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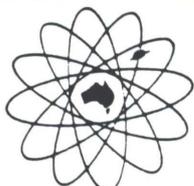
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# editorial

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## ACTIVITY DURING INACTIVE TIMES

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As readers may have noticed on page one, UF0RAN is gradually achieving its objective of establishing a world-wide network of correspondents to ensure comprehensive global coverage of UF0 events. We warmly welcome our new and sincerely thank our existing correspondents for their valuable support.

In addition to our correspondents, it is our intention to present, without prejudice, the work of all researchers of high integrity, throughout the world, whose material constructively reflects their deep and genuine desire to solve the UF0 mystery.

We greatly appreciate all our writers who display dedication and staying power which clearly illustrates the depth of their involvement in UF0 research.

During "drought" years in UF0 activity one can plainly see people of lesser interest becoming inactive and growing "rusty". We are not reproaching uncommitted people who eventually abandon their interest in UF0s because the stimulation of sightings is lacking, rather, our criticism lies with those who maintain responsible positions and fail to fulfil their obligations because of a decline in reports and hence their motivation.

UF0RAN clearly indicates that its correspondents and contributors are not suffering from the undesirable condition of complacency and apathy. For example, although the last few years in Australia have been very quiet report-wise, Bill Chalker has used the extra time this has allowed him in a very positive and worthwhile manner. We congratulate Bill on the outstanding achievement of gaining the confidence of the Royal Australian Air Force {RAAF} and, therefore, being allowed access to a wealth of material illustrating the nature and level of RAAF involvement in UF0 investigations and bringing to light previously unknown cases. Bill's access to RAAF files is the result of long and careful negotiations and, therefore, he is to be doubly commended on the excellence of his diplomacy.

Of course, when it comes to breakthroughs, Bill is not alone - there are other individuals and organizations who have eliminated the attitude of "it can't be done" from their minds. In the United States, for example, the Citizens Against UF0 Secrecy {CAUS} have achieved truly remarkable success in an environment where the deck seemed to have been heavily stacked against them. Their attainments are the result of their sense of justice and determination. We extend to CAUS our congratulations and ongoing support.

The acquisition of new knowledge, be it big or small, enlarges our overview of the unidentified flying object phenomenon. Only through a global overview can trends be identified and explored. All contributors to, and supporters of, UF0RAN recognize the magnitude of the UF0 experience and the necessity of examining it co-operationally on a world-wide scale.

UF0 research is the greatest adventure in human history for the possibility of contacting alien life from space could revolutionize science which is already gaining new knowledge as a consequence of UF0 research. ■

# far north queensland

## "MIN-MIN" LIGHTS ?

BY RUSSELL BOUNDY

(UFORAN Correspondent Far North Queensland)

To date, 1982 in Far North Queensland, in keeping with 1981, has been a quiet year. So far our most active month has been January during which two of the following three unidentified sightings occurred.

The first observation took place on January 20, near the township of Petford, which is approximately 75km south-west of Mareeba, where at 8 p.m., whilst walking towards an outside toilet, a 22 year old man residing at the Petford railway lodgings, which back onto a farm property reservoir known as McGrath Dam, noticed a bright light moving towards the reservoir from the south-east.

The "round light, with an orange tinge", was approximately 400m away travelling at ground level across the reservoir at an estimated 60km/h. Reaching the opposite bank the object made a "left turn" into the scrub and disappeared.

When the witness recounted his sighting of the "beach ball" sized soundless light which did not affect the water surface it travelled only centimetres above, he was told by local residents that it was "only the Petford Min-Min light".

Several days later, on January 23, at approximately 9 p.m., two ten year old boys, named Peter and Hagen, living at Bellenden Ker, 58km south of Cairns, observed an unusual object for an estimated one and a half hours.

The weather at Bellenden Ker was partly cloudy but overall quite clear. The boys were swimming in Hagen's family pool while watching lightning from an electrical storm over the sea, east of the coastal ranges, when 4km away in the mangroves, towards the ranges in the east, Hagen saw a light, "like a light-house flashing", and drew Peter's attention to what they decided must be a light from a boat on the Russell River.

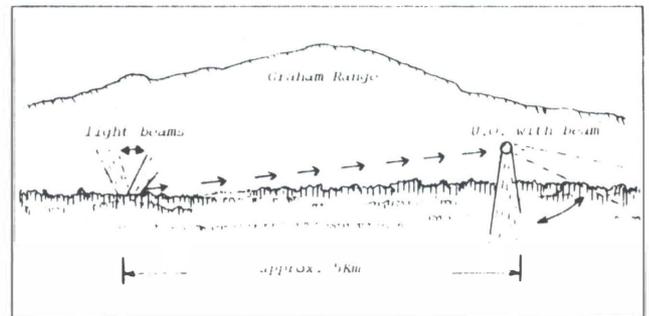
Eventually, this light which appeared "now and again...flashing and going away ...then coming back" began moving south-

wards. Hagen stated its appearance changed to "a beam of light" and when he looked at the "end" of the beam he saw "a kind of glowing bright, pinky coloured, ball".

The object which was now above the mangrove scrub travelled quickly through the air and, according to the boys, traversed a distance of approximately 5km in 4-5 seconds.

The unusual phenomena then stopped 200m above the ground while the white beam of light it emanated began moving in an arc from west to south and back again continuously. During most of the sighting this beam was directed upwards (when behind the mangroves) but during the final stages it shone horizontally from the pink light-ball.

Realizing they were watching something very strange the boys went inside to fetch Hagen's mother but when they returned 15 seconds later the object had disappeared.



U.O.'s position as seen by witnesses looking east from Bellenden Ker

In conclusion, the following case which received extensive newspaper coverage, remains largely unexplained.

At 3 a.m. on March 14, 1982, at Majors Creek, near Woodstock - 40km south of Townsville, a Mrs Movliatti was visiting an outside toilet when she witnessed a very bright, circular light stationary, 30-40m away, above trees. Mrs Movliatti watched the object for a few minutes before calling another three witnesses from the house. All four people observed the phenomena which was "circular, reddish pink in colour similar to

# Far North Queensland

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burning magnesium" and "appeared to be spinning" for 10-15 minutes during which it darted away and returned. Eventually, the object speeded off and faded or disappeared in the distance.

Although most newspapers related the basic sighting details correctly one or two mentioned the mysterious disappearance of cattle and ducks from the property at the time of the event. UFO Research (FNQ) in-

vestigation found the claim of missing cattle had been fabricated by one of the witnesses. At the time some cattle had escaped through a break in the property fence but were soon found - none of the witnesses had any knowledge of the missing ducks which were reported in some newspapers.

The object observed is in keeping with other descriptions of "Min-Min" lights.■

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## western australia

### ESPERANCE CAR PACE

BY MICHAEL BORLEY

(UFORAN Correspondent Western Australia)

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#### INTRODUCTION

The following report recounts an incident that took place on the South Coast Highway, approximately 3km out of Munghlinup, heading towards Esperance, 97km away, on the morning of March 28, 1982. The total distance travelled by the two percipients during the encounter was 100km - this journey which should have taken no longer than 60 or 70 minutes in reality amounted to 1½ hours.

Both witnesses, who are suffering a minimum time loss of 20 minutes and a maximum of 40 minutes, feel that their sighting of an UFO, with an exhaust vapour when accelerating, is somehow responsible.

#### INCIDENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday March 28, 1982.

Time: 0300 hours Western Australian time.

Witnesses: Mrs Francis Collins, 34 years old - a shop owner in Esperance.  
Mrs Maggie Yeend, 42 years old - a potter and weaver in Esperance.

Weather Conditions: Clear sky with stars and planets visible.

Description of UFO: A soundless, round, hazily outlined, magnesium-bright object.

#### ASSOCIATED EFFECTS

Possible effect on engine of witness' Combie van because vehicle could not go any faster than 80km/h whilst paced by UFO.

#### DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The driver, Mrs Yeend's statement: "On Sunday, 28th March, 1982, we were on our way

# Western Australia

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back to Esperance. We were 3km past Munglinup (when) the UFO appeared to come over the roof of the Combie - it stayed about 200m in front all the way to Esperance. When it first appeared I was astonished - I could not believe my eyes. I woke Francis up. For the first twenty minutes we were scared, but gradually we realised the UFO meant us no harm. Occasionally it would go from one side of the road to the other, it was then that we could see the other lights underneath it - they were white, red and yellow. On one occasion it seemed to bank right and circle round. There was no sound. It was about the size of a small helicopter - a very bright object in front of us. The UFO was about 20m in the air. There are no bends in this highway. A truck approached us (and) the UFO emitted some kind of sprayer mist from the back as it sped away in the sky. It returned when the truck had gone. When we got to Esperance the UFO hovered over the Bay".

The passenger, Mrs Collins' statement: "I was woken up by Maggie (who) said 'look a UFO'. I could not believe my eyes - there right in front of us was this large, bright, round object. I was scared - both of us were scared. Every now and then it would go from one side of the road to the other, when it did I saw some more lights on (its) bottom - they were red, white and yellow. We thought we saw some green but realised it was the sun-strip on the top of the wind-screen. After a while we weren't so scared - it just seemed to be looking at us. Maggie daren't go too fast otherwise we might have gone underneath the UFO. There was no sound (and) no other vehicle on the road. I was looking through the window when I saw an identical light to my left over the hills, about 5° above the horizon. Later on I also saw to my left, about 60m off the road in the bush, a small blue light about the size of a small lamp glow. When the truck came up the UFO moved away but as it did a kind of mist or spray came out. It was like looking at a light bulb in the dark after you sprayed round with a spray can. At one time the UFO moved to the left side of the Combie (and) I was able to see it through another part of the van. When we got to Esperance the UFO moved off into the sky over Esperance Bay, it just stayed still in the sky. We drove to the Police Station but there was no-one

there. I knew a Police officer who lived opposite me so I went to his place and woke him up. I told him what had happened to us on the way back home - we went outside and I showed him the UFO. I told him I had to tell someone in authority - he agreed that it was not a star or anything else. I was tired so I went home, the UFO was still in the sky over Esperance Bay".

Police Constable Gordon is 28 years old and has been a Police Officer for eleven years. Police Constable Gordon's statement: "I was woken at ten to four in the morning of 28th March, by Mrs Collins who was in a terrified state. She said that she and Maggie Yeend had been followed by a UFO from Munglinup to Esperance. Mrs Collins said the UFO was hovering over the bay (so) we went outside and about 1km out and 1 or 2km up from the horizon was a bright round object - the colour was like hallogen headlights. The light did not move. I discussed the sighting with Mrs Collins for about 20 minutes. The UFO did not do anything, (its) direction when first sighted was north north-east about 2km above the ground, 25° above the horizon. We were all tired so we went back to our beds - the UFO was still there. The weather was very good - no clouds. It was not a star, nor a moon, and certainly not Venus. The next night the weather was the same but the light was not there.

## SUMMARY

The Esperance Bureau of Meteorology records that at 3 a.m. on March 28, 1982, there was no cloud, the wind speed was 0506 DI KT, visibility was 20km, temperature 10°C, and the barometric pressure was 1026 millibars.

Pearce Air Base (RAAF) and Jandakot Airport were contacted but both report no aircraft in the area at the time.

Perth UFO Research Group checked with people working in the area in an attempt to uncover corroborative information in connection with the reported incident. Statistically it appears that two out of three people in this locality had seen UFOs or strange lights.

Fellow investigator K. Johnston and I are of the opinion that the three witnesses are reliable.

Investigations are continuing.■



Reports to the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre during the past year were at a low level. Compared with activity in the mid 1970s, the flow of unidentified cases has almost ceased. Seven unexplained

cases were noted during the year, four of which occurred in February - the fourth case at Ross was investigated some twelve months after the event.

This sighting which probably occurred on February 3, 1981, at 9.40 p.m., involved two witnesses travelling home together by car. Mrs A, the owner of the car, was visited when a second hand report came to the Centre's attention.

