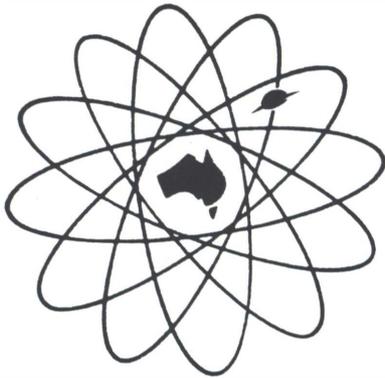


**UFO
Research
Australia
newsletter**

VOLUME 2, No. 2
MARCH-APRIL 1981



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editorial

WE MUST "LEAD" THE SCEPTICS.

It has been said by one Australian researcher that we must tread a careful line between the professional scientist and the lunatic fringe in our attempts to unravel the mystery of the UFO phenomena.

We must be the ones to quickly remove from public record any case which when investigated reveals itself to be a hoax, or to have a mundane conventional explanation. For by so doing we increase our credibility in the eyes of the professional scientist and remove any association with the lunatic fringe which may still linger in people's minds.

To do this we must be responsive to our needs and our needs only. If a case doesn't hold up we should say so. Take for example the affair of the so-called "alien honeycomb" last year. To have such a mundane event occupy so much of our time was wasteful.

We must concentrate our endeavours on those cases which do hold up after investigation and publish the results of these for all interested researchers to be aware of. In this regard the full account of the September 30, 1980, Rosedale Victoria event, carried in our last NEWSLETTER, broke the fine details to the global UFO community. We understand an article of the same event will shortly appear in the internationally renown Flying Saucer Review, but it was published here first.

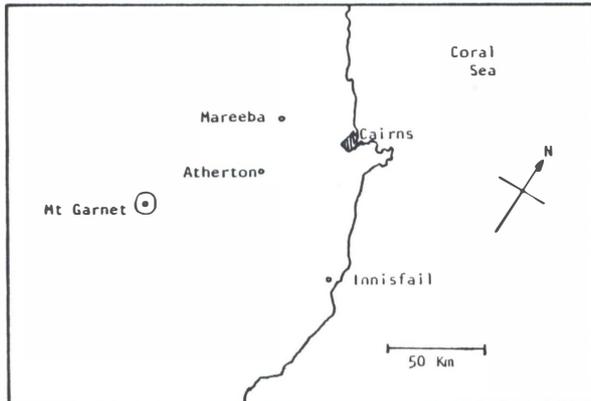
There can be no substitute for the self-critical approach, and the NEWSLETTER intends to bring you as much first hand, well investigated information as possible. ■

far north queensland



RETROSPECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF A POSSIBLE TRACE AT MT. GARNET

By Holly Goriss & Russell Boundy



An examination of the now four year old purported landing trace at Mt. Garnet (North Queensland) was carried out on March 7, 1981.

This was done because an indepth investigation of the site was not made when the trace was discovered in February 1977.

An investigation was not undertaken by UFOR(FNQ) in 1977 because the group was at that time only days old, and because of the location of the site.

This is, of course, regretted now, considering the amount of information which may have been lost over the years.

A visit to Mt. Garnet was, however, arranged when new information was received indicating the possibility of a landing.

The new information is a statement from a Mt. Garnet woman who observed an object or structure positioned on (or very near to) the spot where the trace was found. This incident occurred two weeks before the trace was discovered.

The Sighting

On a Wednesday (probably late January) the witness, Mrs C., left Mt. Garnet at approximately 05.30 am to drive a truck load of fuel to Mt. Surprise.

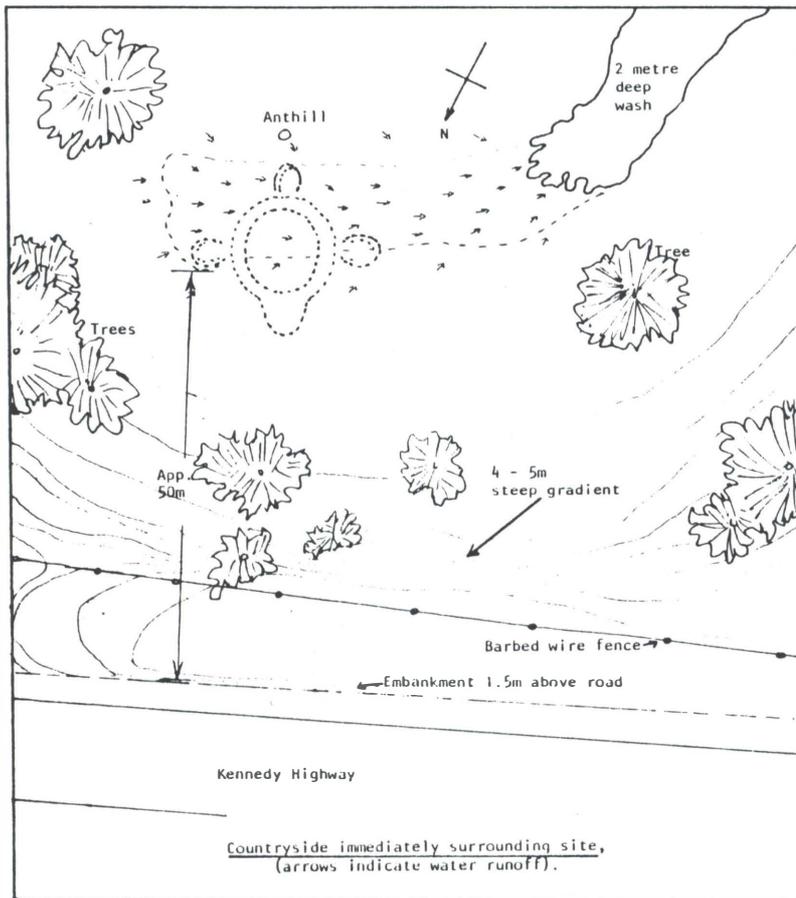
Having travelled some 200 metres beyond Return Creek, on the Kennedy Highway, the witness passed what looked like a shed or building structure of some kind in the gully to the left of the road (i.e. the position of the trace).

Slowing down, Mrs C. observed the object for approximately five seconds, she decided to have a closer look on the return trip.

Mrs C described the object as "just like a hay shed...the side came up and angled like a roof...its colour was like galvanized iron that's been weathered."



The trace as it appeared in 1977



As the witness passed the site she did not notice any affects on her truck.

When Mrs C. returned five hours later, the "hay shed" had disappeared.

Two weeks after this incident, the witness heard of the discovery of markings where she had observed the "hay shed."

Although her observation was not absolutely clear, Mrs C. is believed to be the only local person to have seen something unusual at the site prior to the trace being found. Rumours of lights in the sky have circulated, but these could easily have been mundane in origin.

Description of Trace and Surrounds

The entire area surrounding the trace has changed little since 1977, however, the trace itself does appear different (as one would expect), mainly due to the effects of weathering and vegetation growth.

The marking consists of one large circle surrounded by four smaller circles (actually oval shaped) which are still evident. The trace is now covered by a sparse growth of grass.

These markings are situated in a paddock approximately 200 metres west of Return Creek, near Mt. Garnet, and approximately 50 metres from the roadside down a five metre embankment.

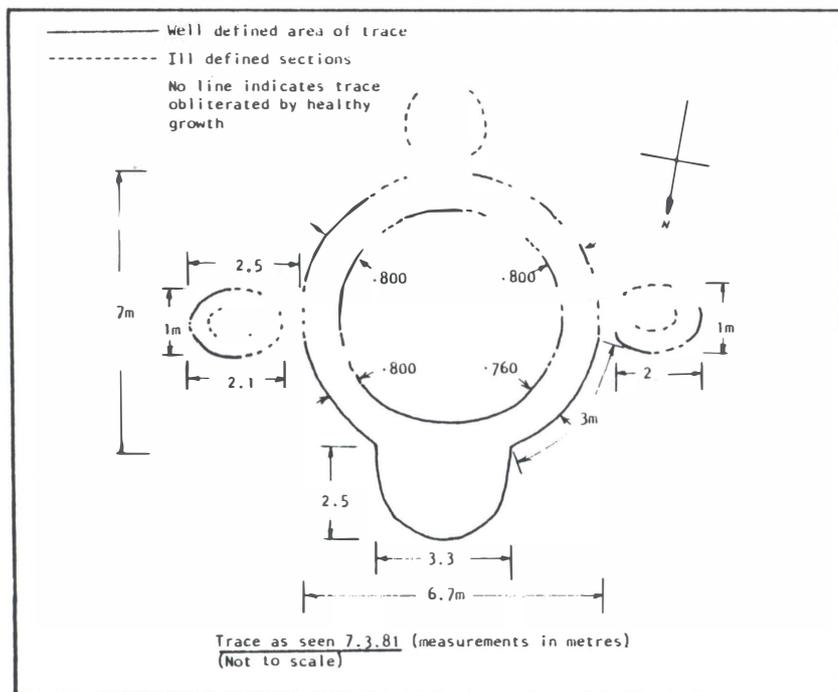
The site is surrounded by widely separated trees and is situated near a small 2 metre deep wash.

The affected areas are covered in grass averaging 38 cm in height. The surrounding grasses are healthy, being rich green in colour. The grass within the marking lacks colour. Some types of grass grow up to the edge of the trace but do not grow within it. The hardier types of grass grow within the marking. Overall, the vegetation in the well defined areas of the trace is weak and sickly in appearance.

It is evident that when it rains water runs through the paddock, over the marking, and into the wash. This would explain why half the trace is now ill defined and in some sections completely erased.

The soil throughout the area is a moist sedimentary type which dries to a hard crust. There is a lot of sedimentary material in the area of the trace.

Overall, the northern half of the possible trace is the most evident.



Evaluation

At the time Mrs C. observed the the object, and at the time the trace was found, there was no vehicle access to the paddock. The paddock is, as it was then, surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The spot where Mrs C. saw the object (or structure) is also the most unlikely position in the paddock for anyone to construct a shed.

The witness was very familiar with this area, thus her surprise when she saw what appeared to be a "shed" in the paddock.

Conclusion

Obviously, the vegetation has been, and is still being affected by something.

Soil samples were taken from the site during the March 1981 examination and forwarded to ACUFOS scientific consultants for analysis.

(At the time of writing, no results of the analysis were available. They will be presented in a future newsletter).■

March 7, 1981
photograph of trace.



(Grasses within the trace were wilting from the heat, whilst the grasses growing outside the trace were unaffected).



A TEN YEAR OLD MYSTERY

An extraordinary aerial object was observed in broad daylight at a very low altitude flying along a street in the western Sydney suburb of Whalan, some ten years ago. Only now are investigations revealing what took place.

Only because of irritation with a caller to an open line radio forum on the Sydney station, 2GB, did a woman decide to describe her fascinating experience, some ten years past. Bill Chalker, Director of UFO Research (NSW) was in the studio taking calls and he encouraged her to contact the group directly. Fortunately she did and as a result the sighting is now documented after all this time.

Bill Chalker and David Reneke undertook the investigation. Several more possible confirmatory and independent accounts have since come forward and are being studied. What seemed at first to have been a single witness close encounter now appears likely to be an event witnessed by a number of independent observers over a wide region in the Penrith - St Marys - Mt Druitt area.

The account given by the woman, was of such a vivid nature, there appears little chance of a conventional stimulus being the cause. So far no explanation has become apparent.

