



DESERT UFO PUZZLE

Police check attack claim

By NEIL McMAHON

A FAMILY'S claim that they encountered a UFO as they crossed the Nullarbor Plain early yesterday is being taken seriously by authorities.

A woman in her 40s and her three adult sons claim an oval-shaped object landed on top of their car, picked it up, shook it, threw it to the ground and showered it with ash before flying away.

Police said there was physical evidence of the UFO attack and at least one independent witness. A truck driver has also claimed to have been followed by the object.

The family involved are considered by police to be reliable witnesses.

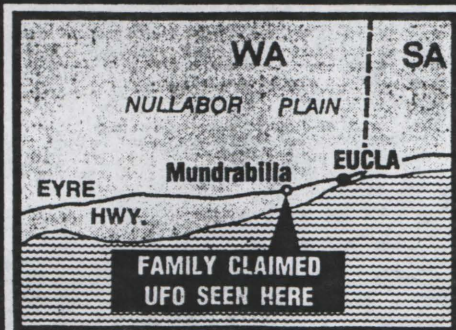
"It looks authentic — Christ knows what's happened," one detective said last night.

The family involved in the incident are expected to travel to Adelaide to be interviewed by scientists at a UFO research centre. Their car will also be examined.

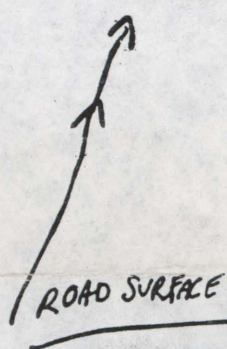
They have drawn a diagram of the UFO, which they say was an orange colored, egg-shaped object.

Police Sgt Jim Furnell, of Ceduna, 500 km east of the SA-WA border, told The Sun last night the incident happened about 5.30 am yesterday (8.30 am Melbourne time). The family was driving from Perth to Melbourne along the Eyre Highway in its Ford Telstar.

Sgt Furnell said they were near Mundrabilla, in



OBJECT
WHITE LIGHT
with shape
in centre
a yellow
light.
About 3 feet
wide. No
estimation
of length



DRAWING BY
KNOWLES
FAMILY
GIVEN TO
POLICE

● A sketch of the UFO drawn by the Knowles family soon after the incident in which they claim they saw an egg-shaped object on the Nullarbor Plain.

south-east WA, when the drama started.

"They saw a light object following a truck going west along the highway, then it turned around and caught up with the Telstar," he said.

"It landed on the roof, picked the car up, shook it violently, pressed it

back on to the road and blew a tyre.

"It showered it with ash on the roof and the interior through the open windows. The occupants escaped to hide in the scrub. They watched the object hover around in mid-air for some time then fly off."

Sgt Furnell said the car radio was cut out while the object was hovering.

"It was just remaining as a buzzing sound while the object was in the vicinity," he said.

Sgt Fred Longley, also of Ceduna, last night was pondering how to title his official report. He thought

he might just have to settle for "incident on the Nullarbor Highway".

Sgt Longley said he had taken other UFO reports but none like the one given to him yesterday by the Knowles family.

He said he was normally sceptical, but was keeping an open mind.

Sgt Longley said Mrs Knowles and her sons were obviously distressed when they walked into his police station at lunchtime yesterday.

"These people have definitely seen something," he said.

"Just what — well I don't know.

"They were in a terrible state, even though it was five hours after the incident... very upset.

"You could say white-faced, shaking, obviously distressed.

"The woman was just thankful to be alive.

"These people were in a 1000 per cent worse state than other people who've made UFO reports to me.

"When they came in I asked them what I could do for them and they sort of said you're not going to believe this but we've seen something out on the highway.

"Something happened out there. Their car, even after being driven all that way still had black ash, or dust, over it. Even on the inside.

"Where did that come from?

"There's no soil like that out there, only sand.

"Everyone else here in the station is pretty sceptical, but I'm keeping an open mind."

The Ceduna policemen said the truck driver who was originally followed by the object had driven on to Perth and reported the incident to the media, who alerted police.

The family repaired the blown tyre and fled terrified to the nearest town, leaving the flat tyre and jack on the roadside.

They then met a truck driver who told police the family were genuinely horrified by the attack.

The truck driver went to the scene and found evidence supporting their claims.

Police confirmed the car had damage consistent with the alleged incident — there were marks on the road and ash was found scattered around the area.

The car will be examined by forensic scientists in Adelaide along with samples of the ash.

Sgt Furnell said the evidence suggested the family was being truthful.

