

# u.f.o.i.c. newsletter.

Unidentified Flying Objects Investigation Centre  
P.O. Box 6, Lane Cove. N.S.W. 2066 Australia

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## EDITORIAL

Firstly we must apologise for not issuing a newsletter in November/December 1975. This was due to the fact that most of our editorial and clerical staff were on holidays and we had no one to do their work.

Apologies are also in order for the late issue of the first 1976 newsletter. This has been due to several factors:

As you are all no doubt aware, UFOIC is a non-profit organisation receiving no financial support other than membership fees and proceeds from the sale of UFO literature. At the same time we are having to face increased running costs for items such as printing, stationery, postage and rents. The situation has been financially grim for some months with members of the committee subsidising the organisation. We have decided that this state of affairs cannot continue and have therefore had to examine very closely the future of UFOIC. We had a number of alternatives open to us:-

- close the organisation altogether to public subscription and retain a small research unit personally funded by the investigators themselves
- Try to reduce costs by limiting the number of meetings held during the year
- Possibly moving out of the city area into one of the suburbs where rents would be cheaper and therefore costs reduced

We decided on alternative two, as we felt we had a moral obligation to members to continue on a public footing and also felt that a city location is more central to most suburbs and provides reasonable transport links.

We have therefore decided no longer to hold members meetings and to limit ourselves to 3 large public/members meetings per year. 1976 meetings are:-

Friday, 21st May )  
Friday, 23rd July ) at 7.00 p.m. in the Large Hall, Science House,  
Friday, 26th November ) Cnr. Gloucester & Essex Streets, Sydney.

Tea and coffee will be available after the meetings as long as the hall is vacated by 10.00 p.m. By limited meetings to public meetings, at which members will still be admitted free of charge, we hope to be able to pay for the hire of the hall from the nights door charges. Members meetings, although informative and enjoyable, have never paid for the rental of the hall - we need an attendance of 50 non-members to meet the cost of the hall. If however any member feels that they would like to hold a meeting in their own home, please contact the Committee and we will try to arrange something along these lines. These meetings would be very informal however and would be along general discussion lines. We regret that this step has been necessary but feel that it is far more desirable to do this than to close the organisation to public subscription.

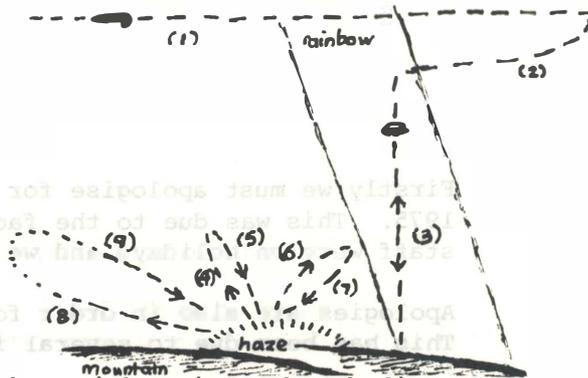
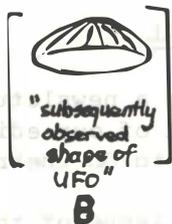
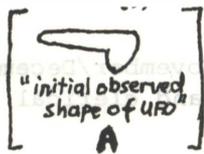
THREE PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES FROM 1975

The old adage of "one picture is worth a thousand words" regrettably is of little validity in the UFO scene. Since the advent of the "flying saucer" era, thousands of photos have been offered as proof of the existence of UFOs. But upon thorough investigation, very few pieces of photographic evidence can be regarded as absolute proof in themselves. The McMinnville May 11 1950 photos, the June 1976 San Jose de Valdera photos and the January 16 1958 Trindade Island series of photos are all examples of well documented evidence, but in each case it is not conclusive.

During 1975, UFOIC investigated a number of photographic cases. The results of 3 investigations are included below and collectively they confirm the arguments already outlined. But at the same time, the photographic evidence can be regarded as collaborative data for sightings which otherwise would have been merely anecdotal in nature.

(a) Time: ca 4.00 p.m. May 12th 1975. Location: Howrah, near Tramere Point, Tasmania

Mrs C was assisting her friend in tea preparations. She had been admiring a rainbow situated over Tramere Point, when she noticed a peculiar object, grey-brown to black in colour moving from the NE across the ridge heading SW (See (i) on sketch). It had a projection extending from its leading end. It passed through the rainbow (see sketch (2)) then stopped and moved vertically down the rainbow immediately taking on the appearance of a disc with "ribs" or lines on its surface. Mrs C..... began calling for her husband.



The object then appeared to move up and down the rainbow (see sketch 3). Mr. C arrived and the 3 people observed the object moving up from the haze on the ridge - (The "smoke haze" appeared with approach of the UFO), parting the "smoke" with "propulsion exhaust" then it returned to the ground "as if pulled back". See sketches 4 and 5. This was apparently the clearest and most obvious part of the observation.

