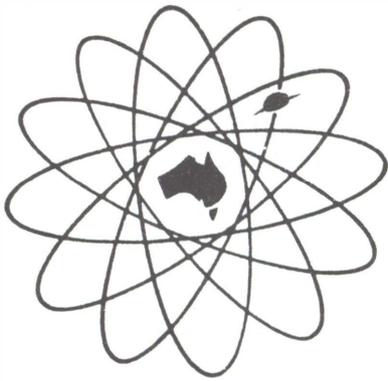


**UFO
Research
Australia
newsletter**



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This newsletter is published on behalf of the following organisations, and members of these groups receive copies as part of their membership.

If you are interested in joining any of these, please contact them at the addresses below: -

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editorial

By Holly I. Goriss

In this time of changes within the UFO research field in Australia, {this Newsletter being one of many}, I am going to take the opportunity to recap on a few points for all of you active in this field. Do I hear the cry - "We have heard it all before". True, you may have, but I think that there are some things we must keep reminding ourselves of if we don't want to get careless and sloppy.

Let us start with the fact that there are still a large number of people in this country, {not to mention the rest of the world}, who regard the UFO phenomenon as a flosinocity. Some of these people may change their way of thinking if confronted with irrafragable data, while others would not believe such things exist even if a UFO allowed itself to be laboratory tested in front of them, {suggesting, of course, that you could coax one into a laboratory, and if indeed you could fit one in same}. This is the type of narrow-minded thinking that has been the stumbling block of scientific research for centuries so how can we expect to be free of it. People of this type will, unfortunately, never change their thinking no matter how much data you produce to the contrary.

Do not waste your time on them, but instead use that time to further the cause.

Then, a secondary role of UFO Research groups must be to educate the public on "Unidentified Flying Objects" and their related subjects such as Astronomy, Aviation, Meteorology, Photography etc. After all, the public are people who are going to see UFOs, and the more they know about such things the better the quality of their UFO reports will be, {and greater shall be the reduction in the number of misidentified satellites, aircraft, stars, meteors, planets, etc. our investigators will receive - much to their relief }.

Let us move on. Einstein once wrote: "If A = success, then $A = X + Y + Z$, when X = work, Y = play, Z = keep your mouth shut", to which I add - until you have all your data. Never, ever, make a statement on any particular subject, {especially UFO investigation}, until you have all your data. This is not only unprofessional, but can get you into trouble if and when you are proven wrong. When it comes to UFOs, the Media, certain Governmental bodies, and some "so called" UFO investigators are guilty of this. Do not allow UFO Research {Australia} to follow suit.

Kahlil Gibran once said: " Say not - I have found the Truth - , but rather, - I have found a Truth". Any decision we may come to, either personally or as a group, as to the origin, propulsion, mechanics, occupants etc., of a UFO or the phenomenon as a whole, may change with further data. What seems to be the answer today, may not be the answer tomorrow. Keep an open and non-biased mind on the subject.

Then again, one of the pitfalls to the communication lies in that little phrase, "It's obvious". What is obvious to A, alas, is by no means obvious to B, and is downright ridiculous to C. Or, in other words, just because you may have what you think is conclusive data, do not expect everyone to automatically see your point of view. Because every single person thinks differently from every single other person, others may draw different conclusion from the same data. Keep an open mind to this. Others may have noticed something you missed, after all, none of us is infallible. Of course, if you do consider your conclusion to be the 'right' one, then make sure your argument is logical, detailed, free from 'holes' and described in such a way that others can understand your thinking.

Now that you have all been reminded of the little things that make life difficult, let us all get together and work at it. The key word in this field being CO-OPERATION. So get on your toes, get those minds open, co-operate and get researching.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr V.Godic
Editor/Publisher
UFO Research Australia Newsletter

Dear Lad,

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies wishes to offer its congratulations on an excellent production of the first issue of the UFO Research Australia Newsletter.

Together with the ACUFOS Journal, we are sure that the Newsletter will provide the much needed vehicles for the work of Australian UFO researchers and ensure that their valuable contributions being made will reach the global community.

Wishing you all the best for the future,

Yours sincerely,

H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield

The Editor
UFO Research Australia Newsletter

Dear Sir,

This is just a short letter to congratulate you on a thoroughly commendable effort with the first issue of the UFO Research Australia Newsletter.

The quality of presentation, content, and printing show that we at least have a newsletter comparable with any ever produced on this subject. This style of magazine has been sadly lacking for many years and we believe it could easily take its place on the news-stand in any State in the country.

As an organ for researchers to relate the details of their investigation to the general public it excels. It is now possible to include composite drawings and photographs with a report where cost and printing limitations before were prohibitive.

For the lay reader, with a basic knowledge of UFOs, it will serve to enlighten him/her on the work currently being done by many dedicated Australian researchers. It will provide a country-wide coverage of events of importance from reliable and objective sources affiliated with the newly formed Australian Centre for UFO Studies, and various independent area representatives.

We wish you every success for future issues and offer you our complete support in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

David Reneke
Research and Sightings
Director, UFOR (NSW)

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



YOU MAY NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE HEADING READS "EDITORS" AND NOT "EDITOR" THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A SPELLING MISTAKE OR A TYPING ERROR (INDEED OUR ASSOCIATE EDITOR WOULD BE MOST DISTRESSED IF YOU CALLED HER EITHER), AS HOLLY I. GORISS OF FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND HAS JOINED VLADIMIR GODIC OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN EDITING THIS MAGAZINE. AS THE OLD ADAGE SAYS, "TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE."

FIRST OF ALL, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK. THE VERBAL AND WRITTEN "PATS ON THE BACK" ADD TO OUR INCENTIVES TO KEEP THIS MAGAZINE GOING. ACTUALLY WE WELCOME ANY KIND OF FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS, AFTER ALL, HOW ELSE ARE WE TO KNOW HOW GOOD (OR BAD) A JOB WE ARE DOING, AND IF WE ARE PRINTING WHAT YOU WANT TO READ. THIS IS AFTER ALL YOUR NEWSLETTER AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER BY YOUR WRITING OF ARTICLES. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING PERTAINING TO THE UFO PHENOMENA THAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE SAID, THEN WRITE IT DOWN AND SEND IT TO US. WE, AS EDITORS, NATURALLY RESERVE THE RIGHT TO THE LAST SAY AS TO WHAT GETS PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER, HOWEVER, DON'T LET THAT DETER YOU FROM PUTTING PEN (PREFERABLY TYPEWRITER) TO THE PAPER.

WE FEEL THAT THE CONTENTS OF OUR NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SERIOUS BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THERE SHOULD BE SOME FUNNY ODDS AND ENDS (YOU HAVE SEEN OUR CARTOONS) SLIPPED HERE AND THERE. THIS WILL MAKE FAR MORE INTERESTING READING - OR AT LEAST LOWER THE BOREDOM LEVEL A FEW NOTCHES. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED TO KNOW IF ANY OF OUR READERS HAVE READ ANY GOOD BOOKS (ON UFOs, OF COURSE) LATELY. OBVIOUSLY NO ONE PERSON CAN READ ALL THE BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE UFO AND RELATED FIELDS, SO BOOK REVIEWS ARE VERY WELCOME.

WE EXTEND OUR APOLOGIES TO READERS FOR THE DELAY OCCURRED IN PUTTING OUT THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER. OWING TO THE PROBLEMS IN SETTING UP A NEW PUBLICATION, THIS DELAY HAS BEEN UNAVOIDABLE. YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1 - NO. 3 WILL BE OUT SHORTLY AND IN A MONTH OR TWO WE SHOULD BE (HOPEFULLY) RIGHT ON TIME !

IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PRODUCTION COST DOWN AND OUR FINANCES GOING, WE WELCOME NEW SUBSCRIBERS. ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND OUR SUBSCRIPTION FORMS. PLEASE GIVE THEM TO ANY ONE YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUBSCRIBING TO THIS NEWSLETTER. THANKYOU.

far north queensland

STRANGE LIGHT IN SUBURB

CAIRNS, FEBRUARY 23, 1980

A PULSATING LIGHT, DESCRIBED AS BRILLIANT ORANGE IN COLOR, AND MAKING A WHIRRING, DRONING SOUND "SCANNED" SOME RESIDENTS OF CARAVONICA, AN OUTER CAIRNS SUBURB.

Caravonica is situated 8km north-west of Cairns city and adjacent to the Smithfield district. The area is not sparsely populated although a rural setting still subsists amongst the more prominent sugar cane fields, there are several new housing developments nearby.

The incident occurred in the area of a dead-end street in one of these residential areas. The prominent witness Mr Frank C. (name on file UFOR FNQ) was at the time of the event residing in the last house on this dead-end street. His property is bounded on the northern side by a dirt farm track which enters on to the main thoroughfare in the area, Kamerunga Road.

The sighting involves an unexplained, pulsating light which manoeuvred amongst the homes at the end of the street. Possible effects on television sets may have been linked to the object's presence. The exact time of the incident could not be ascertained.

THE SIGHTING

Frank and his wife Judy had had friends over for dinner that evening and both couples were sitting at the dining table looking at photographs. The dining table was near the open front sliding door of the house and Judy was facing it while sitting at the table. Shortly after 10.30 p.m. she looked up and noticed a pulsing glow reflecting off the rear end of a white caravan parked in the front yard. The garden near the front terrace was also bathed in the glow. Judy watched this effect for about one minute before she called Frank's attention to it. Although local residents do not like it, vehicles often use the nearby dirt track for entry into Kamerunga Road. Frank first thought that a car was responsible for the "light" and he went outside to investigate. Judy followed him but she stayed between the van and the front entrance and it was here that she became aware of the pulsing orange glow. She also heard a pulsing sound likened to someone 'spinning a weighted rope'. Meanwhile Frank had walked to the front drive where he noticed a bright rectangular orange light, stationary and about 2 metres off the ground, in the front yard across the street at a distance of some 30 metres.

