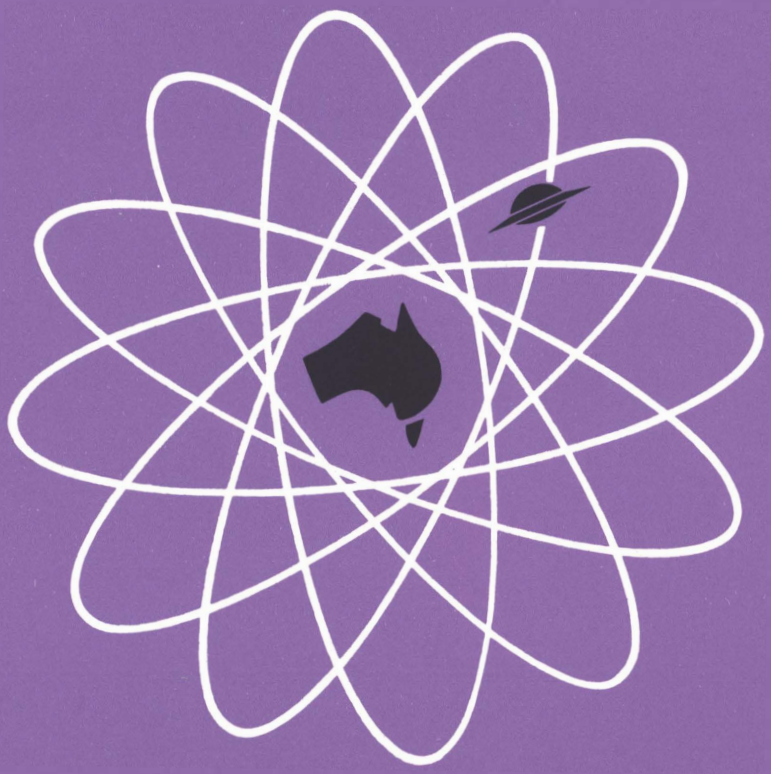

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JULY-AUGUST 1981

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editorial

IN PRAISE OF RESEARCHERS

Most people, whether tolerant or intolerant, have an interest in UFOs which may take the form of a dinner table debate or even an organized social outing to a flying saucer club.

Although the average person has heard of UFOs few are aware of the established existence of UFO research.

Organized research is the meticulous investigation and documentation of UFO events which are made available to other researchers and interested individuals. This interchange of information results in a solid education, making it consistently easier to recognize misperceptions of natural and man-made objects and events, which brings us ever closer to the phenomenon that as yet defies explanation and may quite possibly be "alien" in origin.

Researchers require an abundance of patience for it must be recognised that a final complete solution may be decades, even life times, away.

It is because of the long term accumulative contributions of devoted investigators that research has progressed to the point of scientific recognition and involvement.

Because serious ufology is a commitment of time and effort it cannot be treated, by those who call themselves "researchers," as a hobby which eventually takes second place to more exciting interests when the novelty of the chase wears off.

Fortunately, there exists throughout the world a core of investigators whose curiosity has endured personal and communication difficulties and who have over the years contributed the wealth of their experience unselfishly to the subject. These people are the foundation of UFO research not the myriad hobbyists who come and so quickly go.■

UFO Research(NSW) is presently re-examining two little-studied old UFO reports. One, the 1954 Goulburn radar-visual sighting, was voted at last years conference of Australian UFO investigators (UFOCON 5, Canberra) as potentially one of the top 20 high-merit Australian reports. The other, the 1965 Canberra airport/Mariner IV sighting, generated a lot of exaggerated publicity, but was nothing more than a misperception of Venus.

AUGUST 31, 1954: NAVAL PILOT ENCOUNTERS TWO "SAUCERS."

At 9.30 p.m. Lt O'Farrell was flying a naval single-seater Sea Fury fighter over Goulburn. His air-speed was 220 knots, and the altitude 5000 metres. He was returning to HMAS Albatross (Nowra Naval Air Station) from Canberra. He suddenly spotted a bright light with "a vague shape underneath" approach the left wing-tip; another approached the right wing-tip. The "saucer-shaped" lights flashed past the plane "spinning at fantastic speed."

The Sea Fury's radar allegedly picked up the lights. O'Farrell nervously called Nowra tower. Much to his relief, the tower also picked up the blips, one on either side of the plane. "I could have kissed those radar guys," O'Farrell later recalled. The tower confirmed there were no other planes in the area, except for a TAA Convair.

The sighting was classified "secret," and passed from Naval Intelligence to RAAF Intelligence. However, the tale was leaked to the press by senior naval officers during a visit by Navy Minister Francis to Nowra 3 months later (on December 15). When pressed by journalists, Francis admitted he knew nothing of the event. He ordered an urgent enquiry. Next day, he released a press statement confirming the sighting. (Sources: Sydney Morning Herald, (Melbourne) Argus & Hobart Mercury - 16/17-12-54).

In 1973, Dr Allen Hynek called on the chief of RAAF Intelligence in Canberra. Hynek was taken aside by the chief's "aide or lieutenant" (O'Farrell?) and told the same story. (See Hynek & Vallee, The Edge of Reality, 1975, pages 58-59).

JULY 15, 1965: THE CANBERRA AIRPORT/MARINER IV NON-EVENT

On July 15, the AP wire service carried a startling report that has been subsequently elaborated upon in several UFO books. A glowing object was spotted hovering in daylight for 40 minutes over Canberra airport. Civil and RAAF traffic controllers and other officials said they were baffled. The object zoomed out of sight when an RAAF plane took off to identify it. Experts wondered whether it was coincidental that soon after, the nearby Tidbinbilla tracking station found it difficult to lock onto signals from Mariner IV (then orbiting Mars).

John Keel, writing in Saga magazine, takes the story a dramatic step further. He writes: "...something went wrong! The signals from the ... satellite were being jammed! The technicians at Tidbinbilla, sealed in their mammoth control room, frantically jabbed at switches (and made) a desperate check of all their equipment ... A few miles away at Canberra airport ... a glowing metallic object ... was hovering ... overhead ... Once it was gone, the signals from Mariner IV began to pour into the tracking station."

On close inspection, however, the story falls apart. The object was seen from 10.50 a.m. to 11.15 or 11.30 (accounts vary). Tidbinbilla locked onto Mariner IV, as it emerged from behind Mars, about 11.35 a.m. Thus, contrary to Keel's account, the

Tidbinbilla Control Room

two events were not exactly coincident - although Mariner was indeed slightly late in emerging (and the initial fix was only partial) - but an imperfect understanding of the effect of the Mars gravity on Mariner's orbit is the most likely cause of the trouble.

Most accounts also overlook a statement made at the time by Dr Westerlund of Mt Stromlo Observatory. He said that the light hovered in the north-eastern sky at the exact position of Venus. It seems that quite a few experts were unaware that Venus is sometimes distinctly visible in broad daylight.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

"Visions or Visitors?" - excerpts from an upcoming book *by William H. Spaulding.*
(A discussion of UFO photographic hoaxing techniques and how they may be recognised)

This is the first of two articles on UFO photographs. The second to be published in Vol.2 No.6 will be:

Usage of Computer Photographic Evaluation Techniques As Applied to Purported UFO Photographs
By William H. Spaulding & Fred Adrian

(William H. Spaulding is the Director of Ground Saucer Watch in Phoenix, Arizona - an organization specializing in computer evaluation of UFO photographs. Mr Spaulding advised us after reading "UFO ... Contact from the Pleiades Volume 1" (UFORAN Vol.2 No.1) that: "GSW analysed those photos and found them to be complete hoaxes, there are strings above the 'models.' GSW has a 90 page report on these pictures available for $12.00 (post paid)."

ALSO IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

The Australian UFO Photo File (Part 2 - Kempsey)
By David Reneke

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: An Analysis
By John Prytz

Pilot will return, psychic predicts

Frederick Valentich, the Victorian pilot who disappeared over Bass Strait in 1978, will return in 1982, a visiting psychic predicts.

Mr. Colin Amery, a New Zealander, said yesterday Valentich was "alive and well, working happily with aliens in another dimension, a fourth dimension."

A lawyer before he "dropped out in 1968 after an enlightening experience," Mr. Amery said he had acted as a medium for the Valentich family in the difficult early days after the pilot's disappearance, and he was convinced Valentich would return next year.

He believed Valentich was working in an "underwater space city" somewhere between Tasmania and NZ's South Island in the Tasman Sea.

Mr. Amery also has written a book about the disappearance, *UFO Coverup*, and two others dealing with alien beings, UFOs and the occult, *New Atlantis* and *Journey in Search for Lemuria*.