Mrs A reports she and her passenger were about a kilometre north of Ross when she first noticed a bright white light to the west which she thought to be a plane because it descended in front of some low hills. Mrs A took little more notice as they continued on towards the town centre, that is, until the object changed direction and slowly approached the local hotel - growing in size it appeared there was going to be a crash. Not wanting to be involved in the impending disaster Mrs A pulled up 300-400 metres from the hotel and said to her elderly passenger "look at that". The passenger, however, was looking for something on the road and saw nothing at this stage. There was no other traffic about and no noise or effects on the percipients or motor vehicle.

Mrs A estimated the object was moving slowly at a height of 30 metres and had an apparent size twice that of the moon. It was elliptical in shape and a greenish metallic colour with gold light beams issuing from either side. The witness explained with difficulty that the object presented the same appearance despite its changes in direction.

When the UFO reached the hotel it suddenly shot up and away to the south and was now visible to Mrs A's passenger. The phenomena dwindled in size and disappeared in a couple of seconds.

The following case involved a lone motorist who contacted the Centre on the day following his sighting of a green light at 11.15 p.m. on the evening of November 17, 1981.

The witness was driving home from Dover to Southport when he noticed the unusual light as he drove up a rise when leaving Dover. At first he did not take a great deal of interest in the light-source as he travelled the 6 kilometres to Raminea, however, he decided to stop when it appeared to be getting lower and closer.

There was no noise as the half moon-sized, circular, light seemed to move about in a confined area, changing direction and elevation several times. A few minutes later the witness noticed that the phenomena was moving away - a glow lit up the trees in its vicinity as it moved off. The observer continued his journey home but was able to see the glow behind the rise for some time.

The witness reports that Venus was visible when he arrived home where he watched television till near midnight at which time he, and his wife, went outside to see if there was any sign of the phenomena. Together, they noticed a white light to the west which they watched for 30 minutes as it slowly moved northwards at the same height and finally disappeared behind high cloud in the north, north-west.

The above cases are of extra interest relative to reports received earlier in 1981. One case on February 20, occurred a few kilometres north of Ross, whilst a red nocturnal light was reported on April 11, over the area south of Dover.■

#### PHENOMENA RESEARCH/UFO RESEARCH

*In Western Australia a new group has been formed by Don Ferguson called PHENOMENA RESEARCH/UFO RESEARCH. Anyone living in Don's area who is interested in joining this group is invited to contact him at: 5 Stallard Court, Australind WA 6232.■*

# AUSTRALIA - 1981



BY THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

*In Australia 1981 was a very quiet year with report numbers being at a record low in every state. This article details the more interesting reports which were either investigated by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies' member organisations or which came to the attention of the Centre during the year.*

Our first 1981 report occurred at Minlaton (1) in South Australia on January 6. At approximately 10.30 p.m. a man and his wife who had stopped in a parking bay, intending to spend the night in their car, observed a silent nocturnal light of a  $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  angular size at an elevation of  $45^{\circ}$  which travelled from north to south at  $\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  per second. This extremely bright white light was viewed through 16x50 binoculars by the husband who described it as egg shaped with five to seven circular lights on its underside.

Our second event took place on the night of January 8/9, when two men who were sailing their yacht near Flinders Island (2), off the north-eastern coast of Tasmania, at about 11 p.m. saw two white lights with a beam pulsing irregularly, from left to right, between them. Later a 20 metre area around the boat was illuminated by an unseen source. At 9 a.m. the next morning the men found their battery, which had been fully charged the day before, was flat. Also a battery operated clock had stopped.

Tasmania (3) was also the scene of the next encounter when at 8.30 p.m. on February 20, two people, whilst driving, witnessed a huge stationary white ball with a silver-blue edge which was 200 metres away and suspended 100 metres above a paddock. This ball exploded into a large area of intense light which was brighter than day and painful to the eyes. The light then contracted back to its ball shape, which became a white sphere with red edges, and began falling from the sky. Understandably, the witnesses fled the area without a backward glance.

On March 4, at Butchers Hill (4) in

Queensland, five people observed, at times through binoculars, one large and four smaller oval shapes which were coloured bright white with an orange-golden glow illuminating their bases. The four smaller objects manoeuvred around the larger until they all moved below the horizon. Twenty minutes later the larger oval reappeared moving slowly upwards and southwards until it eventually "merged" with Jupiter. Six photographs, taken by the witnesses, were forwarded to ACUFOS' photographic consultant but were found to be blank - apparently because the witnesses were unfamiliar with the camera.

Another group of people, said to number twenty, witnessed a large red object with flashing lights at Gumdale (5), a Brisbane suburb, on March 19, at 9.30 p.m. This object reportedly swooped low over houses before departing at speed. UFOR (Qld) were unable to conduct a full investigation due to witness non-cooperation.

We believe it is important to also include in this article a few solved cases because in the past some Australian events have been written up as unexplained in overseas publications when a conventional explanation had been found in this country.

Near Panuara (6) in New South Wales, on April 5, three people who were spotlight shooting saw what they took to be a "UFO" at close range. This UFO moved towards the hunters shining a huge spotlight upon them. However, the next day this craft was found to be a crop-dusting plane which was working at night by its own spotlight.

Back to the unexplained.

A pulsating red nocturnal light at  $10^{\circ}$  north-west, travelling south, was observed at Partridge Island (7), off Tasmania, on April 11. Eventually the light dropped below a dip in the hill line. No aircraft were in the area.

A couple at Tinamba (8), in Victoria witnessed a red/white flashing light on

## AUSTRALIA - 1981

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April 14. Two weeks later three perfect 10cm wide circles, approximately 3m in diameter, forming an overlapping 5m diameter triangle, were discovered 200m from their homestead on level ground. A white chalky substance was found in the soil of the circles which possibly indicates fungus causing the rings.

Eight people, from two different properties, near Malanda (9) in northern Queensland observed a very unusual light at 6.45 pm., on April 15, which had a "spotlight" appearance and was stationary at a low elevation in the northern sky. The light source appeared to illuminate vegetation on the brow of a hill before contracting to a smaller pink light and moving away in a zig-zag trajectory and disappearing in the north-east.

On the pitch black night of May 16, near Cocklediddy (10), on the Nullabor Plains which stretch across Western and South Australia, two people, travelling by car, were surprised to see a glowing bright red dome-like structure a few metres from the front right hand side of their vehicle. The object which was both stationary and soundless disappeared when the witnesses drew level with it, however, a pink glow, moving westwards, was observed in the rear vision mirror. Despite the coldness of the night both witnesses experienced an uncomfortable heating of their bodies.

The evening of June 22, at Forreston (11) in South Australia, was dark and misty with limited visibility. Above pine trees, in this lonely setting, a woman and her son and daughter encountered a large orange glow which filled their front windscreen and pulsed on and off at one second intervals. The family group seemed to drive beneath this phenomena before they had time to stop their vehicle to better observe the glow which immediately vanished.

A family of eight, travelling between Cairns and Mt Isa (12) in northern Queensland on July 11, were paced by a "huge" object encircled by red lights and emitting white beams from its underside which illuminated trees and hills. After half an hour the object left but later returned for ten minutes before finally departing.

A spectacular "formation" of lights

travelling south to north at 25° elevation in the east, crossed the Adelaide (13) sky on July 20. Dozens of callers described a bright light followed by 20-40 smaller lights, with multi-coloured tails, which moved soundlessly over the horizon. Analysis indicates that a meteor caused this unexpected light show.

An unusual "coffin" shaped object with angular sides and corners and a ring of yellow and white lights switching on and off in its top section, plus a blue light at its centre, was observed passing 200 metres overhead by a miner at Darkey Forest (14) in New South Wales, on August 2. No vehicle or radio interference was noted despite the object emitting a faint hum and casting a sweeping pale yellow beam of light from side to side ahead of itself.

A group of fifteen bright silent objects were witnessed by three men off the Bunbury (15) coast, in Western Australia, during the daylight hours of August 25. This "formation" reportedly hovered prior to moving rapidly north and very suddenly ascending vertically without changing speed. There were no aircraft in the area.

The next day at Albany (16), also in Western Australia, a soundless object with three red lights and two flashing white lights flew in front of two men travelling by car. Stopping their vehicle the men disembarked to watch this strange undulating object which hovered above a paddock by the roadside for about a minute before moving off.

What must be regarded as the case of the year, if true, occurred near Nowra (17), New South Wales, in September. A Mr F. Burke was driving home when his car became enveloped in a blazing light which allegedly melted a tape recorder and caused soreness in the witness' leg and fingernails. The Centre was unable to mount an investigation.

On the night of September 27, a Tooperang (18), South Australian, farmer, whilst riding his motorbike, was enveloped by an intense 3 metre wide "tube of light" which was soundless and odourless and emanated from an unseen source. The farmer rode home illuminated by this light which eventually "shut off". For the following five

## AUSTRALIA - 1981

days he experienced red, watering, eyes and an aching "like the flu".

In Tasmania, on the following evening (September 28), an amber, stationary, light three times larger than Venus was observed whilst Venus was also visible. After five minutes the light moved slowly southwards emanating rays from its underside as it rapidly picked up speed, zig-zagged over mountains, and disappeared.

At 2 a.m. on the morning of October 17, the crew of an Air Cargo L188 aircraft, flying from Sydney to Brisbane (19) tracked two targets on radar at an estimated 40 nautical miles west of their track - north west of the plane. These targets were also tracked on the Sydney Air Traffic Control radar despite there being no known aircraft in the area at the time. Near Newcastle both targets vanished.

1981's last notable event took place near Clare (20), in South Australia, on October 25, where a young woman, returning home, was paced by a white oblong light of  $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  angular size (moonsized) which twice illuminated her car and surrounding countryside and was possibly responsible for interference on her car radio. This light was brighter and lower in elevation than Venus. As readers may recall the Clare area experienced many UFO events during the 1968-72 period.

So here ended yet another quiet Australian ufological year.

## forum

William H. Spaulding's "Federal Hypothesis" {UFORAN March-April, 1982} suffers from one major flaw - one which I fear is fatal to the theory. Either North American UFOs are a different phenomenon to those reported in the rest of the world, or else we have the unprecedented and unbelievable event of every major government in the world acting in a concerted manner for a common cause. There is no evidence whatsoever that either the Australian or New Zealand governments have ever done anything the least bit intelligent about UFOs, as Bill Chalker's recent trip to Canberra has shown. I seriously doubt that even the United States government would be capable of maintaining the fixed policy required by the Federal Hypothesis, right through the numerous changes in administration that have occurred since 1948.

Governments and government agencies tend to be both inefficient and ineffective. Let's stop giving them a reputation for cleverness which they do not deserve. - Frank Gillespie.

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# AIRLINE CREW OBSERVATIONS

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

Surprisingly when we examine unidentified flying object reports by aircraft crew members in Australia, prior to the mid 1950s, we discover some remarkable events.

Our first case was unearthed as a single page report form held by an Adelaide UFO group and as such was never investigated. This must be borne in mind when considering the nature of the event.

Mr T.R.H. Royal, a bomber pilot, of Scarborough, Queensland, was flying over Bass Strait when a dark "shadow" appeared alongside his plane and kept pace with it for about 18 to 20 minutes. The object seemed to have a flickering light and belched flame from its rear end (1).

The altitude was 4,500 feet and the only distinct part of the object was the 5 metres of the rear end which the exhaust illuminated. The strange apparition maintained a distance of 30 - 50 metres from the Beaufort bomber before accelerating away at approximately three times the aircraft's speed.

During the event all radio and direction finding equipment allegedly refused to function.

Our next report occurred several years later during July, 1952, near Sydney, New South Wales (2).

Captain Bob Jackson of Australian National Airlines (ANA), a pilot with more than 8,000 flying hours, said he "met" a UFO near Sydney which he did not report at the time for fear of ridicule.

Captain Jackson stated: "I was flying towards Mascot, near Worinora Dam, about 11 p.m., when suddenly I saw a flash of light. I watched (an object) with an orange coloured light at the tail, flash past towards the coast near Wollongong. Naturally, the first thing I did was to call Mascot Tower to ask if any other planes were in the vicinity. They replied their radar proved negative.

"About two minutes later the thing appeared again. It made a complete circle around us and vanished again towards the coast at a terrific speed. I can't explain it. All I know is it was nerve-wrecking

I mentioned to control that if their radar failed to pick up an object - and it was a definite object - then it must be a flying saucer. They laughed, so I've kept quiet about it".