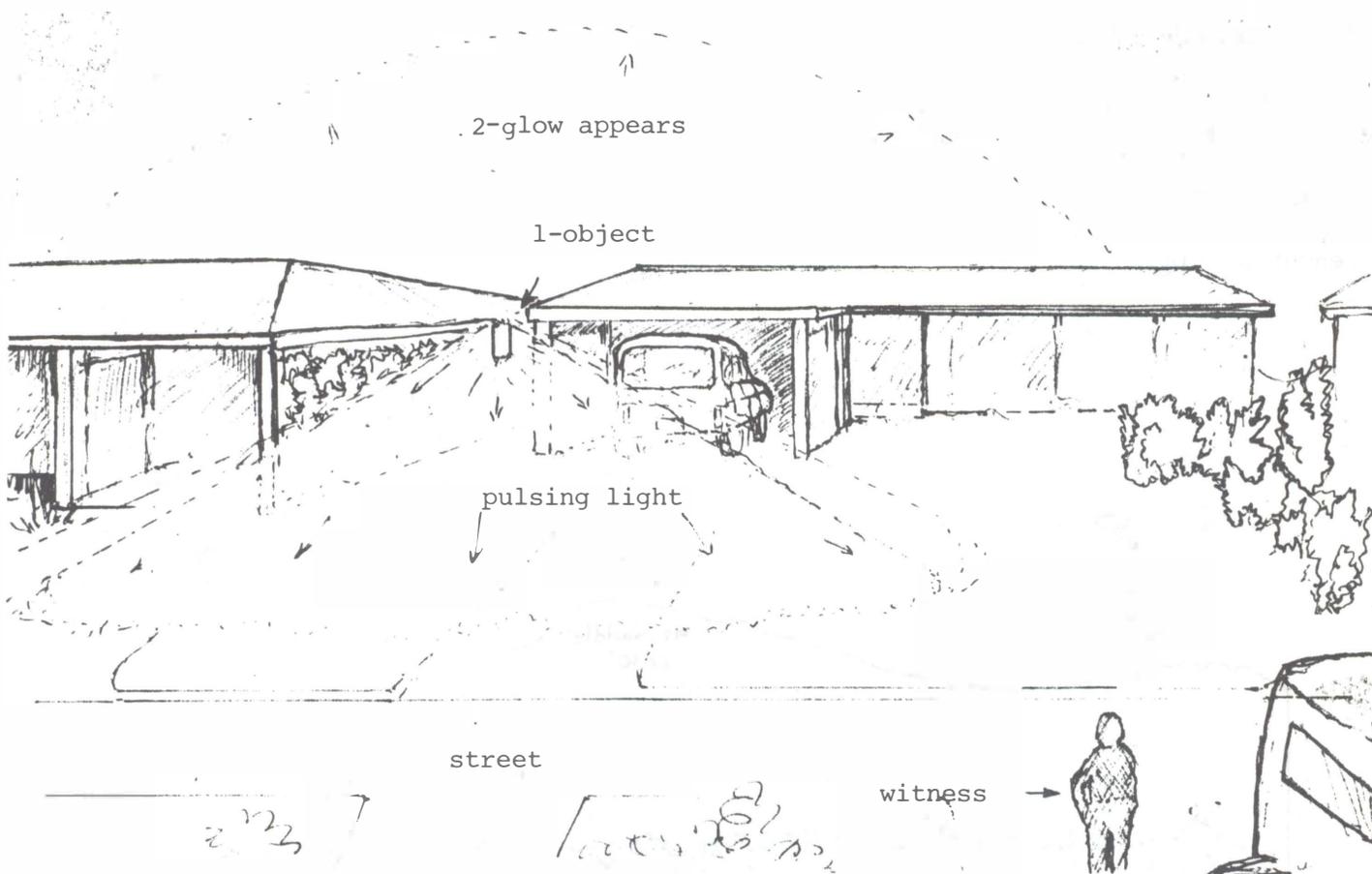
The light, approximately 30cm X 20cm in size, was close to the front corner of the house opposite and emanated a pulsing orange glow apparently directed downwards and illuminating the front yard and street, similar to a floodlight. The sight of the light gave Frank an eerie feeling as he watched it for about 15 seconds and during this time he called the others to come out. It is thought, however, that due to this reaction he did not hear the sound noted by his wife.

The light then extinguished completely and almost immediately an orange glow appeared over and behind the houses across the street. The glow pulsed 2 - 3 times and then also disappeared. Intervals of pulsing light and sound estimated at approximately one second.

The others present arrived outside too late to see the light and no further observations were made of it. Although no one else had seen the actual light, two people had noticed the pulsing glow and another (the man living in the house where the object was seen) heard the sound which apparently emanated from the "light".

The man in the house directly opposite to Mr C. saw the pulsing glow reflected off the van, however, he thought this was caused by a car's hazard warning lights.

Residents in two of the houses had experienced interference to their television reception at the time of the event which consisted of lines across the screen. Telecom were unable to state whether this was due to a transmission fault, therefore it appears that the effects could have been caused by the UFO presence.



Linking the observations together it seems that the 'light' passed Mr C's house, crossed the road to the front yard where seen, then to the rear of the houses where the glow was finally seen.

No traces of the object's presence were found after an investigation of the area. ■

THE SMITHFIELD OBJECTS

FEBRUARY 27, 1980

The following NL sighting once again occurred in the area north of Cairns known as Smithfield, 4 days after the encounter at Caravonica.

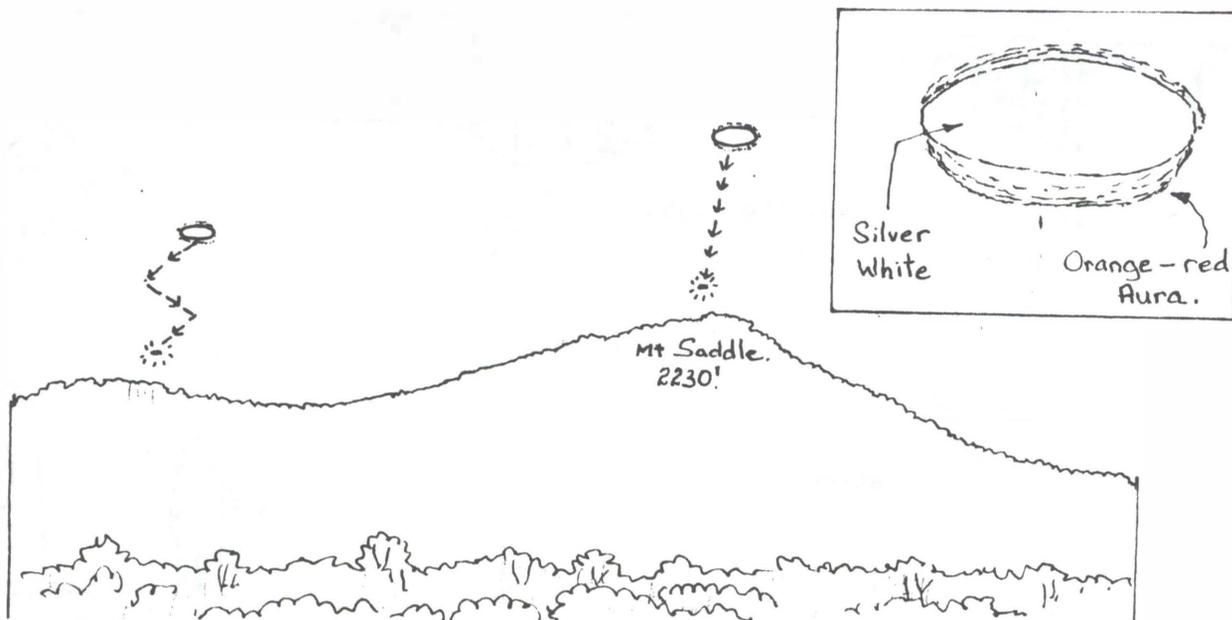
After the details of this sighting appeared in the local press, the general thought was that the witness had seen the two planets - Jupiter and Mars - prominent in the western sky in the early hours of the morning.

This is definitely not the case since the objects were clearly different in position, elevation, size, brightness and movement.

The witness, whom we will call Mr A., is an engineer and spent 15 years in the RAAF. It was from his home at Holloways Beach (7km north of Cairns) he observed the two objects. Mr A's house is high-set with a verandah at the rear facing West and giving a clear view of the mountains, approximately 8km distant.

THE SIGHTING

Mr A. had risen early on the Wednesday morning, as he usually does, at 5.35 a.m. He stepped onto the verandah to empty the kettle and noticed two large lights in the sky to the west. The two objects, approximately 4 - 5 km from Mr A., were stationary at about 20° elevation. They were about 10mm at 'arms lenght' in size and were intensely bright, so much that Mr A. said he had to hold his hand up to look at them for any lenght of time.

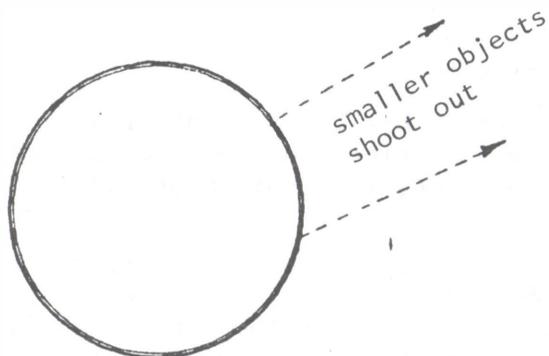


The objects were similar in appearance, oval shaped, silver white lights surrounded by an orange-red aura which was noticeably thicker at the bottom. After first seeing the objects Mr A. become aware of a 'dull humming' sound apparently coming from the UFOs. Mr A. said the object on the left seemed farther away (i.e. it was smaller and at a lower elevation) and after 2-3 minutes both objects began to move in a westerly direction, the object on the left travelled in a zig-zag trajectory and the object on the right a direct course. The objects moved at a rather slow rate of speed. Mr A. went back inside for a period of about 20 seconds and when he came out again onto the verandah the UFOs were still travelling west slowly diminishing in size with the distance. Mr A. watched until they were at the point some 4° elevation above the mountain range and at this point he went inside to get his wife to see the objects. Returning after 2 minutes he found the objects had disappeared. The trajectory of the object on the right had taken it directly above the Cairns airport radar installation on Saddle Mountain. No observations were made from the airport since the staff did not enter the control tower till after Mr A's observation had ended (another coincidence ?).

