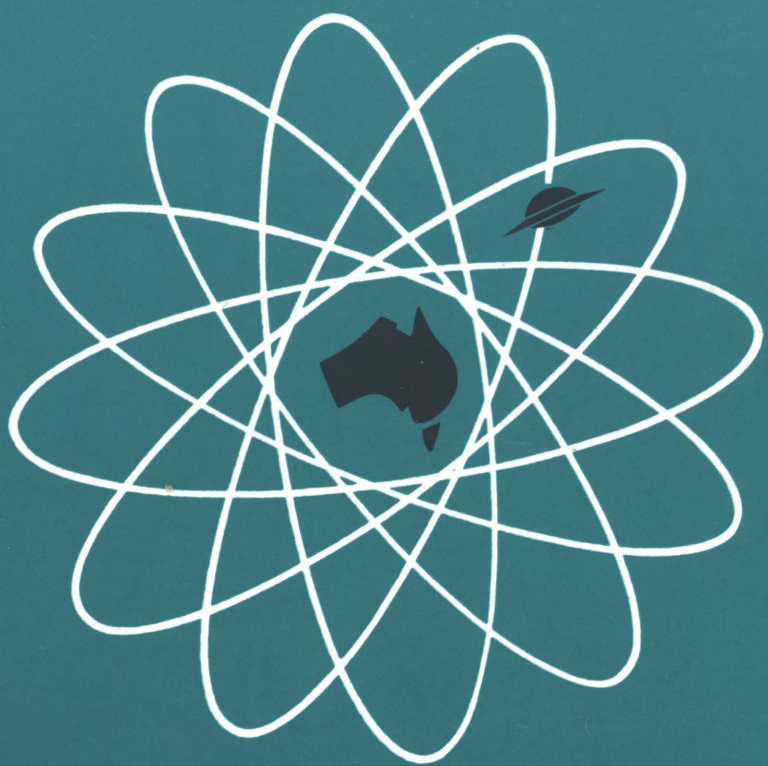


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editorial

THE PURPOSE OF UFORAN

The UFO Research Australia Newsletter strives to present an objective combination of material giving all available evidence, and theories, for and against the existence of UFOs. Accordingly, information appearing in this magazine may come from varied sources - for example, from pure science or pure speculation or a combination of both. Nonetheless, only objective material will appear in UFORAN. We avoid the extremes of Erich von Daniken and Philip Klass, both of whom manipulate science to support their biased viewpoints. In the case of von Daniken, there is an extreme desire to establish the existence of outer space visitors and, in the case of Klass, an extreme insistence on ridiculing any UFO material regardless of whether debunking is warranted or not.

The extreme pro and con sides of the ufological argument are popular with the media. This media popularity, of course, makes the lot of the genuine researcher that much harder for the intangibility of the UFO phenomenon, coupled either with ridicule or the ridiculous, sorely taxes the patience and forbearance of these researchers. Nonetheless, the Klasses and von Danikens do, through their sheer extremity, encourage the formation of middle ground populated by individuals who objectively evaluate their material. It is the work of these people that appears in UFORAN.

As stated in a previous issue, we aim to present UFO activity on a global scale, which is the scale upon which it occurs. Therefore, the pages of UFORAN are open to all nationalities - to any individual or organisation seeking to increase our knowledge of the subject through methodical research or scientifically based speculation.

BOYUP BROOK REVISITED

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

A retrospective investigation has been conducted of the October 1967, Boyup Brook, West Australian "car stop" event. Original source material is presented and possible causes discussed.

Some UFO researchers maintain that only reports involving two or more witnesses should be examined because a solitary person is too prone to misperception. There have, of course, been a great number of single witness events recorded over the years. Quite a few of these tantalise the senses of even the most jaded researcher. One such case is the October 1967, Boyup Brook report.

Due to the nature of this report, the details of which will be reviewed shortly, I decided to re-examine the sighting to see if one could, in fact, class this particular event as a case of misperception, hoax, or a true close encounter with the UFO phenomena.

Firstly, I sought to ascertain the facts surrounding the event. An article appeared in the AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (AFSR), umber 8 (1), which presented details of the case. These details had been condensed from a tape recorded interview with the witness, there called Mr Harris (a pseudonym which I will continue to use). However, I decided to see if I could track down some original source material to work with.

The AFSR article mentioned that the interview with Mr Harris, from which the article was drawn, was conducted by a Dr Paul Zeck - a Perth psychiatrist. With the help of the medical register, held by the Commonwealth Department of Health, I located Dr Zeck. The psychiatrist was most helpful and provided a 23 page copy of his transcripted interview, together with a copy sketch of the scene, a letter to the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) covering his report to them, plus some thoughts on the case in general (2). I record my sincere thanks to Dr Zeck.

The following details are extracted from the transcript of the tape recorded interview which was held on December 2, 1967, in Dr Zeck's Perth rooms, in the presence of Mr Harris's own GP.

The witness, a resident of Perth, was a married man, with three children, aged 4, 7 and 10 years. He was a wool classer by profession, working as a shearing contractor at the time.

