

# “SPACE PROBE”



A CANDID PRESENTATION OF FACTS AND COMMENTS SURROUNDING  
THE GLOBAL RESEARCH OF “UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS”



Members getting comfortably seated immediately prior commencement of July general meeting. Mr. Raymond Thomas, CSI Electronics and Magnetic Tape Productions Officer, is seated in centre foreground. Mr. Thomas is about to present a 1-hour taped address by Mr. Frank Edwards of U.S. Radio-T.V. and UFO fame.

C.S.I. (N.Z.) FOUNDED 12th OCTOBER, 1952

Edited by HAROLD H. FULTON, Director.

Vol. 6—No. 1 & 2

JULY - DEC., 1958



Meet your charming Librarian, Mrs. Olga Weitzner, and her husband, Paul, caught in a happy frame of mind leaving the July meeting.



Mr. H. H. Fulton, CSI Director (at the Lectern) opens the July meeting, briefs the members on latest developments and introduces the speaker of the taped address. Mr. A. R. Holden, R.N. (Retd.), author of "Electro-static Force," ufo propulsion hypothesis, is seated front facing camera.

## THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS "SPACE PROBE" SURVIVES!

Headquarters wishes to thank those members who responded to your Director's appeal made in the Editorial of the last issue. Many prompt subscription renewals were received, together with 40-odd new members and although unsolicited, donations total £17/10/-. We renew our request to members to make prompt subscription renewals, if such is due. Special renewal form is enclosed with magazine for your convenience. Some members will receive their renewal form a little prior to subscription expiry date; however, renewals are good for one year following expiry date on your current certificate. Remember this certificate is also your "identification and authority" to be produced when interviewing persons whom you know have sighted or have first-hand knowledge of ufo observations (authority to investigate on our behalf).

**"SPACE PROBE":** From correspondence received we learn that many members favoured the new title adopted w.e.f. last issue. However, the larger tabloid newspaper format was not so popular. Dearth of funds dictated this course. Not without some financial risks, the magazine format has been reinstated again with this issue, but this will have to suffice until the close of 1958. It is our intention to dispatch a news-letter prior to Xmas, giving a summary of major developments. Your executive has gone to pains to give you a publication of which you can be proud, and unhesitatingly pass on or loan to all interested, or whose interest you believe should be roused.

**"SPECIAL ALERT":** Members are requested to maintain a period of special alert for expected renewed "unidentified flying object" activity from date of receipt of this journal through to February, 1959. The Opposition of planet Mars (close approach) occurs on 16th November. The last five oppositions—every 26 months—have been marked by greatly increased "ufo" activity. Scan your local press (morning and eve editions) every day for published details of "saucer" or such-like observations. Send them post-haste to CSI Headquarters, Box 72, Onehunga, S.E.5, Auckland. Remember, there is every possibility that the report appeared in YOUR PAPER ONLY. We cannot investigate, if we have no knowledge of the incident. Send also any published data on "Falls of Mysterious Threads From Sky"; "Unexplained Aerial Explosions"; "Meteors" or "Fireballs"; "Auroral Displays"; "Reports of Electric Power Failures"; or any other strange ground or aerial occurrences. CSI Research Department will quickly sort the natural phenomena from more certain "ufo" or allied activity. Useful information received about "Meteors or Fireballs, Auroral Displays," etc., will be loaned to Astronomical authorities for their perusal and noting.

**WE ESPECIALLY REQUEST EVERY MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE!**

# “SPACE PROBE”

JOURNAL OF CIVILIAN SAUCER INVESTIGATION (N.Z.)

ISSUE FOR JULY-DECEMBER, 1958

★ Edited by  
HAROLD H. FULTON  
Director.

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“SPACE PROBE” is the official publication of C.S.I.(N.Z.). Registered at the G.P.O., Wellington, for transmission through the post as a magazine. Published by the proprietors, Civilian Saucer Investigation, New Zealand, 1 Nissan Place, Onehunga, S.E.5, Auckland, and printed by “THE BUSINESS PRINTING WORKS LTD.,” 55 Albert St., Auckland, New Zealand. This issue published August, 1958, represents two quarterly issues: Vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2.

Editorial . . .

## BRITAIN'S FIRST SPACESHIP PROJECT “A FLYING SAUCER”

“Work has begun on Britain's first spaceship project—a half-ton flying saucer to take two men into space and bring them safely back again,” states a London news release dated 21st July. The project, we understand, is the brain-child of Dr. William F. Hilton, chief aerodynamicist of Armstrong Whitworth of Coventry. As yet it is a private project, but governmental financial development interests are needed to bring this bold venture to maturity.

Dr. Hilton, one of England's foremost authorities on supersonic and hypersonic flight, has made a remarkable discovery. With the help of associates, he believes they have found an ingenious way around, and so overcoming the fearsome “heat barrier” limitations to high-speed flight. His technique is an extension and adaption of the principles used to confine the enormous temperatures created within the core reactor of “Zeta,” Britain's new wonder thermonuclear power machine.

This revolutionary technique is based on the discovery that when air becomes hot, it becomes electrified. This electrification is a direct result of ionisation, wherein atomic nuclei are stripped of some of their electrons. The air, thus electrified or ionised, can now be controlled by an artificially created magnetic field surrounding the outer walls or surfaces of the air-cum-spacecraft.

As with “Zeta,” the “pinch effect” of the powerful magnetic field prevents the transference of enormous temperatures to and through the reactor casing from within and will be so arranged on an aircraft to prevent heat inductance to and through its outer surfaces. Application of this principle to Dr. Hilton's saucer would permit the machine to reach thousands of m.p.h. in the dense atmosphere without fear of being consumed in the extreme temperatures caused by air friction. The craft thrusting forward at speeds beyond 1500 m.p.h. so compresses the air on its immediate frontal surfaces that it becomes almost instantly superheated. As speed is still further increased, the air now glows incandescent (burns) and so would the

craft if not protected. However, with a projectile, manned or unmanned, particularly of the cylindrical or discoid configuration, equipped with the Hilton magnetic fence, the super heated air is held off from touching and so transferring any of its destructive temperatures to the projectile's surface. The greater the speed, the more ionised becomes the frontal air masses and the more effective will become the craft's magnetic field protection.

By now members may have comprehended the significance of the above and why I have chosen this Armstrong Whitworth project for special comment. It is in the application of this new high-speed technique that ufologists' special interests become somewhat integrated. For Dr. Hilton's flying saucer spaceship will have attendant phenomena (within the atmosphere) which will duplicate some flight characteristics of the numerous and consistently reported "unidentified flying objects." If the Armstrong Whitworth venture is realised, their craft, at and beyond heat barrier speeds, will be almost enveloped by a brilliant glow. It is the air heated to incandescence. The high potential electro-magnetic fields being activated may (again like our old friend the ufo) well cause

interferences of a like manner to other electrical installations in proximity. At full flight the craft may also be mistaken for "JUST ANOTHER METEOR OR BRILLIANT FIRE-BALL."

And what caused Dr. Hilton to think along these lines. Well, he gave the answer to this recently whilst being interviewed by the press. He said: "I began to wonder how I would go about designing a vehicle that could do the sort of things flying saucers are supposed to do."

Your Editor was sure of this connection when the first mention was made of Dr. Hilton's work in the N.Z. press. He wrote a special comment on this for the Auckland press, but, as is often the case, they ignored it.

Of course this discovery is not the answer to ufo propulsion systems. Dr. Hilton's flying saucer still needs conventional power plants to develop thrust. However, this is a most interesting and promising development, which I feel will be shortly followed by even more remarkable discoveries. This time in the electro-gravitic propulsion field. **THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN REALIZED.**

### OUR SINCERE THANKS

We are indebted to our Australian colleagues for a most generous and helpful gift of 90 black and white projector slides dealing with the study of unidentified flying objects. Thank you "Ufo Investigation Centre" for the slides and the "Katoomba Sightings" special tape record, promised. We are glad to hear that the set of slides (copy) sent you have proved useful. Our thanks, too, to the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society for the excellent Frank Edwards tape loaned to CSI. We made an immediate copy, sent yours post-haste air-mail return and presented Mr. Edwards' taped address at our meeting one week later. (See cover picture.) Mr. Edwards' address was received with great enthusiasm. Our sincere thanks is due also to Mr. Max Miller, most capable Director of Flying Saucers International, P.O. Box 35034, Los Angeles 35, California. Max sent a surprise tape which included excerpts from the now famous or infamous Armstrong Theatre programme, during which Major Keyhoe was cut off the air, causing a terrific protest from the listening public. Excerpts from other most interesting TV UFO features were also included in the tape. Max's quarterly magazine, "SAUCERS," is a most worthy publication indeed. 35 cents per copy or \$2.00 per six issues.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CSI acknowledges with sincere thanks the many excellent magazines, bulletins, news-sheets, etc., of the following overseas UFO research organizations. Our records are all the more valuable and better informed on this tremendous subject as a direct result of receiving your publications. We had much pleasure in forwarding you copies of this, our publication. There is much to be said for the benefits of this gratis exchange system.

From U.S.A.: NICAP "Ufo Investigator"; "A.P.R.O. Bulletin"; "Saucers"; "Saucerian Bulletin"; "S.P.A.C.E. Bulletin"; "The Ufologer"; "Ufo Newsletter"; "CSI (N.Y.) Bulletin"; "The Little Listening Post"; "A.P.R.G.

Bulletin"; "Uforum"; "Understanding"; "Inter-Galaxy News"; "Ufo Digest"; "Ufo Data Sheet."

From England: "Flying Saucer Review"; "Tee-Side Ufo Bulletin"; "Cosmic Voice." From Australia: "Ufo Bulletin"; "Australian Saucer Record"; "Light"; "Uforum." From Brazil: "Ufo Critical Bulletin"; "C.O.D.O.V.N.I. Bulletin"; "The Flying Saucer." From Canada: "Saucers, Space and Science"; "Cosmic Observer." From Switzerland: "Courrier Interplanetaire." From South Africa: "Approach." From Japan: "The Flying Saucer"; "Ufo News Report." New Zealand: "Adamski Correspondence Group Bulletin."

### LIBRARY BULLETIN

Headquarters would like to make it clear to all library members and intending members that only books dealing exclusively or having chapters devoted to "Unidentified Flying Objects" are officially added to CSI Library. These come chiefly under three headings: documentary, research and theory, and contact claims. The only exception to the above rule is the number of good books on Astronomy, Satellites and Scientific Works on Space Travel Plans and Forecasts. These amount to over 70 books in all.

The Librarian would be most grateful for donations of similar books from members. Demand requires that three or more copies of a particular publication be available to prevent long waiting lists. If anyone has a copy of "The White Sands Incident" by D. Fry and/or a copy of "Aboard a Flying Saucer" by Truman Bethurum which they no longer require, we would be most appreciative of your consideration. Original library copies of these two publications have been loaned to members and have not been returned. They are very long overdue.

Please don't request books dealing with Metaphysics, Spiritualism, or the Occults; there are thousands of such publications and they are available through organizations particularly concerned with or catering for such studies. For library particulars refer to the front of this journal.

From November 1957 to May 1958

# Strange Sights Still Festoon Our Skies

*Here read the details of some 47 observations, the better reported and less easily identified, of the over 100 reports received in the above period.*

*When will the authorities and other responsible folk wake up and take proper notice? We are more than a little tired of their complacency, apathy, cowardliness and sheer rubber-headed blindness.*

*Admittedly these reports are tame as compared to what has occurred overseas, nevertheless, they are not to be laughed at, ignored or explained away as some astronomical or atmospherical gimmick.*

**THROW AWAY THOSE SMOKED GLASSES; SHAKE THE SAND OUT OF YOUR EARS, MR. SCIENTIST; WE AND THE COUNTRY NEED YOUR HELP!**

*For every report that reaches CSI, we estimate that at least one dozen go unrecorded or uninvestigated. Why? Because of that lowly human couple named RIDICULE and his wife REBUKE.*

*Very shortly we expect another deluge of such visitations, perhaps greater than ever before, so pull up your socks, Mr. Authorities, we have already achieved the impossible. With your help even a miracle may occur!*

(Note: Actual date of sighting precedes each report.)

## **"LIKE LOOKING AT AN ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB"**

7/11/57. Mr. R. J. Pollard, ex R.N.Z.A.F. Flight Engineer, No. 5 F.B. Squadron, had a most unusual experience whilst returning to his home in Waiuku from an election meeting which had just terminated in the village. On rounding a bend in the main road at 10.43 p.m., he was startled to find himself confronted with a most unconventional aeroform hovering only half a mile ahead at another bend. The object was only 50 or so feet above the road. It was brilliantly illuminated, and a flattened sphere in shape. "Like looking at an electric light bulb," reported Mr. Pollard. On the top of the object was what appeared to be an antennae protruding upwards in a narrow pyramid form and glowing green in colour.

Mr. Pollard stopped his car, stepped out, and studied the weird object more closely. Just before he stopped, however, the object suddenly appeared to become aware of his presence and reacted by quickly ascending a few hundred feet higher. It now moved away slowly, then equally suddenly dived down to circle the edge of Lake Pukerua (40 acres) at a very low altitude. The object now rose again and moved away to take up a hovering station above a trig station on a sandhill. The sky was clear, and brilliant moonlight from a near-full moon made observation ideal, reported Mr. Pollard.

Mr. Pollard, now very near his home (farming) drove off the main road to his residence and called out his wife. They drove back up the road to get as close to the object as possible, still hovering over the

sandhill. Shortly the object moved off southwards at an estimated 40 knots down the coast following the sandhills. Altogether it was in sight for some 15 minutes.

Immediately following this startling experience, Mr. Pollard put a toll call through and gave all the details to the "N.Z. Herald." The Press probably considered this incident may backfire on them if they published the details and wrote it off as "another obvious meteor," so they kept it under their hat and published nothing. Within a few days CSI had learned all the details and Mr. Pollard had been interviewed in person. A full report was handed to CSI Director whilst Mr. Pollard was visiting his brother, a regular S.N.C.O. at Whenuapai Air Force Base.

The Paeroa report which follows occurred on the same night and at about the time Mr. Pollard lost sight of the glowing sphere. It is the only possible corroboration of his observation that has reached CSI. Paeroa is about 50 air miles S.E. of Waiuku.

**"Hauraki Plains Gazette," 11th November, 1957.**

## **STRANGE LIGHT SEEN FROM PAEROA MOVING IN SOUTH WESTERN SKY**

7/11/57. Some residents of Paeroa saw a strange round pink moving object in the south western sky on Thursday night from 10.40 p.m. till 10.50 p.m. It was travelling from the south to the west and took about 10 minutes to disappear over the horizon in the western sky.

Mrs. T. J. L. Broadley of Taylor's Avenue, with members of her family, watched the bright object and were of the opinion that it was moving at a much slower speed than the first Russian satellite.

Scientists at the Australian Commonwealth observatory at Mt. Stromlo, report the appearance of a similar strange pink object moving in the same direction though at a different hour of the night.

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**"Wanganui Chronicle," 12th November, 1957.**

### **STRANGE LIGHT SEEN IN NORTH-WEST SKY**

10./11/57. A strange moving light in the north-west sky was seen by seven people at Kai Iwi on Sunday night. When interviewed last night, one of the people who saw it said: "I have never taken much notice of these things in the sky—but now I don't know."

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Wallace, storekeepers at Kai Iwi, were entertaining Mr. and Mrs. C. Bishop, of Wanganui, and their three children, on Sunday night. At about 9.45 Mr. Bishop told the two elder children (aged 14 and 12 years) to go out to the car, as they were going home. The children went outside, but rushed straight back in, telling their parents to "come and look at the big green light."

"We all went outside and saw the object," said Mrs. Wallace last night.

"It was slightly west of north-west and was green when we first saw it. In size it was not quite as big as Venus, which we could see more to the south."

#### **Moved in Circle**

The sky was perfectly clear at the time, and later Mr. and Mrs. Wallace had no trouble in picking out well-known stars and constellations in the sky.

The seven people stood watching the object for about 20 minutes, until it faded away. During that time the object moved around but remained in the same part of the sky.

The light grew dimmer and brighter at times. Mrs. Wallace said it gave the impression of going away and coming back rather than any increase or decrease in size. It also turned in a circle, which, although not large, was of great enough radius to be "clearly a circle."

On occasions the object rose and fell, sometimes straight up and down and sometimes "like a wave."

The observers could gain no impression of what the size or the distance of the object was, as they had nothing to compare it with, but once, Mrs. Wallace said, it seemed to come so close that she thought it might have been going to land on one of the hills. Most of the time it looked as if it was out over the sea.

The object was seen quite definitely to change colour from green to pink. The green was not a brilliant green, but clearly that colour.

#### **Colour Changes**

The pink was quite bright. Occasionally the light changed to a gold colour.

After about 20 minutes, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace saw the light disappear.

"It grew smaller as it had done before, but this time it faded right away," said Mrs. Wallace.

This was not the first time she had seen a strange object in the sky, Mrs. Wallace said. About a month ago, while walking with another woman at night, they had both seen a similar "thing" out to sea. They had watched it for a few minutes, but she had not taken a great deal of notice of the experience. This was the same night as other people reported seeing a strange light out at sea from Castlecliff.

**"Taranaki Daily News," 12th November, 1957.**

### **MYSTERIOUS LIGHT SEEN BY 14 MEN**

#### **Agreement on Details**

10/11/57. Fourteen Taranaki fishermen are puzzled by a mysterious light they saw north of New Plymouth on Sunday night. All 14 saw it and all agree on the main details.

The light was seen against a clear, moonlit sky at 11.3 p.m. by one of the fishermen who was attending a gathering to weigh-in fish caught by members of the North Taranaki Rod and Gun Club and the North Taranaki Surfcasting Club.

The fisherman said yesterday he saw the light clearly moving quickly through the heavens about 30 degrees above the horizon. It was shining on and off, and at first he thought it was the latest Russian satellite on one of its innumerable trips round the world.

He called to the other members of the two clubs inside the clubrooms near the New Plymouth airport. They all came out and all agreed on the details.

The party also thought the light was the satellite until it was seen to slow down and to hover. Then it changed direction to the north-east and moved off at speed and slowly faded from sight.

The 14 men say the light was not a meteor, and they do not think it belonged to an aircraft. They described it as elongated, and certainly not round.

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**"The North Canterbury Gazette," 12th November 1957.**

### **UNIDENTIFIED ROCKET LIKE OBJECT SEEN IN SKY AT KAIAPOI**

11/11/57. A mysterious rocket-like object was seen streaking through the sky early yesterday morning—a head with wide tail glowing orange to a red colour and it was visible for only about 10 seconds.

Mr. H. Owen Hills, of Kaiapoi, who with his extensive radio equipment has been displaying a considerable interest in the Russian "sputniks" by tracking them and recording on tape their signals, was early yesterday morning maintaining a listening watch when he heard mysterious signals coming from the satellite wave length about 1 a.m. He immediately put them on tape and shortly afterwards when the satellite was due over he went outside and noticed this rocket-like object in the sky. According to Mr. Hills it seemed so low in the sky as to be in the earth's atmosphere. The long glowing tail would certainly account for the object being in the atmosphere as tails on meteorites and such are caused by friction when the body meets the air. The object was travelling north to south, said Mr. Hills.

The object was very large, said Mr. Hills, and in its action and the way it travelled had all the appearances of a rocket. It travelled from one side of the sky to the other and must have been moving at a fantastic speed whatever height it was, he said.

Reports from varying parts of the world on this strange object a few minutes before the scheduled time for the satellite have raised a number of questions, "Is it the capsule containing the dog?" or "Is it another sputnik?"

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**"Daily Telegraph," Napier, 13th November, 1957.**

### **STRANGE OBJECT SEEN IN SKY NEAR OTANE**

12/11/57. An unidentified object in the sky is reported to have been seen by a party of four Central Hawke's Bay people at 10.25 o'clock last night. Visible for about five minutes, it was shaped like a large electric light bulb, throwing off a brilliant red light which changed to a dull glow. It also showed three distinct beams.

The object was observed by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Curley, Mr. Russell Curley, of Waipawa, and Mr. George Priest, of Pukehou. They were returning from Pukehou to Waipawa last night, and saw the object in the western sky when they were about four miles north of Otane. They stopped the car and watched it for about five minutes in the sky above the line of hills. They said the object disappeared from time to time below the hills and even when it was out of sight they could still see its glow.

The car party drove on for a while and as they passed Otane they saw it again not quite due west, travelling in the sky at speed. Mr. Gordon Curley, who has had some experience in map-reading and astrology, said he had never seen anything like it before. All four of the party agreed on the object's description. They paused awhile on the road hoping to have the object observed by other motorists, but no traffic passed at the time.

Mr. G. Curley returned completed CSI special report forms with confirmation and additional details of the above report.