It is to UFOR (FNQ) dismay that no one else reported seeing these objects over what is a fairly populated area. ■

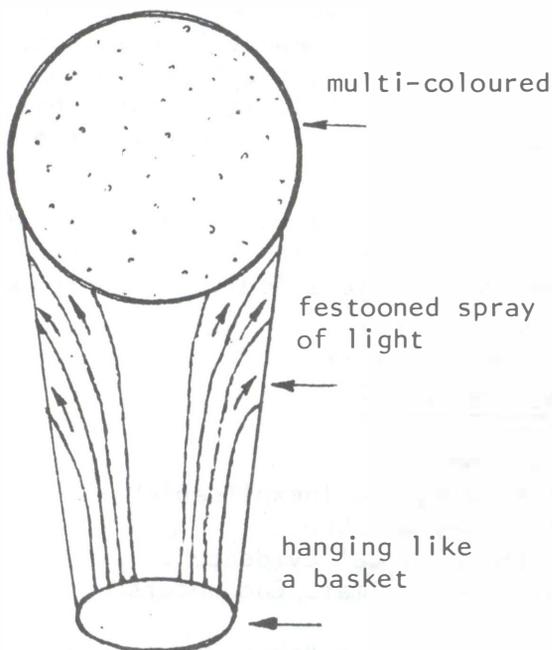
UFO AT TULLY ?

' TULLY RESIDENTS TURNED THEIR EYES SKYWARD LAST NIGHT IN THE HOPE OF SEEING WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE A LARGE UFO WHICH HAS BEEN 'VISITING' THE DISTRICT'. (*"The Cairns Post"*, January 11, 1980)



JANUARY 8, 80
8.30 - 9.00 P.M.

The first sighting occurred on January 8, 80 at approximately 8.25 p.m. Mr F., a farmer in the district and one of several witnesses, was interviewed and he stated that on Tuesday night he was driving toward his home, south of Tully, after visiting a friend. He noticed through the windscreen of his car a huge round object in the sky. He went on to say:- "It was a very bright light, amber in color at first then changing color many times. We watched this for half an hour to 35 mins. when it completely faded out, then came on very bright again before eventually disappearing."



JANUARY 9, 80
8.30 - 9.00 P.M.

On the following night at 8.30 p.m. the same object, or a similar one, appeared in the same position. Mr F. again observed the phenomena. "We saw this very faint glow appear in the same position as the night before and eventually this got brighter and brighter until it was a huge ball in the sky. After few minutes the light seemed to be festooned like a fireworks display, it was multi-colored, something I had never seen before. A couple of little objects, what looked like stars, appeared and shot out of this thing into the sky and disappeared. The family and I watched the object until it faded out completely and disappeared."

Once more on Thursday night the phenomenon appeared again, though on this occasion conditions were cloudy and visibility was poor in the area. The witnesses said the light was not as bright as on the two previous nights.

The UFO appeared again as a very faint glow at 8.45 p.m. and become brighter around 9.00 p.m. It was again multi-colored and some witnesses said it came down very low.

Mr F. said the object looked terribly frightening at some stages and most spectacular when multi-colored. ■



(DETAILS OF WITNESS' SKETCH KINDLY SUPPLIED BY MRS CLARE NOBLE OF TULLY, NORTH QUEENSLAND)



In the last 12 months UFO Research (NSW) has had very few cases of merit brought to its attention. Fewer still were worthy of detailed investigation and most of these turned out to be possibly attributable to mundane factors. This situation has been largely reflected throughout Australia and overseas except for the odd isolated event of significance. There appears to be a low general level of activity.

Quite a number of times, reports have come to our notice referring to events that seem strange and inexplicable at face value. Upon detailed investigation, these cases are seen to have been based on strained or honest interpretation, imagination or media distortion.

One example came our way early this year. An account of recurring UFO activity and unusual phenomena centred around a railway camp at Dombarton, just to the west of Woolongong, was reported in a Sydney paper. Prior to the account appearing, the journalist concerned rang me with details on the affair and warned me that I should not rely on the version that was to appear in the paper! Initial enquiries were not encouraging, however, a UFOR (NSW) team went to the area to investigate. Sporadic nocturnal light activity and a few close encounters were alleged, but the details were so sparse, that the events defied close scrutiny. One event, with little supportive evidence was connected with a landslide on a nearby escarpment, a claim which further enquiries indicated to be spurious. Our team was left with the impression that the main percipient may have seen something, however, more was made of the events than they deserved. Reasonable explanations were apparent for most events and those few that seemed somewhat interesting, remained aloof due to the lack of detail. It was easy to see why the location could conjure up such a situation - an isolated locality - however, while it appears that this was 'much ado about nothing', we will be keeping an eye on the area, just in case something of more substance turns up.

Public meetings of UFO Research (NSW) have been scheduled as follows. A new feature of these meetings will be a series of lectures that will continue into 1981. These will be designed to give both members, readers and the general public a logical, comprehensive and reliable introduction to the UFO subject:

1980 UFO Research (NSW) Lecture Series

- July 9th - "UFOs - An Introduction"
- August 20th - "Observing and Preserving the Inexplicable" - Perception, Photography and UFO.
- October 8th - "UFO Landings and the Physical Evidence".
- December 17th - "The UFO Entities - The Ultimate Encounters".

All meetings are on Wednesday night and the venue will be the McMahon Point Community Centre, Blues Point Road, North Sydney, opposite the Old Commodore and 2SM buildings. The Centre is within a short walking distance of North Sydney Railway Station.

Members are asked to note these dates in their diaries and to encourage others to come along: Members \$ 1.00. Non-members \$ 2.00. Coffee provided.

The membership arrangements are being re-organised, mainly to bring all members in line to renew at the same time. Members will be notified of these changes.

We believe that these changes will be to everyone's advantage.

We look forward to your continued support.

Bill Chalker
Director- UFO Research (NSW)
P.O. Box 6, LANE COVE NSW 2066

UFO RESEARCH (SA) INC. - PERSONNEL UPDATE

MR V. GODIC WHO IS NOW PUBLISHING UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER, ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN UFO GROUPS, HAS STEPPED DOWN FROM HIS POSITION OF THE LIAISON OFFICER WITH UFOR (SA) IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS NEW VENTURE.

THE POSITION WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY MR K. BASTERFIELD WHO HAS BEEN WITH UFOR (SA) SINCE 1973.

IN VIEW OF THIS THE OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF THE GROUP HAS CHANGED FROM 2A CASTLE AVENUE, PROSPECT 5082 TO : GPO BOX 497, ADELAIDE SA 5001.



QUENTIN FOGARTY AND THE NEW ZEALAND UFO FILM

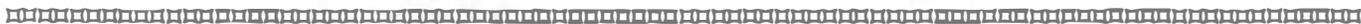
Monday, March 17, was a memorable evening for UFO Research (SA). Our biggest venture for some time gave South Australians the opportunity to see for themselves the mysterious lights filmed in the last minutes of 1978 and the earliest hours of 1979 over New Zealand, and meet the man responsible for recording the event; Mr Quentin Fogarty.

It was fascinating to see the objects behaving in the manner reported in many UFO cases; fading out and reappearing elsewhere, changing shape and colour, pulsating and performing extraordinary manoeuvres at speed !

The film may not lead us any closer to knowing what UFOs are, but it does show us that they are real. It may lead more scientists to realise that serious UFO research is worthwhile, because even if the N.Z. UFOs can be explained by a natural phenomenon, it is certainly an unusual and exciting one !

Thankyou, Mr Fogarty, for coming to Adelaide with your film and your tapes, and having the courage to tell people of your experience despite being accused of hoaxing etc. I hope that proper investigation reveals a discovery that will make you feel that it has been worth the effort.

Jane Brooks



FOLLOW UP TO OUR REPORT ON THAT TREE INCIDENT OF FEBRUARY 7, 1980.

In the last issue of the Newsletter, UFO Research (SA) presented its preliminary findings on an incident which received major coverage in the Adelaide "News". It was suggested that the incident has been grossly over exaggerated and that in fact the case had little merit as an example of the UFO phenomena.

UFOR (SA) has continued its investigation and now believes that the damage was in fact due to natural causes and that the visual observation associated with the event was nothing more than a momentary misperception of the cloud of dust and debris associated with the collapse of the initial branch. Our conclusions are based on a physical examination of the tree on two occasions, and the fact that there was moss on the upper level of the top branch which was undisturbed. Had any weight been applied to that

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

branch there should have been indentations in the moss, there was not. There were also the facts that at the point of break there was a knot hole (weak point), details from an interview with the reporter, and the absence of any evidence to support the hypothesis that the tree had been affected by other than natural causes.

The Department of Woods and Forests and CSIRO were consulted about the incident and the replies from them read:

Woods & Forests Department

"In answer to your letter of 3rd April, 1980, it is possible for a large limb, such as described, to break away and fall from the parent tree. This results from a build-up of water in the limb, in a humid atmosphere, to the stage where the weight of the limb exceeds the strength of the wood holding it up. In this case the presence of a knot would materially weaken the limb support. It is not an uncommon occurrence. It is possible that the limb had already broken off and was swinging in the tree, held by other limbs, and Mr Browne saw that broken end."