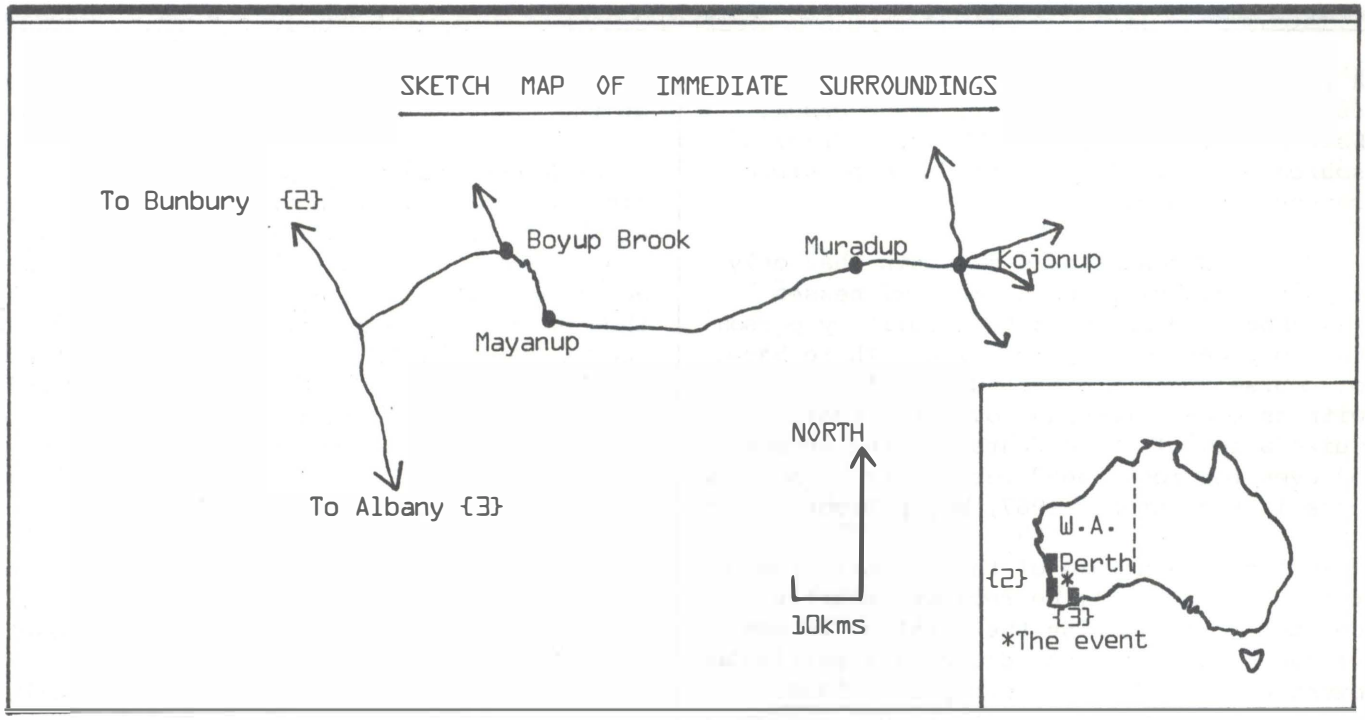
Mr Harris had about 60 men working for him and finished paying off one team of men at the CSIRO research farm, Glen Lossie, near Kojonup at about 8.30 p.m. local time. He stopped in at Kojonup to have two drinks then headed roughly westwards towards Mayanup, some 66km distant. From Mayanup he intended to travel the 15km north to Boyup Brook to visit another team of men. He travelled these roads quite frequently - the country is undulating, with fairly tall (18 - 21m) trees.

The incident, according to Mr Harris, occurred some 16 - 19km before Boyup Brook, which places it to the east of, but close to, Mayanup. The time is estimated simply as "after nine". Weatherwise, it was a dark, starlit, night.

He was driving alone at a speed of about 100 - 107km/h when all of a sudden: "My machine just stopped dead and all electrical systems, motor, radio, everything, went dead. I had no feeling of deceleration at all...the car just instantaneously came to a stop...I didn't feel any - no feeling of deceleration, no thrust or anything, I was just like I, eh, stopped".

Mr Harris felt the car had stopped. Then an object was there, and a hollow "tube of light", "clear" in colour, descended out and down onto him. He was able to look up the tube as "...there was no glare or anything inside this tube", although it was bright and glarey on the outside. Its size was estimated as about 60 - 90cm in diameter. Mr Harris stated that he "...had a feeling that I was being observed from this, through this tube...". He could not see anything up the tube, felt no fear, didn't think of anything, just stared up the tube. It did not hurt his eyes at all. After about five minutes "...the tube of light closed off...like you switch a torch off".

The object itself was described as at least 9m in diameter, about 30cm off the ground, and the "...tube came out of it on about a forty five degree angle as it came down on the windscreen of my vehicle...it sort of focused right on me...". Shapewise, the object was oval like a football. "I could only see the under part of it...it was



all glowing itself, it was an irridescent sort of a light-bluish coloured light, like the colour of lightning, that was the colour of it and sort of all glowing out this (word missed) and this tube came out of the bottom of it..."

In describing the tube, Mr Harris said that it came right onto him, in fact, he thought the inside of his vehicle was lit up, but wasn't sure. He didn't notice if the surrounding coutryside was lit up or not.

When asked: "Did you feel you had to look up"? he replied, "yeh". Finally, when the tube "switched off", the object "took off at a terrific speed. I couldn't judge the speed, but it vanished out of sight within seconds..." It departed to the west with a slight darkening of its colour as it did so.

"The moment it left, my machine was doing exactly the same speed that it was doing before it stopped and I had no feeling of acceleration at all. It was just like gravity had been stopped". There was no difficulty controlling the car. During the event he had not tried to move but simply sat holding the steering wheel all the time.

Mr Harris noted that there "...was no noise whatsoever and, incidentally, while this was on - whilst it was there, everything around the place was dead quiet. There wasn't a sound of any sort".

After the object had left he stopped the car, got out, and had a look around. Feeling that he should report it to the authorities he drove onto Boyup Brook and talked to the local constable. Mr Harris wished to remain anonymous, not wanting publicity for fear of being laughed at.

Afterwards, when he got to Boyup Brook, he noticed his Omega chronometer watch was five minutes slow, although it did not usually lose time.

