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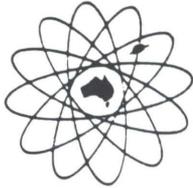
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Somewhere around the year 1950, a well known Adelaide physicist publicly announced that no such thing as ball lightning could exist; that it was a contradiction in terms, and an impossible concept. About 5 years later, that same physicist publicly ridiculed a spectacular UFO sighting report, saying that it was obviously ball lightning, and nothing to make a fuss about. During those 5 years, nothing had happened to make ball lightning any more respectable as physics; but apparently, even an impossible concept was preferable to the idea of an extraterrestrial spaceship. I wonder if this is the only time that a new branch of science became respectable, just because of the advent of an even more disreputable idea! Certainly there is nothing very scientific about ball lightning; it cannot be produced in the laboratory, nor can it be predicted so that it can be studied in the wild. The only reasonable theory on the nature of ball lightning - that it is plasma confined in a self-generated magnetic bottle - will no longer hold water {or plasma}; because topologists have now proved that a ball-shaped magnetic bottle must leak. In spite of this, research into ball lightning is now respectable, and as such, eligible for funding and support by governments and scientific bodies. Research into UFOs is not respectable, and yet there are many thousands more witnesses for the reality of UFOs, than for the reality of ball lightning.

What is it about UFOs that makes them so unacceptable to science? There is, of course, some resemblance to such phenomena as ghosts and poltergeists, min-min lights and banshees, the weird things that people sometimes report, obviously believing almost against their will; but this resemblance is purely superficial. These things are invariably associated with a particular locality, and often with particular people; while UFOs are fairly evenly distributed world wide, and they are reported by all manner of people in all manner of circumstances. No doubt UFOs are, by some, likened to spiritualistic phenomena; but there is no real similarity. Spiritualism is, according to its adherents, a reproducible phenomenon, available on call to certain gifted people. UFO events are certainly not on call, and far from reproducible. Some UFO investigators believe that UFOs are like psi phenomena - generated entirely by our minds. If that is the case, then what happened in 1947 to change the way human minds work? Before that date, UFOs, if they existed at all, were about as rare as ball lightning; apart from a spate of small objects which pestered planes in the closing stages of World War II. A favourite ploy of UFO debunkers is the assignment of puzzling cases to "unknown natural atmospheric phenomena". Even ball lightning can't possibly explain some UFO events, but let's not worry about that - just invent something even more exotic - ANYTHING, as long as it does not involve extraterrestrial intelligence.

"Extraterrestrial intelligence" - there we have it! That is the forbidden subject, the great taboo that keeps UFOs from becoming respectable. It is so obvious, from the very nature of UFO events, and from the patterns of occurrence, both geographical and temporal, that there must be intelligence behind them. After 33 years of UFO reports, it is also obvious that the intelligence involved is not terrestrial. It seems that the concept of extraterrestrial intelligence is as abhorrent {particularly to scientists} as once were those of the round earth, the heliocentric solar system, and the evolution of man. Perhaps this abhorrence is, to some extent, caused by the crackpot types, who receive much publicity when they ascribe just about everything to the activities of Venusians or Pleiadeans; and by the blatant frauds who write numerous books about their contact experiences. Perhaps some people are unwilling to accept that man is not unique as God's creation, and even more unwilling to admit that man could be in any way inferior to another race. With regard to scientists, I am sure that the major reason is conceit - a know-it-all smugness - that current scientific knowledge cannot possibly be wrong; incomplete, yes, but never wrong. This attitude pervades the scientific ranks, despite the well established track record for science, where today's impossibility is tomorrow's way of life!

I am tempted to say that, because of this attitude, science is today in an abnormally unhealthy state; but it is not so. The historical records show that it was ever thus, and that new science or knowledge which upset the old order rarely gained ready acceptance, and never when any religious beliefs were involved. Human nature changes little, and the devoted extraterrestrial intelligence unbeliever can defend his position with as much fervour and blind obstinacy as any Spanish Inquisitor; and he can be just as wrong. The day will come when the truth prevails, and then everybody will know whether extraterrestrials are visiting us or not. That day could become very much closer, if more and more scientists would set prejudice or apathy aside, and actively and openly, join the ranks of those who are seeking the truth.■



THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

NOTICE OF NEW MANAGEMENT

Due to increasing family and business commitments ACUFOS co-ordinators Harry Griesberg and Keith Basterfield stepped down in September. Hence ACUFOS' previous official address at Gosford, NSW, will no longer be used.

ACUFOS' new management is in the hands of Bill Chalker, Frank Gillespie and Vladimir Godic. Bill will handle research, Frank the scientific side and Vladimir administration. The new official address for ACUFOS is:

PO Box 229
Prospect
South Australia 5082

The new Editor of the ACUFOS Journal is Frank Gillespie. Because of increasing costs the subscription rate for this publication is now \$10 in Australia and A\$ 12.00 overseas (this is only the second price rise in 7 years).

All ACUFOS publications are now available from the Arcturus Book Service which is our official overseas outlet. For further details see "Reference Library" - this issue. In Australia all documents are available direct from ACUFOS.

John Prytz's "Master Bibliography" Document which, when completed, will list 3 to 4,000 items is almost completed and should be available by the end of 1982.

The national UFO Conference No.7 sponsored by ACUFOS will be held in Tasmania in early February, 1983.

As in the past ACUFOS will continue to liaise with overseas organisations and individuals with similar aims and objectives.

Any enquiries regarding ACUFOS are invited - please write to our new official address. ■

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ABDUCTION EVENT ?

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD (UFORAN Correspondent S.A.)



Earlier this year UFORAN Assistant Editor, Pony Barenson, and I were contemplating co-writing an article exploring Australia's apparent lack of abduction events. To date, none are known to have occurred in this country despite many such reports coming in from overseas. However, little did we realize at the time that we had been beaten to the draw for an abduction case, involving two young men, said to have occurred near Port Lincoln, South Australia, in October, 1981, is only now slowly being uncovered.

This short report will present preliminary details only. Investigations are still underway. At the moment I have spoken to one of the reporters by telephone and corresponded with both - communication is slow because one lives on a station (large property) near Broken Hill, New South Wales (NSW), and the other is working in Mt Isa, Queensland.

THE STORY

Two young men, Messrs J & P (they wish to remain anonymous for the moment) were

travelling from Broken Hill to Port Lincoln in Mr J's 1966 Holden Sedan. From Port Lincoln they intended driving up to Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

On October 24, 1981, they left Adelaide at about 8 a.m. but had car trouble which slowed them down, consequently they reached Whyalla around 9.30-10 p.m. Because the town had closed down for the night they decided to continue on their way.

Just a few minutes outside Whyalla Mr P yelled to Mr J to stop the vehicle for he had seen a blue "flare" light in the sky to his left (south-east towards the Spencer Gulf). They stopped and both saw a second light shoot out from beneath the first. This second light moved around and flew up and down gullies and hills before stopping in one particular gully.

The witnesses watched for a while before setting off again. Both talked about what they had seen. Shortly Mr J felt like stopping again and says what happened next is hard to explain but recalls "drifting off" into a white endless space, he knew he was there, but couldn't move. A "thing" walked up the road and stopped in front of him, all he could see was part of an entity or figure which looked like it wore an ancient Roman suit and stood for a while before vanishing. Mr J "woke up" and sat quietly until eventually Mr P asked, "what happened"? Mr J recalls that it was near daylight, so they drove on. He felt like he had not slept for a week.

Mr P apparently recalls walking into a big white room and also has vague recollections of an entity seen as an outline, standing some 15 metres from the car.

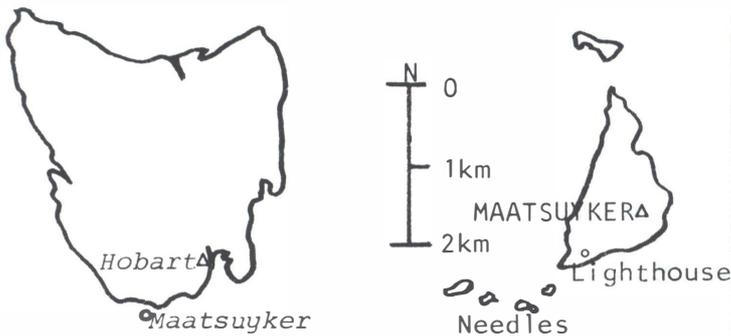
This is where the story currently ends. ■

**stop
press**

Bill Chalker recently spoke to Mr Noel Martin, of Wollongong {NSW}, who has established the company "UFO Discovery '82" to attempt to salvage a UFO he, and his family, saw sink off the coast near Wollongong 25 years ago. To finance this attempt Mr Martin hopes to raise \$250,000. Mr Martin vividly remembers the distressed, fiery, craft circling before it finally crashed into the water and is adamant that it was not a meteorite. Further developments, when available, will appear in a future UFORAN.

Maatsuyker Island Report

BY KEITH ROBERTS (TUFOIC)



Maatsuyker Island is situated 13 km south of the Tasmanian Mainland and is the second largest of the Maatsuyker group of five islands. It covers some 200 hectares, the highest point being 300 metres above sea level, and its vegetation is mainly coastal scrub, tea tree, Melaleuca and Banksia.

Maatsuyker Island is inhabited by lighthouse men and their families and is the southernmost lighthouse in Australia. It is landfall for ships making for Hobart from the west and is the only manned station on the southern and western coasts of Tasmania which are uninhabited for a distance of 240 km. The lighthouse which stands 17 metres high, and was erected in 1890, is situated on the south-west corner of the island overlooking the Needles rocks.

The UFO sightings at Maatsuyker occurred mainly during the 1965 to 1966 time period though three other reports took place during 1973, 1978 and 1979.

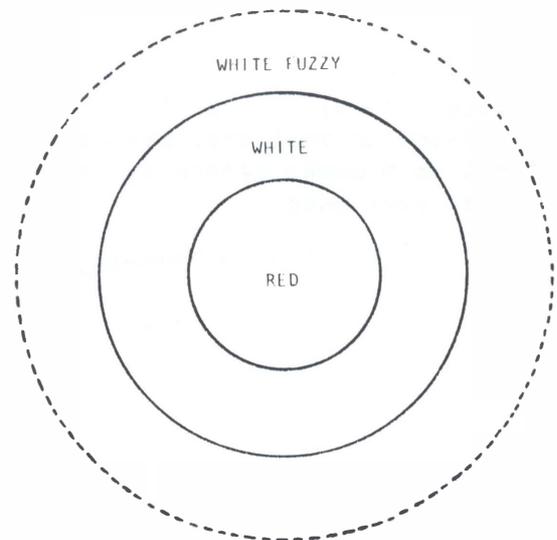
There is no record now of how the 1965 sightings, which were reported in the Hobart "Mercury", March 5, 1966, came to TUFOIC's attention. Our information which is of a rather sketchy nature relates the experiences of Relief Keeper J.F. Thompson. In TUFOIC's files there is a letter from the Regional Controller, Department of Shipping and Transport (Tasmania), dated 10/2/67, returning our questionnaire from Head Keeper F. Armstrong. John Reynolds of Victoria gave TUFOIC great assistance in 1975 when he was employed by the Department of Transport in Hobart. His help resulted in contact being made with some of the witnesses to the events of a decade earlier and their written details of the sightings, made at the time, were added to TUFOIC's files. During follow-up investigations into these sightings the 1973 case was uncovered whilst two other sightings were reported direct to

TUFOIC in 1978 and 1979, the latter being telephoned in as it occurred.

Investigations into the original sightings appear to have been mostly verbal in character with little paper-work being undertaken. The 1965 cases were well known at the time but not, it seems, well documented. Much of the information in this report was added to the file in 1975. Follow-up procedures with the witnesses at this stage added little to our knowledge. The later sightings were investigated in the normal manner.

THE MAATSUYKER ISLAND SIGHTINGS

Case 1. Early in 1965, two witnesses, F. Armstrong and J. Edgell, lighthouse keepers at Maatsuyker, saw, at 10.30 p.m., a ball shaped object throwing off white light. The "ball" had a solid looking red centre and outer white band, it was fuzzily outlined in white and its diameter was 12-15 feet. The light travelled slowly from east to west and lit up the island like day for about 30 to 40 seconds. The next day the witnesses checked the high point of the island over which the object had passed, or landed, and found flattened (or scorched?) vegetation in its line of travel. (An obstruction blocked their view of the light as it went over that area).



Sighting of Early 1965 (1)

Case 2. A sighting of August 6, 1965, is the first report of a Maatsuyker light to appear in our end of year report. On October 2, 1965, Head Keeper Armstrong writes: "I saw the same unidentified object appear as re-

Maatsuyker Island Report

ported to you a few weeks ago". Probably Mr Armstrong refers to the above date which was noted in a questionnaire. No details are known regarding the event.