Sometime prior to 1953 whilst flying in a northerly direction from Canberra, on their way to Sydney, Trans Australian Airline (TAA) pilots Captain Gordon Sauage and First Officer F.E. Hastilow sighted an unidentified object to their east, above their aircraft, which they described as a very powerful white light changing at 15 second intervals to red.

Captain Sauage climbed to 5,000 feet to get a better look at the indefinite object which was moving away from them at high speed and eventually vanished into a veil of atmosphere. As soon as the light-source disappeared the witnesses put on their navigation lights and a few minutes later the phenomena reappeared from the same area.

Captain Sauage later decided that he had observed the planet Venus whilst Co-pilot Hastilow, who had over 5,000 flying hours, did not believe he had seen Venus (3).

In 1953, south of Mackay, Queensland, Captain B.L. Jones sighted a flying "fish bowl" with an illuminated glass dome which manoeuvred quickly around his plane, a DC3, then crossed his path and disappeared into the west. Later Mr W. Overell, O.I.C. Mackay Control Tower and Mr Frank Hines, radio operator, also reported the object (4).

An ANA pilot, Captain D. Barker, believed he saw a flying saucer at 10.15 a.m. on January 1, 1954, not far from Melbourne in Victoria.

Captain Barker, who was at his home in East Doncaster, said he saw a semi-transparent, disc-shaped, object like a top travelling approximately 2,000 feet above the Yarra Valley in the direction of Templestowe. The witness estimated the object to be 3-4 km away and said that it looked about four times the size of a DC4 at that distance. "It was travelling at high speed and seemed to be oscillating in and out of the clouds".

Captain Barker reported the object to the Civil Aviation Officer at Essendon and rang the Herald Newspaper to see if anyone else

## AIRLINE CREW OBSERVATIONS

had reported the UFO, but the Herald had no other reports (5).

Barker relates: "I sighted it first over the Templestowe brickworks between 2½ and 5 miles away on the approach path to Essendon. It was four or five times larger than a large passenger aircraft. The object was transparent and a smoky celluloid colour, with a bit of a tail and a mushroom shaped head. It oscillated in and out of the cloud and in about 6 miles changed its course to a north-easterly direction. It was travelling faster than any jet plane that I have ever seen (6)".

The Civil Aviation authorities informed that a Convair was over the Yarra Valley at about the time the object was observed. Captain Barker replied: "I've never seen anything less like a Convair. First of all, it was huge - about four times the size of a DC4. It was travelling about 700 m.p.h., well below the minimum altitude for the safety of a normal aircraft. I see Convairs every day, but this resembled no aircraft I know".

The witness, who is an experienced pilot, said he saw the "saucer" from outside his house in Doncaster. "It stayed in sight for about ten seconds. Hanging beneath it was what appeared to be an observation car. The UFO was metallic and glinted in the sun - shafts of light occasionally shot through the saucer as if it were made of celluloid". Despite the occasional transparency, Capt. Barker said he was convinced that the craft was made of solid metal.

The experts replied that the witness had seen "reflections from a Convair in flight - one was testing its landing gear over Eltham - could have looked like a 'flying mushroom' to a ground observer. Neither the Convair Captain, Capt. J.P. Boyd, nor radar screen operators at Essendon saw anything unusual. Capt. Boyd's Convair was flying in and out of cloud at 2,000 feet about 10.15 a.m. - about the time Capt. Barker saw the strange object".

The witness stated: "It's main body was elliptical with a long shaft about the same length as its body hanging below it. At the end of this thin, slightly curved shaft, was a sort of control tower".

Capt. Boyd said that during his flight he tested the Convair's landing gear and at 10.15 a.m. would have been near Templestowe. The Aviation Traffic Supervisor at Essendon, Mr R.H. Doyle, said their two radar units would have picked up any objects travelling at high speed. The Department of Civil Aviation director, Mr A.R. McComb, believes that Captain Barker saw the reflection of a Convair, but admitted that Captain Barker was "a very experienced pilot and unlikely to imagine things".

Capt. Douglas Barker, a veteran ANA pilot, disagreed "most definitely" with civil aviation experts that his flying mushroom was a reflection of a Convair aircraft in flight; and with 17 years and nearly 14,000 hours flying experience behind him, his colleagues were inclined to back him up. "I just don't accept the department's version. At the time I saw the mushroom, the sky was completely overcast. I don't know much about the workings of light, but I fail to see how the reflection of a Convair could come through the heavy cloud". The object "would fly into the clouds for a second or two then sink down to the clear sky. Its colour seemed to be changing from clear plastic to sky blue. I couldn't possibly confuse this with any plane".

Finally, we complete our review with the case of a pilot flying a Sea Fury aircraft, on a cross country flight from the Navy Air Station at Nowra, on the night of August 31, 1954.

The pilot was travelling at 220 knots in the Goulburn, NSW, area and was at 13,000 feet when two lighted objects passed him.

It is reported that radar operators at Nowra recorded three objects in the area, i.e. the aircraft and two others. The only other aircraft in the area was a TAA Convair. Some reports also add that the pilot was a Lieutenant O'Farrell who picked up the objects on the aircraft's radar (7).

SOURCES: (1) The "Australian Saucer Record" Vol.3 No.1, 1957, p.16. (2) Melbourne "Sun" newspaper 5.1.54. (3) "Australasian Post" 31.12.53 p.10. (4) "Australasian Post" 31.12.53 p.11, Melbourne "Sun" 2.1.54. (5) Melbourne "Herald" 1.1.54. (6) Melbourne "Age" 2.1.54. (7) "Sydney Morning Herald" 16.12.54 & 17.12.54, Hobart "Mercury" 16.12.54, Melbourne "Argus" 16.12.54, "The Edge of Reality" Hynek and Vallee, Regnery, Chicago, 1975 pp.58-59.■

# UFOs PACE AIRCRAFT IN KENYA

BY MARK MORAVEC

In the course of his investigations, a UFO researcher often uncovers UFO sightings of years past which the witness has not previously reported. Some of these reports refer to sightings made overseas before the witness settled in Australia. Such was the case when I was interviewing a young lady who had seen a "daylight cigar", only to find that her father had experienced a rather spectacular sighting whilst flying an airplane over Kenya in 1966. During his career as a pilot, the witness has chalked up some 14,500 hours of flying experience. Here are the main details of the sighting:

The reporting witness (name on file) was piloting a DC3 East African Airways airplane, doing the early morning paper run from Mombasa to Nairobi. It was a Sunday morning, just after dawn, and they were flying in a northerly direction at a speed of 135 knots. Pilot and co-pilot suddenly noticed six disc or lens-shaped objects to the right of the aircraft cockpit. The objects were in formation and were  $3\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 miles distant at an angle of elevation of 15-20° below the airplane. They were coming up on the inside of a range of hills that run northward to Nairobi. They appeared to be metallic in appearance, like the aluminium skin of an aircraft, brightly reflecting the sun.

The objects kept pace with the aircraft for about 15 to 20 minutes, always maintaining the same direction and speed. At various times they were observed against a background of both sky and the crests of hills. The witnesses checked with Nairobi Control and were told that no jets were flying over Nairobi at the time. Apparent size of the formation as a whole was comparable to the size of the moon (half a degree).

When 30 miles south-east of Nairobi the objects suddenly, with almost instantaneous acceleration, turned to the right (east) in an angular climb. They were now above the witnesses' aircraft and disappeared as a group in a north north-easterly direction up the valley and towards the northern frontier district of Kenya. The objects disappeared at a terrific speed - they were there one second and out of sight the next.

No features or markings on the objects were observed and there was no visible reaction thrust (means of propulsion). No-

thing was observed on the radar screen - presumably Nairobi didn't have the long distance radar operating because no aircraft were in the air at the time. The sun had just come up in the east at 15 to 20° elevation above the horizon (the objects were about 15 to 20° below). Weather conditions were good; visibility was about 80 to 100 miles (the usual conditions during an East African morning), and there was not much low cloud. After landing at Nairobi, the witnesses were interviewed for 5 or 6 minutes to determine if the objects could have been meteors or RAF Vampire jets. No explanation was found.

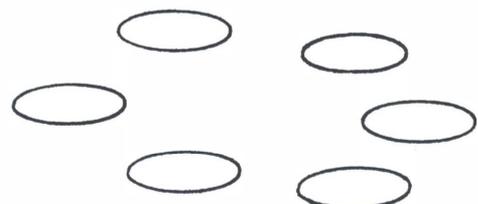
What could the objects have been? The extremely fast ascent of the objects and the negative check with Nairobi Control rule out an aircraft as a possible explanation. The witness stated he was flying over bush country with no buildings. This rules out a simple reflection of ground light sources. The possibility that the phenomenon was a sundog (a reflected image of the sun produced under certain meteorological conditions) might be supported by the facts that

- (a) the objects were the same angle below the airplane as the sun was above the horizon; and
- (b) angular size of the group of objects as a whole was the same as the angular size of the sun.

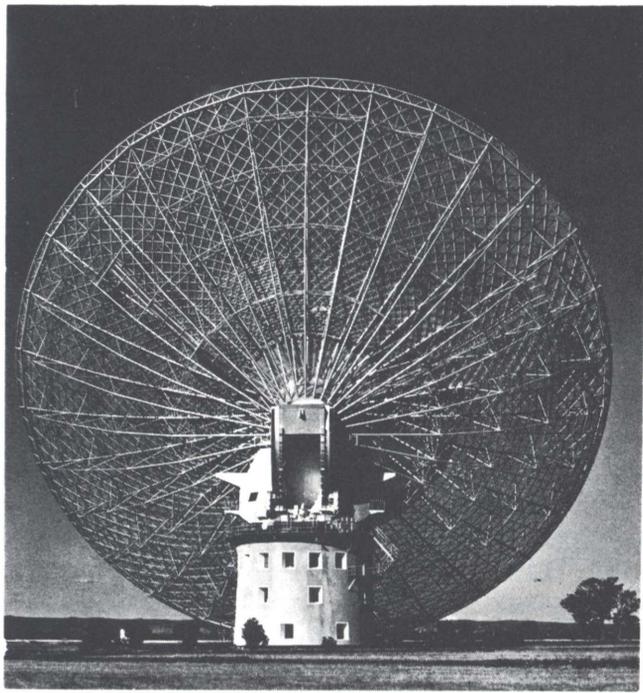
However, this hypothesis doesn't seem to be able to explain the facts that

- (a) six objects were seen;
- (b) which were metallic in appearance; and
- (c) disappeared at an extremely fast speed in an upward climb.

Therefore, on the information available, I evaluate the sighting as unexplained.



THE OBJECTS  
Diagram of witness' sketch ■



# Australian Space Science at the Crossroads

BY JANE BROOKS

(UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)

In his article "Space Astronomy in the 1980s - Australia's Role"? Professor D.S. Mathewson, Director of the Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories writes:

*"I believe that Australia is snoozing in blissful oblivion to the Space Age, and that we are soon in for a rude shock when Space Age science and technology developed by other countries puts us into the Scientific Third World".*

It is unlikely that there would be anyone in Australia who would wish the above fate upon our nation. Fortunately, it is avoidable, especially if our Federal Government can be persuaded to make funds available for one Space Astronomy project and one Radio Astronomy project which we can afford, and which will put Australia at the forefront of Space Science. The two projects are "STARLAB" and the "AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE". Neither received any funding in the August 1981 Federal Budget. The following explanation of the projects and their usefulness to Australia will, I hope, help readers to understand why it is essential that they receive funds in the 1982 Budget.

## AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE

Following World War II, Australian scientists were amongst the pioneers of the new science of Radio Astronomy. They possessed sufficient expertise to attract funds from other countries, such as the USA, enabling instruments such as the Parkes 64m diameter radio telescope to be built here. As a

result, many of the most significant discoveries in Radio Astronomy have been made by Australian scientists. Now, the Parkes Radio Telescope is twenty years old, and has been surpassed in sensitivity and resolution by newer instruments belonging to other nations. There is also the emerging problem of proposed extensive copper mining near Parkes, which will threaten the "low noise" environment. If nothing is done to update present facilities and build new ones, the instruments now existing will run down due to age in five to seven years, meaning that Radio Astronomy in Australia will die.

