

U.F.O.I.C. NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

At the next meeting on December 5th, at 7 p.m. in Adyar Hall, the present Committee will bow out. For myself I will go gratefully and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in so many ways to get the Newsletter out. It has been an exciting year of sightings and investigations and many reports have come in. Sometimes we cannot put them in the Newsletter because of space, and to those people I apologise. But please keep on sending in your sightings, without them our Association would not be the exciting group it is. And now I would like to appeal for a new Editor. I think it is time for a change, with new ideas and new enthusiasm. So come along, offer your services on the Committee, and help in trying to find an answer to the big U.F.O. questions.

— Editor V. EXLEY.

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ASTRONOMERS AND U.F.O.'s

By William Moser, President of the British Astronomical Association and General Secretary of UFOIC.

Quite frequently sceptics, in regard to sightings of U.F.O.'s, approach me after one of my talks asking if ever any Astronomers have seen and described anything which can be called an U.F.O. I had a few examples always ready, but the whole aspect intrigued me somehow and I considered it worthwhile to delve a bit more in this aspect as previously done. I came up with quite an astonishing number of Astronomers who claimed to have seen unusual phenomena in the skies, not connected to astronomical subjects known to them and described. Perusing sources at my disposal I found out that sightings go back over 250 years and I have tried to give a chronological order without claiming in any way that this list is complete. In fact I would appreciate it if any sighting by astronomers or scientists which eluded me could be communicated to the publishers of this book, Newchapel Observatory.

March 6th, 1716: I begin my list with a sighting by Halley about whom I don't consider it necessary to say any more. He saw an object illuminating the sky for more than two hours from about 7.00 p.m. onwards. This was by no means Halley's first contact with an unknown celestial object — in May 1677 and on 31st July 1708 he had similar sightings. Similar phenomena were reported to Halley by other Astronomers of his time, notably by Gottfried Kirch an Astronomer to Leipzig (Germany) Astronomers re an event on July 9th 1686 and by Montanori an Italian mathematician and astronomer regarding a sighting on March 21st 1676.

August 9th, 1762: Two Swiss Astronomers saw at their respective observatory that day an object in front of the Sun. They were De Rostan in Basle and Croste in Sole.

June 17th, 1777: Charles Messier, famous for his nebula Catalogue observed that day a large number of dark spots in the skies, disc shaped, which were unknown to him.

August 18th, 1783: Cavallo, a fellow of the Royal Society, saw at Windsor Castle a strange luminous object. Also on August 30th an object was observed at Greenwich Observatory from which eight objects emerged, described as satellites.

Coming on to the 19th Century the number of sightings increased considerably and herewith those known to me. But before that I would like to mention some other reports by a scientist named Wilkins on the following dates: March 19th 1718 at Oxford, December 5th 1737 and December 16th 1742 both in London. Now back to the 19th Century.

September 7th, 1820: Francis Arago, the famous French Physicist describes observations that day at Embrun of objects moving across the sky in a nearly military precision. He mentions also that a number of other scientists have seen similar events.

Sightings in the first half of the century include reports by Pastorff in the years 1822, 1834, 1836 and 1837; by Webb in 1823, by others in 1826 and 1828.

September 6th to November 1st, 1831: At Geneva Observatory the Swiss Astronomer Dr. Wartmann and his staff saw a strange luminous body practically every night. In the years following there were reports by Cocciatore (1835), De Vico (1837), De Cuppis (1837), and Glaisher (1844).

May 11th, 1845: Capocci, a well known Italian Astronomer working at Capodimonte Observatory Naples saw a number of shining discs, some star-shaped, others sporting a tail-like appendage. He considered them of smallish size. Further reports in the following years came from Schmidt (1847), Brown and Sidebotham (1849) and Inglis in Switzerland in the same year.