THE SIGHTING

It was about 3.30 pm and the woman was standing in Waikanda Crescent, waiting for her daughter to come from school. At the time - ca. ten years ago - the side of the road she was standing on was still bush. Houses lined the opposite side of the road.

Her description is as follows:

"In the distance - I would think about over Warragamba Dam - I saw what appeared to be a white pencil shaped object heading towards me. It looked like a needle point of smoke in the sky.

It started to curve across Penrith then made a sharp right hand turn and started to descent like a plane coming in to land.

The object then seemed to disappear down in an area behind houses at the bottom end of the crescent.

When I looked again I saw this white object coming across the top of the houses at about roof top level.

Just as it reached near the intersection of Neriba and Waikanda Crescents it dropped what looked like a bent stick, about 4 feet long.

This fell inside the fence line of the yard of a house and immediately the 'stick' shot back up to the object, but this time it looked like a fiery arrow (of 'energy') with the head uppermost.

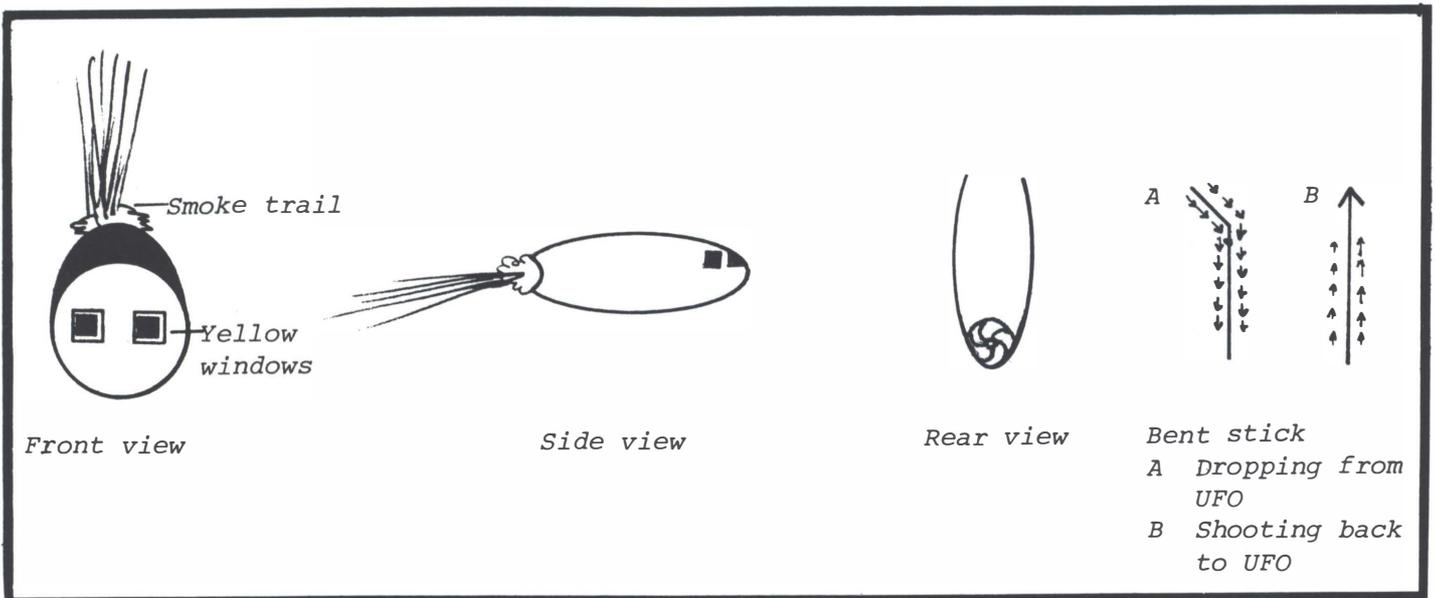
The object was egg shaped and about the length of a small telegraph pole and

NEW SOUTH WALES

apparently 12 feet in diameter at its centre.

It was white coloured and seemed to be made of metal - It had a metallic sheen - but it did not appear to be painted. It was spotlessly white - there appeared to be no rivets joins or panelling in its construction. There were two yellow windows - they looked like perspex - surrounded by black 'metal' borders at the front.

... I noticed what appeared to be a copper rod on the front of the craft pointing downwards."



As the object drew level with the woman, the UFO "juggled" sideways until its rear end was pointing towards her. She saw what appeared to be a pipe going up the middle of the object and spokes holding it in place. From the pipe a "smoke trail" seemed to pulse out behind the object.

The manoeuver carried out by the craft gave the curious impression of a staged performance put on for the benefit of the woman.

Then the object took off at about the same angle as a jet taking off. It left a smoke trail until the smoke was apparently cut off and it disappeared over the horizon. ■



MOVING ??? PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS. IF YOUR MAGAZINE IS RETURNED TO US, WE WON'T SEND ANY FUTURE ISSUES UNTIL WE RECEIVE YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

This year to date UFO Research {SA} has received 25 reports. Most of these have been explainable in terms of satellites, meteors, aircraft, birds and the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

Two interesting identified cases are of note, both of which occurred in March.

A lady rang at 2245 hrs on March 5 and said that she was watching a red glow in the sky. A moments questioning revealed that the glow was in the Southern sky near the horizon. However the cause was quickly understood because the glow turned out to be a fine example of the southern aurora. Auroras are quite rare at our latitude 35° south, and this one was apparently even more spectacular further south according to one observer at Mount Gambier who we talked to.

Later on March 24 at 1940 hrs, the group received three calls about a very spectacular ball of light which travelled from West to East across the northern sky. Two of the callers were in Adelaide but a third was at Williamstown in the Barossa Valley to the north of Adelaide. All reported observing a yellowish ball with an orange-red-yellow tail, moving soundlessly on a very flat horizontal trajectory. Duration of this observation varied from 3 seconds to an estimated 30 seconds. The almost certain cause of this was a satellite re-entry or bright meteor. Because of its brightness and course it is possible that the object would have been visible over a wide area, possibly even into Victoria.

AURORA

Auroræ, or polar lights, occur at a height of about 80 to 100 km and are the result of the ionization of the Earth's atmosphere in that region. Some years ago this was believed to be caused by charged particles sent out from the sun, which produced the ionization by collision with the atoms of the upper atmosphere. The process is not now believed to be so straightforward, and is probably connected with the zones of trapped particles in the Van Allen Zones surrounding the Earth. It seems likely that the interaction of the solar particles releases particles from these Van Allen belts, and that it is the dumping of these particles into the atmosphere which causes the ionization.

SOURCE: *The Mitchell Beazley NEW CONCISE ATLAS OF THE UNIVERSE - Patrick Moore*



AUSTRALIA - 1980

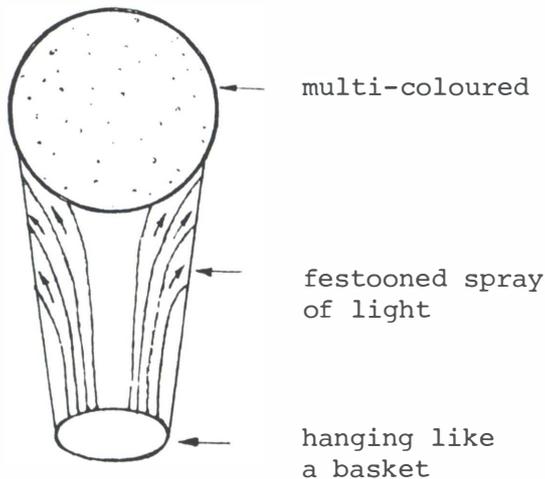


BY THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

The member organisations of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies forward details of investigated UFO reports to ACUFOS for distribution both within Australia and overseas via a variety of publications. The Centre publishes a monthly "Bulletin" (available only to consultants and Centre investigators), a bi-monthly "Journal" carrying researched articles and reports, and a number of specialist research documents by Australian investigators.

1980 was a quiet year for Australia, when compared to previous years, although some interesting cases were received and investigated. Let's take a look at a collection of reported UFOs for last year.

TULLY - January 9-1980



Our first report for the year occurred on two consecutive nights, the first being January 8 at approximately 8.25 pm at Tully, North Queensland. (Readers may recall the Tully "flap" of the mid 60's and the famous "saucer nests" of that area.) A farmer driving home noticed a large round object in the sky. The bright light was amber in colour at first, then changed colour many times. It was viewed for half an hour before it faded out completely from view. The same or a similar nocturnal light was seen on the following night but was not positively identified.

One week later a lady was sitting on the front lawn of her home at Miriwinni, Queensland at 8.45 pm when she became aware of a very bright coloured light which seemed to detach itself from one of the stars of Orion's belt. This nocturnal light moved to an adjacent star and "overlay it," so that the two co-incided in position.

Our witness raced back inside to get someone else to confirm her sighting. Returning outside the two witnesses saw the light again moving, travelling southwards. It then did a U turn around another star, moved slightly north-west gained altitude and disappeared. During this phase of its movement it showed definite colour changes from white/silver to red/blue, but was white when it disappeared.

We move next to South Australia and include an event which received world wide publicity yet was readily identified by the local UFO Research (SA) Inc., group, as having a mundane cause.

A sensational front page story in the Adelaide "News" of February 8 proclaimed "Mystery craft hits tree." The story went on to relate that a 70 metre tall pine tree had a large section of its side demolished by the impact of the "craft." The trunk was said to show several deep gauges and the force of the impact was stated to have loosened the roots and twisted the trunk around almost full circle.

UFO Research (SA) Inc., investigators Aspinall, Brooks and Piovesan interviewed

the percipient Mr Daryl Browne, aged 21 at the Glenalta stud property, Old Carey Gully Road, Stirling. On February 7, at about 9.50 pm two great dane dogs started howling. A noise was then heard outside which sounded like a loud crash. Walking outside he shone a torch around and when the beam intersected a tree he says he momentarily saw what he later described as an 8 metre, yellow object. When he had a second look the object was no longer visible.

UFO Research (SA) viewed the scene in daylight on February 9. The tree was estimated as nearer 40 metres high and the damage was visible at about the 20 metre level facing east. There was no apparent damage to the main trunk but several large diameter branches had broken off.

Investigations showed that the damage was in fact due to natural causes. One branch had broken off at a weak knot hole and brought others down. It was believed that the object was very likely to have been a misperception of the cloud of dust and debris associated with the collapse of the branches. There was no evidence to suggest in this instance that any physical object had collided with the tree.

Throughout the world depressions in crops, circular marks in the ground, broken branches etc., have been associated with the UFO phenomena. Locally, sometime between 11 pm February 11, and 4 am February 12, a large area of seed crop was flattened by "something" near Malanda, Queensland. An area 60 metres long and varying in width from 5 to 9 metres was flattened, with smaller patches flattened or only slightly blown over at each end of the larger, more prominent area.

The crop was about 1.3 metres tall from base to seed, a good healthy crop. In the damaged section it was lying down at angles varying between 20 - 50°. The length ran approximately south - south-east to north - north-west, with the majority of the crop leaning northwards, although in parts (mostly along edges) spread outwards and twisted in several directions.