To overcome this, it has been proposed that a 6km long array of 22m diameter dishes be built at Culgoora, NSW. This array would be used in conjunction with the Parkes Radio Telescope, NASA's 64m dish at Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Complex, and a smaller antenna at Siding Spring. If this project can be started in 1982, it will come into operation in 1988 in time for our Bicentennial Celebrations. This project has been named AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE because it is a totally Australian project with an Australian manufactured content of 80%. It draws on expertise that is already acknowledged by the rest of the scientific world as being at the forefront in all relevant areas. This expertise has already produced "INTERSCAN", the new microwave landing system for aircraft which was developed here by the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics, and will soon be in airports across the world.

As mentioned earlier, the major part of the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE will be built here in Australia, thereby introducing Space Age technology to our industries. This will help to give our Nation a soaring jump into its Third Century; not only because of probable exciting discoveries in Radio Astronomy, but also because of spin-offs to space communications technology.

Australia now has the opportunity to build a World class instrument in the field of Radio Astronomy. It will be World class because of the linkup between radio antennae across the country, by satellite and ground links, giving detail finer than any optical telescope, whether it is on the Earth or in Space. It would have a higher resolution, operate at a higher frequency, and have superior performance for spectral line observations than the Very Large Array in the USA. It would be the only instrument capable of making high quality maps, at radio frequencies, in either Equatorial or Southern regions of the sky. It would complement the excellent ground based optical telescopes already existing in Australia and Chile, and also Space telescopes observing in the X-ray, Ultraviolet and Infrared bands. Without the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE, the Southern sky, which contains some of the most exciting astronomical objects such as the nearest galaxies (Magellanic Clouds) and the centre of our own Galaxy, will remain uncharted at accuracies required for future astronomy. Valuable work such as studying, with Radio Astronomy techniques, the stability of the Australian continent and the drift of our neighbours New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Antarctica also will not be done.

A decision not to fund the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE will be seen as a Government decision to discontinue Australian Radio Astronomy; a science in which we have been World leaders. This would be a tragedy of enormous proportions. Australians who wish that Radio Astronomy should be kept alive and well in this country can help, by contacting their local representatives in Federal Parliament and stressing the importance of obtaining Government support for the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE.

### STARLAB

*An Australian-Canadian-USA Free-Flying UV-Optical Space Telescope*

STARLAB is a unique type of space telescope designed to operate from the ultra-

violet through the visible to the infrared region of the spectrum. It will be capable of high resolution imagery and spectroscopy over a wide field of view. The length of STARLAB (telescope plus instrument package) is 5 m, with an outer diameter of 1.5 m and weight 2000 kg. It will represent the ultimate in advanced technology in the electronic, optical and mechanical areas. The Space Shuttle Transportation system will place it on board a NASA Space Platform in a circular orbit of 450 km altitude, where it will telemeter the data to Goddard Space Flight Center for demultiplexing; the Australian data will be sent via the NASA link to the Deakin Telephone Exchange for distribution to the various astronomical institutions. Each mission will be of 6-12 months duration and a total of about 10 missions is envisaged over a 20 year period commencing 1989. The division of observing time between Australia, Canada and the USA is  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$  for the lifetime of STARLAB.

The proposed division of responsibilities is:

- (a) Canada constructs the Telescope (ROM costing \$30 million).
- (b) Australia constructs the initial Instrument Package consisting of camera, spectrograph and detector system (ROM cost-\$25 million).
- (c) NASA develops the Space Platform and bears the cost of the first two launches and flights on the Space Platform. This involves all services connected with launch, integration with the Platform, operation in orbit, retrieval and the ground data system.

*STARLAB will be uniquely important to the solution of the central astronomical problems of our era. It will certainly be the most powerful tool of observational astronomy in the next few decades and will advance enormously our knowledge and understanding of the Universe. At optical wavelengths STARLAB will see twenty times fainter objects and one hundred times more detail than the largest of ground-based telescopes. This will enable us to look back in time to almost the moment of Creation of the Universe. STARLAB will tell us much as it looks back over some 15 billion years into our past - a past which is violent, dynamic and one of rapid evolution.*

## Australian Space Science at the Crossroads

STARLAB will also measure the ultraviolet emission from the Universe which ground-based Telescopes cannot observe. This window will surpass in excitement even the radio window because it contains the strongest emissions from the basic elements of hydrogen, helium, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen.

Although STARLAB is of paramount importance to scientists, it is of equal importance to Australian Industry because it is a "seed" project from which the Australian Space Industry can grow. Without it Australia will miss the compelling challenges of the New Age and therefore will miss the whole meaning of our epoch. Australian Industry wants this stimulating challenge, judging from the dramatic response to the STARLAB Industrial Symposium.

The Australian Government has committed itself to a Space Program by its procurement of the domestic communication satellite. As the lifetime of these satellites is about seven years, replacements are required regularly. Australian Industry wishes to gain the capability to design and build the successive generations of these satellites, a financial carrot of at least \$ 400 million per replacement.

Because of its great size and small population, Australia's needs, both for defence and resource management (forest, crop, mineral, water and oceanographic), are peculiarly suited to satellite surveillance; a crystal ball is not needed to predict that by the middle of the 21st century, Australia will have at least 20 multi-purpose satellites in orbit. Some needs will be satisfied by flying equipment on NASA's Space Platforms similar to that planned for STARLAB. Much of this equipment will draw on the expertise gained in building the Instrument Package for STARLAB with its special systems for detecting ultraviolet, visible and infrared emissions. Australian Industry has openly stated that it sees STARLAB as a natural lead into this booming space business - hence their great interest.

STARLAB represents the greatest challenge Australian technology and science has had. Not only will there be enormous gains to be made at the very frontiers of science but it will establish Australia as a country whose industry is capable of tackling problems at the frontiers of advanced technol-

ogy. In the eyes of the world and in the eyes of Australians, our national prestige will reach an all time high. The benefits to Australia are incalculable. It is doubtful whether another opportunity for Australia to participate in a project as meritorious as STARLAB will present itself in another 20 years. By that time Australia will be incapable of competing with other countries in the high technology arena. *It is now or never!*

### THE AUSTRALIAN FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF THE INSTRUMENT PACKAGE OF STARLAB

Professor Don Mathewson, Director of Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories of the Australian National University has made a submission to the Department of Science and Technology for \$3.125 million to complete by January 1984 the feasibility studies of the Instrument Package. \$1.855 million of this amount would be required in fiscal year 1982.

Development of low light detecting systems using photon counting techniques commenced at Mount Stromlo Observatory in 1976, and these detectors have been outstandingly successful on the telescopes at Mt Stromlo and Siding Spring. More than \$2 million have gone into this R & D program and NASA has acknowledged that MSSSO leads the world in this field. The concept of the Ultra-Large Format Counting Array (ULFCA) was put forward by MSSSO to accommodate the wide field of view of STARLAB, and the Joint Science Working Group has stated that it is the "front-runner" for the detector system on STARLAB. A "bread-board" version set up in the Electronics Laboratories at MSO, works well and by June 1982, a mini-prototype will be ready for testing on the telescopes.

Since June 1981, MATRA Espace, a French space company, and the engineers and scientists at MSSSO have been producing a report on the STARLAB Instrument Package which has been widely distributed throughout Australia and the international scientific community. This collaboration was formalised on September 9, 1981, when a Memorandum of Understanding between MATRA and the ANU for the design and development of the Instrument Package was signed. This MOU will terminate if no funds are

provided for the program in the 1982 Budget.

A STARLAB Industrial Symposium held at Mt Stromlo Observatory on December 1 and 2, 1981, gave MSSO/MATRA Scientists and engineers the opportunity to describe the technical details of the Instrument Package to representatives of Australian Industry and Government Agencies and to seek their involvement in the research, development and construction of the components of the package which lie within their area of expertise. The two day meeting was attended by 45 industrialists, 17 representatives from Government Departments, 6 Government research scientists and 19 engineers and scientists from universities. Leading officials from MATRA Espace, British Aerospace, UK and TRW, USA were present. The response to this stimulating challenge to the high technology sector of the electronic, optical and mechanical industries was dramatic and already fourteen companies are working unsupported on the Phase B studies until August 1982. In addition, eleven Government Agencies and Universities are consulting on the project.

Canada's National Research Council has funded the Canadian feasibility studies for two years and NASA has given top priority to the development of the space platform and scheduled STARLAB among the first missions to be made by the platform. There are seven engineers and scientists from Australian industry, MATRA and Mount Stromlo working full-time on the project. For Australia to keep pace with the development of the telescope in Canada and the space platform in the US, however, this will need to double by August this year and rise to 21 in March next year.

The current plan is for the three countries to sign the formal commitment to the project in January 1984, in anticipation of the 1989 launch. The total cost by 1989 is expected to be \$25.5 million, of which more than 75% would be spent in Australia.

Despite all these incalculable benefits to Australia, STARLAB like the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE, did not receive one cent of funds in the last Federal Budget. Fortunately for us the "Memorandum of Understanding" between MATRA and the ANU has enabled the feasibility study to go ahead. However, the MOU will be terminated unless STARLAB

receives some funds from the Federal Government in the 1982 Budget. Once again, a favourable Budget decision is essential for Australia's future scientific and technological well being.

If our Federal Government thinks that we can afford to contribute one of our most priceless resources, our young people, to a peace keeping force in the Sinai Region, surely it can be persuaded to make available some mere money for these two projects which will pay for themselves in the long term, because of the boost they will give to our local industry.

I urge you to contact your local Federal MP and Senators, and stress the necessity for the Government to fund STARLAB and the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE. A strong showing of public support for Astronomy in Australia could make the difference between both projects being given a "go" instead of a "no" by our Government next August.

The information about the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE and STARLAB has been taken from the following documents, which were kindly provided by Dr R.H. Frater, Chief of the CSIRO Division of Radiophysics, and Professor D.S. Mathewson, Director of the Australian National University's Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories.

THE AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE for Astrophysics, Geophysics and Geodesy. CSIRO Division of Radiophysics Information Sheet "THE AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE" an Australian Synthesis Telescope by B.J. Robinson.

OUTLOOK Space Astronomy in the 1980's Australian Role? by Don Mathewson.

STARLAB INDUSTRIAL SYMPOSIUM Mount Stromlo Observatory, December 1 and 2, 1981.

STARLAB An Australian-Canadian-USA Free-Flying UV Optical Space Telescope, January 19, 1982.

Editor's note: For further information please contact: (Mrs) Jane L. Brooks  
31 Avenue Street  
Millswood  
South Australia  
5034 ■



Jane has been interested in Space exploration since childhood, when she loved reading space comic strips well before the days of the first Sputnik. When the real thing began with Yuri Gagarin's orbit of the Earth in 1961, Jane began a scrapbook with news clippings of major space

events and has continued to add to it over the years. In 1978 she became interested in UFOs as well and joined UFO Research SA. She has now become a member of the investigative team and presented a paper on "Physiological Effects of Electromagnetic and other Forms of Radiation and their Relevance to UFO Related Effects" at UFOCON 6 in 1981. Being interested in UFOs lead to a greater interest in space exploration due to books that dealt with the feasibility of interstellar space travel and the possibility of the existence of extra-terrestrial life.

Jane joined John Prytz in his campaign for a formal, Government funded, Australian SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program using radio astronomy facilities and, with him, co-authored a paper on that topic which was circulated at the 50th ANZAAS (Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science).

Congress held in Adelaide during 1980, and excerpts from it were published in the American magazine "Cosmic Search". This led to contacts with SETI enthusiasts around the world, including a scientist in NASA's SETI program office! Jane also wrote an article about SETI which appeared in the first issue of UFORAN (January-February, 1980).