NEW MEMBERS: Anyone wishing to join the U.F.O.I.C. can do so by contacting Mr. Moser, the Secretary, at P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney 2000 . . . or by coming to the next meeting in the Adyar Hall, or by coming to one of the members' Social gatherings — you don't HAVE to be a member to attend any of these functions but we think it would tempt you to join.

June 11th, 1855: Astronomers, Ritter and Schmidt saw with their naked eyes a darkish body, unexplainable to both of them.

September 1st, 1859: Richard Carrington, observing through his telescope at Redhill Observatory in Surrey saw two luminous bodies, certainly not meteors.

April 27th, 1863: Waldner, a German Astronomer observing Venus saw a number of objects similar to Capocci and Waldner.

May 30th, 1867: Bird, a British Astronomer observing Venus saw a number of objects similar to Capocci and Waldner.

April 27th, 1863: Waldner, a German Astronomer, saw at Weinheim Observatory that day a number of small luminous bodies travelling at great speed, similar to the observations by Capocci eighteen years earlier.

June 8th, 1868: A number of British Astronomers at Oxford's Radcliffe Observatory saw a luminous object moving quickly across the sky, stopping and changing its course at least three times.

August 7th, 1869: Observing a total solar eclipse at Iowa Observatory Professor Zentmayer and Prof. Coffin saw a number of objects moving nearly parallel across the sky. Also Prof. Himes of this Observatory when called observed some of them. They were unexplainable to all three astronomers.

October 17th & 18th, 1869: A keen Amateur Astronomer, Lieutenant Herschel while observing the Sun saw, from noon on the 17th until about 7 a.m. on the 18th numerous dark shadows crossing the Sun, and also luminous streaks going across the sky near the Sun. They were nearly a continuous stream and all explanations could not solve these sightings. Some objects stopped and hovered before flying fast away.

August 1st, 1871: A French Astronomer, Coggia at Marseilles, known for cometary discoveries saw that day a red object slowly moving across the sky, he was unable to explain.

August 29th, 1871: Another French Astronomer, Trouvelot, saw at Meudon Observatory a great number of seemingly opaque opaque bodies crossing the Sun, and similar sightings for some days until September 1st 1871.

June 17th, 1873: Calle, the discoverer of Pluto, and Dr. Sage whilst watching the planet Mars saw a large object travel at incredible speed and seemingly explode on reaching the Earth's Atmosphere. They said it could have been a meteor but the behaviour was quite uncommon.

April 24th, 1874: Prof. Schaffarik of Prague Observatory saw a very bright white object crossing the Moon and disappearing into space. It was of an absolute strange nature to him.

April 13th, 1879: A large luminous body, certainly not a comet was seen by Harrison, a well known Astronomer and an associate of his.

November 30th, 1880: Ricco, an Italian Astronomer, saw at Palermo Observatory while watching the Sun a number of objects crossing its surface.

November 17th, 1882: E. W. Maunder, one of the Astronomers working at that time at Greenwich Observatory and others saw a greenish object, torpedo-shaped and luminous. He definitely did not link it to an Auroral display and after seeing Zeppelins in the First World War he linked it in shape to these airships.

August 21st, 1880: M. A. Trecul, a member of the French Academy reported that day an extremely bright yellowish-white object of small size, which disappeared into clouds.

August 12th, 1883: Bonilla, director of Zacatecas Observatory, Mexico saw whilst observing sun-spots not less than 283 bodies crossing the Sun. He admits the count was only approximate, as many appeared at the same time. Photos taken are still in existence. Some objects were also seen the following day.

August 22nd, 1885: Two Amateur Astronomers, Reveillere and Guiberteau witnessed at Saigon a phenomenon lasting about eight minutes, an object crossing from South to South-East, red in colour, certainly much slower than a meteor.

November 1st, 1885: A Turkish Amateur Astronomer, Mavrogordato reported an elongated object, very luminous near Adrianople, 4-5 times larger than the full Moon. The time was about 9.30 p.m. Another report on the next day near Skutari, Albania, forwarded through the same astronomer described a blueish-greenish object, making a series of turns before falling into the sea after 1½ minutes.

