

TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE.

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Vacant Skies.

If you still have your Newsletter from May of last year you will see we ran the same heading twelve months ago. The Valentich and New Zealand film uproars have died away and once again UFOs on the local scene anyway have fallen to a low ebb. As was remarked elsewhere the last year was not the year of the UFOs as was publicised, but the year of the "Media". No one really knows what happened to Valentich, although from the press it appears a UFO abducted him. The New Zealand films may well turn out to be genuine Nocturnal Lights, however there have been many more puzzling and better documented cases that the media has chosen to ignore, doubtless because under these circumstances there is no quick answer.

The interest at the close of 1978 and early this year brough forth many calls to the Centre. There was a slight lift in reports and increase in strangeness about October to November last but then despite continuing investigations well into the New Year the unexplained rate is currently at an all time low of about 3%.

Northern Centre.

The Northern Branch of TUFOIC has now become well established with contacts expanding in the media, telephone numbers to report sightings, and regular meetings to discuss various matters. Information is just to hand on recent investigations.

The most interesting report comes from Lebrina on January 28th. Mrs Bassett noticed about 10.40pm a white light diving about in the north east sky, at one point it shone a light downwards before finally going out of sight behind a hill. A second similar light had appeared in the south east and moved to the area where the first light had been seen. This light also made rapiddives and then a cloud seemed to form around it. Then smaller white and red lights appeared beneath the main light, it also shone a red light on trees and paddocks for about a minute. Mrs Bassett began to tire after watching these manouveres for over an hour and finally went to bed.

Another Northern report being evaluated occured at Bellingham on March 4th about 10pm. A group of people round a campfire noticed a bright orange light out over the sea, it was reflecting light onto the sea below as it was stationary for the next 10 minutes.. The witnesses say it was larger than moon sized and when it moved it did so slowly coming within 3/4 of a mile from the shore and dropped below the level of the horizon. Initially the object was cigar shaped but changed more to elliptical as it came closer and lost elevation. It seemed to disappear by tilting and going down into the sea.

In keeping with the drop in calls in the South our Northern Rep: Phillip Tattersall has noted a similar trend in his area, the longer frosty nights ahead should provide clearer viewing and already we have a number of misidentification of stars and building lights in the last week.

SIGHTINGS

Over 60 sightings have been reported to the Centre by mid May but only 3 have remained as unexplained although the above Northern cases could be included. Details on a few old cases that have not been covered before are also listed below. Copies of the sightings value system are still available. Also an updated list of Tasmanian unexplaineds is now available, did you send for your copy of the 1948-77 list, the latest listing is for 1978, just send a stamped envelope. 1979 UFO Reports to date.

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION.
9.1.79	NL	21.45	12m	4	South Hobart.

A family outside on a mild summers evening see a silver white light at 45° elevation to the south east. The light moves slowly towards the west, then it did a 90° turn and headed in a northerly direction. The light was also flashing every 30 seconds. Near the belt of Orion the light stopped briefly and then did a circular movement. After completing the circle the light disappeared into the distant north. Sighting Value 1.B

15.1.79	CE 1	04.40	5m	1	New Norfolk.
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The witness was up early prior to going to work. Going to a room at the rear of her house she became aware of a noise that seemed to be coming from directly overhead. It sounded like a large electric fan running in a confined space, at one stage it diminished for a few seconds then became loud again.

Looking outside the witness observed a beam of light shinning down in her garden, it was a whitish yellow colour. The beam covered less then a metre in width, her view out of the window was restricted so she saw no more then a metre of the beam extending upwards. It did not move while she watched but the noise continued on.

She shifted to the kitchen but saw nothing else, soon after the sound ceased abruptly. The electric stove clock was found to be 10 minutes slow that morning, she also noted the kettle on the stove took 15 minutes to boil, much longer than usual. These events of course may have no connection with the noise and beam. Sighting value 3.A.

SIGHTINGS Continued.