A week later, he went back to the scene, not having told anybody that it was he who had seen the object. (By this time an article had appeared in the Perth paper). Stopping at the Kojonup Golden Fleece garage, he asked a man and woman there what they thought "...of this fellow that seen this object in the sky the other night"? The woman told him that her son had seen "that ship that the fellow seen in the paper", and that two other farmers around Muradup, one named Bock, had also seen the object. At another time Mr Harris mentioned the event to some men working to him - O'Halloran and Lyons said they saw an object in the sky the same night but they reckoned it was a satellite.

Questioned about his health, Mr Harris

replied: "I didn't have a blackout". Asked if he had ever had any fits, faints, blackouts or concussion, he replied no. The witness did mention though, that he'd "...had terrific headaches in the last couple of weeks". Mr Harris's GP interrupted the questioning at this point and said he felt the headaches were "...probably just a red herring". This opinion was based on medical examination of the witness.

The GP had treated Mr Harris for 3½ years but had never treated him for a psychiatric disorder. There was no family history of any nervous complaints. Mr Harris had only read odd pieces in the paper on the subject of UFOs and said, "I wouldn't believe this unless I saw it myself".

Such then, are the facts as outlined in Dr Zeck's interview with Mr Harris. The date of the event as shown in the AFSR is October 13, 1967. However, the transcript arrives at a date of October 30, 1967. I searched the WEST AUSTRALIAN (newspaper) for the months of October and November and found a short version of the story on page 7 of the November 1, 1967, edition, quoting the date as October 30, 1967. The AFSR had the incorrect date.

Dr Zeck's report to the VUFORS, dated January 2, 1968, indicated that Mr Harris was indeed a creditable witness. Dr Zeck also pursued the investigation by contacting Mr Bock, Mr O'Halloran and the Golden Fleece service station owner. Mr O'Halloran saw a satellite in Dr Zeck's opinion, and the station owner and Mr Bock denied seeing anything. One other point which came out was that all three quoted Mr Harris as the person who saw the object, although Mr Harris said he had not told them of his encounter. Thus we are back to the facts as given by one person - Mr Harris.

AN ANALYSIS

What happened on that starlit evening in Western Australia?

Dr Zeck considered four explanations which might be appropriate:

1. A hoax.

2. Dropping asleep and dreaming.

3. Temporal lobe epilepsy.

4. A genuine encounter.

In a letter to me, after I revealed my interest in imagery, Dr Zeck reasoned that the "...whole experience could have been hallucinatory - hypnagogic if you like - although I would tend to think of it as a brief dream. Such experiences are usually, but certainly not invariably, recognised for what they are immediately. Temporal lobe epilepsy hallucinations may be less recognisable to the sufferer but still tend to have a quality of unreality about them".

My own thoughts about these four explanations are as follows:

(1) Possibility of a hoax:

The event was reported anonymously to the police, then appeared in the WEST AUSTRALIAN of November 1, 1967. Mr Harris was a family man, with job commitments in the area of the event, and would have had a lot to lose by perpetrating a hoax. This possibility seems the least likely of the four.

Following a review of the October and November issues of the WEST AUSTRALIAN and the SUNDAY TIMES (Perth), the only local stimulus, presenting data for a subsequent hoax, was a story which appeared in the October 16, 1967, issue of the WEST AUSTRALIAN. This article headed "Many Reports of 'Saucers'", comments that a Canadian woman reported: "A dazzling light stabbed out of the night sky as she drove home on Wednesday. Then her car's engine and electrical system cut out while a dark oval shape silently circled..."

(2) A dream:

Did Mr Harris fall asleep and dream the event? The sudden appearance of the object, no feeling of deceleration, object just "appearing" in his field of view, non glarey tube of light, feeling of being observed, no feeling of fear, staring up tube compulsively, no feeling of acceleration, unusual absence of normal noise, are all suggestive of an altered state of consciousness (3). However, there is a physical piece of evidence in the apparent loss of five minutes registered by the witness's watch.

(3) Temporal lobe epilepsy:

Did Mr Harris experience an hallucination? Temporal lobe epilepsy is one form of epilepsy which involves a portion of the brain concerned with memory and the senses of smell and hearing. The auras of attacks may be hallucinations of sight, smell, or sound. Objects may seem abnormally large, or small, and the surroundings can appear to be unreal to the percipient. Although appearing dazed, the individual may seem to be in full possession of his faculties but unaware of what is happening. Following an attack, an individual may continue in an apparently normal but automatic manner, e.g. driving a vehicle (4).

There appears to be no medical history of fits, faints, or blackouts to suggest this as a valid explanation of Mr Harris's case. However, it should be mentioned that the cause, or precipitating factor, resulting in epilepsy in some cases are, as yet, just not know by medical science.

(4) An encounter with the UFO phenomena:

Given that the above three, and indeed any other conventional explanation fails, we fall back to the possibility of a genuine encounter with a UFO. If the event does not have a psychological or mundane origin then the facts, as described, need something along the lines of advanced physics to explain them.

With these comments in mind the reader is left to make up their own judgement.

REFERENCES:

(1) AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW No.8, undated. Published by the Victorian UFO Research Society, PO Box 43, Morabbin, Victoria 3189, Australia.

(2) Personal communications to the author dated 9/5/82 & 12/6/82.

(3) For my thoughts on the possibility of imagery in close encounters, see inter alia UFOs THE IMAGE HYPOTHESIS, Reed Sydney, 1981.

(4) UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY, Burden & Schurr, Crosby Lockwood Staples, London 1976.

NOTE:

The author welcomes comment on this article.

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UFO DISPLAY

The world's largest UFO display opened on August 18, 1983, on Level 3 of Sydney Tower - Centrepoint Building. Now two major attractions can be found at the one location, that is the display "UFOs a Worldwide Mystery" and the Sydney Tower Observation Deck on Level 4.