April 4th, 1892: A Dutch Astronomer, Muller saw a large black disc slowly crossing the Moon, unexplainable to him.

April 25th, 1898: Prof. J. Michailovitch of Belgrade Observatory saw for about six minutes an object hovering over Belgrade, he could not explain, certainly not behaving like a meteor.

February 23rd, 1883: Camille Flammarion, who is still very well-known in our days and one of the most known Astronomical writers of all times saw an object remaining stationary for some time, he could not link to anything known to him. He saw also at other times objects similar to this one, he even named them Bradytes.

In the 20th Century there were also quite some sightings, in brief only some of the more well-known ones.

(Continued in next Newsletter).

A NOTE TO EVERYONE

It is imperative that CHANGES OF ADDRESS are notified in writing to the Hon. Gen. Secretary. Each time a Newsletter is sent out 3 or more issues come back with postal remark, addressee moved away, unknown whereabouts etc.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN – Please Note!

A Postal Order, taken out on THURSDAY July 20th 1972 in a Northern Beachside Suburb, was found, without letter or envelope, but was made out to the Hon. Secretary William E. Moser.

It is impossible to trace it, so whoever sent it is asked to contact Mr. Moser, giving the amount and the Post Office of issue so as to receive credit for the amount sent.

We would again remind everyone that POSTAL ORDERS are no safe way to send money. Money ORDERS, made out to St. James Post Office Sydney 2000, or Cheques, are the only safe way to remit money.

December 5th

Public Meeting in the Adyar Hall (below the Savoy) at 8 p.m. A.G.M. at 7 p.m. Members and friends and those willing to go on Committee please be on time. This Annual General Meeting is especially important to this year's Committee Members so please take note and turn up. See the Sydney Morning Herald for the Guest Speaker.

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SPECIAL LIBRARY NOTICE

NO LIBRARY BOOKS WILL BE ON LOAN as from the 10th November. This is to enable the Librarian to take stock of books and to prepare the 1972 Library Report. It is therefore requested that books be returned on time. Books may be borrowed as from 10th January, 1973.

U.F.O. Over TAREE

Report by Michael Guider, UFOIC Investigator.

Having heard rumours of strange goings on around Taree in Northern N.S.W. I decided to investigate this matter further. As you should all know Taree was recently the scene of a much publicised UFO sighting. Newspapers carried headline stories of the UFO sighting and hundreds of people flocked to Taree to see the UFO.

The U.F.O.I.C. investigated this sighting and our Hon. Secretary, Mr. William Moser was one of the first to positively identify the so-called UFO as merely the planet Venus. But although people were informed it was only Venus and not a UFO they still persisted in their belief that the object was really from outer space.

An aftermath to this sighting has occurred just recently where a Taree resident declared that an animal reported to be roaming in the Taree area is in fact a creature dropped from the Taree UFO. It appears some people will never take no for an answer. Popularly called the Taree Tiger or Taree Terror this beast has been accredited with several amazing feats. For instance, it is said the creature has in two months of unbridled night-time marauding, killed a variety of pets, having first torn open cages to get to them. It has also slaughtered animals as big as sheep and lambs, shifted huge cages that defy the strength of two men, and it was said that the Taree Terror executed a talking parrot who had witnessed an earlier rampage.

But despite all these reports no one has as yet actually seen the Tiger or heard it's attacks. The only evidence so far found is tiny pieces of ginger and white fur and some paw marks.

An engineer with the Manning Shire Council, whose avaries have twice been attacked has said he could not hazard a guess about the beast's identity. "It is certainly strong" he said, "two people are flat out moving one of my cages, and this thing shoved it 2 feet. It went straight through the wire 4 ft. 6 inches off the ground."

After questioning several locals I came to the conclusion that the Taree Tiger or Terror — call it what you will — may eventually be caught.