### **STRANGE FLYING LIGHT SEEN IN LONELY VALLEY NEAR MILFORD**

**"Southland Daily News," Invercargill, 15th Nov., 1957.**

13/11/57. Two men who saw a strange flying light over a lonely stretch of the Eglinton Valley late on Wednesday night say that it was both propelled and controlled.

Mr. E. R. Robinson, a patrol officer for the Automobile Association (Southland), said today he was driving down the valley in a van with Mr. L. Israelson, a cook from the Milford Hostel, when the light first appeared.

"It came round the shoulder of a hill and flew directly towards us. Then, as though it saw the headlights of the van, it stopped, hovered and then made off over the hill towards the coast.

"We climbed back into the van and were about to drive off when we saw it again. After we had watched it for some time it moved off at terrific speed, climbing at an angle of about 45 degrees over the hills. We watched it altogether for between five and eight minutes."

**Mr. Robinson is definite on two particular points: The object was no ordinary aircraft and it was no star or trick of the weather.**

"The experts won't talk me into that," he said.

He described the object as being like a big flaming Tilley Lamp. He and his companion estimated its height at about 500 feet. They made this estimate by judging the object's height in comparison with the height of the nearby hills.

"It was definitely down in the valley below the height of the hills. It did not make a sound but there was a haze on the top of the trees where its light shone."

The two men were about 31 miles on the Milford side of Te Anau when the object appeared. The time was 11.20 p.m. and the night was dark and cloudy.

"I don't mind admitting I wasn't feeling too happy when it was heading straight towards us," said Mr. Robinson.

Asked why he considered it was both propelled and controlled, he said that it moved in two directions while they were watching and climbed away at quite a steep angle.

"Before Wednesday night Mr. Israelson didn't believe in these spaceship and flying saucer stories. But now . . . well, he's not so sure," said Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Earl Robert Robinson returned completed CSI forms, plus detailed map, confirming his experience and giving additional details of their remarkable experience.

### **"SPACE PROBE"**

**"Rotorua Post," 18th November, 1957.**

### **"VERY LIKE A MOON EXPLODING"**

16/11/57. A very circumstantial account of a heavenly visitor on Saturday night is given by Mr. A. Johnson, of 145 Devon Street, who was one of a family party of five in a boat on Lake Rotoiti. They were his wife and 17-year-old son, his uncle, Mr. J. Johnson, of Rotoiti, and a grandson of the last named.

Mr. Johnson said this morning: "It was 7.42 p.m. I looked to the east and saw a bluish-white light, very high, and apparently travelling slowly east to west. Then, when it was about 18 degrees off overhead, it shot straight up and emitted two bluish sparks. The colour changed to green-blue and then the object exploded with such dazzling brightness that it hurt the eyes; then it vanished."

All in the party had the same impression of the object.

Mr. J. Johnson's description of the object was "bigger than a full moon."

Mr. D. Kusabs, on the Rotorua staff of the DSIR, saw essentially the same sight from their kitchen window in Whitworth Road. He confirmed Mr. A. Johnson's account in detail.

Eight people rang Station 1YZ immediately after sighting the object from various quarters of the town.

Mr. A. Johnson returned CSI completed forms and confirmed press report of experience.

**"Rotorua Post," 19th November, 1957.**

### **ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF BRIGHT OBJECT IN SOUTHERN SKY**

16/11/57. A flying object which changed colours from pale lemon through a range to blood red was seen by Janet King, of Elizabeth Street, and 11 other people in the street between 8.40 and 9.20 on Saturday night. This apparently is the same object that was reported from Lake Rotoiti and Whitfield Road yesterday.

The object, Janet said, lay due south from Rotorua and looked like a very bright light. It was about 30 degrees up in the sky.

It seemed to blink and it moved with each blink. While it moved, it did not go out of a certain field in that quarter of the sky.

One of the strangest things about the light was that it was strong enough to shine through light cloud. The object appeared to be about the size of Venus.

After its display, the object faded out.

**Direct to CSI.**

### **"OBJECT" SIGHTED BY MR. J. A. LYNCH**

Newton, Auckland.

Date: Saturday, 16th November. Time: 9.30 p.m. (approx.—not earlier).

Directly overhead, a bright "yellow glowing object," about half size of full moon, moving in straight line almost due west. No trail visible. In sight for 5 seconds. Disappeared behind cloud. Sky conditions good, only scattered cloud. Object spherical in shape—no sound. Object transited 60 degrees of an arc whilst in sight—but in straight line. Object on course from Watitu to Manukau.

Mr. Lynch was fishing off the rocks at Watitu at time of observation.

**"Marlborough Express," Blenheim, 19th November, 1957.**

17/11/57. Mysterious lights sighted in the sky on Sunday night were reported yesterday by Mr. T. B. Holmes, of Richmond Street. Mr. Holmes said he was

## FRANK EDWARDS' REPORT

Many difficult questions regarding the flying saucers are on the minds of most persons. Here are some of the most pertinent of the questions that are asked of a noted flying saucer researcher and his logical replies . . .

# Some Answers to the Saucers

*Editor's Note.*—The following article, "SOME ANSWERS TO THE SAUCERS," represents another forthright delivery of facts by one of the world's most able and knowledgeable researchers in the field. Frank Edwards, a highly respected, famous radio and TV news-caster, has been objectively and fearlessly, but honestly, reporting the saucer story since its onset June, 1947. Mr. Edwards leaves his readers in no doubt as to where his convictions lie. Few, indeed, are more qualified to state these convictions. Promoters of hocus pocus, double-talk and confusion, whether official or privately sponsored, recognize in Edwards a truth force most difficult to combat. Top American Air Force authorities have even tried to buy him into silence, because his broadcasts have made their ho hum and ridiculous saucer pronouncements look like illogical poppycock. Edwards' refusal to be bought cost him his much envied job as top radio news-caster on the U.S. National Network—his time on the air sponsored by the powerful 10-million strong Federation of Labour. For full details and enlightenment of this affair, read "MY FIRST 10,000,000 SPONSORS" by Edwards himself (paperback copies in CSI library). The last 15 consecutive issues of "FATE" magazine, which we are proud to mention here, have featured special "FRANK EDWARDS' REPORTS." These exceedingly well narrated features bridge many outstanding facets of this amazing aerial mystery. CSI most strongly recommends you subscribe to "FATE," which apart from carrying many up-to-the-minute, well-documented ufo incidents and developments in the field, is also packed with much other thought-provoking material, covering many inexplicable happenings in human and terrestrial affairs. Send \$3.50c. to "FATE," 806 Dempster St., Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A., for 12 (monthly) issues. The article you are about to read is reproduced from the July 1958 issue of "FATE" which is now also including excellent articles on the coming Space Age by such a well-known author as Willy Ley. As for Mr. Edwards, you will see he has now re-established himself as a top-flight TV personality.

● FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS I have been the news director of a powerful and prosperous television station in the mid-west. As developments warranted I have broadcast UFO sightings and other pertinent material. The public response has been gratifying and this has led, inevitably, to numerous speaking engagements, some of which I have mentioned in these articles for FATE.

At these public appearances I like to take about an hour at the end of the programme for a period of open discussion. This, of course, involves questions from the audience and since these questions always follow a similar pattern I assume they are questions in the minds of most persons. By and large they are intelligent

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(N.Z. SIGHTINGS continued on Page Twenty-three)

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questions from thinking people; questions which deserve the consideration of all of you.

Recently I flew to Charleston, W. Va., to address the state convention of radio and television station owners. At their request the subject of my talk was Unidentified Flying Objects. Not all those present were convinced that the UFO's are anything more than Menzel's mythical atmospheric "lenses" but I think it significant that, because of the numerous questions that followed my address, the programme ran over its allotted time. Most surprising to me was that after I had finished and was ready to leave, five station owners wanted to know where they could secure additional broadcast material in order to run a series of programmes on the subject.

Two years ago this could not have happened. Even a year ago it would have been unthinkable, in the first place, for a state convention of broadcast executives to pay money to hear a discussion dealing with the realities of the much-maligned saucers! in the second place, to have them offer to continue such a series in public with their own money.

It is part of the changing picture of the UFO controversy. It could happen because millions of persons now know that the official "explanations" are phoney. As I have pointed out in past articles in FATE, the proponents of Operation Hoodwink are at their wits end for means to continue their threadbare policy of confusing, deceiving and ridiculing the American public. Thousands of persons know what they have seen and thousands more know what their friends have seen. It all constitutes a great groundswell of belated recognition that the UFO's are real and that they are not within our control. This recognition was inevitable and it constituted the greatest weakness in the policy of Air Force censorship.

One of the questions most frequently asked of me is: "What can we do to force the truth about the UFO's into the open?"

From time to time sporadic campaigns have urged people to write to their Congressmen and Senators, urging them in turn to prevail upon the Air Force to disclose the full story of the saucers. These campaigns have been conducted in good faith but it is my opinion that they constitute so much wasted effort.

From personal experience I believe that the only thing that impresses a Senator or Representative is a flood of communications addressed to him personally. Mail or telegrams dribbling into the entire membership on Capitol Hill are lost. To be effective the mail must be focused on one individual or one committee—**certainly not spread thinner than one committee.** Even then it must be concentrated for delivery within a week or two or again it becomes dissipated and lost. The only way Congress can be induced to take action in the case of the UFO is to convince some committee that the demand is popular and widespread.

The reluctance of individual Congressmen to institute action is nicely illustrated by the double-talk given to Representative Peter Frelinghuysen (New Jersey, Re-

publican) by Major General Joe Kelly, ASAF Liaison Director for Legislation. This title means that Kelly is the front man standing between the Air Force and Capitol Hill.

On July 18, 1957, the Air Force flatly refused to release UFO reports to NICAP, a private research organization headed by former top military men. Yet, two months later, on September 12, 1957, Major General Kelly blandly assured Representative Frelinghuysen that "NICAP has been given all the information in the hands of the USAF." The board of governors of NICAP promptly asked the Air Force to supply them with sighting reports which the Air Force was known to possess. Needless to say, no such reports were ever furnished to NICAP—Major General Kelly's claims notwithstanding!

This is by no means an isolated performance by Major General Kelly. In a letter to Senator Francis Case (South Dakota, Republican) Kelly claimed that UFO reports are a matter of public record!

In a letter to Representative Lee Metcalf (Montana, Democrat) Kelly claimed that answers are furnished on cases attracting national attention.

In a letter dated November 15, 1957, to Major Keyhoe, director of NICAP, Kelly declared that the Air Force would not release any UFO reports to NICAP and never had intended to!

Please note that Major General Kelly made these contradictory statements in writing to members of Congress, who are naturally sensitive about their right to have the facts from military personnel with whom they deal. But note also that not one of those Congressmen challenged Major General Kelly to explain his inconsistencies.

Until members of Congress are willing to demand the truth from the Air Force on their own behalf it is folly to expect them to demand the truth for anyone else.

So much for the "write your Congressman" routine.

Another question that frequently comes my way is: "Why haven't saucers landed or contacted us?"

It is only human to equate everything in terms of human experience, indeed, we are limited to that. But in the case of these mysterious objects which are believed to come from outer space it may not be possible to analyze their reasoning with the limited capacities at our disposal, just as it has been impossible for us to duplicate their propulsive system.

That they are thinking beings seems evident but beyond that we know little, if anything. What they look like, how they communicate—these things would give us clues to their motives, but we don't know what they look like nor how they communicate. There have been scores of "contact" reports. They have resulted in widely divergent descriptions of the alleged "creatures"—ranging all the way from golden girls in coveralls to three-foot gnomes and monsters with six arms and huge claws.

Their appearance may be of less importance than their means of communication. If they are of different chemical makeup than we then it is probable that their means of communication differs, too. It is possible that they are able to "converse" by electronic processes inherent in their bodies. Our own feeble brain currents may be rudimentary forms of a similar process, as yet largely undeveloped. Certainly there is evidence that they understand our radio signals. This was never more clearly indicated than on the occasion of their first mass visit to Washington, D.C. in July, 1952. As jets were vectored in on them by radio the UFO's responded with startling speed, oft-times flipping out of range before the jet could swing into line in accordance with the broadcast signals.

Until we know what the creatures are and how they communicate any attempt to figure out their intentions is idle speculation. On the basis of what we **do** know we can say that countless reports (especially those from France and Venezuela in 1954) indicate that the disc-shaped UFO's have made numerous landings. In these instances the creatures seen were generally short, stocky and plainly dressed, according to the witnesses. Their apparent lack of communication or contact at verifiable level may indicate that they cannot make audible contact. Speech as we know it is at best a physical development only a few thousand years out of our ancestral caves. What we call telepathy may be the first feeble groping toward a form of communication which older civilizations can be expected to have developed, just as they have developed a source of energy capable of conquering space. Our speech may be as outmoded as our chemical rockets.

Another question is: "Are these UFO's neutralizing the radioactive fallout in the earth's atmosphere?"

This question apparently stems from a hypothesis printed in one of the saucer magazines by a man who has been on all sides of the subject in his desperate effort to attract attention to himself. The question can be answered very briefly. If the UFO's are purifying the atmosphere by ridding it of atomic fallout, they are doing a mighty poor job. The radioactive fallout, in extent and duration, is exactly what it would be expected to be without them.

Question: "Are they here to save us from ourselves?"

It was inevitable perhaps that someone would propound the theory that the UFO's are angelic, at least by intent, coming here on a mission to the world. That's a mighty comforting hypothesis—and a mighty thin one.

The first mass sighting of the saucers did not occur until two years after we exploded our first atomic bomb. In fact, we had exploded several of them before Ken Arnold spotted his weird aerial contemporaries. There has been nothing to indicate that the UFO's have been unusually interested in the atomic installations, tests or storage points. There has been nothing to indicate that to the Unknowns who direct the saucers we are more than a passing curiosity, merely interesting creatures crawling around on one of the minor globes of a boundless universe, worthy of inspection and examination.

It would be truly wonderful to be able to turn to some all-wise interplanetary intelligence for answers to our questions, for help to divert us from calamity. But like the theory that they are "purifying" the atmosphere, it remains unsupported theory.

Question: "Why the official silence regarding their existence and probable nature?"

When the saucers first burst upon the scene the Army Air Corps inherited the problem and sparred for time by announcing that it was investigating. This "investigation" was followed by the official statement that the saucers were natural phenomena or hallucinations. The sightings of July 4, 1947, witnessed by thousands simultaneously shot that "explanation" to tatters. Little by devious little, the official attitude developed: ridicule those who report saucers if they are less than prominent, suppress all facts which expose the weakness of the official position; offset as many cases as possible by following them with launchings of skyhook balloons, freak planes and hints that the Air Force is building similar craft.

No doubt the official policy was hurriedly conceived because of the spectre of another mass hysteria like that created by the Orson Welles broadcast in 1938, when a radio programme of a war between the worlds sent thousands fleeing to the hills. Since that 1938 flap the world has gone through the horrors of a real war in which

weird weapons and aerial bombardment took heavy toll of human life. For a time there was reason to suspect that the saucers might be a secret Russian weapon. This was bad enough! If they were extra terrestrial and this became known the Orson Welles panic might seem like a picnic. So the official line played down the saucers, to avert mass hysteria.

Little by little it became clear that the UFO's were not Russian and they certainly weren't ours. Little by little the likelihood of their being interplanetary could not be overlooked. Our investigators arrived at this conclusion by 1952; the British reached a similar conclusion in 1954, the year Dr. Herman Oberth, heading the German UFO investigation, stated flatly that the things were interplanetary, intergalactic and that they were propelled by using gravity as energy.

The officials clamped the lid down tightly after the UFO's visited Washington, D.C., in mid-1952. They tightened the strings of censorship in 1953 by penalizing those who defied the edicts (JANAP-146 and AFR 200-2) and talked about the UFO's to persons outside the military. Britain ordered her fliers and scientists to be quiet on the subject. Dr. Oberth was flown to this country and placed under military security at Redstone Arsenal.

The lid was on.

I think the policy of silence and watchful waiting may have been a good one in the early days of the UFO excitement. Nobody knew what they were nor what to expect from them; nobody knew how the war-jittery nation would react to the prospect of being scrutinized from extra-terrestrial sources.

Even today there may be some small justification for the policy of silence. There are fringe cases in our society who would go off the deep end if they were told that the UFO's are operated by intelligent creatures from other worlds. These people would see little green men

on their front porches every night. Jealous wives would be understandably skeptical of husbands' claims that they had been meeting glamorous girls who stepped out of space ships to hypnotize them with tinkling, bell-like voices.

There is only one workable answer to the problem. That is to terminate the ridiculous censorship as quickly as possible and replace it with a sane programme of gradual disclosure. Eventually the truth must be made known. It almost broke through recently when many newspapers and broadcast stations referred to the sensational Levelland and White Sands sightings (November 4-5, 1957) as "space ships."

What will happen if the reality of the UFO's bursts upon the public suddenly, without warning? In all probability the result will be pandemonium. Herein lies the weakness of Operation Hoodwink. It prepares no one for the shock which must eventually come.

Surely it would be more intelligent to prepare the public gradually, by piecemeal admission of the known facts! In my opinion present policy of contradictions, falsehoods, and misrepresentation, which constitutes the official attitude towards the American public, is both unwise and unjustified.

I have fought it for 10 years and exposed it at every opportunity. I have paid heavily for that, upon occasion. It brought me tapped telephones. I was followed by snoopers, some of my friends were subjected to the same treatment. Today I have at my disposal the facilities of a television station which enables me to reach a quarter of a million people every evening and the pages of FATE magazine which constitutes an effective and far-reaching national sounding board.

It is my contention that the American people can be trusted with the truth about the UFO's—and that they are entitled to it. The sooner the better!



Courtesy Carol Lorenzen, Director of "A.P.R.O."

## UAO OVER HOLLAMAN TEST RANGE

At 1:30 p.m.—16th October, 1957—object sighted by Miss Ella Fortune, Welfare Nurse at Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, while driving north out of Tularosa on Highway 54. She went over the R.R. overpass, saw object to N.N.W. Proceeded along highway to Three Rivers, watching object for at least 10 minutes, then stopped, took one exposure on Kodachrome, with Kodak Pony 135, 1/50th sec. exp. Got in car and continued to her destination.

**Object:** Solid object with white material streaming or protruding from south side of object. Did not move—stayed in same position during observation.

Miss Fortune said the object was not a lenticular cloud—has resided in Tularosa Basin for 20 years, is familiar with such cloud formations. Her hobby is colour photos—has done a lot of this work, concentrating on sky and clouds.

Mathematicians and professional analysts at Holloman could not identify it.

# CONTROLLED "UNKNOWN" OFTEN VISIT AUSTRALIAN SKIES

(By ANDREW TOMAS, Editor UFO Bulletin, Sydney.)

This stirring and challenging article reviewing important "ufo" events in Australian skies by our long active—as his fellow Australian colleagues describe him—"The Good Samaritan of UFO Researchers," Andrew Tomas, is most welcome and timely. In case you have forgotten or are a relative newcomer in the field, here let one of Australia's best known researchers, refresh your memory or bring you up to date. Mr. Tomas is also Vice President of "The UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE," Sydney, N.S.W. You can reach him at 227 Bay St., Brighton le Sands, N.S.W.

**In November, 1953, a question was raised in the House of Representatives at Canberra about "flying saucers" because of the numerous sightings in Australia.**

**The Minister for Air, Mr. W. McMahon, replied that he thought "saucers" were a problem more for psychologists rather than defence authorities.**

Six months after this statement, the Minister for Air invited Mr. Edgar Jarrold, of Sydney, a pioneer "flying saucer" investigator, to a discussion with the Royal Australian Air Force Intelligence in Melbourne. This was not only a significant gesture but also a very democratic one.

## Melbourne Conference

The conference took place in Melbourne on July 19, 1954, and it disclosed the startling fact that the RAAF had kept a completely open mind regarding the origin of the Unidentified Flying Objects.

The flying saucers or unidentified flying objects present an interest not only to the Air Force, but to scientists as well, because they may provide a natural explanation to this riddle.

It has been found that many so-called "flying saucers" were plane lights, balloons, meteors, stars and various natural phenomena. But a certain percentage of these sightings of strange objects in the sky cannot be explained by the most critical minds.

## Discs at Nowra

On August 31, 1954, a naval pilot, Lieutenant O'Farrel, spotted two fast flying, disc-shaped objects at 13,000 feet. They also appeared on his radarscope. He immediately radioed to Nowra Base for a check-up.

## Movie Record

On Sunday, August 30, 1953, or just one year before Lt. Farrell's sighting, Deputy-Director of the Department of Civil Aviation at Port Moresby, Mr. T. Drury, succeeded by chance to record the flight of an unidentified flying object on a motion picture film.

In this short film, containing but 94 frames, an oval object with a trail appeared out of a cloud, makes a right-angle turn in its ascent without losing acceleration, levels off and continues its north-westerly course.

