Currie but was now a weaker light. After arriving home it disappeared.

There were several other rumoured reports from the Island of residents seeing lights in the following weeks but we were unable to obtain any further detailed information.

Paul Norman of VUFORS was able to visit the Island and obtained data on an October 21st sighting at 1 p.m., just 5 hours prior to Valentich's disappearance. Mrs. K.M. was sunbaking in the back yard of her Currie home. The sky was very blue and clear, except for one large cloud directly overhead. Out of this cloud came an object similar to a huge golf ball. The object was white or silver in colour and moved west toward the sea. It moved slower than an aircraft. It stopped at a 70° angle, then started moving back in the direction it had come. Mrs.M. watched for 10 mins. then had to leave and saw no more of it. The cloud was estimated to be at an elevation of about 1500ms.

Despite the publicity of the Bass Strait incident no reports after that date occurred on the Island. It is interesting to note that the anonymous writer and the Newman case had been published in the King Island News back in September.

FLAP (CONTD.) GAINING ACCEPTANCE....

A great deal has already been written about the Valentich disappearance and there is certainly nothing new that the Centre can add to the incident. The publicity showed there is a new level of acceptance by the public and media in respect of the UFO phenomena. Many calls came into the Centre because witnesses felt they should report what they had seen to an interested party. The "they will think I'm mad" attitude still prevails but it is gradually being eroded away.

If the Valentich sighting was a UFO event, then it actually occurred during the midst of heightened activity both in Tasmania and Victoria. The publicity enabled us to pick up many sightings that would have otherwise gone unreported. It makes one wonder just how many UFO sightings there really are?

Valentich disappeared on Oct.21st after a final call to Flight Control at 7.12p.m. The engine of his plane was rough and he reported the unknown aircraft was hovering overhead. As will have been noted from previous reports, sightings had already occurred on King Island whilst others occurred elsewhere in the State.

Bass Highway Car Pace

A husband and wife from the North-west Coast had been to see their son in a Launceston Hospital on October 9th. They were leaving Launceston about 9 p.m. when a large yellow-coloured light was noticed in the south-western sky. They continued to watch the light as they headed west and were not to lose sight of the UFO until they reached Deloraine, over 40 kilometres distant.

Near Carrick they were disturbed to see the object descent rapidly out of the sky and take up a position to the left of the passenger's window. It had come so low it looked as if it was going to land in the roadside paddocks. Initially the UFO had been at a 30° elevation but now it was at eye-level and it was maintaining pace with the witnesses' car. The object appeared as a round ball; it was yellow with a light yellow glow around it. At this stage there also seemed to be an orange/red light flashing off and on at the top of the object.

After some 10km the witnesses approached Westbury and the UFO receded back into the sky. Leaving the town it again made a descent towards the ground but did not seem to come as close this time. The witnesses could see about 3 or maybe 4 cars behind them. They were only travelling at 80 kph and could not understand why no one wanted to pass on what is usually something of a speed track road. It looked as if the people in the car behind were also watching the object.

Nearing Deloraine the object had receded into just a large light to the west. Then the witnesses ran into some fog banks. Coming out of the fog the light was no longer visible. The following cars at this time also took the opportunity to overtake.

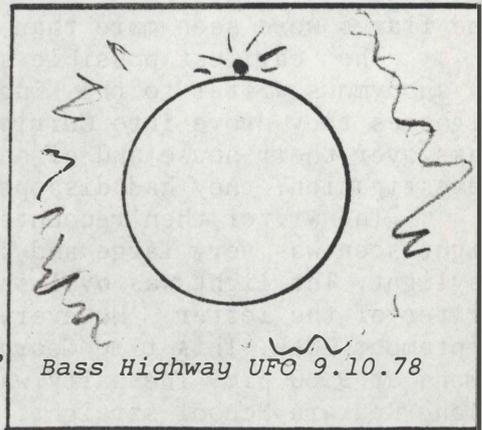
Double Sighting

October 10th brought 2 similar reports on the same evening; most likely they were of the same light.

The first group of witnesses was a Lachlan family who watched a bright white light similar to an aircraft landing light. The time was somewhere before 9 pm as the light moved from south-west to north-east going high overhead. Then it stopped briefly before departing vertically at great speed and fading into the distance. The sighting lasted a couple of minutes.