Valentich's reappearance is one of a number of predictions he makes for 1982, a "year of upheaval, of incredible economic, political and geographical chaos."

He says there are two reasons for the turmoil.

"Next year is the year of the Jupiter effect, when Jupiter and Saturn will align, and this will bring many problems in the world," he said.

Colin Amery

"It is also, I believe, the beginning of the Aquarian Age, replacing the Age of Pisces, and the old order will be revolted against and replaced by the new.

"But the resulting world will be a better world, a more caring and sharing place."

Some of his other predictions for next year are:

- London and other parts of southern Britain will disappear into the sea.
- Widespread political and geographical chaos in Europe
- Earthquakes and tidal movements in the eastern States of Australia.
- Some irrefutable proof that UFOs do exist and there are civilisations on other planets.

But Adelaide will be quite safe.

"I think Adelaide must have been the centre of some space culture thousands of years ago, because I have had good vibrations while I have been here," Mr. Amery said.

He said one of the reasons Adelaide was so stable was because it was a space station before man arrived on earth.

He is taking an expedition to a place about 75 kilometres north of Maralinga looking for "Australia's Stonehenge," an underground space city built below a sacred Aboriginal burial ground.

He said that unfortunately the search area was a Commonwealth Government prohibited area, and permission for entry had been granted for only seven days.

Mr. Amery also wants to travel to Arnhem Land to study what he says is a former space city known as "Moon City."

He will give details of his expedition at the Australian International Flying Saucer Research Society monthly meeting at the Better Hearing Association, Franklin Street, city, at 8 p.m. on Friday.

"THE ADVERTISER"
(Adelaide Newspaper)

July 1, 1981.

On October 21, 1978, Frederick Valentich disappeared whilst flying to King Island north-west of Tasmania in Bass Strait.

Despite a wide search of the area Valentich and his plane were never found.

Theories have abounded about this seemingly mysterious disappearance but none have proved anything conclusive.

Mr Colin Amery is one of many who favour an "alien kidnapping."

It was reported in "The Sun" on April 23, 1979, that Mr Amery had contacted Frederick Valentich in a seance. It was claimed that the missing pilot said he now lived as a light body in another dimension with people from the Great Bear Constellation.

"The Sydney Morning Herald," however, reported on May 30, 1979, (only one month later) Mr Amery's new theory that Frederick Valentich was kidnapped by UFOnauts and is living in an underwater civilization.

Newspaper reports of Mr Amery's changing predictions always refer to his books, which, it must be noted, are receiving excellent publicity.

We hope Mr Amery will not be in London when it 'sinks' next year for we would like an explanation should Frederick Valentich not be released from his underwater captivity. - Ed.

forum

ON PICKLED ALIENS AND STRANGE HYPOTHESES

By Mark Moravec

I would like to comment on two items included in past issues of UFO Research Australia Newsletter.

Firstly, in "The Changing Face of Ufology" (UFORAN, Vol.2 No.2), David Reneke brings up the topics of (1) recent advances in instrumented UFO research; and (2) claims of alleged "crashed UFOs" and the recovery of their dead "humanoid occupants." Whilst I agree with the author that significant advances have been made in instrumented research (e.g. computer-enhanced analyses of UFO photographs), it should also be stated that such techniques have not been developed to perfection. It is still a matter of some controversy whether or not Ground Saucer Watch's techniques can accurately determine such factors as the distance of the object photographed. We may not yet have the "perfect" UFO analysis techniques, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying to develop them!

On the topic of "crashed saucers," it is true that American researcher Leonard Stringfield has gathered some 20 plus accounts of such alleged events. However, there is absolutely no evidence that any of these rumours are true. None of Stringfield's informants have been named; the various accounts are inconsistent with each other (despite Stringfield's attempts to relate at least some of them to the same "incident"); and no supportive physical evidence has surfaced.

As I stated in my review of Stringfield's book "Situation Red: The UFO Siege" (see UFORAN, Vol.1 No.2): "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."

As for those seemingly mysterious photographs of alleged UFO occupant cadavers in USAF custody, Stringfield has admitted in a recent issue of the MUFON UFO Journal (No.154, Dec. 1980) that at least one of the photos has previously appeared in issues of both "Official UFO" and "Ancient Astronauts," the American magazines notorious for publishing hoax stories in the guise of fact. However, Stringfield also makes the incredible claim that these face photographs are part of a conspiracy, by person or persons unknown, directed towards undermining the credibility of his "crashed UFO" stories. Better to believe there is a sinister conspiracy against oneself than to acknowledge one has been duped by hoaxers!

It is time to forget the dubious stories of "pickled aliens," and instead to concentrate our energies on investigating the more promising, solid, contemporary UFO reports.

The second item worthy of comment is John Prytz's article "An Approach to the UFO Maze: Philosophy Based on Clarke's 3rd Law" (UFORAN Vol.2 No.1). The author, in his attempt to find the explanation which best fits the UFO data, proposes that a high strangeness phenomenon (UFOs) requires a high strangeness explanation. However, this approach suffers from two major deficiencies: (1) The resultant "high strangeness" UFO hypothesis becomes a catch-all which can "explain" anything the author wishes it to explain, be it UFOs or any imaginable anomaly. There is no way to disprove the hypothesis, i.e. the hypothesis is scientifically untestable and ends up not explaining anything. (2) There are counter-examples which suggest that high-strangeness UFO cases may have low-strangeness explanations.

For example Keith Basterfield's image hypothesis attempts to explain CE3 and other high strangeness cases as being examples of unconsciously-generated hallucinations during states of near-sleep or tiredness. Surveys and experiments conducted by psychologists have shown that such imagery is experienced by a proportion of normal, healthy people.

As for picking out hypotheses of "best fit," no matter what system one uses, it merely reflects one's own biased beliefs. Thus the author found that the extraterrestrial and parallel universe hypotheses were the best possible explanations for UFOs. If I were to plug in my own values, I could quite easily come up with equally impressive, but completely different results, e.g. psychological/sociological phenomena or psychic/religious phenomena. In fact, rather than aiming for one main high strangeness hypothesis (reflecting the author's assumption that UFO reports represent a single, largely homogenous phenomenon), a number of simpler but different hypotheses could explain the totality of UFO phenomena.

In closing, I would like to commend David Reneke and John Prytz for their contributions to the UFO debate. If my comments prove anything, it is that this debate is still going strong. We are still far away from any consensus as to what the UFO phenomena actually represent. What we have achieved in recent years (and it is a very significant and positive achievement) is a level of critical investigation where we can at least depend on the UFO sighting data we now gather. We can, at last, have an informed debate on the nature and origin of UFOs.■

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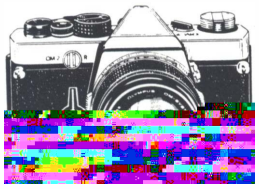


AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE ANALYSIS CENTRE

A RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

On January 1, 1980, the Australian Photographic Evidence Analysis Centre was formed. Its primary function is to serve as a centre where all pictorial material relating to Unidentified Flying Objects can be collated and analysed competently, in an unbiased and scientific manner.

The Centre will concentrate on all known available Australian material. It will arrange for a preliminary inspection to be carried out by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies consultants, versed in photographic analysis techniques, then, if warranted, it will forward the 'hard residue' material (that which survives crucial first stage inspection) on to overseas centres (i.e. Ground Saucer Watch Inc.) where computerised enhancement facilities will be utilised to formulate a decision on the validity of the material and assess its worth to the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon.

Should non-Australian photographic data come to its attention, the centre will still arrange the abovementioned analyses but only on a secondary level. The primary aim is to analyse Australian material and preference will be given in this area at all times.

A preliminary listing of known Australian cases where photographs were produced has been compiled and distributed by Keith Basterfield of UFO Research SA Inc. It is this listing that the initial search will refer to, adding to it as more previously unknown material comes to light. There will be no costs incurred by any person or group submitting data to the APEAC - it will be entirely self sufficient, and self governing, and copies of all analytical material produced will be included in the return of submitted photographs/slides/films.

Three consultants have been enlisted to adjudicate on the value of submitted data: They are Mr Frank Gillespie (scientific advisor ACUFOS) Dr Geoff Stevens (scientific advisor ACUFOS) and Dr Don-Herbison Evans (scientific advisor ACUFOS). It is felt that such a competent and experienced assembly of scientists acting on behalf of the APEAC will be able to evaluate accurately any and all data made available to it, now and in the future.