"UFOs a Worldwide Mystery presents an incredible array of photographs, video, audio and mind probing data from Switzerland, France, U.S.A., New Guinea, Austria, Argentina, Japan, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, Great Britain and Australia. Close encounters of the first, second and third kind, definitions, explanations of some phenomena and predictions of the future - the unexplained mysteries of space and UFOs". {Reprinted from promotional leaflet}.

The display has special features, e.g. UFO photographs, alien replicas, eyewitness recordings, 100 photographs of documented case studies. Air Force, Military and radar reports. Special segment on Australian sightings. Mini theatre presenting the movie "Powers of Ten" and video presentations of sightings in Australia and the U.S.A. Also screening is the film "UFOs are Real".

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies is promoted in this display and special thanks go to Bill Chalker and Keith Basterfield for their contributions. Other display data comes from over 10,000 case histories of Project Blue Book - the U.S. Air Force's official study of UFOs, and from the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation {APRO}.

TASMANIAN LANDINGS OF 1969

BY KEITH ROBERTS (TUFOIC)

Reports of UFO landings in the early years of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC) were practically non-existant. Therefore, six low level cases in the year 1969 were something of a turning point on the local scene. Previously, only a couple of low level cases had been recorded. Most of the following sightings came to light well after the event - it was not the practice to report such cases in those days (maybe it still isn't). Doubtless, there are many unreported sightings that would quicken the pulse of the UFO investigator.

CASE 1: Southport Lagoon, March 1969.

(Investigation: Tattersall, Roberts).

Southport Lagoon is 72km south west of Hobart and 6km south of the small town of Southport. The lagoon is saltwater fed and has an entrance to the sea on its eastern face. There is a track to the lagoon which is relatively isolated.

During a weekend in March, at 3 p.m., our main witness and five other friends were on a fishing trip to the lagoon. They were on the lagoon's north eastern shore when something reflecting the sun on the opposite, south western, shore, 2km distant, caught their eye. There seemed to be a round silver object sitting on the beach. It had an aluminium type of appearance.

The witnesses attempted to wade closer to the opposite shore but, because of deep water, this attempt halted when they were over a kilometre away from the ball-like UFO.

As it got darker, the group noted that the object assumed an orange-red glow which remained constant, with an even intensity. The UFO remained stationary on the opposite shore until near midnight, at which time it took off into a dark clear sky.

The main witness thought there was a slight swish as the object took off. It had the same appearance in the air, above the bay, as it had on the ground except that the bay was lit up with an orange white light which seemed to come from the underpart of the object which, as it moved along, had an apparent tail of light. It rose at an extreme rate, to an estimated 1600/1700m, and levelled off and went away to the south, south west, where it was finally obscured by the hills.

Coincidentally, two years later, on April 4, 1971, two fishermen, at the same lagoon, were followed by a yellow cigar shape with a glow.

CASE 2: Kelvedon, May 7, 1969.

(Investigation: Dunbabin, Bennetto).

The Examiner of May 10, 1969, reported that two boys had spotted a UFO near Swansea on Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. The boys, Moore and Cotton, had spotted an oval object near ground level on a slope just above the shoreline. Estimates of about 10 to 15m were given for its width during later investigations. The UFO glowed an orange colour and had red lights below and holes with white lights near its edge.

The boys witnessed the object for a brief minute and left in a hurry. They went back to their boat and from here they saw the object, now green in colour, move rapidly over the sea and away to the north.

It is not known if any check was done for traces. Sighting details were obtained by the Tas Flying Saucer Observers Association (now defunct) and for TUFOIC some years later.

CASE 3: Glenorchy, May 22, 1969.

(Investigation: Bantick, Bigwood, Dunbabin).

"Saw UFO take off he says" - so read the Mercury article of May 25, 1969, referring to a claim by Mr G. Longey that he had seen a UFO about 11.30 p.m., through a louvered window, at the rear of his house.

The elliptically shaped object, with brilliantly lit areas in the top section, was seen for a few seconds as it took off from his back lawn. Mr Longey notified the Police and RAAF. He said it was difficult to get anyone to believe him, but he knew what he saw. On the back lawn Mr Longey found an elliptically shaped ring of scorched grass. The limbs of a small tree at the edge of the burn were broken. The witness estimates the object was larger than the ring found on his back lawn.

TUFOIC, and the now defunct Tas Flying Saucer Observers Association, investigated the case. Apart from varying measurements

for the ring's outer edge of 5 to 6 inches. Its diameter, measured by TUFOIC, was 18 x 12 feet, and TFSOA measured 21 x 10 feet. A test for readioactivity was conducted and proved negative.

It was suggested someone had played a prank on the witness or that the whole thing was a hoax. However, no one could satisfactorily explain how the scorched ring had appeared that evening. Mr Longey certainly gained nothing from the publicity apart from being ribbed by his workmates. He was still shaken by the event when investigators called on him two days later.

At the time, no one was aware that similar events had occurred in the same time period. It is only with the passage of time that Mr Longey's UFO can be seen in perspective as just one of many similar events that have occurred over the years.

CASE 4: Mt Lloyd, May 23, 1969.

(Investigation: Roberts).

While investigating a sighting some years after the Glenorchy landing, an event came to light which happened the day following the Glenorchy incident. This sighting, involving a round red light observed by a family, took place at Mt Lloyd.

At about 7.30 p.m. on the evening of May 23, a light was observed over a road near the witnesses' home. The family were outside removing a tree that had fallen across the nearby road. As they approached, the red light drifted away and gained about 10m in elevation. The phenomena moved across the paddocks and bush and the family took no more notice until they returned some time later and saw that the light, which had a street light appearance, had returned and was stationed just above the road again. It was stationary and, after watching the light for a while, the witnesses went back inside and did not bother looking again.

CASE 5: Clentral Plateau, Winter time.

(Investigation: Roberts).