The same evening, it may have been the same time, a father and son were travelling by car to New Norfolk via the Dromedary Road. It was 7.55 pm. The father, an Airline Pilot with 33 yrs. experience, was puzzled by a light his son pointed out to their south-west. Accordingly he stopped the car and they got out for a clearer view. He estimated the initial speed as 400 knts. at 1200 to 1600 m. elevation. The blue-white light as in the Lachlan report moved north-east and passed overhead. As it did so a rushing sound was heard. When overhead the light changed to a reddish colour, pulsed, then disappeared vertically and faded from view. The sighting lasted about 5 minutes.

A lone witness reported seeing 4 green lights on a dark elliptical shape that passed in front of Mt. Direction one evening seven days later. Sally Phillips went in to call out other members of the family but there was nothing to be seen. The object was travelling down the Derwent River area and was last seen in the Risdon Vale area. The lights were situated at each end of the dark shape which stood out against the backdrop of Mt. Direction. The Centre made a number of checks with DCA but there were no aircraft movements to account for the report which lasted several minutes.



The evening of November 4th brought a power cut to some of Hobart's Western Suburbs. About that time (9.30pm) two boys playing in a Risdon Vale Paddock received a fright when something appeared overhead. They were playing with their dog, shining a torch on its eyes and watching them reflect the light. They noticed the flash of light from the power cut but almost at once saw something strange overhead. One of the neighbouring dogs came up and looked into the sky. Following its gaze they saw a red circular shape almost overhead. It was silent and larger than moon-sized. The boys watched the stationary object for about 5 seconds then fled home the dogs following. Nothing was visible after they arrived home. Remember the Risdon Vale report from the 9th of November mentioned earlier in this Report.

The Centre was kept busy with a sighting a day but many mundane explanations. Maydena featured in the next case on November 5th with a sighting just before midnight of a pulsing red light that flew over the town. Two witnesses saw the light approach out of the north-eastern sky and pass overhead before blinking out in the south west. With binoculars it appeared as a definite oval shape and seemed to expand and contract its size with a regular rhythm.

Launceston.

Our Northern Investigators were also kept busy and it will be some time before all the information can be collated. Sightings have come dating back to 1974. Launceston on November 8th brought a case which involved a complicated series of manoeuvres by a number of greenish blue and yellow-white lights. Two lights appeared in the eastern sky travelling north before stopping and reversing direction. One met a stationary light and returned northwards with it. The lights were moving parallel to each other. The two lights disappeared to the north and a fourth light appeared in the north-western sky. It travelled east disappearing into the distance. The Northern Centre has had other similar sightings to check out involving manoeuvring lights. (Details will be in our following newsletters).

Hobart.

The sightings in the South at least eased as November passed but the 25th saw two sightings, the first from Warrane. Two girls walking home about 9.45pm noticed three white lights in line in the north east. The lights were close together and about star-sized. They were stationary but there was a faint circle of white light right around the 3 lights. A second semi-circle was also visible just above the 3 lights. The girls became disturbed when the lights and circles became a bright white and they ran for home. The lights seemed to change position by appearing further north when they looked back, then when last seen, they had gone back to a position south of the original sighting point.

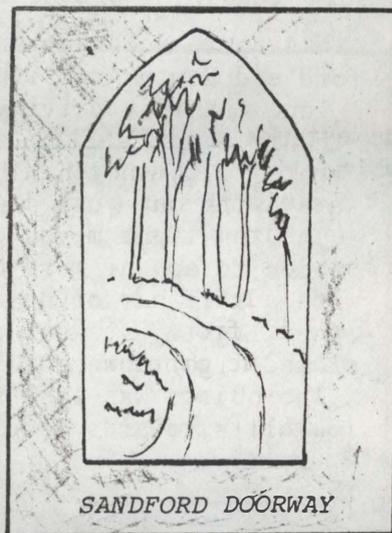
Sandford Phenomena... Dog Disturbed?

An unusual report was lodged with the Centre following an incident at Sandford just before midnight on November 25th. The witness was alone with her baby child at the time of the incident.

The family dog gave a bark and a howl that woke up the witness, usually their dog takes time to quieten down but before Mrs A could get out of bed the dog was silent. Then she noticed a faint glow coming from the study which was off the bedroom, she likened it to moonlight shining in. Thinking of someone with a torch or shooters she got up to investigate. She was surprised to see a doorway shaped area of light apparently sitting in the middle of the driveway to the house. The phenomena was about 50 mts. distant.