CSIRO

"In your letter of April 3 you asked for comment on a UFO incident at Stirling, where parts of a big Cypress tree broke off."

The article you sent relates several strange circumstances for which there appears to be no available ordinary explanation. However, the main event: the breakage of a big apparently healthy limb in calm weather, although relatively rare, is quite ordinary. Similar breakages are well known to occur, and there is no need to invoke UFOs to explain these."

WE THUS CONCLUDE THAT THE INCIDENT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SUBJECT OF OUR INTEREST. ■



VEHICLE FOLLOWED NEAR BLANCHETOWN

Shortly after midnight on a date believed to be February 12, 1980, two men traveling in a car between Truro and Blanche Town, South Australia, observed an object following the car.

At the moment investigations are still continuing into this event, as it was not reported to UFOR (SA) until mid May. However, preliminary details are as follows.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The road concerned is a flat stretch of terrain between the two localities, and is regarded as a fairly lonely stretch of road by those who travel along it. There are few farms around and the vegetation is mainly sparse.

The man driving the car noticed in the rear vision mirror that there was another vehicle behind them, but was surprised to see that above this vehicle there was an unusual set of lights ! Over the next few minutes as he continued to drive and watch, this set of lights stayed approximately above (line of sight at least) this following vehicle.

The lights were white in colour, and no real shape, appearing as just that, lights. Occasionally there seemed to be tinges blue to green mixed in with the white.

He mentioned these lights to the other occupant of the car who turned and also saw them through the rear windscreen. They decided to pull up, and stopped their car. However, the following car was more distance than they thought and didn't catch them up. They moved off, and as they did so they could see the following vehicle and the object above it, quite well.

After a while, they stopped the car again and signalled for the driver of the other car to do likewise which he did. However, the other driver was Greek and could not understand when they asked him to look into the sky to see the object which was still there back on the road.

At this stage the light then appeared to pass their vehicles and they panicked and raced away from the scene leaving the light there.

Further details will appear when the case has been investigated. ■

ELLIPTICAL SHAPED OBJECT REPORTED FROM TEA TREE GULLY

A lady rose at about 2.53 a.m. on the 1st April to put out a young puppy dog to answer the call of nature, when upon looking up into the sky she sighted a quite mysterious object which has defied explanation even after an investigation.

The object seen appeared to be a "mushroom" shaped thing, with lighter, roughly circular patches in places within the shape. Underneath there were occasional "streamers", lines which appeared to fall from the object and melt away. It appeared to have a hard outline but in other respects was described as transparent or nebulous, so this aspect is difficult to be absolutely positive on.

Watching for a few minutes she stood there in her back garden puzzled before deciding she needed her spectacles which were inside the house on top of the fridge. She fetched her glasses, put them on and went outside to view the object.

After watching for several minutes she decided to go and awaken her husband and bring him out to also observe the thing. During this time she had noted that it was in the sky framed by two trees growing in the bottom of her garden, and it appeared to be moving to her left in a stop/go jerking fashion. So she went to get her husband out of bed. Arising, he followed her to the garden, looked up... but unfortunately for him there was nothing visible there at all.

They stopped outside for a few moments but all there was in sight were a few clouds and the Moon, plus stars. They then returned to bed.

A personal interview was conducted by UFOR(SA) on April 3 at their home and the site of observation was checked, Mrs T was interviewed and compass bearings taken. She reports that the object was visible about 10 - 15° elevation at the bearing of 170°, i.e. almost due South. Its angular size was estimated by reference to the trees being 20° apart from her position, to be some 6-7°. To give you some idea of size, this is about 12 - 14 times the angular diameter of the full Moon, and is to be regarded as a large object in the sky.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

There was no sound at all and the small puppy did not react any way. The colouring of it was said to be a light blue background colour, with patches of white rimmed, grey patterns. The surface wind was from NE but the object seemed to move into it, i.e. Eastwards.

In summary, there was reported a mushroom shaped, light blue object almost due South at 3 a.m. on 1.4.80.

Investigations ruled out the possibility of an aircraft, balloons, meteors, stars, planets, etc. One possibility which seemed to be a good contender for a natural explanation was an Aurora because of the angular size, position in the sky, transparency, colouring, duration and overall impression of a shifty but indefinite movement.

Readers may recall a similar observation being reported in May 1978 when three nurses reported seeing a transparent, dome shaped object pulsing red light in the southern sky near Malvern (ref. Adelaide Advertiser 11.5.78). This 1978 event was thought likely to be an Aurora by Dr F. Jacka of the Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research at the University of Adelaide.

Therefore details of the 1.4.80 event were relayed to Dr Jacka, together with a sketch drawn by the reporter. We asked for considered opinion on the event. His reply was: "The sighting reported by Mrs T ... on April 1, 1980, does not resemble an aurora in its essential features. Also, in view of the relatively low level of geomagnetic disturbance at the time, it is extremely unlikely that an aurora would have appeared at this latitudes."

All in all then, we are left with a one reporter several minute duration observation of something we are not able to currently identify from an Adelaide north-eastern suburb on the morning of 1st April 80.

(P.S. We know what you are thinking but it was not an April fool's report !)■

ANOTHER VEHICLE REPORT FROM THE COUNTRY

Mr H was driving from Adelaide to South Kilkerran on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula shortly after midnight on April 14, 1980, when his vehicle experienced power problems. Mr H believes this to be associated with the simultaneous visual observation of a series of extremely bright lights in the sky nearby.

He was near Cunningham at 11.50 p.m. when out of his right eye he noted a row of lights to his right hand side, i.e. North, estimated as a group of 7 - 8 lights in a row. They were flashing in a sequence and were visible for 3 - 4 km as he drove along, alone.

The lights were really bright, comparable to the magnitude of the planet Venus which was then visible in the early evening sky at magnitude - 4.0. (Venus had set before this observation.) They seemed to be a uniform yellow in colour, with an important observation being that they did not light up the surrounding area, as say lightning or a close light would. This then seems to place the lights at a distance rather than extremely close.

Staying in about the same line of sight to his right for some kilometres, the lights suddenly flashed and then seemed all of a sudden to be behind and to his right as opposed to their earlier position to the immediate right. In fact he had to look back over his shoulder at this stage to see them. Shortly afterwards they seemed to move away into the distance and were lost to his vision.

Before they moved he had attempted to accelerate the car as he was a little apprehensive about what he was seeing. To his surprise the vehicle didn't accelerate and the engine "cut out" for an interval estimated as one second. This happened three to four times in a period of 15 - 20 seconds. Then all of a sudden the car reacted normally and he was able to accelerate and drive off at a slightly higher speed than

he had been doing. The car had never performed or had problems of such a nature before and he says that since then todate there has been no similar problems encountered with the vehicle.

Arriving home shortly afterwards he awakened his parents and told them of the event. UFOR (SA) interviewed his mother and himself by telephone the following morning and detailed statements are currently being obtained. A further report in due course.■



" EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF UFO SIGHTINGS ! "

UFOs UNDER RESEARCH

(The following article was published and distributed by the UFO Research Queensland, P.O. Box 111, NORTH QUAY, BRISBANE 4000)

Many claims are constantly being made through the media and in books and magazines about the origin and nature of Flying Saucers. It is therefore necessary to qualify from time to time what we mean by the terms "Flying Saucers" and "UFOs".

However, because the UFOs have never declared their reality by landing 'en masse' (and according to some sociologists, the lack of such a mass landing shows that the UFOs have a policy of non-interference, which in turn shows they possess the ethical rules of advanced civilizations - see the writings of Major Donald Keyhoe, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Professor James McDonald, etc) everything about the composition and origin of UFOs is still unprovable.

In situation as this, where there is a climate of doubt, most of us start to select our own answers and to stack the evidence to strengthen our decisions. This is a very human failing; even scientists and professional UFO researchers often do this.

UFO RESEARCH(QLD) has been researching Unidentified Flying Objects for more than twenty years. On the next page the committee has recorded their conclusions, based on the proposition that flying saucers are in fact physical space craft. While the committee recognises that some psychic phenomena do exist, and that many sightings are simply ordinary terrestrial phenomena misinterpreted, there is reasonable evidence that some sightings are physical space craft visiting out Earth.

Since the early '50s researchers have had sufficient facts and circumstantial evidence to support these propositions on the next page. We suggest, therefore, that official recognition of UFOs will not be forthcoming in the near future. Individuals are therefore urged to continue their own study of UFOs as being normal space craft from other planets, and to consider what effect this concept of the nature of UFOs would have upon their own personal beliefs, and on the society in which we live today.

SOME PROPOSITIONS ABOUT UFOs

PROPOSITION 1

UFOs or Flying Saucers are mechanically constructed, metallic space craft. There are two basic shapes - circular and cigar-shaped, the latter being a carrier craft for travelling deep space. When witnesses sometime report other types of UFOs, they are describing the shape of the glow, or force-field sometimes visible around the object, and not the solid craft itself.

PROPOSITION 2

Propulsion of UFOs is by electromagnetic energy. Although we do not yet use this energy for our own transportation and energy supply, we do have reasonable theories to explain all the observed side effects and flight patterns of UFOs, and still allow both the craft and the pilot to be physically normal, in the ordinary human sense of that word - even while coping with the high speed and tight manoeuvres observed on radar and by the witnesses. There is, therefore, no reason to look for explanations in the para-normal field: refer to the book "Ufology" by James M. McCampbell.

PROPOSITION 3

Occupants of UFOs are human like ourselves. A popular fictional representation of this proposition is the film "Star Wars" in which many types of robots, "Wookies", and all types of craft are put into service, but within the plot, those who control it all, the "goodies" and "baddies" alike are all humans. Proposition 3 states that we humans are in fact cosmic basics.

PROPOSITION 4

Origins of UFOs are other planets, either inside or outside our own solar system. Again, at this point in our research there is no need to look within paranormal field for origins, since our own and other solar systems are yet to be fully explored and understood.

