



CLOSE

By MIKE HOLLIDAY

AN Australian clergyman's story of "close encounter" with eight spaceships is one of the world's most spectacular and detailed UFO reports.

In June, 1959, the Reverend William Gill, from Melbourne, was working at an Anglican mission station at Boianai, 320km east of Port Moresby, New Guinea.

He said he saw eight UFOs and then he and 12 natives saw four "human-like" figures on the outside of one craft, apparently working on it.

He waved and the figures waved back.

Mr Gill kept a detailed log of his sightings and 27 people signed statements saying they had witnessed the events.

A 50-year-old father of nine, he is now chaplain at Camberwell Grammar School, Melbourne.

Mr Gill said today that in the light of his experience he was inclined to believe that missing Melbourne pilot Frederick Valentich did meet with a spaceship.

"I don't believe it would have been from Mars but my own sighting in New Guinea was a metallic object which I could not explain," he said.

"I don't know what has happened to him but he could have met something similar," said Mr Gill.

He said he would rather wait a couple of weeks to see if any further information came to light.

"I am tempted to say 'yes, he did meet a spaceship.'

"But on the other hand the pilot could have been a believer in UFOs and willed himself into putting a false interpretation on to something he could not explain," said Mr Gill.

"Even after what I recorded I am not going to be dogmatic.

"I only recorded what I saw and after examination I decided there was no reasonable explanation."

Mr Gill said when he first saw his "object" he gathered together a group of the mission teachers and nurses and they all watched.

Then he got them to draw what they thought they had seen in the New Guinea sky.

"I tried to make a scientific observation," he said.

The following is taken from the report Mr Gill made as he watched the mysterious object:

- 6.55 — One object on top. Move. Man? Now 3 men — moving, glowing, doing something on deck. Gone.
- 7.00 — Men 1 and 2 again.
- 7.04 — Gone again.
- 7.10 — Men 1, 3, 4, 2 appeared in that order. Thin electric blue spotlight. Men gone, spotlight still there.
- 7.12 — Men 1 and 2 appeared. Blue light.
- 7.20 — Spotlight off, men go. UFO goes through cloud (cloud cover at 2000ft).
- 8.28 — UFO seen by me overhead. Call station people.
- 8.29 — Second seen

Priest says: Pilot could have been taken

over sea — hovering at times.

8.35 — Another over Wadobuna village. Another to the east.

8.50 — Big one stationary and large. Others coming and going through clouds. As they descend through cloud, light reflected like large halo on to cloud. No more than 200ft or less. All UFOs very clear. Satellite?

9.05 — Nos 2, 3 and 4 gone.

9.10 — Mother ship gone, giving red light. No 1 gone into cloud.

9.20 — Mother back.

9.30 — Gone across the sea towards Giwa. White, red, blue. Gone.

9.46 — Overhead UFO re-appears, is hovering.

10.00 — Still there. Stationary.

10.10 — Hovering, gone behind cloud.

10.30 — Very high, hovering in clear patch of sky between clouds.

10.50 — Very overcast. No sign of UFO.

11.04 — Heavy rain.

Mr Gill reported that the flying saucer that had hovered directly over the station had a row of bright windows.

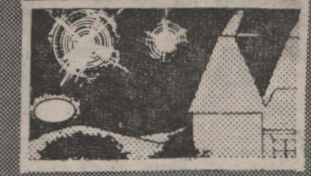
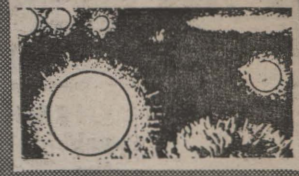
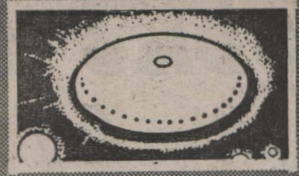
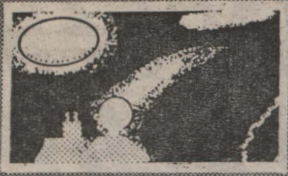
The next night the UFOs came back about the same time, Mr Gill said.