Last year, with the help of other space enthusiasts, Jane launched the highly successful event "Space Day 1981" which presented for the public a broad cross-section of space displays - 5,000 people attended. This year she began the campaign in support of STARLAB and the AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE and is founding, with the help of the Space Day committee, a new pro-space organization named the "Association for the Promotion of Space Science". Jane is already a member of several pro-space societies including the "L5 Society" and the "Planetary Society"

Being a space enthusiast has motivated Jane, who is married with two children, to begin studying part time for a science degree as a correspondence student with Murdoch University in Western Australia. If there is any time left over from these activities and family commitments, Jane enjoys reading anything about space (including science fiction) and listening to music, particularly that with a space theme, naturally! ■

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## ITALIAN UFO RESEARCH TODAY

BY MASSIMO GRECO (*UFORAN Correspondent Italy*)

Italian sightings are continually decreasing and, after the huge wave of 1978 during which more than 500 sightings were cataloged in three months, the news-media's interest in the subject is disappearing. During the last few months only two notable sightings were reported in the press - radio and television gave them no coverage.

In UFO research the situation is improving with the Centro Ufologico Nazionale having completed its reorganization which lasted nearly two years. Nowadays only the Centre covers the entire nation with its local branches spreading throughout Italy.

During April, 1982, a co-operative was created by the most important Italian UFO researchers to support the review "UFO Phenomena" after the disbanding of CNIFAA - the Centre that formerly published a review.

Another research project supported by serious researchers is "Italia 3" the purpose of which is to re-analyze and re-investigate all the CEIII cases which have occurred since 1977. ■

# Fund for UFO Research Inc. Poll

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The Fund for UFO Research is attempting to support worthwhile investigations into various aspects of the UFO phenomenon. Please list the following 11 categories and rate accordingly as follows:

A = deserves top priority support;  
B = deserves next priority support;  
C = deserves some support;  
D = not deserving of support.

1. Photoanalysis - many still photograph cases and some movie film cases are known to UFO researchers.
2. Pilot Sightings - Dr Richard F. Haines and others are studying UFO reports by professional pilots.
3. Physical Trace Cases - Ted Philips (US), Ballester-Olmos (Spain) and others are specializing in the study of CE2 physical effect/trace cases.
4. Electromagnetic Effect Cases - James McCampbell and others are studying cases involving E-M effects on vehicles.
5. Physiological Effect Cases - Dr Richard Niemtow, Dr Peter Rank, John Schuessler and others are investigating cases involving medical injuries, including radiation effects.
6. Radar, Magnetometer, and other Instrument Cases - many physical and engineering scientists are interested in instrument cases.
7. Suppressed Government Information - Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (which sponsors Freedom of Information Act lawsuits and other legal action against Federal agencies) and other private researchers are working to obtain the release of current and historical official documents bearing on Government policies and hidden UFO sightings.
8. Humanoid Reports - Ted Bloecher and Dave Webb of the MUFON Humanoid Study Group and others are systematically investigating and compiling information on reports of humanoid UFO occupants.
9. Abduction Reports - Ted Bloecher, Budd Hopkins, Dr Aphrodite Clamar, Dr Leo Sprinkle and others are applying hypnosis, psychological testing, and other research tools to evaluate reports that humans have been abducted and examined by allegedly alien humanoid beings.
10. Crash/Retrieval Reports - Len Stringfield, William Moore, Stanton Friedman and others are investigating reports that former military personnel and civilian consultants have participated in, or accidentally observed, the retrieval of crashed UFOs and alien humanoid bodies.
11. Other - please specify.

The Fund for UFO Research invites donations from anyone wishing to support active research into the UFO phenomenon. If you wish to financially support any of the above 11 categories please specify which. Unrestricted donations are also invited.

If you are unable to contribute to the Fund for UFO Research but wish to complete the above poll you are invited to do so.

Please forward your completed poll, name and address to: The Fund for UFO Research  
PO Box 277  
Mt Rainier, MD 20712, U.S.A.■



# UFOs AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

## — THE INSIDE STORY

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BY BILL CHALKER

### PART TWO {Continuing Bill Chalker's investigation}.

A Foreign Affairs document about "UNGA 33: SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE: ITEM 126 - ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENON", contained a review by P.A. Jackson, for the Australian UN delegation, on the attempts by Sir Eric Gairy to obtain UN concurrence for his idea of a UN UFO agency. The document summarises the negotiations that took place, noting that the result was "a much more modest draft decision", which was subsequently adopted by consensus of the Special Political Committee on December 7, 1978. The document concludes:

*"The outcome was a satisfactory one from our point of view and from the points of view of those other countries who did not want to accede to the demands of the Grenada draft resolution but at the same time did not want to offend the Government of Grenada. The draft decision did not commit the Outer Space Committee to do more than receive and consider documents from Grenada and permit Grenada to present its views to the Committee. This is something which Grenada, or any other country could have done at anytime without a decision of the General Assembly, but Grenada was satisfied. Most importantly, the draft decision did not inscribe the item on the agenda for UNGA 34".*

In retrospect, it would have been far more expedient for Sir Eric Gairy to have devoted more time to domestic matters, for before long, he was deposed in a coup (11).

With regard to RAAF UFO policy, two 1966 documents were especially illuminating. These were Department of Air (later Department of Defence) Minute Papers entitled and dated: "UFOs - RAAF HANDLING OF PROBLEM", August 16, 1966, and "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - RAAF POLICY", October 12, 1966.

The first of these minute papers, arose out of a conflict between the Intelligence and Public Relations Directorates of the Department of Air, over whether "the distribution to interested members of the public of the 'Summary of Unidentified Aerial Sightings Reported to Department of Air from 1960'" was to cease. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence was "keen to soft-pedal the UFO business" and gave "the reason for this cessation (as) the undesireability of wetting the interest of the public in UFOs.

*"The 'Summary' grew out of a requirement for certain statistical UFO information to provide material for a ministerial reply to a parliamentary question.*

*"DPR (Directorate of Public Relations - B.C.) willingly undertook to draft an answer for the Minister (a task which entailed folio-for-folio research through some four or five parts of the relevant file), because it felt that the otherwise burdensome task had a distinct side-benefit, namely, the collation of an unclassified and innocuous summary of UFO 'sightings' in Australia for the past five years.*

*"DPR envisaged the day when it would be able to reply to all public UFO enquiries by the mere despatch of the 'Summary' covered, if thought necessary, by a letter in which we explain*

that we are not prepared to engage in any subsequent disputation (i.e. take our 'Summary' or leave it; we have told you all we know).

"In order to keep this 'Summary' current, D/DAFI (Ops) was good enough to agree to provide DPR with the basic information which DPR would expect to have been security cleared for general release before adding the information to the 'Summary'".

In this August 16, 1966, Minute Paper, DPR directed at DAFI (Directorate of Air Force Intelligence), "a plea to remove the present restriction on the sharing of our unclassified UFO information with the public, for the following reasons:-

"(a) The RAAF really has no right to act as an arbiter of the subjects in which the public may or may not take an interest. Those members of the public who care to concern themselves with the UFO facts and fancies all know that the Department of Air is the official, governmental examiner of reports of sightings in this country and any attempt by us to suppress public interest (however misguided we may think that interest to be) only helps to support the general impression that we are sitting on fat files of information, vital to our security. This, I submit, is the last thing we want to happen.

"(b) The USAF is believed not to be adverse to making public its unclassified UFO findings, which it does in sheer self defence and, while it is true we do not have to defend ourselves against the same sort of pressure for information as that applied to the American Air Force, it seems self evident that we should, in our own defence, devise some simple piece of administrative machinery to cope with that

steady flow of UFO enquiries, anti-authority (RAAF?) press innuendos and statements verging on public accusations of duplicity which we will never be able to dodge, as long as we continue to play our unclassified UFO cards too close to our chests.

"(c) DPR, which bears the brunt of the current pressure by replying to most of the public UFO enquiries, feels that unless we come out into the open we always will be the subject of occasional (and unnecessary) adverse publicity.

"(d) The cat is already out of the bag (a reference to the situation that the existence of the 'Summary' was not widely known, but that a AFSRS (Australian Flying Saucer Research Society - a civilian group) representative had written, asking for a "brief assessment of sightings", implying that the existence of the 'Summary' was becoming common knowledge - B.C.)".

DPR continued:

"In summary: by continuing with the old policy of playing our UFO cards close to the chest, we only foster the incorrect (but nevertheless widely held) belief that we have much vital information to hide. On the other hand, by maintaining a current 'Summary' (which DPR is prepared to do, with your continued help) we dispose in one blow, of the UFO enthusiasts belief that:

- (a) he is not being taken into the RAAF's confidence; and
- (b) the RAAF is desperately determined to suppress UFO information to prevent national panic..."

The Director of Public Relations concluded his Minute Paper to the Director of Air Force Intelligence, by stating, "while security is not DPR's affair, our relations with the general public (cranks and all) certainly are and I feel strongly, from the

*PR point of view, that we are handling this whole business in an unnecessarily rigid and unimaginative way".*

The second Minute Paper, dated October 12, 1966, continued the same theme, but confirms that uncertainty and/or confusion were keynotes in RAAF UFO policy during 1966 - hallmarks that would continue, albeit waxing and waning, right up to today.

It stated, in part, that:

*"There appears to be some confusion concerning Departmental policy over UFOs...on file...there is a ministerial statement to the effect:*

*'Anyone who is interested in sightings of UFOs can apply to the Department of Air for information on the subject and is welcome to a synopsis of UFO sightings which includes a very brief assessment of the probable causes'.*

*"This statement was made in answer to ministerial representation. It would appear, however, that the policy represented by this statement may not have reflected the view of DAFI, despite earlier, although inconclusive evidence of this concurrence.*

*"...DAFI has proposed to DGPP who in turn referred to DCAS that our approach to UFO reports be liberalised. It does not appear that either DGPP or DCAS were aware of the Minister's statement. In my opinion we must either comply with the terms of that statement or inform the minister of our 'new' approach, if it is not intended to provide the synopsis of sightings and on this I am not at all together clear from reading the files.*

*"It would, however, seem that agreement has now been reached that DPR is to handle all enquiries for information, however, it does not appear that DPR has been consulted on the extent of the liberalisation proposed by DAFI in answer to his (DPR)*

*submission (the Aug. 16, 1966, minute Paper - B.C.) and could DPR indicate his views.*

*"It would also appear that there is some need for rationalisation of our files on this subject. There are at least 4 different files which contain a confusion of policy, reported sightings and requests for information. Three of these files are classified, two of which are secret although there appears to be nothing in the files consistent with this classification. Could DAFI and DPR consider rationalising these files please..."*

As it turned out, in addition to the perennial press release, the 'Summary' did become the public front of the RAAF involvement in the Australian UFO controversy. By the end of the sixties, the 'Summary' crystallised as a largely annual affair. No.1 covered reports from 1960 to 1968. No.2 covered the 1969 accounts, while 1970 and 1971 reports appeared in 'Summary' No.3. From 1972 up to 1977 inclusive, the 'Summaries' appeared somewhat erratically, but covering each year separately (namely 'Summary' Nos.4 to 9).

The RAAF had ostensibly become locked into a bureaucratically orchestrated formula for handling the "UFO problem". Part of a 1980 "Brief for the Minister for Defence on RAAF policy for reporting of UAS...", describes the formula:

*"Each RAAF base in Australia has an officer responsible for the investigation of UAS. Under present arrangements, anyone who sees (or thinks they have seen) an aerial object which cannot be identified should contact the nearest RAAF base, or if this is not possible, the nearest Police Station. Reports received at RAAF bases are thoroughly investigated and the results forwarded on to Department of Defence (Air Force Office) where they are checked and filed. The person making the original report is advised by the appropriate RAAF base of the findings of the investigation if so requested.*

*"Although the UAS files are unclassified they are not made available*

to the general public in their complete form as many of the people submitting reports wish to remain anonymous. However, a summary of the findings of any particular case can be made available.

"In summary, the RAAF does not conceal facts about UAS and are quite prepared to release details of particular reported sightings to the general public on request. This assumes that the case has been reported and investigated by the RAAF in the first instance".

Variations upon this recent expression of the RAAF UFO formula has lead to an amplification of the problems noted in the 1966 Minute Papers already discussed. The RAAF interest in UFOs vacillated around a publically stated low priority base.

The reference to "a confusion of policy, reported sightings and requests for information" in the 1966 Minute Paper already referred to, largely holds true today. Handwritten annotations on a letter I sent to the Director of Public Relations in April, 1980, seems to confirm the situation.