PROPOSITION 5

Censorship of information about UFOs is applied by the authorities, both to world-wide reports and to our own space flight reports, because UFOs (representing transport and energy systems superior to our own) and their human occupants (representing human societies with advanced ethics and policies superior to our own) are direct threat to the economic and political establishments of our time.■

'UFOs UNDER RESEARCH' - A CRITICISM

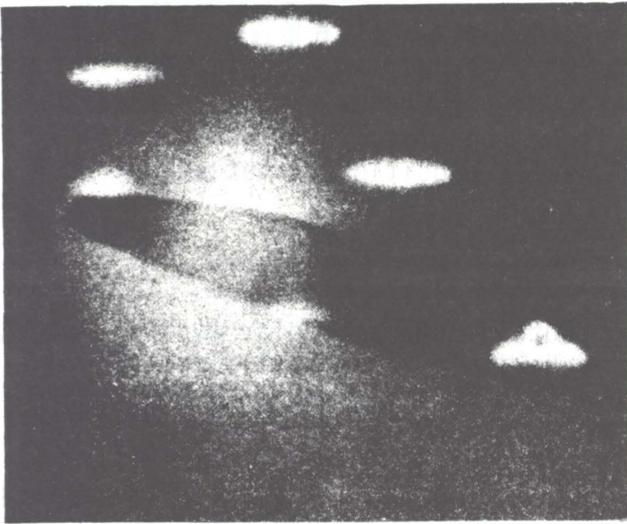
By B. Plath and H.I. Goriss
(UFO Research - Far North Queensland)

This kind of article defeats the purpose of serious UFO research by NOT being open-minded and thereby considering ALL possibilities as to the origin and make-up of UFOs. There is not enough data to support any one of the many theories on UFOs over the others, and it is detrimental for any UFO Research Group to publicly do so. This does nothing to promote the credibility of UFO research in Australia.

The implication that UFOs are mechanical constructs (e.g. spacecraft), piloted by beings from other planets is unfounded. This is a theory, and no-one at this present time has the data to prove this as fact, or even to prefer this theory above all others. One query: On what facts and/or circumstantial evidence is the assumption that the cigar-shaped UFOs are 'Carrier craft for travelling deep space', based (as stated in Proposition 1) ? Since the circumstantial evidence and/or fact was not included in this article, and while we have the greatest respect for our colleagues, it would appear that many of the propositions, (e.g. the cigar-shaped UFOs are 'carrier craft for travelling deep space'), are not only premature but grossly unfounded.

Perhaps you can also enlighten us by informing us of the basics of electromagnetic energy, since we lack the obvious scientific intellect of the author. (Reference proposition 2). We await with open minds the "reasonable theories" so mentioned. Presumably such evidence as the measurable imprint of an external electromagnetic force on metallic objects (e.g. cars), or interference with electromagnetic equipment (TV receivers etc.), in the locale of some UFO reports, indicates a possible electrical component in UFOs. The stated link with propulsion mechanisms is only one of numerous possibilities.

Popular fiction - the film "Star Wars" - is prone to what has been called the 'Central Casting Syndrome', as the movie-makers have to use raw materials available, and because actors happen to be of species Homo Sapiens, it is logical that the beings they



CIGAR-SHAPED 'CARRIER CRAFT' FROM VENUS ? PROXIMA CENTAURI ? EPSILON BOOTIS ? HAVANA ?

portray must be of the same, or similar form. The word 'human' was also coined by species Homo Sapiens, but a concept of 'Humanity', (not necessarily the same as ours), would logically be held by any intelligent species. That is, any intelligent being - no matter what size or form - would consider itself 'Human' and all other beings unlike itself, 'Inhuman'. To extrapolate further and conclude that we (Terran) 'humans' are 'cosmic basics', the super-species of the Universe, may be disregarded as a case of self-glorification. The form of any being, whether of this world or any other, would be dependent upon the evolutionary pressures placed upon it. So much for Proposition Three !

Proposition Four: Where, oh, where is the data to indicate that the origins of UFOs are on other planets, and on what grounds were other theoretical origins of UFOs (e.g. other Space/Time continual; Interplanetary or Interstellar Space itself; other time periods; Hollow Earth, etc.),

disregarded ? It is agreed that, as stated in Proposition Five, censorship of information is debatable. UFO Research (QLD) may have been researching UFOs for more than twenty years, but by its Committee making such statements as it has in this article, it is effectively compromising the impartiality of its Investigators. This activity does NOT make for unbiased judgements on their part and hence the validity of their data will be questionable.

One thing is true: "In a situation as this, where there is a climate of doubt, most of us select our own answers and stack the evidence to strengthen our decisions." This is a very (Terran) "Human" failing; even UFO Research (QLD) is prone to this ! ■



' COSMIC BASICS' ?

with the lower portion and the colour was like that of dull alloy. He was awestruck and called out to the others to come and have a look, Nicholas accepted the offer first and without hearing any details from Frank said that it was turning, when asked which direction he added 'anti-clockwise' .

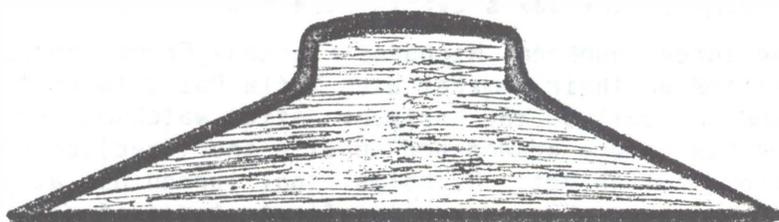
The camera was then panned rather quickly, as an amateur would without knowing the disastrous effects this can have on the screen, briefly scanning the remaining smaller/more distant objects nearby the larger one. Meanwhile, Bill Zonaras and Nick Flaskas were busy at the still camera and after taking a small number of shots returned to where Frank was. Frank, thinking that he obtained good, clear footage had by now turned the camera back to the West in anticipation of the coming eclipse. After all, this was the main reason they had made the long journey from Sydney and he wanted to save as much film as possible for that reason.

Shortly after 4.00 p.m. the eclipse started and as the sky was beginning to darken appreciably the trio discontinued looking in the direction of the objects and turned their full attention on the Sun, shooting the remaining film they had. After the eclipse was over they again turned their attention to the objects but nothing was in sight, the sky was clear and blue with a slight wisp of cloud as before. It was a stark contrast to what they had seen only a short time before.

EVALUATION AND COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT

The projected film was a great disappointment to the witnesses. The clarity of the images was poor compared to what they actually saw by eye and the photographs that Nick took, although clear, showed only small indistinct dots.

Upon receipt of the original movie film, duplicate copies were made. I inspected each separate frame of the film using a home made, low power, micro-viewer and compiled a short summary of the best frames. From this inspection I was able to deduce that possibly two dissimilar objects had been photographed, one a hat shape - the other more like an inverted bowl. The supplied drawings from this examination were shown to the witnesses and compared more than favourably with what they said they saw.

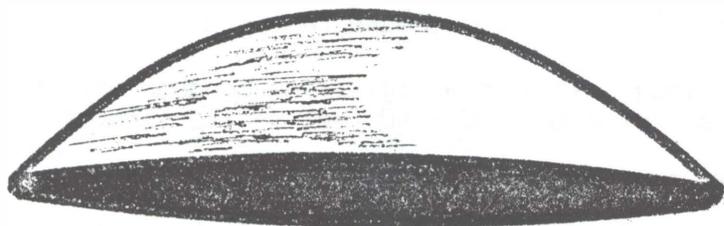


OBSERVED SHAPE OF OBJECT IN FIRST SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE

It appears that during the filming sequence a break was made from one object to the other. This would account for the two shapes seen on the frames but unfortunately, due to the short time the film actually runs, it is hard to pick up at normal running speed of 18 frames per second. However, as mentioned, the shape of the objects can be easily seen at stop framing so it was considered an ideal candidate for computer enhancement.

I despatched the original film to Ground Saucer Watch Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona, for their inspection and analysis using computerized enhancement facilities requesting output photographs and technical critique of the film. The still photographs have yet to be analysed by the same method but as a greater, and clearer, number of

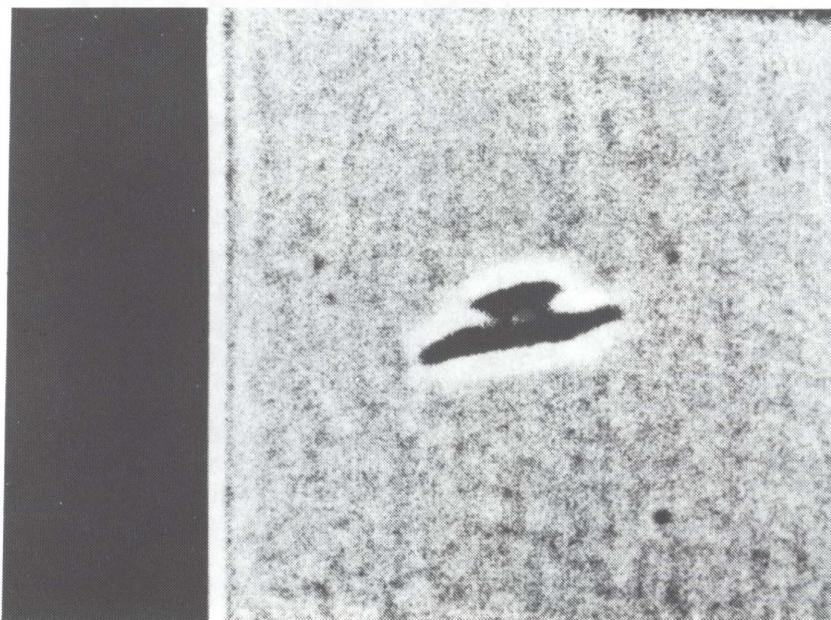
individual photos existed within the length of motion picture film it was decided to pursue this avenue first, concentrating on the stills if the analysis proved positive.