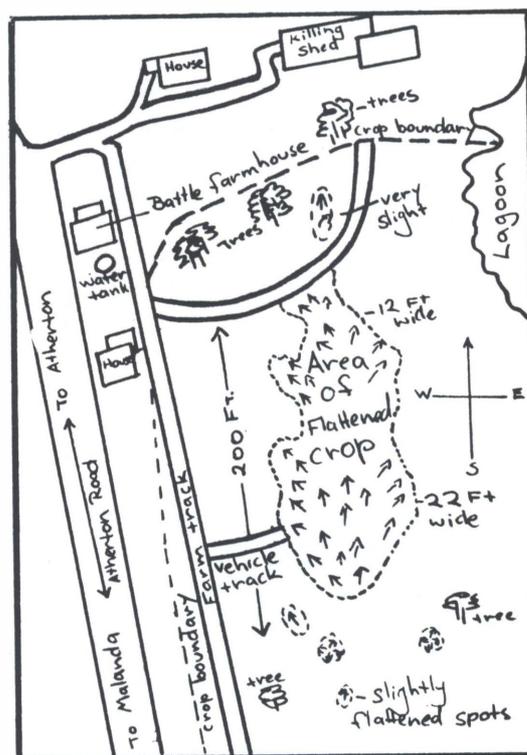
It was concluded by UFOR (FNQ) that the flattened portions were not caused by animals, humans or vehicles. The crop had clearly been damaged by a strong wind force of some kind.

A check of nearby residents revealed an elderly lady living close by had heard a "clunk" noise between 1 and 2 am February 12. Another woman had noted a very bright glow in her bedroom window facing the field between 1 and 2.30 am.

UFOR (FNQ) concluded the trace most likely was caused by unusual weather conditions and that the sound and glow were probably mundane and co-incidental.

Following this a series of nocturnal lights occurred around the country.

A 23 year old man reported that the vehicle he was driving at 10 past midnight

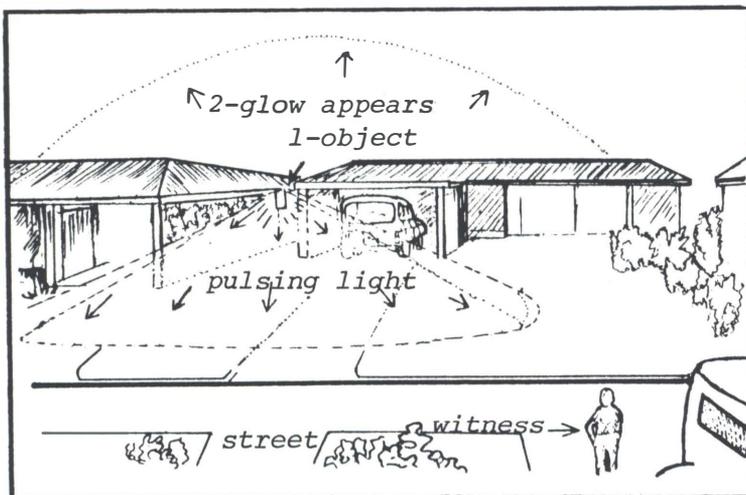


Map of the Malanda area.

on February 12 near Blanchetown, South Australia, was followed for quite some time by unusual lights. These lights were seen both while the vehicle was in motion and when it was stationary. Investigations by UFOR(SA) revealed alternative conventional explanations for what might be regarded as a low strangeness case.

Over to New South Wales next where at about 11 pm on February 23, three independent people observed a large round object, the colour of fire, with four protruding appendages, moving slowly over the Broadwaters, an estuary near Gosford, north of Sydney. It went from north-east to south-west before finally disappearing behind mountains.

Moving north to Queensland again Caravonica is situated 8 km north-west of Cairns. An incident was reported on February 23, in the area of a dead end street in a residential district. Four people were dining together. About 10.30 pm one lady looked up and noted a pulsing glow reflecting off the end of a caravan parked nearby. She shortly became aware of a pulsing sound like "spinning a weighted rope." Her husband had by then walked outside and was surprised to see a bright, rectangular orange light, stationary and about two metres off the ground, some 30 metres distant.



Caravonica

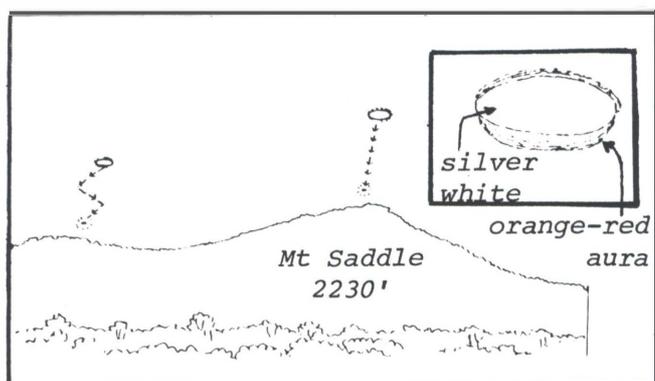
Estimated as 30 cm by 20 cm in size, the light then extinguished and almost immediately an orange glow appeared over and behind the house across the street.

The glow pulsed 2 - 3 times then also disappeared.

Residents in two of the houses nearby had experienced interference to their television reception at the time of the event which consisted of lines across the screens. No physical traces were found upon inspection.

Cairns again featured on February 25, when a lady, putting out her milk money, saw towards the north-east an orange light moving slowly on an horizontal trajectory, After watching this she saw what looked like an aircraft light flashing a short distance ahead. The duration was no more than a minute. The light appeared to be following the path of the plane. The light then dimmed and stopped. Shortly afterwards it commenced moving again and went the same way as the plane, i.e. north-east, and was lost to view in the distance.

Two days after this nocturnal light at Cairns, a man at Smithfield, Queensland had risen early at 5.35 am. He stepped onto the verandah to empty the kettle when he saw two large lights in the western sky. They were stationary at about 20° elevation. Both were similar in appearance, the oval shaped, silver white lights were surrounded by an orange-red aura which was noticeably thicker at the bottom. A "dull humming" sound seemed to be coming from them. After 2 - 3 minutes they moved westwards. The one on the left travelling in a zig-zag trajectory and the other moving on a direct course. The witness went inside to get his wife but when he returned both objects had gone.



Smithfield

spinning moved rapidly north across their field of view, to the west. One person thought she heard a low whirring noise but the radio was also on at the time and this may have affected her observation of the sound. After a few seconds the shape returned to the south and was lost behind a hill.

Greg Ayling of UFO Research (Qld) reported details of an event at Burpengary, Queensland on March 29, at 9.30 pm. Three people all aged 17 were driving home at the time of the observation. One of the three, a girl, noted a bright white light directly ahead of the car, 10 - 30° elevation. It moved towards their right. Initially it was travelling in a horizontal manner but then sloped downwards. It dropped below the horizon after a total observation time of 5 - 10 minutes and became another of the year's mystery nocturnal lights.

A rather weird object was seen at 3 am on April 1, by a lady in a north-eastern suburb of Adelaide, South Australia. She glanced at the sky and was startled to observe a most unusual sight. There in the sky at 10 - 15° elevation and 170° azimuth, was a mushroom shaped object with the large angular size of 6 - 7°. When this is compared to the ½ for the full moon one sees that this was a large object to see in the sky! Within the shape there were roughly circular patches of a different colour to the main colouring. After watching for a few minutes she raced inside and woke her husband, who as it can be imagined was a bit annoyed at being dragged out of bed at that hour of the morning. Needless to say, as the astute reader may now have guessed, the object had gone.

April in South Australia saw another event. On the 13th a man was driving home to South Kilkerran on the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. Near Cunningham at 11.50 pm he became aware of a row of lights to his right hand side, which he thought were about 7 - 8 in number. They were flashing in some kind of sequence. Each was estimated as 2 - 3 times the brightness of Venus. He watched these as he travelled along for about 4 - 5 km, then becoming scared a little he decided to speed up his car. He pressed the accelerator but there seemed a lack of power. It would cut out for say a second. This happened 3 - 4 times in 15 - 20 seconds.

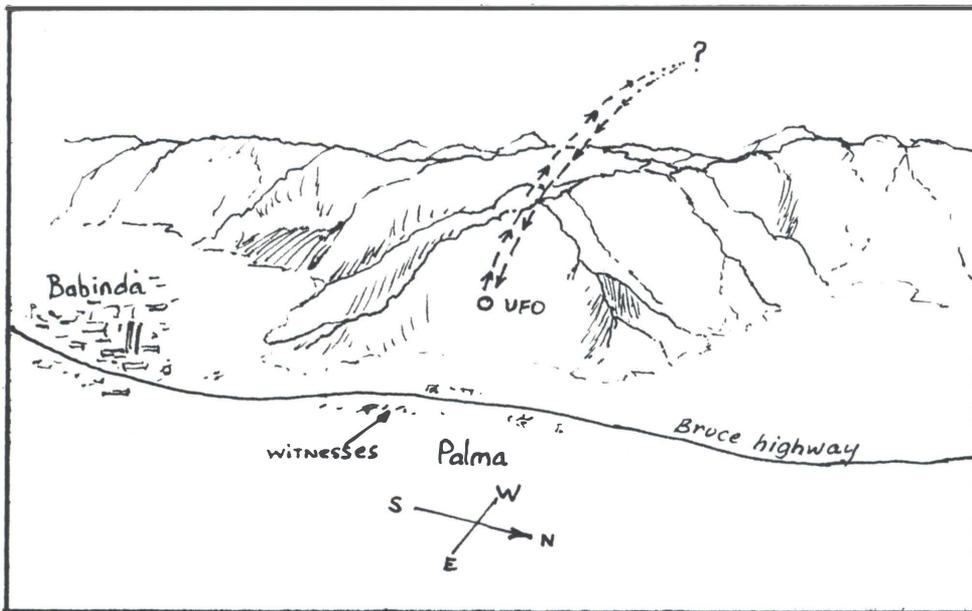
No other road traffic was seen, and the lights did not seem to light up the surrounding countryside. They stayed with him for a while then there was a flash and suddenly the lights were behind the car and moving away to the distance.

There was no further trouble with his car.

Back to North Queensland where on April 26, at 7.45 pm a man and his brothers were

The "Cairns Post of February 28, carried a photograph of a flattened area of sugar cane just north of Thomatis Creek bridge on the Cook Highway, near Cairns, Queensland. The standing cane was about 3 metres high but flattened cane lay in a spiral effect covering an area about 150 metres in diameter. Only 20 metres away lay another but smaller circle. The property owner Mr Bill Jackson said the phenomena was caused by heavy wind and rain.