It is envisioned that, eventually, all of the photographic evidence on UFOs known to exist in this country will be compiled into a singular filing system, for later reference and study. It is hoped to have copies of original material with the APEAC but reproductions will suffice for record purposes. Where none of these can be located, a facsimile (i.e. newspaper clipping) will suffice.

Your help in this study is requested. Should you have in your possession any information pertinent to the APEAC would you kindly write to, or contact direct:

David Reneke
26 Deccan Way
Bidwill NSW 2770

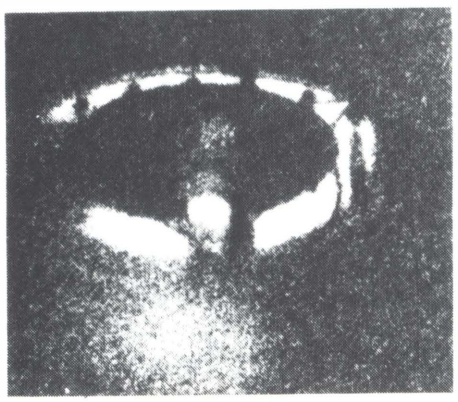
(Phone: 628 6633)

Several interesting photographic cases are presently under study and, after evaluation, full details will be distributed to all ACUFOS affiliated groups.

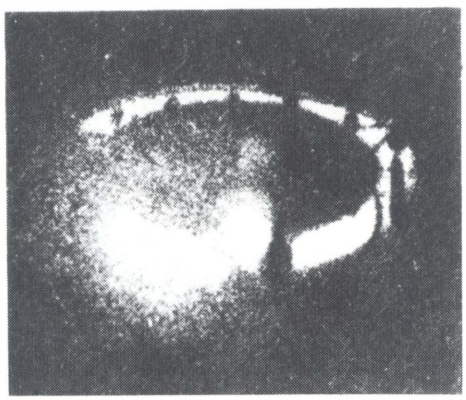
In this instance, the photographer was quite unused to amateur film making and was even less impressed with the object he was looking at. Had he believed that the object in the sky that night represented something more than a simple, mundane astronomical effect, he may have taken a little more care in shooting and would almost certainly have taken much more film than he did. Had this been the case then the unfortunate fate of the remaining 10 frames of the filmed sequence may have been different, as will be explained later in this article.

The 50 frame segment was passed onto a New Zealand researcher, Capt. Bruce Cathie, former pilot with the Royal New Zealand Air Force and author of many books on the UFO phenomenon, for his comments in June 1969.

Cathie confirmed the earlier evaluation and suggested microscopic examination, in detail, should be carried out in order to extract the maximum amount of data. Cathie deleted 40 of the frames and kept 10, those promising the most scientific information.



Blow-up of frame 9, searchlight moving to left.



Blow-up of frame 10, searchlight on left.

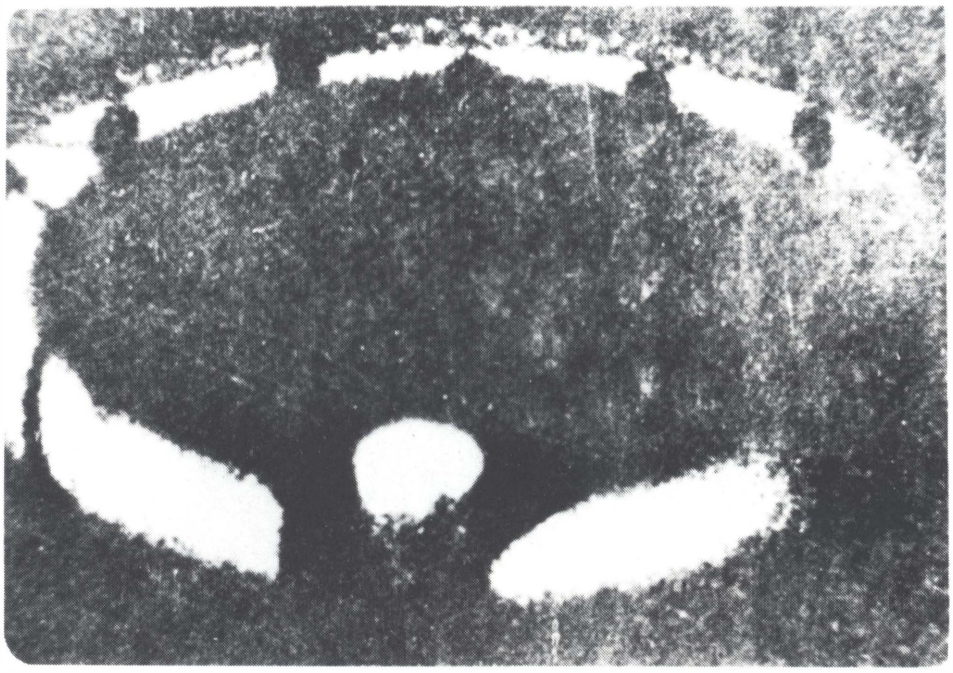
These 10 frames intact were despatched overseas to the ICUFON, a UFO research analytical network in the U.S.A. for a more thorough scrutiny using modern enhancement techniques; this proved to be a mistake in one way as the film segment suffered irrepairable damage through incompetent handling by the persons to whom it was entrusted by the ICUFON.

On the other hand, it did provide much quantative data as the analysis was discovered and frame blow-ups were made in time to allow scientists in the group to form some definite conclusions.

In tracing the sequence of events it was found that the film strip was given to a micro-photographer in New York City by the Director of ICUFON, Maj. (Ret.) Colman Von Keviczky, who came highly recommended by Karl Zeiss Inc. Instructions were given to magnify each frame in 3 different sizes as requested by ICUFON and the results were promised within 2 weeks.

However, things started to go wrong; a series of claims and denials concerning the film strip's whereabouts resulted causing many months delay, all enquiries about the film falling on deaf ears. It seemed that the priceless piece of film had been lost for all time.

A court case ensued over this with ICUFON's director in October, 1969, and it was



An extreme enlargement - the lighted circle represents the entire object with what appear to be "portholes" at the back. The supposed "window" can be seen at the front with the outline of a "figure" in the lower right hand corner.

(Please note:- image reversed during processing).

revealed that the film strip had been damaged "accidentally" during processing. ICUFON's legal claim for compensation was dismissed by the judge 3 days after the hearing but the filmstrip was eventually returned, in totally worthless condition having sustained massive damage along it's entire length.

It seemed as though somebody didn't want its secret made known, that is, the true nature of the images on the film.

During the 4 months dealing with the analyst he continually claimed that he was the only one who could do a competent job and boasted of his "expertise" in the field of photographic analysis.

As it turned out, the man is merely a co-worker with NASA and his house and property remain under Government protection.

It was thought that the matter would rest here, but more was yet to come. On December 19, 1969, the completed analysis, as yet not disclosed to the ICUFON, was delivered to one of the largest National U.S. magazines upon request by the editor.

ICUFON, not having received the original manuscript, mailed a request for its return on January 16, 1970. On January 17 they were officially told that no such analysis was received by the editorial office and a check could not locate any written evidence confirming ICUFON's initial delivery of material in the first place.

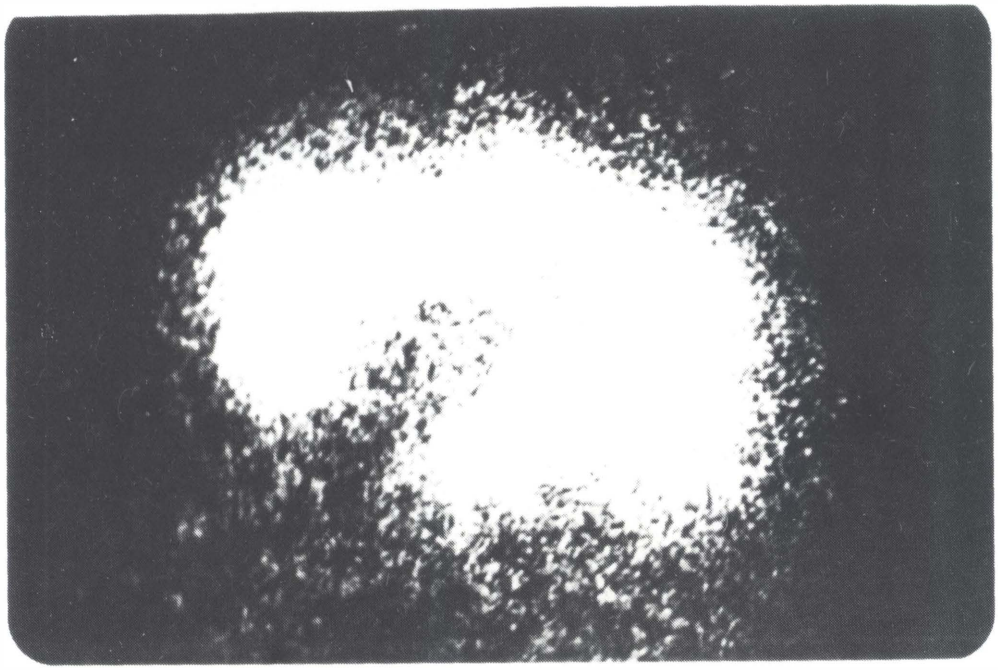
However, on January 18, 1970, written evidence was produced "promising delivery" from the analyst and on January 22, FIVE DAYS later, the whole document was "mysteriously" found on the editor's desk!