OBSERVED SHAPE OF OBJECT IN SECOND SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE INCLUDING CHARACTERISTICS AS NOTED BY MICROSCOPIC INSPECTION OF INDIVIDUAL FRAMES

The following is verbatim transcript of the critique supplied by Ground Saucer Watch. Although certain definite statements have been made regarding the distance and size factoring, it must be concluded that they represent possible rather than 'true' dimensions. It is felt that without specific 'hard' reference points close to the objects, the determination of accurate figures for size and distance would be unreliable.

The Edge Enhancement, Colour Contour, and Computerized reconstruction photographs, however, are regarded as being reliable, and true interpretation of the images on the film.



HI - PASS FILTER

GSW CRITIQUE

All modes of computer enhancement were utilized during the analysis including computerization, edge enhancement, color contouring, digitizing, and computer

reconstruction. After a frame by frame evaluation, three individual frames were selected for computer analysis, the following data has been determined.

- 1 - The UO image is at a vast distance from the camera, over a mile, as determined from other foreground/ background features.
- 2 - The size of UO image based on a digitizing program and the focal length of the camera is approximately 30 - 40 feet in its largest dimension.
- 3 - The surface of UO is dull and bland in its coloring.
- 4 - The main image can not be compared to any type of helicopter or aircraft.
- 5 - Digital densitometry suggests a protruberance on the object similar to a dome in its configuration. When the photograph was highly magnified in the pseudo-color mode the shape becomes more obvious.
- 6 - The main object is being affected by low horizon atmospheric, substantiating the distance of the UO.
- 7 - The smaller objects were barely discernible among the processing anomalies and projection scratches. There was no attempt by GSW to enhance the smaller images due to these problems.
- 8 - The image is one of three dimensional proportions and definitely appears as a structured shape.



DIGITIZED FOR PIXEL (DISTANCE)

CONCLUSIONS

It is the concensus of the GSW technicians that the UO image represents a structured object of unknown origin, without any sign of misinterpretation of a conventional object or phenomenon. It should further be noted that the film is in bad condition with numerous anomalies. The major problem with the analysis was

the closeness of the color of the UO image and sky. Although the witnesses did not report any protrusions, as evidenced by the top portion of the UO in the analysis photos, we feel the reconstruction pictures represent the object's "real" proportions and size.

Reference to the output photographs, especially the edge enhanced and colour prints, clearly and unmistakably show the commonly reported disc shape. The profiling cursor depicts an object of substance, that is, three dimensionality, while the tapering off of colour around the object attests to the fact that it has curvature. This backs up the witnesses original testimony that it was rotating, without changing shape, and looked like a flattened bell. No comments or judgements will be made on the digitizing program, suffice to say that the pixel configuration backs up the visual observation and the witnesses statements that the objects were close to the visible horizon.

ADDITIONAL POINTS

There were at least four other unrelated witnesses to this sighting. As evidenced in the second spool of film, a small group of people (male and female) were positioned in front of the witnesses and directly below their level, on a ledge overlooking the sea. They seemd to be 'hippie' type and were apparently conducting some form of religious ceremony in conjunction with the Sun.

They, too, had apparently seen the objects as one of the quartet pointed and the others looked in that direction. However, any thought of going over to talk to them was discounted by the three witnesses as they felt trouble could arise. Frank Zonaras said he got the impression that they wanted to be left alone and they paid little attention to the group's activities from there-on.

Despite newspaper articles attempting to locate these people, or others, no additional confirmation of the sighting has turned up. Frank, Nick, and Bill didn't notice another person in the vicinity all that day, even though they looked hard enough.

OTHER ANALYSES

To date, and to this author's knowledge, only two other items of photographic 'evidence' pertaining to UFOs sighted in Australia have been analysed by the GSW technique. These are: - The Alice Springs photograph (birds in flight) and the Manifold Photo (unknown). There seem to be a lack of good photographic material in this country even though many excellent photographs/films are known to exist. Perhaps if a concerted efforts were mounted to retrieve , and analyse, these available important items we could end up with a valuable data bank from which to compare future purported UFO images on film.

Personal biases aside, the Computer Enhancement technique still has the ability to retrieve latent or poor images on film and is capable of determining, with reasonable accuracy, the true make-up of objects previously ascribed 'unknown' (birds, planes, hoaxes etc.). Complimentary analyses should of course be sought to cross check any information obtained and then, only if all factors agree, should the case receive an official edict.

CONCLUSION

We have a starting point, somewhere to follow on from what we have at present with this film. It must be remembered that in the final analysis, after all judgements have been passed down, that the witnesses testimony must be considered. They were there, we were not; all we have is a relatively poor movie film to view. Careful evaluation off all available information, both tangible and verbal, must be made and weighed accordingly. The Benboyd film remains as the best Australian photographic evidence we have to date for the existence of UFOs. It will be the writers aim during 1980 to seek out and have evaluated other similar material, hopefully culminating in the formation of a special study group set up primarily for this purpose. ■

ARE THE RUSSIANS FLYING UFOs OVER AUSTRALIA ?



By EDARMOC

Whilst reading one of the Lorenzen's books some years ago⁽¹⁾ I came across the following section: -

"In the late 1950's an agent of ours in Canada tracing down UFO reports, uncovered the fact that high-flying reconnaissance planes were over-flying parts of Russia from a secret base in Canada - this was years before the general public was appraised of the existence of the U-2 via the Garry Powers mishap. In the immediate pre- Bay of Pigs era, another of our agents, while checking out reports of repeated landings of UFOs in the Florida everglades, discovered a complete military air base equipped with unmarked (United States manufactured) vehicles and planes. - In the above case we decided immediately that we had acquired information beyond our area of interest, to say the least, and promptly consigned the relevant report to flames."

The question as to whether any of the UFO reports which we receive could possibly be due to aircraft of some other government overflying Australia passed through my mind. If this were true of course, the Australian Government wouldn't be about to admit it, so it would be extremely difficult to ascertain an answer to this question.

There the thought lay until I was recently perusing some press clippings relating to the December 1978 New Zealand movie. Under a heading of "Pilots add UFO theories" one paper⁽²⁾ commented as follows: -

"It is not widely appreciated that U.S. U-2 high altitude long range reconnaissance aircraft and other U.S. military aircraft make periodic (sic) flights over Australian air space." Later the article carried on, "There have in the past been unconfirmed sightings of the long-range Russian 'Bear' bombers making flights over Australia and although such aircraft would be operating at the extreme limits of their range, it is considered possible that with aerial refueling theirs(sic) could fly from Russian bases rear Japan far into the Southern Hemisphere."

This set me thinking again and I searched my files for any incidents which may have an explanation along these lines, not really expecting to find any. I did, however, come across a prime candidate, although a very little information is available on the case. In fact three press clippings are the only media coverage I located, and I would be happy to hear from any one else who can throw any light on the entire episode.

"MYSTERY PLANES OVER CENTRE" (2)

Darwin and Alice Springs airports were alerted on Saturday morning when two unidentified aircraft flew high over the centre.

The unidentified aircraft crossed the Australian coast near Derby, Western Australia.

The alert followed an Israeli tip-off last week that that the Black September movement had marked Australia for violence between September 1 and 10.

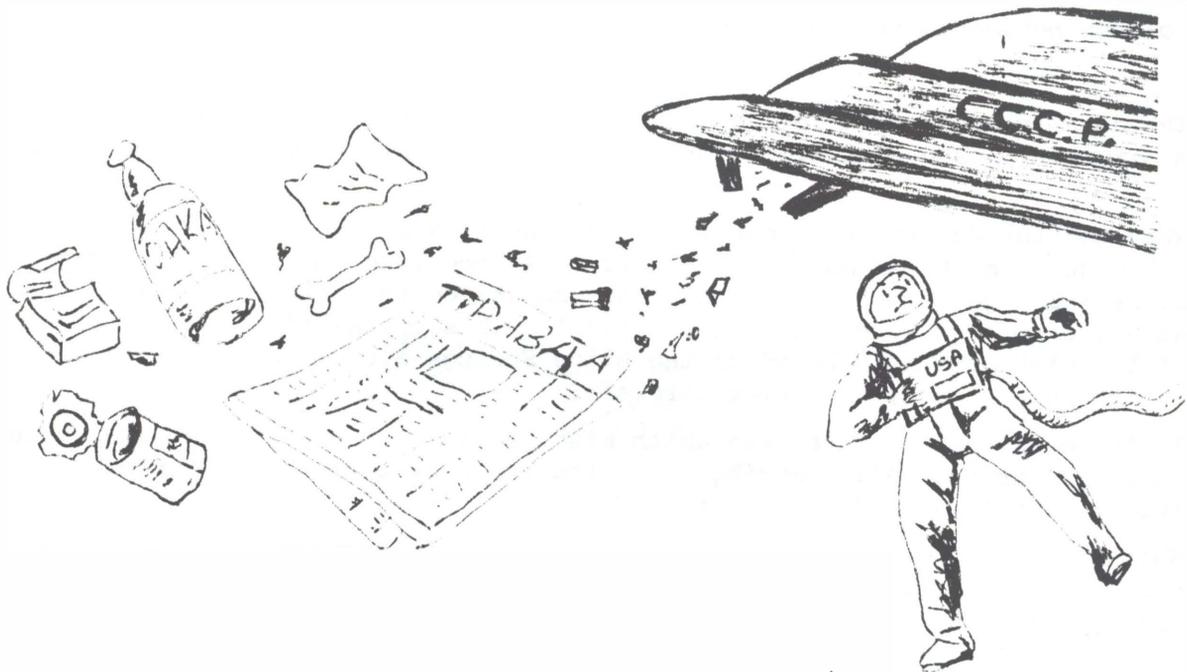
A Qantas aircraft flying at 35000 feet was used to gauge how high the aircraft were flying without success.