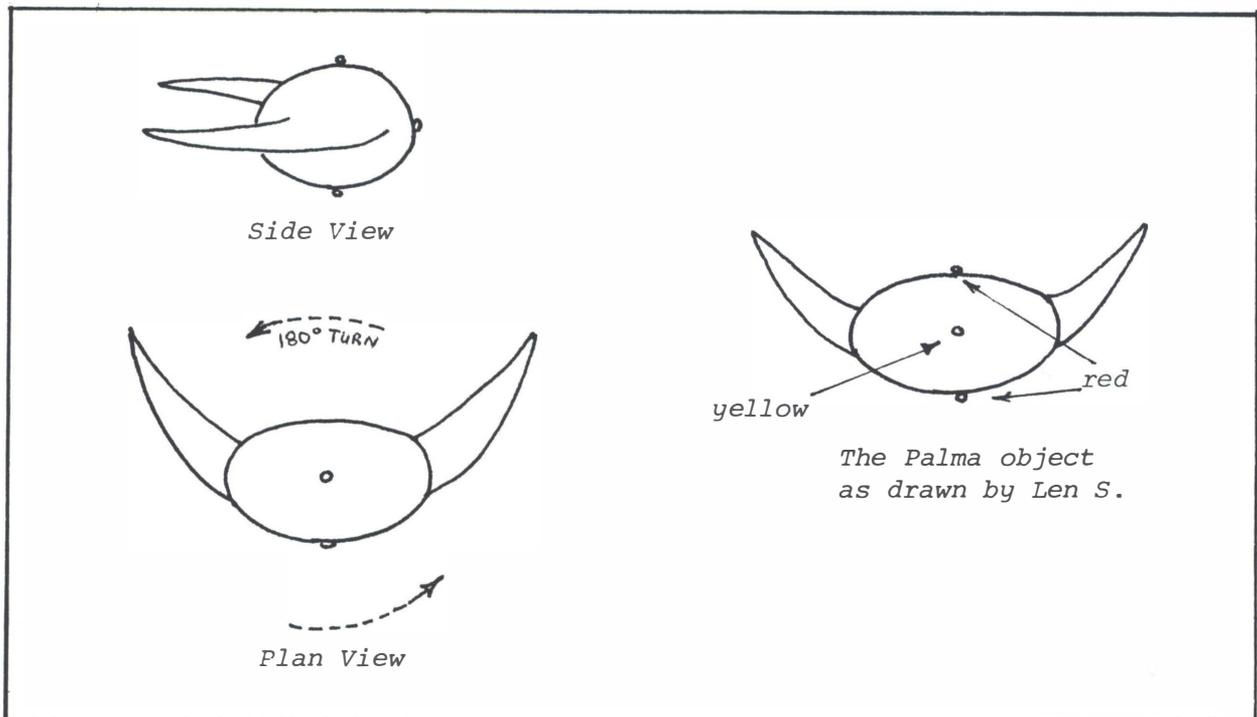
Tasmania was the scene of a three witness observation at about 9.30 pm on March 10, at Bagdad. A white oval to elliptical shape which seemed to be



Position and trajectory of the object

at their mother's house in Palma, 2 km north of Babinda. When one of the brothers looked out of the front window he noticed an object to the west of the building. He called his brothers to look at it. Described as oval, with curved "wings" on either side, silver, it dimmed and brightened as the object apparently retreated and returned.

One brother also reported a red light at the top and bottom and also a humming noise.



The Palma object as drawn by Len S.

Object sighted at Palma Far North Queensland.

AUSTRALIA - 1980

Two teenage boys encountered some nocturnal lights on a farm at Murdunna, Tasmania on June 7, whilst out shooting. Firstly they saw a white stationary starlike object much bigger than Venus to the west. Some minutes later (about 10.30 pm) two areas of light appeared out of nowhere on the grass 2 - 3 metres away. They were squarish in shape and 30 cm across. They first aimlessly circled each other. Next the boys noted a silver $\frac{3}{4}$ moon sized ball 30 metres away and about 23 - 30 metres off the ground. The boys made a dash for a gate and left the paddock. Despite an inspection next day no physical traces were found.

Two people were in a landcruiser travelling for some shooting near Mountain Creek, Tasmania at 2.10 pm on July 6. The night was breezy with some cloud. One of the witnesses left the vehicle to shoot at game, at this point the driver noticed a light at ground level to the north-east which was partially obscured by some tea trees. At first it was thought to be other shooters, however a closer look showed they were in fact lights, white at each side and flickering red in the middle. A green-yellowish phosphorous type glow below illuminated a long body above, estimated to be 8 metres long and 2 metres high. There was a deep whirring noise like an electric motor.

The witnesses fired 5 shots at the object which then moved slowly away towards the north-east just above the ground and still rotating and whirring. It glided up and over low ridges on the marsh country, then suddenly gathered speed and shot vertically into the night sky. Their dog jumped through the window and appeared distressed.

Moving on to July 24, there were ten reported observations of an object variously described as a saucer shape, cigar shape, rocket shape, which was viewed west of Warnambool, Victoria between 5.45 and 6.15 pm. It was photographed by Steve Haynes, a "Standard" newspaper photographer.

A lone black and white photograph was submitted to Ground Saucer Watch in the USA by the Victorian UFO Research Society. After computer analysis GSW concluded that the image on the picture represented a high altitude military aircraft.

Strangely enough, speaking of high flying objects, our next ACUFOS report came from UFOR (FNQ) who investigated an object seen by a TAA airline pilot flying a commercial DC9 jet between Cairns, Queensland and Darwin, Northern Territory. The date was August 7 and the time 1.20 pm local time.

Whilst flying at 10,000 metres the DC9 captain reported to a flight service officer at Cairns airport that he saw a dark dot with a distinctive contrail behind it heading north-west. The pilot could not make out any shape but believed the object to be at 1600 metres. It was in sight for about 5 minutes but then was lost in the distance.

The Department of Transport checked with civilian and military sources but found no traffic to be in the area, not even B52 bombers on flight training which do overfly North Queensland.

The episode is reminiscent of the September 8, 1973 fly over of Alice Springs by two unidentified "aircraft," which were officially listed by the RAAF as "satellites!"

Just over one month later UFOR (Qld) received details of an event near Tully, Queensland which occurred at 6.30 am on September 14, with a duration of 5 minutes.

Two people were riding pushbikes when one noted a cigar shaped object with a red stripe along it which faded into the sky.

The most spectacular event of the year came from Rosedale, near Sale in Victoria

and was fully reported in the last issue of the UFO Research Australia Newsletter. In summary, a 54 year old man was awoken at 1 am on September 30 to the sound of disturbance from the stock within his care. Getting up he went outside to see an 8 metre by 5 metre spherical object passing by, moving some 2 - 3 metres above the ground, at a distance from the house of 150 metres. The object travelled over paddocks, stopped momentarily above a water tank and then settled on the ground.

The witness mounted his motorbike and rode to the site to investigate. He found the object still on the ground, giving off a whistling sound, it remained on the ground a short while before taking off.

Returning to the house the witness experienced difficulty with his watch and suffered ill health.

A 9 metre diameter doughnut shaped ring was located where the object had rested. Later the 10,000 gallon water tank was reported to have emptied over that same night.

Several other trace markings were found on nearby properties. Investigations are still continuing into these events.

Ayr, Queensland was the scene of an observation of a pulsating red nocturnal light on October 28. It was observed at 7.45 pm travelling north-west to south-east. The witness signalled to it with a spotlight and the object appeared to respond with quick flashes. It then did a 90° turn, heading east the light went out, came back on for a while and then was lost to view below the horizon.

The year finished with a rare series of radar/visual events in Perth, Western Australia, which to date have not been properly investigated.

It appears that there were at least three separate incidents on December 4. Firstly at 8.38 am local time the Perth airport tower reported that they had been watching an object glinting in the sun for 15 minutes. There was a matching point on the radar at 097°, 6 nautical miles away, tracking 150° at a speed of 120 knots. The target was lost in the radar's cone of silence.

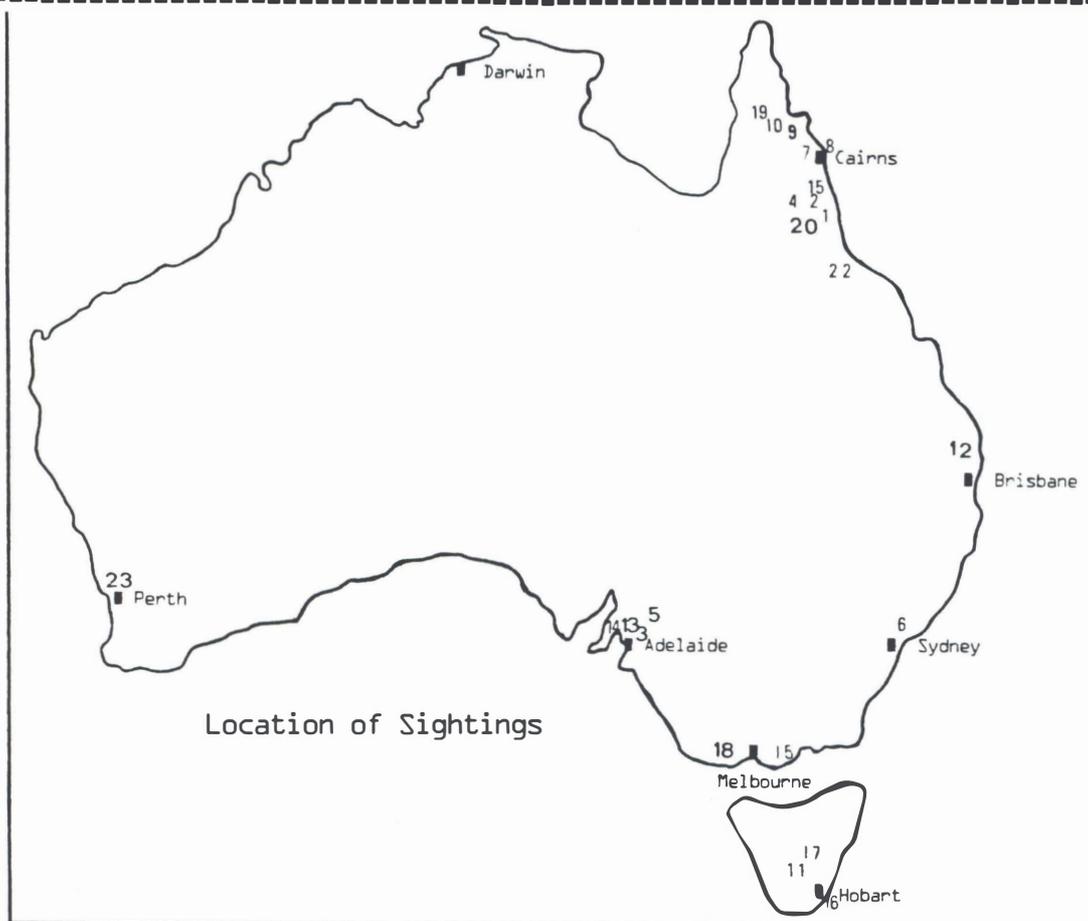
Secondly at 12.30 pm a lady telephoned the tower to report 4 discs tumbling overhead. The tower also observed four objects and so did the radar. The radar returns were at 45° at 5 nautical miles, tracking 120° at the low speed of 20 knots.

The last incident occurred at 1.20 pm when a return was detected on the radar at 18 nautical miles, due south at 8000 metres. The tower sighted an object high above one of the runways. Five minutes later radar returns put an object at 3400 metres.

ACUFOS is currently still awaiting a reply from the RAAF to a series of questions we have put to it about these episodes.

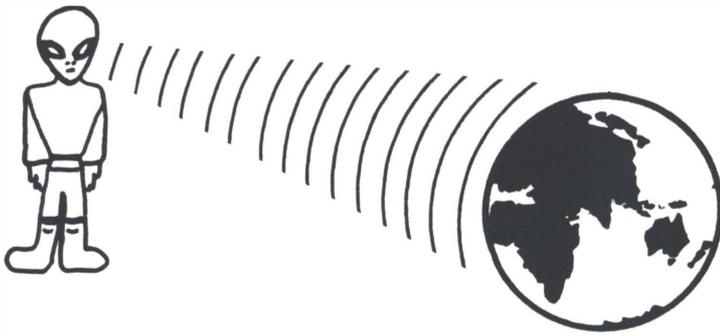
So ended the year. Although generally numerically quiet, it still saw a very significant physical trace event in Victoria and a puzzling series of radar/visual events in Western Australia.