Before closing I might add that I received a report of a bright light hovering over Wallis Lake near Forster. Unfortunately while in Taree I did not have time to investigate this matter further. I will release details as they come to hand at UFOIC headquarters, but until then remember to keep those eyes of yours pointed skyward — for without the continued cooperation of our members the U.F.O.I.C. could not hope to survive.

— Michael Guider—26/10/72.

* * * * *

NEW ZEALAND

On November 18th last year a meteorological radar officer tracked an unusual object at Christchurch for several minutes before it disappeared from his radar screen. In reporting the incident the officer said "On that date Christchurch meteorological radar was engaged in tracking a constant level balloon released from Hokitika. When it was at the height of 30,137 feet and about seventy miles from Christchurch the radar acquired a new and stronger target. I picked up the slide rule and saw we were getting quite unusual heights, so we maintained the tracking until target speed became so great that the radar would not hold in lock. Tracking was then abandoned. I later put the readings through a desk computer. Briefly, what we had on the radar was something with the capacity to climb 63,274 feet with a rate of climb of up to 7,000 feet per minute at 60,000 feet and maintain an average ground speed of 80 to 100 knots." According to experts there is no aircraft in New Zealand which can do this.

(Credit: 'Perception' Magazine, U.K.)

and

TASMANIA

An unusual object was observed by four people at Delorane on 25th April 1972, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Miss G. who observed the object from outside Delorane Police Station, described it as having windows with a white object extending out of the top of the U.F.O. . . . "It was a disc-like shape and the colouring was orange, white and green." . . . She has never seen such an object before.

(Credit: The U.F.O. Observer, Tas.)

and

TASMANIA

Hobart, 27th May, 1972. Mr. J.S. of New Town saw three red lights circling the Domain and then headed off towards the airport. A check at the airport showed that there had been no aircraft in the Hobart area after 6.25 p.m.

Then soon after 7.00 p.m. Mr. D.L. of New Town saw what he described as a dome-shaped object only 400 feet from the ground, it flew slowly along Bell Street, New Town, before heading towards Cornelian Bay. Mr. L. said the craft had a light on top and four underneath it. . . . "I could see quite clearly, it was fantastic," Mr. L. told Tas. U.F.O. Investigating Officers.

(Credit: The U.F.O. Observer, Tasmania).

and

SYDNEY

Mr. I.S. of Wahroonga, has reported that a three feet diameter blinding light had chased his car from Penrith to Windsor, on the outskirts of Sydney. He told his story after reading a report about a Perth couple who had a similar experience on a highway 100 miles south of Perth. He said that the incident happened after 10 p.m. on January 5th, when he was driving home from work. The light had disappeared only when he stopped his car just outside Windsor and stood ready to meet it with his car spotlight. For most of the 13 mile journey it was either a few feet off his back bumper bar or about a quarter of a mile behind.

(Credit: Sun, Melbourne, Vic. 15/4/71).

(Compiled by K.G. McGuffin, U.F.O.I.C. Investigation Officer & Librarian).

Extract from "UNDERSTANDING" Sept., 1972 issue

One of America's foremost authorities on UFO's, Dr. J.A. Hynek, believes the phenomenon is finally achieving a long overdue respectability in the scientific world. But if the truth about UFO's is ever to come out, it won't be through any further efforts by the Government, he insists, but from "a few private individuals getting together and funding a small, quiet, effective study or research centre."

Hynek admits he would have been as sceptical of UFO's as most other scientists had he not been practically forced to look into them because of his consultant status with the United States Air Force. He recognised that 80 per cent of the reports could be explained away as perfectly normal things, but it was the residue that began to interest him. . . . "But it isn't the crackpots who make the reports" he said. "You don't get articulate, coherent reports several pages long from crackpots. The best reports come from intelligent people who haven't had any particular interest in UFO's and who sometimes have been militantly hostile to the idea of UFO's."