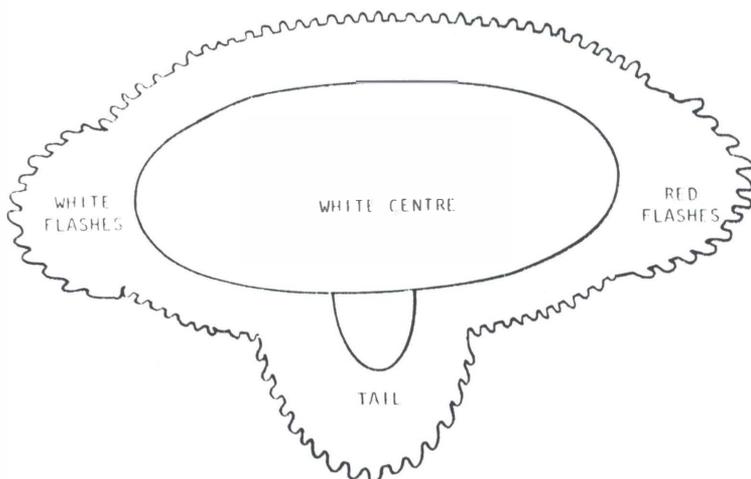
Case 3. Also included in the report of October 2, is an account of another sighting by Mr Armstrong:

"On Saturday night the 25th September, 1965, whilst standing on the balcony of the tower at 21.40 hrs, I saw the same unidentified object appear as reported to you a few weeks ago. It appeared in a more south south-westerly direction than before.

"Keepers, Visser and Edgell, along with Mrs Edgell, my wife, two children, also relief keeper McKay, watched it for about 10 to 15 minutes. It was throwing off red and white flashes. Edgell watched it through the telescopic sights of his rifle and could see it flashing red from one side of it, and white on the other side. It was moving from right to left then would go away altogether and reappear more to the south.

"If it is possible I would like to have a very strong telescope of some kind so as to get a closer look next time it appears. The telescope that is on this station at present is U/S.

"Myself and my wife are quite willing to accommodate any naval personnel or any authorised person that would like to come to this station and witness it for themselves. The only thing is that they may have to be here for 4 to 5 weeks before it reappears again if it ever does.



Sighting of 26.9.65 (3)

"The shape of it was like a child's spinning top with about a 15ft tail".

Case 4. On October 5, 1965, "as I (Armstrong) left the tower tonight at 22.10 hrs I observed the same light. It came down out of the sky and did exactly the same as reported in a south south-westerly direction. Observed also by Visser, McKay (relief keeper) and my wife. Also reported to have been seen by fishing boats in the area at this time".

Case 5. Occurred on the evening of October 6, 1965. "The same object as reported before was again sighted at 21.45 hrs. Those observing it were myself, from the tower, and my wife - Edgell, and his wife, at number one quarters".

Case 6. The Head Keeper at Bruny advised of a phone call from Visser, at Maatsuyker, relating the sighting of an object around midnight of Friday, October 8, 1965. The object was a bright light, high in the sky, which descended slowly and faded out at sea level.

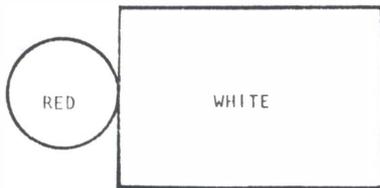
Case 7. "At 21.00 hrs (October 15, 1965) Edgell and myself (Armstrong) saw a very bright light object appear in the sky to the north of the island. It appeared to be round and with a red tail flame, behind it, about 40ft long. It was travelling at speed and disappeared over the back of the island".

Case 8. Also on October 15, 1965, a light, like a very bright star, was seen west south-west of the tower. It was first sighted at 21.40 hrs and observed for about 15 minutes. The light would depart into the distance, rise very quickly in the sky, and then come back very bright.

Case 9. Again on October 17, 1965, "this same light (as seen at 21.40 hrs, 15.10.65) was seen at 21.20 hrs, and was observed by my wife, doing the same as it did on the 15th October".

Case 10. Visser observed at 24.05 hrs on October 18, 1965, an object travelling at great speed from west to south then changing direction and going from south to north before disappearing from view. The object was bright with a red glow behind. Please note sketch .

Maatsuyker Island Report



Case 11. "Edgell rang me (Armstrong) at 00.45 hrs (November 25, 1965) to see the lights coming from a southerly direction of the island. Three very bright, one after the other, then a break of a few seconds, then one not so bright. This went on for at least one and a half hours and appeared to be on the horizon. The lights were like a lighthouse beam. Witnessed by F/M, Flude, Edgell and my wife and myself".

Case 12. In answer to a question from TUF0IC, Head Keeper Armstrong stated that the last sighting of the unknown object occurred on December 9, 1965. He said no explanation had been found for the lights whose estimated sizes were: tail 15ft long, height 10ft. A sketch of the September 25, light was provided. Mr Armstrong commented that other flashing lights were observed which could have come from the same object which could not be seen because of haze and poor visibility.

Case 13. Details in TUF0IC files from J.F. Thompson covered three reports in December, 1965 - the last report in the series was submitted the following February. The times of the sightings varied from 21.30 to 23.30 hrs and conditions were usually clear and the elevation of the object varied from 10 to 90 degrees. The phenomena always appeared as a light of yellow-white colour which moved in an irregular fashion at varying speeds, frequently becoming stationary. Its upward movement tended to be at a 45° angle while its downward movement varied. The light was observed through binoculars and appeared almost every evening when conditions were clear, but apparently not on Sundays. The first of Thompsons' sightings occurred on December 18, 1965, at 22.00 hrs. (Details from Mercury article of 5.3.66). "From the tower I saw over South West Cape the light for which I had been told to look. It was bright and following an irregular path which I watched until, several minutes later, it visibly changed course and began to head in the direction of the lighthouse itself. It appeared as a bright light, white to yellow.

Its speed, shape and altitude all being indeterminate. It appeared to be highly manoeuvrable, changing speed and direction and often remaining stationary for long periods. There was never any sound. It was sighted between south and west north-east. The light has been seen by the lighthouse keepers and their families, plus relief keepers, and members of a work party who visited the island. It is also possible that fishermen in the area have noticed the light".

Case 14. Despite Mr Armstrong stating that he last saw the light on December 9, 1965, a brief report in our files relates an observation of the unidentified light on December 19. (Perhaps a mix up in the dates when later completing information for TUF0IC). The light was seen at 22.00 hrs and disappeared at 23.00 hrs. Two vessels were in the vicinity of the light at the time.

Case 15. Thompson saw the light again on December 29, 1965, it was the closest he ever saw it and strong enough to cast a reflection on the water from a height of 400 ft.

Case 16. The following evening, December 30, 1965, Mrs Visser saw a light as bright as the full moon which was strong enough to partially illuminate a room through thin curtains (window facing south-west). The increased intensity of the light on the last two nights appears to have resulted from its closer approach to the island.

Case 17. Mr Thompson reported the light was last seen on February 4, 1966, but no details were given of this final appearance.

Case 18. On November 8, 1973, the Maatsuyker lighthouse keeper was contacted by radio from Canberra and asked to keep watch because flares were reported in the area. At 02.40 hrs the keeper plus three other witnesses saw four lights in the shape of a triangle at 15 to 25 degrees elevation in the south-west. The weather was fine and visibility good. The lights were viewed for about one and three quarter hours before going over the western horizon. They were yellow/orange and seemed to move apart and regroup - even merge into one light. The three lights formed a triangle with the fourth at the centre, they passed in front of the moon as they travelled from the witness' south to his west.

Case 19. During the evening of September 17,

Maatsuyker Island Report

1978, a large, round, thumbnail sized, light appeared in the west at 21.20 hrs and remained in view until approximately 22.50 hrs. The phenomenon was first seen over the Needles at 20° elevation and remained at this height throughout and although other stars moved, the glowing white light did not. At 21.30 hrs all the lights in one of the houses went off, however, the lighthouse continued to function as usual. The power generator continued working and a check, at the time, of the fuses and circuit breakers failed to find a reason for the failure. The power returned, after five minutes, to the house. The mysterious light maintained its position but a red light became visible at its centre which later moved to the side of the object as if it had turned. At 22.10 hrs the power went off for a second time and this failure lasted for 15 minutes. Again no fault could be found. Binocular observation of the light revealed nothing. When it disappeared at 22.50 hrs its size, which had remained constant throughout, shrank as if the light was moving directly away from the witnesses. No noise was heard.

Case 20. Two keepers were conducting a routine weather check at 21.40 hrs on the clear starlit evening of March 30, 1979, when they noticed a large ship passing to the south of the island. (A check with Hobart revealed no record of shipping in the area). A large, bright, yellowish, light appeared above the boat and grew rapidly in size as if coming straight for the island. It reached an ap-

parent size of 10 cm and its glare was so intense that the observers could not look at it. Seconds later the light turned dark and receded into the southern sky. The witness' dog became agitated and wanted to hide in the lighthouse but refused to stay there alone. Through binoculars a bright light seemed to be reflecting on a cigar-shape beneath. Occasionally a blue-white light would fly off, for a short distance into the west, and go out. The phenomenon now had an estimated size of a 1¢ piece held at arms length. The keepers observed the now stationary light until about 01.20 hrs when it moved from the south to a south-easterly direction at an estimated 50 km in 5 seconds and stopped near the South East Cape - it now appeared as two blue lights. The witnesses gave up watching at this stage - their dog had calmed down earlier on.

NOTES: The lights and beam of November 25, 1965, (case 11) are consistent with a display of Aurora Australis - a not infrequent phenomenon in southern Tasmania.

Although no duration is given for the sighting of an object on October 15, 1967, (case 7) which had a flame behind, it is quite possible that this was, in fact, a meteor. Again on October 15, (case 8) a very bright star-like light was seen which also could have been a meteor.

On October 18, 1965, (case 10) yet another object trailing a red glow was observed. This case is similar to Case 7 but differs because changes in direction were performed.



Keith was born in the small Welsh town of Barmouth in 1939 and moved to Tasmania, with his parents, in 1951. His interest in the UFO phenomena was first aroused by books of that era, especially those written by Adamski and Keyhoe. However, it was not until 1969 that Keith became aware of, and joined, the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUF0IC).

Keith gained a lot of valuable experience investigating cases, during his early years with TUF0IC, which stood him in good stead during the flood of reports between 1974 and 1977. Keith's dealings with the media during this time were not always easy because of the sensational approach some interviewers adopted.

TUF0IC's Newsletter and Annual Report were initiated by Keith. The first Annual Report was produced in 1970 and was a roughly stencilled affair compared with today's offset printed production. Keith would like to improve on the current product but costs are prohibitive. The Annual Report, despite a recent fall in sales, has, over the years, sold well. It has presented TUF0IC, as a serious minded group, to the media and the public and has been instrumental in obtaining new members. Additionally, the Annual Report is a useful reference. Recently other publications have been completed such as "A Tasmanian Landing Catalogue" and "TUF0IC's Unidentified Catalogue".

Keith continues to concentrate on investigations and the compiling of records and their results for TUF0IC.

Despite his years as an investigator Keith has reached no conclusions about the origins and nature of the UFO phenomena and prefers reading and keeping abreast of research activities to the adoption of any particular theory.

Besides UFOlogy Keith is interested in meteorology, his local soccer club (South Hobart), competition badminton, bushwalking, stamps, and is a collector of odd and useless statistics such as Tasmanian Cricket Records and Mt Wellington snowfall details.

SENATOR PROXMIRE VERSUS NASA'S SETI* PROJECT

BY JANE BROOKS (UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)

For years up until September, 1981, NASA had been preparing a project which would have made an extremely sensitive search for the radio signals of other civilizations in the Universe. A device known as a multichannel spectrum analyzer was being constructed by scientists at the Stanford University. When complete, this device would have been able to monitor 8 million radio channels simultaneously. NASA planned to use it on radio telescopes in California, Spain and Australia to search the entire sky for evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI). The spectrum analyzer, or another like it, would then be attached to the giant Aricebo radio telescope to search particularly promising sun-like stars. This entire SETI program was to have taken about seven years, at a cost of \$ US 2 million per year (1/3,000 of NASA's annual Budget). It would have accomplished more than 10 million times the searching done in all previous searches put together! Just as this project was about to commence (you may have seen announcements of it on Channels 2 and 10) it was killed by Senator William Proxmire. He persuaded Congress to pass an amendment which forbade NASA from using its internal funds for the project! He regarded trying to find an answer to one of Mankind's most profound and age old questions, i.e. "are we alone in the Universe?" as a waste of money. Senator Proxmire's arguments against SETI were, for example, that any signal we got would be

hundreds of years old and therefore of no interest; the civilization that sent it could be extinct by the time we got the signal, and that there is no evidence for the existence of ETI! He missed the points that just finding the signal would answer our questions, and that the only way you can discover whether or not something exists is to look for the evidence you do not have!

Ironically, while Senator Proxmire was killing SETI, he managed to get Congress to preserve giving excess subsidy, in addition to a basic subsidy, to dairy farmers. This excess cost enough in two days to fund SETI for a whole year.

However, despite the Senator's efforts, Americans may still be able to tune in to the Cosmos. Thanks to private donations, Harvard Astronomer, Paul Horowitz, will take a 64,000 channel spectrum analyzer to Aricebo to listen for signals from 185 nearby sun-like stars this (northern) summer. In addition, many NASA officials and some of the other Congressmen have been angered by Senator Proxmire's action in attacking one of NASA's tiny internal projects funded from general funds. His action appears to have generated a backlash of wide support for SETI. If the Senator tries the same thing with the 1983 Budget, he may not find it so easy!

*Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. ■

UPDATE

In my "Profile", which appeared in the previous issue of UFORAN, I advised that a new pro-space organization named the "Association for the Promotion of Space Science" had been founded. However, it has recently been decided to rename this organization the "Space Science Section of the Astronomical Society of South Australia". Members are grateful to the Astronomical Society of South Australia for this opportunity to be part of this long established and highly regarded society. The "Space Science Section of the Astronomical Society of South Australia" is not a separate group but a part of the Astronomical Society of South Australia.

I am extremely pleased to be able to pass on the good news that both the "AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE" and the "STARLAB" projects have received funds from the Federal Government. On Tuesday, August 17, Mr Howard, the Federal Treasurer, made the following announcement during his Budget Speech: "The Government has now decided to fund the construction by C.S.I.R.O. of a new radiotelescope, to cost a total of \$25 million, to be known as the "AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE", and be completed by our bi-centennial year 1988".

In "The Australian" (newspaper), August 17, appeared the "leaked" information that the Federal Government was giving "STARLAB" a grant of \$3.7 million (enough for it to survive for two years) as a Public Interest Project. Its funds will come through the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Scheme. It is hoped that after the two years are up, industries will fund the project because it is in their interest to do so. On August 19, I rang Professor Mathewson, head of the "STARLAB" project, who confirmed that the "leak" was correct, and had been officially announced in Parliament that day. He also told me that the lobbying efforts had played a significant role in helping to get funds for the project. In a letter some weeks ago, from Dr Frater, head of the "AUSTRALIA TELESCOPE" project, he thanked me and said he thought my friends and I had helped considerably.

Thanks very much to all the UFORAN readers who joined in the campaign. You can feel proud of yourselves for what you have done. You have helped Australia soar into the Space Age! - Jane Brooks

AIRLINE CREW OBSERVATIONS

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

Although there were some interesting cases of airline crew observations of UFOs during the mid 1960s I was only able to uncover a few documented reports when researching the period.

Only scarce details are available on the first episode which occurred on January 1, 1965, at an unspecified point between Christchurch, on the South Island of New Zealand, and Sydney, New South Wales.

In this event the crew of a Qantas Electra prop-jet aircraft, piloted by Capt. D. Shannon, reportedly observed seven objects at 45,000 feet over the Tasman Sea. The Royal Australian Air Force advised that no known aircraft were in the area (1).

Mystery surrounds our second case which took place in the early hours of May 28, 1965, when an Ansett-ANA DC-6, flying between Brisbane, Queensland, and Port Moresby, New Guinea, was "buzzed" by a spherical object which was flat on top and bottom and expelled exhaust gases.

According to an officer of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Townsville, Queensland, police (2), the airline captain radioed Townsville Control Tower at 3.25 a.m. to report the unidentifiable object which paced his plane (VH-INH) for ten minutes during which he took photographs. Apparently two other crew members observed the UFO before it moved ahead of their aircraft and disappeared.

A report which the Townsville police officer forwarded to NICAP states: "He was instructed not to have the film developed in New Guinea (and was) flown to Canberra (on his return) where the film was taken from him...The twelve hour tape with the pilot's report to the Control Tower was also confiscated".

In reply to a letter from the President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation (CAPIO), Department of Air Squadron Leader R.J. Wheeler of the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence replied: "Thank you for the copy of the report but as this is the first information the RAAF has received concerning the incident it is not possible to provide any further details".

CAPIO also wrote to the Director-General, Civil Aviation, whose reply was also negative.

The Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau wrote to Ansett-ANA but their letter was never acknowledged (3).

In a personal report, Captain Gordon W. Smith, a pilot for Murchison Air Services, recounted an incident which occurred on August 22, 1968:

"Captain Walter Gardin and myself were returning from Adelaide to Perth on a charter flight. The aircraft was an 8 place Piper Navajo, registration VH-RT0, returning empty from Adelaide. At first sighting I was asleep in the cabin, Walter was at the controls. We were cruising at 8,000 feet with a true airspeed of 190 - 195 knots and tracking 270° magnetic.

"At 0940 GMT (1740 WST) Walter abruptly wakened me in great excitement and asked me to come into the cockpit quickly. I did so and he asked me if I could see what he was looking at. At first I didn't, because I was still suffering from the effects of sleep.

"However, after about thirty seconds I could see what he was excited about. Some distance ahead at the same level, and about 50° to my right (I was in the middle seat), I saw a formation of aircraft. In the middle was a large aircraft, and formed (sic) to the right and left and above were four or five smaller aircraft. We were on a track of 270° magnetic and these aircraft appeared to be maintaining station with us.

"As we had not been notified of this traffic, I radioed Kalgoorlie DCA Communications Centre asking them what traffic they or the RAAF had in our area. The answer was none. I then notified Kalgoorlie that we had this formation in sight and they, in turn, notified some eastbound traffic of the danger of unidentified traffic 130 nm east of Kalgoorlie.

"At about this time we lost communications with Kalgoorlie on all frequencies. We were receiving Kalgoorlie carrier wave with no voice propagation, only a hush and static. In the next ten minutes I transmitted seven

AIRLINE CREW OBSERVATIONS

times, and I believe Walter did about five times with no result.

"Also at about this time we noticed that the main ship split into two sections still maintaining the same level, and the smaller aircraft then flew out left and right but staying at the same level and coming back to the two halves of the bigger ship. At this time there appeared to be about six smaller aircraft taking turns of going out and coming back and formulating on the two halves...

"At 0950 GMT the whole formation joined together as if at a single command, then departed at a tremendous speed. It did not disappear as, say, gas would, but it departed in about three or four seconds diminish-

ing in size till out of sight (4)".

SOURCES

- (1) "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere" M. Hervey, Horwitz, Sydney 1969, p.48.
- (2) Copy of original correspondence between John Meskell and Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau, July 1965.
- (3) NICAP "UFO Investigator" June/July, 1965, p.4. "Australian Flying Saucer Review" 3/5 December, 1972, p.3 & 7. Brisbane "Truth: July 31, 1966.
- (4) "Flying Saucer Review" Vol.24, No.5, pp.9-10.■

BILL & SHIRLEY STARTUP VISIT AUSTRALIA

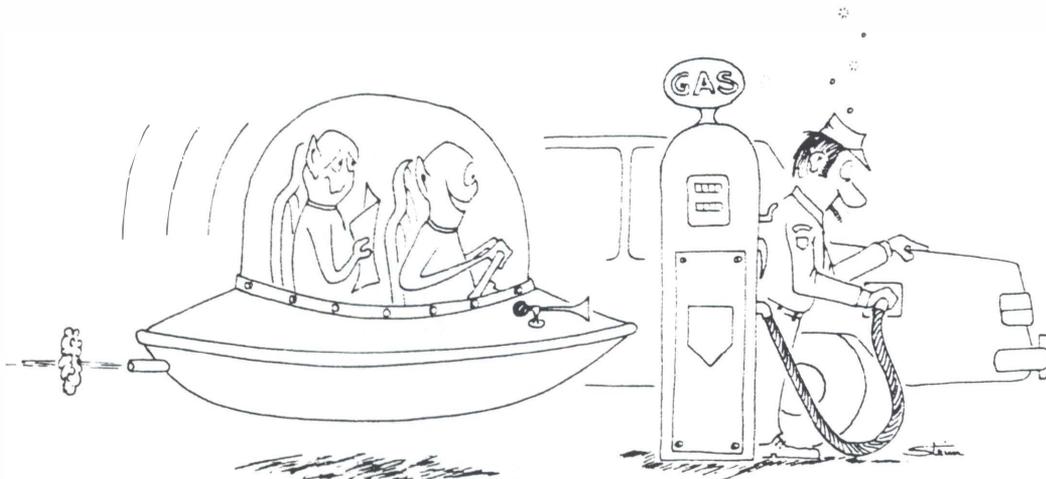
South and Western Australian members of UFO Research were recently privileged to meet with Capt. Bill Startup, the pilot involved in the Kaikoura UFO events, and his wife Shirley.

During our meetings Bill showed slides and related his eye-witness experiences. Additionally, because of his training and close association with Dr Bruce Maccabee, the principal investigator of Kaikoura, Bill was able to throw light on many of the more puzzling aspects of the case.

The more deeply the events of Kaikoura are examined the more mysterious they become. It is, therefore, doubly frustrating that Channel 'O', Melbourne, refuse to release the original Kaikoura film in their possession, as it is quite possible that this footage carries faint images of the objects behind the lights seen on that fateful night.

We are very grateful to Capt. Startup, and his charming wife, for breaking their journey to meet with us because, considering the heavy documentation on this provocative case, it is amazing how much new information came to light during our discussions.

WATCH THE LOOK ON HIS FACE
WHEN I ASK HIM TO CHECK
THE TYRES



PENTAGONAL UFOs

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

UFOs having unusual shapes are reported, but are often ignored because they are not the standard disc, cigar, or spherical shape. This paper considers the reports of five sided, or pentagonal objects.

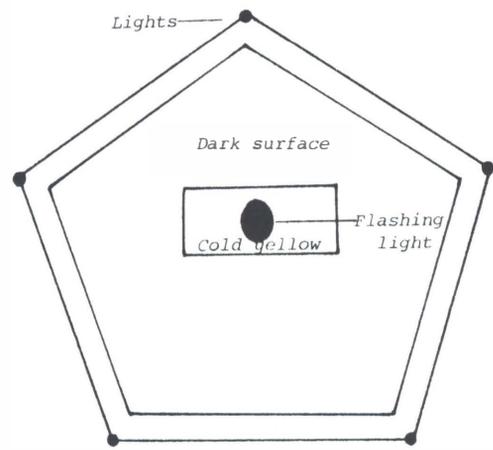
One of the more puzzling aspects of the UFO problem is the variety of shapes reported by the witnesses. Predominant are the saucer, cigar and ball. However, since 1973, there has been an ever increasing number of triangular and diamond shaped objects and a few witnesses have reported objects with five or more sides.

Statistically, the number of reported UFOs having five sides is insignificant; but that fact has not eliminated such sightings. The offsetting factors are the high strangeness of the incident and the high reliability of the witness.

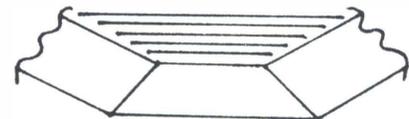
Two separate reports from near the city of Houston, Texas bring the pentagonal UFO problem into focus. Interestingly, both of the incidents took place to the southwest of Houston, and were separated in time by only nine months.

The first incident was reported to MUFON State Section Director Dave Kissinger by an Alief, Texas, high school senior. It was December 1975 and the time was 10:30 p.m. when the young woman observed a bright flashing light approaching her home. Immediately, she ran to the window to get a better view and then went outside. The UFO was moving in a northerly direction at an estimated speed of 100 - 150 m.p.h. It passed directly overhead at no more than 1000 feet altitude. The view was spectacular as the witness watched the unusual pentagonal shaped object move along flying point forward. In her words, "it appeared solid with a sharp outline". She described lights on the points and a flashing light in the middle of the bottom surface. As the UFO flew away she could see it was not just a flat plate, but had a definite thickness. The only sound detected was a steady hum.

Investigation of the Alief case included visits to the local airports, the Good-year Blimp operations, and advertising airplane businesses. No explanation for the sighting was found.



Bottom view



Rear view

PENTAGONAL UFO

Alief, Texas
December 1975

A similar incident occurred during September 1976 when a Missouri City, Texas, oil company executive and his son saw a pentagonal shaped UFO. It was first observed as a steady bright light hovering about one mile to the southwest of the observers' home.

After a couple of minutes the object seemed to rise upward and come toward them, flying directly over their heads. Because their home is located on a golf course they had a wide open area for viewing the strange sight. Their initial reaction was to accept the possibility the object was a star. Once it started to move they revised the identification to helicopter, and finally to aircraft. However, as the UFO went overhead they could see only a crisply outlined pentagon shape - no wings, tail or engines.

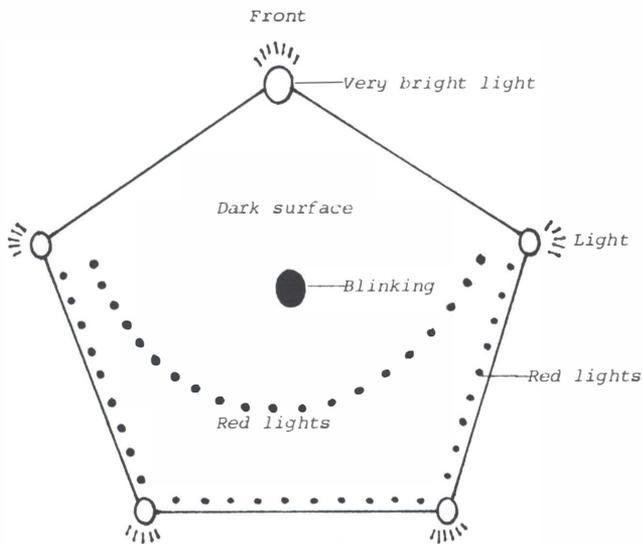
Each point of the pentagon contained a steady white light. A blinking light marked the centre of the bottom and thirty to fifty red lights ringed the edge and bottom of the vehicle.