Mrs C fetched a movie camera (a 6 month old Japanese Naigai camera with Synchron Zoom f:8mm:40mm,1:1.8, focus on infinity - Super TL-5 model) loaded with Kodak colour Super 8 film shot at 18 frames per second). The object repeated the previous motion, but this time up to the right (sketch 6 and 7). As Mr. C prepared the camera, the UFO disappeared then the filmed sequence (sketch 8 & 9) occurred.

The film magnified to maximum zoom and indicates that a "vague shadow" was moving to the left, above the ridge. It turns around and moves down again to the right, apparently accelerating then disappearing into the haze again. Although the witnesses remained watching the area for about half an hour, the UFO did not reappear.

In terms of defining a shape, the film is very poor, perhaps because of an apparently faulty zoom mechanism, but in conjunction with the anecdotal accounts of the witness it does confirm at least a small part of the observed motion of the UFO.

Credit: Tasmanian UFOIC and UFOIC.

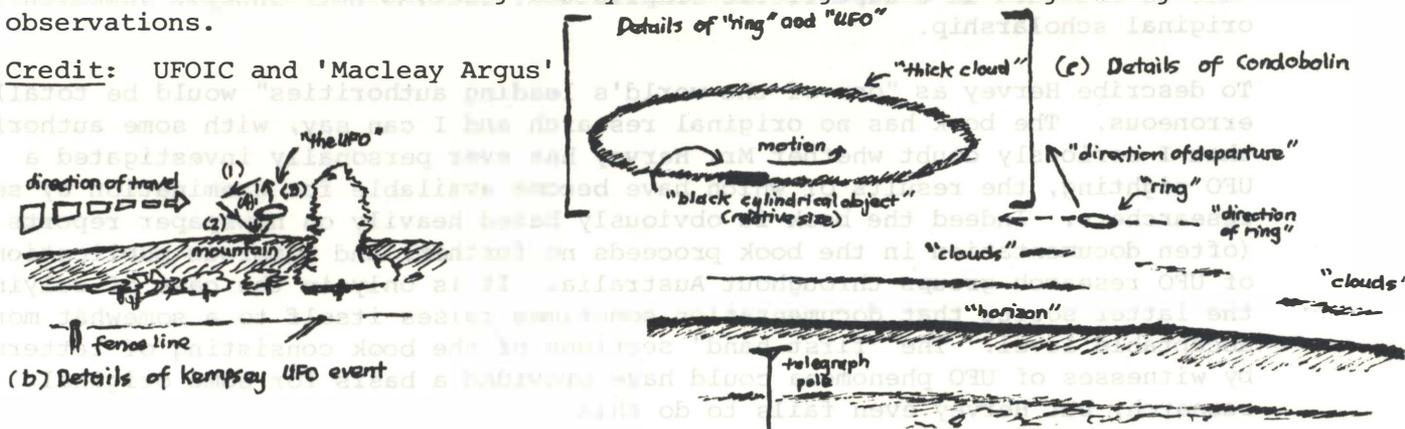
(b) Time: 8.00 p.m. July 21, 1975 Location: Kempsey, N.S.W.

Mr. & Mrs W were driving across the Kempsey traffic bridge when Mrs W directed her husband's attention to the passage of a very large and bright white light directly overhead. The couple chased the object across town, then they stopped in Wide Street Lane. There they watched the UFO travel across the valley in a W direction. The object then appeared to stop and hover over the mountain ranges in the distance.

Mr. W used his Praktica L.T.L. camera loaded with GAF 500 colour Slide film to obtain 3 photographs of the light. GAF 500 - 500 ASA is the fastest stock film sold. The grain is prominent and colours tend to be over red, but it is very useful for taking colour shots when the light will allow the use of no other film. Using a 50mm lens and F stops of (8) and 2<sup>+</sup> with a setting of B at ∞. Mr. W took one hand held shot (Fstop: 8 & 10 secs) then within the next few mins. took 2 shots (F: 2<sup>+</sup>, 2S and 30 seconds) with the camera set on a tripod.

While Mr. C was taking the photos, Mrs C observed that the light was changing colours - yellow to red, then after hovering it moved down to the left (1), then down to the right (2) then it moved in an upward arc to its original hovering position (3) and finally dropped straight down "into the hills". Mr. C at this point was just attaching a telescopic lens but the UFO had gone out of sight. The photos verify the presence of a brilliant light source situated over the distant mountains to the west. The sighting lasted for about 15 minutes and cows were heard to be bellowing loudly and some dogs were barking during the observations.

Credit: UFOIC and 'Macleay Argus'



(c) Time 5.30 p.m. ca. late July 1975. Location: Approx. 3-4 miles west of Condobolin, N.S.W.

Late in the afternoon, a contract roofing crew were working on an abattoirs project when they noticed a peculiar ring of "thick black smoke" situated at an angle of 20° to the horizon in a SE direction. The group of about 8 men also noticed that the dogs in the area were barking.