Outside it was quite dark except for the white light from the phenomena. She was puzzled to find herself looking through the door with the drive and trees visible beyond as if in broad daylight. The door was facing just to her right and was the source of the faint light entering the house.

The area of the door was some 2 to 3 mts wide and 9 to 12 mts high. Mrs A attempted to rationalise what she was seeing but could not find an answer. She just stared out the window at the phenomena which seemed to be doing nothing. Then after a couple of minutes a golden glow spread across the ground, frightening the witness as it came towards the house, its source gave the impression of being somewhere above. This part of the sighting lasted only a few seconds. Then the glow and the door both went out at the same moment. Nothing further was seen or traces left.



BAY PILOT SPOTS UFO (Melb. Sun 15/11/78)

"I'm very skeptical of these things and when I first spotted it I didn't take a lot of notice" a Port Phillip Bay ship pilot Captain Frank Jolly, 50, of Hanby St. said. He had studied the object for about a minute as he was sunbaking in his back yard on Saturday afternoon.

He first noticed the object at 2.34pm flying at about 3000 ft. at a speed between 100 and 200 knots. "It was your classic UFO shape, saucer-like with a dome on top".he said. "It wasn't until i noticed the dome that I was really amazed." Capt. Jolly said the object had originally been at a 70° elevation. When it finally disappeared over his house towards the Bay, it had been at a 20° elevation. "It was about 60 ft. in diameter and seemed to have brown stripes on the bottom" he said. The dome appeared to be dark grey and of a thin metallic substance because I could notice a slight buckling".

It had no lights, no vapour trails and made no sound. He estimated that if the object maintained its original course it would have passed sithin 4 miles of Moorabbin Airport.

"I checked with Moorabbin and Tullamarine, but they had no record of any aircraft in the area at that time", he said.

A RAAF spokesman said yesterday there had been several reported sightings since a young Melbourne pilot and his plane had vanished without trace over Bass Strait on October 21st.

UFOs BUZZ N.Z. PILOTS Hobart Mercury 23Dec.

Early morning sightings of UFOs by two experienced pilots and the powerful Wellington radar have been passed on to the NZ Dept. of Defence.

Sceptisism has given way to unsureness for pilots Vern Powell and John Randle. Flying their Argosy freighter through Cook Strait they had a number of sightings of UFOs, which were also tracked by Wellington Air raffic Control.

At one stage our radar controllers had 5 strong radar targets where nothing should have been. These five in one area at the same time - and definitely above ground level - had to be handed on to the Defence Dept.

Capt. Powell, 26 years a pilot said; "It was massive - a huge bright white light with a red tinge to it.

If it went behind a cloud - while tracking us we could still see the glow. And then it would pop back into sight, an intensely brilliant white light.

FLAP (CONTD) South Arm

Was there aconnection between the Sandford and South Arm sighting two days later? A lone motorist driving across the neck to Sth.Arm about 11.30pm saw two round white lights to the north. They were low over the water with one just above the other.

The top light moved off to the east and seemed to appear more as a shape, saucer-like with a roll bar or dome at the rear end. The other light just went out. The motorist had slowed right down but soon speeded up again.

The object was last seen going over the low hills towards Sandford.

<p>TAS.UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE TUFOIC founded 1965, Address GPO Box No. 1310N Hobart, Tasmania, 7001. Sightings to President on 27 8449 or Secretary (evenings) 23 6009. <u>Aims:</u> To conduct investigation into Tasmanian sightings. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to the UFO phenomena. To co-operate with organisations engaged in similar research. <u>Membership:</u> Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Centre and can assist in furthering its aims. Information can be obtained from the Secretary or by attending any of the meetings listed for 1979. PUBLISHED BY TUFOIC, Items may be quoted from this Annual Report but TUFOIC must be credited. PRINTED IN TASMANIA by Brisbane Street Printers, 21 Brisbane Street, Hobart.</p> <hr/> <p>APPLICATION TO JOIN TUFOIC..... Send the application together with remittance to join the Centre. Full membership \$3.50.(Students or pensioners \$2.00). Publications only \$2.00, two newsletters and 1980 Annual Report). Dear Sir, Please find enclosed \$.....being Full Member/Student/Publications. Name:..... Address:..... Phone Home..... Bus.</p>
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