Once the UFO began to move it was overhead and out of sight in about 30 seconds.

PENTAGONAL UFOs

The witnesses estimated the speed to be 200 m.p.h. at an altitude of 1500 feet. The only sound was a "whoosh" like a jet engine that had been throttled back.

At first only the bright light on the point could be seen. As the object approached other lights came into view and as it went overhead the total lighting pattern was visible. Then as it flew away only the two aft point lights could be seen. Although the witnesses were still skeptical, they notified the Mutual UFO Network.



PENTAGONAL UFO
Bottom view
Missouri City, Texas
September 1976

Pentagonally shaped UFOs have been noted in other parts of the world as well. On July 1, 1979, one was sighted over Vigo and Puertos de Morrazo, Spain. A greenish-yellow light emanated from the middle of the bottom surface. Hundreds of people in both cities observed the strange sight. In addition, the crew of a DC-10 airplane flying over the area spotted the same UFO below their aircraft and about twelve miles away. The official explanation given was the American Skylab.

Three pentagonal UFOs were seen over West Germany on September 17, 1979. Workers at the Ingolstadt, Bavaria Audi-NSU car manufacturing plant were the first to report the UFOs. Eyewitnesses said "they were very big and beamed brightly. They flew very fast and without engine noise. In doing so, they flickered yellow and red".

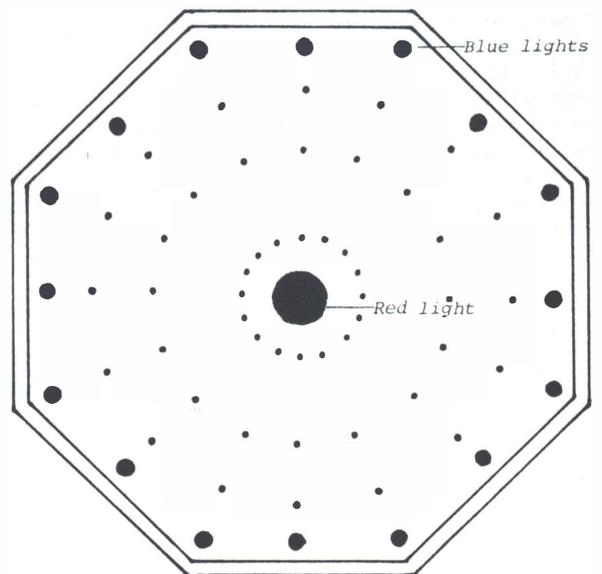
Ten off-duty police officers watched the three objects as they flew over Ingolstadt in a north-westerly direction toward Eichstaett.

Several minutes later Eichstaett police said two of the UFOs flew to Weissenburg, where police verified their overflight. One of the UFOs hovered at an altitude of 1500 feet before it flew off at high speed.

An Ingolstadt police spokesman said "the observations made by our officers are beyond any doubt". Although a nearby air base, as well as the Munich air traffic controller, were alerted to the incident they had no explanation for the phenomenon.

A slight departure from the pentagonal shape is the octagonal UFO. According to the Watford City, North Dakota newspaper, local citizen Barb Johnsrud and her son Kent saw an eight-sided UFO go over their house on November 2, 1978.

Each witness claimed the UFO was first seen as a bright light that quickly came down from the sky like a bad storm. It passed overhead just 60 feet above ground and was moving quite slowly - only 25 m.p.h. The UFO was 40 feet across, with a large red light in the middle of the bottom surface. Blue lights ringed the whole vehicle.



OCTAGONAL UFO
Bottom view
November 1978
Watford City, North Dakota

PENTAGONAL UFOs

It had no tail, nose or propellers. After the UFO disappeared to the north-east each of the witnesses made independent sketches.

The pentagonal UFOs remain a mystery. No satisfactory explanation has been found. To aid in this investigation, additional

reports and data should be sent to:

John F. Schuessler
Mutual UFO Network
PO Box 58485
Houston, Texas 77058
U.S.A.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

BY MARK MORAVEC

A recent important development in British ufology has been the establishment of a new organisation called the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP). Researchers who had been active in the Society for Psychical Research and various UFO and fortean groups met together and decided to form ASSAP in June 1981. The first issue of ASSAP News explains that the organisation was established in response to a long-felt need at two levels:

"Faced with a multitude of small and often little-known societies dealing with narrow aspects of paranormal or unexplained phenomena (we prefer the more neutral term 'anomalous') it is little wonder that members of the general public are bemused. This happens at a time when interest has never been higher, yet authoritative comment scarcely at a lower ebb. It is understandable also that most people do not know where to turn for informed guidance on these matters, for sympathetic help in dealing with spontaneous happenings that could range from apparitions and poltergeists to UFO sightings.

"Then, researchers in various fields of the anomalous have themselves felt constrained by the suffocating specialisation of existing organisations. For some time talk between these researchers has centred on the setting up of a body that could take a truly multi-disciplinary approach, transcend the confines of individual subjects, and examine the field of investigation more widely, comparing and contrasting more meaningfully. So ASSAP was born". (ASSAP News 1, October, 1981).

The 1981 meeting decided the main objectives of ASSAP would be:

1. To obtain, store, process, and disseminate information concerning those areas of human experience and observed phenomena for which no generally acceptable explanation is as yet forthcoming.
2. To encourage and aid investigation and research into those phenomena, by the creation or coordination of investigative groups, and by the provision of consultative resources, technical facilities, etc.
3. To provide a multi-disciplinary forum for the exchange of views and information concerning

these phenomena".

"ASSAP's field of interest comprises those phenomena which are reasonably alleged to occur, but for which no explanation seems to be forthcoming within the scope of current scientific knowledge. By its very nature, no precise limit can be set to the field thus comprised, nor would it be desirable to do so. Subjects such as altered states of consciousness, apparitions, clairvoyance, spontaneous human combustion, dowsing, the EVP, extra-sensory perception, falls from the sky, glossolalia, hallucinations, hauntings, healing, hypnosis, incorruptibility, levitation, ley lines, magic, materialisation, metal-bending, miracles, multiple personality, OOB's, poltergeists, possession, precognition, PK, reincarnation, Spiritualism, stigmata, survival, synchronicity, telepathy, UFOs, visions, and Yetis are just a selection typical of the field of interest". (Common Ground, 2, August, 1981).

"ASSAP will promote the highest scientific standards of investigation, reporting and discussion. It will have no corporate views or opinions and will discourage dogmatism in its members. All view and no views will be grist to our particular mill, for we consider that by the open debate of theories arising from critical observation we shall arrive ultimately at a better understanding of truth". The Association hopes to harness and coordinate existing people and groups who are currently engaged in active research but who are isolated and unaware of what others are doing.

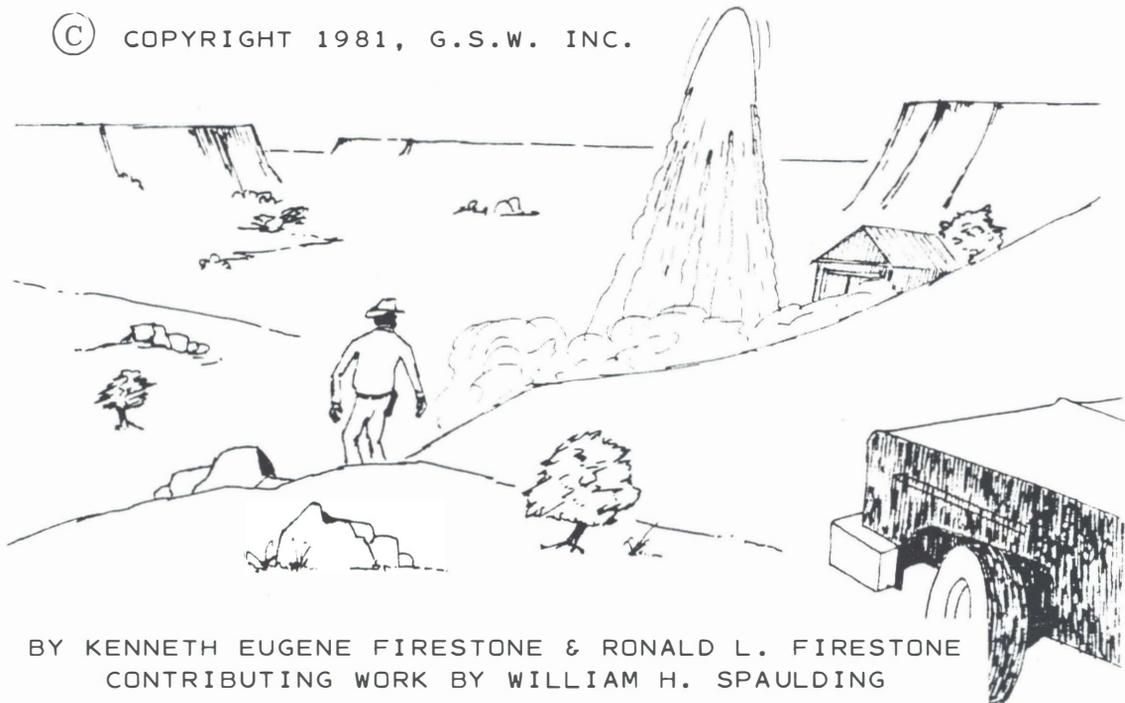
ASSAP is disseminating its findings through its newsletter-style ASSAP News and the thought-provoking quarterly, Common Ground, edited by Kevin McClure.

What makes ASSAP different from what has gone on before in British ufology? Mainly two things: its stress on a scientific but open-minded approach to research, and its expanded interdisciplinary program which undertakes to examine a variety of anomalous phenomena, an approach which may lead to greater insights than just restricting itself to UFOs.

Further information may be obtained from the ASSAP Membership Secretary: Janice Bagnall, 6 Colwyn House, Cosser Street, London SE1 7BY, England.

SOCORRO-NEW MEXICO-REVISITED

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BY KENNETH EUGENE FIRESTONE & RONALD L. FIRESTONE
CONTRIBUTING WORK BY WILLIAM H. SPAULDING

A noteworthy UFO sighting occurred on April 24, 1964, just outside of Socorro, New Mexico, and provides an excellent example of confused distortion of the facts surrounding this type of incident. Socorro, like many other classical UFO cases, is considered by many saucer researchers to be one of the "better" events in the history of the UFO enigma. This fact is well documented by the number of researchers that have endorsed this incident. The Socorro case, besides providing such convincing evidence of extraterrestrial visitors to so many UFO organizations/researchers, is the only occupant case of the 1960s which the conservative ufologist accepts.

This acceptance was based on the "Keyhoe Thesis", whereas, the past Director of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon) stated and argued it was "acceptable" to believe in nuts and bolts flying saucers but it was preposterous to claim the existence of the creatures who are piloting these "crafts". The material for this narrative was obtained from the files of the Air Force's investigation, the Hynek report, the writings of NICAP and other UFO organizations, as well as the interviews with the witness - Officer Lonnie Zamora. These multiple sources represent a wide data base and are very similar in content, yet different in their conclusions.

THE SIGHTING

At 5:45 (MST), on April 24, 1964, officer Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro police department observed a speeding vehicle and executed pursuit in his patrol car. While he was chasing the speeding auto, his attention was interrupted by a "roar and a flame in the sky". The flame was approximately one mile south of the city limits and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from his position. At that moment Zamora described the flame as "bluish and sort of orange in colour". He also reported that "he did not notice any object at the top" of the flame. He said he did not visualize any smoke, but did observe what may have been dust near the bottom of the flame. The weather report substantiates that it was clear, sunny and windy, with a number of scattered clouds during the alleged sighting.

The witness described the noise of the UFO as a "roaring sound". He also interjected that the noise quickly modified and changed from a high frequency to a lower frequency and abruptly stopped within ten seconds. Zamora's concern was a small shed outside of town, used to store dynamite which he thought may have blown up, accounting for the noise and flames. Immediately Zamora abandoned chase of the speeding auto and turned off onto the rough road that led in the direction of the shed (and the UFO).

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Due to the harsh terrain, it took Zamora over one minute to arrive at a good visibility point where the shed could be observed. While looking to the southwest, the witness saw a shiny object in the distance, approximately 800 feet away. The object appeared to be sitting in a shallow gully when Zamora stopped for a few seconds to look at it. He described the object as being "white in color and aluminum in construction, giving the appearance of a car turned upright on its trunk". Getting back into his squad car, the witness said he saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of the figures appeared to look directly at Zamora's approaching car and apparently was somewhat startled, as the figure seemed to quickly jump up. The witness stated later, that he only observed the two humanoids for less than three seconds and that no details were discernible.