Abbreviations: UFORAN - UFO Research Australia Newsletter,
ACUFOSJ - Australian Centre for UFO Studies Journal.



SOURCES

1. 8.1.80 Tully "Cairns Post" 11.1.80, UFOR{FNQ}, UFORAN 1/2/9
2. 15.1.80 Miriwinni UFOR{FNQ}, ACUFOSJ 1/3/17
3. 7.2.80 Stirling UFOR{SA} Inc., "Adelaide News" 8.2.80, Adelaide "Advertiser" 9.2.80. UFORAN 1/1/4 & 1/2pp11-12
4. 11.2.80 Malanda UFOR{FNQ}
5. 12.2.80 Blanchetown UFOR{SA}, UFORAN 1/2/12, ACUFOSJ 1/4/17
6. 23.2.80 Gosford UFOR{CC} "Central Coast Express" 26.2.80 & 28.2.80
7. 23.2.80 Caravonica UFOR{FNQ}, UFORAN 1/2pp6-7, ACUFOSJ 1/2/15
8. 25.2.80 Cairns UFOR{FNQ}, ACUFOSJ 1/3/17
9. 27.2.80 Smithfield UFOR{FNQ}, UFORAN 1/2/7
10. Feb.80 Smithfield "Cairns Post" 28.2.80, UFOR{FNQ}
11. 10.3.80 Bagdad TUF0IC
12. 29.3.80 Burpengary UFOR{QLD's} "Encounter" no 85 pp2-3
13. 1.4.80 Tea Tree Gully UFOR{SA}, UFORAN 1/2/13, ACUFOSJ 1/3/17
14. 13.4.80 Cunningham UFOR{SA}, Radio SKA 14.4.80, UFORAN 1/2/14
15. 26.4.80 Babinda UFOR{FNQ}, ACUFOSJ 1/5/18 & 1/4/17
16. 7.6.80 Murdunna TUF0IC annual report 1981 p 3
17. 6.7.80 Mt Creek TUF0IC annual report 1981 p 5, ACUFOSJ 1/4/17
18. 24.7.80 Warrnambool "Standard" Warrnambool, undated, Copy of GSW critique.
19. 7.8.80 Strathleven Station UFOR{FNQ} "The Sun" 9.8.80, "The Herald" 8.8.80.
20. 14.9.80 Tully UFOR{QLD's} "Encounter" no 89 pp 3-4
21. 30.9.80 Rosedale ACUFOS investigation.
22. 28.10.80 Ayr UFOR{QLD's} "Encounter" no 89 p 4
23. 4.12.80 Perth UFOR{WA} Adelaide "Advertiser" 6.12.80 "West Australian" 5.12.80 & 6.12.80, ACUFOS/DOT correspondence.



Is there a **TELEPATHIC CONNECTION ?**

BY PONY BARENSEN

If we revolved about our sun alone in a black starless heaven would we ever wonder "is there life out there?"

Probably not, the question would possibly not occur to us without the stars - other suns with other planets that doubtless have life, and some of that life is doubtless intelligent.

So the belief in extraterrestrial life is based upon sound logic, if not proveable evidence.

Discounting misinterpreted natural phenomena and psychological events that exist only in the mind, and assuming a small percentage of the unexplained are in reality alien visitations, what do we know about these beings from the stars?

Most witnesses agree, they fly in wingless vehicles capable of speeds and manoeuvres far in advance of our present technological achievements.

People who claim contact with these craft and their occupants describe aliens of many shapes, sizes and colours - everything from humanoid to the bizarre. We cannot help but wonder at this confusing variety, is it a jumble of hoax, hallucination, misperception and reality, are there possibly extraterrestrials from many worlds moving about in space as we move about this small planet of ours?

Communication with these aliens is almost invariably described as telepathic.

I here speculate on this remarkable common factor - telepathy, assuming a percentage of contact cases are in fact extraterrestrial in origin.

We humans are, of course, not telepathic. We are a species divided into individuals. Each mind totally alone with itself has a justifiable preoccupation with its own survival.

The state of telepathy is the linking of each mind, forming a consciousness contributed to and shared by all.

A telepathic society would strive to survive and prosper as a whole.

The unity and progress of a civilization may depend on the development of telepathic communication. If the development is total the concept of self would be meaningless, if only partial the concept of self would be diminished.

Possibly telepathy is true civilization for all would be distributed fairly, our politics whose ideal is to ensure that food, resources, and land are shared and protected would not need to exist. Imagine your mind linked to all others, you would experience the anguish of the starving, in fact the pain and joy of every mind. Surely you would attempt to make your internal perceptions as painless as possible by maintaining a state of equality - by ensuring contentment in others you would be contented.

So we ask, "if telepathic aliens move among us, what is their motive?"

Contactees speak of extraterrestrials telepathic but individual, occupying specific ranks and performing separate functions. These beings successfully block fear based emotions in the minds of their captives and perform traumatic and painful physical exams.

IS THERE A TELEPATHIC CONNECTION ?

When these examinations are completed the abductees memory of their experience is sealed and closed to the conscious mind.

If emotional disturbance occurs after the abduction, the abductee achieves partial memory of their encounter.

To examine the possibility of such extraterrestrials we must first demystify telepathy. Telepaths must have aims which they attempt to achieve because any society perfectly secure and contented would be an evolutionary paradox soon overcome by the constantly changing survival based events about them.

Obviously telepathic alien visitors do not wish to invade and dominate us, for despite their apparent technical and intellectual supremacy they have never done so.

Betty Andreasson (1), an American abductee, was taken by her abductors before the mythical phoenix and experienced the mighty bird's destruction by self generated fire and rebirth from its own ashes.

At the conclusion of this terrifying experience Betty was asked by an intelligence conglomerate if she understood, she was distressed and confused and failed to understand.

The condition of the phoenix has an obvious parallel. Our form of intelligence, composed of individuals and what they agree upon, arises from the fertile soil of struggle. We separated beings have achieved an impressive technology that provides us with the weaponry capable of causing total self destruction. Like the phoenix we have the ability to create and be consumed by our own fire.

Perhaps the phoenix was an emotionally charged catalyst that failed. Betty did not realize the parallel, and thus not understanding the telepathic way was not spontaneously telepathically awakened.

If the extraterrestrial motive is a compassionate effort to develop humankind to telepathic awareness and civility, it seems strange that contactees describe an alien attitude of detached clinical interest.

There are of course a great many possible motives.

We may simply be a scientific curiosity, providing extraterrestrials with necessary clues to unlock the mysteries of their own evolutionary past.

Perhaps we are being prepared for induction into the politics of the greater universe.

Or possibly the Earth is a chaotic source of psychic disturbance that must be quelled and harmonized.

We may, however, be a long standing experiment in some unimagined form of warfare, or perhaps we are already a developed and practicing psychic weapon unknown to ourselves.

If we consult history we cannot help but wonder if the devil was part of a stilled telepathic society - a member who came to need the stimulation of change, because the whole society needed the stimulation of change. Perhaps the being we call devil became an isolated individual and led a movements backwards that ensured the striving forward of an atrophying society which has survived and prospered because of this upheaval. If this were so and understood by telepaths, they would possibly feel compassion for the offspring of those who fell into the darkness of their own minds and attempt to develop those minds towards unity and combined purpose.

Perhaps the gap of separation between us and visitors from the stars is not one of communication between us and them, but of communication between ourselves.■

(1) Raymond E Fowler. *THE ANDREASSON AFFAIR* - Bantam books - \$ US 2.50

THE CHANGING FACE OF

U F O L O G Y

BY DAVID RENEKE



It is interesting to reflect back over the years and consider how far civilian UFO researchers have come since the subject gained prominence in 1947 following the Kenneth Arnold sighting in the U.S.A.

Then, there was no such term as UFO, they were all flying saucers, a name coined by an enterprising newspaperman of the time, after Arnold described seeing objects shaped like "saucers skimming over water." It was not long before the LGM (little green men) syndrome reared its ugly head placing the subject, and those who claimed seeing UFOs, into disrepute - a person mentioning such an encounter was stepping on very unsteady ground indeed.

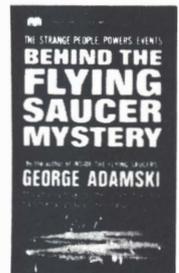
Naturally, someone just had to associate these unknown objects with an extraterrestrial source and Venus was selected. Accounts of meetings with youthful inhabitants of Venus continue even today, and as could be

expected, they were reported to be benevolent messengers of peace with the well being of the Earth in mind. The Adamski cult following was born, the age of the contactee had begun.

There were some sober minded individuals who refused to accept this explanation and decided to examine the reports at face value, that is, by what tangible evidence could be found to support the claims. It became clear early in the initial stages that there was in fact no such evidence. All that could be gleaned was verbal testimony, and that quickly crumbled in the light of background witness investigations.

So, Ufology branched into two separate entities (no pun intended) with the contactee and his band of followers going in one direction and the researcher with his unanswered questions in the other. Groups were formed and clashes began. The press quickly seized on the opportunity to write articles detailing the contactee's trips into space, and as the stories grew in size so true research shrunk into obscurity. It was not until the early seventies that several respected groups and individuals decided to take a new look at the subject, they were sick and tired of getting nowhere individually and felt that collectively, some inroads could be made. This happened first in the U.S.A. closely followed by Australia.

APRO, NICAP, and MUFON in the states gained respectability while in this country UFOIC (now UFO Research N.S.W.), TUFOIC (Tasmania), QUFORB (Queensland) etc. attained similar recognition. While individual opinion was encouraged, the general consensus



THE CHANGING FACE OF UFOLOGY

was that to maintain a high level of credulity in the public eye, some baseline statement should be accepted. This was, and still is in most cases, that UFOs are something that is being seen and photographed by ordinary people, from all walks of life, and which at present defies all attempts at an explanation. Science has finally entered the fray and new methodologies are being employed by the UFO Researcher in an honest endeavour to find those answers.



(John Miels)

AND A LATE ITEM..... EARLY THIS MORNING
A *UFO* WAS MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED AS A
WEATHER BALLOON.....

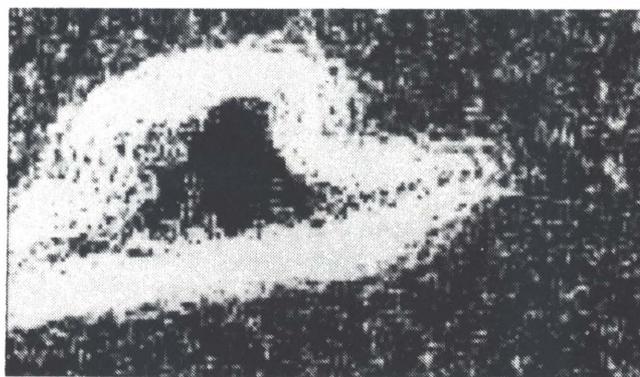
Predictably, the fringe element still remain, and are more vocal than ever, continuing to be a thorn in the side of those dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs. Ironically, it seems those who expound unfounded claims in any area of the unknown, whether it be psychic incidents or little understood matters in relation to science in general, all appear to attract the attention of the media or some benevolent soul willing to assist them financially in continuing their "good work."

So, the lot of the true researcher is a difficult one. He must carry out his activities in his own time and at his own expense and he must above all, remain totally objective. The elusive 'evidence' he is seeking will be forever one step in front of him while these people, and their sensation-alist claims, are allowed to remain unchecked.

