

# Riverina hosts to space visitors?

Reports of sighting unidentified flying objects ("U.F.O.'s") have been made in many parts of the Riverina recently, near Deniliquin, Tocumwal, Finley and Berrigan.

At Deniliquin the sighting of an unidentified flying object near Stephen's Weir, so incited the interest of a young Deniliquin photographer and a radio engineer that both men resolved to watch for the object in the area in which the sightings had been reported.

## VIGIL REWARDED

The vigil was rewarded by the object making an appearance at about 4 am. on Monday week.

In an interview, Mr Geoff Allen, a photographer of Deniliquin, said he took a number of exposures of the object, and photographs have been developed. Mr Allen has released one photograph for publication to this newspaper which clearly shows a brightly lit object.

Experts of the RAAF and the Bureau of Meteorology are reported to have conducted an inquiry and interviewed witnesses. No comment has been made by the experts other than reference to the star Venus, but several of the photographs taken at Stephen's Weir have not yet been released for publication.

### **WITNESSES ADAMANT**

Witnesses to the incident have been quite adamant that a large ball-like object was seen and smaller objects were seen going to and from the larger "thing." The object remained visible to the persons maintaining a watch near Stephen's Weir until 8 am. on Monday. Without warning and without prior indication, the object vanished.

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ished.

### **"NO MISTAKE"**

Persons who witnessed the appearance of the object have commented "no mistake." "It wasn't a star." Mr Allen said. "The object appeared from behind trees at a height of about 500 feet and 63 degrees east of north. If the object is the planet Venus

then it would appear that the Planet is 63 degrees east of north and not in a normal position.

### **FIRST SIGHTING**

The first sighting of the flying object is reported to have been made by Mr Lindsay Dillon of Calimo, 15 miles west of Deniliquin. Mr Dillon is quoted as having said: "Shortly after 4 am. on Saturday I was completing a night shift and ploughing a paddock on the property of Mr A. E. Hocking of Brassi near Deniliquin. I noticed a light coming over the paddock which at first I thought were the headlights of a car. I then realised the lights were too high as they were

were too high as they were moving above the trees and moving too slowly to be from a plane.

"It then hovered above the truck not far from where I was on the tractor, slowly moved away and then completely disappeared. I was just starting to realise what was going on when the object re-appeared on the other side about 500 yards away.

"Just as Mr Tony Hocking drove through the paddock gate the object drew back and accelerated straight up at a terrific speed and stopped high in the atmosphere, slowly disappearing as morning came. It was so bright it completely illuminated the clouds above us. We could see it moving away for nearly an hour. As it got higher it seemed to stop frequently, shoot a certain distance to left and right at amazing speeds and then continue ascending."

### **TOCUMWAL-FINLEY SIGHTINGS**

The Finley-Tocumwal area has also been apparently subjected to the presence of an object which has not been identified.

Two young men who are holidaying with Mr and Mrs

holidaying with Mr and Mrs A. R. Cooling of Finley reported seeing a bright glowing object in the sky when returning from Cobram on

Sunday week at approximately 11.45.

They are Lewis Grinham, 13, of Coleraine, Victoria and Brian Crichton, 16, of Numurkah.

In an interview, they said they were travelling approximately half way between Tocumwal and Finley when they noticed a bright light appear over their car.

### **HOVERING OBJECT**

At first they thought it was headlights of another car. However, an object hovered or appeared to hover over their car for a few moments and slowly rising, disappeared into the distance towards Finley. They were accompanied by Bill Cooling, 20, and Greg Cooling, 12 who also witnessed the bright light.

### **BRIGHT LIGHT**

They said that they saw the bright light for about five to ten minutes.

After the interview they eagerly read an article in a newspaper which they had

newspaper which they had obviously not read before, which also told of similar occurrences in the area. All the boys agreed that there was no vehicle travelling behind them at the time and they were quite mystified by the object.

The boys were so intrigued by the incident that they had discussed the appearance of the light amongst themselves and were quite confused and bewildered until reports of similar sightings were made available to them.