Watching the "ring" from the roof of the abattoirs, it was soon noticed that there was a black cylindrical shaped object moving around the ring in an anti-clockwise direction.

An unsuccessful attempt to photograph the phenomena was made. Then one of the men, got the supervisor's camera (a Mamiya Sekor 528 f48mm 1:2.8 lens) loaded with Kodacolor print film and 3 photos were taken. One was taken 1/125 seconds and 2 at 1/60 seconds focused at ∞ with an aperture size of about 2.8.

A study of the colour prints suggests that the "ring" was slowly moving to the right and a small change in inclination of the major axis of the "ring" of about 3° is apparent during the duration of the photography. After having observed it for about 20 mins. the black cylindrical object suddenly shot upwards (at about 85°) and disappeared. The cloud rapidly dissipated thereafter.

Credit: UFOIC

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GENERAL

The Centre is in need of considerable further support to remain on a viable public footing. We urge all members to seek out and stimulate enquiries for UFOIC membership.

We would also urgently like to hear from members who could assist in clerical and correspondence matters and there is also a considerable need for people to act as regular contacts for UFO sightings in their local areas. If we can develop a larger network of area contacts, investigations can be expedited and thus have a better opportunity of obtaining more information.

Our audience participation project, detailed in the last newsletter, has attracted overseas interest. SOBEPS, based in Belgium has asked us for full details as they plan to hold the same experiment at two large meetings in that country. When we receive their results, we will detail them in the newsletter.

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## A BOOK REVIEW

### "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere" by Michael Hervey

The 1975 hardcover book, "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere" published by Robert Hale (London) professes to be the result of 27 years research by "one of the world's leading authorities on the subject" .. namely Michael Hervey.

The book, in fact, is an uncredited and slightly expanded version of a 1969 Horwitz paperback. At that time, it enjoyed considerable popularity, mainly because it represented an attempt to compile "all" Australian and New Zealand reports.

To people unacquainted with the now generally acknowledged extent of the UFO phenomena, the book was both entertaining and informative. But, serious researchers in retrospect have made valid criticisms of the paperback. It could at best, only be regarded as a superficial compilation, lacking both indepth research and original scholarship.

To describe Hervey as "one of the world's leading authorities" would be totally erroneous. The book has no original research and I can say, with some authority that I seriously doubt whether Mr. Hervey has ever personally investigated a UFO sighting, the results of which have become available for examination by serious researchers. Indeed the book is obviously based heavily on newspaper reports (often documentation in the book proceeds no further) and numerous publications of UFO research groups throughout Australia. It is only in the case of relying on the latter source that documentation sometimes raises itself to a somewhat more acceptable level. The "first hand" sections of the book consisting of letters by witnesses of UFO phenomena could have provided a basis for some original research, but Hervey even fails to do this.

Apart from the presence of a large number of low weight sightings, of obvious limited relevance, the book has many errors in details, and in a significant number of cases fails to document recognised explanations. An excellent example involves an undated report occurring sometime between 1955 and 1958. Hervey describes an unknown object seen in a paddock near Millicent, S.A. by a Mr. R. Banks. The sighting actually took place on January 8th 1956 and was subsequently revealed that the witness most probably had observed a meteorological balloon.

The new hardback makes no attempt to remedy this position. Indeed, the situation is somewhat aggravated. In the "Recent Sightings" Chapter, one glaring mistake must be pointed out. Hervey alludes to the "UFO sightings" over Taree during September 1972 but fails to indicate that these reports were conclusively ascribed to observations of the planet Venus.

The "Sundry Sightings" sections are a new addition, but many of the sightings listed are merely repetitions of cases included in the main text. Another valid criticism is that Hervey has kept the same (1969) "Forward" detailing the "current" status of UFO research in Australia. No attempt has been made to detail progress of research since 1969.

In conclusion, this rather shallow book presents an unfortunate contradiction. It is an entertaining compilation of sorts of the UFO phenomenon "down under" on one hand, but on the other it falls far short of providing an accurate, well researched look at the UFO problem.

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#### FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS:

January 6, 1976 at Adamstown, Newcastle N.S.W. A large number of people reported observing a cigar-shaped aerial light in the vicinity of a military reserve adjacent to Brunner Road in Adamstown which rose from the area and travelled in an easterly direction. Upon investigation it was determined that at least 2 young boys alleged they saw a white "flare" come down in the vicinity of the reserve. Subsequently 5 boys camping in the reserve claimed they saw a large cigar shaped light coming from trees which passed directly overhead and then hovered nearby & then flew off to the east. Next day they found some "traces" on a trail in the scrub and linked these traces of "white powder" and 4 indentations to the UFO they had observed. Subsequent investigation and analysis has indicated that the substance was flour. This has been confirmed by x-ray diffraction, ash content, starch iodide tests and spectroscopy carried out by Dr. G. Stevens.

Credit: UFOIC, ACOS, Central Coast UFO Research & RAAF.