Not all is lost however. In recent years some excellent results have come from specialised and scientifically orientated groups and individuals lucky enough to interest benefactors willing and able to help them promote study programs of high scientific merit.

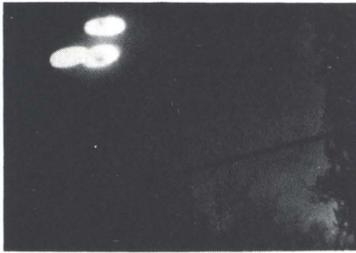
Perhaps the most promising of these involve the automated scrutiny, in detail, of the tangible evidence - close encounters of the second kind. I refer mainly to images on film and physical effects noted and recorded by sensitive electronic equipment. In the United States, two groups, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) and Project Starlight International (PSI) have served to advance the cause of the UFO research by untiringly working with sophisticated investigative facilities to produce results...positive results!

GSW have utilized similar equipment to that installed at NASA for enhancing their electronic signals sent back by space probes. They have turned their attention to UFO photographs and films, eliminating many frauds and misperceptions in the process. Of the 900 or so pieces of photographic 'evidence' so far studied only about 30 have survived. This is not to say that this small residue are UFOs in the true sense of the word, what it offers is the ability to systematically analyse and evaluate very intricate portions of film grains, impossible with past techniques, in order to locate approximate size,



Computer enhancement of
Ben Boyd photograph

THE CHANGING FACE OF UFOLOGY



distance, speed, and physical make-up characteristics for the researcher to form a conclusion.

GSW have been instrumental in filing a law suit with the U.S. government to extract hitherto undisclosed case histories of UFO investigations undertaken by the CIA. The suit is continuing but many startling revelations have come forward so far, not the least of these is the fact that the CIA were a controlling influence in the operation of the official debunking program initiated by the U.S. Air Force and code named Project Grudge/Sign/Blue Book - in that order. Along

with this disclosure is the official confession by the CIA that they have in their possession some 50 separate items of UFO related data, of high quality, concerning unfamiliar aerial objects observed, tracked by radar, and photographed by pilots and base personnel. The loophole for not producing this data is the national security angle - in other words, the CIA claim they will have to make known their modus operandi (method of operation) in the process, completely ruining their future effectiveness.

To date, GSW have evaluated photographic material for many civilian research groups, among them UFOR N.S.W. and UFOR S.A. The best singular item analysed in Australia is a short 8mm motion picture film shot on the south coast of New South Wales in October 1976. For all intents and purposes the images contained on the film are genuine unidentifieds, that is, objects presently unconventional to our present mode of air travel. GSW state categorically that the objects are disc shaped, with prominent upper dome structures, and approximating 40 feet in diameter.

Project Starlight is another civilian run and financed project primarily set up to obtain precise instrumented records of a UFO passing. The facility is set up on a remote site in Austin, Texas, and among the impressive array of scientific equipment assembled is an automatic recording magnetometer with the ability to detect UFOs 20 miles away. Coupled with this is an automatic recording gravitometer, 35mm movie cameras with diffraction gratings, a recording electrometer, a twelve miles range - 360° radar unit - capable of detecting objects of very small cross-section, and a UFO/VECTOR console utilizing red laser light capable of carrying up to two and a half million bits of data per second. Along with sophisticated communication experiments, UFO/VECTOR can be used to detect, record, and display either intentional or non-intentional light pulses from UFOs. At the MUFON Symposium held in Texas during June 1980 the project director, Mr. Ray Stanford, described in his paper "Instrumented Sensing, Recording, and Documentation of Transitory Phenomena in UFO Events" details of how his facility has obtained 8 colour motion picture films of UFOs: three of them from jet airliners in daylight, one from a jet airliner at night, and four more from the ground in daylight.

Included in this collection of film is visual evidence showing the unknown objects between, behind, and beyond clouds, and some with their shadows actually on the clouds! I quote from their newsletter: "Also, we have taken motion picture footage which could be interpreted as suggestive of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) and/or other propulsion effects of plasma motion upon structured objects. During July 1978, magnetometer recordings have been obtained which were determined not to have been associated with natural geomagnetic anomalies or from effects of technologies either on the ground or internal to the sensor monitoring-recording equipment."

All in all, PSI, GSW, and the huge number of affiliated private research organizations and individuals engaged in this study of UFOs have made tremendous advances not even dreamed of a few short years ago. We are now in the position, for the first time in over thirty years, to begin to find answers - real answers. I envision, before the decade is out, UFO RESEARCH attaining a solid place within contemporary science, with professionals

THE CHANGING FACE OF UFOLOGY

and amateurs working side by side.

Not content with amassing data of the kind mentioned so far, we now have what appears to be concise and accurate documentation relating to the actual retrieval of "crashed UFOs" and humanoid occupants! Civilian UFO researcher of long standing and high repute, Leonard Stringfield, has in his possession at least 25 independent accounts, many from actual eye-witnesses, confirming the fact that the U.S. military has in storage large pieces of crashed UFOs and the dead remains of the UFO occupants.

Most of the accounts refer to incidents occurring specifically in U.S. south-western states, usually New Mexico or Arizona. A more general similarity has been in the descriptions of occupants, always described as little men..around four feet in height. In the reports Stringfield collected, the UFO beings are more humanoid than humanlike, with large hairless heads and long slanted eyes. This makes them sound more like the occupants allegedly sighted in more standard close encounters of the third kind.

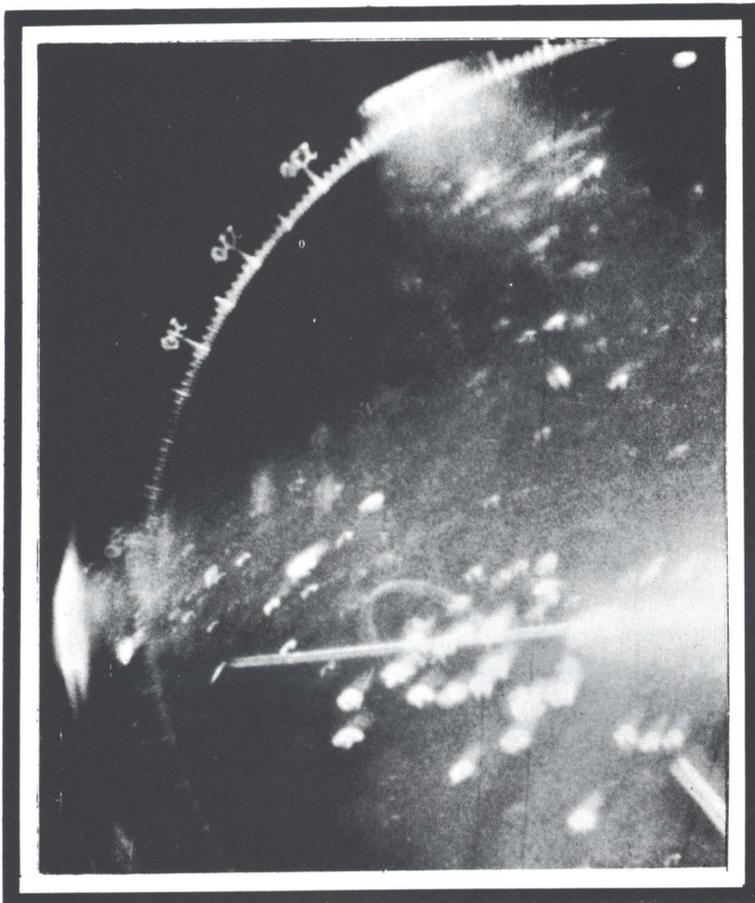
Quoting one of the informants in the Stringfield files we have a man by the pseudonym (actual name withheld) of Fritz Werner. In a signed and dated affidavit he said:

"I, Fritz Werner, do solemnly swear that during a special assignment with the U.S. Air Force on May 21, 1953, I assisted in the investigation of a crashed unknown object in the vicinity of Kingman, Arizona. The object was constructed of an unfamiliar metal which resembled aluminium. It had impacted 20 inches into the sand without any sign of structural damage. It was oval and about 30 feet in diameter. An entranceway hatch had been vertically lowered and opened. It was about three and a half feet high and one and a half feet wide. I was able to talk briefly with someone on the team who looked inside, only briefly. He saw two swivel seats, an oval cabin, and a lot of instruments and displays. A tent pitched near the object sheltered the dead remains of the only occupant of the craft. It was about four feet tall, dark brown complexion, and had two eyes, two nostrils, two ears, and a small round mouth. It was clothed in a silvery metallic suit and wore a skull cap of the same type of material. It wore no face covering or helmet. I certify that the above statement is true by affixing my signature to this document this 7th day of June, 1973."

The remaining material relates quite well to this account. Stringfield was also present at the MUFON Symposium and delivered the coup de grace, topping off what has taken many years of painstaking research and interviewing to collate. In a letter to me from my U.S. colleague and valued friend, Lindy Whitehurst, I have been told that Stringfield now has actual photographs of the occupants in USAF custody. He is extremely concerned with legal problems and is making sure no-one makes a profit commercially on his work for cheap gain or adverse publicity.

The photographs have only been shown to a few MUFON officials. Stringfield is attempting to get the remaining witnesses to sign affidavits. If he accumulates solid evidence he will possibly do what no-one else has ever done - prove absolutely that UFOs exist!

This is the status of Ufology today. Each year new groups are being formed and new evidence is coming forward from all quarters attesting to the fact that something unconventional is violating our air space; something which has physical mass (evidenced by radar returns and landing traces) and which affects motor vehicles, planes and household electrical appliances. Basically, UFOs defy our known laws of physics and gravity. Perhaps it is time to look again at the reports, for if they are correct, we will have a lot of revision to do... and a lot of re-writing to correct the mistakes in our textbooks.■



RADAR

INFLUENCES

UFOs

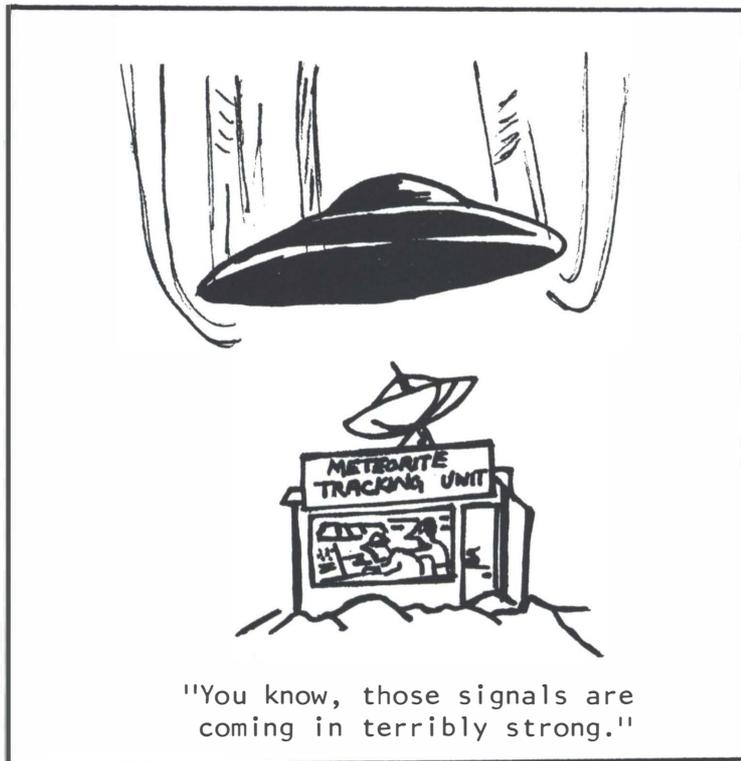
BY LINDY WHITEHURST (TEXAS U.S.A.)