In one annotation, the Director of Public Relations wrote to one of his officers:

"11/4 A/ADRR -  
Re reply, I believe there is a policy of not providing information on UFOs - Is this true?"

"A/ADPR (Press):  
Could you please get a policy sorted out with DAFI in (sic? - B.C.) whether we should continue to answer such enquiries? I think we are obliged to, particularly when FoI (Freedom of Information Act - B.C.) comes in, but I think you were going to discuss the matter with (unclear - B.C.) at one stage".

The final annotation is most revealing, even if it may have been partly written as a joke or out of frustration?:

The officer apparently wrote on my letter:

"DAFI

"I still presume we are still in the UFO business. If so, could I have a suitable reply to pass on to Mr Chalker, please (14.4.80)".

As it turned out, a reply was not forthcoming for a further five months.

While the RAAF investigations remain the only known official study of UFOs, with all its perhaps understandable bureaucratic and military trappings, the scientific investigation of UFOs takes second place to the resolution of any defence and/or political implications. Since nearly three decades of involvement have probably confirmed for the RAAF, that there is a limited defence content and that the majority of reports are misidentification of prosaic phenomena, such investigations have taken a low priority.

The aspect to suffer first is the effort to establish whether something really interesting is at the heart of the small residue of cases referred to as "unknown" or "unidentified". Instead for the RAAF they remain just that - "unknown". In fact one gets the impression from the files, that the RAAF simply does not know what to do with the really provocative reports it receives. The fact that these "unknowns" are few in number is probably convincing enough evidence for the RAAF that perhaps such cases are ultimately resolveable, but the problem of possible nil return for effort expended, argues against their detailed investigation.

However, the quality of investigations in both prosaic and significant reports has drawn criticism from many sources, perhaps none more pointed than that of Dr Claude Poher, as expressed in a letter located in the RAAF UFO Enquiries files. Poher led France's first major official UFO research group - "Groupe d'Etude des Phenomenes Aerspatiaux Non Identifies" (GEPAN) - under the auspices of the French equivalent of NASA. In 1976 he addressed this response to the RAAF's UFO investigation, after the Department of Defence had sent him some of their Annual Summaries:

"May I suggest, for transmission to personnel responsible for this work, that some of the 'possible

*causes' mentioned in these summaries are not acceptable..."*

Dr Poher gave an example of an innocuous observation at Wickham, NSW, on April 4, 1975, of a "silver object about the size of a cricket ball", which the 'Summary' lists as Venus for the "possible cause". Poher concluded:

*"...for the 4th April, 75, the planet was under the horizon so the cause Venus is ridiculous.*

*"There are many other impossibilities like this in the papers you sent me. I think one should avoid publication of these documents without a careful check by*

*specialists of the different scientific disciplines involved, so as not to have, one day a journalist or a scientist holding the Services of the Australian Department of Defence up to ridicule".*

Such "impossibilities" are all too familiar to observers of RAAF UFO investigations, e.g. Cressy (1961) - "Astronomical", near Moe (1963) - "Tornado like meteorological manifestations", and Vaucluse Beach, Sydney (1965) - "tornado" (12).

To be continued - see the next issue of UFORAN for part 3: "The RAAF 'Unidentified Flying Objects - Reports of Sightings' files".

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## AN A TO Z OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

(BY PAUL & CASSANDRA SOWIAK-RUDEJ)

*This article is not intended to represent an exhaustive list of all possible or proposed explanations for UFO activity, but is designed to show something of the range and nature of the solutions that various researchers, authors etc. have considered. If it opens peoples' minds, or stimulates them to examine the evidence, it has fulfilled its purpose.*



**ALIEN PEACE CORPS** - Proposed by: Brayce Gemblar. Concept: UFOs are manned by a group of extraterrestrials, who are studying Earth in order to help us achieve a better society. They have not put their plans into action yet, because they retain secrecy until the master plan is complete. Source: "What We Really Know About Flying Saucers", Otto Binder, Fawcett Gold Medal Books, USA, 1967.

**AIR INVERSION** - Proposed by: Dr Donald Menzel. Concept: UFO sightings are really caused by mirages and atmospheric inversions. The people who see these misidentify them and generate complex reports and stories. Sources: "UFOs - Operation Trojan Horse", J.A. Keel, Abacus, UK, 1970.

**AETHERIAN EXPLANATION** - Proposed by: George King, head of Aetherius Society, UK. Concept: UFOs are spacecraft, sent from other planets in our solar system, whose occupants are commissioned to lead us to a better life through selected contacts. Several previous visits have been made; e.g. Jesus came from Venus, Mohammed from Jupiter etc. Our response via prayer and membership of the Society is required in order for the mission to be a success. Source: Lectures given in Wollongong, NSW, by members of the group.

**ANCIENT ASTRONAUT** - Proposed by: Agrest, Von Daniken, and others. Concept: UFOs are spaceships from other regions in the universe. They are manned by astronauts, who visited Earth in ancient times, giving rise to legends of Gods, angels etc., and religious records of their mystical equipment. They are now revisiting us and studying our progress. Source: "Anatomy of a Phenomenon", Jacques Vallee, Tandem, UK, 1966.

*To be continued.*

# THE UFO PHENOMENON - THREE PERSPECTIVES

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BY QUENTIN FOGARTY

## INTRODUCTION

UFOs! They flit across our skies, land in our fields, abduct us, scare our cats and dogs and mutilate our cattle, they come as benevolent or malevolent travellers from other times and space. They are man-made machines, government secrets; the manipulators of minds, the shapers of consciousness.

To some, they are the ultimate expression of faith - the Lord and his Angelic hosts; to others - Satan and his demonic hordes.

They are the spawners of a host of magazines, books, films and documentaries. They are the stuff of dreams and nightmares.

To the more sceptical among us, UFOs are none of these. They are simply misperceptions, hallucinations, wishful thinking, hoaxes, superstition - the "new nonsense".

But, whether you love them or loathe them, there is no denying that UFOs have

an uncanny ability to provoke controversy and cause bitter division. Nowhere is this more true than in the scientific community. Most scientists with an interest in the subject pursue their inquiries confidentially for fear of ridicule. Some are not quite so reticent. They believe that UFOs represent a truly puzzling phenomenon, or phenomena, worthy of serious study.

In the United States, three of the most prominent scientists involved in UFO research are Dr J. Allen Hynek, former consultant to the US Air Force study into UFOs, codenamed Project Blue Book, and now the director of the Centre for UFO Studies (CUFOS); Dr Bruce S. Maccabee, a physicist specialising in optics with the Naval Surface Weapon Centre in Maryland; and Dr Richard F. Haines, a NASA research scientist specialising in the problems of human perception.

On a recent trip to the United States, I interviewed the three men about aspects of the phenomenon. Here then are highlights of those interviews:

## DR J. ALLEN HYNEK



When Hynek started as an astronomical advisor for Project Blue Book, he thought the phenomenon was a fad, and "like all fads and crazes I thought it would soon dry up and go away. Had anyone told me in 1948 that 33 years later we would not only still be talking about UFOs, but that they would still be

a current topic of interest, I would have thought they were crazy". Now, three decades later, this former UFO sceptic, runs the Centre for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, and is regarded by many as the world's leading ufologist. Hynek takes a certain amount of satisfaction from the fact that more and more people are taking an interest in the phenomenon. "The more intellectually aware are beginning to take notice", he told me. "The sorts of people who read the Scientific American and the Scientist, and so forth, are becoming to realise that this UFO phenomenon just does not go away. It is here".

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As well as this general upsurge in interest, it has become increasingly evident recently that the American military and intelligence communities are also keeping tabs on the phenomenon, in spite of public pronouncements to the contrary.

Because of Hynek's former involvement with the military, I devoted the main part of the interview to this subject.

*Fogarty:* There has been considerable publicity recently about the release of files on UFOs from the intelligence agencies in the United States. Have you learned anything new from these files?

*Hynek:* Nothing that I had not pretty much guessed at before. Because of my work with Project Blue Book I knew of cases that came to my attention and never got into the official files. I knew that there were cases that were handled separately so it came as no surprise to me when the Freedom of Information investigation revealed that the CIA, for instance, had been looking into the matter for quite some time, and why not? That is the CIA's job. I cannot think of a government that would be so stupid as not to look into something like this. The Gallup Poll came to the conclusion that 57 per cent of the American population believed that UFOs were real. That is a large number and I cannot think of any government that would not take cognizance of that fact. If something intrigues that many people, and I were the head of the CIA, I would regard myself as derelict in my duty if I had not looked into it.

*Fogarty:* But the CIA did deny their involvement for a long time. Why?

*Hynek:* I think the intelligence community is a strange community. They almost regard the public as enemies. I'm reminded, though it's not quite apropos, of the comedian Groucho Marx when he made the comment that military intelligence is a contradiction in terms. The intelligence community automatically classifies, automatically sits on something and, to exaggerate, they won't give you the time of day, unless you are cleared and so forth. So it is the most natural reaction in the world for the FBI, or the CIA, or any intelligence community ... I've worked somewhat with the intelligence community in Britain, and

(the) same thing. It's an occupational disease.

*Fogarty:* So it wasn't that they had anything to hide, it was not as though they had discovered the true nature of the phenomenon. It was more that they were locked into this syndrome, The public is the enemy, we cannot tell them anything?

*Hynek:* Locked in is a good term for it. They are locked into that. For instance, when I first went with the Air Force as a consultant on this subject, I had to have top secret clearance. Why? It seems silly, in a sense. However, at that time they thought it might be the Russians, either the Russians or the Martians so to speak, and when they finally decided that it wasn't the Russians to the best of their knowledge, then at that time the whole thing should have been turned over to several universities. It became an academic, scientific problem. Unfortunately, the Air Force kept it as an intelligence question, which was bad. They would have played cleaner pool with the public and said here are some cases we cannot explain, here are cases we can, instead of the old cover-up deal of saying it was a balloon, it was Venus, it was such and such ... many of the times it turned out to be absolutely not so.

*Fogarty:* Do the files indicate a real concern on their (the intelligence communities) part about the phenomenon?

*Hynek:* I would have to define, I suppose, what we mean by real concern. It wasn't an emergency concern in any sense, but a monitoring concern in the sense that they were watching developments.

*Fogarty:* Is there any indication from the files that they (the intelligence community) have come up with any more answers than the civilian investigators?

*Hynek:* No. Of course, the Freedom of Information Act doesn't mean you can get everything you want. They still have the gimmick, you might say, of national security. So if they had found something, let's say the propulsion system (of UFOs) for example, then that would obviously be a national security matter and they wouldn't say anything about it anyway, rather it wouldn't be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

## THE UFO PHENOMENON - THREE PERSPECTIVES

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So I think the answer to that is, I just don't know. There certainly isn't anything in the papers so far that would constitute a scientific breakthrough.

*Fogarty:* The people engaged in getting this information are continuing their legal battle, so maybe they will find out something?

*Hynek:* Yes, given they're up against the funding problem ... lawyers are notoriously expensive ... so we shall see what happens on that. I wish them luck. So many of the interesting things in this field just happen to come up by accident, you just happen to be talking to someone. (Hynek then mentioned two cases involving the American military which were not included in the Project Blue Book files, although he considered that they should have been).

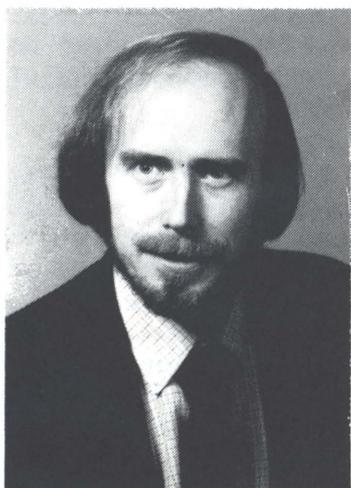
*Fogarty:* There seems to have been, on the part of UFOs, a sort of liking for war zones, military bases and intelligence centres ... maybe that means something?