The "persons" appeared normal in proportion, except they were possible small adults or large juveniles. Zamora started to drive towards the object, his view was intermittently blocked by the rugged terrain. Finally Zamora reached a flattened mesa area, close to the object. Near this mesa is a broad but shallow gully ten feet below the level of Zamora's parked car. As the witness got out of his vehicle and started to walk toward the object, he heard a loud roar. The noise started at a low frequency and quickly rose in volume and pitch. At the same time, he saw a flame coming from under the object. The object began to move, very slowly at first, and gradually increased its acceleration and altitude. The flame, now very visibly was light blue in color with streaks of orange. Zamora explained later that he feared that the object was going to explode, so he ran back towards his vehicle. In his haste and fear, he bumped into the car losing his prescription glasses, which he did not stop to recover. He ran approximately 200 feet from the gully, but occasionally glanced back at the object.

Suddenly, the roar stopped and began to emit a high pitched whine. Then the object became silent and started to move in a southwesterly direction at an altitude of approximately ten feet above the ground. It seemed to clear the dynamite shack by only three feet and took off across the country-side, following closely the contour

of the ground. Zamora ran back to his car, picked up his glasses and called into headquarters. He told the radio dispatcher to look out the window to try to spot the moving object, "similar to that of a balloon". The dispatcher never saw the object, as his area of view was opposite that of the object's direction of flight.

Zamora's description of the object was extremely vague, however, he had the foresight to draw two sketches of the object, one showing how it appeared from a distance of 800 feet and the other from a distance of 100 feet, his closest proximity to the object. The first sketch shows an egg-shaped object which is standing upright, atop two legs that slant outward. The total time available to the witness for the observation of the object during the "close encounter" portion of the sighting, which includes the time Zamora stepped out of his car until the "machine" departed, was approximately twenty five seconds.

However, during much of this time, he was without glasses. Zamora did mention one obvious detail, he reported observing an 'insignia' in the middle of the UFO. He drew the insignia immediately after the incident. It reveals a symbol of an arrow in a vertical position, enclosed from above by a semicircle and from below by an apparent horizontal bar. The symbol measured approximately eighteen inches square. The insignia appears very terrestrial in its design, but its true identification has yet to be determined.

Within the archives of the United States Air Force files on the study of the UFO phenomenon, we find a trip report by Dr J. Allen Hynek the USAF's advisor on the subject. His report on the visit to Socorro, four days after the sighting, said the incident was "one of the major UFO sightings in the history of the Air Force's consideration of this subject". Dr Hynek spent only one day visiting the site and interviewing the witness, due to a previous engagement the following day. Hynek returned for a second visit four months later which was as brief as the first visit. Hynek's interview with the news wire services quoted him as saying that the Socorro incident "is one of the soundest, most substantiated reports as far as it goes. Mr Zamora's story is simply told, certainly without any intent to perpetrate a hoax".

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The Socorro incident had been reported by a single police officer (Zamora) and did directly and indirectly involve other law enforcement officers. However, the sighting does violate the Hynek prerequisite. This prerequisite simply stated, consists of components that form the fundamentals of a "good" UFO report which includes; multiple witnesses, physical (trace) evidence and a high strangeness index rating.

Dr Hynek was obviously impressed with the report and the sincerity of the witness. It can be determined by the bits of cursory evidence that "something" did land in Socorro, but to date only Zamora has surfaced as a witness to this event. In view of the Hynek prerequisite of multiple witnesses to such events, it unfortunately leaves us with having to place a high reliability factor on the accuracy of Zamora's report.

It can be stated that Dr Hynek, during his investigation found the incident acceptable to his criteria, by meeting two of the three necessary requirements, as witnessed by his trip report to the Air Force and his subsequent writings on the subjects.

But was additional information overlooked on the case that could have been obtained with further investigation? We must regress to the initial investigations to answer this question.

THE INVESTIGATION

Saucer researchers, Ray Stanford of NICAP, Jim and Carol Lorenzen of APRO and Captain Holder of the Air Force were just a few of the persons that visited Socorro for the purpose of obtaining additional information. Each of the involved parties, unfortunately reported a different story. Vast discrepancies were reported in the number of "landing pads", the shape of these ground markings, the reactions (or actions) of the two creatures, just to mention a few. The accounts are all different and varied from the original account as obtained from the witness. This does not imply that Zamora did not encounter a strange object in the desert, it only "sets the stage" for the actuality of the sighting.

Being a "classical" UFO sighting along with involving a reputable law officer, there is no wonder numerous persons investi-

gated this incident. Through these investigations, civilian researchers had hopes of collecting substantial evidence that would enable them to solve the mystery behind the Socorro event. But in the process many different assumptions and conclusions were based on the results of their investigations, making it difficult for the public to discern fact from fiction.

From which one of these conclusions do you jump the borderline to the truth? In cases such as the alleged UFO at Socorro, there may never be sufficient evidence for the researchers to confirm their assumptions. But information can be derived from bits of clues making it easier for a logical answer to be formulated. There is some strong evidence recently discovered by GSW, Inc., that narrows down the origin of the alleged UFO in question.

ON THEORIES AND OTHER IDEAS

Numerous pro-saucer researchers have strongly upheld the theory that the Socorro incident represents a visitation from outer space, because of the overwhelming volume of evidence. But is this case that sound? It is unquestionable that life exists elsewhere in the Cosmos. However, it's a quantum jump to assume that this life is visiting Earth. Though the scientific community retains no conclusive proof of life in outer space, one must not dismiss the vastness of the universe and the countless number of planets that may sustain intelligent life forms. Does the Socorro incident represent a visitation from outer space?

It is highly improbable due to many factors. One of the obvious negative factors lies with the unsophistication of the object described in the Socorro "landing". This vehicle was apparently powered by liquid or solid propellant and judging by the size of the purported craft, its flight duration and capability would certainly have been limited. We have an apparent aluminum-looking (constructed) vehicle that was described as void of an atmospheric entry (heat) shield and without such a protective device, descent to Earth from space would not be feasible. If UFOs are extraterrestrial, then the procedure for entering the Earth's atmosphere would be the same for the terrestrial spacecraft. Physical laws are not easily modified and it's doubtful that UFOs

SOCORRO-NEW MEXICO-REVISITED

have devices that could defy these laws, without deviating to wild conjecture.

For example, look at the effort it required of the United States to employ its precisioned machines to reach the moon. When one dwells on the feasibility of the Socorro craft capable of descending to Earth from either a larger mothership or from the vastness of space itself, it is more likely that Zamora did not observe an extraterrestrial vehicle. However, the possibility of the Socorro craft belonging to the United States should not be shunned.

There appears to be some elements of cover-up permeating throughout the entire Socorro investigation. When the results of the soil test, possibly contaminated by the residue of the vehicle's fuel, were requested for review by the civilian investigators, the Air Force refused to provide this data. Surely, if nothing had been discovered, it would have been a wise political move on behalf of the government to submit to this request.

GSW has always assumed that a physical craft descended on the outskirts of Socorro due to some strong evidence and the military denials such as the chemical tests. Conversely, there are some persons who feel that the Socorro incident was a complete hoax, one of these individuals is the renown UFO investigator Philip Klass. In his book "UFOs Explained", Klass examines the event and attempts to establish logical conclusions to the various segments of the sighting. The following is a brief analysis of these efforts:

1. Klass questions the discrepancies of the pad "landing" marks found at the site and asked Sgt. Chavez of the New Mexico State Police to describe their appearance. Chavez, using a small shovel, dug into the ground, making a U-shaped impression similar to the actual markings. Klass feels this fully explains the markings, and therefore concluded that the pad impressions were manufactured by a shovel.

GSW RESPONSE: Klass failed to mention in his results that the ground markings were tightly packed, to such a degree that they could only have been caused by a force of a heavy object, much greater than that of a shovel.

2. Klass further questions why the marks were unsymmetrical.

GSW RESPONSE: The vehicle may have possessed a trapezoidal set of landing gear, which being adapted in an off-set displacement would explain why the marks were unsymmetrical in appearance. Possibly the centre of gravity of the vehicle could have been off-set, that irregular sized landing gear would have been utilized to create stability when the vehicle landed on rough terrain.

3. Klass further ponders on the fact that many of the bushes in the alleged landing site, surrounding the area, were not affected by the flame coming from the object.

GSW RESPONSE: Historical records of similar craft, used in the landings on the moon, with similar thrusts, are equipped with blast deflectors. These deflectors diminish the effect of the thrust burn away from the bottom of the vehicle, which in-turn, would not burn the vegetation in the immediate area, minimizing this affect.

4. Finally, Klass feels that this incident was a hoax perpetrated by some of the town members to bring in tourists, as to give local business a big "boost".

GSW RESPONSE: It is true that money transactions were rapidly being made between the curious sightseers and the merchants due to this incident, but this was only short-lived and it did not have a long-lasting effect on the livelihood of the Socorro business community. The Socorro UFO would hardly be the method to attract business to this small town.

Some of the conclusions reached by Philip Klass are logical and can not easily be disputed, however, much of his investigation is predicated on conjecture and many of his own conclusions not quantitatively based, as is the case with most UFO research.

THE RE-INVESTIGATION

There are numerous possibilities of what the Socorro craft could have represented. The questions that arise, include, where did the vehicle originate and was this event part of the Government's manipulation of the UFO phenomenon? Prior to answering

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these questions, we first must regress to the beginning of the most recent investigation into the case.

In the early spring of 1981, GSW investigators revisited the Socorro site. As part of the field kit, they brought cameras and a "scale" drawing of the alleged insignia Zamora reported to have seen on the departing UFO. While an investigator was preparing the camera equipment for use, the other was positioning himself 120 feet distant with the insignia elevated at a height of approximately twenty feet. Photographs were taken of the red insignia on the whitish background cardboard. The results of the pictures were discouraging, as the insignia was barely discernible. Both investigators later commented, upon review of the pictorial data, that if they were not aware of what they were viewing it would have been difficult to identify precisely the details supplied by Zamora.

Both researchers possess 20/20 vision and do not rely on the aid of glasses. Remembering that Zamora had only several seconds to view the insignia, was highly frightened and had lost his prescription glasses, we must question whether Zamora was conveying the actuality of the marking or whether he was even accurate in his previous description. The same questions are relative to the observation of the two purported humanoids. Was Zamora possibly oversensationalizing the incident? At a distance of 800 feet the humanoids would hardly be distinguishable.

As the investigators were leaving the actual site, they noticed an area approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles away, which gleamed in the sunlight. Extracting binoculars from their vehicle, they viewed what appeared to be an abandoned aircraft junkyard. Later, they discovered that the aircraft were part of the property of a local technical school - New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. This information was obtained from a clerk who works for the City Court system. He warned the researchers not to enter the storage area, because two men were recently convicted of breaking into this property. GSW's team became curious and decided a closer look at the area was warranted. They travelled on a road through the technical school's campus and came to a barricade which read "Keep Out".

Walking some distance away from the road they found a point at which the contents of the storage area could be viewed. To their amazement, the area contained a large variety of both segmented and intact aircraft. There appeared to be some Navy and Marine jet fighters, some Bell "X" aircraft and a nose section of a large ballistic missile. Some questions began to surface concerning a relation between the Socorro sighting and the Tech school.

The researchers hypothesized that the Socorro UFO could have been the frontal section of a large aircraft with its landing gear generated from the remains from the inner-structural components of an aircraft. There were an enormous amount of spare parts to construct any type of airfoil. When giving this information to GSW's Research Staff, they contacted Mr C.B. Moore, Professor of Atmosphericics at the Tech school. Mr Moore was asked when the influx of aircraft arrived at the school. He stated they were part of the Terminal Effects Program which began in 1947, but that most of the artifacts arrived in the early fifties. Moore did not elaborate on any of the aircraft/missile artifacts, nor would he provide any information on the effect that the military (US Navy) has had on the campus. He did infer that he had investigated the Socorro case on his own and feels that Zamora had seen a Lunar Excursion Module (LEM), a vertical take-off vehicle designed to descend on the lunar surface.

We later discovered in further conversations with Moore that the LEM project had been tested at the Tech school twelve months after the Zamora sighting. However, if the LEM vehicle had been tested during the time of the UFO sighting, then Moore would have had reason to state otherwise, so as to divert the inquisitive away from the school. If the Socorro craft was generated from New Mexico Tech, then who built it? Some possibilities exist:

1. Fourth year college students aware of the test vehicle and a knowledge in aeronautics;
2. The US Navy was testing a similar type craft simultaneous with the work being conducted at Edwards AFB in California;
3. The military and/or aerospace company

building the LEM was testing and during one of its flights it experienced mechanical difficulties which caused it to "land outside of Socorro, when Zamora observed his UFO.

In 1966 when Philip Klass asked scientists at the school if they had any interest in the Socorro case they emphatically stated they did not. This completely contradicts the story that Moore recently related. During Moore's investigation he stated in a letter: "We have no further information nor conclusions about this (UFO) report". We can now assume a number of people were unofficially involved in the investigation of Socorro from the Tech school.

Mr Moore, who previously worked for General Mills Corporation in 1949, at the White Sands Proving Grounds, tracked a UFO on a theodolite (high-altitude tracking scope) travelling at a purported 18,000 miles per hour. This could explain his slight interest in UFOs and why he investigated the Socorro event.