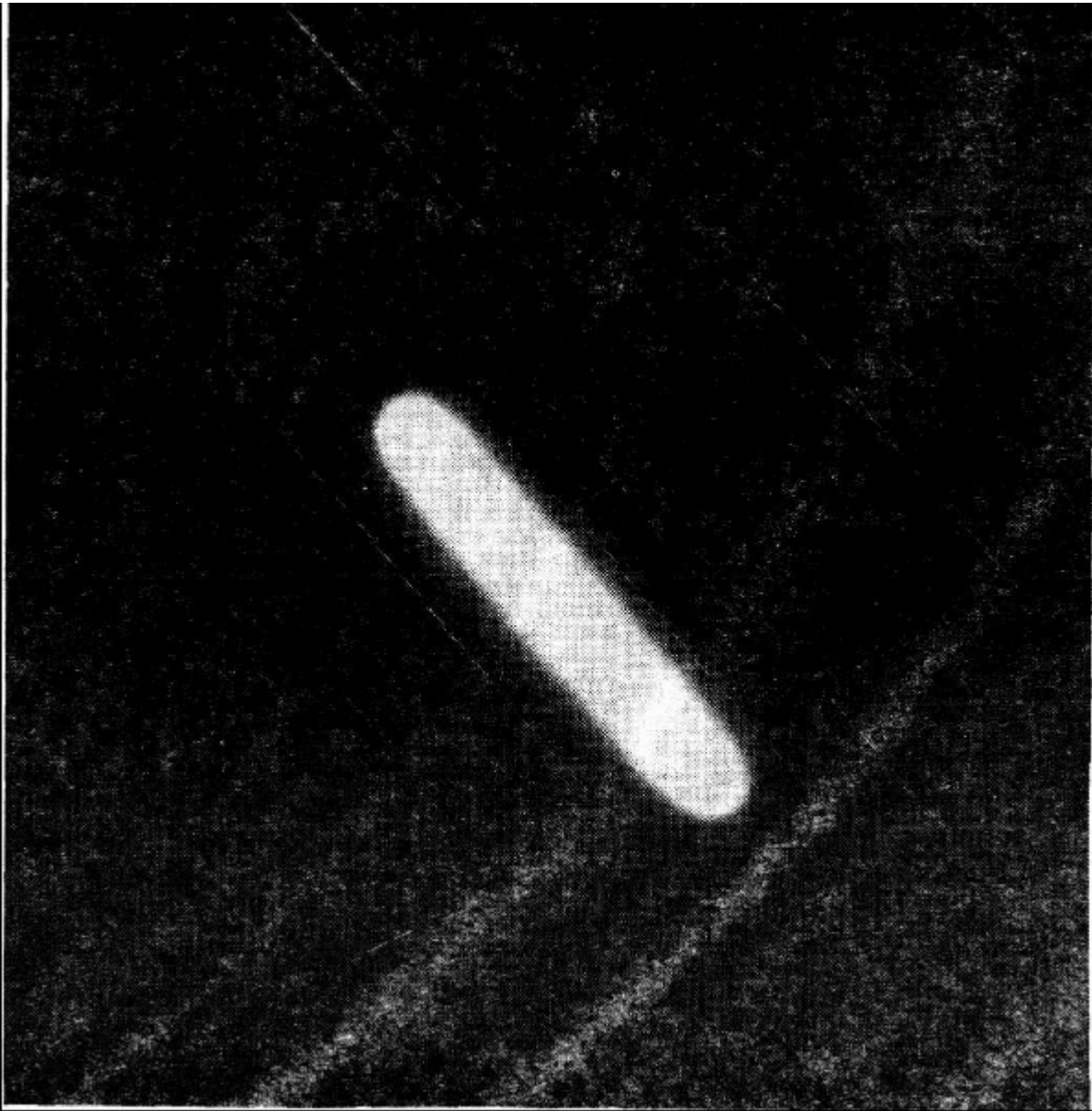
Further inquiries reveal that brilliantly illuminated objects have been seen in the Berrigan and Jerilderie areas as recently as last Saturday week.

Are these objects attributable to natural phenomena? The results of expert inquiry into these incidents will be awaited with interest.

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**THIS photograph was taken by Mr G. Allen, photographer of Deniliquin in the early hours of Monday morning. Mr Allen said the "ball-like object" shown in this picture remained at a distance of what appeared to be 500ft up.**