## Not from Woomera

During the interview of Mr. E. Jarrold with the RAAF Intelligence, the possibility of this being a missile fired from Woomera, was not only discounted, but even ridiculed.

Australia did not have any missiles with a 2,000-mile range in 1953, as to have been sighted over New Guinea. The Port Moresby UFO was seen travelling in a north-westerly direction. Had it come from Woomera, it would have been heading north-east.

The film was obviously of great interest to the Air Force. It was flown to the United States, where it remained for a number of months. Its importance can be guessed from the fact that the film is still behind the security fence and is not available to the Press.

## Senseless Secrecy

The writer has made a sketch of the film. Actually, there is no particular reason for secrecy because two similar motion pictures have already been released by the United States Air Force.

If UFO's are reported by qualified observers such as Lt. O'Farrell, a naval pilot who, according to his superiors, is "a man of experience," or by Mr. T. Drury, a senior officer of the Department of Civil Aviation, and both provide corroborative evidence—one the radar log-book entries, and the other, a motion picture, then there is a case for the "flying saucer."

## Parliament Mention

If the question of "unidentified flying objects" is raised in Parliament, there must be something concrete about them to warrant such a discussion by the Government leaders.

On January 1, 1954, Captain Douglas Barker, who has flown with the TAA since 1947 and who had previously served for three years with the RAAF, reported to the Department of Civil Aviation that he had seen "a metallic mushroom-shaped object" flying low over the Yarra Valley. The Department admitted that "Captain Barker was a very experienced pilot, who is not likely to imagine things."

Robert Weatherhead, an Air Force trainee photographer of Victoria, saw a "flying cigar" on July 4, 1954, at 9 p.m. He was not able to photograph it, but offered a sketch which shows a wingless rocket with an exhaust. In spite of his experience with all types of aircraft, Weatherhead failed to identify the strange craft.

## Over Canberra

Weatherhead's sighting was supported by an appearance of a similar object over Canberra on the same night. Two councillors of the Australian Commonwealth Territory—Burnett and Kerr—said the object was definitely controlled. Mr. Burnett even estimated the size of the "flying cigar" at about the size of a car. It was flying at the extremely low altitude of 500 feet and at fantastic speed with no roar. Meteorological and aviation officials confirmed that there were no planes or balloons in the air at the time.

From a young Air Force trainee to an Air Marshal is a long way. But the former RAAF Chief of Staff, Air Marshal Sir George Jones, has also seen an unidentified flying object. This took place on October 16, 1957.

#### **Inexplicable**

"It was like nothing else that I have seen or heard about—nothing that I could explain," remarked Sir George who has been in the Air Force for 35 years.

In December, 1954, four Commonwealth Security Officers saw in Melbourne an object flying at great speed beneath a cloud bank.

Mr. T. B. Hehir, one of the security officers, was about to open a secret door in a security building of an explosives factory as the whole ground was suddenly lit up. Then below the clouds he saw a ball of fire with a trail. The Weather Bureau said there was no electrical activity in the atmosphere at the time.

Mr. L. Foster, another security officer, said that the object was controlled by some means because of the low path. He estimated the speed at twice that of a jet plane.

Two other security officers confirmed the observations of Hehir and Foster.

The head of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Meteorological Physics Division, Dr. C. H. B. Priestly, could not suggest any explanation.

Four security officers are not likely to imagine things in the sky; neither are four astronomers.

Four astronomers of Mount Stromlo Commonwealth Observatory saw a bright pink object on November 8, 1957—brighter than anything else in the sky except the moon, and with all their vast knowledge and experience they did not know what it was.

#### **Seen at Mt. Stromlo**

Dr. A. R. Hogg, Assistant Director of the Observatory, stated at the time: "It was the first time that the Observatory has sighted what might be called an unidentified flying object."

Ordinary people without the knowledge of astronomy or meteorology can mistake a natural phenomenon for a "flying saucer." But pilots, security officers, DCA officials, air marshals or astronomers are the last people to be trapped because of their specialised knowledge, experience and intelligence.

Australia's top atomic scientist, Professor Harry Messel, of Sydney University, has this to say in favour of the reality of the flying saucer: "Governments are conducting investigation programmes at the public's expense. Funds would not have been allocated for this purpose had there been nothing to it."

He thinks the subject cannot be wiped off or ridiculed.

#### **America or Russia?**

A hypothesis has been offered that these UFO's may be the latest aeronautical development of Soviet Russia or America. Disc-shaped aircraft are known to be under construction in Russia and America, but they are still in an experimental stage.

Moreover, flying saucers have been observed long before the October Revolution of Russia and even before the American Declaration of Independence. Who did they belong to in those days?

A spokesman for the RAAF in Melbourne made this public statement on January 9, 1954: "The flying saucers could be interplanetary. We should be able to fly into space in forty years. Why shouldn't people on other planets have already reached this stage?"

#### **Interplanetary**

Not very strange light in the sky is a spaceship. Most UFO reports are eliminated because of a natural explanation. But there remains a certain portion of reliable cases with credible observers which cannot be discounted. They are the real UFO's.

At the International Astronautical Congress (August, 1954) held at Innsbruck, Austria, and attended by delegates from fourteen countries, Professor Hermann Oberth, now employed by the U.S. Government, said that the behaviour of the flying saucer ruled out any means of propulsion known to us. His conviction is that flying saucers do not originate on this planet.

Most of the civilian UFO investigators entirely agree with Professor Oberth. This is a fantastic possibility, but not without support from science.

#### **Maybe from Mars**

De Vaucouleurs, a French astronomer working in Australia, with a reputation of being a foremost authority on Mars, believes that "there is nothing unscientific in assuming that higher forms of life could have adapted Martian conditions."

Serious investigators of the UFO's are not supporters of that science fiction theme of devils from heaven attacking angels on earth.

It is supposed that the reconnaissance of earth by spaceships has been stepped up in the past ten years due to man's mastery of atomic energy and his plans to "conquer space."

#### **Not Keen to Land?**

If, by an advanced instrumentation, our interplanetary visitors are aware of the sad state of affairs on Planet 3 of the Solar System, they would not be too keen to land here nor to welcome us to their planet—wherever it is.

What was wild science fiction yesterday is science today. Man is destined to land on the moon in the near future. The next generation will see space travel to Mars and Venus.

Our Milky Way galaxy contains over 100,000 million stars or suns like ours. Some of them have planets.

#### **Surpassed by Space?**

From the evolutionary theory there is nothing impossible in the idea that someone in the infinite ocean of Space has surpassed us intellectually as well as morally.

An atomic scientist in Sydney has been asked by the writer to express his views on the controversy which has been raging around the UFO's or flying saucers for a decade.

His answer was characteristic of a true scientist: "As a man of science, I keep an open mind."

"The Straits Times," Singapore, June 3, 1958.

### **FOUR SEE MYSTERY OBJECT STREAK OVER TOWN**

TANJONG, MALIM, Mon.—Four teachers from the Sultan Idris Training College and the Malay Secondary School here said they saw a mysterious white object streak across tonight's clear moonlit sky.

Mr. S. Seenikatty, Kirkby-trained senior science master at the secondary school, was taking a stroll in the college compound at 8.50 p.m. when he saw the object.

#### **"Terrific Speed"**

He pointed it out to his three friends from the training college.

Mr. Seenikatty said: "It was a whitish, cylindrical object travelling in a dead straight course from west to east."

"It was travelling at a terrific speed—about four times the speed of a jet fighter plane, I imagine."

"The object did not emit any vapours but it must have been a solid thing because when it crossed the bright moon, it became black."

"It vanished into the sky after passing the nearest star to the moon. We were looking at it for about eight minutes before it disappeared."

The other teachers who saw the object were Inche Shaari bin Isa and Mr. and Mrs. Ramli Shaari.

# Gray Barker Reports on George Adamski and the 'State Department' Letter

Last issue THE BULLETIN had the pleasure (if dubious) of being the first publication to carry information on the U.S. State Dept. letter, which George Adamski, author of two flying saucer books, said he had received on official stationery—and even furnished photostats to prove it. Since by now other publications have printed the letter, THE BULLETIN can see no harm in also reproducing it. The letter follows:

Prof. George Adamski,  
Star Route,  
Valley Centre,  
California.

My dear Professor,

For the time being, let us consider this a personal letter and not to be construed as an official communication of the Department. I speak on behalf of only a part of our people here in regard to the controversial matter of the UFO, but I might add that my group has been outspoken in its criticism of official policy.

We have also criticized the self-assumed role of our Air Force in usurping the role of chief investigating agency on the UFO. Your own experiences will lead you to know already that the Department has done its own research and has been able to arrive at a number of sound conclusions. It will no doubt please you to know that the Department has on file a great deal of confirmatory evidence bearing out your own claims, which, as both of us must realize, are controversial, and have been disputed generally.

While certainly the Department cannot publicly confirm your experiences, it can, I believe, with propriety, encourage your work and your communication of what you sincerely believe should be told to our American public.

In the event you are in Washington, I do hope you will stop by for an informal talk. I expect to be away from Washington during most of February, but should return by the last week of that month.

Sincerely,

(Signed) R. E. STRAITH,  
Cultural Exchange Committee.

Although the skepticism we expressed about the authenticity of this letter in our last BULLETIN was certainly justified, particularly in view of the Government denial, we wish to run the following letter by George Adamski, taking issue with our attitude. We also wish to apologize for the erroneous information about Adamski's alleged predictions and his alleged press conference, which we published, and which is corrected in Adamski's letter.

COSMIC SCIENCE,  
Star Route, Valley Centre, California.

Dear Mr. Barker,

Thanks very much for THE BULLETIN, which arrived on my last mail delivery, and has been read with

much interest. I wonder, do you intend to reproduce the letter in your next edition, just to clear all the facts in the people's minds?

I was somewhat surprised at your apparent attitude, expressed in the fourth paragraph on page 6 of the May 1 BULLETIN, implying that I was betraying a trust. This, I have never done. Please reread the third paragraph of Mr. Straith's letter, of which you have a photostat (Adamski then quotes the third paragraph of letter reproduced above—G.B.).

How else could this paragraph be interpreted except that I share this information with the public? Had he said he was writing only to encourage me, asking me to keep it confidential, I assure you no one would have heard of the letter.

As for the authenticity of the letter, I wonder how many people know that the Seal of State, impressed just above the salutation on the letter, and clearly visible in the photostat, is never impressed until **after** a letter is written and signed. This Seal is highly guarded and only certain people are permitted the privilege of using it.

Another angle that seems so strange in this entire matter, is the fact that at times the official attitude has been that the craft moving through our atmosphere, and being sighted over every nation, are **not** of this world. Then, a short time later, they will refute their own statement. Yet, in spite of every effort, there remains an interesting percentage that cannot be explained except as coming from out of this world. Furthermore, from time to time Government officials have publicly stated their belief in these interplanetary craft. Why, then, do even those who staunchly support the reality of these craft continue to frown upon admitting the actuality of personal contacts with the people manning these ships?

When we succeed in reaching the moon, will we not land and contact the inhabitants? When we reach further out in space to other planets, will we not be intensely interested in the living habits of the people as well as conditions surrounding that planet? Then why should we think it strange that people from other worlds are taking the same interest in us?

I have been told that the governments of Brazil and Venezuela have officially admitted that certain sightings in their countries were "not of Earth air craft." I have also been told that Russia is investigating public interest in this subject, and is about ready to release authoritative information on it.

As you say, and I quote (from the May 1st BULLETIN—G.B.): "For regardless of whether or not the Government, the AF or the Department of State believes that Adamski actually met space people, it would be too much of an about-face to officially endorse saucers from space at this time." Unquote. I agree that it will be an official "about-face," but it matters not whether it comes now, or ten years from now, the same state of affairs will prevail!

So why wait? The longer we wait, the harder it will be to admit. In the meantime, we are sliding out of our seat as the leading nation to whom people of the world can look for true facts. We are relinquishing this to other nations who have the courage to release to the people the records of their official files.

I wish to state emphatically that the information in the fifth paragraph on Page 6 of the May 1 BULLETIN is totally false. I am at a loss to know the source of the "press conference" wherein I received "confirmation from the Air Force." I never have held such a conference, nor have I made such claims. That would be

foolish! I have sent photostats of the letter from Mr. Straith to many nations, where it has been widely displayed. These people are now awaiting U.S. admission, and as one correspondent from abroad wrote, quote: "This whole thing could be a comedy, if it were not so tragic. The U.S. Government knows the facts, the people know that the Government knows, and the Government knows that the people know, but nobody is doing anything about it." Unquote.

Apparently, the same source from which you quoted was responsible for the statement that a mass landing was scheduled for February. These often repeated predictions come from mystical sources, but have never yet come from the real, flesh and blood space travellers. So far as I have been told, there is no such plan being considered by them at this time. And everyone who knows me, knows that I have never made a prediction of a landing at any time!

May I add here a word of congratulations to Kenneth Arnold. I fully understand his attitude, and have done exactly the same thing in regard to a number of programmes for the same reason. I intend to continue this policy, because I will not betray that which I know to be Truth by lending myself to distortion of any kind.

With kind regards to you always,  
Very sincerely,

(Signed) GEORGE ADAMSKI.

The Straith letter caused some excitement in London when Desmond Leslie, co-author with Adamski of "FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED," held a press conference in which he announced Adamski's receipt of the letter and gave copies to the press. Indicative of the interest shown in London was the fact that the staid London Times ran a 12½ inch story about it.

John Pitt, an editor of Britain's leading spiritualist newspaper, "PSYCHIC NEWS," ran a six-column spread about the conference and the letter, entitled "CONCRETE SAUCER EVIDENCE CRACKS." Pitt based his article mainly on an interview he had with a press relations officer at the United States Information Service in London.

It is well to remind readers that Pitt certainly isn't going out of his way to put a feather in Adamski's cap—for he has long been known to be one of Adamski's—and Leslie's—most violent critics, having published articles previously in opposition to their claims.

Pitt reported that immediately after the press conference an official statement came from Washington in reply to inquiries, as follows:

"The American Embassy has received a number of inquiries concerning a purported Department of State letter, photostats of which were made available at a London press conference Wednesday. A check made with Washington on a copy of the photostat supplied to the Embassy has resulted in the following information:

"1. We have no record of any person by the name of R. E. Straith as connected with the Department of State nor any record of any person by this name ever having been connected with this department.

"2. There is no division or branch of the Department of State with the title 'Cultural Exchange Committee.'

"3. The department is looking into the matter to investigate the possibility of misuse of official departmental letterhead."

The Press Relations Officer told Pitt that the layout of the letter did not conform with carefully detailed instructions that are issued to State Department employees on how letters should be composed.

For one thing, the letter was written on embossed stationery—a type used only for top-level inter-departmental correspondence—never to members of the public. The letter had not been posted in the normal manner,

that of franking, but put into a mail box in the city of Washington.

Then Pitt said in the article, "There was something hopelessly wrong with the signature. It was not written in the simple, slapdash, effortless scrawl that people use who sign many letters. It was far too studied, had variations in its slope, and had clearly been drawn with obvious care by somebody who had never written that signature before in his or her life."

Pitt added that the spacing, indenting, and position of signature did not confirm with the style of official letters.

If the letter is indeed a hoax, there remains the question of who wrote it and for what purpose. Surely not a good purpose—in fact, the thing would smell of almost diabolical evil.

Why would it be written? To get Adamski into trouble with the State Department? Hardly, for as far as Adamski would know, the letter was authentic. There seems to have been a much more clever, and much more reprehensible motive. According to Pitt, the letter obviously departed from the format used by such official letters—so much so it seems that the writer was making it EASY for the letter to be "exposed." If a hoax, did the writer INTEND for it to be denied, and written so that such a denial would be immediately believed? Such an exposure would not only cause more confusion about the reality of saucers, but would create disbelief in Adamski's teachings, AND TEND TO MAKE THE ENTIRE FIELD OF CIVILIAN SAUCER RESEARCH A THING TO BE TAKEN AS A BIG JOKE.

It would seem that the person writing the letter certainly knows his way round. He or she had access to Government stationery. If the name "Straith" had been invented, the inventor had been careful to make up a name that did not appear in the Washington telephone directory.

There has been a great deal of talk about "Silence Groups" and the like by myself and others. But we always encounter a very strong, and often frightening, blank wall. If we could accuse our Government of such activities, our editorial task would be easier; but somehow it doesn't seem to be as simple as all that.

The three men who visited Albert K. Bender would seem to be Government agents of some sort, but when you think it out clearly, you can't quite believe that. Do there exist agencies of an almost supra-governmental nature, which, because of their secrecy, are not known about generally even in the Government itself? Fantastic? Maybe. Or are there some sort of private "Silence Groups" functioning with some evil and unknown purpose? If such an agency or agencies are functioning, they have done their job very well. They have created and maintained a crack-pottish connotation for saucer research. They have created organized confusion. Some, who really knew, were silenced, perhaps, by other means.

The three men, however spooky in their dramatic black garb, are, after all, much easier to deal with than the less-tangible but even more diabolical techniques, such as the Straith letter may well represent. For these intangible demons can be dealt with only by the careful exercise of human logic and the human heart. In facing such a combatant bear in mind that you are facing logic that does not always follow a logical pattern—almost as if you were dealing with some alien intelligence that does not think in terrestrial terms (though we are certainly not suggesting that a space man wrote the Straith letter).

And the Editor thinks that when the truth finally does all come out, those of us who have tried to keep open minds will be those who will have been closer to this truth.

# A New Dimension in U.F.O. Phenomena

By PROFESSOR CHARLES A. MANEY

Professor Charles A. Maney is a distinguished physicist and head of the Department of Physics at the Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, U.S.A. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Washington, D.C., and a prominent lecturer on UFOs.

As if to dramatize a relatively unprecedented feature of UFO sightings, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, former U.S. Aid Force officer in charge of Project Blue Book, has recently characterized as "a whole new dimension to the UFO investigation" the reports of spectacular electromagnetic disturbances associated with appearances of aerial phenomena this past November.

Looking backward over the past fourteen years, one cannot help but be impressed by the apparent succession of different features of UFO appearances, which, each in its turn, strangely enough, seems to emphasize a new aspect of outer space contrivances. It is as though almost unsurmountable difficulties of communication by outer space intelligences with human intelligence seems to exist. One could speculate that one artifice after another is exploited by those from afar in order to penetrate the terrestrial iron curtain set up by short-sighted terrestrial intelligence.

1. In the years 1944-45 the curious gyrations of **foo-fighters** were time and time again observed about the combat planes of both Nazi and Allied airmen in the war theatres.

2. In the spring and summer of 1947 the **disc-shaped saucers** began to haunt the skies, and in July, 1952, by storm the news headlines of the American Press.

3. The disc-shaped objects were shortly followed by the much larger **cigar-shaped craft**, which from all appearances seemed to be the carriers of the smaller vehicles. Both disc-shaped and cigar-shaped objects were being identified by experienced radar men as solid objects on the **radar screen**.

4. In his book, **The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects**, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt devotes an entire chapter to accounts of several projects carried out by unnamed American scientists wherein great increases in **background radiation** were measured by geiger counters in connection with observed sightings of UFOs. These measures of nuclear radiation covered a period extending from the fall of 1949 to the summer of 1951.

5. In the fall of 1951 nine noiseless **green fire balls** streamed across the skies of New Mexico in paths that ignored the influence of gravity, and Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, of the New Mexico, is still wondering what they were.

6. Between the years 1952 and 1955 there were numerous reported falls of the magic fibrous material known as **Angel Hair**. This material, in several cases seen to fall from UFOs, has not yet been identified by the chemist.

7. Now in November, 1957, are encountered such spectacular **electromagnetic phenomena** associated with the appearance of luminous egg-shaped objects as stopped automobile engines, dimmed automobile headlights and caused failure of radio receiving sets.

Yet, in spite of this dramatic succession of unexplained aerial manifestations, the scientific world as a whole, like the traditional ostrich, keeps its orthodox-minded head buried in the sand.

## Previous Electromagnetic Disturbances Associated with UFOs

Before going into detail about the November, 1957, happenings involving UFOs, it would be well to note the few scattered incidents previous to this date wherein electromagnetic influences were associated with them.

On June 24, 1947, in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, a Portland prospector spotted five or six discs in the sky for some fifty seconds. The compass hand on his watch weaved wildly from side to side while the aerial objects were in view.

On August 19, 1952, a Scoutmaster and three Boy Scouts encountered a UFO in Florida woods. Soil and grass samples were taken from the place over which the UFO had hovered. The roots of clumps of sod were charred, but the blades of grass above were not damaged. The only possible explanation is electromagnetic heating by induction.

On August 19, 1953, at West Haven, Connecticut, a fiery ball came from out of the sky, crashed through a steel sign board making a hole about one foot in diameter, hovered over the road, and then passed upward over the trees. This occurrence was accompanied by a terrific explosion which dimmed house lights and jarred the whole area.