One of the most challenging questions which baffles the UFO investigator is: how do they materialize over all parts of the world suddenly; without warning with their sources undetected? What a boon it would be to know where they originate, assuming they are extraterrestrial tangible objects operating from hidden bases somewhere in the Earth's jungle frontiers, primitive areas, or underwater locations. It would be at least beneficial to know the general direction from which they enter the United States for example.

Certainly from the early days the state of New Mexico had the reputation of being "flying saucer country" as well as a significant portion of the west and south-western U.S. whose number of sightings alternately increased and decreased. Perhaps UFO enthusiasts from the beginning had that frontier in mind as where UFO's might first infiltrate the country en masse on routine reconnaissance assignments. One Ufologist suggest there has been an established pattern of UFO activity in clustering about military installations, industrial complexes, hydro and nuclear power plants; the south-west's facilities having had more than its share of apparitions. Maybe the conspicuous number of accounts in and around the White Sands Missile Test Range in the early to mid 1950's had something to do with fostering this belief.

Still the question remains: Why did they so frequently choose the southwest per capita initially, rather than the more populace north and eastern regions, and what was the rationale behind the UFO's opting for the south-west to best elude terrestrial observers as to their points of entry into North America? Was it merely because of the comparatively sparse population in the semiarid south-west, or was it something else entirely? The potential answer did not become public knowledge until roughly 10 to 15 years later.

In 1969, a Russian-built Mig fighter plane suddenly appeared circling an air field in southern Florida requesting permission to land; the pilot was a Cuban wanting political asylum in the United States. U.S. planes employing radar for the monitoring



of aircraft approaching from the south were grounded at McCoy Air force Base when the Mig landed and were used only at irregular intervals due to budgetary restrictions. The fact remained that a potentially hostile aircraft had encroached upon sovereign U.S. air space completely unobserved - the analogy to UFOs is unavoidable!

Also that year a Cuban commercial airliner radioed for landing instructions at New Orleans International Airport while only 25 miles out at 4000 feet altitude with intentions of transporting a group of Cubans to an international sugar cane festival in the U.S. The trouble stemmed from its flight plan not having been approved by the Federal government; nevertheless the flight had not been scanned by radar until ready to land at New Orleans.

This was enough! It was then Congressman F. Edward Herbert of Louisiana demanded an investigation into the incidents. Though the inquiry was military in nature, it caused a major piece of the UFO puzzle to fall into place. The following are the findings of the Armed Forces Subcommittee for the U.S. House of Representatives, 1971:

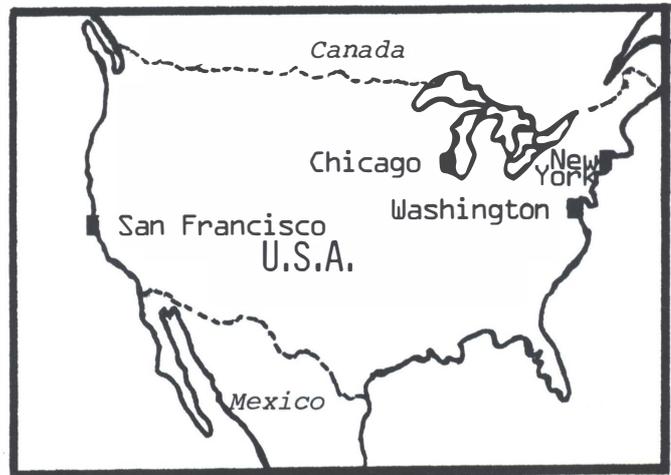
1. The existing U.S. air defense is virtually useless - more of a concept than an actuality.
2. In a series of economy moves beginning in 1963, U.S. detection and intercept capabilities have rapidly deteriorated.
3. Because of the failure to maintain a viable U.S. air defense system, sovereign U.S. airspace cannot be effectively protected from intrusions of foreign aircraft, civil or military.
4. There is a 1500 mile opening in our air defense system on the southern perimeter between Florida and California. The area is virtually devoid of military surveillance and air defense command and control.
5. The two foreign aircraft incidents demonstrate that any foreign power can at will violate the southern U.S. airspace without detection or interception. More importantly, they suggest that an enemy having the capability to attack from the south would be immune from detection and interception.

This enlightening report only made public what every airborne drug smuggler in Mexico and the Caribbean had known for years. The Subcommittee emphasized "...the Cuban flight demonstrated that any potential enemy possessing the capability could made a strike through our southern border to a high priority target in the heart of the country with little risk of being detected in advance."

RADAR - rather the lack of it! That may be the missing link which has given the

RADAR INFLUENCES UFOs

UFO free, almost unsupervised access to the Continental United States for years. Evidently without the use of Over-the-Horizon Long-range radar, control and surveillance of foreign aircraft solely depends on the co-operation of the pilot in reporting the aircraft's position. As one Federal Aviation Administration official testified, "An aircraft has to want to be controlled before we can control it." Under these circumstances many identified and unidentified aircraft could pass through FAA radar coverage depending on whether the pilot wanted to be controlled.

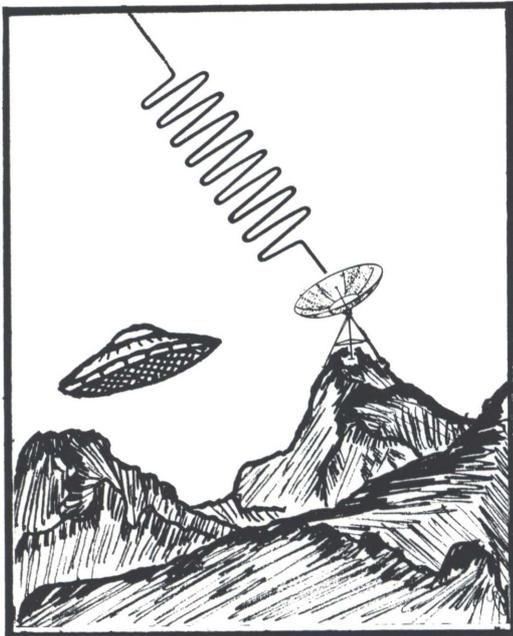


In 1966 on a major network television program, an Air Force captain was asked about radar effectiveness, and he claimed NORAD could oversee any unusual aircraft flying over North America and implied none had been seen. But the daily newspapers, a few truths about the radar umbrella over the country, and several UFO encounters confirmed that the Air Force had been feeding the public a line. Yet the head of the Air Force's Project Blue Book testified before Congress that there was not a single radar UFO case in the Project's files which had not been satisfactorily explained.

The problem for any interstellar intelligence behind the UFOs was to discern at what altitude level radar coverage commences and to simply navigate under it at night with lights out until well into the interior of the mainland. Even without military and FAA data concerning available radar capabilities, it probably would be elementary to map the coverage not only along the southern extremes but well into the interior using equipment perhaps similar to what U.S. fighter planes utilized during the Vietnamese War in disclosing enemy radar placements. Top secret devices were inserted aboard military aircraft which enabled pilots to know immediately when a Russian-built SAM missile was tracking the fighter. On board sensors could pinpoint the SAM's location, and the launching site could be successfully eliminated before the missile could be fired. So the detection of ground-based radar by earthly science is not without precedent. We must conclude an advanced technology could map radar installations even more efficiently. Knowing that lofty mountain ranges exist in the south-western United States and form an effective shield against radar beams, one can deduce much of the coverage by knowing positions of the radar antennae and the elevations of the surrounding terrain.



NORAD, the North American Air Defense Command, whose function is to preserve in peacetime a surveillance framework in North America capable of tracking and identifying unknown aircraft, denied for many years they had ever found a single UFO on their continental radar displays which exhibited out-of-the-ordinary behaviour.



Radar sightings of UFOs are extremely difficult to uncover. Most radar centres are under direct government supervision in FAA flight facilities, and of course tight security prevails on all military bases. The operators can not talk openly either because of orders or fear of losing their jobs. Regulation AFR 200-2 called for a fine of \$10,000 and ten years in prison for Air Force personnel who divulged UFO reports until Project Blue Book was abandoned in 1969.

Radar sets around the nation are picking up UFOs. If they happen to occur in a military reservation the information will seldom reach the public media. If the radar is in a FAA locale the specifics probably will not leave the premises. FAA regulations state that all UFOs should be reported to the nearest university, however the majority of air traffic controllers do not know who to contact, as most universities are devoid of any type of UFO program, so FAA men are left with virtually no instructions leaving large gaps in research for want of coordination.

Still countless statements by high echelon military personnel have verified unusual radar returns to the press, publicly and privately. Actually UFOs have been tracked in all sections of the U.S.A., but we still must ask: How did they get into our airspace, and by what routes did they leave?

Because of the scarce radar coverage in the American south and south-west, we will presume these regions to be the logical starting places for the following questions: Assuming the existence of intelligently guided spaceships visiting and reconnoitering our world (which we must if we are to pursue this line of questioning), and assuming they wish to enjoy at least a moderate amount of freedom from detection as to their passageways into the country; if we study in detail hundreds of "well-witnessed" accounts from the midst of the western U.S.A. which include directions of appearances and disappearances, and if we try to estimate where there might be radar gaps taking into consideration existing mountain ranges abundant in the western half of the continent and performance characteristics with known ranges of civil and military radar stations, can we uncover these radar-free corridors by which inbound UFOs filter into the United States? For it is here mountains stretching north to south may tend to "channel" low-flying UFOs through their valleys in and out of the country. Consequently if apparent corridors can be plotted, can we predict success if we station cameras and other instruments along these transitways in periods of great UFO activity?

Let us go back to a notable UFO incident which occurred in April, 1964 near the central New Mexico town of Socorro. A local policeman approached an egg-shaped object in an arroyo just outside of town and claimed to have seen two humanoids walking around it. They appeared startled on seeing the policeman and boarded their craft which proceeded to rise about 15 feet, level off, and fly at that low altitude directly away from the officer south-westward toward the mountains a few miles away. Upon reaching the base of the closest mountain, the UFO reportedly flew up and over and "seemed to just clear the mountain." On being approached, did the occupants of the UFO purposely fly at minimal altitude directly toward the shelter of the hills and hug the mountain tops southward until out of the country to avoid continental radar? Of course not all UFOs are sighted below mountain top level, but the vast majority apparently are.

RADAR INFLUENCES UFOs

In 1961, NORAD reached its peak operative strength of 65 regular U.S. and Canadian fighter interceptor squadrons, 193 long-range radar sites, and 105 gap-filler radars. Shortly afterwards through cost reduction moves, air defense forces under NORAD were reduced 60%; many radars and interceptors providing perimeter security were phased out or reassigned to other duties.

In early 1963, in order to comply with Department of Defense budgetary decisions calculated to save \$35m in fiscal year 1964, Secretary of Defense McNamara trimmed a substantial number of spotter radars and thus opened a new rift across Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. In the aftermath of these expenditure cuts NORAD had to reassess the Soviet threat, and determined it to be from the north. Hence forces were concentrated in the upper portion of the continent and along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to provide a perimeter defense for all US borders except the southern flank. The net effect of this economy move was maintenance of far northern defenses at the expense of the southern half of the United States.