The magazine claimed it had been "misplaced" by the editor!

RESULTS OF FRAME ANALYSIS

Microscopic enlargement of the object reveals an apparently circular craft, free from protrusions of any sort. The craft is facing the camera with an illuminated compartment window and from within comes a bluish light; this effect is quite striking when still enlargements are viewed and attests to the initial statement by the witnesses that it gave off such a colour to the eye.

There is no movement of the object itself throughout the 10 frame sequence which again confirms Mr M's assumption that it was hovering.



Maximum enlargement of "window"

The craft seems to be self-luminescent, in the same striking blue hue but more intense than that coming from the window area. On the right side of the craft there appears to be another compartment, similar to the one in the front containing the window.

The rear section of the craft displays what appears to be a series of portholes running around the entire circumference, they seem to be equi-distant in spacing and illustrate quite successfully the common testimony from many witnesses that porthole type openings were visible built into the rim.

In frame number 8 a light beam can easily be seen coming from behind the front compartment window. It is directed straight downward in this frame, but in frame number 9 the beam is seen changing its position to the left.

It is fortunate that, during the filmed sequence, this light beam was in motion. It appears to be intelligently controlled and looks like some form of strong torch or searchlight scanning the night sky and its surroundings.

There is a great deal of difference in the position of the beam in frame number 10, it appears that it either gained in intensity or was reflecting off the outer metallic body of the craft. A comparison of frames 9 and 10 will quickly serve to show the rapid motion of the beam.

It is also interesting to note that no light beam is visible in frames 1 - 7. Curiously, on these frames the colour of the beam is bluish green, whilst on pictures 8, 9, and 10 it is more of a red/orange tinge.

There appears to be some missing details in the frames concerning the left hand side of the filmed object.

It would appear that, due to the estimated distance of 1 mile, the amount of illumination was insufficient to show up on the film.

As the abovementioned data was being accumulated, researchers noticed something that would place this particular piece of film way above the thousands that have been taken. Close examination of the lighted front compartment window reveals a vague shadow, in human form, apparently standing looking out!

Intense interest centered around this feature of the frame and another scan was commissioned. 1,000 times magnification of the window clearly and unmistakably reveals a back lighted silhouette; it was found that the entire 10 frame sequence had this feature.

This was made visible by the changes in density of the figure throughout the sequence.

So there we have it, an incidental movie-maker without professional knowledge and equipment has probably produced one of the most genuine photograph sequences on record. It is definitely considered to be one of the strongest cases in the history of the study of the UFO phenomenon and has, for the first time given us the most bona-fide view of one of the occupants of these craft.■

stop press

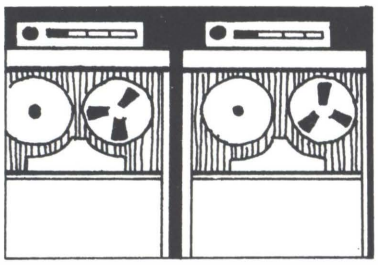
Another possible physical trace case has been reported from the Rosedale, Victoria (UFORAN Vol.2 No.1) area.

Three perfect 10cm wide circles, approximately 3m in diameter, were found forming a triangle of 5m diameter (overlapping) on the Tinamba property of Mr Henry Gallatly. The trace is 200m from the Gallatly homestead on level ground.

Bill Chalker of UFO Research (NSW) interviewed Mr Gallatly by telephone recently and found that Kim Gallatly (son), and his girlfriend had seen a red/white flashing light in the sky some two weeks before the traces were found.

A white, chalky substance was reportedly found in the soil of the three circles.

Photographs of the rings are being forwarded to Bill Chalker.■



PROJECT U.R.D.

A SWEDISH SYSTEM

AIMED AT COMPUTERIZATION OF UFO DATA

The computerization of UFO data is held in high esteem nowadays within the international UFO research community. Dozens of data systems at different levels of refinement have been (or are being) designed by researchers around the globe. The Swedish Project U.R.D. (Project UFO Report and Data) is one of the most ambitious attempts, and has a definite international outlook. One of projects goals is to become a world-wide center for UFO report computerization.

The co-operation of other countries is sought by this Stockholm based group of computer research specialists who are employed by organizations such as IBM, the National Academy of Engineering Science and the Stockholm University.

Project U.R.D. is a project and not an organization. The project can unite the efforts made by various UFO study groups all over the world if investigation and documentation methods are standardized sufficiently to provide a sound basis for scientific analysis.

The project has been designed in co-operation with Swedish UFO study groups and scientists from many disciplins. Ten professional scientists designed the U.R.D. report form.

Project U.R.D. was developed in 1972 and the work leading up to the present U.R.D. concept was finished in 1973. Since then methods have been revised to some extent. It is worth noting that the concept preceeding the one presented here was one of much greater complexity. Due to the "human error factors," and some practical aspects, it was necessary to reduce the complexity of the project. However, when instrumental registrations of great accuracy are achieved it will be relatively simple to return to the original concept.

ANALYSIS OF PRESENT CONDITION

During the initial analysis of requirements all factors relating to the UFO problem were screened. The most fundamental ones are:

1. The occurence of UFOs cannot be predetermined or controlled.

2. Information collection is highly vulnerable to the "human error" factor.

3. Few cases are accompanied by instrumental registrations.

4. The psychological climate has not been positive. This has caused the number of reported events to be only a fraction of those actually occurring.

5. Investigators often lack technical/scientific training. They have, therefore, not been able to find all information necessary for a proper evaluation.

6. Interviews easily tend to be leading, thereby distorting the actual information.

7. Desirable/necessary information content within a report has not yet been discussed deeply enough.

8. Information content has not been structured and classed to permit a more rational handling.

9. Organizational and practical difficulties affecting immediate follow up of an event.

10. No real co-ordination between countries of reporting, and almost no co-ordination between different groups/organizations within a country.

One conclusion can be drawn from the above: UFO "research" lacks an effective and scientific instrument for collection and analysis of UFO reports.

The reason for this may be that the UFO phenomena covers most scientific disciplins. Also there is a language barrier, different motives for interest in the phenomena, etc.

To come to grips with this situation the following has been done:

1. The creation of a reporting network on a local, national and international level.

2. A classification system has been created covering potential information existing in typical reports.

3. An educational system has been introduced to give field investigators necessary training for proper and scientific work.

4. The development of a computer system for registration and analysis of collected information.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

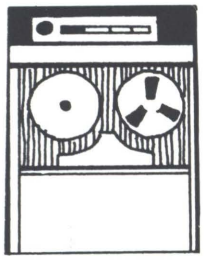
Because is is necessary to collect information on a global basis the U.R.D. system has been designed accordingly and split into the following functional units:

1. Field investigators who are responsible for the actual investigation and documentation work.

2. A national report center initiating and co-ordinating the field investigators work. This center also does the final compilation of the report.

3. An international center which receives all the uncoded reports and which is responsible for computer registration and analysis.

Investigation and research by specialists are initiated by the national center in co-operation with the field investigator.



In some countries it may be practical to further subdivide into separate regions. The responsibility for initiation and follow-up then rests upon the regional centers. Depending on personal and other resources this basic structure can, however, be modified to achieve maximum possible efficiency.

INFORMATION DISTORTION

A transfer of information is likely to distort it in one way or another. This distortion can be so severe that it becomes extremely difficult to discover the original information. It can even happen that the distortion is taken for information.

In analyzing and documenting an UFO event we find three critical transfers of information:

1. When the phenomena was observed:

What did actually happen and how did the observer interpret it? To be able to clarify this to some extent one must also try to get some knowledge about the observer and his capabilities in such a situation.

2. When the observer is questioned:

It has been noticed that the observer often lacks adequate expressions for what has been observed. Besides, the reference system of the observer is different from that of the field investigator.

3. When the observation is documented:

Transferring a series of events into static pictures always means that some information will be lost. Furthermore the investigator may have misunderstood details in the observers narrative and may also have difficulties in describing the phenomena.