On May 31, 1957, a British airliner was flying over Kent on its way to Holland. An oval-shaped UFO was sighted. Thereupon the plane experienced complete radio failure and was unable to contact London. The radio circuit-breaker had broken circuit. The equipment was fully serviceable after the UFO had gone.

On September 1, 1957, a man and his wife from Sioux City, Iowa, were driving in a car about one mile from Le Mars, Iowa, when they observed a flash of light in the sky which stopped their motor and cut off car lights.

## The November 1957 Flap

Between November 2 and November 14, 1957, in several different localities in the United States, as well as one each in Canada and Alaska, the sighting of UFOs was attended by the stopping of car engines, the dimming of headlights and the interference of car radios, only during the times UFOs were visually in evidence. Among these localities are the following thirteen different places:

- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. November 2 and | 3. Levelland, Texas.         |
| 2. "              | 3. Springfield, Illinois.    |
| 3. "              | 3. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. |
| 4. "              | 4. Elmwood Park, Chicago.    |
| 5. "              | 4. Alamogordo, New Mexico.   |
| 6. "              | 4. Kodiak, Alaska.           |
| 7. "              | 5. Houston, Texas.           |
| 8. "              | 5. San Antonio, Texas.       |
| 9. "              | 6. Plattsburgh, New York.    |
| 10. "             | 6. Danville, Illinois.       |
| 11. "             | 7. Moutville, Ohio.          |
| 12. "             | 10. Hammond, Indiana.        |
| 13. "             | 14. Jamara, Illinois.        |

In most instances reports of these occurrences were made by officers of the law, such as sheriffs, policemen and highway patrolmen. Officers of the law are not given to tall tales of fantastic happenings. Moreover, they are trained to observe, record and report accurately on all happenings in the districts in their charge, where such

happenings pertain to the public safety, or are related to the protection of the general public.

#### **The Levelland, Texas, Area Sightings**

On the Saturday night of November 2, 1957, several persons at scattered localities in the vicinity of Levelland, Texas, encountered close up, above the highways, a large luminous egg-shaped object some two hundred or more feet in length. Among the observers and reporters listed were the following officers of the law:

Police Patrolman A. J. Fowler.  
Sheriff Weir Clem.  
Deputy Sheriff Pat McCulloch.  
Constable Lloyd Bollen.  
Highway Patrolman Lee Hargrove.  
Highway Patrolman Floyd Cavin.

Three of the reports from separate areas read very much alike in the description of the object and its apparent effect on car engines and lights. At least a score of motorists had similar experiences.

Police Patrolman A. J. Fowler told of at least fifteen persons getting a good look at an object estimated as two hundred feet in length, shaped like an egg and lit up as though it were on fire. When it got close, car engines would stall and lights would go off.

Sheriff Weir Clem and Deputy Sheriff Pat McCulloch also saw the object. The Sheriff said it streaked noiselessly across the road two hundred yards in front of him, but did not affect his car. "It lit up the whole pavement in front of us for about two seconds," said Clem. He called it oval-shaped and said it looked like a brilliant sunset.

Two men, Pedro Saucedo and Joe Salaz, driving a truck, reported their experience. Said Saucedo, a Korean war veteran. "When it got near, the lights of my truck went out and the motor died. I jumped out of the truck and hit the dirt because I was afraid. I called to Joe, but he didn't get out. The thing passed directly over my truck with a great sound and a rush of wind. It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the blast. I felt a lot of heat. Then I got up and watched it go out of sight toward Levelland."

Each of several observers was interviewed separately by Sheriff Clem, and fortunately these interviews were witnessed by NICAP member James Lee, who had rushed to the scene to investigate for the Committee. In Lee's telephoned report to NICAP he stressed the witnesses' sincerity. Both he and the Sheriff were convinced the reports were true.

#### **The Alamogordo, New Mexico, Incident**

Within the next few days scores of sensational reports of sightings were received. Just to mention another which occurred close to the Air Force Missile Development Centre, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, a little more than two hundred miles west of Levelland, Texas. This incident took place on Monday night, November 6.

James Stokes, a research engineer of the Centre, reported a dramatic encounter with a UFO. A huge elliptically-shaped object, Stokes said, had appeared between the Centre and White Sands. As it passed near Highway 24 it had cut out his radio and then stopped his engine and those of ten other cars. Stokes estimated the UFO's length at five hundred feet. At its closest point, he said, he could feel a wave of heat. The object had no visible portholes nor any exhaust trail.

Stokes related his experience to Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen, of Alamogordo. Mrs. Carol Lorenzen is Director of Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO) and through her bulletin internationally known in UFO research. Holloman Air Force Base officials had Stokes scheduled for a physical examination due to the fact that he had a rather pronounced sunburn after the incident. While he was sitting in the Lorenzen living room on that

Monday evening he continually scratched or rubbed his neck and face, complaining of itching sensations. However, the discolourations and irritation were completely gone the next morning. On Tuesday evening Stokes was invited to the Lorenzens' where local members of APRO met to talk over current events. He looked quite normal then.

James Stokes, an electrical engineer engaged in high altitude research at the Government Development Centre, surely deserves to be thought of as a reliable scientific witness.

#### **Some Interpretations of the November Incidents**

An Air Force statement released on November 15 read: "The Levelland incident was caused by ball lightning or St. Elmo's fire. The cause of the stalled cars—wet electrical circuits."

J. C. Ballard, meteorologist-in-charge of the United States Weather Bureau in Atlanta, said that ball lightning has never been reported more than a few feet or a few yards from observers. He also said that the balls are the size of a man's fist. A good many scientists even deny that ball lightning even exists.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states that St. Elmo's fire is a brush-like discharge of atmospheric electricity, which is seen around masts of ships and church steeples. It has also been seen around tips of aircraft propellers and wings. It is invariably attached to some solid object. The Air Force statement does not identify any solid object.

Explaining the Levelland and Alamogordo cases, Dr. Donald Menzel, Harvard Observatory, said the objects were nothing but mirages. He said it was not surprising that a "nervous foot" could stall a car in such cases, but did not mention the radio fading and reported effect on car headlights.

Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, head of the Air Force Project Blue Book between 1951 and 1953, immediately threw cold water on Menzel's claims. He unequivocally denied that UFOs could be explained as optical tricks. "There has been a lot of talk about mirages," said Ruppelt, "this is one thing we proved saucers are not."

#### **How Thorough Was the Air Force?**

On November 6, the "Levelland Daily Sun News" reported "Air Force 'Mystery Man' leaves City; Actions, Identity Cloaked in Secrecy."

The anonymous visitor drove an Air Force vehicle, wore civilian clothes, and "said he could not give his name or any identification."

Around noon on the 6th he spent thirty minutes in Sheriff Weir Clem's office. He returned about 2.30 p.m. for another half hour. About 3 p.m. he headed for Lubbock, some thirty miles away. He came back about 6.30 p.m., said to Sheriff Clem, "Well, I'm gone," and drove off into the dark night. Adds the paper, "There was never any hint as to what he found out, or whether he was really a civilian or an Air Force officer."

#### **Heat Radiation from UFOs**

On three instances among the sightings of UFOs in November, 1957, persons in close proximity to the objects felt heat. Engineer James Stokes in the Alamogordo incident and Pedro Saucedo in the Levelland sighting both had very distinct sensations of heat. At Merom, Indiana, on November 6, it was reported that a man was put in hospital after his face had been scorched by a 40-ft. object that hovered one thousand ft. above him.

In the case of the Scoutmaster incident in the Florida woods on the night of August 19, 1952, the subject reportedly was under a UFO only 30 ft. above him. It is said that the heat seemed to him as "unbearable." In this case the subject was examined by an Air Force official, a flight surgeon. Minor burns were on the arms and the backs of the hands of the Scoutmaster, according to Captain Ruppelt. There were indications that the inside

of his nostrils might be burned. The degree of burn could be compared to a light sunburn. The hair had also been singed, indicating a flash heat.

And so another chapter is added to the steadily accumulating evidence for the reality of UFOs. The mystery of these strange phenomena of the skies grows more puzzling as the evidence gains in weight. A paradox indeed!

Among numerous sources of information made use of in the preceding discussion, special acknowledgement is due to the following UFO publications for the wealth of material obtained from them:

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3. **CSI News Letter** for December 15, 1957, prepared by Ted Bloecher, Isabel Davis and Lex Mebane, with the assistance of other members.
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5. Numerous city newspapers, with special mention of the **Chicago Tribune** for its splendid coverage.

Excerpt from "UFO Bulletin," June, 1958.

## MYSTERY ROCKETS OVER SYDNEY

By ANDREW P. TOMAS

Kurnell Point is an historical spot in Australia. Captain Cook landed there for the first time on Australian soil. Kurnell Point is now covered by the buildings and tanks of the Caltex Refinery.

John Smith, 32, a plant operator of Caltex, saw two mystery rockets right over the plant after midnight between Friday and Saturday, 2nd and 3rd of May. This is what he says:

"I was having a quiet smoke in a shelter shortly after 1.30 a.m. I glanced up and saw this brightly burning object go overhead about 400 feet in the air. It went over at an angle of 45 degrees. There was a great long tail of orange flame shooting out at the back. The object seemed to be about 10 feet in length and terrifically bright. It looked like a sort of missile.

It passed right over the top of the crude oil refining plant. I was fascinated and watched as the thing went across the sky for about 15-20 seconds. Suddenly the light at the rear of the rocket went out, came back again and then died out completely. I could not tell exactly how high the rocket was and with the noise made by machines at the refinery I couldn't hear any sound coming from it. It was travelling too slow for a meteor and was on a flat trajectory—not lobbing like a meteor.

About a minute later a second rocket appeared, but it was in view for only a couple of seconds and I gave the alarm. I raced across and told the plant supervisor what I had seen, because I was frightened that if a lighted rocket fell in the plant it could blow us all to smithereens. The first rocket appeared to be falling. They seemed to be coming from a northerly direction and disappeared to the south.

At the time I thought it may have been a distress rocket from a ship at sea, but police discounted this theory. It was something similar to a fireworks rocket but it would have been a much bigger and much more expensive one than kids get on 'cracker night.'"

Squads of police and refinery security officers scouted the grounds for fear that a sabotage had been made on the Caltex refinery which contains millions of gallons of oil and gasoline.

Navy and Air Force spokesmen denied any knowledge of the objects. Naval officers said their exercises were completed at 6.00 p.m. the night before. Air Force operations officers said they had no aircraft in the air at the time. A missile-firing U.S. cruiser, "Toledo," was contacted, as it was in Sydney Harbour, but the officers could offer no explanation. "S.S. Karuah" was steaming out of Botany Bay bound for Tasmania at the time the rockets were sighted, and another ship, the "Dunroon," bound for Fremantle, sailed shortly after 2 a.m., but they assured the police "all was well."

On the same night Mr. Harry Edwards who was working on night shift at Chullora electric station saw a reddish-gold object travelling from east to west and he had it under observation for five seconds. Mr. Edwards' statement reads: "I am an amateur star watcher. It seemed to me to be something like a rocket. I have seen several meteors. It was nothing like anything I have seen before. It looked like one of those you see in the pictures of rocket launchings. The object looked as if it had a real head."

It should be noticed here that Chullora is within a 15-mile radius of Kurnell in a westerly direction. In a straight line from Kurnell at 65 miles distance inland lies the town of Lithgow beyond the Blue Mountains. Hundreds of residents of Lithgow sighted a mystery object over Lithgow.

In view of the alarming theory that the rockets could have been fired from the sea to blow up Caltex installations, the police issued a statement on Sunday, May 4th, that the rockets were not rockets, but meteors.

The authority of the police is much more weighty in matters involving crime or breaches of traffic regulations than in unauthorised appearances of mystery objects in the sky. If the police were right the fall of a meteorite some ten feet in diameter or even less would have been sufficient to cause a terrific earthquake in the Sydney area. The Siberian meteorite which brought about an earthquake felt for hundreds of miles and wrought disaster to forests for many miles, was but thirty feet in diameter.

The meteor hypothesis was buried when another rocket was sighted three days after the Kurnell Point incident and this time right over the heart of Sydney. Mr. Carl Wilson of Darling Point, in the Sydney Harbour area saw a large rocket over Rushcutter's Bay. This is how Mr. Wilson described it: "There was a terrific roar. Even the kitten got a fright. The rocket was climbing straight up. Orange sparks were flying from it and there was a lot of smoke. It disappeared in seconds."

Your editor knows of no meteors which can fly straight up. The Navy and the Air Force denied all responsibility for the appearance of the rockets over the Caltex Refinery.

Mystery rockets are not new. The 1948 reports of "ghost rockets" were very numerous in the Scandinavian countries. At the time it was suspected that the rockets had been launched by Soviet Russia.

The mystery rockets seen over Sydney in May, 1958, must be UFOs as the Air Force and the Navy had nothing in the air at the time. The objects could not be meteors because of the duration of sightings taking as much as 15 seconds. Supposition that some nation could have fired the rockets from submarines in the Pacific is not well founded. In case of war the Caltex plant would present an easy target—too easy to miss! The rockets flew south-ward over Kurnell and straight up into the sky over Rushcutter's Bay.

Until more facts emerge on the scene, the missiles will remain "mystery rockets."

- If a flying saucer landed in your backyard, what sort of beings would you expect to emerge?

# Creatures from Space

● Here, WILLY LEY, regarded as America's foremost writer on the subject, gives a scientist's idea of a man from Planet X.

**Man has already put two satellites into orbits. Next year we will launch a piloted aircraft into space. Some scientists are confident we could hit the moon with an unmanned rocket today. Within ten or 20 years space flight will be almost an everyday occurrence.**

Once we are in space the question arises—will we be the only ones?

Will we find other intelligent beings plying the spaceways, and if so, what will they be like?

Well, we cannot predict everything, of course, but we do have a good idea of what space people might look like.

Suppose that this evening a space ship from somewhere outside the solar system landed unnoticed in your neighbourhood. Suppose you saw three beings from that ship walk down the road in front of your house at dusk. Would you run screaming to the telephone to call the police? No, the chances are that you would not even give them a second look.

We can be almost certain that our visitors from space will not have three eyes, webbed feet, or television antennae growing out of their foreheads.

Instead, scientists theorise, they will probably bear a resemblance to the man next door.

The reason we can make this assumption is that science has shown that the shape of a living body is not accidental.

There are rules of biological construction, first worked out by Christiaan Huygens in the 17th Century. Later scientists have added to his list.

These rules help us picture presumed visitors before they actually step out of their space ship.

## Intelligent

In applying the rules, we have to make just two assumptions. The first is that the bodies of space men consist of protoplasm like ours. The second is that they are intelligent, which is an inescapable fact once we accept the idea that they are capable of building a space ship.

With those assumptions in mind, we can use Huygens's method to paint this portrait of the man from Planet X:

- He breathes air. Water breathers might develop some intelligence, but they would suffer from a severe handicap—they could not smelt metals under water. This means that any technology above the level of our Stone Age is the accomplishment of air breathers.

- He eats both plants and meat. A strict plant-eater spends too much time stuffing himself with unconcentrated food to build the kind of civilisation which is necessary to produce a space ship.

Animals which can digest meat only would not be likely to survive the occasional adverse periods which occur on all planets and wipe out the less adaptable forms of life.

- He is probably not much larger than the largest human being. The limiting factor here is something called the square-cube law.

If you double the height of a person without changing his proportions, you have a being eight times the weight. This means that a person 12 feet tall, for example, must be clumsy and cannot perform precision work. And precision work will be essential, of course, in building the space ship.

- He weighs at least 40lb. and probably more. A brain of a certain size and complexity would be required for the building of a space ship. The brain of our space man would weigh at least 2lb. And from our studies of animals on earth, we can calculate that a body weighing at least 40lb. is required to support a 2lb. brain.

- He has two eyes and ears. A three-eyed man from space is not a very likely creation. Two eyes are better than one for the purpose of judging distance and shape, but three would not be better than two.

The same goes for ears. You might argue that more eyes and ears would be useful as spares in case of accidents. This is logical, but earth organisms at least do not run to spares.

- He has hands and feet. We know that our space man will walk erect. In order to survive, any being must be able to move round. But in order to build he would need something resembling our hands.

Somewhere along the line of his development he would have had to allow them to become hands. The only way to do this is to learn to stand.

Also it is almost certain that once on his back legs he would develop bending fingers and an opposable thumb. To produce a high state of technology he would need to be able to pick things up, to be able to grasp, hold, push and pull.

Why not tentacles, such as on an octopus? Because tentacles can pull, but cannot push effectively.

Now that we have drawn a rough portrait of the man from Planet X, is there anything we can guess about Planet X itself? Here again the answer is a familiar one—his planet is probably very much like ours. We would probably be able to live on it.

First of all, Planet X cannot be much larger or much smaller than Earth. If it were much bigger the gravity would be so crushingly great (as on the planet Jupiter) that life, let alone intelligence, would never even get started.

If it were too small, it would not have sufficient gravitational pull to hang on to its gases (like the planet Mercury) and there would be nothing for anybody to breathe.

## Atmosphere

The planet's atmosphere, too, would be much like ours. There are only two chemical combinations that are complex enough to support life—the carbon-oxygen-hydrogen cycle we live on, and the chlorine-fluorine-methane cycle.

The latter is a highly-explosive mixture and though it is conceivable that somewhere there could be a life-form on it, it is not likely. This cycle is so complex that the chances are heavily in favour of oxygen-based life developing long before the chlorine-based form got a chance.

Planet X would have land and sea masses and a climate with drastic changes like ours. There would have to be land for our spaceman to live on and water for him to drink.

We know about the climate for the simple reason that if it were static there would be no incentive for our visitor's race to build anything. Variable hot and cold, wet and dry seasons are needed to push him round.

All this tells us that our visitor is from outside our solar system since none of our sun's planets, besides Earth, is capable of supporting intelligent life.

It also tells us something else: our space visitor is a good bit more advanced than we are.

Recently Professor Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of the planet Pluto, said that intelligent life probably

exists somewhere else in the universe, purely on the basis of the laws of chance.

In our own galaxy alone there are about 30 billion stars. Of course, there are hundreds of billions more in other galaxies. Scientists now think that most stars have planets and find it almost impossible to believe that only one planet out of all the hundreds of millions is capable of producing intelligent life.

Of course, lower forms of life are more likely to exist—but they would never reach the Earth. The kind of creature that could pay us a visit would have to be, in all its main essentials, like ourselves.

# Did Spaceship Make Forced Or Deliberate Landing At Base Of Mount Egmont?

● On the night of June 7th at approx. 9.35 p.m. Edmond R. McCutcheon, Maxwell Ford and Ron Willetts and three young ladies of their company, received a fright that won't be forgotten for some time to come. At a point six miles out from New Plymouth on the Carrington Road, on a clear, calm night, these six Taranaki folk observed a most unusual phenomenon. There were other witnesses also.

● The party had just left the home of two of the men and were about to motor back to New Plymouth when all sighted a large ground based dark-red glow. The ground glare was radiating light into the sky from a point some est. 8 miles distant (S.E.) at or near the base of Mt. Egmont. Further off and almost in line with the red glare is the Mountain House.

The unusual siting, colouring and size of the phenomena captured the witnesses' attention for some ten minutes, when suddenly, all six observed a large white oval object rise quickly but flatly from the centre of the red glow area, pause momentarily, then rapidly climb away steeply over their heads. The object paused again briefly at some 3 to 4 thousand feet and then shot vertically into the heavens to disappear almost immediately. This white oval was up and away in a few seconds, claim the witnesses.

## Determined to Investigate

After watching the ground illumination for a little longer and determining that it in no way resembled the Aurora Australis, the three men decided to try and make an immediate investigation. They now returned to town with the very frightened young ladies, refuelled their car and returned to their earlier observation point. It was now some 45 minutes since the strange glow was first sighted and it now appeared or showed signs of reducing in brilliance. Some 15 minutes later all signs of the glow had completely disappeared. The men decided to postpone the investigation of the moment, but with every intention of investigating the site of the glow at the first opportunity.

"SPACE PROBE"

## Informed Press—News Reaches CSI

The Taranaki Daily News (morning) for June 12th gave prominent mention to the unusual observation, brought to their attention by Mr. McCutcheon. By this time the men had learned that a resident of Pioneer Road had also seen the strange red glow, but not the white oval object. The Press stated that the men had equipped themselves with Lands and Survey maps and magnetic compasses in preparation for an investigation of the red glow site, which they were convinced must have left some scars or other trace.

On June 12th a small mention of the Taranaki incident appeared in the Auckland Press, whereupon CSI immediately wired its New Plymouth representative, Mrs. V. L. Scott, with instructions. However, our good lady was already on the trail and a message with Press cuttings arrived in the next morning's mail. Within the next two days Messrs. McCutcheon, Ford and Willetts had all been interviewed and handed CSI special sighting report forms.