New Mexico Tech is just one of the possible sources to the origin of the Socorro UFO. There is another theory which is under close investigation by GSW, at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where one of the most confidential military projects occurred in the mid-forties. This was known as the "Manhattan Project", which was the code name given



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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

April 29, 1981

Mr. Kenneth Firestone
GSW Inc. R & I staff
4214 W. Earll Dr.
Phoenix, Az. 85019

Dear Mr. Firestone:

In response to your letter of April 27, 1981, the Terminal Effects Program has been in operation at this Institute since 1947. Most of the various aircraft components that are used in the testing have arrived in the period since the early 1950's.

These are the answers to the only questions that I can establish that you have asked.

In regard to the unidentified sighting by Officer Zamora in 1964, I have investigated this on my own and can assure you that there is little probability that it had anything to do with students or the Institute. If we can believe Officer Zamora (and there is no reason except for the strangeness of the observation that we should not) then it appears that he saw a Lunar Landing Module (LEM) but his observation was at least 12 months before the module was first tested here.

We have no further information nor conclusions about this report.

Sincerely,

CB Moore

C. B. Moore
Professor, Atmospheric Physics
and
Chairman, Langmuir Laboratory

CBM/kat

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to the development of the first atomic bomb. As was the case in previous years and still is today, clandestine military testing is being conducted at the research centre at Alamos. The installation is located about 130 miles north north-east of Socorro.

There is unrestricted terrain between Los Alamos and Socorro with the Rio Grande river lying just east of the two towns. These factors make it possible for a craft to have been piloted from Los Alamos. If the vehicle was flown across the desert or along the Rio

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Grande river banks, which in either case would have reduced fuel consumption and would have made manoeuvrability easy, since the flight pattern would have been a near straight heading towards Socorro.

If the Los Alamos theory is true then the craft would have had to cross US Highway 85 or Interstate 40. If this was the case, why wasn't the vehicle observed by passing motorists on these well-travelled highways? One alternative to this is that the UFO came from the nearby Sandia Laboratory installation located near Kirtland AFB, (Albuquerque) which is a high technology firm that develops electronics and other sophisticated devices. If the vehicle came from the Sandia area it would not have to be concerned with the congested areas making the test vehicle nearly undetectable.

If the vehicle did originate north of Socorro, it is possible that the craft was not a LEM-type craft. Let's assume that the UFO was another type of test vehicle, one that would be developed for military purposes. Some of the functions that the machine might possess include:

1. A vehicle to test duration, speed and stability of a future space or reconnaissance mission (FN 1).
2. A counter-measure vehicle, loaded with sophisticated electronic infiltration systems which would enable it to enter a secret installation, heavily guarded by radar, and pass undetected. Possibly the objective in this case was the White Sands Missile Range, which is located a short distance from Socorro. The infiltration system or ECM (electronic counter measures) devices on board the craft would not permit radar beams to detect it, in a similar manner to that of the recently publicised Stealth Aircraft, a plane which is virtually invisible to radar systems.

While enroute to its target the vehicle experienced mechanical difficulties and descended on the outskirts of Socorro, and Zamora unfortunately became an unsuspecting witness. When the responsible party for the UFO incident became aware that the "vehicle" was accidentally observed and was reported to White Sands Missile Base person-

nel, the incident was then covered up in an attempt to hide the testing. This in turn, created a mystery and when the US Air Force seriously investigated the event and in a cursory way suggested that the sighting was related to an unknown source, the reaction by the saucer researcher was very positive. Indirectly, this would amount to an enhancing of the saucer mystery, in which the UFO researchers inadvertently would play their roles. The agency behind the saucer manipulation would have succeeded in diverting the investigation to the source of the vehicle and further create additional interest in saucer research.

Our investigations revealed that no-one at White Sands had any knowledge about the LEM tests in 1964 and most likely they knew nothing about our hypothesized ECM vehicle, due to the high security status of this project.

This is a valid assumption? The writers believe it is, especially in light of the policy that surrounds covert testing. To wit: In 1970 a "UFO" hovered in the New Mexico skies executing acrobatic manoeuvres and figure-eight formations before finally descending onto the grounds of Los Alamos by parachute. Officials there were dumbfounded as to what the contraption was or where it may have originated. It was later determined, that the UFO was a high altitude recon-drone launched by White Sands. Officials of the military denied this until they were finally "forced" to release the facts due to the high publicity surrounding the event (FN 2). That was a typical case whereby the body-politic and neighboring government officials had no prior knowledge of the military test.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE DRONE HAD BEEN EQUIPPED WITH AN EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD?

CONCLUSIONS

Let's review the possibilities of the Socorro incident as related to the source of this "classical" UFO sighting.

- A. Hoax;
- B. An extraterrestrial spacecraft;
- C. Lunar excursion Module (LEM) test;

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- D. A crude airfoil built by the students of New Mexico Tech;
- E. A military test > possible ECM device;
- F. A covert test conducted by the government and manipulated to enhance the saucer belief system.

Of all the explanations the least plausible, to this organization, is the hoax theory. There is sufficient evidence to support that a sighting actually occurred, which includes historical data that very little monetary gain was achieved from the Socorro incident.

The extraterrestrial spacecraft hypothesis is the overwhelming favorite of many UFO researchers. Many researchers envision this sighting as the first of numerous landings of space ships from a distant planet. Yet, with all the effort expended on this case, the only thing that can be proven in a cursory sense, is that something was observed by Zamora. It's one thing to have a sighting of a nuts and bolts craft, but it is absurd to claim that this was an observation of a bona fide craft from a distant planet. Where is the proof? Where is the evidence?

The US Government was conducting tests on a LEM vehicle near the general sighting area a year after the Socorro sighting. Is it possible that these tests were conducted prior to that time and that New Mexico Tech deliberately falsified this information to stop investigators from connecting the Socorro "UFO" to the school?

The aircraft storage and dump yard at New Mexico Tech contains adequate materials capable of constructing a crude Socorro-type UFO. Was the UFO built by the school? To date no data has surfaced to quantify this interesting possibility. One would assume that the device would have surfaced after all these years or that some college student would have bragged about the event, in light of all the publicity surrounding this incident.

Our government has had secret projects transpiring for years. It is entirely feasible that the Socorro UFO was a test craft that just developed mechanical difficulties. From this point the manipula-

tion hypothesis takes over. In the government's circle of red tape the same group responsible for the sighting is not the same one doing the saucer investigations. This way the two programs proceed concurrently. Rather than expose the secret project responsible for the UFO event, a ruse is created to mislead both the military investigators and the civilian enthusiast. In effect, it is to the advantage of the group manipulating the saucers to promote a few "good" cases than it would be to suppress the entire subject.

Just remember the events that transpired in the Socorro case. The US Air Force and their top consultant reported that Zamora was not hoaxing or lying about the sighting. The civilian UFO organizations immediately started a series of wild hypotheses, inferring that the Socorro incident was a bona fide visitation of a spaceship with creatures. Philip Klass, who totally discredited both of these theories, attempted to prove a hoax was being perpetrated. He probably should be given credit for coming closest to a logical explanation to the occurrence.

As the readers can see there are more unanswered questions to this event than have been satisfactorily explained in all the years following Zamora's famous sighting. There is no way that sensible UFO researchers can claim this sighting as solid proof of the existence of extraterrestrials. Now is the time for all serious researchers to reconsider the past theories and look at the saucer saga. It appears to the writers that the UFO mystery must be described as a genuine psychological-social phenomenon born in modern times. It is time to forget the vivid speculations and view the continuing mystery from a more logical viewpoint.

NOTES

(FN1): During the later part of 1963, the Defense Department and other cursory agencies launched a joint program, known as Project Cloud Gap, to learn firsthand more about the problems of inspecting and enforcing the arms control agreements. The methods included both conventional and highly developed inspection aircraft which were covertly tested throughout the entire southwest.

(FN2): Information on this incident was supplied by the Public Information Officer of the White Sands Missile Range during GSW's investigation in the Spring of 1981.



UFOs AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

— THE INSIDE STORY

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BY BILL CHALKER

PART THREE {Continuing Bill Chalker's investigation}.

PART 4 - THE RAAF "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS FILES.

Despite assurances from the RAAF that "nothing that has arisen from that three or four percent of unexplained cases gives any firm support for the belief that interlopers from other places in this world or outside it have been visiting us" (13), provocative events remain. Because of the RAAF's commitment to checking out defence implications in reports, those events outside their brief, merely go unresolved.

Space allows us only to mention of a small selection of cases*.

On April 4, 1975, following ground observations, a pilot of an aircraft approaching Cairns airport from the west, was asked by the tower to look out for an unidentified object to the north. "VHF contact CS Tower was severely distorted prior to receiving the message of a foreign object in the area".

"A light only was visible - not the usual aircraft light (landing) but quite powerful with a yellow colouring, with a wide beam.

"For several seconds it would oscillate through 10° to 15° of horizontal & vertical planes gently, but mainly appeared stationary. The vertical oscillation appeared to move in an arc, as if off-centre

of the longitudinal axis of an aircraft.

"The source of light was not visible unless pointing directly towards the observer, appearing then with a lens approx. 3 times diameter of a Boeing 727 landing light lens.

"During the last observation, smoke, cloud or some opaque substance appeared in the beam. It appeared somewhat darker and denser than cloud.

"Cockpit duties terminated the observation".

The RAAF investigating officer indicated that the light was no known aircraft in flight and was "not completely satisfied that the object described by...the pilot, was the planet Saturn". However, it is Saturn that appears in the 1975 Summary as "a possible cause"!

On August 30, 1975, the pilot and co-pilot of an RAAF Neptune aircraft transiting up the Queensland coast at 3,000 feet, just out to sea off Mackay, North Queensland, witnessed a group of three lights which passed in front of them. The lights were about the same intensity as average stars and were moving horizontally at high angular velocity. They appeared to be at the same altitude of the aircraft.

Fearing an imminent collision, the pilot banked to the left "and commenced climbing as the lights passed down the starboard side of the aircraft. The lights appeared to disappear into cloud above the cockpit".

Duration approximately 10 - 15 seconds.

"Nil radar traces noted by 10SQN aircraft

*Future papers will cover other reports from the files.

radar operator".

The investigating officer confirmed that *"both men are reliable and trained observers"* and the case is listed as *"not known"*.

Possibly the most interesting of the reports from the RAAF files re aircraft observations, was a complex of events played out near Brisbane and Coolangatta, Queensland, on the night of November 4, 1976. The events are not mentioned in the 1976 Summary.

The Senior Area Approach Controller, Brisbane Airport, directed details of the evenings events to the Orderly Officer at Amberley Air Force Base. The accounts were in turn passed on to the Intelligence Liaison Officer in Canberra.

The first report was made by the Duty Controller at Coolangatta Tower. At 1900 hours he observed a stationary light changing back and forth from red to green (possibly scintillation - B.C.). The controller dismissed the object as *"unknown, possibly a star"* and took no further interest. But things were soon hotting up considerably.

The crew of an Electra transport aircraft observed an object maintaining station with them. The object again appeared as a light changing between green-red-green, but after it appeared to move up and down in its position, the UFO departed to the south at approximately one and a half times the speed of the Electra.

The captain wrote:

"The object was first thought to be an RAAF A/C with afterburner on, doing aerobatics, but when seen to move in vertical zig-zag patterns, (it) could not possibly have been.

"It moved relative to stars - below horizon. At first speed was slightly greater than ours then increased to approximately 100%. Then in the last few minutes increased rapidly to many times our speed".

Brisbane radar ostensibly did not confirm the *"unknown"*. I have since inter-

viewed the Captain of the Electra and it would seem that something quite extraordinary took place that night!

Shortly after, the pilot of a light aircraft - a Piper Aztec - sighted a red and green object maintaining station with him for four minutes before fading from view.

Both Brisbane Radar and the Meteorology Radar at Eagle Farm then began picking up unidentified returns that were stationary to the East of Brisbane. The Met Radar picked up two returns in close proximity, painting about the same size as an aircraft. One tracked south and faded, the other went north and descended to 10000 feet. It was on radar for some time. The RAAF report notes: *"The Met radar operator likened the movement to that of a ship but said they had never painted ships before in his many years of experience at BN (Brisbane - B.C.)"*.

The RAAF report ex Amberly concluded:

"The red-green object visually sighted has been assessed as most probably the planet Venus; the colours etc. being caused by atmospheric conditions. Weather on the night of the sighting was clear with no cloud. The radar contacts could have been caused by ducting of the radar energy painting ships at sea (a "not altogether satisfactory explanation" - the officer later wrote - B.C.). DOT has confirmed that they had no civil traffic in any of the relevant areas. There was no military activity".

Shades of Kaikoura! (14). The Electra pilot finds such explanations, understandably, most unsatisfactory. Further investigation suggests that a commercial passenger aircraft bound for Cairns, was paced by a UFO, that night, and that a ground observer at Boona, west of Brisbane, also reported a sighting (15).

The Intelligence Officer who submitted the following report to Canberra was really just *"whistling in the wind"* when he suggested an explanation for a close encounter with a UFO on the ground, on November 11, 1977, in the Barossa Valley, South Australia. He wrote: *"My guess is that it was a set of orange reversing lights, probably on the*

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rear of a large American car (!! - B.C.)". The report did not find its way into the 1977 Summary.

