

# FLYING SAUCERS IN THE SA AIR

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**SOUTH** Australian reports of flying saucers, previously rarities, have suddenly become commonplace.

More than a dozen reports have been made either officially to authorities, or unofficially to newspapers in Adelaide, in the past week or so.

**Why?**

Has this State suddenly become the target for interplanetary reconnaissance patrols now that uranium has been discovered within 30 miles of Adelaide?

Or is the current crop of sightings a sample of the mass hysteria and collective illusion which has swept America since 1947?

In Adelaide, an expert

In Adelaide, an expert committee sponsored by The News and The Mail has been formed to give careful consideration to flying saucer reports.

Eminent scientists and authorities in the fields of flying and meteorology will try to define what the objects were that people have seen.

Readers are invited to send detailed reports of strange phenomena they may see to The News or The Mail for consideration by the committee.

To support the uranium argument there is the fact that the reports have started to snowball here only since January 1, and the Myponga discovery was announced on December 31.

To support the illusion

To support the illusion theory is the circumstance that the reports were apparently triggered off by a series of reports in Melbourne, including that of ANA pilot and veteran flier Captain Doug Barker.

The Adelaide reports this year have included:

● January 8: Mr. C. C. Vonow, Ormonde avenue, Colonel Light Gardens, saw a parachute-shaped object glowing brightly and moving slowly southwards as he and a companion were driving down Waymouth street, about 9 p.m.

● January 8: Messrs. J. J. Ferguson and A. F. Buddle, at Kalangadoo, saw a bright object in the north-east sky about 9.30 p.m.

● January 9: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hornby, of Port road, Hindmarsh, at 10.49 p.m. saw a crescent-shaped object, orange in color, flash from west to east, and 10 minutes later return from east to west across the northern sky.

● January 9: Capt. W. Booth and First Officer Furness, flying a Guinea Airways DC3 from Broken Hill to Adelaide

at 6.25 p.m. reported a strange object in the sky 15 miles north of Morgan. No other aircraft were

15 miles north of Morgan. No other aircraft were listed in that area at the time, but this object appeared to dart back and forth across their line of flight.

● January 9: Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Scherek, of Seaview road, Kirkcaldy, saw a bright, planet-like object, hovering and moving vertically and sideways for 45 minutes from 2.30 a.m. about 15 degrees above the western horizon.

● January 12: Two people, a woman at Moorook and a man at Burra saw an object streaking along north-west over the river districts leaving a trail of white smoke. Time, 10 a.m. and brilliant sunlight.

● January 14: Mr. C. W. Huxtable, fire brigade officer, of Mallala, saw a shiny, silver object at 11.25 a.m. It moved horizontally at first and then shot up at high speed and disappeared.

● January 14: Mr. C. D. Dallow, of Ferryden Park, saw a banana-shaped object brightly lit moving at high speed from the direction of the hills above Magill out to sea at 11.55 p.m.

## Unexplained

A number of these reports were quickly cleared up.

The planet Jupiter, low on the horizon, dispelled doubt about some, and a high-flying Vampire jet fighter leaving a vapor trail accounted for another.

But . . . was there something more than imagination in the unexplained reports.

Do they fall into the one report in 10 class which science, aviation authorities, and qualified observers are unable to explain?

And remember there is a mounting file of reports in the US, Britain, and other countries which are as baffling now as on the day when they were reported.

Those interested in flying saucers appear to fall into two categories, the believers and disbelievers, both actively partisan.

The believers follow the line taken by such authors as George Adamski and Desmond Leslie, whose book "Flying Saucers Have Landed" is a current best-seller in America.

The book is a firsthand account of a supposed landing of a space craft from Venus, and Adamski claims he talked in sign language with an

sign language with an occupant who stepped from the strange craft.

Leslie's contribution to the book is a bitter tirade against Prof. Donald H. Menzel, professor of astrophysics at Harvard University, US, who is a leading member of the disbelievers.

Menzel's book, "Flying Saucers," published last year, sets most of the saucer reports under the following headings:

Optical illusions.

Meteors.

Planets and stars distorted by atmospheric conditions.

Cobwebs blowing free.

Red corpuscles inside the eyes.

Weather balloons.

Air layers causing re-

fraction of car headlights, the sun or moon.

Menzel, of course, cannot explain every report. Some have only sketchy details and there is disparity in different reports of the same objects.

But, he believes, along with men like the Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Jones; US Air Force Chief, Gen. Hoyt Vandenburg; and CSIRO radiophysics chief, Dr. D. F. Martyn, that even those reports which cannot be explained at the moment will eventually

not be explained at the moment will eventually be found to have an explanation that is neither supernatural nor sinister.