*Hynek:* Well, it's one of the clues and

what we have to do is add up all these clues, first making sure that all the clues are right. In just about any subject, rumour, superstition and wishful thinking are rife but in this subject, particularly so. One of the main jobs is sifting, carefully ... this is why we pay really very little attention to single-witness cases because, after all, they (the witnesses) might have hallucinated, they might have wanted so much to see a UFO that they transformed Venus into a UFO, or something of that sort. But when you have several witnesses, especially if they have some measure of independence, and you then collect those reports and compare them, of course you expect to find variations, human nature is human nature, observation differs, but you do then come to the conclusion that it was a real thing they observed and not some hallucination. If five people, who would certainly have different psychological breaking points, were all to report seeing the same thing simultaneously, and describe it identically in detail, in other words a five-part hallucination, then it seems that would be just as puzzling as the UFO phenomenon.

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### DR BRUCE S. MACCABEE



Navy physicist Maccabee is one of the most respected scientists currently engaged in UFO research in the United States. He is a consultant for various UFO groups and is also the chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, a non-profit, scientific and educational organisation based

in Washington DC. Maccabee's major undertaking to date has been an investigation into the New Zealand radar-visual-photographic sightings of December 31, 1978, in which I was a key witness. The interview with Maccabee covered many aspects of the UFO puzzle, starting with his thoughts about the nature of the phenomenon. He said something was definitely "going on,"

although it was sometimes difficult to differentiate between an objective reality and the existence of something in people's minds. Maybe, he suggested, it was a phenomenon so rare that it had hardly ever been recorded under reasonably controlled conditions.

*Maccabee:* I have considered the possibility that some reports suggest hardware of some sort. In other words, some people are reporting seeing definitely shaped, apparently metallic objects. It is kind of hard to imagine, in a multiple-witness report, that they (the witnesses) are all hallucinating something that looks like a piece of hardware. There are also reports of what we may call entities, or creatures, that are associated with these things (UFOs). If you collect all of these reports, it appears that somebody, from somewhere, is coming here. Other bizarre reports have stated that something just seemed to appear in a certain place. If it just appears, what does that mean? Is there a higher dimensionality, or something ... somebody could be time travelling and breaking into our universe at a

## THE UFO PHENOMENON - THREE PERSPECTIVES

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particular place? These are all highly speculative and, to some degree, unwarranted speculations because we do not have enough hard evidence to enable us to pin down what is going on. There is a whole collection of unidentified phenomena which is generally grouped under the classification UFOs, and some of these might be natural, some may be unnatural. It is difficult to split them apart and analyze one section.

*Fogarty:* Some people would say that because of the number of UFO reports round the world over many years, there should be something more substantial to work on ... like a crashed saucer, something as solid as that. Are you aware of any solid evidence that does exist?

*Maccabee:* Take the first implication that there should be some evidence. If there are UFOs that are spacecraft flying around, should they crash? It is not inconceivable that somebody could come up with a technology that is so successful that the number of crashes is zero, or so small, that the chance of finding something is vanishingly small. A large portion of the Earth is water, or land where hardly anyone goes. There could have been crashes here and there that have just not been recorded. Sceptics have argued that our technology is not perfect, therefore "theirs" won't be perfect, therefore we should find crashed saucers, or something. Now if it is not hardware, but some sort of psychic projection as some people have argued, then there is not going to be any hard evidence. Personally, I do not know of any crashed saucers, but there have been reports, some of which have even come out of the US military and the military of other countries. I know of some reports that have even been generated by people employed in intelligence agencies. The problem is to dig something out. In the United States, for example, UFOs have been treated as a military problem right from the beginning. Originally it was thought that the Russians might have got a super jump ahead of us. Because the military treated it as an intelligence subject, they tended to keep their information secret. In a situation like that only a handful of people might have gone to a crashed saucer site. They would then have been sworn to secrecy with the threat of life imprisonment if they revealed anything. If that happened, say back in the late 1940s

or early 50s, any information about a crashed saucer might have just plain disappeared. A very interesting aspect of this subject though is that in the last couple of years there have been stories turning up, literally coming out of the woodwork, about people who have seen various bits of information that in the early 1950s, or late 40s, there may have been crashes of objects, that (the objects) were then transported to various US bases. It would appear that whatever the Air Force got hold of, and let's exclude crashed saucers for a moment, they just did not know what to do with it. So it was not really an intentional cover-up ... they just did not know what to do with it. They wanted to get rid of it and they issued statements saying that they didn't have anything. You know, the Air Force ended its investigation in 1969 leaving 700 cases unexplained. If there were that many unexplained cases, what caused them? The Air Force took the attitude "we cannot explain it, let's go on to something else".

*Fogarty:* What is the present attitude of the American defence establishment?

*Maccabee:* If you were to write to the President, to NASA, or the Air Force, you would get directed to some public affairs office which would answer with an official form letter saying that the Air Force closed its investigation in 1969 and there was no evidence that UFOs were extra-terrestrial craft, or a superior technology, and that, as a result of the Condon Study of 1967-69 there was no point in continuing what was Project Blue Book. However, you have to understand that if someone in the military sees something oddball in the sky, then they should report it to military intelligence. It might just happen to be a ballistic missile heading for Washington DC, or Melbourne, Australia. So, things like that do get reported. Certain UFO reports keep coming in to the intelligence community. In fact, there is a specific document, if you're in the US military, relating to how to make such reports and if you think it's super urgent you can say the secret code word, as it were, and get straight through to Washington.

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DR RICHARD F. HAINES



The special forte of this NASA research scientist is the study of UFO encounters reported by air crews. He has about 3,000 cases on his files, from many countries, and dating back to the 1920s. He has also taken a great interest in the in-

cident involving a young Melbourne pilot, Frederick Valentich, who disappeared over Bass Strait on October 21, 1978, after he reported that his single-engined aircraft was being buzzed by a UFO. Haines says most of the sightings on his files would be classified as "nocturnal lights". However, there are a small number of cases where pilots reported seeing large objects, with physical details such as seams, near their aircraft.

*Fogarty:* You are talking about apparently metallic craft?

*Haines:* Apparently metallic craft, yes. The word silver, aluminium and chromium are words that are repeated very, very often.

*Fogarty:* Are the pilots involved commercial or military, or both?

*Haines:* My own files have military, commercial, private and test pilots ... these are the four categories and, of course, I have files on each of the four. The majority are commercial. For my own research I purposely disregard single-pilot sightings and I will only analyse sightings with two or more observers onboard the plane, for reliability reasons. In a few isolated cases, like the Valentich disappearance, that is such an interesting case to me that I have looked into it. But with single pilots there has to be some supportive evidence to go along with it otherwise I will not waste my time. I think it's important to point out that the majority of commercial pilot sightings I have involve two to four witnesses simultaneously which certainly lends some credibility to the fact that something very strange is occurring. It

doesn't explain any better what the phenomenon is, but it lends some believability to the basic event.

*Fogarty:* Are these pilots prepared to be named. Have they given their names to you, have their names been in the news media?

*Haines:* Some have, and of course some others fear ridicule and will not allow their names to be used.

*Fogarty:* Has anyone been hurt in these aerial encounters between planes and these UFOs, disregarding the Valentich case for a moment. Is there any evidence, in the cases you have studied, that these objects mean any harm?

*Haines:* That is a difficult question to answer. There are a number of Air Force cases from Project Blue Book, well from history now, a good number of years back, that raise some interesting questions along those lines. Because the data is so difficult to get hold of, I cannot comment on it directly. When one writes (to the) officials about more information what usually happens is we get a polite letter that says no further information exists. So from the military point of view, I guess my answer would have to be that I do not have any evidence of that nature. More recently there have been reported cases of aircraft damage in flight, by running into objects.

*Fogarty:* What sort of damage are you talking about?

*Haines:* Oh, dents for instance, or bent ailerons, or landing gear bent.

*Fogarty:* I would assume that if two objects (a plane and a UFO) were to collide at the speeds they would be travelling at, then you would expect more than dents?

*Haines:* That's right

*Fogarty:* What does that indicate to you?

*Haines:* I do not know yet. That is a good question. There has been a reported UFO case of a private pilot flying into Mexico City who claims that he was encountered, or accosted, by several discs and one of them came so close it actually dented a portion

## THE UFO PHENOMENON - THREE PERSPECTIVES

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of the aircraft. That's a light aircraft, of course, and the material, the metal on the outside of the plane, is certainly not as strong as it would be on a commercial plane. The evidence of damage, or injury, is very sparse with pilots and who could say how many plane crashes, where there is a loss of life, might have some possible relationship to the UFO phenomenon. We just do not know. There is no way of knowing that.

*Fogarty:* This sort of denting would suggest that these objects, although they might look metallic, are not metallic?

*Haines:* That's right. I think we need to know far more about the effect of high energy density. For instance, can you get an implosion effect on a metal structure, as if it were a mechanical force or impart on the surface of the skin of an aircraft, which was not a mechanical impact at all but, let's say, a high energy density contact which causes the metal to deform? We just don't understand that much yet about metallurgy to draw conclusions about whether the object outside the plane was a metallic object. Perhaps it was just nothing but a plasma, a very high energy density plasma, we just don't know, or (maybe it was) some other phenomenon for that matter.

*Fogarty:* Do you find this rather frustrating?

*Haines:* Well, yes and no. As a scientist I have to deal with some frustrations in regular scientific work. By the way, this research is entirely a hobby and I do it entirely on my own time and I do not make any pronouncements representing my employer.

*Fogarty:* That was what I was going to ask next. What is the official attitude of your employer (NASA). Do they discourage you, encourage you, or do they just not say anything?

*Haines:* They neither encourage or discourage me. They have not taken a public stand on it (the UFO phenomenon). I'm sure many people realise the agency is very busy with some important projects and this particular subject has not yet been accepted as one of the official projects that we are doing and I do not know of any NASA research on the subject. So, those of us who do research on UFOs, do it as private citizens.

*Fogarty:* What about your colleagues, how do they treat you?

*Haines:* I have found generally that they are very open-minded and accepting and, in fact, curious. They are perhaps as curious as I am, but because of their involvement with their own line of research they do not have the time to spend on it. On the other hand I have some very close friends inside the agency who are doing their own research on this subject. So I am certainly not alone. There are many of us

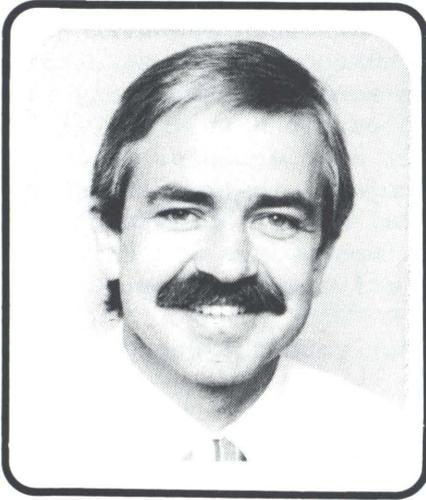
*Fogarty:* I do not want to back you into a corner but what do you think UFOs are, or represent. Do you have any ideas you are prepared to state publicly?

*Haines:* No. As a matter of fact I do not have a public opinion on that issue. I can say this, however, that I don't have any direct evidence that UFOs represent visitors from outer space. I repeat, I don't have any evidence of that kind. Right now, I guess I'm tending in the direction of a natural phenomenon about which we know very little and science has not yet accepted. There are many examples of that in history which I'm sure your readers are aware of. Until other evidence comes along I guess I'm going to live with that one for a while and continue to do what I would consider (to be) open-minded research and look at all the evidence. As a scientist I've got to consider all the evidence and systematically check the hypotheses that are available and see how the data fits the hypotheses.■

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Bill Chalker is continuing to liaise with the Royal Australian Air Force {RAAF} and has returned to Canberra a second time to review more newly released files. Therefore, readers can look forward to complete coverage of RAAF investigations from 1955-1980 being presented in future issues of UFORAN.■



Quentin Edward Fogarty, born September 28, 1946, Dunedin, New Zealand, has worked as a journalist for the past 18 years for both the print and electronic (radio/television) media, in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland. He is married to a fellow jour-

nalist and they have three children, all boys - Daniel 7, Benjamin 5 and Samuel 18 months. At the time of the New Zealand UFO sightings, he was working for Channel 0 (since renamed Channel 10) in Melbourne. For the past three years he has worked as a freelance journalist and film-maker and, for the past six months, he has been working full-time for National Nine News in Melbourne.