A West Australian couple were camped on a roadside between farms, off Seppeltsfield Road and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in from the Nuriootpa/Tanunda Roads (SA).

The male witness recorded the event in his diary from which I quote:

"It was the 2 square orange lights with a band of glowing gold light straight across the top. Then the 2 orange lights seemed to merge (almost) into (each other), then back to squares with a dark object crossing one of them, just like a person across a window (! - B.C.). Later 2 red spots (one in each orange square) just like an exhaust. Later it all went out like a light and then I saw a pale glow as if it was moving across the field. It appeared to be 200/300 feet away, the gold light 40' wide and 2' deep, the orange squares 3' to 4' square. After about 25 seconds I called (his wife - B.C.) to watch it. She came out of the van..."

Her story follows:

"Outside in the near distance between trees each side of the track there appeared to be an object which seemed to fill the space between these same

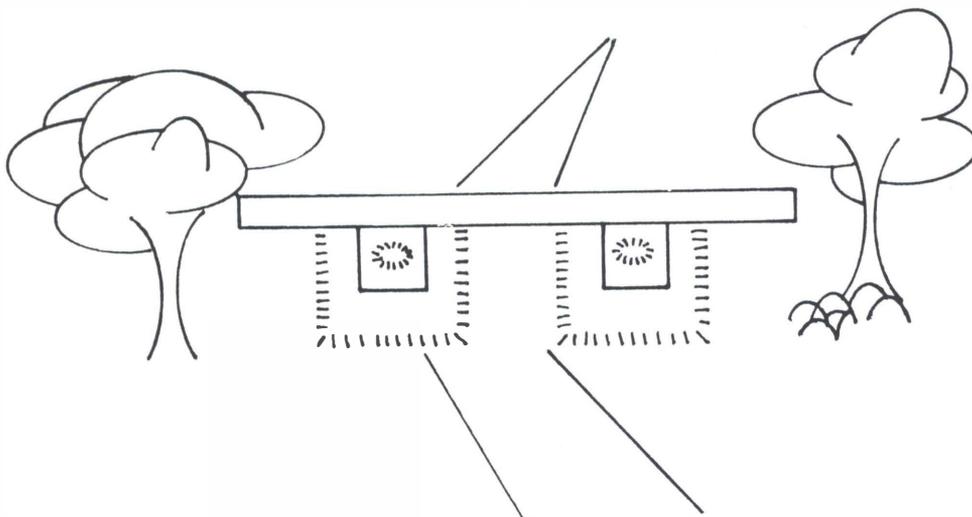
trees...After viewing this strange set of lights for a few seconds, everything went black, as if a switch had been turned off...Then in a westerly direction across the skyline at the top of the field, there appeared a pale blue-grey light, wide at first, then gradually & fairly quickly moving west & diminishing in size like a ribbon of light, narrowing as it finally faded out".

Her husband described the end of his observation as follows:

"Area went black and one or two seconds later a bluish-grey ribbon of light flowed horizontally across the field in a west direction and gradually faded out".

Although there are no RAAF file holdings on the Valentich incident (16), 1978 was a bumper year, the Summary for that year listing 118 reports. Space precludes me from describing too many, but briefly some of the highlights were an extraordinary phenomenon seen in a cane field east of Mandurana, Queensland, for three hours on December 6; a "UFO sighting" by crew on HMAS Adroit on April 11; an apparent "electromagnetic" case north of Goulburn, NSW, on October 22, which left the speedo indicator broken, and a "daylight disc" seen near Laverton Air Force Base on December 27*.

*These and other reports from RAAF UFO files will be the subject of future articles.

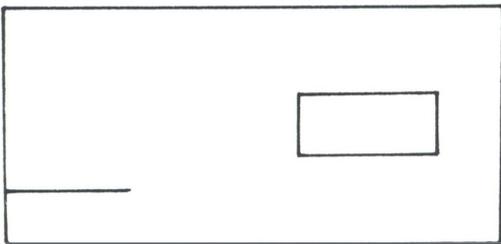


A taxi driver in Wavell Heights, Aspley, Queensland, almost touched a UFO, on the night of October 10, 1978. At about 10 p.m., while driving through Spence Rd, he saw "a very bright, white object (lit up from the inside, no lights on the outside)".

"It looked like a mini-bus, moving from my right side across the front of me to the left. I thought it was going into a garage. At this time it was 60 metres ahead of me.

"When it came in front of my headlights, I saw it had no wheels. I stopped my car about 2 metres from it. Then I got out of my car about 2 metres from it. Then I got out of my car and watched it as it passed by slowly. It was lit up inside and outside extremely brightly - a white metallic colour. It had a driving seat, instruments and T-shaped steering wheel. I couldn't see any light fittings inside or outside.

"In fact it was moving so slowly that I tried to touch it. It was at this time that I heard a sort of s.s ssss noise and the lights went out. It speeded up and quickly disappeared. The sighting lasted about 30 seconds".

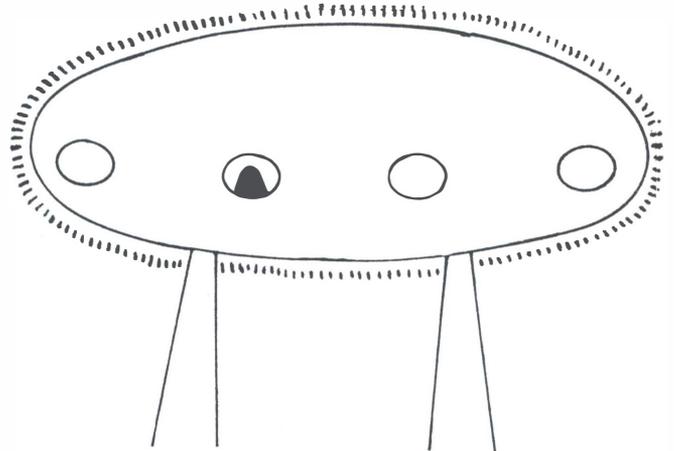


ASPLEY, 1978

I recently spoke to the witness and confirmed the account as given in the RAAF report. He did elaborate for me on the one provocative detail missing from the report - a driver for the "mini-bus" UFO. There was none!

Another "unknown" was observed by two women driving on the Heathcoate Road between the weir and the Menai turn-off at about 9.30 p.m., on October 29, 1978.

It was first observed some 500 feet away at about the same altitude. The object was shaped like two saucers on edge, but essentially a very large dark disc shape. It had what appeared to be four or five port-holes. Light was coming from these, although one had "something in the way" - a shadow or silhouette? Two lights like spot-lights were directed downwards from the UFO. When the couple stopped their car, the object moved about 100 feet towards them. It stopped briefly, then moved closer, a further 50 feet. It finally moved a further 50 feet, stopped very briefly and then flew off towards Engadine.



HEATHCOATE ROAD, 1978

On January 7, 1979, at Redhead, NSW, a ten year old girl was woken up by an extraordinary display. At about 4 a.m., a very bright white circular object, with a small circular piece attached in the centre, first appeared then stopped. A second object approached from behind the first, circling and then stopping along side it. The first object then took off again, stopped. The second object repeated the above movement. This motion continued on back and forth, for some 30 minutes, as the objects moved in a north-south direction.

Both objects appeared to stop, side by side, over the neighbouring garage. Four beams of misty white light came from the objects to the ground and lit up the area "like midday" for a period of approximately ten minutes. The beams finally went out and both objects disappeared from view in the north north-west.

The child had watched the whole display from her bed by the window, for some 100

minutes, too frightened to call her parents. After the objects had gone, the girl told her parents. She was visibly shaken by the experience and her mother had to sleep with her for the remainder of the night. The girl slept with her father for the following two nights.

This small selection more than adequately confirms the impression that although the majority of cases investigated by the RAAF are misidentifications of prosaic phenomena, their files do hold valid "unknowns", that deserve further investigation. However the RAAF ostensibly lack the facilities and/or the inclination to conduct worthwhile investigations of these provocative events (17).

PART 5 - IS THERE A COVER-UP?

The question as to whether the RAAF is "covering-up" its UFO investigations is a difficult one to resolve to everyone's satisfaction. The 1966 internal Defence Minute Papers (mentioned at length in Part 3) specifically address themselves to this point. References in them are difficult to reconcile with a "cover-up" scenario, i.e.:

"...We only foster the incorrect (but nevertheless widely held) belief that we have much vital information to hide".

"Three of these files are classified, two of which are secret although there appears to be nothing on the files consistent with this classification".

These quotations seem to refer to a situation other than a sophisticated cover-up program.

While there are a large number of provocative claims which are suggestive of cover-up activities*, this report is addressed to the files examined by the author during January, 1982.

As already stated, I was permitted a completely open review of the RAAF/Department of Defence UFO files made available to me. The existence of self critical and provoca-

*The author will examine the case, for and against a "cover-up" in a future report.

tive data in the RAAF documents I was able to examine directly, at Canberra, is a powerful argument that the RAAF is quite open about their UFO investigations, at least to within the normal limits of typical government bureaucracy. Further still, the fact I was allowed such a direct on-site review of the files and that further such reviews by myself of the remaining files are being organised, are significant items of evidence for an open policy rather than support for a "cover-up" scenario. It is also significant that my officially sanctioned file review even took place prior to the imminent promulgation of the Freedom of Information Act. The wording of the Australian Act is such that a high level "cover-up" program would be ensured its permanency, and at worst would be only exposed with ambiguous, fragmentary disclosures (18). Finally, the idea of a high level "cover-up" program, seems a little inappropriate in a situation where even the authority invested with the responsibility of carrying out the program, seems somewhat disabled by an inability to satisfactorily organise and locate its own files on the matter (a problem, which I might add, is shared by many civilian UFO research groups).

CONCLUSION

It would certainly seem that a whole new vista of openness on the part of the RAAF has unfolded. Prior to my visit, an officially sanctioned review of government UFO files by a private UFO researcher, would have seemed inconceivable. However, the door has finally been opened and left ajar.

My review has allowed a detailed picture of the RAAF UFO investigations to emerge. This has been impossible to provide until now. Further file examinations are now being organised.

This preliminary review indicates that the RAAF are probably as confused and uncertain, as many civilian research groups, on what to do about provocative UFO sightings. The RAAF have been locked into a bureaucratically orchestrated responsibility, which, the reviewed files suggest, has long since been determined to be a waste of time, but is continued as a service to the general public.

In the main, the RAAF UFO investigations have served their publically stated purposes.

UFOs AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

That is, they may have allayed possible fear and alarm by the general public and satisfied the government that there is no apparent defence implications.

However, based upon my review of the RAAF UFO files during January, 1982, past research into RAAF investigations, my own investigations of UFO reports and those of other individuals and groups, there is a residue of provocative reports that survives the gauntlet of both official and civilian investigation. I believe it is time that the RAAF went beyond its current limited brief, which leaves its small residue of "unknown" or "unexplained" reports unresolved. I think it is time for the RAAF to abandon its "unnecessarily rigid and unimaginative" approach (to quote an abridge DPR's submission to DAFI in 1966) and openly co-operate and support the efforts of those civilian groups that research and investigate UFO sighting reports in a responsible and scientific way. The Australian Centre for UFO Studies* promotes this sort of approach. It recognises that the RAAF has expertise appropriate to evaluating part of the phenomena generally re-

*The Australian Centre for UFO Studies can be contacted by writing to: PO Box 229, Prospect, SA 5082, AUSTRALIA.

garded as "UFOs", however, the Centre and many of its sister organisations overseas, have the capacity to enlist and direct meaningful investigations of the residue of reports that the RAAF seemingly prefers to ignore. Satisfactory resolution of the UFO controversy could be assisted if official and responsible civilian groups alike, co-operated more closely. In this way, the residue of provocative reports we label "unexplained" may eventually be resolved as something prosaic or even something much more interesting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to record my appreciation of the kind assistance and co-operation given to me by the following:

Mr L.A. Lavers, D/DPR
Sqd. Ldr. Ian Frame, AFI-ILO
Mr Bill Smither, DPR (Air Force)
Mr Noel Tanswell, DPR (Research)

NOTE

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REFERENCES & NOTES

- (1) Chalker, W.C., "The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Investigation of UFOs", A.C.O.S. Bulletin (now the Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies) No. 20, August, 1979, pgs. 3 - 8, and, the MUFON UFO Journal, No. 143, January, 1980, pgs. 3 - 6.
- (2) See, for example, the books of Donald Keyhoe and "The UFO Controversy in America" by David M. Jacobs, Signet, 1976.
- (3) Letter to B.C. from L.A. Lavers, Director of Public Relations, Department of Defence (Air Force Office), dated August 6, 1980.
- (4) This indicated that I wished to study the 1061 reports listed in Summaries Nos. 1 to 9 (1960 to 1977), in particular the 57 reports variously listed as "unknowns", "unexplained", "cause undetermined", etc; all reports since 1977; any documentation the department held relevant to the Valentich disappearance of 1978; any reports not listed in the Department of Defence Annual Summaries; any documentation on reports by military personnel or involving military investigation prior to 1950; documentation on reports investigated by the Department between 1950 and 1960; details of reports or investigations by other services including U.S. Base members, Australian Army & Navy, DCA (or currently DOT), ASIO, ASIS, DSD, ONA, M09, J10, CIB, etc; and other matters.
- (5) Security classifications are as follows:
"When unauthorised disclosure of information & material could:
* possibly be harmful to national security, classify as RESTRICTED,
* reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security classify as CONFIDENTIAL (Most national security matters will merit classification no higher than confidential),
* reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security, classify as SECRET, and
* cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security, classify as TOP SECRET".
- (6) Ibid. (1), plus personal files.
- (7) Sqd. Ldr. Frame explained to me that his "UFO duties" were only a part of his duties. He had three basic duties, one of them being co-ordinating UFO sighting (handling & compilation), and this was the most minor of these. His UFO duties in fact were fill in activities during other duties. The position, normally in the domain of Air Force Intelligence, is assigned generally on a more or less three year duty.
- (8) Story, Ronald D. "The Encyclopedia of UFOs", Doubleday, 1980 & New English Library, 1980.