A lone motorist, heading south on a highland road one frosty evening, noticed a bright glow some 400m to the west. At first he thought a car had run off the road, into the button grass. However, he was soon able to view the source of the light, which appeared to be a large dome shaped object, sitting on the ground.

The witness pulled up and saw that the object, which was stationary, was emmitting a bright orange glow which illuminated the surrounding bush. The object then rose slowly and emmitted this glow from beneath itself. It gradually gained elevation and receded into the distance. The sighting lasted between 3 and 4 minutes.

CASE 6: Paddy Island, about Oct. 28.

(Investigation: Roberts - TUFOB).

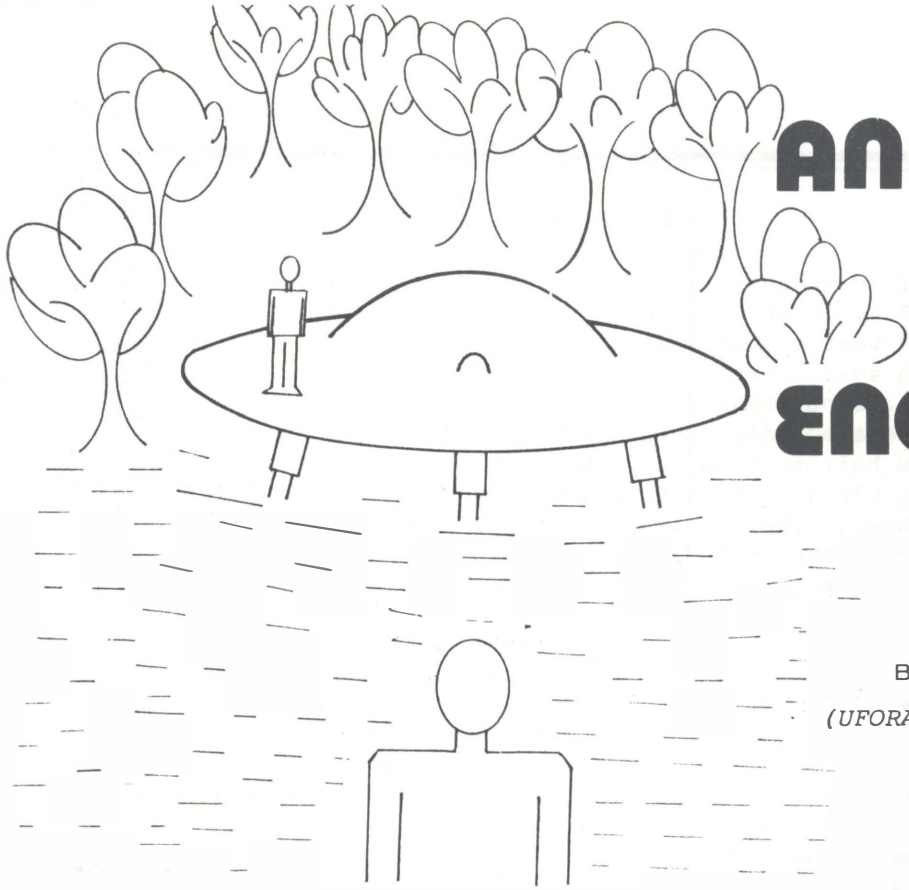
This sighting involved two scallop boats, off Paddy Island, nearly 3km from the coast between Scamander and St Helens. The men on one of the boats had noticed a bright light in the sky and when they again looked about 45 minutes later they saw an object to the north east, about a kilometre away and a bit over 100m up.

The well defined object was red orange in colour and disc-like with a dome or rounded area on top. There were two dim orange squares on the body of the object, and a bright orange glow coming from below at the outer edges. The UFO had approached slowly and taken up a stationary position. The witnesses called to the men on the second scallop boat and all watched the object whose light reflected onto the sea until about 4.50 a.m. Then the object rose up, changed to a purple colour, and disappeared to the north west at terrific speed.

Sighting recorded on TUFOB newspaper file. Investigated by TUFOIC some months later.

AMERICAN ASTRONAUT IN AUSTRALIA: Thanks to Jane Brooks, and other space enthusiasts, we were fortunate enough to meet with Astronaut Russell "Rusty" Schweickart on September 20, 1983. Rusty showed slides and later answered our questions at length. To use Jane Brooks' words, "Rusty was everything I expected an Astronaut to be - he lived up to all my expectations". I second that, I found him a deeply thoughtful and enlightened speaker blessed with both warmth and charm.

Ed.



AN ITALIAN CLOSE ENCOUNTER

BY MASSIMO GRECO

(UFORAN Correspondent - Italy)

INTRODUCTION

The encounter ocurred on September 18, 1978, at about 15.30 hrs, in the locality of Melaria, Porto Nogaro. This village is a hamlet of S. Giorgio di Nogaro (4321 inhabitants) which is 30 km from Udine and 12 km from the Adriatic coast.

The witness is Giorgio Filiputti, born in 1931, a railway man by profession who is married with two children. Mr Filiputti's hobbies are hunting and fishing.

During the afternoon of September 18, Mr Filiputti was fishing in the Corno river, 2.5 km from the sea, on a pleasant, very clear, day. Suddenly, the quiet of this setting was interrupted by a strange "buzzing" - a sound that the witness compared to the noise of a helicopter or something that "mowed" the air. Initially, Mr Filiputti thought the sound was produced by the equipment of a nearby steelworks, or other machinery near him. However, movement of the air behind the witness added to the buzzing and created rippled on the river's surface and disturbed nearby vegetation. Besides the buzzing sound Mr Filiputti heard no other noise except the distant barking of a dog.

After some minutes, the percipient realised the noise was created by an unfamiliar machine. It was impossible to continue fishing because of the strong wind so Mr Filiputti decided to go up the river bank and search for whatever was creating the disturbance.