5.2.79 CE2. 21.50 5-10m?? 1 Lawitta.

The witness had been to Hamilton in the Derwent Valley on an errand for friends. Returning alone he was driving via the Lyell Highway to Hobart, something occurred near Lawitta. The next thing the witness knew was that a nurse was shinning a light into his eyes, he recalls backing away from the light which disturbed him, then he began to recall some events that had occurred.

First his car radio had gone dead, as he pressed the station buttons an intense white light surrounded the car and the motor cut out. He was unable to see beyond the bonnet of the car. Beyond this things were a bit vague, he tried to restart the car, and then thinks he must have been stationary for sometime, then he drove up the hill at Lawitta. He can recall the intersection of the Lyell and Midland Highway.

About 10.45pm he was apprehended in the Hobart city centre for driving without lights, he could not recall who he was, where he was going etc: The Police checked his personal papers and took him home. He boards with friends who then took him to the Royal Hobart Hospital, a check at the Hospital is reported to have found the witness was in a state of shock and had a high pulse rate. When his car was collected later it had a flat battery, was low on oil, and needed wiring to the headlights replacing plus a new cut out switch.

The witness felt tired for a few days after the sighting. He did not want to take investigations any further, hypnotherapy for a clearer account of what had occurred was rejected. It was not possible to follow up on Police and Hospital involvement in the case. However, it should be pointed out that the sighting only came to the Centre's notice by chance, a witness to a sighting many years ago hearing from the witness of what had occurred and then ringing the Investigations Co-ordinator. Value 5.B
OLD INVESTIGATIONS... Sightings from earlier years are always coming to our notice, three interesting cases are listed below.

June or July 1975 CE 1 20.30 45m 6 Strahan Road.

A family travelling by car from Strahan to Queenstown one winters evening encountered a strange light. They had stopped briefly at a rest area and noticed a large red/orange light low over the mountains to their east. The light seemed to be coming straight at the witnesses as if to crash or land on top of the car. The father started the car and got out of the rest area as quick as possible, it was estimated the light was only 50mts off when they raced for home.

No one noticed were the light had gone for the next 5kmts, but then topping a rise the light was visible again to the east travelling parallel with them and in front of the West Coast Range. When the road turned towards the star sized light it again came straight at them. The father all but stopped the car and the light came within 200mts and about 3mts above the road ahead. Just as quickly the light receded into the distance and disappeared in a gap in the mountains.

Arriving home 20 minutes later and prior to going inside the light (or a similar one) reappeared from behind the mountains going slowly up into the sky. The colour was still the same but it finally faded from view at high elevation. Value 3.C.

July 1975 CE 2 21.30 5 to 7m 4 Cambridge

A family travelling east to their home at Midway Point were puzzled by an incident that occurred near Hobart Airport a few kilometres from their home. The interior of their car became hot, then their 186 Holden stalled and rolled to a halt by the roadside. The family could also taste an odd gas but they could not smell anything.

At this point something was seen over the road ahead, some 200 to 300mts off and 20mts above the road. It seemed metallic in appearance with an irridescence of its own. It looked a white to sort of grey colour. The object was stationary and the witnesses estimated they just sat and looked at it for about 2 minutes. Then it spiralled up and away into the south western sky. The husband at this point got out to check the motor but found nothing wrong, he started the car and drove home. The object was last seen as a light far off in the south western sky, by then they had reached home. Due to the passage of time no check could be made with the airport. Value 3.B

September 1974 CE 2 04.00 7m 2 Lake Echo.

In the early hours of the morning one weekend two men were fishing at Lake Echo. They were suprised at the approach of what appears to an UFO that effected the lake level. They saw an object floating down above the hills to the north. It was a yellow luminous colour and dome like in shape, the UFO made no noise and its light was a steady colour. It moved slowly down until it came to rest on or just above the lake some 400 to 500mts away. It was moon sized now in width.

After remaining over the placid lake for a while the UFO accelerated rapidly and shot off to the east. It was then the witnesses say the level of the lake was seen to advance 3mts horizontally across the shore. With the early daylight it was also noticed that a number of large waterlogged logs had floated to the surface. There had been no logs the previous day when they were out in their boat. It was not long before the logs sank again and the water level in the lake fell back to its previous level. Sighting value 3.B