The first of the possible distortions may be difficult to come to grips with despite its vital role. The second and third possibilities are easier to eliminate, thereby minimizing total distortion.

One way to do this is to train field investigators and develop report forms and investigation techniques especially suited to this type of work. Furthermore, field investigators should work two and two together when analyzing and documenting an UFO event.

STRUCTURIZATION OF INFORMATION

For it to be possible, and meaningful, to store and rationally handle all vital information about an UFO event, the information must be structured carefully. Such an effort will also simplify field work. Within Project U.R.D. this is one of the basic features and allows us to handle a large amount of information, per report, with greater ease than ever before.

Two different principles have been used for the structuring of information bits:

1. With respect to information.

2. With respect to time.

The first concept allows us to divide all information into separate groups. This simplifies both the report form design and computer file design as well as the work in the field.

In the second concept we have adopted a new way of looking at an UFO event. It is, hereby, possible to make computer aided analysis of events to see if different events might be caused by the same phenomenon. This also allows us to make detailed computer aided studies of the behaviour of a phenomena relating different manoeuvers to changes in speed, colour etc. In doing this we may be able to secure definite patterns of behaviour that might lead to some classification of the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

With regard to information the following classification has been done:

A. Time of occurence and organizational identity.

B. Location specifications.

C. Observer information.

D. Static information about the phenomena.

E. Behaviour of the phenomena.

It is worth noting that this also allows us to document and study cases where more than one object and or observer is involved.

With this basic structure all detailed information is classed. For practical reasons, information pieces have been assigned limits of value rather than attempting to store definite values. It is very seldom that precise numerical values can be secured with a high degree of accuracy. At this phase of research it is not necessary with such detailed information.

Furthermore, the principle of square law has been applied when assigning limits to the actual values. Thus we approach the way in which the human senses work and minimize possible errors.

COMPUTER SYSTEM

The computer system of project U.R.D. was designed with the usage of an on-line data base system in mind. Combined with specially designed programs for complex selections this will properly fulfill its function as a fact access library of report abstracts.

From the beginning it has been our aim to use the computer as a tool for initial report analysis in order to find recurrent patterns. Also it provides a fast feedback function in the sense that one might find unexpected recurrent patterns requiring changes in investigation methods.

The information structure lends itself easily to computer storage on any media. However, one should avoid using cards mainly because they do not permit the fast handling which will be necessary when the number of reports increases.

For the time being tapes are used to store report abstracts, and disc packs are used for information processing. The actual computer is an IBM 370/165 with facilities

for plotting and telecommunications. As the economic situation only permits a temporary solution, computer usage will be restricted to registration and some statistics. Later, the tape files will be converted and the system expanded into its full concept.

Local computer files are of course a possibility and this has been discussed during the design phase. However, all reports should be stored at one site, otherwise processing of the total amount of information will be almost impossible due to communication problems. Even if only one computer is being used, all participating organizations have equal possibilities of access to the stored reports. Utilization of the computer system is, of course, based on a non-profit concept. The computer handling responsibility, in this case, lies with the organization located at the computer site. No organization having this responsibility, has any right to stop any member within the project from utilizing the complete file.■

Source: AFU NEWSLETTER (Archives for UFO Research) - Sweden.

FURTHER NOTES ON U.R.D.

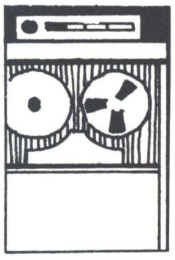
By Anders Liljegren

On May 25, 1973, members of three Stockholm UFO groups sent inquiries to several other Scandinavian groups concerning the idea of a common working party. This met with positive responses from several groups, particularly those Swedish groups which had not associated with the UFO-Sweden organization (created just three years earlier). The idea was formalized at a meeting in Stockholm when the Project U.R.D. was instituted to pool resources on data collection and to work out a common educational program for investigators. A common definition of UFO phenomena was accepted.

During 1973-74 work proceeded on the educational package and a systematic 7 page report form, aimed at computer studies. The nucleus of the U.R.D. team in Stockholm were actively working with computers and so, from the start, the project was heavily structured to suit data analysis. An educational loose-leaf binder (The U.R.D. blue book), comprising some 70 pages plus report forms, booklets from the weather bureau, etc, was ready by 1974. Many U.R.D. courses were held in 1974-75 to train 100 potential investigators, particularly in giving true representations of UFO events on the U.R.D. forms.

In July 1975 U.R.D. was formalized as a privately financed foundation, the "International U.R.D. Foundation." The foundation is ruled by a six-headed board of directors.

There was still, however, a lack of interest from field investigators outside of the major towns of Stockholm and Gothenburg. UFO-Sweden, the national UFO organization had started its own chain of field investigators which worked mainly to feed this organization with data for publication in their magazine. At least as concerns the number of reports and geographical spread UFO-Sweden was the more successful group. They declined any co-operation with U.R.D. the attitude being that U.R.D. was an unnecessary duplication of efforts. This policy still remains in 1981 despite changes in UFO-Sweden leadership.



In 1974 a heavy concentration of UFO events occurred just north of Stockholm which provided U.R.D. with some 100 raw reports, incidents which so far have not been documented to the general public. Investigations in the area were carried out in close co-operation with the military. Among the more bizarre was one classic "abduction" case, investigated under hypnosis by one of Sweden's leading hypnosis experts.

PROJECT U.R.D.

In 1976 U.R.D. extended its interest to Finland in co-ordination with Finnish ufologists. Members of the team have travelled to many countries "trying to sell" the concept. Harald Thuresson and Bjarne Hakansson visited Hynek in 1976 and 1979, respectively. Thuresson also went to Texas (Project Starlight International) and Hakansson saw Dr Jacques Vallee. Besides voyages and presentations within Scandinavia, U.R.D. was actively represented at the BUFORA conference in August 1979, where Bertil Kuhlemann gave his views and U.R.D.'s viewpoints to the working party on international standards of UFO investigation. U.R.D. was given a positive write-up by Canadian ufologist David Haisell. The project was represented at the London conference in May, 1981.

Today, particularly since the Gothenburg group decided to disengage from active field research in 1978, it seems that Project U.R.D. is too much of an armchair project lacking the backup of a national group of people active and interested in documenting day-to-day field investigations. U.R.D. may be a tool for UFO research but has met with great scepticism in Sweden's ufology world, mainly because of the large amount of data in the questionnaire - regarded by many as too ambitions a working-level for todays spare time workers - also the apparent preponderance for computer-adjusted "technological" information where many feel that the need for research may be more apparent on the psychological-psychic side of the UFO puzzle. Be that as it may, personally I feel that every line of "attack" on those mysterious UFOs should be tried out and that, seen from an international perspective, U.R.D. may prove to be a useful tool.

REFERENCES ON U.R.D.

Bertil Kuhlemann: Some reflections on UFO research and international co-operation. Journal UFO Vol. 2 No. 1 pp. 22-23.

David A Haisell: The first London International UFO Congress 26-27 August 1979. Journal UFO Vol. 1 No. 3 pp. 12-20.

PROJECT U.R.D. REPORT No. 1 - Characteristics of a UFO report file.

This report contains more than 100 pages of computer output, obtained when analyzing the U.R.D. file of June 1978 with the statistical program package SPSS. {The report form used by U.R.D. is unusually rich in details}.

The report can be ordered from:

International U.R.D. Foundation,
Box 454, S-101 26 Stockholm
SWEDEN.

Please enclose a check for US $15, payable to "International U.R.D. Foundation, Sweden."

'ANGEL'S HAIR'

MYTH OR REALITY ?

By Keith Basterfield

(Co-ordinator of
the Australian Centre for UFO Studies)

(MUFON Continental Co-ordinator for
Australia and New Zealand)

The term "Angel hair" describes a "web-like" substance which has been seen on or falling to the ground. Sometimes a fall of this substance is preceeded by an Unidentified Flying Object being reported.

At other times the "web" is observed without the presence of any associated UFO. The material is said to possess unusual properties, mainly its ability to "disappear" within a short period of time. Some proponents of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis link it in some nebulous way to the propulsion systems of spaceships. Others, being more down to earth, suggest that there is nothing unusual in falls of this substance. The explanation is merely GON (good old nature) and it can all be explained away as spiders' web.

Who is right?

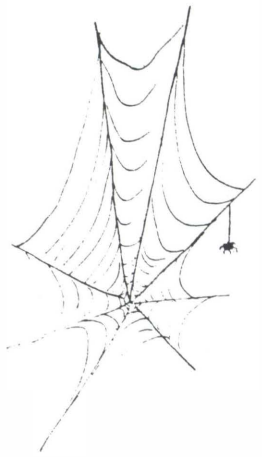
The purpose of this article is to explore the available evidence for the reader to decide.