He and his colleagues watched as four "human-like" figures worked on the outside of what appeared to be the mother ship.

"Two figures seemed to be doing something

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ENCOUNTER—WITH 8 UFO'S

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near the centre of the deck," Mr Gill's report said.

"Occasionally bending over and raising their arms as though adjusting or setting up something (not visible).

"One figure seemed to be standing looking down at us (we were a group of about a dozen). I stretched my arm above my head and waved.

"To our surprise the figure did the same.

"Ananias (a colleague) waved both arms over his head. The two outside figures did the same.

"Ananias and I began waving our arms, and all four now seemed to wave back.

"All mission boys made gasps, of either joy or surprise, perhaps both."

Mr Gill's report said he was moving in, sent a boy to get a series of dash-cam photos of the UFO.

At a minute or so after this, the UFO suddenly acknowledged making several backward motions back to us. Waving by us repeated and this was followed by more waving of torch.

The UFO began to become bigger, slowly coming in our direction. It ceased after

perhaps half a minute and came no further.

"After a further two or three minutes, the figures apparently lost interest in us, for they disappeared below deck."

At 10.40 pm, Mr Gill reported: "Terrific explosion just outside the Mission House. Nothing seen. Could have been an electrical atmospheric explosion as whole sky overcast.

"The explosion seemed to be just outside the window. NOT ordinary thunderclap, but a penetrating earsplitting explosion."

Mr Gill's log for the following night is shorter but he says that the UFOs appeared again about 6.45 pm.

At 11 pm, eight flying saucers were strung out across the sky.

At 11.20 pm Mr Gill reported a "sharp metallic and loud bang on Mission House roof as though pieces of metal had been dropped from a great height."

The roof was examined but showed nothing.

Twenty-seven people signed statements saying they had witnessed these events.

Mr Gill's report is regarded as one of the most significant sightings because of his status as a witness.

Many Australian witnesses have reported in-



STILL unexplained . . . this bare patch and neatly scoured circular hole that appeared in September, 1977, in the middle of a lush, remote paddock on a farm at Mount Barker, WA. Farmer Philip Drage, pictured with his son Paul, says the three-metre patch also had four indentations as if an object had rested on it.

idents that defy explanation.

On April 4, 1966, Ronald Sullivan, 38, of Maryborough, Victoria, was driving on Bendigo Street when his head-

lights veered right towards a paddock.

Mr Sullivan knew the road and managed to stop.

"In the paddock was a display of gaseous lights

'Three starships over Randwick'

THE most recent UFO sighting in Sydney was reported just five days ago.

A young Pagewood woman claimed she saw three star-shaped objects moving across the sky from Botany to Randwick.

The woman, who wished to remain anonymous, said the objects were red and moved silently.

"I first saw them at about 7.30 pm — they seemed to be following each other," she said.

"They all moved overhead and seemed to stand still for a while."

The woman said one of the UFOs moved quickly towards Randwick, while the other two "hovered" over Pagewood.

Finally, the two hovering objects moved rapidly towards Randwick and disappeared.

Another Sydney woman phoned The Sun this week to report a "glowing, ball-shaped object" she sighted recently near Gosford.

Mrs N. Frost, of Waitara, said she saw the object twice while driving between Gosford and Sydney.

"The first time it hovered over the road, just in front of our car, and then took off at high speed," Mrs Frost said.

"The second time we saw it, it was in the sky, away from the road just over a paddock."

Mrs Frost said the UFO then moved over the horizon at "very rapid speed."

—PETER CHARLEY

of all known colours," he said.

His car was working perfectly.

"Had I not known the road I would have crashed," said Mr Sullivan.

Three days later motor mechanic Gary Taylor, 19, died when his car

ran off the road.

There was no reason for the accident and indentations found in the paddock still will not sprout grass.

In 1969 Ellis Matthews, a respected citizen of Alberton, South Australia, slackened the spring in his movie

camera by "filming" a light in the sky.

When developed and examined, Mr Matthews came up with a colour movie sequence of a UFO complete with portholes.

The pictures are again considered world-class by UFO researchers.