In the meantime, there is conjecture that secret weapons being tested are responsible for a percentage of the reports.

This is quite within reason.

Some of the early reports from South Australia are now known to be associated with flight trials of pilotless guided aircraft like the Jindivik at Woomera.

Radar controlled, the Jindivik, or any other pilotless machine, can be subjected to extreme changes of course and flight that would normally be impossible in manned aircraft because of blacking-out effects on the crew.

And if similar secret trials were being conducted today with other, newer, and unusually shaped aircraft, there would be every reason for the fact to be kept secret.

The fact that Woomera is a long way from Melbourne, where a flood of saucer reports has started in recent weeks, has little bearing on the subject when it is realised that the RAAF has a super-test airport at Avalon,

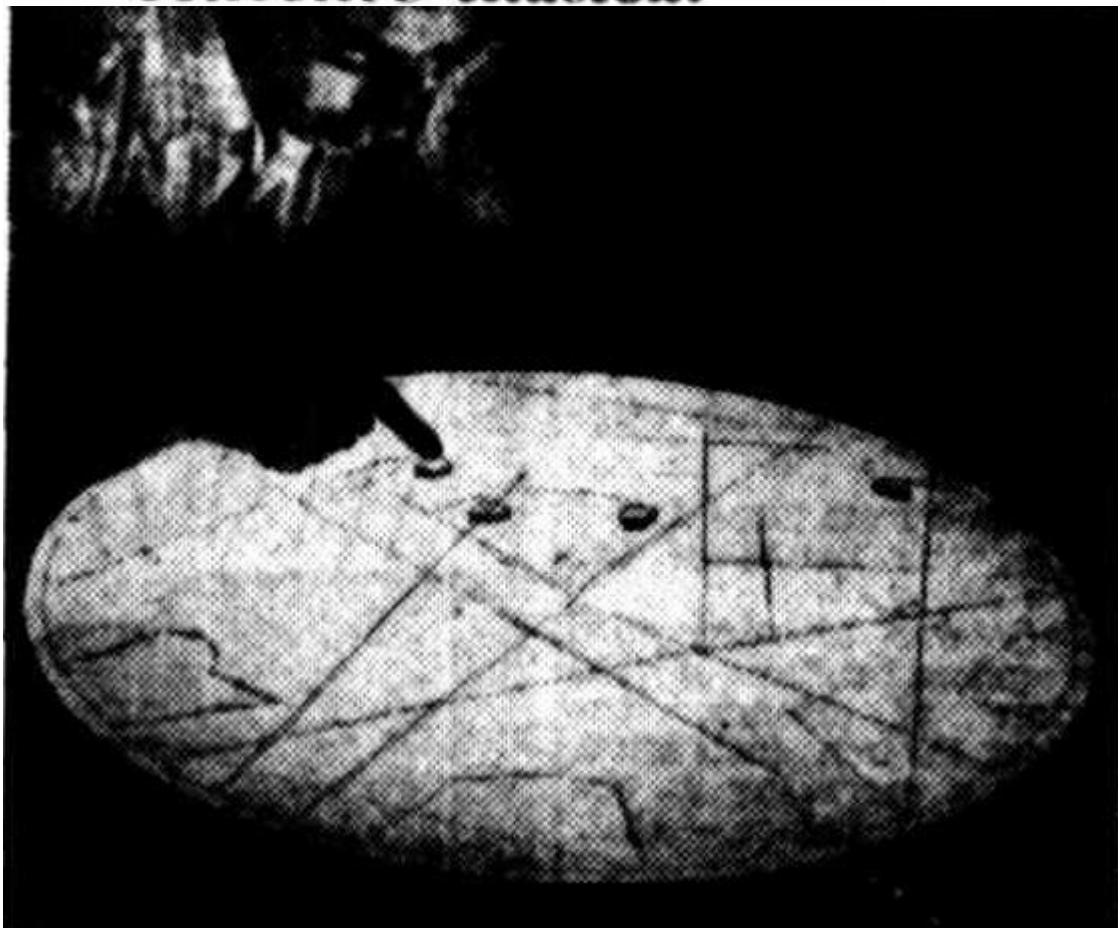
test airport at Avalon, near Geelong.



***Is the discovery of uranium at Myponga linked with the many reports here now of flying saucers?***



**Are South Australians, gazing excitedly at the skies, becoming victims of mass hysteria and collective illusion?**



**A radar screen in operation at the National Airport, Washington. The dark spots indicate objects—identified and unidentified—in the air.**