In preparing this article I collected, and studied, over sixty references to a "filament" or "web-like" substance from all over the world which have been associated with the UFO phenomena or considered as an apparently abnormal event.

AN OVERVIEW

Let us first review the history of "angel hair." One of the first ufologists to draw our attention to the subject was Aime Michel (1) in the mid 1950s following the spectacular French episodes of 1952 and 1954. Michel described the classic angel hair over the towns of Oloron and Gaillac in France in October 1952. Several hundred people observed unusual objects in the sky from which a trail of material slowly fell to the ground. For a few hours the gossamer hung over trees, wires and roofs. If rolled in the hands the material sublimed and disappeared. When ignited fibres burnt like cellophane. French entomologists were quick to label the episodes as spiders' web.

Michel replied that it was "A far fetched explanation; and worse than false - absurd; for it forgets one point; the fibres disintegrated in several hours at most. I have never observed that gossamer disintegrates in such a manner." He was content to ask "... does there exist any natural spectacle which could possibly be confounded with the one here described twice over the same wealth of concordant details? For my part I can conceive of none."



The natural spider web hypothesis was also attacked in an article by Sharp (2) who analysed 29 global cases to that date. Unfortunately the source - Flying Saucer Review - omitted to print Sharp's table 1 which listed the 29 cases so we are unable to double check his work. However, he stated in the text that "Angel hair tends to occur in Spring and Autumn with October being especially favoured." He also raises the interesting point - "If the places where the phenomenon was reported are examined by latitude it is found that all the cases occur in a belt of latitude 20° wide centred on 37° north or south."

Sharp's conclusions were (1) "At present there is insufficient evidence to fully explain all aspects of the phenomenon.", and (2) "... anyone attempting to provide an explanation alternative to cobwebs must, at the same time, explain the unusual temporal and geographical distribution of the phenomenon," and lastly, "on the other hand the cobweb pundits must explain those properties of the hair that are not like those of webs and, most importantly of all, explain why UFOs are seen in a high percentage of angel hair cases."

The belief that UFOs and filament were connected was promulgated through popular books and articles in magazines. Binder (3) popularised this belief when he stated "The angel hair had often been touched and even gathered for later analysis, but it always 'evaporated' or otherwide disintegrated swiftly before reaching a laboratory." Later he said "The pattern of unearthly phenomena associated with UFOs goes in other directions besides human reactions. One of the oddest mysteries is the so called angel hair seemingly dropped at times by saucers flying overhead ..." A photograph labelled "Angel Hair as Seen Under a Microscope" goes with his text.

At the request of the United States Air Force in 1969 the University of Colorado published a report containing a small section titled "Material Allegedly Deposited by UFOs." In a chapter headed "Direct Physical Evidence" by Roy Craig, Phd (physical chemistry), Craig (4) reviewed the literature to that date and summarised the described properties of angel hair. One sample of a dry white power was analysed by the Condon study, but was concluded to be the residue of a commonly used house paint. Craig did not review cases or attempt analysis of reports but, nonetheless, finished the section with the observation: "Few recent UFO reports have (sic) involved material of the 'angel hair' type."

However Craig relates that Richard Hall (then of NICAP) had in 1964 in "The UFO Evidence" stated that many angel hair cases were in fact webs from ballooning spiders.

In the 1970s we find that reports have decreased. In the decade 1950-59 I collected 33 cases, between 1960-69 17 cases but only 6 for the years 1970-79.

It would appear that angel hair cases are a thing of the past.

Hendry (5) advises that "Unfortunately, on the rare occassions when the material has been chemically analysed, the results have always been commonplace," and bemoaned the fact that a report he had of a dull silver round object dropping white filaments, turned out to be coagulated strands of spiders' web.

Andersen (6) described a whole area of land in West Jutland, Denmark, which was covered by material falling from the sky. It consisted of light, thin fibrous threads in long strands which were white in colour. He was informed that the threads evaporated within a very short time - this was later found to mean it disintegrated when held in hand. Some speculated that it was radar jamming material, others that it came from a fire, an

oil slick, spiders' web or from a UFO.

The authorative "Encyclopedia of UFOs" (Story) (7) states: "... it is obvious that, in many cases, the substance has been nothing but cobwebs spun by balloooning spiders," but later adds, "... there are some surprising reports on record which cause one to suspend final judgement." However, two out of three cases quoted at length describe observations of cobweb like material with no associated UFOs, which causes one to suspect that there aren't many well documented UFO related web falls if this encyclopedia could only come up with one.

With these comments in mind we will now take a look at some of the actual reports before proceeding to analyse them. Here I must record my thanks to John Burford, whose collection of filament cases has been heavily drawn on in producing summaries of the cases.

THE EVENTS

There have been some extremely old cases unearthed by researchers. Examples of these are:- (8)

October 1, 679, Naniwa (now Osaka) Japan

Cotton-like matter, about 5 - 6 feet long, fell over Japan and drifted in the wind.

October 14, 1779 Osaka Japan

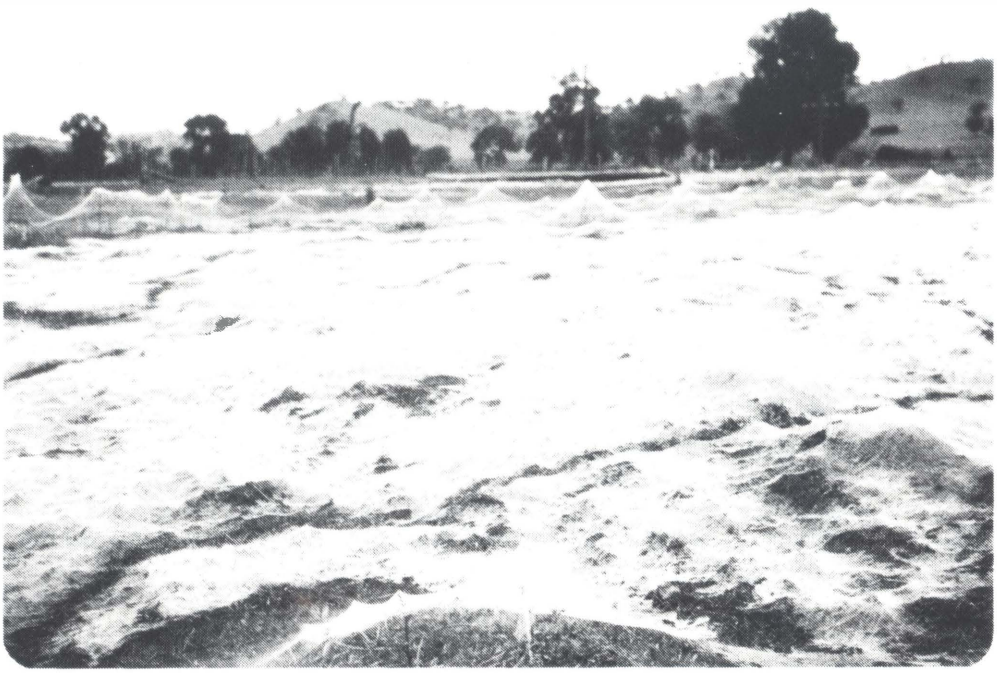
A substance much like a spider's web fell from a clear windless sky over the suburbs of Yodogaua and Tennoji. Many fibres wafted up again, but some remained on the ground. The fibres resembled spiders' gossamer but were much thicker and evaporated when touched. They fell from noon till 2 p.m.

July 15, 1793,

Tokyo Japan

Light showers of white "hair" 33 - 38 inches long fell.

(Unfortunately not much documentation exists on these old cases).



Spiders' Web
GUNDAGAI NSW 1969

Photographed by: Mr W. L. Hassack

ANGEL'S HAIR

1881, Milwaukee Wisc. USA

A general fall of web appeared to come from a great height. The strands were from 2 feet to several rods in length. In all instances the webs were strong in texture and very white. There was no mention of the presence of spiders.

1914, Far North of South Australia

Mr E. C. Finn, now of Adelaide, described a substance which floated in on a steady light south-west breeze. Pieces of it were 6 - 9 inches long and fell to earth, disolving within minutes, leaving no trace. At the time the concensus was that the substance was an atmospheric fungus.

1920, Grace Plains Australia (11)

Fences, posts, trees and thistles were all hung with gossamer like streamers for the air was full of them. On inspection of one on a post top, a small, fat, round spider was found.