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- (9) Pinkney, John & Ryzman, Leonard, "Alien Honeycomb - the first solid evidence of UFOs", Pan books, 1980.
- (10) See "The Great UFO Debate (on 'Alien Honeycomb') - The Case Against" by Bill Chalker and "The Case for" by John Pinkney & Leonard Ryzman, People magazine, January 21 & 28, 1981. See also "Not so 'Alien Honeycomb'?" by Bill Chalker (including Stop Press), UFO Research Australia Newsletter (UFORAN), Vol.2, No.1, Jan-Feb, 1981, pgs. 12 - 15.
- (11) See, for example, Bowen, Charles, UFOs Debated at United Nations", Flying Saucer Review, pgs. 5 - 11, Vol.24, No.6, 1979.
- (12) Ibid. (6).
- (13) From Statement to Australian Federal Parliament in Canberra, on October 20, 1960, by the Honorable F.M. Osborne, then Minister for Air, quoted in Brief for Minister of Defence on RAAF Policy for Reporting of UAS, Annex A to AF 529/1/4 (144), dated December 18, 1980.
- (14) See, for example, Startup, Captain Bill & Illingworth, Neil, "The Kaikoura UFOs", Hodder & Stoughton, 1980;
- Maccabee, Dr. Bruce, "What Really Happened in New Zealand", 1979, published variously in the MUFON UFO Journal, APRO Bulletin & the International UFO Reporter during 1979. Chalker, W.C., "A Re-viewing of the Great Nocturnal Light - UFO Fallout over New Zealand, December, 1978", Flying Saucer Review, pgs. 12 - 18, Vol.26, No.1, 1980.
- (15) Personal communication from Colin Phillips, President of UFO Research (Qld). See also ACUFOS files.
- (16) See, for example, Chalker, W.C., "Valentich - Bass Strait (Australia) Affair", *ibid.*, (8), pgs. 379 - 380; Killey, Kevin & Lester, Gary, "The Devils Meridian", Lester-Townsend Publishing, 1980.
- (17) *Ibid* (6).
- (18) See Freedom of Information Bill 1981, Freedom of Information Bill - Background Notes - Attorney-General's Department & Freedom of Information Report by the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the Freedom of Information Bill 1978, and aspect of the Archives Bill 1978.

THE RAAF FILES

BY BILL CHALKER

Since January, 1982, I have been undertaking the first direct civilian examination of the RAAF UFO files ever allowed. Now, after three visits to the Russell Offices of the Department of Defence in Canberra (namely, January 11-14, May 7 and June 4, 1982). I will summarise the results of these exercises to date.

1. More than 1,000 reports were examined.
2. A total of 53 files have been examined. 46 "sighting" files covered by 2 separate file series and relating to the years 1955 to 1981. (Only 3 files relating to events in about 1974 to 1975 remain to be examined, however, most of the more interesting "unknowns" from this small period have already been acquired e.g. 1973 - N.W. Cape and 1975 - Brisbane precipitate event and Nebo area gravel pit physical trace case). 7 "enquiry" files covered by 2 separate file series and relating to material from 1966 to 1981.
3. The "Unusual Aerial Sightings" (UAS) summaries for 1978, 1979 and 1980 were made available for the first time during the

January, 1982, visit. This provided the first occasion that RAAF/Defence Department summaries have been available for the years through 1960 to 1980.

4. During my May, 1982, visit I had to sign a statement ensuring the confidentiality of witnesses. It was clarified with the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) that this only applied to events in which witnesses reported details in confidence and not to reports that were subject to publicity in which names were public knowledge.
5. I was able to make a detailed summary of the RAAF reports on file from 1955 to 1959, thereby providing, for the first time, a complete summary listing, from late 1955 right through to 1980.
6. I was allowed a completely open review of all 53 files, however, subsequently DAFI has asked me to delete certain references which have been of a non-sighting nature.
7. I have been denied access to only 3 files which ostensibly constitute the total holdings of one file series entitled

THE RAAF FILES

- "Investigation of Flying Saucer Policy", apparently covering material from 1953 to date. The reason given for this denial of access revolved around the principle that they are "policy" files and do not contain sighting reports. However, it was determined that at least the first file of this series, appeared to be a confusion of miscellaneous documentation, letters, policies, etc. During my June, 1982, visit the DAFI intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO), showed me the 3 files in question and allowed me access and copies to particular folios (or parts) of the file, after I had identified them and he had vetted the items for clearance. Possible future direct access, to at least the first of 3 files mentioned here, is still being negotiated.
8. A major discovery in the first of these "policy" files was the so-called "Report on 'Flying Saucers'" hitherto unknown to researchers. This document was written by H. Turner, M.Sc. in late 1954. Turner, of the Australian Scientific Liaison Office, a unit of the then British Commonwealth Scientific Office, in London, England, was at the time working at Melbourne University. DAFI arranged to have 2 DAFI "flying saucer" files placed at his disposal for analysis. Of particular interest is the fact that the report includes a detailed tabular summary of the DAFI/RAAF "flying saucer" reports from 1950 to 1954. The Turner report, in part, concluded: "The evidence presented by the reports held by RAAF tend to support the...conclusion...that certain strange aircraft have been observed to behave in a manner suggestive of extra-terrestrial origin".
9. For the first time an almost "complete" picture of the RAAF involvement in the UFO controversy can be provided from the period 1950 to 1981 based on:
- 1950 to 1954 - The 1954 Turner Report;
 - 1955 to 1959 - personal summary of RAAF files and personal file review;
 - 1960 to 1980 - RAAF UAS Summaries and personal file review.
10. Further DAFI file searches are being undertaken to uncover other files. At this stage only 2 other known file series remain to be examined. Both of these appear to be related to 1950s files. These are still "lost" possibly in Defence Archives, however, attempts are still continuing to locate them.
12. Information about many hitherto unknown incidents of value were obtained, e.g.:
- 1956 - Tambar Springs, NSW, close encounter of more than five minutes duration.
 - 1957 - Radar and visual event involving Met. radar at Hobart and ATC at Launceston in Tasmania.
 - 1958 - Daylight sighting at Wulkuraka, Qld, viewed through theodolite - multiple witness - UFO in RAAF control zone of Amberley - confirmed "unknown".
 - 1959 - Burren Junction, NSW - close encounter involving policemen - landing event related.
 - 1960 - USAF aircraft UFO encounter near Cressy (!!).
13. Detailed information was obtained on many "classic" cases, e.g.:
- 1959 - Risdon, Hobart, Tasmania - daylight disc.
 - 1959 - Papua sightings including Gill report.
 - 1960 - Cressy sighting.
 - 1963 - Willow Grove/Moe - close encounter.
 - 1964 - Groote Eylandt "EM" case.
 - 1966 - Tully landing.
 - 1968 - Heyfield "landing".
 - 1971 - Tooligie Hill "trace".
 - 1972 - Moorooduc Road - close encounter.
 - 1973 - Kimba "entity" report.
 - 1980 - Rosedale "landing".

THE RAAF FILES

14. A preliminary report appeared in the UFO Research Australia Newsletter (UFORAN) in three parts, Vo.3 Nos.2, 3 and 4, (March-April, May-June and July-August, 1982). Another article will appear in "Omega Science Digest" in the September-October, 1982, issue.
15. A comprehensive report is intended for the national UFO Conference (UFOCON 7) at Hobart, early in 1983.
16. Further papers will be published as they become available, e.g.:

The Drury UFO film affair.
The RAAF and UFOs - is there a cover-up?

These articles will be circulated for publication in UFORAN, Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, FSR, MUFON UFO Journal and the APRO Bulletin.

17. A fuller treatment of the RAAF involvement in the UFO controversy will be published when it is completed.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: On July 13, the Director of Intelligence and Security, for the Navy, released a copy of the document on the famous Nowra radar-visual event involving a naval pilot on August 31, 1954.

BILL CHALKER, SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT,
AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES,
JULY, 1982.

AN A TO Z OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

(BY PAUL & CASSANDRA SOWIAK-RUDEJ)

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE:

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.

B

THE BEE CONCEPT - Proposed by: Gerald Heard. Concept: The overall pattern of UFO activity resembles that of a beehive. We may be making too much of a mindless order that is perhaps itself organised by another intelligence. Source: Keel, J. op. cit.

C

CIA COLD WAR TACTIC - Proposed by: Dr Z. Davidson. Concept: The CIA is deliberately creating these events as a diversionary tactic in the cold war. Source: Keel, J. op. cit.

CONTROL SYSTEM - Proposed by: Jacques Vallee. Concept: UFOs could be generated either by our subconscious, or by an ET intelligence. In both cases, their purpose is cultural manipulation, which is achieved by the creation of myths, and the corresponding change in man's beliefs. The activity occurs in patterns reminiscent of Skinner's irreversible learning curves - periodic and unpredictable. This system has influenced mankind in the past, and is doing so now; the present trend suggests that UFOs may be related to the next religion to be founded. Source: "UFOs: The Psychic Solution", J. Vallee, Panther, UK, 1977.

CRITTERS - Proposed by: Trevor Constable. Concept: UFOs are animals living in the ether above Earth. They can take any form or density that they choose, and operate on "bio energy". They are part of a battle now being conducted between the forces of good, represented by Ethereal beings, and evil, represented by Ahriman, the third and final evil incarnation fated for Earth. This evil force will drag man down into materialism and away from our true destiny. Source: "The Cosmic Pulse of Life", T. Constable, Merlin Press, USA, 1976.

CLARION AND OTHER HIDDEN PLANETS - Proposed by: Assorted contactees etc. Concept: UFOs come from another inhabited planet, which we have never discovered because it is permanently hidden, behind the sun for instance. This other civilization is usually claimed to be far better than ours, and would like to help us reach a similar level of peace and harmony. Source: "UFOs and Their Mission Impossible", C. Wilson, World of Truth Productions, Australia, 1974.

To be continued...

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PSIUFO PHENOMENA: A STUDY OF UFOs AND THE PARANORMAL

By Mark Moravec

PSIUFO phenomena are those cases where UFO and the paranormal phenomena apparently overlap. Included in this definition are cases which allegedly involve mental communications; poltergeists, apparitions, healings, ghostlights and time lapses/"abductions". Since my first paper on PSIUF0 phenomena was presented in 1979 at Sydney's UFOCON 4, I have been engaged in collecting together and analysing the relevant Australian reports. The results of this research have now been published by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies in 137-page document titled, "PSIUFO Phenomena: A Study of UFOs and the Paranormal".

What, in brief, does the report contain?

Definitions and case examples of UFO cases involving mental communications, poltergeists, apparitions, healings, ghostlights, time lapses and "abductions".

A catalogue and analysis of 88 Australian cases, with particular emphasis on case reliability.

An outline of historical and geographical trends.

An examination of natural phenomena such as ball lightning and earthquake lights which may be responsible for some reports.

The relevance of hypnosis, altered states of consciousness and other psychological processes.

How to properly investigate PSIUF0 phenomena, including specialised questionnaires for the investigator.

A report evaluation system which rates reports on the basis of documentation level, time lapse before investigation, witness credibility, supportive physical evidence and strangeness.

Natural causes of poltergeist and haunting effects.

The possible explanations: psychological, paranormal or extraterrestrial?

Suggested directions for future research.

The implications of PSIUF0 phenomena on our understanding of anomalies, the human mind and the world at large.

The aim of my report was not to merely give a dry catalogue of case summaries, but to discuss in detail such issues as the possible explanations for PSIUF0 phenomena; the problems facing the investigator who probes these often complex reports; and the implications of PSIUF0 cases for our attempts at understanding the nature of UFO and paranormal phenomena, and the nature of the larger reality around us.

"PSIUFO Phenomena: A Study of UFOs and the Paranormal" is available, within Australia, from: The Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS), PO Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082, at a cost of \$ Aust 16, postpaid. Outside Australia, this document can be purchased from: The Arcturus Book Service, 163 N. Ballston Ave, Scotia, N.Y., 12302, U.S.A., at a cost of \$ US 13.50.■

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