## Taranaki Daily News Phoned

On the Sunday eve, 15th June, CSI Director phoned the Daily News, stating our interest and informed the Press of our opinions of the incident, but stating in particular that a thorough investigation should be made for a possible natural phenomena cause before conjecturing on other possible answers. The Press kindly featured these developments in their Tuesday's edition along with further statements from the men who had spent the weekend out in the open searching the area for clues. It transpired that the searchers found no worthwhile evidence, but had observed two blue flashes of light from the bushes near their camp site in the early hours of the Sunday morning (15th June).

## Two Further Objects Sighted

It was later reported to CSI and the Press (published) that Messrs. Ford and Willetts had again observed (between midnight and 1 a.m., Tuesday, June 17th) two lighted flying objects in the same area of the June 7th sighting. From their Carrington Road residence they watched these objects flying "willy-nilly" manoeuvres in the sky, showing sudden great bursts of speed for short intervals and changing colour from blues to reds at regular intervals. The two men also noted that a bullock in a field nearby seemed terrified whilst the objects were overhead and only quietened down when the strange aeroforms disappeared.

### Representative Unclears More Details

It was learned by Mrs. Scott that the June 7th sighting of the strange glow at the base of Mt. Egmont had also been witnessed by a car load of people returning to New Plymouth from Auckland. Efforts to learn the identity of these people who had witnessed the glow from Mt. Messenger was unsuccessful. They had confirmed the sighting of the glow to the Press, but requested no publicity. Our representative reports that the men interviewed had provided her with details of further experiences not mentioned in the Press. It appeared that whilst Messrs. McCutcheon, Ford and Willetts were in the act of checking two compasses for azimuth agreement on the Friday night (13th June) prior to the daylight search, the following allegedly occurred: "At about 10.30 p.m. with our two magnetic compasses set side by side on the table, both needles suddenly began to slowly swing back and forwards from west to east, next they swung a complete circle and then repeated the west to east movement a few further times. We experienced a feeling of cold clamminess, almost fright, and had the strong feeling that we were being watched. During this time our radio gave out much clicking and static. Later the compasses were haywire again." Mrs. Violet Scott, our representative, questioned the men closely and is of the opinion that they were reporting honestly and showed signs of having experienced something very unusual. CSI has now learned that Messrs. Ford and Willetts, apparently single men, have since moved to Invercargill, leaving no explanation for their sudden departure from New Plymouth.

### UFO Electrical Disturbances

Although CSI Director had informed the Daily News of various known electrical interferences accredited to ufo activity, he did not mention (accidentally omitted to) the well-established magnetic compass sensitiveness to ufos in near proximity. The men had passed on the details of their experience with the compasses and radio prior to the Press story which published statements from CSI re ufos and allied electrical interferences.

### What Caused the Phenomenon Observed?

Having made a careful study of the data gleaned from the six letters, Press accounts, private reports from witnesses and a pencil sketch of the area sent in by our most worthy representative, CSI Director is of the opinion that the incident was not caused by natural phenomena. There was no reports of an auroral display near or on the date, nor of Solar flares which precede auroral appearances. The witnesses claim that the weird ground glow, which was under observation for an hour, was very different from the Aurora Australis which they had witnessed on other occasions. The lower slopes of Mt. Egmont (German Hill area) were clearly silhouetted above and beyond the ground glare. The glow did not fluctuate in intensity and remained consistently a dark ox-blood colour. There were no reports of bush fires, or evidence of such found during the search. The witnesses further claim that the glow was not flame coloured, nor would they accept that the glow was caused by a normal fire. Inquiries to the Mountain House and other homes in the area failed to find any witnesses who perchance observed the phenomena from closer quarters. The Mountain House people claim it was a very cold night and they were bedded down by 9.35 p.m. when the Carrington Road witnesses first spotted the strange ground based glow.

### Not Unlikely Explanation

In the absence of any real proof, any solution tendered can only be considered to be of a conjectural nature. However, in the light of our long experience of many similar happenings and a host of other most worthy evidences, now ufo history, the following explanation is

offered. Granted also that the witnesses have reported honestly, accurately and without embellishment. At this date CSI has no evidence to the contrary.

*That on the late evening of June 7th a "Spaceship" of alien origin made a temporary sojourn near the base of Mt. Egmont, Taranaki, New Zealand. It may have hovered at a very low altitude or actually touched down. Its presence was either deliberate for purposes unknown, or it had suffered some technical failure. The large ox-blood glow, either indicated that the "power" was still on (attendant phenomena to hovering saucer) or an accident of a fiery nature had occurred. The white oval object which hurriedly left the scene may have been a companion craft, making off following rescue operations and having destroyed all evidence of the unfortunate sister vessel. The white object could have been a smaller satellite ship which had achieved a similar function. If no accident had occurred, then the witnesses had unwittingly observed the departure of one of two or more spacecraft. The presence of objects sighted again in the same area some ten days later could indicate a continuing interest in this particular spot (there are many ufo reports from Taranaki on CSI files) for purposes unknown or to ensure that all traces of fatality had been removed, if such had occurred.*

The radio and compass interferences reported strongly support the hypothesis that such alien objects were operating in the vicinity, as does the incident of the very frightened animal that only calmed down after the strange light gyrating overhead on June 17th disappeared from the scene. One of the chief witnesses, Mr. Edmund R. McCutcheon, a linesman employed by the Taranaki Post and Telegraph Dept. and now a CSI member, reports that very bad weather has prevented attempts to make more than one search of the area. However, it is his intention to make a further determined search, because he is completely convinced that very strange things occurred at the base of Mt. Egmont on the night of June 7th. And we might all ask, what is the reason for the sudden departure for distant places of Mr. McCutcheon's two fellow male witnesses? To save the hospital authorities embarrassment, CSI did not press efforts to contact the three nurses who made up the party of six visiting a home in Carrington Road. We learn, however, they were a little disappointed in missing out (not mentioned) on the first Press reports of the incident.

### Official Participation Needed

CSI thanks the Taranaki Daily News for its co-operation and interest in the strange affair. It is a tremendous pity that the Press as a whole doesn't challenge the authorities to officially investigate such-like occurrences and provide more widely acceptable and realistic answers. Civilian researchers are convinced that time will prove that the grandest "hoax" of all, pulled in this whole world-wide extraordinary "UFO" business, has been achieved by official authorities. This "hoax" is their consistent claim (chiefly overseas) that the tens of thousands of mighty peculiar observations can be satisfactorily explained in the framework of known and perhaps not fully understood "natural phenomena" (light aberrations, atmospheric disturbances, etc.) This to us represents the vastest lie ever perpetrated on the citizens of the world by responsible authorities. What is needed to right this stupid and dangerous situation is for the authorities backed by accredited scientists with plenty of plain guts to take the bull by the horns and tell the peoples of the world what is really going on in our skies. It might be a shock cure for the mighty earthy troubles of our globe. The threat of being "budgetised," "atomised," or "easternised" will vanish as if by magic in the face of the tremendous realization that we are not alone in this vast universe, but a single somewhat miserable, well-split tribe continually squabbling over the surface rights of a speck of cosmic dust.

Continuing our investigation of . . .

# The Angel Hair Mystery

. . . last of three chapters

*Editor's Note.—I am sure that most readers of our feature on the "Angel Hair" mystery will have found it most interesting and thought-provoking. In the first two chapters the author presented all evidence known or available to him dealing exclusively with the falls of gelatinous ephemeral-like substances from the sky and its possible connection with unidentified flying objects. After you have read this third and final chapter, I feel sure you will agree our young author (17) has shown that he has a good grasp of scientific principles and has made a most objective and logical, but unprejudiced, analysis of his neatly assembled data. CSI offers its sincere thanks and commendations to Mr. Roger Horrocks for a worthy contribution to ufo research. Roger lives at 18 Hazelmere Rd., Mt. Albert, Auckland.*

Yes, the phenomenon of "Angel Hair" has been with us a long time! Thanks to some more burrowing through ancient archives, I've come up with several other—very, very old—angel hair sightings. If you still think that the mysterious web is nothing more than a recent development, then cast your eyes over the following:

First, here is an amazing observation from the Eighteenth Century. It originates in a famous book on nature study entitled "The Natural History of Selborne." Gilbert White (the English naturalist who wrote the book) reports that on the morning of September 21st, 1741, he arose to find the countryside covered "in a thick coat of cob-web." Later, a second shower began to fall. This came down in "flakes or rags, descending into sight on either side in a constant succession, and twinkling in the sun." It hung on trees and hedges "so thick, that a diligent person might have gathered baskets full." The author himself decided that the web was the product of small spiders, though he admitted "why the web should all at once become so gross and material as to be considerably more weighty than air, and to descend with precipitation is past my skill."

A similar case occurred in Bewdley, England, on September 16th, 1823. Great quantities of webby substance, (some in "branched filaments" up to 50 feet in length, some in "woolly films, or flocculi," fell over a wide area. The original report of this sighting appeared in Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society, 5:388. However, the same case (and several more besides) is discussed in an excellent article by CSI (New York) in the American magazine "Fantastic Universe," issue for September, 1957.

Another "old-timer" is reported in the "London Times" for October 9, 1826. Eight days earlier a light filmy substance (mistaken by many for cotton) had fallen thickly in the area around Liverpool. Examination revealed tiny flies caught up in the fallen web.

Yet another nineteenth century sighting has come to light, this time from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Late in October, 1881, the area was visited by a widespread fall of "spiderweb": long strands, strong in texture, and

very white. But no spiders could be seen at the time of the sighting. (Report in Scientific American, 45:1881, 337.)

On the 21st of November, 1898, America was once again subjected to a fall of web. The substance, strangely white, fell over many miles of the Montgomery (Alabama) countryside. This case was extremely well documented. The 10th newsletter of CSI (New York), published 15/12/57, contains a wonderfully comprehensive roundup of reports. Let it suffice to say here that a chemical analysis indicated that the substance was not of a vegetable nature. Instead, it was tentatively labelled as "spiderweb."

So much for the ancient cases. Just to bring this roster up to date, however, here is an up-to-the-minute sighting, recorded in the Japanese UFO News Report (for Christmas, 1957):

On October 4th (same day as Sputnik!) a tadpole-shaped mystery craft was sighted over Japan. Later, angel hair fell in the city. Analysis revealed that the hair was "an organic matter with appearance of brilliant glass fibre commonly used for decorating Christmas trees." It melted in hydrochloric acid and burnt readily. Three further falls occurred in Japan, but in all cases the hair vanished on touch and could not be analysed.

And so, with just a mention of three further cases (Pennsylvania on November 10, 1949; Rome October 28, 1954; and Illinois 30, 1956), we complete our grand roundup of angel hair sightings.

It's been a long and exhausting task—not only for the reporter!—but I feel that the results are illuminating. By now, you must have been overcome (if nothing else) by the sheer weight of evidence. Angel hair has been reported in almost every country of the world, as early as 1741, as recent as a few months ago. The observations have been made by people from every walk of life and in every occupation. However much we may scoff or sneer, in the end we are forced to admit that Something Is There! Something out of the ordinary, and something that is badly in need of an explanation. How is it that we know so little, when the mystery web has been falling on our earthly shores for over two hundred years?

In the previous articles I have outlined the evidence—or at any rate, an appreciable part of it. Now it is our job to examine the evidence, and, as honest jurors, try to arrive at a reasoned, impartial verdict. What is the web? Are the saucers responsible?

To answer these questions, we have first to seek some order out of the apparent chaos of reports, analyses, and observations. Is there such a thing as a typical "angel hair" sighting? To be particular, we must admit that there is no such being. However, if we speak generally, we can define angel hair as a thin, web-like substance falling from the skies. It may range in length from a few inches to thousands of yards. In colour, it is normally white. And in some—but not all—cases it is associated with the appearance of unidentified flying objects.

How can we account for the web? First we must list as many "possible solutions" as we can then compare them with the evidence.

In all, I can remember seven "possible solutions" which people have put forward. Here are a few words about each:

(1) One of the most interesting theories put forward to account for the "propulsion of flying saucers" is the work of Lieutenant Plantier, a young French Air Force officer, who describes his ideas in "Forces Aeriennes Francaises" (September, 1953). He postulates a "cosmic force field" surrounding the saucers, in the manner of an electro-magnetic field. According to this theory angel hair is a chemical substance produced by ionization of the atmosphere behind a saucer. By dint of the tremendous intensity of Plantier's supposed field of force, ultra-heavy, positive corpuscles might be produced, which on contact with the molecules of oxygen, nitrogen, water, etc., would produce in turn "unknown chemical reactions." The result of such reactions: Angel Hair.

(2) A similar suggestion has been put forward by Major Keyhoe, who describes the hair as "some kind of fuel exhaust, confined specifically to the cigar-shaped saucers." A further attempt has been made to account for the web as the product of an engine working on nuclear power. (However, the absence of radio-activity in most web falls seems to discourage this latter idea.)

(3) The third suggestion, put forward by CSI (New York) is a highly imaginative one! To quote: "In the earth's stratosphere there (may) live large flocks of spherical entities or creatures, about six feet in diameter when fully grown, and of a very light gelatinous composition, with a bright silvery-white surface or skin." These aerial "jelly-birds" rarely descend low enough to be seen from the ground. Their migration and mating season is in the months of September to November. During this period, however, they do descend to lower altitudes and dance in groups, later in pairs; and they put forth webby tentacles which temporarily link the clusters together. These appendages are shed after mating and descend to the ground as "angel hair." When these creatures reach the end of their lives, they burst open, leaving "a skeleton angel hair" which usually evaporates before it reaches the ground. Occasionally a few of these denizens of the upper air actually reach the ground (in a mummified form). Angel hair falling out of season is the sign of a disaster which has overtaken one of the creatures.

(4) On to our next explanation, which is almost as ingenious as the last. Flying saucers (claims one theorist) are visitants from the spirit world, and "angel hair" is nothing more nor less than ectoplasm, the substance so commonly associated with spiritualist happenings.

(5) The fifth explanation is of the "down-to-Earth" variety. The plastic bag of a balloon, when extremely cold (e.g., when very high up) will get very brittle and take on the appearance of a huge light bulb. If a sudden gust of wind or some other disturbance hits the balloon, it will shatter into a thousand pieces. These pieces of brittle, shredded plastic might take on the appearance of threads as they floated down to Earth.

Here we pause for a moment. So far we have considered five theories. All are highly ingenious, and all of them **could** be right. At any rate, we are not able to prove that they are **wrong**. However, there is one reservation which must make us reluctant to accept any of these theories. All are built on speculations. If we accept the theory that angel hair is formed by chemical reactions in a "cosmic force field," we must assume a number of other things; if we accept the theory that angel hair is made up of "discarded filaments" we must assume the existence of flocks of jelly-like creatures in the stratosphere; if we agree that angel hair is actually ectoplasm, we have to assume a number of other very unusual ideas about the spirit world; and angel hair could only be balloon plastic if there were a sufficient number of balloons appearing in just the right places at just the right time.

Despite the "exotic" appeal that surrounds these theories, how much simpler it would be—and how much more acceptable to any scientist—if only we could ex-

plain the angel hair by some feature of nature which is already known and proved. There is always the chance that such a feature will not be found (in which case we shall be forced to fall back on a more "unnatural explanation"); but we should first look carefully at all that science has found out about nature, to insure that we are not missing any ordinary, scientific reason which might explain the wonderful web.

There is one substance in nature which does resemble the angel hair. This substance is spider-web. Of course, to attempt to explain the amazing properties of angel hair by the behaviour of ordinary spider-web—the fragile cobwebs that we find around us in such profusion—would be absurd. There is, however, another form of spider-web, not such a common form but a definite substance nevertheless. The following extract from "Life: Outlines of General Biology," by Thomson & Geddes, describes the characteristics of "gossamer" (this elusive web):—

"On fine days in autumn when there is a light breeze, we often feel the touch of a gossamer thread across our face as we walk. The sun sometimes illumines the threads as they float in the air, and when they sink onto the ploughed fields or the golf-links they form a vibrating veil. If we kneel down and look against the light we sometimes detect a slight iridescence.

"The spiders dispose themselves with their head towards the slight breeze, and it is interesting that the thread-spinning instinct will not become active unless there is a current in the air . . . Some air current is needed as the instinct-liberating stimulus.

"The spider pays out a thread of silk, or there may be as many as four. In any case, though we say "as thin as gossamer" each thread is a multiple jet of liquid silk, hardening instantaneously on exposure to air. When the wind begins to tug, the spider lets go with all its eight legs at once and, usually turning upside down at the same moment, is borne on the wings of the wind to an unknown goal. Careful observers assure us that it can add to the length of the ballooning threads if the wind falls, and it can furl its sail if the wind rises. Sooner or later it begins to coil in the threads, and thus it sinks to the earth, perhaps many miles from the starting place. When tens of thousands of spiders do this on a fine autumn day there may be an extraordinary shower of gossamer covering acres of links and lea. Many of the threads we see floating in the air have no spider attached; they may be broken-off failures, or they may be threads that have served their purpose.

"Gossamer is by no means restricted to autumn, its conspicuousness at that time of the year being due to the fact that spiderlings are then most numerous and most crowded."

So here we have in nature a phenomenon almost identical to the fall of angel hair! The points of resemblance between the two substances are very numerous. To mention a few: the "showers" of angel hair, the extent of hair falls, the nature of the hair (large threads being made up of many smaller filaments), the white balls attached to many angel hair threads, the iridescence, and so on. Look over some of the "angel hair" sightings and you'll find many other evident points of comparison.

Further "proof" is readily obtained by examining angel hair sightings from the point of view of the seasons in which they occurred. In my series of articles I have mentioned more than forty cases of strange, web-like substances falling from the sky. If non-angel-hair cases are eliminated (i.e. cases of unusual substances not strictly describable as hair—the Chemung case, for example) we arrive at a grand total of 32 "positive" angel-hair sightings. Now if we divide the cases up into four classifications—those that occurred in the season of summer, those that took place in autumn, those in winter and those in spring, we shall find a significant trend becoming evident. Out of our 32 definitive cases, at least

22 took place while the country concerned was experiencing autumn. Twenty-two cases! Nearly seventy percent of the total! Even on such a small statistical basis as 32, this is nevertheless an amazing trend. Only three sightings took place in the seasons of summer and spring combined. Of the other seven cases, which took place in winter, four were at the beginning of winter and could easily be added to the list of autumn falls!

Most angel hair sightings take place, therefore, in autumn. And it is a fact that most gossamer sightings take place in autumn; so here we have yet another remarkable point of comparison between the two substances.

To establish still another feature in common, just consider how often the words "clear blue sky" are used in connection with angel hair happenings. Gossamer also falls from a "clear blue sky." The comparisons are so remarkable, in fact, that we can here ask ourselves: are there any characteristics of angel hair which can not be explained by gossamer? There are two principal features that offer some difficulty—the association of hair with "unidentified flying objects," and secondly, the mysterious manner in which the substance disappears on touch.

In answer to the first problem, we should realise straight away that many falls of angel hair are not associated with UFOs at all, and therefore present no difficulty. In fact, barely a dozen are definite flying saucer cases.

Of these, the majority are described as concerning "circular or disc-shaped objects." A few concern "cigar-shaped UFOs," and there are also a few oddities: rectangular shaped or cylindrical craft. There is no outstanding pattern arising from these features. However, what does appear more conclusive is the continual reference to objects being "bright" or "silvery bright" and in almost every case looking small or at great height. (To be more exact, we should say that the objects were of small apparent size.)

Is there anything here very mysterious? Spiders— or a swarm of spiders—would naturally look small in the sky, although some of the more extensive flights could appear very impressive. When spinning gossamer, spiders hang from a little hammock of silken thread, and this could easily provide the effect of glistening.

In most angel hair sightings, UFOs are seen (if at all) only over a very small area. This indicates that the spiders are not at a tremendous height, at any rate not too high for spiders.

The only report which differs markedly in any way from the gossamer theory is the Oleron sighting of 1952. The others are all straightforward. And we must remember that the spectacle of great numbers of spiders spinning gossamer in the sky—not an everyday occurrence by any means—must be an awe-inspiring happening.

So far, then, there is little objection to the spider theory and a great deal of evidence in favour of it. The only serious problem which might worry us is the peculiar habit the hair has of melting away into thin air soon after the sighting. Only a few of the sightings have this characteristic, but it is indeed a puzzling one. However, I know for certain that in the case of the Mt. Roskill sighting almost all the hair (which was later identified by analysts as gossamer) had disappeared only a few hours after the fall. Threads blew away in the wind and were quick to disintegrate, being composed of some very tenuous material. Apparently, then, gossamer can act in the manner attributed to angel hair. Does this leave any doubts in our mind? A few, perhaps, but nothing which I would consider conclusive.

