

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

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EDITORIAL

Elsewhere in this issue we criticise the press for their treatment of the Robertson "trace" case and the satellite re-entry of May 24th. This case is a typical example of the way in which the press approaches the subject of UFOs. It seems that accuracy is the least concern in preparing a story, as long as the end result is sensational.

The greatest offenders in this regard appear to be the afternoon "pulp" newspapers specialising in sex, drugs and politics, with the occasional piece of news thrown in for variety.

At the time of the first Australian conference of all UFO groups, last October, the press avoided us like the plague. The only papers that briefly mentioned the conference were careful to cage their comments with references to the LGM (little green men) joke.

Surely the Australian press is aware of the studies being made in the USA by the Centre for UFO Studies, headed by Prof. J. Allen Hynek. Scientists all over the world have expressed an interest in the subject, while others are actually participating in research aimed at finding a solution to the UFO Enigma.

The study of UFOs is no longer an armchair exercise for misguided Sci-Fi addicts as the news media would have us believe.

The majority of Australian UFO groups are attempting to study the subject scientifically, however they are being hampered by the media's attitude towards the subject, which is both preventing scientists from openly studying the subject and turning away people who wish to report their observations to someone, but who are given an inaccurate and unfair picture of the various groups' activities.

It is indeed a sobering thought to read an article in one of the papers knowing the real facts. One wonders if all "news" is treated with the same cavalier attitude.

M. Smyth.

GENERAL

The Centre is still in need of considerable support to remain in operation. We need assistance in the running of the clerical side of the organisation,

to enable us to take advantage of the constant stream of reports that are coming in. At present, we are unable to follow up all reports received as we have only a small number of active committee members and a considerable amount of time has to be devoted to other duties.

The first meeting of the year was a financial success, mainly due to the provision of refreshments afterwards, with a small profit being shown for the first time.

The next meeting is on Friday 23rd July at 7.00 p.m. We will be giving details of recent sightings from all over Australia so be sure to bring your friends along.

RECENT REPORTS

24.5.76 Many people witnessed the fiery re-entry of a piece of rocket debris at approximately 8.45 p.m. on Monday 24th May. People from as far afield as Tamworth and Broken Hill reported their observations to the press and Police while UFOIC received many calls from people in the Sydney-Newcastle-Wollongong area.

The re-entry appeared as a white to red ball, with a long whitish-red tail. Many witnesses commented on the apparent slow speed of the object, which appeared to fade out to the south of Sydney.

The satellite has been identified as either the rocket section of Cosmos 820, launched 10 days previously, or the remains of Omrikon 1, a satellite launched in 1974.

Despite newspaper reports to the contrary, it has not been established that impact of the rocket was responsible for some bushfires in the Robertson area. Rather, from the reports to hand, it is probable that the object burnt up entirely in the atmosphere, the bush fires being attributable to burning-off in the area by local farmers.

24.5.76 The Centre was notified on the 26th May, by the Daily Mirror, that a farmer in the Robertson area had reported observing a UFO at ground level, and the next day found a "scorched" area on the ground.

2 Investigators were sent to the area next day to interview the witness and take samples from the "trace". Upon interviewing the witness, it was found that he had observed a red glow at ground level, which he at first took to be the glow from a fire. The time was approximately 8.15 p.m. The farmer observed this glow, which appeared to be about 2km away, on and off for an hour.

When the "trace" was examined, it was found to be in an area on a bearing of 35° away from the position where the glow was observed. The ground at the position of the "trace" could not be seen from the farmhouse, where the farmer had observed the UFO. Close examination of the "trace" revealed that only one species of grass was affected and the area was not circular in shape, as had been reported, but followed the outline of the outcrop of the different species of grass.

The scorched appearance of the grass is similar to a type of fungus known as "Slime Mould" and samples have been taken for analysis to confirm this identification.

All of the above information was made available to the press, however they have chosen to ignore the facts (Mirror 27.5.76) in order to print a spectacular news item. More recently the story was revived by the Sun Herald (13.6.76) where an attempt was made to link the satellite re-entry to the "landing mark".

The UFO observed by the farmer has not been identified, but as it was seen at ground level only and was not moving, a mundane explanation cannot be ruled out.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT NORTHMEAD

At 2.25 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, November 1, 1975, Mr. & Mrs A. were awakened for the third time that night by the frenzied barking of their two

dogs. Each time previously, Mr. A. had been unable to find the cause of the disturbances. As the dogs were good watch-dogs, it was unusual for them to bark without cause.

This time, however, the barking was accompanied by the sound of a loud "surging" wind. Other dogs in the neighbourhood also appeared to be barking at something outside.

As he was getting out of bed, Mr. A. heard a noise like something falling through trees and hitting the ground with a thud. Thinking that a branch may have blown from one of the trees outside, Mr. A. opened the door to the adjoining study to find it illuminated by a red glow, which was coming through the large southerly facing windows.

The source of the glow was a circular object which was stationary in front of a large tree about 120' away and about 30'-40' above the ground. The object was red on the outside (Pantone "warm red" 179) and orange towards the centre (Pantone 116-123). On each side of the object was an orange beam of light (Pantone 116) which was pencil-thin and non-divergant, ending in "ragged" ill defined ends. The outline of the whole object was ill-defined and appeared to be shimmering. See Fig. 1.



Fig.1 Northmead object when first sighted.

The glow from the object was so intense that Mr. A. had to shield his eyes. Mrs A. who had also entered the room, did not at this stage see the object, but did observe the glow.