THE INTERVIEW

FILLIPUTTI: I had just arrived on the embankment when I was astonished to see, 25m from my person, an unusual object posed on a plateau of mud. It was similar to an egg, or something discoidal. It was large, 4 to 5m, with a dome and three "landing legs", 1.5m in height, which seemed to be composed of two cylinders, the upper with a larger diameter than the lower. In short, the landing legs were two tubes that slid one inside the other, like some types of telescopes. From the ground to the upper part of the dome measured 3 or 4m. The object seemed to be built of a yellowish metal that reflected the sunlight, it was the same on the landing legs but a little darker - but maybe I had this impression because they weren't exposed to the sunlight...

Almost immediately, I noted, coming from behind the dome, a person who was walking on the "saucer" borders.

INVESTIGATOR: Could you describe its

appearance?

FILIPUTTI: You had to think of an inhabitant of certain Asiatic Countries. That person was about 1.30m high and wore a one-piece suit, similar to a diving suit, very close-fitting and a silver-like colour that reflected sunlight and left uncovered only the forefront of the head, from hair to chin. His footwear was "smokey-black" coloured, like parachutists' shoes. The face was very suntanned and almond-eyed - I couldn't see the ears because that part of the body was covered by the suit, the nose and mouth were normal.

When I looked at the face, especially the eyes, I saw they were open, with pupils a little bigger than those of certain inhabitants of Asiatic countries I have seen in television documentaries. The one-piece suit he wore had two little containers, of the same colour as the shoes, at the waist and the hands were gloved. Returning to the face I was reminded of the appearance of a frogman.

When I saw the "Asiatic pygmy" I became very excited - an emotion which was a combination of astonishment mixed with anxiety because the incident occurred so unexpectedly. And, besides this, continuing the observation, I wasn't able to grasp the reality of the situation. However, I must say that the Asiatic pygmy not only turned his eyes on me but also demonstrated astonishment, stupor, and also a little anxiety as if he didn't expect this situation. Maybe he was convinced that the area was deserted. His behaviour convinced me not to flee the place by swimming across the river and running towards the country. So, instead, I remained motionless at about twenty meters from the object.

INVESTIGATOR: What happened then?

FILIPUTTI: The pygmy, with the slim body, stood motionless for some moments. Eventually, probably because he was reassured by my visible anxiety, he continued to walk on the saucer wing agiley until he stopped to touch, stooping a little, something that protruded from a "device" at the base of the dome.

INVESTIGATOR: What shape was this device?

FILIPUTTI: It's not easy to describe. That device was similar to a sort of half-moon or a horseshoe, it was a semicircular shape. I could see it only because it protruded from the lower part of dome.

The Asiatic pygmy continued to work on the device for three or four minutes, during which he looked at me many times. Maybe he was interested to see if I moved closer while he was working on the device. In my opinion the object had suffered an operation failure which needed to be repaired.

INVESTIGATOR: Were the buzzing and the air movement still present?

FILIPUTTI: When I sighted the object for the first time the wind had ceased wilst the noise continued in a tone less deep.

INVESTIGATOR: Please continue the story.

FILIPUTTI: Five minutes passed since the pygmy's first appearance through to the comletion of his work. At this point he looked at me another time before retracing his steps and disappearing behind the dome. After a few seconds I heard a very strong rumble, similar to thunder, and then a very high pitched whistle - both sounds came from the bottom of the object which began to take off vertically. It ascended very slowly. Owing to the vertical take-off, I was able to see the bottom side of the craft which was hemispherical with an external surface similar to a sort of grille made by crossed bars. The landing legs entered the inside of the object almost immediately after take-off confirming my hypothesis that they were retractable.

Under the craft I saw a bluish blaze which was a flame of 60cm. At a height of 10m, the object took an oblique position and directed itself towards the south-west at an incredible speed, not even comparable to a rocket, and, after a few seconds, it's appearance was like a bright ball. The complete time of my observation, from beginning to end, was six minutes.

CONCLUSION

After the object disappeared the witness remained very shaken. Nonetheless, he examined the landing site but found no trace of heat,

or any traces of chemical alterations in the ground which was composed of dried mud and sand. The witness found only three imprints, exactly where the object had landed, which showed that the "thing" was solid, metallic, and very "thick". These traces had the shape of a 50cm diameter ring. However, the witness did not measure the distance between the traces or their depth, he estimated the distance to be 2 - 3m.

Leaving the site, the witness met another fisherman he did not know, but to whom he told his story. This fisherman was skeptical so Mr Filiputti showed him the three traces, but the fisherman said that they had been caused by something known, certainly not by the landing gear of an unknown aircraft, and, saying this, trampled on, and destroyed, the traces. The skeptic said the sighting had been an hallucination caused by the sun or by bad digestion. However, Mr Filiputti was still shaken so the fisherman accompanied him to a bar for a drink to calm his nerves, but as soon as they entered the bar they heard an unknown person speaking about a strange "bright thing that moved in the sky very rapidly" which they had seen a short time before. Hearing this the fisherman exclaimed "so, it's true"!