Fogarty has completed a book on his UFO

experiences, titled "Let's Hope They're Friendly", and it is due to be published by Angus and Robertson about July. It will have a colour photo section showing the best single frames from the film and two black and white photo sections. The title is a direct quote from Fogarty's commentary recorded as the events were happening off the Kaikoura Coast and reflects some of the fear and uncertainty experienced by Fogarty and his film crew. The book is unique in that it is not a "UFO" book in the traditional sense. Fogarty has no consuming interest in the subject and he is not trying to push any particular barrow. It is simply the story of what can, and did, happen to a group of ordinary people caught up in a series of extraordinary events. As well as detailing the events leading up to the sightings, and the sightings themselves, the book also explores what happened to Fogarty and his colleagues in the months that followed, especially their treatment at the hands of the sceptics and the professional debunkers. All of these experiences are faithfully recorded including an extraordinary meeting with the arch-villain of ufology, Philip Klass. That meeting takes up an entire chapter and it is sub-titled, "A Klassical Encounter". It has an afterword by J. Allen Hynek. ■

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## NEW ZEALAND 1978 — AN UPDATE

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BY DR BRUCE S. MACCABEE

As a result of a continuing argument with Philip Klass (I imagine you recognize the name) I have done a considerable amount of reanalysis of various portions of the 1978 New Zealand case, and now have further information which is not contained in my original report (although some modifications of the report have been made as a result of new information):

The most widely publicized portion of the sighting took place as the plane flew north-east out of Christchurch at about 2:16 a.m. on December 31, 1978. The sighting began at an estimated time of 2:19:30 a.m. plus or minus 30 seconds. Film from

this portion of the sighting was shown around the world. One portion, in particular, showed large dim images with horizontal lines going through the images. These images were variously described as being from photography of Jupiter and Venus! To one who has seen the whole film these identifications were immediately ridiculous because the bands were (are) seen to move up and down through the large images, which is an impossibility for the bands of Jupiter (or Venus). Subsequently a very probable explanation for these bands has come to light. The explanation relies upon two empirical observations (reproducible under laboratory conditions):

- a) a defocused image has the shape of the camera aperture (round in this case) and
- b) when a small (distant) source of considerable brightness is photographed with a defocused lens through plane glass that is tilted with respect to the optic axis of the camera (i.e. the sighting direction to the light), bands will appear across the defocused image.

I had initially assumed that the large images were due to defocus, and when the information about the bands being formed by looking through window glass at a steep angle became available, I concluded that the bands through the Crockett images were a result of his looking downward through the airplane window at a rather steep angle.

Other explanations for the light seen (and photographed) were offered, ranging from Venus and light reflected off mating mutton birds, to light from a single squid boat (and even to flashing beacons on the coast). All explanations except the single squid boat are trivial to throw out. (However, I should mention that Klass was the first to push the flashing beacon hypothesis, and he argued about that - in letter exchanges - for about a year before giving up). The squid boat suggestion is not as trivial because squid boats are very bright light sources, as was the object which was filmed.

However, the squid boat explanation has problems, too, not the least of which is that the possible identification as a squid boat "eluded" the inquiring minds of two trained pilots who have flown New Zealand waters for many years and had seen squid boats at various distances for many years and who were aware that boats of the squid fleet were in N.Z. waters and even correctly identified the light from the main squid fleet (140 nautical miles east south-east of Christchurch). Other problems with squid boat explanation include the apparent relative motions of the light with respect to the plane as it turned toward the light (about 40 nautical miles from Christchurch when the plane turned to the right), and a few minutes later when the plane turned to the left. According to the copilot, in a recording made only four days after the event, the light (which was on the right

side of the plane) "kept station with us" as the plane turned left. Note that the light was on the outside of the turn at the time - a very difficult manoeuvre for a squid boat.

Of course, Ireland's (Wm Ireland of N.Z.) failure to locate a registered boat at the location can not be disregarded simply by saying that a boat could have been fishing illegally and have thus not wished to report its position. The fact is that the squid boat at the position suggested by Ireland (or a somewhat different position suggested by Klass - yes, he gave up on beacons and grabbed onto the squid boat hypothesis) is in legal fishing waters, so, if a boat fished there, it would only be illegal if the boat did not report. Therefore, why not report?

Further circumstantial evidence against a single boat in the Pegasus Bay (next to Christchurch) comes from the testimony of another aircraft pilot of many years experience who said that squid boats tend to fish in pairs, and that throughout his years of observing squid boats he was not aware of any time when boats actually fished in the Bay (however, they would check into the Christchurch port for supplies). It must be remembered that squid boats fish with several hundred thousand watts of lights running continuously for hours, which must be quite an expense, both in electricity and in light bulbs. So if boats don't generally (ever?) have their lights on in the Pegasus Bay, then there probably are no (or few) squid in the Bay. Note: other boats were located fishing in pairs at the north and west sides of the South Island - Ireland reported these boats as registered. Furthermore, they showed up on satellite imagery at midnight. No boat showed up on satellite imagery in the Pegasus Bay, however.

All of the circumstantial evidence argues quite strongly against the squid boat explanation. However, the death knell comes from the photographic imagery. Since a squid boat is very bright, I had expected that, if one of these boats, a reflection would be visible in the water. In fact, the witnesses did report seeing a reflection once. Dennis Grant said it was one of the most impressive of sights. But he indicated that there was a considerable separation between the main light and its reflection - a separation of

many degrees. Such a separation should not be visible at all to the naked eye for lights on a squid boat (10 metres above the water or less?) at a distance such as that estimated by Ireland or Klass (i.e. greater than 20 nautical miles or 37km). Thanks to the efforts of Capt. Startup and some of his pilot friends I was given pictures of guaranteed squid boats two years ago. Upon subsequent analysis over the last couple of years I have concluded that the pictures show - very visibly - the expected reflection. It is a sort of triangular glow with the apex pointing downwards and the base of the triangle upward against the very bright glow of the boat. These pictures were shot under conditions similar to Crockett's pictures (cameraman), both in terms of distance and in terms of camera focal length. The pictures are color slides on ASA 200 film (whereas Crockett's is a color movie on ASA 400 film). A CAREFUL SEARCH OF ALL FRAMES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH IMAGERY IN THE CROCKETT FILM FAILS TO REVEAL ANY HINT OF A REFLECTION BELOW THE IMAGE (OR ABOVE, OR BESIDE, OR ANYWHERE).

Needless to say, the failure of the Crockett film to show a reflection is a "difficult" (to say the least) problem for the squid boat hypothesis to overcome.

Thus sinketh the squid boat!

A section of the film which was never shown publically (individual images have been published, however) was the last section of film of unidentified lights. It shows a light pulsating from extremely bright white to dim red/orange structures.

All attempts to identify this light as a known source have failed. This has included a review of all coastal beacons, and all possible light sources in Blenheim that might "fill the bill". Klass has suggested a reflection of the red rotating beacon on top of the plane off a propellor - and that this reflection in the propellor was photographed by Crockett. "Unfortunately" Klass has been unable to explain how the bright red light could produce saturated pure white (or slightly yellowish white) images. This failure on his part (really on my part, since he asked me to figure out how such a thing could take place - to save his hypothesis, I guess) means that there is no explanation at present known for the flashing light. However, Klass did draw my attention to the fact that the red flashing light on top of the plane had a frequency nearly equal to, or equal to, the frequency of the unknown light. We know the frequency of the red light on top of the plane because Crockett filmed it while the plane was on the ground at Blenheim BEFORE the plane took off for its adventures that fateful night. We also know from the imagery that when an intense red light is photographed the image may "burn through" the red emulsion and have a yellow centre, but the redness of the light is still evident because of a wide red fringe around the central overexposed portion.

From comparing the frequency of the red airplane light with that of the unknown red/white flashing light, I am lead to wonder whether or not the unknown light had adjusted its frequency to match that of the plane! A positive indication of intelligence? ■

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## UFO RESEARCH PUBLICITY BOARD

In the May 11, 1982, edition of "People" magazine an article appeared in "The Pinkney Report" called "Glowing 'cigar' in night sky" which was accompanied by two photographs - one of an "eerie object - shot as it hovered at night over Queensland's Sunshine Coast" and the other of streetlights as a comparison by which to prove the authenticity of the object.

Frank Gillespie, Publicity Board member and ACUFOS Scientific Consultant specializing in photography, wrote the following to the Editor, People, regarding the object. "The photograph, which is printed upside down, is a street lamp; with the lower part of a street sign clearly showing the letters 'AV'. The reason the support post is almost invisible (it is there!) is the short exposure used - probably about 1/500th of a second, and not 15 to 30 minutes as claimed". ■

# reference library

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## "UFOs AND THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE"

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*A Book Review by Frank Gillespie*

AUTHOR: Ronald D. Story PUBLISHER: New English Library

In spite of some obvious inconsistency in his attitudes, and possibly some unadmitted bias, Ronald Story manages to present a factual and well balanced view of both the best and the worst aspects of UFO cases. As an inevitable result, there are times when the action drags, and one is tempted to skip long passages, in the hope of something more exciting further on. This is a book which serious UFO investigators will find invaluable, even though, according to Story's own survey, most of them disagree with him; both on the choice of the ten best cases, and on the importance which Story attaches to them.

Like Philip Klass, Story believes that if the very best of all UFO cases can be given a scientific explanation, then it is futile to examine any further evidence. This is about as extreme as James E. Oberg's proposition (1), that until every single UFO event is explained, there is always the chance that one might be a genuine unidentifiable object. Both of these ideas leave no room for arguments based on statistics; on significant correlations found within the great mass of UFO evidence, regardless of the weakness or strength of any individual UFO report. Story (and Oberg) can therefore be charged with rejection of what has become the basis of everyday life; from evaluation of the effectiveness of a new drug, to the premiums charged for insurance; from the latest advertising techniques, to the prediction of tomorrow's weather. Without statistics, there would be very little of society, civilisation or technology in existence as we know it today.

One item in the book, of special personal interest to me, is the first photographic case included by Story. It is a classic example of the futility of complete reliance on computer analysis, to the exclusion of careful visual examination coupled with efficient use of the brain. The celebrated Trent photographs have emerged unscathed from computer tests carried out first by William H. Soaulding, and later by Dr Bruce Maccabee; yet in one of the photographs, the string supporting the model has been clearly visible in every reproduction I have seen, including the one in this book. Computers, at best, can only be as good as the programmer; and if there is some relevant factor which is not known to the programmer, there is no way the computer will ever give meaningful information on this factor. On the other hand, the computer may well give considerable misinformation on other aspects, simply because this factor was omitted from the programme.

Right through the book, Story continually emphasises that there is more than one viewpoint supported by the evidence, and that none of these are proven; and immediately afterwards, he proclaims his firm belief in just one point of view. This hardly qualifies him to criticise UFOlogists of any persuasion, for their personal beliefs. The overall impression given by the book, is that Story would like UFOs to fit within the framework of science, but that, unlike Klass, he is not prepared to invent new science just to achieve this happy state. This is shown, finally, by his inclusion as an appendix, a paper written by Bruce Murray of the California Institute of Technology. Murray cites many examples of well known facts which have turned out to be false, and concludes that we live in a state of uncertainty. He then condemns as barbarious, any beliefs which seem contrary to the well known facts of science, as though these were magically immune to uncertainty. Story believes there are unexplained UFO cases; but when it comes to a showdown, he is not willing to accept that any facet of science could be wrong. This is a pity, because without this trace of bias, the book could have been so much better.

Finally, I have one small complaint about the quality of Story's research. Every chapter in the book concludes with numerous references to his sources of information; but nowhere does he quote a single Australian UFO researcher. Even in dealing with the famous Tully (Queensland) flap, he can only quote the Sydney Sun-Herald; and it would be better to omit the case altogether, rather than rely solely on media reporting. I hope the rest of his homework was of a higher standard.

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(1) James E. Oberg, "Unidentified Fraudulent Objects", Analog Science Fiction/Science Fact, November 1976. ■

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