The owner of the Mundrabilla Motor Hotel, Mrs Shirley Landon, said last night she had spoken to two truck drivers who were the first people to see the Knowles family after the incident.

She said they drivers were outside her hotel when she opened at 5 am.

"I know them only as Porky and Graham," she said.

"They said that this family had just driven off a few minutes earlier after they had failed to convince the woman driver to stop with them and have coffee.

"Porky told me that when the car drew in, the woman, aged in her late 40s or early 50s, was crying almost uncontrollably and the three teenagers all seemed in a state of shock. He said one boy could hardly speak."

Mr Ray Brook of the UFO research centre in Adelaide is planning to interview the family when they arrive in Adelaide today.

Mr Brook said last night he had heard an interview with one family member and believed they had had an authentic experience.

AUSTRALIAN, Melbourne, Australia - Jan. 21, 1988 CR: P. P. Norman

The First Fleet lands from Mars

By PETER TERRY

AUSTRALIA was first settled by little black men; then the little white men came along; and now it looks like the little green men are here.

If what is happening in the centre of the Nullarbor Plain is not just another crazy UFO story, 1988 is about to go down as the year the First Fleet arrived from Mars.

It all began yesterday morning at 5.30, when the Knowles family were driving eastward along the Eyre Highway for a holiday in Victoria.

Suddenly out of the pre-dawn darkness roared a strange unearthly noise that shattered their serenity.

A large square object descended from the sky, clamped itself on to the roof of their car, and hoisted them all into the air.

As Mrs Kay Knowles told police later, she and her three teenage sons were terrified. The noise got louder and all four began to think their time was up.

Suddenly, The Thing let go. The car crashed to the ground, bursting a tyre as it hit.

All four jumped out and scrambled into the roadside bushes to hide until The Thing had left.

"They certainly had an encounter with something," said Sergeant Fred Longley, who interviewed the family at Ceduna Police Station.

"It's got us completely baffled. All they saw was an object about three foot square which came down on top of their car.

"We've examined the vehicle and there are definitely dent marks in the roof. The wheels have been damaged too."

The story has been backed up by a truck driver who was driving in front of the Knowles' car.

He did not see the incident, but he did see The Thing.

At first he thought it was the headlights of an oncoming vehicle. But then the lights moved upwards and swooped over his cabin.

In fact weird lights have been reported from all over this section of the Nullarbor.

At Eukia, at Christmas, the local roadhouse is said to have been buzzed by the strange Thing.

It was night time and the staff thought it might have been a lost aircraft.

In fact, they went so far as to switch on the landing lights at the nearby airstrip just in case the pilot wanted to come down.

Apparently something did. It swooped low over the airfield, and then banked sharply and sped off to the west.

Perhaps it was men from Mars.

Or perhaps it was someone who just wanted to attract the tourists.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England
Nov. 23, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO sightings dismissed as reports flood in

Reports of sightings of alleged UFOs in the countryside near Wolverhampton have been flooding in.

But today an airport manager claimed that a training exercise was responsible for the sightings last week.

Mr Danny Wardrobe, manager of Halfpenny Green airport, Bobbington, described claims that the strange aircraft were UFOs as "rubbish".

"We do our night training on Thursdays. It must have been our planes. There were certainly no other aircraft in the area," he said.

Witnesses said that they

saw two or three V-shaped craft flying totally silently in tight formation near Wombourne.

Mrs Pat Cropper, of Finchfield, said she saw the craft at Warstones Road, Penn. They looked like two boomerangs hovering behind each other.

"It could not have been aircraft," she said.

Mrs Marian Watson, aged 32, of Enville Road, Kinver, said: "We thought it must be an secret Ministry of Defence plane."

"One flew really low, but there was no noise at all. They were triangular shaped. One was shining a bright light or to the earth."

"We thought that something really weird was happening."

BURTON MAIL, Staffordshire, England
Nov. 9, 1987 CR: T. Good

Was it a UFO?

Regarding recent reports of UFO's in the Mail, I mentioned my sighting to various friends, they convinced me it was a balloon as it was Statutes Fair (October 5).

I am convinced now it was a UFO. After reading

DAILY MIRROR,
London, England
Jan. 18, 1988
CR: T. Good

□ HOW strange to read in the Mirror about the Space experiences of others only a few days after my own. Unable to sleep, I peered from my window and saw a sphere of green light zoom over at roof-top height. It was the size of a football, and heading South-West. — Doris White, Milton Keynes

SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Jan. 21, 1988 CR: P. P. Norman