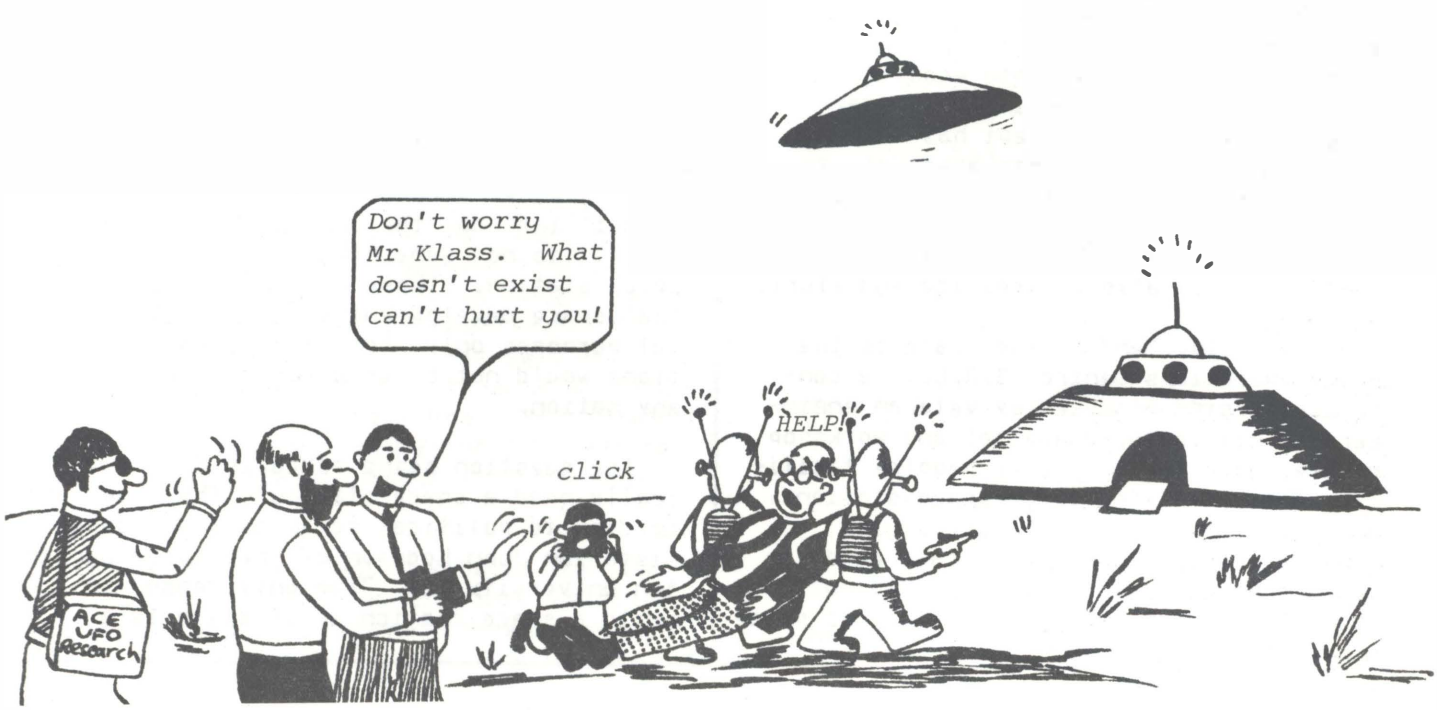
From that day, because of the fisherman's aggressive skepticism, Mr Filiputti did not speak with anyone else about the encounter, besides his wife and family. However, the witness watched the local newspaper in case someone else had seen the same craft, but no sightings were reported. After some months, the Mr Filiputti's brother convinced him to publish his experience in the local newspaper to inform the people. Unfortunately, the publication of a small article on his experience caused the witness to suffer ridicle, hence the UFO investigator had difficulty convincing him to discuss the matter.

NOTES

1. The original report of this encounter appeared in "Quaderni UFO" Issue No.4, September-October, 1981.

   Quaderni UFO is publised by C.U.N (Centro Ufologico Nazionale), via Magenta No.49, I-10128 Torino, Italy.

2. All the investigations of the above translated report were carried out by Mr Antonia Chiumiento (one of Italy's leading investigators), whose address is: via Oberdan, 59 - I-33170, Pordenone, Italy.



WILL NASA CONSTRUCT A SPACE STATION ?

BY JANE BROOKS *(UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)*

When the fourth Shuttle Mission ended on July 4, 1982, President Reagan was present at the landing site to give a speech on U.S. Space Policy. He received very enthusiastic applause when he said: "We must look aggressively to the future by establishing a more permanent presence in space". There had been rumours that the decision to build a Space Station would be announced in the speech, and that statement sounded like the beginning of the expected announcement. However, much to the disappointment of many people, the policy that Reagan went on to describe did not mention a space station.

A space station would be NASA's next major mission; a successor to Apollo and the shuttle. NASA does not want to become a kind of trucking company launching payloads for other people, and apart from that, the space station idea came before the shuttle. The shuttle evolved as a cheaper way of getting there and back! Unfortunately, the present economic climate could not be worse for proposing such a project. Senator William Proxmire (we have heard of him before!) told NASA Administrator James M. Beggs: "I am concerned that the space station will proceed regardless of the real need for such a program because your agency needs it more than the country needs it". However, even those scientists who fear their programs would suffer because a space station project would soak up their funds, concede that a modest space station, or platform, designed to meet specific needs would be very useful. It could be used for astronomy, remote sensing, and as a transportation hub for moving communications facilities into geosynchronous orbit, or for launching interplanetary spacecraft. Such a concept has a reasonable chance of White House approval, according to Presedential Science Advisor, George A. Keyworth. A space station should be a tool and not an end in itself, pursued for U.S. national prestige and glory.

At the other end of the scale is the Space Operations Centre (S.O.C.), a conceptual design produced by veteran engineers. This featured habitat and workshop modules for nine to twelve people, facilities for assembling large space stations, and fuel tanks for a separate orbital transfer vehicle that could take cargo to geosynchronous orbit, S.O.C. would cost about $8 billion over 10 years. This price tag was not acceptable in the economic climate of the 80's, and drew so much criticism that top NASA officials have virtually disowned the concept.