It can be seen from these six examples prior to 1947 that there was no mention of unidentified flying objects at all but streamers, web or substance only.

Moving on to 1952 we have the classic cases which are constantly referred to in the UFO literature as genuine angel hair events, and would be regarded as the "perfect" angel hair episodes.

October 17, 1952, Oloron France (12)

On a clear cloudless day the Prigent family saw: - "In the north, a cottony cloud of strange shape was floating against the blue sky. Above it a long narrow cylinder, apparently inclined at a 45° angle, was slowly moving in a straight line towards the south-west. I estimated its altitude as 2 or 3 kilometres. The object was whitish, non-luminous, and very distinctly defined. A sort of plume of white smoke was escaping from its upper end. At some distance in front of the cylinder, about 30 other objects were following the same trajectory. To the naked eye they appeared as featureless balls resembling puffs of smoke. But with the help of opera glasses it was possible to make out a central red sphere surrounded by a sort of yellowish ring inclined at an angle." The angle, according to Mr Prigent, "was such as to conceal almost entirely the lower part of the central sphere: while revealing its upper surface. These 'saucers' moved in pairs, following a broken path characterised in general by rapid and short zigzags. When two saucers drew away from one another a whitish streak, like an electric arc, was produced between them.

All these strange objects left an abundant trail behind them, which slowly fell to the ground as it dispersed. For several hours clumps of it hung in the trees, on the telephone wires and on the roofs of the houses."

Michel described the fibres as resembling wool or nylon. When rolled into a ball, they rapidly became gelatinous, then sublimed in the air and disappeared. Teachers ignited fibres which burned like cellophane. Dozens of people witnessed this event.

ANGEL'S HAIR

October 27, 1952, Gaillac France (13)

In this sighting dozens of people viewed identical objects to those seen at Oloron. There was a long plumed cylinder inclined at 45° amidst a score of saucers. The only difference to Oloron was that some pairs of saucers occasionally descended quite low, about 300 - 400 metres. The spectacle lasted for about 20 minutes before cigar and saucer shaped UFOs disappeared over the horizon.

Masses of white thread fell, even after the objects had gone. Fibres became gelatinous, sublimed then disappeared.

Victoria, Australia, saw a very interesting event in October 1953 when a UFO (14/1) was seen overhead discharging a white trail before disappearing at great speed. The white substance floated gently to the earth and settled on wires, trees, walls etc., and was found to consist of strange shiny filaments similar to spiders' web. The substance vapourised completely and disappeared within a few minutes. However, it is stated that some of these filaments are still preserved in a container, and have changed little in 20 years. The UFOIC account says they shrank from 3 inches to a ½ inch leaving no residue. A chemical analysis showed them to be literally borosilicate glass (a form of glass wool) containing boron, silicon, magnesium and calcium with traces of other elements.

M. Hervey (14/3) reports an event at 3.50 p.m. on October 9, 1953, which occurred at Caulfield, Melbourne, Victoria. It concerns a Mr John Anderson who whilst cycling saw a silken thread curving to the roadway. Investigation showed it to be a grey-white, cobweb-like filament. The thread had a tendency to become wrinkled as thin woollen threads do, and on handling rapidly disintegrated until no trace was left.

Apparently this event is described in an Australian magazine accompanied by a (14/2) photograph. The description carried is:-

"In recent years only a few UFO reports refer to a filamentous substance 'angel's hair' having been seen falling from the sky after a flying saucer had passed over ... In the earlier report of October 1953, over Victoria, a sample was recovered and made available for laboratory analysis. The examination revealed that the substance consisted of a nylon-like amorphous mass with traces of magnesium, calcium, boron and silicon. Since then the original material, which was kept in an air-tight container, shrank from three feet to a mere half inch without residue."

Six months later on May 12, 1964 (15) Shepparton, Victoria was the scene of yet another fall. Hervey states:-

"Mr Ramon Estrada, of Shepparton, reported that at 4 p.m. on May 12, 1954, he happened to see silk-like threads floating down from the sky. He also saw several long strands of this material sailing north. The average length of these strands was thirty feet. At 4.30 p.m. there was a similar occurrence, only the number of threads was doubled.

Mr Estrada gathered some of these filaments and although they became wrinkled, they did not disintegrate. In an air tight container he sent a sample of this mysterious substance to the headquarters of the AFSB which, in its subsequent report, said that the substance was pure white in colour, silky in formation, though harder in texture. It was odourless, warm to the touch like cotton, and different from cobwebs which, after a time, are sticky and grey.

A microscopic examination revealed a mass formation of uniform threads of a very

Spiders' Web
ALBURY Vic. May, 1974.

Photographed by: Kevin Dixon

fine type. A comparison with the microscopic analysis of cobwebs showed that the Shepparton filaments were coarser. There was some resemblance to white raw silk or even nylon. The "cosmic silk" was highly susceptible to the disintegrating action of the atmosphere and the sample had to be kept in a tightly closed container.

The substance did not dissolve in water. A test in a strong caustic soda solution caused the matter to disappear momentarily. It burned rapidly leaving no smell or ash unlike wool, cotton, silk or cobwebs. The threads were not sticky or oily, but dry. Like silk they stretched easily at the ends as little hairs were detached from the spool. The most important characteristic was the length of the original strands coming down from the sky which averaged thirty feet."

As you will observe the above account was reported by only one person and does not refer to a UFO at all.

In Australia we have yet to take a serious look at the August 6, 1961 fall at Meekatharra WA, or the fall on June 6, 1962, at Caroda NSW.

August 6 (5?), 1961, Meekatharra, WA

Twelve round objects moving in pairs were sighted by ten independent witnesses moving generally north to south. They left a white trail of streamers which crumbled and disappeared when picked up. The silvery, round objects passed over at regular intervals between 8.20 and 9.15 a.m. No aircraft or met balloons had been in the area.

June 6, 1962, Caroda, NSW

At 11.20 a.m. in a cloudless sky residents of Caroda saw an object resembling a very brilliant star climbing slowly to an altitude slightly south of the zenith, where it became too small to be seen.

A few minutes later a second silvery globe was observed travelling from the north, then in an arc which brought it overhead. After completing a circle it hovered for 10 seconds, then moved off to the south-east until lost from view about 30° south-east. Of all the objects seen this was the best defined enabling its circular outline to be observed and distinguished from that of an aircraft.

Later a third object appeared resembling the first and following a similar route. Then another very small speck of light became visible to the west. It appeared to leave a trail of shiny, web-like filaments which gradually disintegrated as they drifted through the air. Two other objects followed very high in the sky and were only visible for a short while.

A hazy mist of light threads seemed to fill the sky. Traces of silvery threads, some as long as 5 feet,with a fine nylon like texture were observed disintegrating slowly.

The Meekatharra and Caroda events report a number of UFOs which discharged filaments that reached the ground or near ground and are as classic in this respect as the Gaillac or Oloron events were in France in 1952.

1968 brought a "flap" of reports of angel hair from my home state of South Australia. There were at least four individually reported falls in May of that year. On the 11th the lawns of the maternity wing of the Soldier's Memorial hospital, Peterborough, resembled (18) a silken mat after a fall of web. Mr Frank Foster reported that the web formed at 3 p.m. but disappeared overnight. He observed hundreds of spiders in the web.

On the same day at Brinkley (19) near Murray Bridge web-like strands up to a chain long floated down like snow on a farm belonging to Mr R. A. Kennett. He said it was similar to asbestos rope of pencil width which stuck to soil and twigs.

Also some time in May web resembling "fine woven cotton" was seen on a lawn at Cheltenham (20), an Adelaide suburb, and pieces of substance were picked up off the Glenelg golf course. (21)

Mr V. H. Mincham of the South Australian museum identified samples as being spiders' web and all four South Australian falls can be attributed to this.

Reports of angel hair declined during the 1970s but a spectacular reoccurrence happened over West Jutland, Denmark on September 20, 1979 (22). Whole areas of land were covered in a strange material which fell from the sky. It was described as being a highly sticky substance consisting of light, thin white fibrous threads held together in long strands and varying in size from small pieces to great chunks as big as a football. It was said to evaporate within a very short time.

Was this then the true angel's hair?

Samples were obtained by a Danish UFO group, SUFOI, and it turned out that the material had disintegrated in the hand but remained essentially unchanged over several hours. SUFOI collected samples the day of the fall.

Tests carried out on the material clearly showed its origin. The substance was identified as spiders' web. Independant civil defense analysis showed it to be made up of animal protein. Finally it turned out that some people had in fact found spiders in the web.

This single event shows that modern, chemical analysis could determine the origin of the material and that in this instance it turned out to be spiders' web.