Alice Springs airport manager, Mr Alan Miers said his description as they passed over was "flying objects , closely resembling aircraft."

Police and DCA officials saw the first aircraft fly over Alice Springs at 5.45 a.m. The second was overhead about half an hour later. No other sighting reports were made.

Although anti-hijack equipment was ready, the planes passed over Alice Springs in radio silence and headed south.

Group Captain Dave Hitchins of the Darwin RAAF base said last night no military planes were involved in checking the aircraft."



"SKY OBJECT SIGHTED OVER ALICE SPRINGS" (3)

"Three commonwealth government departments are investigating reported sightings of two unidentified flying objects over Alice Springs early on Saturday.

"The sightings are linked to an earlier report from the North West of West Australia. The Department of Civil Aviation base at Derby reported hearing but not sighting an unexplained high flying object passing over the W.A. coast.

"Yesterday the DCA and the departments of air and defence began investigation into reports. A DCA spokesman in Melbourne said that a Derby officer reported hearing what sounded like a high speed, high flying aircraft passing overhead.

"The Alice Spring airport was put on semi-alert after the report was passed on through the DCA in Darwin.

"Observers at Alice Springs spotted a light in the sky at 5.45 a.m. which appeared to be heading toward Sydney. Thirty minutes later the same observer sighted a similar moving light which appeared to be heading for Adelaide.

"The manager of the Alice Springs airport, Mr A. Miers said that there had been no noise heard from either object. They were estimated to be at about 35000 feet. Mr Miers said both objects closely resembled aircraft. The sky had been dark and the lights were easily seen as travelling along definite tracks.

"A spokesman for the Defence Department in Canberra said that the sightings would be checked against satellites and commercial and air force flying information.

"He said that over 90% of ufo sightings were accounted for, and between 6 and 8 % could be put down to meteorological influences or military or civil aircraft"

"CENTRE PLANES MYSTERY" (4)

"Department of Civil Aviation officials are still mystified by two unidentified aircraft which flew over Alice Springs on Saturday.

A spokesman in Melbourne, Mr Ken Williams said yesterday that a security alert had been called off when nothing more was heard of the aircraft.

The last report came on Saturday from Alice Springs he said. The alert followed an Israeli tip-off last week that the Black September movement had marked Australia for violence between September 1 and 10."

The details contoured in the accounts certainly tend to suggest that two unidentified aircraft passed over Alice Springs on the morning of September 8, 1973, don't they ?

What was the Government's conclusion to the affair? No official announcement was ever made to my knowledge. The affair rated one line in the 1973 Summary of Unusual Aerial Objects put out by the RAAF who stated that the high flying lights seen at Alice Springs were..... satellites ! This explanation seems ridiculous in view of the statement attributed to the Alice Springs airport manager who is quoted as saying that they closely resembled aircraft.

Is there anything in the area which might attract aircraft of a foreign nation ? Yes, there is, for near Alice Springs lies the top secret American Pine Gap establishment which is still shrouded in mystery.

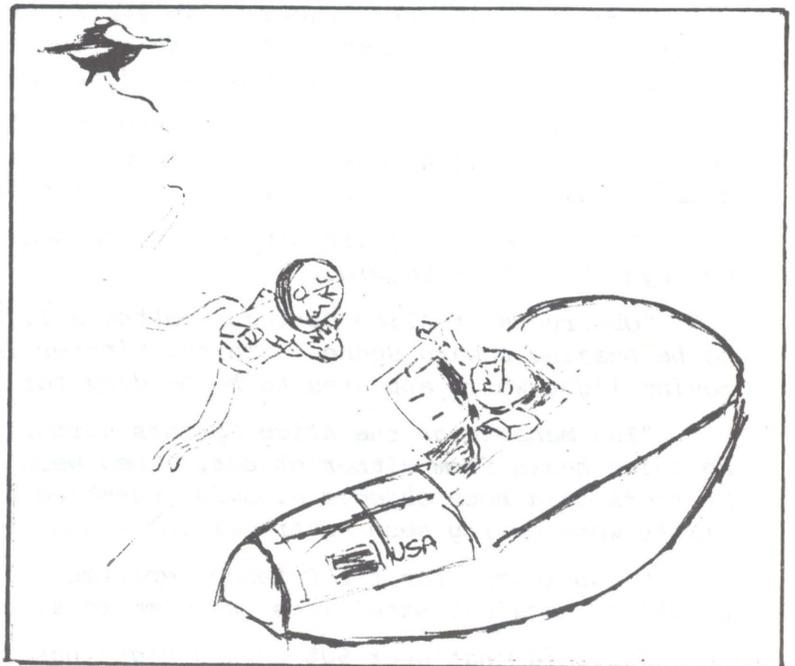
What happened to aircraft after they passed Alice Springs ? No-one knows, but the surrounding countryside is very, very sparsely populated and true desert terrain. Any aircraft could have easily turned North or West and never be seen again.

Seems when you're looking for UFOs you can't even trust the Russians to keep their noses out !

Seriously, though, this incident which died a natural death illustrates the need for eternal vigilance when investigating a UFO report. ■

References:

- (1) "UFOs over the Americas" - Jim & Coral Lorenzen, Signet 1968 pg. 187
- (2) "The Northern Territory News" September 10. 73
- (3) "West Australian" September 10, 73
- (4) "The Northern Territory News" September 11, 73



"This is a heck of a time to ask for political asylum, buddy. Anyway, how do I know you are Russian, like you say!"

reference library

"ALIEN HONEYCOMB - the first solid evidence of UFOs"

- a book review by Bill Chalker

The question of whether there is any "physical evidence" for the perennial UFO mystery has occupied many minds since the contemporary popularisation of the subject after 1947. A growing number of researchers have more recently concerned themselves with applying the scientific method to the UFO evidence. Researchers affiliated with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies are undertaking this work in Australia. Being an industrial chemist, I have been particularly interested in data related to "physical evidence" for UFOs and to this end formed a specialised research group - the Australian Physical Evidence Study Group which operates through the auspices of the Australian centre. * Its stated aims are the promotion and maintenance of high quality scientific documentation and research of physical evidence for UFO reports in Australia.

Therefore naturally enough, when a book came along, claiming it details what is referred to as "the first solid evidence of UFOs", I had more than passing interest. The book - "Alien Honeycomb - the first solid evidence of UFOs" - A Pan Original paperback - by John Pinkney and Leonard Ryzman, was released in Australia on June 10, 1980.

From a popular laymans view this book is both a lively and fascinating distillation of UFO material. However, this review will examine the book from a scientific and critical point of view. Because of the possible impact of the book and its claims, it is vital that we address it from this point of view.

The following statements taken from the book's preface and the press release that accompanied the book's release are quite startling:

"The UFO which exploded over a vast, desolate timber property in Queensland, Australia, scattered its intricate, eerily beautiful wreckage for several kilometres.

"Most of the pieces were collected by officers from the RAAF which, without public announcement, immediately despatched the material to the Pentagon laboratories.

"But some of the wreckage was retrieved by private investigators - among them, the authors.

"This book chronicles our search for the smashed building blocks of what must have been 'an aerial palace'. It reproduces the commentaries of eminent scientists, perplexed by material whose nature has defied their understanding; and summates the research project in the United States, which shows that the wreckage contains 'unknowns'.

"The gorgeous, hectically-coloured wreckage retrieved from Greenbank promises to yield up scientific secrets that should be shared by all mankind."

The authors have made quite a number of extraordinary claims, which should ensure the book's popularity, however, the rules of science are clear: extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof. The obvious question we must ask of this book is whether the authors have fulfilled this criteria. On scientific ground, the answer would appear to be no.

* *The Australian Centre for UFO Studies and the Australian Physical Evidence Study Group can be contacted through P.O. Box 546, GOSFORD NSW 2250, Australia.*

However, the authors have provided an interesting catch - a veritable Catch 22. They believe they have the evidence to substantiate the claim that the "alien honeycomb" they have in their possession is "wreckage" from a UFO.

The book does not provide this evidence, despite what the authors state, although a case by implication is presented. In fact only the real nature of the fragments in their possession, being confirmed as "exotic" and qualified by detailed scientific analyses would substantiate the claim.

No such analyses are forthcoming in the book. "Commentaries of eminent scientists" are referred to, however, these turn out to be only transcripts of observations about the fragments made by anonymous scientists. They are at the best subjective comments determined by observation and handling of the fragments and are not based on any hard analyses.

The book, the authors say, "summates the research project in the United States, which shows that the wreckage contains 'unknowns' ", however, this comment seems to be only based on the following spartan quote from "Don", an engineer and "expert".... in aeronautics" (who it turns out originally prompted the author's investigation and search for the fragments.

"We are in no doubt it's not from an aircraft, rocket or satellite. We have done some preliminary testing and there are definitely some unknowns". (pg. 135)

The authors tell us nothing more substantial about the fragments and instead apparently the resolution of the nature of the fragments is outside the scope of the book and left up to an appeal to the United Nations to intervene.

Messrs Pinkney and Ryzman state in letter to Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary - General to the U.N. :

"We, two Australian citizens, hold the material that could be the key, and the beginning of the unlocking of the door, to the mystery of UFO.

"This material was retrieved from a UFO explosion over Greenbank, in Queensland, Australia. It was not the first UFO explosion to have occurred in the world. Nor was Greenbank the first landing site for a UFO.

"We have sent a part of this material to the United States, where scientists have already deemed it 'unidentifiable'..... We ask you, on behalf of the United Nations, to establish a committee to investigate UFOs, and to give this duly-appointed body our material to work on."

"....We can come forward, at your request, with actual physical evidence in support of the existence of the UFO."