In one or two cases the hair has taken on unusual properties. These, however, can be attributed simply to the state of the atmosphere through which the gossamer falls. If there is radio-activity in the air—or chemical

products, if over an industrial area—then the gossamer will be affected by this.

And with those remarks we arrive almost at the end of our investigation. We have found that angel hair bears a very close resemblance to gossamer: the evidence in favour of this association is very strong, the evidence against it, rather inconsequential. Dissimilarities in one angel hair observation has not been borne out by the next. In general, we can safely conclude that most—if not all—angel hair falls have been falls of gossamer in some or other form.

In some ways, this conclusion is perhaps disappointing. UFOlogists were looking to angel hair as concrete proof that flying saucers did exist. This proof, it seems, is very unsatisfactory.

Nevertheless, we should not in any way condemn flying saucer researchers who adopted the idea that angel hair was not of earthly origin. Their eagerness was only natural. Furthermore, gossamer is such an unusual substance that it is no wonder strange and marvellous powers have been sometimes attributed to it. The fall of hair in Mt. Roskill is a good example of this: I was able to witness the results of the fall at first hand, and I was amazed and mystified by what I saw. The hair didn't look at all like ordinary spider-web, and until CSI had a sample analysed, I was convinced that the material was not of ordinary, earthly origin!

At the same time, UFOlogists should not feel that their efforts in this direction have been wasted. On the contrary, here is an example of flying saucer researchers doing a definite service to science. There is still a lot to be found out about gossamer, and saucer enthusiasts are doing much to supply the important need for more information. Furthermore, there is always the chance that angel hair observations may yet reveal something "out-of-the-ordinary." The hair characteristic of disintegration; the strange sights seen over Oleron—these still deserve careful study.

Angel hair has fallen in almost every corner of the globe. There is a possibility that one day you yourself will witness a sighting, and thus get a personal opportunity of aiding this eminently worthwhile study. In case you do, here are one or two pointers on what to look for if such a fall occurs, added as conclusion to my article.

#### POINTS TO LOOK FOR IN AN ANGEL HAIR SIGHTING

1. Are there any unusual objects in the sky at the time? If so, how big are they? Is there any indication of their height, such as relation to clouds, etc?
2. How long does the hair take to fall?
3. How do the objects and shower of angel hair act in relation to the wind?
4. How does the hair fall? In streamers? Attached to little tufts?
5. How big are the hair threads? Do they have any unusual properties, such as magnetism, smell, etc?
6. Try touching the hair, note the effect. If possible, obtain a sample of the substance in a sealed jar. Can you make any analysis or examine it under a microscope? Act quickly!
7. How long does the hair remain where it fell?
8. Note date, time, weather conditions, wind conditions (if possible get information from the local met. office on strength and direction of wind at various heights).
9. If possible, find out how much hair fell, how many people saw the fall, over what area.

There's certainly a lot to think about—but information such as this is rewarding and worthwhile! Here is a challenging subject to saucer enthusiasts; observations are of definite scientific value and could yet—despite anything said above—revolutionize our ideas about the existence and nature of UFOs!

—ROGER J. HORROCKS.

Reports the London "Evening News," 7th May, 1958.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO ACT OVER  
SPACE VISITORS . . .

# TELL TRUTH NOW ABOUT THE SAUCERS, SAYS EARL'S SON

"Evening News" Reporter

**A campaign is being launched in Britain to urge the Government to "tell the people the truth about flying saucers."**

The campaigners are members of the International Unidentified Flying Objects Observer Corps. They want Government commissions set up both here and in the United States without delay.

Object: To collect, analyse and report on flying saucer activity to both Governments concerned and to the people.

The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, the Corps' chief investigator, claims: "There is sufficient evidence to justify an official announcement that space ships are visiting our planet from elsewhere."

He adds: "The people have been kept in the dark. One reason is that there are no suitable government departments in either country for dealing with space visitors. This is too big a job to be handled by Service departments."

How refreshingly different is this letter to the "Editor" of the "Kent Courier" 9th May, 1958 edition (England). Other astronomers please note!

## Free Facts on Flying Saucers

Sir,—First I should like to state that I am not a crank, but a sensible, intelligent individual, and I shall be grateful for your careful attention to what I am going to say.

For a long time now I and several of my associates have taken a passing interest in the Unidentified Flying Objects which one hears about from time to time, and from information received from many reliable sources I have come to the conclusion that these objects cannot be dismissed with the rather casual explanations with which they have been so far. Indeed, you may well be interested to hear that I have several signed statements from people in my house who have actually seen flying objects (unidentified) in the sky.

In spite of the fact that several unofficial commissions have been set up to investigate these phenomena, the public has been kept in the dark as to their authenticity.

Something must be done about this situation, and the obvious answer is this:

An unbiased scientific commission must be appointed by the Government to collect, collate and analyse all saucer information, and to release it to the public, i.e., the public must be given a full, free and continuous flow of information on this subject.

I have several reasons for asking this, and I list them as follows:

(a) There have been thousands of sightings all over the world since 1947. Space ships have been seen

Space People—"They're Friendly"

Mr. Trench, son of the late Earl of Clancarty, insists that flying saucers are real, extra-terrestrial and friendly.

"If they were not friendly," he says, "we could have been wiped out long ago. Why, then, do not the authorities give out the truth? If the masses knew the truth the hydrogen bomb would not exist as a weapon more than a week.

"Tell the people the truth about the greatest event of our times—the coming of the space people."

Footnote: Hon. B. L. P. Trench is Editor of the excellent English UFO journal "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW." "F.S.R." is published bi-monthly, 32 pages, art paper. CSI highly recommends this publication to all its readers. It caters for all aspects of the ufo puzzle. £1/6/0 per year or £2/6/0 brings it airmail to New Zealand subscribers.

over every country on earth. Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, who was in charge of the U.S. Air Force project "Blue Book," estimated that by January, 1953, there had been something like 44,000 sightings in the U.S.A. alone.

(b) These objects have been seen by people of every nationality and people in every walk of life, including pilots, coastguards, police, ships' officers, astronomers, and other trained observers (I shall be glad to supply a list of well-known airline pilots, etc., to corroborate this).

I should like to add that I will not be put off by Air Force announcements that sightings can be accounted for by conventional aircraft, natural phenomena, birds, mock suns, ice crystals, or the planet Venus. Furthermore, I should be grateful if you, for your part, would endeavour to pin down the authorities to account for specific sightings.

It is thus my opinion that the whole investigation of these objects should be taken out of the hands of the U.S. and British Air Forces, and that a separate official commission should be set up to handle it.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW L. FENTON

(Hon. Chairman, Sevenoaks School  
Astronomical Society.)

Note.—A similar letter has been received from David Barsley, secretary of the Society.

## N.Z. SIGHTINGS (Continued from Page Five)

standing by his gate about 11.20 on Sunday night when two bright lights, visible clearly through the haze, appeared from the south-east, took a right-hand climbing turn and disappeared towards the direction of Wellington. They were visible, he said, only for a few seconds. They had the appearance first of shooting stars. The control tower at Woodbourne advised yesterday they had not logged any aircraft in the area at the time.

**"Star-Sun," Christchurch, 19th November, 1957.**

### EXTRA MOON SEEN IN SKY LAST NIGHT

18/11/57. A large, luminous object, darker in the centre, was seen by two North Beach residents as it hovered about the southern part of the city at 10.15 last night.

When Mr. G. Williams of 57 Flemington Avenue, North Beach, and his wife first noticed the light it was stationary, and at first glance Mrs. Williams thought it was the moon, but then realised it was in the wrong quarter of the sky.

After about two minutes, the object began to move. It swung slowly round in a circle of about ten miles in circumference, according to Mr. Williams. After one or two revolutions, it moved away westward, and disappeared.

#### Over Woolston

Mr. Williams estimated that the light was at an altitude of about 10,000 feet. When first noticed, it seemed to be over the Woolston area. There was light cloud in the sky at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are sure the phenomenon they saw was not a searchlight, as there was no beam visible at any time.

#### Second Report

Another report of a very similar object, seen about fifteen minutes later, came from Mr. W. T. Dilks, of 389 St. Asaph Street. From Wordsworth Street he saw an object about the size, shape and colour of the full moon, against the clear sky towards the Lyttelton Heads.

It hovered for some time, then circled suddenly downwards and disappeared "as quick as lightning" towards the earth, Mr. Dilks said.

The Meteorological office at Harewood had no explanation to offer.

**"Star-Sun," Christchurch, 20th November, 1957.**

### STRANGE GLOW SEEN BY BOYS IN NIGHT SKY

19/11/57. Four boys, aged from 10 to 16 years, say they saw a definite round red glow with palpitating edges in the sky "about 1100ft." above Brighton last night. It was visible for about ten minutes from 9.30 p.m., they said.

"We feel sure that there was an object behind the glow," said Terry Foster, aged 15. "Shafts of white light came through it as if there were a revolving object behind emitting the light."

One of the boys said he saw fine white ribbon-like streams appearing across the sky behind the object and vanishing quickly. He thought they looked like a vapour trail from some object which was moving rapidly behind the cloud at a much greater altitude.

#### High-pitched Humming

"The glow rose up and down," said Terry. "In time it became a brighter crimson, and then it darkened. Two of us next heard a high-pitched humming noise coming from the left of the object behind the glow."

"The object then seemed to move upwards quickly, leaving the screen of deep-red colour behind. This gradually disappeared."

Although there was cloud in the sky reflecting a light red glow from the sun, the boys are sure that the object was not a cloud.

**"SPACE PROBE"**

**"Guardian," Ashburton, 21st November, 1957.**

### STRANGE LIGHTS IN SKY REPORT FROM EIFFELTON RESIDENTS

19/11/57. A further report of strange lights having been seen in the skies over Ashburton during this week has been received by the "Guardian."

This time the report comes from an Eiffelton resident who, with her husband and a neighbour, claimed that they saw three "reddish" lights travelling in a north-south direction towards the coast at 8.30 on Tuesday night.

"We watched the lights, which appeared to be in the vicinity of Wakanui, for almost 10 minutes before they disappeared out to sea," the woman stated. "They were not the navigation lights of aeroplanes and they were not the planet Venus. There were two large lights and one smaller one."

The lights were first seen by the husband who went to close a window. He called to his wife and both went into the yard of their home at Eiffelton to get a better view. The lights were at an altitude of about 20 degrees. The husband later went to a neighbour's house and was informed that the lights had been seen from there as well.

**"Guardian," Ashburton, 19th November, 1957.**

### OBJECT IN SKY

19/11/57. At 1.20 this morning a sister at the Ashburton Hospital saw a moving object in the sky. She happened to get out of bed to fix a rattling window when she saw the object, which was about 30 degrees and travelling from west to south. The watcher saw the rocket which was associated with the first satellite, and said that the object she saw this morning was brighter than the rocket but somewhat diffused at the edges and travelled horizontally and not in an arc.

**"Star-Sun," Christchurch, 21st November, 1957.**

### DID YOU SEE THIS?

20/11/57. Although he has many flying hours to his credit and is one of the pioneers of private flying in Canterbury, Mr. F. Sharman has never seen an object in the air such as he observed last night.

Mr. Sharman's attention was first drawn to a peculiar shaped light in the sky. This was like a horseshoe with the ends pointing to the south, and stationed over South Brighton.

As he watched, he noticed a doughnut-shaped object with crinkly edges, passing through the arms of the horseshoe. He watched this object come through a number of times and it seemed as though it was flying round in circles.

From his experience, Mr. Sharman estimated that the object was no higher than 300 to 500 ft. in the air, but during his half-hour's observation he could find no explanation for it.

**"Taranaki Daily News," New Plymouth, 23rd Nov., 1957.**

### LIGHT SEEN FROM OKATO

22/11/57. Strange phenomena have again been making their appearance in Taranaki skies. An Okato farmer saw one shortly before 8.45 p.m. yesterday.

Standing outside his home and looking in the direction of Mount Egmont, a farmer at Perth Road, Okato, suddenly spotted a bright orange-red object about 9000 feet up. It came out of the clouds over Oakura, heading towards Opunake.

Visible for about four or five seconds, the object disappeared into the clouds. Travelling slowly it was often partly obscured while he watched it.

The image appeared to be about the size of an orange and the farmer was convinced last night that, because of its size and colour, it was not an aircraft.

"The Gisborne Herald," 26th November, 1957.

### SKY VISITOR SEEN BY LATE BUS PASSENGERS

24/11/57. A pronounced sceptic hitherto on the subject of space ships and interplanetary visits, a Gisborne bus driver who is still unwilling to disclose his name for publication, reported yesterday that a few minutes prior to 11 o'clock on Sunday night he and others had witnessed the passage of an unidentified object through the middle atmosphere.

He described the object as a round ball of considerable size, lighted from within and having what appeared to be two independent beams of light striking downward and crossing below the base.

His attention was first called to the sky visitor by passengers in his bus, all 19 of whom were intensely interested in its appearance and course. It first became visible from the Makaraka-Matawhero "straight" on the State highway to the south, and then appeared to be diving towards the earth in a straight line.

#### Speed Not Impressive

Its speed was not impressive, but it appeared to be moving with some velocity. The bus was stopped at the new highway bridge over the Waipaoa River, and the driver and passengers alighted and followed by eye the course taken by the object towards Young Nick's Head and then over the Wharerata Hills before being lost.

The time of night cited by the driver suggested that the object seen was a weather balloon, of the type regularly released from the meteorological station at Darton Field to test wind direction and velocity. A Herald inquiry yesterday proved, however, that the nightly balloon was not released until 11.20 p.m., by which time the bus was back in town after a visit to a country centre.

Moreover, the direction taken by the official test balloon was almost directly to the eastward, whereas the unidentified flying object seen from the bus was travelling roughly south-west across the prevailing wind.

"The Gisborne Herald," 27th November, 1957.

### STRANGE OBJECTS SEEN IN SKY

24 & 25/11/57. Two more Gisborne residents report having seen strange objects in the sky, the first at 9.48 p.m. on Sunday and the second at 9.45 o'clock on Monday night.

In each case the person reporting it and a companion both saw the unidentified object.

The object seen on Sunday night was described as a ball of light with two streaks of light behind the main ball, while that observed on Monday night was "fuzzy orange in colour, and banana shaped."

"Wanganui Chronicle," 26th November, 1957.

### STRANGE LIGHT IN SKY ABOVE WANGANUI

25/11/57. A strange glow in the sky, likened to car light shining through fog, was seen by two Wanganui residents, Mr. S. Saddler, and Mr. B. Clark, when they were driving home in a motor car in Wanganui East shortly before 5.30 p.m. yesterday.

The strange light was first seen by Mr. Clark. Small in size at first, the glow increased in size and then was covered by cloud formations. When the clouds drifted by the light in the sky had disappeared. The two men had it under observation for about 30 seconds.

The strange light grew bigger and then smaller before being covered by clouds and then disappearing.

"At first I thought it was the sun," said Mr. Saddler.

Mr. Clark said that the light appeared directly above in the sky and because of its position he ruled out the possibility of it being the sun.

Both men were at a loss to explain what the strange glow could have been.

### STRANGE OBJECT—STRANGE FLIGHT

26/11/57. It was 9.25 p.m., the sky was partly cloudy. However, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Phillips of Dey Street, Hamilton, were determined to sight the Russian sputnik. Mrs. Phillips was outside keeping watch. Suddenly, through a break in the clouds, she spotted a bright object and called out, "Here it is." Her husband immediately joined her and so did her neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson. By now, however, Mrs. Phillips and the others realized that it was certainly not the sputnik that had been sighted.

There in the south-west sky at about 17 degrees elevation was a bright, orange coloured, cigar-shaped object. It was quite stationary. Above and to the right of this object was the planet Venus, recognised as such by Mr. Phillips. Suddenly the object appeared to have changed form, for it now looked much like a "dinner plate on edge," with a domed-like protrudence on one side. This remarkable object appeared to be at no great height, say 5000 feet, reported Mr. Phillips. After a few minutes it did the strangest thing, it moved an appreciable distance sideways in a series of "hop-like" movements and stopped again. Further observation was prevented by heavy clouds which moved over the area. The object was not seen again. Mr. Phillips in his full report to CSI, stated that the object was in sight for fully 10 minutes and was a bright orange colour, fading out at the edges, but otherwise very clear and well defined. Mr. Phillips is a builder and previously had next to no thoughts for flying saucers. CSI is indebted to Mr. E. M. Phillips (a brother) of Te Rapa for initial information on this interesting observation of a "ufo." Mr. E. M. Phillips is a member of CSI and is now taking an active interest in the Hamilton Investigation Society.

### SPEED OF A JET

30/11/57. "4.10 p.m. exactly." A gentleman was assisting his son to launch a kite on the top of One Tree Hill, Auckland. The sky was four-tenths cloudy, and there was a light southerly wind prevailing. Suddenly a bright object, flying at jet plane speed, was spotted crossing the field of view at about the level of the kite, which was an estimated 30 degrees. About the apparent size of a pea, the sparkling object sped across the northern sky from east to west in level flight to disappear after four to five seconds behind cloud. The observer, an ex-R.N.Z.A.F. pilot of four years' experience and presently a department manager of Auckland's morning paper, does not believe the object sighted was a conventional aircraft, nor a high speed met. balloon.

"Star-Sun," Christchurch, 4th December, 1957.

### WATCHERS MYSTIFIED

3/12/57. Four Christchurch people were mystified by a glowing object they saw in the sky last night. Standing near the St. Martins Library in Wilsons Road, about eleven o'clock, they saw it, about a mile up, over towards Tai Tapu. About the size of a basketball, it turned from white to orange and back again, appearing to enlarge and contract. It descended slowly about 500ft., then moved to the left about 200ft., and finally disappeared towards Ellesmere, clear of the hills. It was in sight for about twenty-five minutes.

"Evening Star," Dunedin, 21st December, 1957.

### UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SEEN IN SKY

20/12/57. An object, flying "terribly fast," headed straight toward the National Airways aeroplane coming into Taieri yesterday morning, then suddenly banked in a right angle and headed out over the sea, according

to two city men, who telephoned the "Star" this morning. Messrs. T. Wallace and L. C. Childs, both of Dunedin claimed today that the object was flying faster than any plane.

About the size of a Tiger Moth, it seemed to veer sharply to the east "when it spotted the Dakota," and disappeared over the sea.

The object looked rather like a Tiger Moth, but with a shorter tail—"very little tail in comparison with the wing length." It was of a silvery colour, and when last seen was flying very high.

According to Mr. Wallace, the object came in from the south, over Cargill's Castle, at the same level as the passenger plane. He and Mr. Childs stopped the car to have a better look; no sound could be heard above the roar of the DC3's engines.

A check with the Taiari Aerodrome this morning revealed that none of the men working on Traffic Control saw the unidentified object.

**"Nelson Evening Mail," 23rd December, 1957.**

### **UNIDENTIFIED LIGHT PASSES OVER**

22/12/57. A Stoke resident was about to go to bed last night when he saw a small but bright red light in the sky. The time was shortly before midnight and the light travelled slowly towards the north-north-east, disappearing altogether after about eight minutes.

So far the mystery light has not been identified. As no sound was heard or any other thing seen it was unlikely to be an aircraft, said the man. The night was clear and cloudless.

Meteorological staff at Nelson Aerodrome stated this afternoon that a lighted weather balloon had been released some time previously but that it was unlikely that it would still be visible at the time reported. It would certainly be travelling in a similar direction to the light seen by the Stoke resident but it would be a different colour as candles were used to illuminate weather balloons.

**"Daily Telegraph," Napier, 24th December, 1957.**

### **FLYING OBJECT SEEN OVER NAPIER**

23/12/57. Two New Zealand Railways shunters, Messrs. Keith Miller and R. Harris, this morning reported seeing a flying object flash across the sky above Napier last night.

The two men were working on a night shift in the yards of the Napier Railway Station when suddenly, low in the sky, a cylindrical object sped overhead from the direction of Cape Kidnappers towards the Breakwater, they said. "It was something like a football in shape," said Mr. Miller today. "It was pale blue with a greenish tinge and very bright, and later changed to a pale white."

The time was about 12.50 a.m. and the object remained for about five or six seconds only before it disappeared. Mr. Miller said he had seen fireballs and meteors before and it was not like either. He would not guess at the height of the object, but said he was startled most by its low trajectory. It seemed to be no more than a few hundred feet up.

In addition to the shunters, the object was seen by four locomotive cleaners who were on duty at the time.

**"Northern Advocate," Whangarei, 30th December, 1957.**

### **SILVER DISCS IN THE SKY**

29/12/57. KAITAIA, Mon. (Sp.)—What were the small silver discs that flew from north to south yesterday afternoon?