DISCUSSION:

The 17 reports we have examined here are representative of more than 60 gathered from all over the world. As stated earlier there are those who mention UFOs and those which do not. In many, if not most, of those which describe the mere finding of material, an answer lies in terrestrial spiders' web, of this there is little doubt, as the 1979 Danish event shows.

Of the others which do describe UFOs, what precisely occurred ? Briefly let us review these episodes.

ANGEL'S HAIR

17.10.52 Oloron - Cloudless day. Long narrow cylinder, white non-luminous inclined at 45° slowly moving in straight line. In front were 30 other object (balls) moving in rapid short zigzags. They left a trail which fell to earth. White fibres resembling wool/nylon. When rolled up disappeared. Burnt like cellophane.

27.10.52 Gaillac - Long plumed cylinder inclined at 45°, saucers. Masses of white fibres fell. Disappeared.

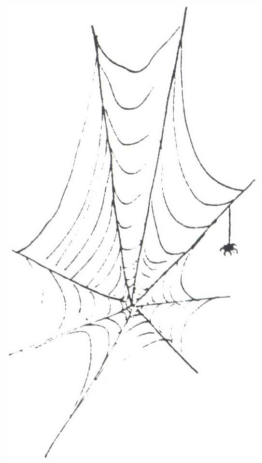
9.10.53 Caulfield - UFO overhead discharged white trail. Shiny filament. Chemical analysis revealed borosilicate glass. Vapourised within minutes.

6.8.61 Meekatharra - 12 silver, round objects left a trail of white streamers which crumbled and disappeared when picked up.

6.6.62 Caroda - Cloudless sky, six objects, mainly silver globes seen passing at intervals. Fourth one left a trail of shiny web-like material which disintegrated when drifting through air. Fine nylon-like texture.

As can be seen from the five "classic" angel hair cases reviewed here, there seems little doubt of the connection between the objects observed and the fall of threads/fibres. None of the five reports any spiders and all describe an apparently similar substance - a white filament/fibre/streamer which disappeared or vapourised within a few minutes. Have we found genuine angel's hair? Well, this is about as far as we can go on the evidence which is available to me.

Looking at the five events one could make out a case for Meekatharra and Caroda being merely observations of balls of spiders' web floating through the sky. You will note that pieces of spiders' web which fell in 1979 in Denmark were as big as a football. Also Hendry has commented on chunks of web being observed. The UFO in the Caulfield account is not described and the analysis speaks against the web theory. Lacking, however, in all these accounts from UFO groups and books are adequate documentation on the cases. Heavy documentation e.g. a full copy of the analysis performed in the Caulfield case, which laboratory, which scientists, etc., is missing.



Oloron and Gaillac in France alone stand out as truely mysterious. Unfortunately even here a full investigation was not conducted by independent researchers at the time of the occurrences, and we rely heavily on witnesses' perceptions. For instance did the material truely disappear or did it merely roll up and break down into very fine threads and disintegrate as in the spiders' web in Denmark in 1979? I don't think we will ever know the answer to this one.

However, until there occur a fresh set of events of this type where the material is picked up, collected, stored and professionally analysed and documented, with undeniable UFOs which are not spiders' balls of web, there is precious little physical evidence which we can draw from the cases which we have on record so far.

Perhaps angel's hair is really "fairy dust," more of a mythical powder spread by people wishing to believe more in magical, mysterious fairies than reality.

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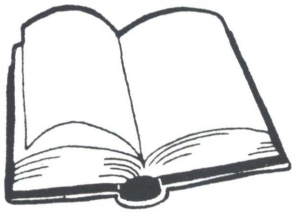

"ARE WE BEING WATCHED ?" "True UFO Sightings by Children Around the World."

By Janet and Colin Bord.

A Book Review by Holly Goriss & Russell Boundy.

This well presented hard cover book is, as the title suggests, a work aimed at children from approximately ten years of age and upwards.

Its straight-forward presentation and larger type make for easy reading, while the fine black and white drawings and the reproductions of actual witness sketches which interspace the text, add interest.

For youngsters who have not previously read anything on UFOs this is an excellent introduction to a subject which should always be treated seriously and in an unbiased manner.

The authors are serious and unbiased in their treatment of the UFO incidents contained in the book and do not attempt to push any favourite theory of their own. Instead, several theories are presented for the readers consideration in relation to the UFO reports.

In chapter 6, entitled "Where Do They Come From?", most of the presently favoured theories relating to UFOs are explained very simply.

The authors who are well known researchers in the United Kingdom, give some good advice on "What To Do If You See A UFO" in Chapter 7.

In a final chapter entitled "UFO Information," a short listing of UFO Groups includes two respected Australian organizations who contributed a number of reports to the book.

All in all, "Are We Being Watched" is ninety six pages of worth while reading for the young Ufologist.

"Are We Being Watched ?" Published by Angus & Robertson (Aust.).
Recommended retail price: $ 10.95.

"THE JANOS PEOPLE" - A close encounter of the fourth kind. - Frank Johnson, Neville Spearman, London 1980. Hard cover 5 pounds 25.

"The Janos People" relates the experiences and recollections of three adults and two children who on June 19, 1978, were apparently abduced by aliens whilst travelling in Oxfordshire, England.

The author Frank Johnson in conjunction with Geoffrey McCartney, a hypnotherapist, spent thirteen active months investigating the case. This book presents their findings.

The story which unfolded was of a classic abduction case which contained a story within a story, for whilst on board the "ship" the abductees were told where the "people" behind the abduction came from, the fate which befell their planet and the reason for them being here.

In summary - these "people" are from a planet called "Janos." They were forced to evacuate their world when one of its moons broke up and fell onto its surface. This caused a devastating chain reaction to begin at a nuclear power station. The Janos people now wait within our solar system for permission to land.

The entire book is reminiscent of the contactee stories of the 1950s except it is set in the 1980s. The event happened to a man - John, his wife - Gloria, John's sister - Frances, John and Gloria's children - Natasha aged five and Tanya aged three.

The abduction began late one evening when the family were travelling by car. Firstly, they observed a bright light in the sky apparently pacing their vehicle. It was then seen, at much closer range, to be a bi-convex lenticular disc.

Strangely at this point the recollection of events goes in two directions. The family remember travelling along an unusual stretch of road which seemed "unreal." However, under hypnosis a time lapse was revealed during which the abduction occurred.

The family hypnotically recalled going on board a spaceship and being medically examined by the Janos people who provided a detailed description, both verbally and visually, of the ship and their home planet.

The author, whilst outlining the experience from numerous interviews, does at times make bold interpretations of the details given. It is apparent that he completely believes an abduction occurred for he finishes the book with "An Open Letter to the Janos People."

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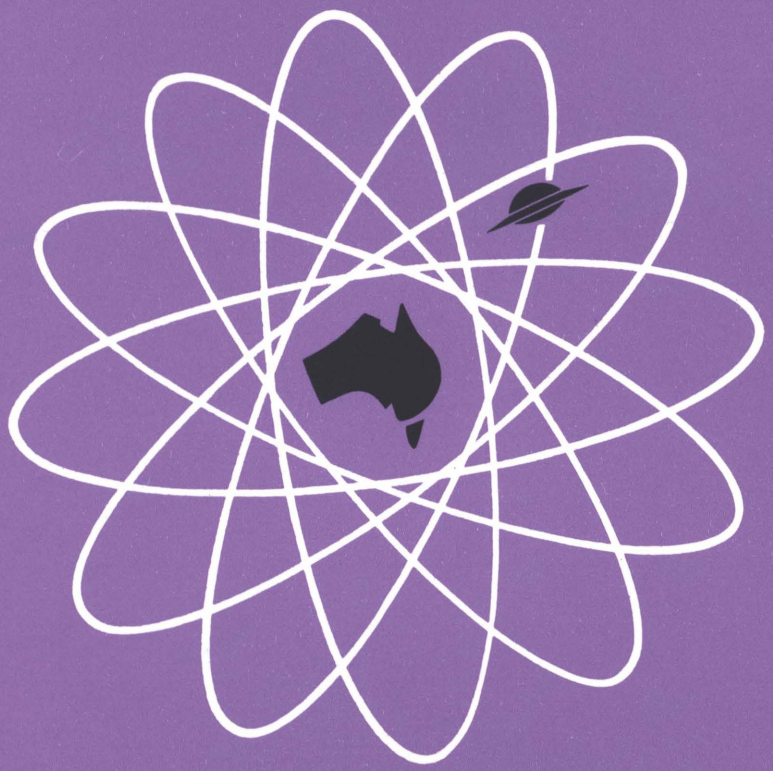

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