Now Messrs Pinkney and Ryzman, may have genuine UFO fragments, however, unless the United Nations takes up their request for analyses (which based on previous experience, may prove unlikely) or the authors decide to have the analyses done in more lowly circles (for example, I have offered to Mr Pinkney to have open analyses done of the fragments by qualified analysts, however, he has declined, stating he believes the United Nations will undertake the analyses) the matter will remain a point of controversy.

For the moment without detailed quantitative and qualitative analytical results, we must depend on the case presented in "Alien Honeycomb." Let us now examine the authors documentation for the UFO subject in general and the "first solid evidence of UFOs" in particular.

The search for the "alien honeycomb" is drawn against a background of the author's vision of the UFO evidence, namely the landing reports in particular, and the two events in the Australian region that have captured worldwide headlines recently - the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich over Bass Strait ¹ and the UFO radar-visual TV film controversy over New Zealand.

While the authors seem to recognise that much of the evidence they present is anecdotal (pg. 51), they overstate the validity of much of their "evidence". For example, they claim that "thousands of (UFO) rings.... now scar the fields of

Australia" (pg.19), however, the truth of the matter is that the evidence for UFO landings and physical traces revolves around a much smaller data base (albeit extraordinary).

In a recent Australian study of some 237 such cases, I found that only 33 events constituted possible evidence for a physical trace with a strong UFO correlation. From 1, 477 trace cases gleaned from 59 countries, Ted Phillips, a US specialist in physical evidence for UFOs, could only find 68 reports that appeared to offer a high level of strangeness.

A number of errors appear in the text ², along with apparent incorrect assumptions ³. For example the description of a UFO landing at Orange, NSW, during 1977, is almost unrecognisable to one of the investigators involved in the cases (pg. 36, barring the unlikely possibility the authors are referring to another case at Orange during 1977, hither-to unknown to the UFO research community). Along with a PhD consultant scientist and a clinical psychologist, I investigated this case a few days after it happened. I found the authors' description a total distortion. In reference to 2 alleged "UFO crashes", one of them located in Nowra, during 1976, the authors state that both "accidents were probably kept quiet by 'military intervention' " (pg.49). However, (barring the remote possibility that the authors are privy to information unknown to the research community) the seeming truth of the matter is vastly different. The reference to a "UFO crash" in the Nowra area, appears to have originated from a total media distortion of mundane events that took place during the night of May 24, 1976 ⁴. Unfortunately as a result of uncritical writers, the so-called "Nowra UFO crash" (aka "the Robertson UFO crash") has percolated into UFO lore. The need for caution and thorough research is self evident.

The author's account of how they came upon the Greenbank fragments is certainly quite interesting. I am sure Jung himself would have been amazed by the both fortunate and synchronous coincidence of one of the authors - Ryzman - going to Brisbane in search of the fragments, finding one lead evaporate (pg. 54) only to bump into a hither-to unknown woman on a Surfers Paradise beach, who possessed one of the fragments and who in turn lead them to the Greenbank fragments (Chp. 9) !

Speaking of the circumstances of the discovery of the Greenbank fragments, the direct evidence for them being of a UFO origin, is absent. The UFO sighting by Mrs Jean Fraser took place in November 1966. About a week passed before "a classic saucer nest" was discovered ostensibly where the UFO apparently came down. It wasn't until early in 1968 that fragments of the "alien honeycomb" began being found on the vast timber holding. The authors have not told us whether the location of the fragments bore any patterned trajectory with the 1966 "landing" (Chp. 14). Accordingly the onus is on the authors to provide a much better case for the possible UFO origin of the Greenbank fragments.

R.V. Jones in his excellent book, "Most Secret War" (Coronet, 1979, pgs.639-642), gives us a lesson which may or may not be relevant here. During the Swedish "ghost-rocket" flap of 1945-46, Jones, then Director of British Scientific Intelligence, stated:

"Since there had been allegedly hundreds of (ghost-rockets) sorties, there ought to be at least several crashed bombs already in Sweden, and yet nobody had ever picked up a fragment. I therefore said that I would not accept the theory that the apparitions were flying bombs from Russia until someone brought a piece into my office....."

It turned out that Swedes had several pieces of a "bomb".

"When I asked whether it had actually crashed, the answer was that it had not, but that various pieces had fallen off it."

These fragments were forwarded to British Intelligence. Among them was "a lump 2 to 3 inches across that was hard, shiny, grey and porous." Although Jones knew what it was, he sent it to the Chemical Analysis Section at Farnborough. Many people in intelligence believed in the reality of Russian flying bombs, and jumped upon the the resultant analyses of one of the fragments: "... one of the lumps consist of more than 98 percent of an unknown element ! "

Jones got in contact with the head of chemistry at Farnborough, who confirmed the startling result. "I then asked him whether he had taken a good look at the lump, and whether it had not struck him as being remarkably like an ordinary piece of coke. There was a gasp from the other end of the telephone as the penny dropped. No one had stopped to look at the material, in an effort to get the analysis made quickly, and they failed to test for carbon. The other lumps had similarly innocent explanations."

The reverse seems apparent with the Greenbank fragments. The authors have given us, perhaps some aesthetically pleasing descriptions of some curious material and no hard data. I hope that their appeal to the United Nations to intervene, and to undertake analyses is based on a better quality of evidence and documentation, than has been presented in the book, "Alien Honeycomb".

Over to you Messrs Pinkney and Ryzman.

NOTES:

1: Although it is expressed in somewhat muted terms in "Alien Honeycomb" (Chp. 11, Appendix: "The Ideas of October" and pg.167), John Pinkney has been quoted elsewhere ("People", June 5, 1980, pgs. 12-13) as suggesting that Bass Strait may be Australia's "Bermuda Triangle", and could be an underwater hide-out for UFOs. Such strained speculations is largely based on the record of disappearances over Bass Strait and while this record is unusual, the paucity of evidence hardly justifies such an exotic suggestion. (I tried to put this evidence into a reasonable perspective in my 3 part report - "Vanished ?" - carried in the "Australian UFO Researcher (1979). By implication the manifold photos taken on the same day as the disappearance of Valentich are offered as evidence for this scenario. They are supported by a GSW computer study, however, the techniques and the GSW conclusions are subject to some considerable criticism and are a matter of some controversy. The authors of 'Alien Honeycomb' would have done well to have intoned a note of caution about the Manifold photo results ex GSW on this basis. Their conclusions require considerable qualification when an appreciation of the limitations of the computer technique are considered.

2: It would prove tedious to draw attention to all the errors I have found, however, a few are noted:

Australia's first UFO investigation group was founded a few years earlier than stated by the authors and not by Pinkney and Norris. This distinction goes to Edgar Jarrold and his Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, out of which the UFO Investigation Centre appeared in 1955. (pg.19). - The RAAF did not investigate the Bungawalban trace and therefore could not supply any conclusions (pg.38). - Thermoluminescence is, contrary to the authors' assurances, not being used widely by UFO researchers, even though it would be remarkable if it was (pg. 155).

3: Ibid.2

The mere presence of unusual marks on the ground and the suggestion of UFO activity in the immediate area, does not constitute strong evidence for a UFO landing (Chp. 5). Scully's "crashed flying saucer yarns" have been reasonably proven to be a little suspect, despite Stringfields suggestions to the contrary (pg.49). Details are known about the 1944 Beaufort bomber incident and they originate from a member of the crew, so the authors suggestions re the prevention of release of information are not well founded (pg.150).

4: The events of the night of May 24, 1976, are well known. The re-entry of rocket debris, local bush fires and the Robertson area (north of Nowra), a red glow on the ground and alleged burn marks on the ground came together to provide a completely spurious account of a UFO crash. The farmer on the property where the burn marks

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were found tried to link the find with the glow he observed, however, UFOIC (now UFO Research NSW) investigators were able to confirm that the "burn marks" were in fact nothing more than fungi, the spores of which can sometimes give the impression of ash. The red glow was observed in a completely different direction to the burn marks. ■

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A BOOK REVIEW by Mark Moravec

SITUATION RED: The UFO Siege, Leonard H. Stringfield, London, Sphere Illustrated paperback.

Len Stringfield, a veteran UFO researcher from the 1950s, has re-emerged over recent years as a regular contributor to the MUFON UFO Journal. Despite the overly sensational title, Situation Red is generally interesting book, suffering only from the conspiracy paranoia. In the foreword, Donald Keyhoe states, not unexpectedly: "The cover-up must be ended." It seems there are still many people who do not recognise the possibility that perhaps "the authorities" are as puzzled over the UFO mystery as anyone else.

Stringfield presents the views of Hynek and Vallee questioning the adequacy of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis and contrasted with the views of the ETH-supporters Friedman and Keyhoe. It is the challenge of explaining cases involving paranormal aspects which has fueled the current debate about the nature and origin of UFOs.

The author reviews the well-known "siege of 1973" of UFO sightings across North America, as well as his earlier investigation into sightings in Ohio. In 1955, Stringfield unofficially cooperated with the air force in screening UFO reports from the Ground Observer in south-west Ohio. As a result of his unusual position, Stringfield learned of several extraordinary incidents including radar-visual sightings of which prompted attempted interception by Air Force jets.

The questionable part of Stringfield's work is his presentation of unconfirmed (and probably unconfirmable) rumours of shot-down and crashed UFOs, with the bodies of entities having been allegedly recovered and secretly refrigerated at an air force base. The circulation of sensational unconfirmed rumours has never contributed anything positive to UFO research and its respectability as an area of scientific investigation. I feel Stringfield is too willing to believe in the stories of crashed UFOs.

The author closes with an account of the 1976 Stanford, Kentucky, time lapse case in which three women claimed, under hypnosis, that they were abducted by UFO entities. An appendix by Dr R. Leo Sprinkle (psychologist) gives details of the hypnotic regression and his conclusions that each woman was describing a "real" experience.

Although not destined to become one of the classics of UFO literature, "Situation Red" The UFO Siege is an interesting book for those interested in the UFO mystery.

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