Three were seen at East Beach, near Waiharara, and about the same time one was noticed from Kaitaia.

The objects were seen at East Beach by Mrs. J. Matijevec, of Waiharara, Mr. and Mrs. G. Anderson, of Whangaroa, and Mr. Joe Babich, of Waiharara.

**"SPACE PROBE"**

Mrs. Matijevec said that she had been looking upwards at the planet Venus, which was plainly visible, and she drew the attention of others to it.

"Suddenly, at 4 minutes to 3, I saw something else," added Mrs. Matijevec.

"I saw a small silver disc sailing briskly across the sky and I told the other people to look."

It disappeared in six or seven seconds in the glare on the horizon.

Then two more were seen at two-minute intervals. They flew almost directly overhead.

About the same time, Mrs. S. Vincent, in Kaitaia, saw a similar silver disc crossing the sky.

**"Northern Advocate," Whangarei, 31st December, 1957.**

### **DISCS SEEN AT KAIKOHE ALSO**

29/12/57. KAIKOHE, Tue. (Sp.)—The two silver discs seen in the sky by Waiharara and Kaitaia residents on Sunday afternoon were also seen by 11-year-old Robert Mossit, from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Mossit, Cameron Street, Kaikohe.

Robert noticed "a moving object glinting in the sky" as the disc came in from a nor'-west direction.

A moment later a further similar object, moving at a fast pace, appeared from the same direction.

He called his sister, Miss Patricia Mossit, home from Ardmore Teachers' Training College, and together they watched one of the discs pass the other almost directly overhead.

Both objects, which the two thought were Sputniks I and II, were visible for about three minutes, before disappearing away to the south.

### **BRILLIANT PURPLE PHENOMENON**

5/1/58. Mr. and Mrs. Ian Watkins of Freeland Ave., Mt. Roskill, Auckland, were entertaining their guests on a fine Sunday evening. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Robson, Richardson Rd., Auckland, and Mr. and Mrs. Whittington of Wellington. It was 9.30 p.m. Suddenly a brilliant illumination lit the room—the drapes were still drawn. All present immediately looked out the large windows and were startled to see a large, brilliant object "which appeared to be almost stationary only a short distance away and at a very low altitude."

Explained Mr. Watkins whilst being interviewed by CSI Director, "We sighted this large, purplish object 'like a small sun,' which, though apparently stationary at first, soon began to slowly sink lower and leave a clear, smoke-like trail behind it. After approximately one minute the object abruptly extinguished and did not appear again. It was a clear, calm night and a full moon made for excellent visibility. The moon was in the eastern sky and the object was almost due west. To the left and above the object Venus was clearly visible. Two of my friends who witnessed with me the strange phenomenon, have military backgrounds, and they were most positive that the object sighted bore no resemblance to "Very lights or star shells, nor did any of us consider the object sighted a meteor. I phoned the Duty Officer at Whenuapai Air Force Base and established that there were no aircraft movements or operations to account for the observation."

Mr. Ian Watkins is a N.Z.B.S. Official, a well-known Auckland personality. Thanks, Mr. Watkins, for making the details of your observation known to CSI. Our task is a most difficult and thankless one, yet we sincerely believe that it is a most necessary and proper one.

### **"LIKE A PINK SEQUIN"**

22/1/58. A resident of Panmure, Auckland, reports. "This morning at 11.30 a.m. my wife and I saw what appeared at first glance to be an aeroplane sky writing. The object described a leisurely arc during

which time we noted that it was pinkish in colour and soundless. As the object completed the circle, it literally flashed away to the horizon in a matter of seconds, while a vapour trail gradually appeared along the course it had taken. The vapour remained visible for some time afterwards. We are both keen to know if there were any jet aircraft over Auckland at the time. My wife is of the opinion that the object appeared to change shape whilst in clear view. CSI checked and found that there were no jets over Auckland on the day in question. The observers wish their names to be kept confidential. They report that others in the city were also mystified by the object which could best be described as being like "a pink sequin and the size of a pea at arm's length."

**"Thames Star," 28th January, 1958.**

### **GLOWING OBJECT SEEN IN SKY**

26/1/58. A party of four travelling from Paeroa towards Thames on Sunday night are seeking a clue to the identity of a glowing object they saw high in the sky above the hills.

The described it as a round glowing object of a peculiar reddish hue, appearing smaller than the moon, but brightly illuminated nearby clouds.

It disappeared suddenly, in the abrupt manner of a switched-off light, while they were trying to identify it.

**"Northern Advocate," Whangarei, 13th February, 1958.**

### **UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS SEEN**

12/2/58. MAUNGATUROTO, Thur. — Two unidentified objects were seen in the sky over Maungaturoto about 9.30 last night.

Mr. Don Smith who was outside hanging out a fishing net to dry saw what he thought was a shooting star coming from a westerly direction.

But when it flattened out and changed colour to a bright red, he realised it was an "unidentified object."

It continued on a level course and was joined by another from the north.

Both disappeared eastwards over the Brynderwyn Hills.

They were in view for approximately 10 seconds, moving very fast and disappeared into the haze.

Mr. Smith's wife was unable to pick the objects up when they were pointed out to her.

There was no noise accompanying the sighting.

No other reports of the sightings have been received from this area.

**"Guardian," Ashburton, 13th February, 1958.**

### **STRANGE OBJECTS**

12/2/58. Two strange objects were reported to have been seen by a number of Ashburton residents at approximately 9.55 last evening. Described as having dull red lights in front and bright red blinking ones at the rear, the objects were travelling in a northerly direction at about 60 degrees above the earth's surface. Both were travelling at about a fast aircraft's speed, at 30-second intervals and were visible for several minutes. No engine noises could be heard, so it is highly unlikely that they were displayed by passing aircraft.

### **"NO JET AIRCRAFT SO FAST"**

26/2/58. Mr. B. G. Glover of Epsom, Auckland, is still mystified as to what he and another witness observed in a clear blue cloudless sky at 1.55 p.m. and again at 2.05 p.m. on Wednesday, 26th February. Mr. Glover is an ex-bomber pilot, and terminated his service career with the rank of Sqd./Ldr. He served with the

R.A.F. from 1939 to 1945 and the R.N.Z.A.F. 1945-46. He knows his aircraft and sees them very frequently from his present place of employment. He is a check timekeeper on Kings Wharf. It was from this site that he witnessed these unusual objects in the sky. CSI Director spoke to him on the phone a short while after the incident. Mr. Glover gave the details in a most forthright and serious manner. Here are the details:—

"It was a beautiful clear day. I observe the sky quite frequently—a habit from my flying days. Suddenly I sighted a small, light-grey coloured object, a slightly flattened oval in shape, flying at terrific speed on a northerly course. From my observation point on Kings Wharf the object appeared to pass over Mechanics Bay and the Meteorological Offices and disappeared shortly in a north-east direction. It did not appear to close with the horizon. The object appeared to be at a great height, and crossed our view at an elevation of 35-40 degrees. After watching this object for about seven seconds, I called a witness, Mr. Patrick Mulligan. Together we watched it vanish at very high speed after a further 13 seconds.

"We could not detect any sound, as we were surrounded by many machine noises, and the object did not leave any trail. Whilst it was under our observation it maintained a straight and level course from south-west to north-east and covered a wide expanse of sky far too rapidly for a jet. Ten minutes later we again sighted a similar object to the north, but it was not so clearly defined. This second object approached from the north and then swung around 180 degrees and disappeared in the direction it had appeared. This was in the same area of the sky that the first object disappeared into the blue."

CSI is grateful for Mr. Glover's immediate and determined efforts to report the matter as he believes they should be investigated. Mr. Glover stated most positively that the object first sighted appeared very solid, was very clearly defined and totally unlike any aircraft of his wide experience. It was moving at terrific speed in a clear blue sky. The sun was slightly to the rear of the observers, and Mr. Glover had the advantage of a pair of Polaroid sunglasses to lessen any glare. He was wearing them during both observations. A full, very detailed report is on CSI files.

### **REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT OVER FRANKTON JUNCTION**

27/2/58. Object seen by two adults and four children on 27th February, 1958. Mr. and Mrs. H. Moreland of Duncan Street, Frankton, were milking their herd on the evening of 27th February at between 6.30 and 6.45 p.m. when one of the children began shouting and pointing at the sky.

Mrs. Moreland saw the object speeding by and called to Mr. Moreland who, after gazing round vainly a moment, also saw the object—a bright orange-red oval as large as a C47 aircraft, of which (note) they see a great number over their farm.

The object appeared to have a rumbling engine noise, but, after the object had disappeared, the engine noise persisted and was in fact a Diesel-electric locomotive at the Frankton yards.

The object was at an elevation of about 40 degrees above the horizon and was travelling extremely smoothly and at a speed several times that of aircraft.

Its direction was from N.N.W. to S.S.E. (aprox. north to south) and was in view 15 or 20 seconds over an arc of about 120 degrees of the horizon.

Later the object's colour was further described as "about the prettiest colour you could imagine," and also it did not shine like, say, a car headlamp having a direct beam but was more in the form of a bright incandescent glow.

The sighting of this object greatly affected the family concerned and they could talk of nothing else. The children all insisted on giving their own accounts in quite an excited fashion and, considering the interview was some six weeks after they had seen the object, their excitement was quite remarkable.

Reported to Mr. E. M. Phillips to CSI on behalf of the Hamilton Flying Saucer Investigation Committee, 164 River Rd., Hamilton. Frankton Junction is only a few miles from Hamilton.

**"Daily Telegraph," Napier, 7th March, 1958.**

### **STRANGE OBJECT SEEN IN SKY AT HASTINGS**

7/3/58. A large object coloured a vivid green was seen in the sky by a Hastings resident early this morning. Miss M. M. Frude, of 205 Knight Street, said she had awakened at 1.30 a.m. to see a large, brightly lit elliptical-shaped object through the bedroom window. It appeared to have two tails. She said it descended from a westerly direction, hovered for a moment, and then shot toward the south.

CSI received confirmation and additional details from Miss Frude.

**"Herald," 11/3/58.**

### **"STRANGE METEOR"**

10/3/58. A bright orange object with a tail of sparks was sighted swiftly crossing the sky from west to east about 9.20 last night by residents of Whenuapai, Te Atatu, Kelston and other suburbs. Flying horizontally, it disappeared into cloud. Authorities said it was a large meteor.

This meteor-like object was witnessed by at least five R.N.Z.A.F. personnel. They were commissioned and non-commissioned officers. F/Sgt. Bruce Pollard obtained a clear 12-second unobstructed view of the object. Part of his detailed report reads:—

"It appeared as a minor white circular white light about 2 inches in diameter. Gaining in phosphorescent brilliance as it travelled in a flat, level trajectory across the southern sky, it increased in size to approx. 6 inches in apparent diameter and emitted three showers of "sparks" in two second bursts prior to disappearing abruptly. I have never seen a meteor like this one previously."

CSI received full reports from five personnel.

### **"GLOWING DISC"**

18/3/58. . . . 10 p.m. Mr. R. A. Ferri of Hamilton sighted a bright glowing, disc-shaped object low in the N.N.W. sky just prior to driving into Ohaupo, on his way back to Hamilton from a business trip south. Mr. Ferri lost sight of the object behind trees and higher country shortly after making the sighting. However, the glowing disc was in view long enough for him to decide that it was not a conventional aircraft or light phenomenon. This object appeared to be reflecting the sun's rays, which was at this time low in the western sky. When Mr. Ferri again reached a point on the road permitting clear view in the direction of the object, it had completely disappeared. This is Mr. Ferri's second "ufo" sighting; his first occurred also in daylight, on the 7th August, 1956, and was reported in full in Vol. 4, No. 3 "FLYING SAUCERS." CSI (N.Z.) publication was retitled w.e.f. the last issue.

**"SPACE PROBE"**

### **"LUMINOUS BLOB OF LIGHT"**

21/11/58. 10.45 p.m. Mr. R. Hallam and Mr. S. E. Rix of Tauranga were making astronomical observations of the evening sky. Quite unexpectedly they spotted a "blob of light" high overhead. They at first believed the light was caused by a slow moving meteor. However, when the object made a number of seemingly purposeful changes in rapid succession, the meteor explanation was ruled out. To the observers the "light" appeared to be at a great height and disappeared by climbing to greater altitude. A full report was submitted to CSI.

### **"SPUTNIK IN DAYLIGHT"**

23/3/58. Shortly after 9.27 a.m. a child "lying on our lawn" spotted a brilliant "star-like" object moving in the clear blue sky. Quickly she brought this finding to her parent's attention. CSI has received a full report from Mr. A. W. Abbott of Northumberland St., Wai-pukurau. Mr. Abbott is a schoolteacher by profession. "My wife and I watched this bright star-like object move steadily across the sky at a speed and trajectory much like the Russian sputniks. The object finally disappeared in the N.N.W. sky after growing progressively fainter."

CSI has read a number of press accounts both in Australia and New Zealand of daylight sightings of star-like objects moving on a similar track and speed of the sputniks. We have details of other similar cases reported privately. These incidents are not to be confused with the many "sightings" of the bright planet Venus, which was clearly observable in the daylight sky during late '57 early '58 period. We have some 20-odd press and private reports of "bright star-like object stationary in sky" on file, which were quickly recognised for what they were. CSI does not publish these reports or others that can be readily explained as planets, normal meteors, etc.

**"News," Opotiki, 8th April, 1958.**

### **STRANGE OBJECT SEEN**

2/4/58. A round object which moved across the sky on Wednesday afternoon at 1.15 o'clock was seen by Mr. John Perry, Opotiki. He was at the Waitohi Beach when he first noticed the object coming from the direction of Cape Runaway. At first glance he thought it was a seagull but then saw that it was round, and appeared to be like a white ball. Its flight across the sky was steady and it remained in view for about a minute before disappearing into the distance in a westerly direction.

**"Nelson Evening Mail," 12th April, 1958.**

### **ANOTHER "OBJECT" REPORTED**

9/4/58. A large triangular object, bright red in colour with white lights around its perimeter, has been reported sighted by four Nelson residents on Wednesday evening.

Mr. B. Mills, who was accompanied by his wife, stated that they were driving down the St. Vincent Street hill at about 7.15 p.m. when they sighted the object in a direction to the left of the Nelson Chief Post Office. Mr. Mills said today that the object appeared to be dropping from the north-east at an angle of 45 degrees and moved out across the bay.

Mr. Mills was definite that it was bright red with an extremely bright white light on the top right corner. He and his wife proceeded to town. They saw the object again, about three-quarters of an hour later, from a friend's residence in Matipo Terrace, off Emano Street. Their friends, Mr. B. Brown and his wife, also saw the object, Mr. Mills reported. At this stage the object was growing dimmer as it moved out across the bay. It was too large to be an aircraft, Mr. Mills stated.

The Meteorological Office at the Tahuna Aerodrome had no weather balloons in the air at the time and could not offer an explanation for the object when questioned by "The Mail" this morning.

Sighting confirmed to CSI.

"The Nelson Evening Mail," 11th April, 1958.

### QUEER THING SLOWLY DROPPED FROM SKY SOUTH OF TOPHOUSE

10/4/58. A strange object, dropping slowly to the south, was sighted by two men at Tophouse yesterday. Surveyors working for the Waimea Power Board, they substantiated their story today by readings of the object's bearing taken with a theodolite.

Mr. P. E. Read said today that he and his companion, Mr. J. O'Brien, were having their lunch when a silvery object in the sky came under their observation. Curious at its bright reflections and slow speed, they focused their theodolite telescope on it.

In the eyepiece the object was seen to be triangular with one point facing downwards. It appeared to be some distance away and at a considerable altitude.

A wind was blowing clouds up from the south—but the object was moving in the opposite direction. The men assumed that if it was drifting with the wind it must be in a high altitude northerly air current.

Even when behind thin cloud or haze, reflections from the object came through. With regular five minute sightings, Mr. Read established that it was dropping at an angle of 30 degrees from vertical and that it lost one degree in altitude every five minutes.

From its shape and movements the men were certain that it could not be any conventional aircraft. It was moving quite steadily but was too far away for the telescope of their instrument, which has a magnification of about 14 power, to show exactly what the object was.

"Wairarapa Times Age," Masterton, 15th April, 1958.

### HOME BUSH REPORT OF:

### OBJECTS SPEEDING IN SKY LAST NIGHT

14/4/58. The sighting of three large white objects travelling at terrific speed across the skies from north-east to south-west last night was reported by a Wairarapa farmer, Mr. J. Milligan, of Homebush, Masterton, today.

Mr. Milligan said that he was outside at 7.50 p.m. when he saw the three large white objects, which "completely dwarfed the stars" travelling very fast at an altitude that did not appear to be more than 12 to 15,000 feet.

As they came over the homestead, two of the three objects disappeared but the third remained bright until it was out of sight.

Mr. Milligan said the objects came from the north-east, were travelling "quite a lot faster than any jets" and were extremely plain.

He remembers seeing Halley's Comet many years ago and described the objects as resembling it, but whereas Halley's Comet was almost static these vanished from view within a few seconds. Mr. Milligan estimated that they were in his sight for 3-4 seconds.

### Seen in Levin

According to the special correspondent of the "Times-Age" in Levin, a similar object was seen by several residents of that town last evening, at about the same time as the Homebush sighting. In Levin, however, showers of sparks were emitted as the object shot across the sky.

"Wanganui Chronicle," 15th April, 1958.

### STRANGE LIGHT IN SKY

14/4/58. A strange light moving across the sky was seen by a Durie Hill resident shortly after 7.30 last night. The object was travelling from north to south and was about 50-60 degrees above the horizon. The glowing object, which appeared to have three distinct heads, was under observation for about 10 seconds.

"Nelson Evening Mail," 21st April, 1958.

### RED OBJECT LIKE FIRE SIGHTED IN ARTHUR RANGE

21/4/58. A brilliant red object for which no explanation could be offered today was sighted by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. De Ment from their home in The Ridgeway, at 7 a.m. today.

Mr. De Ment told "The Mail" today that the object was sighted to the right of Mount Crusader in the Arthur Range and it lasted for about seven minutes. It was located about halfway from sea level to the top of the mountain. He said electric lights flickered at the same time.

State Hydro officials told "The Mail" that they had not received any reports of power failures or trouble in any way.

Sighting confirmed to CSI.

"Waihi Gazette," 8th May, 1958.

### WHAT WAS IT?

### OBJECT SEEN BY BOY

### Incident Tuesday Night

6/5/58. Was there a flying saucer in Waihi on Tuesday night?

A Waihi College boy, Doug Salmon, of Bradford Street, claims that there was. Here is Doug's story:—

"Just before midnight on Tuesday, May 6, I was awakened by the roar of a motor. It was not unlike an aeroplane. I went to the window of my bedroom which faces north and saw an object about 300 feet in the sky.

"The motors stopped and the object descended till it was three feet above our front lawn and then rose to the height I originally noticed it and disappeared in a northerly direction. While it was lowering, a light appeared from beneath it, marking the lawn. The circle was visible in the dew when I went out to inspect the next morning.

"I was a bit frightened as I did not know what was going to happen. After it went I dived back to bed. I told my parents about it next morning. They did not hear anything but I believe some of the neighbours did and evidently thought it was an aeroplane."

The object, the boy said, was shaped like a felt hat with the top pushed up and the brim turned down. There were three sets of wheels on the object and a series of portholes about a third of the way from the top. It would be about 15 feet across at the bottom.

CSI first learned of this incident from Mrs. V. Chamberland, Green Lane, Auckland, and immediately wired a member of CSI resident of Waihi. Here is our member, Mr. C. R. Lambert's reply and a further first hand account from the observer.

"Dear Mr. Fulton, In answer to your telegram today re the sighting of a 'ufo' I attach a cutting from the local paper and also a report of what the boy told me. I had already questioned the boy the day following the sighting and inspected the lawn. There was a mark visible on this lawn just where Douglas said the object hovered. It was rather indistinct, but appeared to be a slight impression approx. 2 x 3 feet. It did

## Behaviour

not, however, impress me as being very conclusive evidence. I then set about following up several rumours re other people who had supposedly seen or heard something at the time. Unfortunately none of these trails led to anything, except one woman, who heard something at the time, but wishes no publicity. After giving the subject much thought, I have come to the following conclusions: I do not think Doug has just made up the story. I consider that he either did see what he claims to have seen or he has had an extremely vivid dream. I would say that he is completely convinced in his own mind that he has seen a ufo.

On the Friday night prior to the sighting, we had the good fortune to have the film "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS" screened at our local theatre and the fact that Doug attended this film could have some bearing on the "dream" theory.

The following is a further statement made direct to Mr. Lambert whilst interviewing Mr. Douglas Salmon, a 14-year-old College boy:—

"On the night of Tuesday, 6th May, 1958, I was awakened by an unusual noise. I jumped out of bed and looked out of my window to see a round object, about 15 feet across, dropping slowly on to our lawn. It gave off a silvery glow from its lower portion, while a light kept blinking also from beneath. As it came down and hovered momentarily a short distance from the lawn, I noticed several windows (I think six) grouped together, near the top of the object.