Meanwhile, though not admitting that UFO's might be examples of extra-terrestrial visitation, he concedes that the possibility of intelligent life on other planets and that it might be more advanced than Earth's is not unlikely. What remains, then, is that man doesn't have enough information of the UFO phenomenon and that the first real step toward acquiring it is to conduct a proper scientific investigation. . . . "When the long-awaited solution to the UFO problem comes," Hynek maintains, "I believe it will prove to be not merely the next small step in the march of science, but a mighty and totally unexpected jump."

(Compiled by Mrs. Helen Brown).

* * * * *

Sighting reported from Kentlyn in N.S.W. where on 13th August, 1972 at 9.30 p.m. — object was shaped like a banana with the pointed ends cut off. It was very brightly lit, much brighter than a normal aircraft, much brighter than the moon. It seemed a solid thing, and the colour was yellow, no sound was heard. It moved very slowly, and appeared to be descending straight down and disappeared behind the top of the mountain range.

For sale from the General Secretary — P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney, 2000. UFO Kits (90c, incl. postage). Badges (75c plus postage). Car stickers \$1. Many, many books on U.F.O.'s so contact him if you would like more information.

JOHN WEST on Project UFO-SHADOW round Australia. 1972.

Many people around the world have seen Flying Saucers or UFO's including Australians, and in the main sightings have been accidental. I wondered just how many more could be seen if one deliberately set out in pursuit? This was the thought that finally prompted me to embark on a venture, code named UFO Shadow around Australia, with the sole object of gathering UFO data and information. It would have to be self financed from monies earned from my profession as Electronic Technician and represented many months of dedicated saving. It has received a lot of publicity and for this I was grateful as it encouraged many people to go out of their way to assist me with valuable information, particularly when they saw the UFO detector vehicle, emblazoned with UFO motifs on the doors. I equipped the vehicle with my own design magnetic field detector, which would emit a piercing wail when triggered by a strong field force UFO's have been suspected of creating in the immediate vicinity. Still and Cine Camera and strong spot lights completed the objects carried. All information gathered would be sent back to the UFOIC (Unidentified Flying Object Investigation Centre) of which I am Investigator and Liaison Officer. The oldest UFO Group in the world and based in Sydney it boasts a team of experts to sift all data received. Vice-President and General Secretary, Mr. William E. Moser does a creditable job in his spare time, being an Astronomer of world renown. So in December 1971 I set off in the direction of South Australia. At the suggestion of Keith Basterfield, the Adelaide group representative I made for Clare. According to reports this area is known as the "Desert of UFO Base". I spent about a week in this area, hearing stories of silvery discs floating along. I was taken to a spooky looking farmhouse, uninhabited and said by its previous owners to have been the scene of many bizarre happenings, not the least of which was the sighting of oddly dressed creatures. One particular man was seen in the early hours walking around the garden with a black box in his hand that made a clicking noise. According to the lady owner he walked over to her bedroom window and pointed the box at her, then vanished! I stayed in the place for a couple of nights and I heard what sounded like footsteps, and a window and doors rattled on a clear calm early morning, but although I searched the grounds I saw nothing. However I feel that something very odd has and is going on there — and I hope to return for a longer period. In the same area there is the Camel's Hump, a range of hills where the locals say they think it contains a secret UFO-Base. I climbed around but found nothing.