The first aspect that must be understood is how the radar net over the United States functions. There are three radars facing northward, each aimed at tracking enemy missiles fired over the Pole. The theory states that missiles would be launched into high altitudes, and it is there the major emphasis is realized leaving the southern borders with minimal protection. Between the years 1963 and 1967 additional cost reductions were levied and more assets were withdrawn from service or repositioned, again at the expense of the southern extremes. The following is a breakdown of NORAD trends in North American air defenses over the past decade:

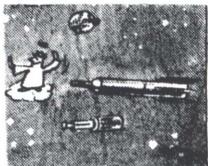
<u>NORAD Force Trends</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1975</u>
Nike/Hawk Batteries	270	63	15
U.S. Fighter Squadrons (Regular)	65	14	13
U.S. Fighter Squadrons (Air Guard)	38	15	6
Canadian Fighter Squadrons	3	3	3
Bomarc Missile Squadrons	9	7	0
Long-Range Radars (Not DEW Line Radar)	187	99	96
Gap-Filler Radars	105	0	0

All aircraft flying above 14,500 feet are required to file a flight plan, and if an aircraft flying above that altitude without a flight plan crosses into the U.S. from outside through an Air Defense Identification Zone, it will probably be intercepted. Many thousands of private aircraft, however take off, fly and land at airfields within the U.S.A. with no one really determining their identities or intentions. If they remain above 14,500 feet, their Air Force radar will pick them up, but they will not scramble jets to intercept or identify. After all, what good would it do to intercept a craft that obviously took off inside the United States?

In 1967 a spokesman for the Hartford, Connecticut municipal airport said if a UFO showed up on their radar scopes it could not be distinguished from an ordinary airplane, as they are not usually in contact with half the air traffic seen on radar, and as far as they are concerned half the traffic are UFOs. Therefore, if a UFO can sail into the U.S. undetected at low level, and once inside it may rise to higher altitudes, manoeuvre without bother, and leave in the same way. Nuclear attack theory dictates missiles would fall from high altitude, so there is no actual radar coverage below 14,500 feet in mountainous western states aside from those small areas surrounding airports equipped with Precision Approach radar. This allows UFOs to fly through U.S. airspace minus a great measure of radar contact. If the UFO continues at a relatively low altitude, and one need only look at the voluminous reports revealing low-level visual encounters, then there is little chance that any radar controller would be

RADAR INFLUENCES UFOs

interested enough to track the object assuming he could in the first place.



A recent incorporation into NORAD's radar authority includes Over-the-Horizon radar stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida on an experimental basis that will greatly expand present ranges in the south-east, but will do precious little for lower altitudes and those objects navigating through the large volumes of airspace over the seas, near our coasts, and "down on the deck."

A case in point is the 1977 incident concerning a Russian YU95 Bear reconnaissance bomber capable of carrying nuclear bombs which flew as close as 60 miles off the south-eastern coast of the United States and for the most part was lost by radar as it flew under the coverage before eventually veering off and overflying a U.S. Naval task force whose ocean-going radars finally picked up the bomber after two F4 Phantoms had failed to spot the plane when scrambled. As the newly operational AWACS system for detecting low-flying approaching aircraft does not yet patrol that area but intermittently; this incident again demonstrated the vulnerability of radar to low-flying objects.

Limited detection of low-flying aircraft is likewise inherent in the FAA's long-range enroute radar system augmenting the NORAD Command. Distant low altitude objects are difficult to spot because radar impulses are transmitted in straight lines and do not follow the curvature of the earth. An aircraft flying under 2000 feet is not detected until it is within 20 to 25 miles of a nonelevated radar antenna. Interpolated onward we find aircraft flying at altitudes below 14,000 to 16,000 feet are not picked up until within 160 to 200 miles. Raising the radar transceiver to a nearby mountain top if one is available, tends to dramatically increase the range of the installation. However, a quick glance at Sectional Aeronautical Charts reveals marked minimum coverages throughout vast western areas despite raised antennas in some areas.

In addition to minimum altitude requirements, some radars miss UFOs entirely because of selectivity. They are electronically geared to display objects by their angular characteristics so that an object which travels too slowly or too fast or is at the wrong altitude will be overlooked. Only when the object fits the standards will the radar display it while ignoring others.

UFOs may be quite prevalent in U.S. skies but may seldom cross into civil or military spheres of responsibility which are apt to pick up out-of-the-ordinary objects. When military radarmen claim they do not see UFOs on their radar scopes, it may mean their equipment or superior officers merely refuse to recognise them. It appears "uncorrelated targets" are indeed detected by NORAD instruments, but are rejected from display screens because they fail to correspond to hostile ballistic missile trajectories or projected enemy bomber courses.

For years American military aircraft have been equipped with "Electronic Counter Measures" to baffle or jam civil and military radars. ECM is a jealously guarded science and can be effectively used to blank out enemy scopes or "paint" its blip on a different part of the scope altogether. Against such ECM equipment, basic civil radars have no chance at all of picking up such aircraft. In November, 1979 a charter airliner's captain reported being "buzzed" by several UFOs near the Mediterranean coast of Spain. The radar at Valencia airport did not pick up the objects while more sophisticated radar at a Spanish military base did record the airliner and UFOs as well. Through the years there have been many accounts of UFOs not being picked up by local civil radars, yet being witnessed as something solid rather than mere weather phenomena. - We must wonder just how radar conscious these UFOs are to use mountain ranges as blinds and possibly electronic jamming equipment, and at the same time partially forgive military spokesmen issuing radar contact denials, for they themselves may be victims of similar ECM devices from aliens still wanting a little privacy. ■



reference library



Keith Basterfield

"UFOs: THE IMAGE HYPOTHESIS
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF AN AUSTRALIAN KIND"

A book review by Bill Chalker

(A Reed Book written by Keith Basterfield, published in Australia, 111 pages, May, 1981, \$5.95)

One of Australia's leading UFO researchers has presented in this short book, the kernel of an idea that deserves wide attention and may provide insights into that mystery we call the UFO phenomenon. Keith Basterfield offers his theory, "the Image Hypothesis," as a possible explanation for much of the hitherto unexplained residue of UFO events that survives the gauntlet of critical investigators.

The author recounts his odyssey which led him to this position, in simple straightforward terms. The account is free of the sensationalism that has been a feature of much of the available UFO literature. His approach is in step with the critical winds of change that are now sweeping through UFO research at large.

Against a background of personal investigation and experiences, Keith draws a picture of a subject fraught with observations of "UFOs." These are definitely explainable in conventional terms once commonsense investigations have been conducted by intelligent and critical investigators.

Keith gives short shrift to a number of areas of UFO experience, including claims of "angel hair," photographs and radar evidence. According to the author, there is very little in "UFO 'nests'" and all that."

However, in his estimation, there is a residue of ostensibly unexplainable cases. The bizarre experiences of the Rye housewife on Mooraduc Road in Victoria and a mechanic's roadside encounter with a strange object resting on the ground near Murray Bridge in South Australia, are amongst the Australian cases described.

It is to these cases - the unexplained residue - that Keith addresses his "image hypothesis." The Ivy Tanks case of September 6, 1973 (pgs. 28-30), proved to be the initial stimulus for the author to consider his hypothesis. Its fascinating correspondences with the well defined characteristics of hypnopompic and hypnagogic imagery, caused him to consider whether other cases in Australia and indeed overseas, shared these similarities. Perhaps surprisingly a great many close encounter cases had features which suggested to the author that they were possibly the result of imagery. A remarkable number of close encounter cases worldwide occur in the nocturnal interface of waking and sleep and therefore Keith's theory may be of great utility in attempting to determine the objective reality of these experiences.

The author even offers a possible mechanism for UFO events that occur to people in an ostensibly awake state. Here he refers to "neural discharges" that occur generally during "paradoxical sleep." Deprivation effects, in certain studies, have lead to "neural discharges" and intense visual imagery or hallucinations during waking hours of certain subjects.

How legitimate are such psychological explanations. The author has only presented the theory in a tentative and initial form, therefore it is difficult to judge how comprehensive the theory is intended to be. Keith appears to be suggesting that almost all residue cases may eventually be explained in these or more mundane terms.

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I have no doubts that some cases are amenable to such mechanisms, particularly when we enter the murky realm of "abduction," "time-loss" and "interrupted journey" experiences. However some aspects of the UFO phenomenon, as we presently understand it, are more difficult to dispose of.

"Physical traces" related to UFO events are a case in point. Keith Basterfield considers only the famous Tully case (SEE my article in Ronald Story's massive book, "The Encyclopaedia of UFOs," to be published in Australia by New English Library, during June, 1981 - highly recommended) as about the only physical trace event of any merit.

While I share some common ground with the author's hypothesis, I must consider his position on physical traces in particular as an oversimplification. There are quite a number of impressive physical trace events (e.g. Socorro, 1964 - See Ray Stanford's book, "Socorro Saucer in a Pentagon Pantry" (aka "Socorro Saucer") and "The Encyclopaedia of UFOs" article.)

The Boyup Brook case (pg. 41) is used by the author to support his psychological mechanism for "car stop"/"car control" cases, however it should be appreciated that the driver's watch also stopped for 5 minutes - a period of time consistent with the witness's impression of the duration of the "car-control" incident. Therefore the "time-gap" experience - a psychologically understood mechanism - seems out of place. Also "EM" cases (or "car effect" cases) with more than one witness seem to rule out the "psychological" cause. The BUFORA Vehicle Interference Project compiled by Geoffrey Falla and edited by C.F. Lockwood and A.R. Pace (1979) lists many two witnessed "EM" events amongst some 420 cases in total.

The lack of cases, particularly overseas events, illustrating each part in the development of the theory, is a weakness, but one, I understand due to the publishers cutting back on the overall length of the original manuscript. A more critical listing of "Close Encounters" which excludes references to cases such as "1954, Berri, SA: 'A 2 metre long, scaly creature was reportedly observed up a tree...' " "...1969, Goolmanger Creek, NSW, 'Children discovered a 'nest'." , etc. should have been undertaken. These latter events hardly qualify. On pg. 50 Ted Bloecher should read as Ted Phillips.

The author has not pursued the idea that ultimately the "image hypothesis" is a testable hypothesis and therefore it may well be a "scientific" one, if we view it from a classical falsification stance. The hypnagogic state can be studied in the laboratory with some success, so much so, that Charles T. Tart in his pioneer work, "Altered States of Consciousness" (1969, 1972), was able to say, "It is a straightforward step from the Bertini et.al. research to attempt to control the hypnagogic state itself and explore the possible use of such control." (See "Some Preliminary Observations with an Experimental Procedure for the Study of Hypnagogic and related phenomena" by M. Bertini, Helen B. Lewis and Herman A. Witkin; condensed from Archivio di Psicologia Neurologia e Psichiatria, 1964, Vol. 6, 493-534; pags. 95-114 in 'ASC' (1972)).

Perhaps UFO based imagery can be produced under controlled conditions, along the lines of Alvin H. Lawson's "imaginary abductees" experiments.

Keith's exposition of his imagery theory, potentially has wide utility in explaining some UFO close encounters. It requires more detailed qualification and development beyond its current narrow horizon. However, as an idea expressed as a non-rigid working hypothesis, the concept deserves the thorough and thoughtful consideration of a wide researcher-orientated audience.

The author's conclusion that "the truth (about UFOs) may lie in understanding more about ourselves and (our) beliefs, than in the stars" could be right. An answer will require much more research and open minded debate along these and other lines. The author and indeed this reviewer would find such tasks a most worthy endeavour. ■



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