"Just before it climbed away again and disappeared in a northerly direction, something moved inside and blocked the light from one window for a moment. I glanced at my watch and found it to be just after midnight. By this time I was feeling rather frightened by what I had seen and jumped back into bed. On inspecting the lawn the next morning I could see a slight mark where the object had hovered."

CSI understands that soil samples were taken from the marked area where this object allegedly hovered. It was the intention of certain people to have this tested with a gieger counter and a chemical analysis made. We have not learned of any results. Certain aspects of this report strongly suggest the boy "told a story" after seeing the film about such objects. However, it is left to the readers to reach their own conclusions. CSI did not press for further details, as the word of one person, let alone a young lad, is most unconvincing evidence to the critical individual.

BUT IN VIEW OF THE REMARKABLE REPORTS YOU HAVE JUST READ WHICH PRECEDED THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT, THE BOY'S STORY COULD BE TRUE IN EVERY PARTICULAR. CSI HAS THE DETAILS OF A FURTHER 25 REPORTS OF STRANGE AERIAL OBJECTS SEEN IN N.Z. SKIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESS AND PRIVATELY REPORTED BETWEEN THE DATES OF THIS LAST REPORT AND MID-JULY. WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT ISSUE. HAVE YOU THE DETAILS OF AN INTERESTING REPORT? HAVE YOU SENT THEM TO CSI YET?

"The Dominion," May 28, 1958.

### AVIATION MEN ADRIFT IN SPACE

Wellington aviation personalities cut themselves adrift from gravitational pull and the worries of the world last night to go drifting through space.

They were studying space travel at a symposium conducted by the Wellington branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society (N.Z. Division).

Mr. B. Cornthwaite, covering technical developments necessary, confessed that he was at the real disadvantage of never having travelled in space. However, he had specially prepared himself as a human digest of the technical magazines.

He supposed that interplanetary travel would be from a platform orbiting round the earth.

"SPACE PROBE"

Mr. Cornthwaite did not think earthlings would "charge about space pinching planets here and there" and placing their national flags on whole planets or "chunks" of them. Once up in space, explorers would be more likely to look back on their own planet as an entity.

Group Captain A. H. Marsh, director of medical services, R.N.Z.A.F., said it was sufficient to make a long journey in "a Service Hastings" to feel below par; it indicated the severe physical test posed by space travel.

Pressure, temperature, disposal of body wastes and supply of food and drink were among the medical problems. Weightlessness posed problems of its own. For instance, it seemed that food, if well chewed, would not stick in digestion; once manipulated past the mouth, drink would present no more problems.

Another peculiarity of weightlessness was that it caused some to seem "excessively cheerful." The group captain did not explain what effect this would have in the taut atmosphere of the space ship.

Dr. P. P. Heller, senior executive officer (Air Transport) of the Civil Aviation Administration, discussed legal aspects, deplored the failure of the nations so far to clarify aerial rights. The difficulty was in having a ruling on where air space left off and outer space began. Lack of an understanding could lead to trouble between nations.

Sir Arthur Nevill, Director of Civil Aviation, commenting on the addresses, said he would not reveal whether he believed in flying saucers. But he was fairly gullible.

If they did exist, and had been flying about the world for so long, they must have established a high standard of morality. They appeared to have resisted any temptation to make claims on the earth.

### "LEST WE FORGET"

News item Boston newspaper, 1873:—

"A man about 46 years of age, giving the name of Joshua Coppersmith, has been arrested in New York for attempting to extort funds from ignorant and superstitious people by exhibiting a device which, he says, will convey the human voice over metallic wires. HE CALLS THE INSTRUMENT A TELEPHONE!"

"Well-informed people know it is impossible to transmit the human voice over wires—and were it possible to do so the thing would be of no practical value. The authorities who apprehended this criminal are to be congratulated, and it is to be hoped that his punishment will be prompt and fitting."

### PADRES PLEASE NOTE!

Reported the "Birmingham Post," June 6th, 1958 (Eng.)

## UNDETERRED

A Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society as well as a parson, the Rev. R. W. Cartmel, Rector of Aldridge, is fond of writing about flying saucers—in the existence of which he believes—in his parish magazine.

Now, in the current issue, he mentions a rebuke he has received from one of his correspondents—who has told him that the magazine is no place to write about "spacemen."

"All this," he says, "was done in a kindly manner and with the best of intentions. I do not wish my magazine ever to become a secular space magazine and I do not think it has done so in the past."

Then he adds: "I think it would be correct to say that those who laugh at saucers, &c., have never seriously studied the evidence . . . the cumulative evidence is overwhelming."

And yesterday he told me: "I shall go on telling the truth."

# Space Convention at Giant Rock, California - 1958

By RILEY CRABB, 119 Munda, Barstow, Calif.

*Forenote.*—UFO researcher, Riley Crabb, moved to the United States late last year from Honolulu, Hawaii. Whilst resident of Hawaii, Mr. Crabb directed the activities and edited the bulletins of the "AKUALELE RESEARCH GROUP." CSI thanks Riley for this "on-the-spot" report of the '58 Convention of "Saucer Contactee" enthusiasts in particular, sent unsolicited via recent airmail dispatch.

A panorama of American life in all its complexity is this gathering of Flying Saucer fans at Giant Rock, California. George Van Tassel certainly has plenty of space for a Space Convention—a thousand acres of high desert land. Here is ample room for hundreds of cars, dozens of house trailers, seating area for a thousand people or more, a landing strip for airplanes and plenty of room to park them.

Giant Rock is on the Old Woman Springs Road, between Lucerne Valley and 29 Palms, California. When Mrs. Crabb and I arrived at noon on Saturday, May 31st, the convention was under way with Ufologists from all over California and elsewhere. After thirteen years in Hawaii it was quite a thrill for us to park close to the airstrip and watch the casual arrival and departure of these fellow Americans.

A trim little monoplane taxis up by us, first out are two small girls, then mother, and then daddy pilot. Under the shade of the wing they spread their picnic lunch and listen to the programme from the speaker's platform perhaps a hundred yards away. Every word is easily heard from the excellent PA system George had installed for the convention.

The kind and variety and quality of people who attend the convention are a show in themselves as you watch them parading by in the blazing desert sun. The heat is almost inescapable as the thermometer climbs rapidly toward 100! Here are exhibitionists and introverts, one with a political axe to grind, another with a book to sell. Some are there to display their bodies; others wear a peculiar cut of hair or shape of clothing as a badge of distinction; while some display their minds in mimeographed page, brochure or printed book—any form which can be packaged, sold and carried home.

Booted and sombreroed cowhands from nearby ranches are as decorative—almost, as hopefuls from Hollywood, in pink bathing suits and generous expanses of golden brown skin. Mixed with these are long-haired metaphysicians from God-knows-where; and Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public, heavy with middle age and content to follow the scanty shade in their portable canvas chairs as the sun inches its way across the heavens.

George Van Tassel is very much on the scene, above on the speaker's platform, or below huddling with the pioneers and leading lights of the Flying Saucer world. Among others we saw Frank Scully, Truman Bethurum, Dan Fry, Orfeo Angelucci, Trevor James and Mark Probert. Conspicuous by his absence was George Adamski.

This is not surprising. When Mrs. Crabb and I visited Adamski at Palomar Gardens last August we were assured by him and by his secretary that the experiences of all other in the Flying Saucer field were psychic, only his were real!

Van Tassel carries the whole show along in his easy going, unperturbed, steady way. And a good show it is,

too, as he intersperses the speakers with entertainment, parachute jumps, a magician and a high diving Hollywood stunt man.

It is out of such gatherings as these, pioneered by Van Tassel and gradually spreading over the rest of the country, that a political movement can grow; one which can make its weight felt in Washington; another pressure group added to the many which converge on the nation's capital.

The man with the most interesting tale to tell the Saturday afternoon Mrs. Crabb and I were there, was Reinhold Schmidt. He is the California grain buyer who was fortunate enough to have made a contact with a spaceship and its crew in a Nebraska wheatfield on November 7, 1957.

Schmidt was fortunate enough to have his experience confirmed by the Chief of Police and other officials of Kearney, Nebraska, and by farmers living near the city. The obliging officials even appeared with Schmidt on national radio and TV hookups to back him up, and then the next morning reversed themselves completely and insisted that he do the same. Schmidt said he was sure the Chief of Police and the County Attorney were under pressure from higher up, but he refused to make a switch with them.

Unfortunately for him the punitive hand of some secret agency threatened the Kearney officials and they forced him to submit to a sanity test and had him committed to a nearby institution for the mentally deranged.

Schmidt said the doctors tested him for three days and decided he was normal. He asked, "Well, how long does it take to receive your full series of tests?"

"Two weeks," was the doctor's reply.

"I want the full course," Schmidt replied, and he got it!

The description of these trials and tribulations had the Convention audience with him almost from the start, and each triumph over officialdom was punctuated with applause, laughter and cheers.

But officialdom was satisfied. The electrifying story of Schmidt's contact, broadcast nationwide, had been counteracted within twenty-four hours by the story of his commitment to a mental institution. His character and reputation had been publicly damned.

His Dutch stubbornness had been set smouldering, too; only to burst into flame four months later, after he made his second contact. Again it was in Nebraska and this time he went up for a ride.

The normal appearing, English-speaking leader of the spaceship crew put several questions to Schmidt, the answers to which had at least two effects. One was to convince Schmidt of their all-embracing knowledge of earth affairs, and the other to convince others of the reality of Schmidt's experience.

He was asked, What kind of cargo was aboard the Pan American plane that blew up in flight half-way between San Francisco and Honolulu in November, 1957? Schmidt didn't know the answer to this one, hadn't even thought about it. But the question was relayed to the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C. To the crowd at the Convention Schmidt read the reply from Major Keyhoe's research

group. An investigator at the CAA hearing of the tragedy testified that the plane had been carrying a shipment of two different types of radioactive material! How, or why, or if this material had caused the plane to explode or burn was only conjectural. A question like this, conveyed to a solid organization like Keyhoe's NICAP, and answered so dramatically, is just the kind of thing that would help convince the hard-headed that Schmidt's experience was real. What we call "evidential material" in psychic research.

Van Tassel then gave the convention programme a change of pace by calling on Dan Fry. Dan complied with an excellent talk ranging from the historical and philosophical to factual reports and analyses of recent sightings of Flying Saucers. This is the kind of talk which his free-wheeling, technician's mind is so capable of producing. Dan mentioned one fruitless discussion he had with a rocket propulsion scientist whose reason told him that space travel was utterly impossible by any other means.

"You wouldn't believe in a Flying Saucer if it landed in your front yard, would you?" asked Dan.

"No, I wouldn't," replied the scientist. "My reason would tell me that it didn't exist."

Dan pointed out to him that if he didn't check the results of his reasoning by the evidence of his senses he would soon lose touch with reality!

Accompanying Schmidt on his national lecture tour—a project which was predicted for him by his space contact—is the retired Army officer, Major Wayne Aho. The Major served in combat intelligence during World War II, and should have the kind of training some of the leaders in the Flying Saucer movement should possess: cold, calculating intelligence that can sift through a mass of detail, rumour and fact and arrive at logical conclusions.

This kind of reasoning power is certainly needed to counterbalance the flumduddery of the "fanatics," as Van Tassel calls them.

These are the over-eager, misguided souls who either will not or cannot distinguish between their psychological cravings for glory on the one hand, and truly objective psychic phenomena on the other.

If Major Aho is as stable and dedicated as he sounds on the platform, his military logic and organizing purpose may help to penetrate successfully the government fog. He is director of Washington Saucer Intelligence in the nation's capitol. His programme is to urge more and more people to write to more and more Congressmen urging the establishment of a Congressional committee for receiving, analyzing and disbursing Flying Saucer data.

**Civilian Saucer Investigation (N.Z.), a non-profit, voluntary staffed organization, has made a continued research and investigation of "Unidentified Flying Objects and Correlated Happenings" since October, 1952. Membership is invited (£1 per annum). Write for application form and particulars. Regular monthly meetings (every fourth Wednesday in month at 8 p.m. at 323 Queen Street, Auckland, Auckland Sunday School Union Buildings, second floor). Members may join "UFO Book" Library—5/- initial opening fee; 1/- each book borrowed. Over 70 books. Write CSI Librarian, 639 Remuera Road, Auckland, N.Z.**

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**C.S.I. (N.Z.), P.O. BOX 72, ONEHUNGA, S.E.5  
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

"SPACE PROBE"

As I listened to Aho talk I remembered vividly the details of a conversation I'd had two days before in Barstow with a national organizer of the American Federation of Government Employees, fresh from Washington.

"If you want your message heard by a Congressional committee," this experienced union organizer said, "You have to be backed by a large organization. If you represent only a small group your letter will be read at a committee hearing. If you represent a large group, you will be invited to Washington to appear before the committee in person to explain your programme and to answer questions.

"One of the first questions the Congressman asks is, 'How many members?' If you reply, 'Ten Thousand,' he multiplies that quickly in his head by three and a half. Thirty-five thousand votes is a respectable number and he'll give you some time and attention. From surveys and from actual experience Congressmen know that large organizations have their own bulletins and magazines. Any legislator who helps a large organization with its legislative programme will receive favourable mention in its publication; and he can expect to be gratefully remembered at the next election.

"I know this is the way Congressmen think," said the union organizer, "because more than one of them has frankly told me so!"

Here, then, are the cold mathematics of political action at the national level and the Flying Saucer groups might as well face them. Apparently the hush-hush policy on Flying Saucers was decided ten years ago by the National Security Council, and has been carried out by the President and the military ever since. The best way, and the legal way, to change that policy is through our elected representatives.

Politicians speak of a "ground swell of public opinion from the grass roots level." What that means to UFOlogists the country over is the gradual growth of Flying Saucer groups whose will can be brought to bear on the representatives and the Senators from their areas, focussed through such Washington headquarters as Aho's group and Keyhoe's NICAP.

All in all my hat is off to George Van Tassel for staging these annual space conventions up here in the desert, and my admiration goes to the thousands of the faithful who every year endure the austerities of this arid location hour after hour as the speakers tell their stories.

By five p.m. of that Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Crabb and I were dried out to the point of exhaustion and thankfully headed home to the air-conditioned comfort of our Barstow apartment.

## **IF YOU SIGHT AN "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT"**

**Write P.O. Box 72, Onehunga, S.E.5.  
Or phone immediately if possible to CSI Headquarters, 597-041.**

**Mrs. Weitzner, Phone 51-969, day or night.**

## **THE MOST ESSENTIAL DETAILS**

Report accurately as possible; location of witnesses; date and hour of sightings; in which direction was object; its angle above horizon; give full description of object, light, etc.; describe actions of object, etc.; how long observed; weather conditions, wind direction, clouds, moon, etc.; number of witnesses, names or signatures if possible; witnesses' background; was incident previously reported; if so, where to?

CSI's "SPECIAL SIGHTING REPORT FORM" (a detailed questionnaire) is sent to all observers whose experience comes to our notice.

"ASHTAR" FANS PLEASE NOTE . . .

## Les Girls from Venus

"N.Z. Truth," Tuesday, May 20, 1958.

Re "Ashtar," allegedly of Venus, recently mentioned by a correspondent, the name is unknown in the Venusian language, and is simply a copy of Semitic names of the Goddess of Love, "Ishtar," "Ashtareth," "Astarte," "Astar," and "Attar," etc., Assyrian, Babylonian, Arabian, Ethiopian, etc., in origin, and the "Aphrodite" and "Venus" of the Greeks and Romans. So it appears believers in "Ashtar" as "a Venusian" are misled! As stated in your columns some years back, a knowledge of Venusian speech teaches its strong resemblance to the Latin tongue on earth. It was early reported that Signor Marconi received messages in "a language like French," and, if so, this confirmed my own experience of a speech between French, Italian and Spanish, very soft, liquid and musical, not unlike some Maori, in fact, as per telepath. "Lialia" is a girl's name on Venus. So is "Mari-lia." "Marisa" is a third. "Yuthana" is a favourite man's name, and so on, but "Ashtar," no, nothing like it. The Italian affinity shows in "Marisa," but the accent is on the last "a," while "Naia," another female name on Venus, is like Maori, or Greek.

"COSMOLOGIST" (Dannevirke).

### Swedish Government Report

#### SPHERICAL OBJECT HEADING FOR MOON

The Swedish Defence Department in Stockholm has released a report, made by a Swedish army captain, of a round, bright object spiralling up towards the moon.

The sighting was made by the officer at Kortedala, near Teborg, on the west coast on November 24.

"The captain reported he watched the object through his field glasses for 20 minutes," a staff spokesman said. "We are taking this report seriously since it came from a competent observer. All details are being forwarded to the FOA (research institute of Sweden's armed forces).

"The captain described the object as a flattened sphere circling moonwards. Its sides were somewhat elongated and there was a flickering glow as from burning exhaust gases from one side."

### INTERNAL NEWS

CSI membership continues to grow steadily, now numbering some 500 financial members. Representatives are sited in the main and some smaller centres. Administration tasks are becoming a little beyond the Director. Attending to all secretarial, financial, investigatory, meetings, and publication requirements is proving a most exhaustive task. It must all be done outside of normal working hours. Mrs. Weitzner, our capable Librarian, reports that library members are increasing and she is kept busy receiving and posting off books to members sited throughout N.Z. Mr. William Doo attends to the city section of the library. Mr. Ray Thomas has been kept busy presenting, recording and copying tape productions. Ray has some fine equipment which he handles most expertly. Without the grand assistance of Mrs. Weitzner and Mrs. G. Bates at magazine dispatch time, CSI would be in a fix. Many thanks, good ladies.

CSI Director wishes to apologize for delays in answering certain sections of CSI correspondence; every-

"Melbourne Argus," October 12, 1874.

#### "UNKNOWNNS" OVER AUSTRALIA—IN 1874 A METEOR EXTRAORDINARY?

About a quarter past six o'clock on Sunday evening, the inhabitants of Beechworth were treated to a most unusual and beautiful sight. The sun had set, and the few minutes of twilight vouchsafed to us in Victoria were being enjoyed, when suddenly the sky in the north-north-west was brilliantly lighted up by a flash of lightning (or so it seemed at first) which lasted for ten seconds. Then, about sixty degrees above the horizon a brilliant and beautiful meteor made its appearance. Its head was somewhat larger in appearance than the planet Venus, and in colour it was slightly more delicate.

It travelled very slowly, almost perpendicularly, to the earth's angle, being very slightly to the southward. Behind, it left a magnificent silvery band, extending almost from where it started to the horizon. This band was wavy in appearance, and at first looked very much like silvery gossamer floating in the air, wafted by light zephyrs. (SHADES OF ANGELS HAIR—Ed.) It held its position long after the meteor was lost sight of, and was watched for fully a quarter of an hour before it finally disappeared. Further and again it changed its form until it assumed the shape of a gigantic snake. This appearance was wonderfully well defined. The head and ever-protruding tongue of the snake could almost be detected at one time, while the body turned and wriggled in the most natural manner possible.

There was not a cloud observable in the sky at the time, and so the magnificent view of the perfect and wonderful phenomenon was obtained. Gradually it began to disappear to the southward, borne away evidently on a gentle breeze. Altogether a more extraordinary object has never come under our notice. Had it fallen after darkness had fairly set in, the effect must truly have been wonderful, for even in the twilight its brilliancy made a most apparent effect. The phenomenon was also noticed at Chiltern, Wagga Wagga, and other places at considerable distances apart.

(Footnote: The above is an excerpt from the first issue of "UFORUM," a neat, 22-page quarto duplicated publication of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society, 100 Collins St., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Only very solid and well-supported "ufo" data appears in "UFORUM." By pure coincidence the Society's journal has a similar titled U.S. counterpart. CSI understands the Australians intend to change the name of their new journal in subsequent issues.

thing possible is attended to as time will permit. It is not possible for him to write to any person for a general discourse or reiteration of saucer history. He has a very responsible job in the Service (technical) which demands his every and close attention during duty hours. However, he is fully prepared to forego the normal pleasures of life to see this extremely important exploration through to a widely acceptable conclusion.

CSI also wishes to thank "THE ADAMSKI CORRESPONDENCE GROUP" (Box 7, Henderson, Auckland) for their very generous mention of C.S.I. (N.Z.) included in a recent edition of their Bulletins.

We are most grateful for the generous mention given CSI by the Editor of "Junior Digest," a most popular and excellent publication especially published for young people. If you have young children, then we highly recommend you subscribe to "JUNIOR DIGEST," P.O. Box 451, Christchurch. 15/- yearly. The monthly magazine for boys and girls.

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