I decided to continue on to Wilcannia in N.S.W. where a sighting was publicised in 1954. I soon found the lady who was reported to have her own pet UFO. She told me of this partic-

ular one she and her husband had been watching for 3 years. I set off to the appointed place, got out the camera equipment and binoculars and standing on the tailgate of the station wagon I started to see what I took to be an aircraft. Then I knew it couldn't be as no airfield existed anywhere near and the place was not on any flight path. A brilliant yellowish light moving quite slowly along the range perhaps 5 to 6 miles away, suddenly going out, only to re-appear what could only have been no less than a mile along in the blink of an eye. It would vary in intensity, sometimes almost to obscurity, then flaring up to a new peak of brilliant yellow light. I also observed a sweeping rotating light which seemed to come from the main point. I took many pictures, hoping it would stay still long enough, and yet wishing it would come closer. The lady and her family drove up and were pleased that I had found their own UFO — we all watched, and the lady told me that it would go out at about 10.30 and sure enough it did. We discussed what it might be, the next day, but all avenues have been exhausted, there are no roads, no houses, no airports, no other light sources known to the local policemen, who incidentally are aware of the sight. The lady told me that one time the object came quite close, but she got afraid and drove home. She also told me she had been followed by bright lights on her regular journeys to and from Broken Hill — and that many people had had sightings in that area. But I couldn't go further because of floods.

That evening as I made my way North from Wilcannia, and I noticed that my compass was indicating West, I tapped it and it swung erratically — not indicating anything and no matter what I tried it failed to work — this was after I had seen a bright light which disappeared in the sky. However the next morning I checked it and it worked perfectly and has done ever since. Coincidence?

Up in Cairns I came across a well known photographer and one of the best photographs of a UFO I have ever seen. He had been taking shots of stars, as was his usual practice, and some days later he processed them himself in his own darkroom. After enlargement it soon became clear that he had something very unusual. Two spheres plus a classic UFO shape and a fogging down one side of the negative — which has photographic experts fogged! Another incident worth mentioning here is that this man was out on his patio one night and, perhaps whimsically, asked for a sign from spacepeople. Within a few moments all the lights in the house went out. He checked the fuses — all o.k. The local electric authorities man came out and declared the main fuses on the pole were blown — and it was a clear night with no lightning and no apparent cause. Coincidence!

(Continuing John West's UFO Shadow trip next issue — ED.)

Letter received from a lady in a Sydney suburb — 25/9/72.

As many people know, the U.F.O. Phenomenon is not one to ignore. Over the past years it has become known to almost everybody, yet not all fully understand what they are. We know, for one thing that they are intelligent beings, able to control extremely complex space craft. I believe that if people were to sit down and listen to some of the sightings witnessed by authoritative persons, and keeping an open mind on the subject, people would realise that U.F.O.'s are not as abstract as they think or in some cases — prefer to think.

Take the recent sightings at Taree and Melbourne for example, not forgetting that the planet Venus is claimed to be responsible for the light in the distance at Taree, but is it only coincidence that groups of people claimed to have seen strange objects. One interview on 2SM Radio reported that a large brilliantly shining object was hovering above the carpark at Taree, with spot lights examining a VW car. Within minutes many people were gazing at it in wonder, it then shot off at high speed. One question relating to this is, why was it examining a VW?

Another interview with the passenger of a car said that her husband was driving along when a great ball of light came out

of the sky at tremendous speed heading right for them. It came so close, so fast, that it drove them off the road, but it suddenly shot up and away.

U.F.O.'s are known to observe the various space flights, the reactions of people in dangerous situations conflicted on them by the U.F.O.'s and following distinct geographical land forms as if marking them. Some books I have read indicate they are keeping an eye on our progress and/or preparing us for the eventual moving of the inhabitants of our planet. The latter seems a rather remarkable statement, although nobody knows what the future has in store. At Melbourne, a U.F.O. terrified the animals and shocked the people. The Police and RAAF say it cannot be explained, or as in other cases, say it is only natural phenomenon. I am sure everybody would feel secure if they knew the truth instead of having the mystery surrounding U.F.O.'s as it does at present.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

U.F.O.I.C. needs — Helpers for the Newsletter — Helpers at the Public Meetings — Sighting Reports to be sent in — not just rumoured and forgotten — Books outstanding to be returned to the Library — Enthusiasm — Helpers to go on the Committee — We also need people on committee to do something towards the Association, such as attending the committee meetings occasionally!