The wind was still blowing outside and a tree outside the window was partly obscuring their view of the object as it moved back and forth.

Mr. A. then decided to run out to the front yard to get a better view, with his wife following close behind.

From the front yard, Mr. A. immediately noticed that the object had moved in the time taken to move through the house into the front garden. The fireball was now approximately 300' up in the sky, about 100' further away. It has moved to the North, or left from the initial viewing position. The object was not moving back towards the right (South) and appeared to be continuing a trajectory marked by a zig-zag "smoke trail". The object had apparently made three zig-zags and then travelled in a fast arc to the Eastern horizon.

When seen the second time, the object had lost its red brilliance and was orange all over. The beams of light observed initially were also not present at the second observation. See Fig. 2.

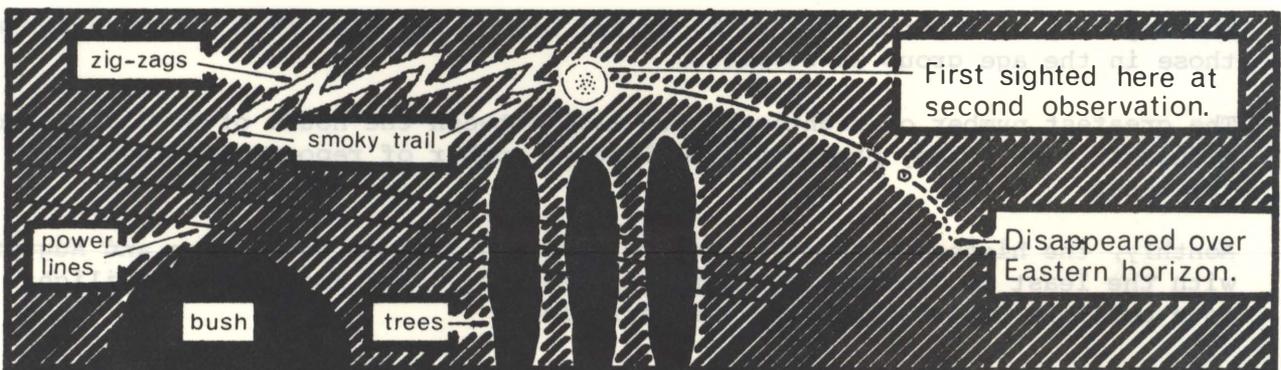


Fig.2 Second observation from front garden.

The entire observation occurred in the few minutes between 2.25 and 2.30 a.m. After the object disappeared, the wind died down and stopped, while the dogs continued barking for a few minutes afterwards.

Both witnesses were struck by the size of the object (estimated at 25'-30' when seen in front of the gum tree) and the strangeness of the observation which was unique in their previous experience.

During the days following the incident, Mrs A. learned that their neighbours, the

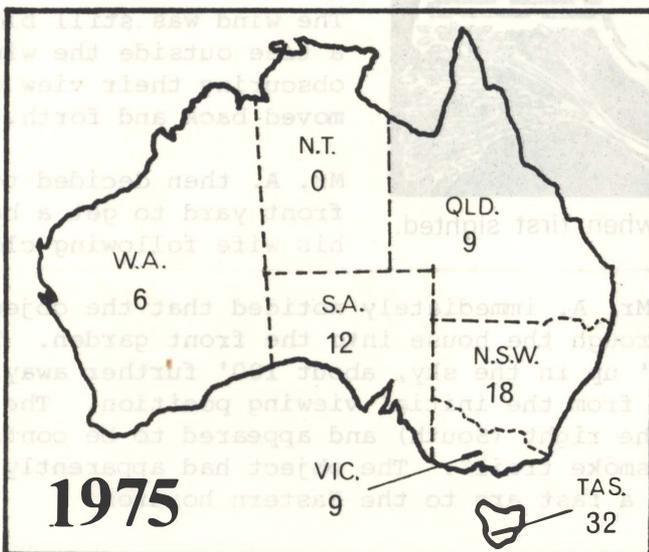
F's, had also heard the noise of the wind, but had uncharacteristically failed to investigate. An elderly man living opposite heard the noise, but thought it was caused by a car accident.

Both witnesses stated that the whole neighbourhood was illuminated by the glow from the object, as well as the nearby trees which were blown about by the wind associated with the object's presence.

AUSTRALIAN UFO STATISTICS FOR 1975

The following statistics have been provided by the Australian Co-Ordination Section of the Centre for UFO Studies and represents an important step in the study of the phenomenon, in that for the first time figures have been compiled on an Australia-wide basis.

	<u>Total No. of Reports</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Identified	231	65.1
Unidentified	86	24.2
Possibly Unidentified	17	4.8
Still Under Investigation	21	5.9
	<u>355</u>	<u>100.0</u>



Distribution by State of Unidentified Reports

The majority of reports were of Nocturnal Lights and came from males, especially those in the age group 16-20 years.

The greatest number of sightings were made between the hours of 6.00 p.m. and midnight, with Friday producing the largest number of reports and Tuesday, the least.

Monthly, the highest activity seems to have occurred in March, May and August with the least in January, February and December. The long summer twilight is a possible explanation for this variation.

Secondary peaks during the months revealed no correlation with Lunar phases and no avoidance of the Full Moon. Evidently such variations are not the result of intensity of sky illumination.

Credit: ACOS and all Australian UFO groups

WATCH THIS SPACE!

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