In May 1982, a task force led by John Hodge was formed to look at possible scientific, commercial and military missions for which a space platform would be needed. The design for this modest kind of space station would be based on these needs. As mentioned earlier, some user needs are already well recognized. Most astronomical missions could be done better from a platform than from the shuttle, including the one Australia is participating in - "STARLAB". Another need is zero gravity materials processing; on the first flight of SPACELAB in '83, 33 out of 77 experiments will be devoted to materials science. A third need is a base for assembling large antenna clusters, too big to be launched direct from Earth, and boosting them to geosynchronous orbit. Hodge and his task force must come up with designs which satisfy these needs and others which are not yet defined. As well as that, the first station must be designed in such a way as to allow for growth. Another question is whether or not the station should be manned (this would add greatly to the expense) - would humans be needed or machines sufficient for the tasks required.

Unfortunately, military uses must be mentioned. Initial military missions would be similar to civilian applications such as development of large antennas and satellite repair. The platform could be shared between civilians and the military as the shuttle is now. Longer term missions could involve things like space based lasers and particle beam weapons. Fortunately, it is not yet known whether such devices would work, and even if they do, the U.S. Air Force may decide it is not sensible to use them from a space station. Those of us who advocate that space development should be for peaceful purposes only hope that space stations would not be used for such weapons by any nation.

The question being asked is does the U.S. really need a space station? The answer according to political scientists and space historian John Lodgson of the George Washington University is: "The only reason to build a space station is if there is a

national decision that space is worthwhile, and that the space station is the best way to do things you want to do". I am wondering what will happen if the U.S.S.R. announces the successful construction of a permanent space station, which they are aiming to do if rumours are correct.

AN A TO Z OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

(BY PAUL & CASSANDRA SOWIAK-RUDEJ)

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE:

This article is not intended to represent an exhaustive list of all possible or proposed explanations for UFO activity, but is designed to show something of the range and nature of the solutions that various researchers, authors etc. have considered. If it opens peoples' minds, or stimulates them to examine the evidence, it has fulfilled its purpose.

D DYING RACE - Proposed by: Various researchers. Concept: UFOs are from an ET race, surveying Earth as a possible new home, because their own is becoming uninhabitable due to the death of their sun, lack of resources etc. They will, if this planet is suitable, take over with or without our consent. Source: O. Binder, op. cit.

E EXTRATERRESTRIAL THEORY - Proposed by: Numerous authors, researchers, etc. Concept: UFOs are spaceships, either manned or remote controlled, sent by other civilizations in the universe. The probability of such other intelligent beings existing is usually discussed in terms of equations calculating the probability of other stars having suitable planets, and the life expectancy of any civilization. It is now generally acepted that there must be other intelligence in the universe. However, many people still reject this as an explanation for UFO activity because of the immense times and distances involved in space travel. Most scientists will even accept that we could be visited by another society, but argue that this would involve some sort of recognizable deputation, and would be limited to only a few craft at one point of time. Contrary to this view, A. Michel, has postulated what he refers to as the Cat-Flap Effect. He argues that:

(a) the probability that we are the most evolved beings in the galaxy is virtually nil, given the number of other potentially habitable planets, and

(b) that, if only one other civilization has discovered a means of space travel, then given the age of the galaxy, and the rate of development that could reasonably be expected, the chance that the galaxy is already totally occupied is very high. If this is so, then contact with aliens is not only possible, but probable. In addition, if the UFOs come from a variety of in habited planets, then the number seen and their diversity need cause no surprise.

Source: Intelligent Life in the Universe, I.S. Shklovskii and C. Sagan, Picador UK 1977. The Cat-Flap Effect, Aime Michel, Flying Saucer Review Vol.25 No.5 March 1980.

F FUTURE VISITOR - Proposed by: Various authors. Concept: UFOs are craft carrying humans from the future. They are not solid objects, but a type of projection back through time. The occupants observed represent the human form as it has evolved through the ages, and the differing types of entity and UFO come from varying dates in the future. This method of travel permits UFOs to appear and disappear at will in large numbers. Source: O. Binder, op. cit.

FLETCHER's THEORY - Proposed by: G.D. Fletcher, Kenya Astronomical Ass. Concept: UFOs are manned by extraterrestrials who have come here to survey and map the Earth. Source: J. Vallee, op. cit. 1966.

To be continued...

PERCIPIENT STUDIES PROJECT

(Replacing Percipient Study Group)

BY MARK MORAVEC

Over past decades, many people have researched UFO phenomena by only considering the alleged physical or technological aspects. More recently, a growing number of researchers now realise the importance of addressing the other half of the problem: the psychological and social aspects of UFO experiences. For these aspects are just as, if not more, important to our understanding of both the phenomena and our world at large.

In 1982, the Percipient Studies Project (PSP) was initiated with the aim of researching the human factors involved in anomalous experiences. The project will examine the psychological, sociological, physiological and alleged parapsychological aspects of UFO experiences and related phenomena. The aims are to increase our understanding of:

(1) UFOs and other anomalous phenomena; and

(2) human experience and behaviour in general.

To achieve this, the perciepient Studies Project plans to involve behavioural scientists and other interested researchers in the in-depth study of individual percipients to anomalous experiences, the comparison of groups of percipients and non-percipients, and any other studies deemed relevant.

As an initial project, the PSP would like to set up an Australian capability for in-depth psychological and physiological study of UFO percipients. It is intended to establish a set of standardised psychological and medical testing procedures which will produce useful data of the least ambiguous nature. It is envisaged that the application of these techniques would be especially relevant to UFO cases involving pronounced psychological reactions, "repeater" percipients and PSIUFO phenomena. The involvement of psychologists, psychiatrists, hypnotherapists and medical personnel as field investigators or consultants would be desirable.

Specific issues which will be investigated include:

The most effective and objective interviewing techniques.

Psychological tests which give the most relevant and valid information about the percipient.

Medical examination procedures which are useful in documenting physiological and/or psychosomatic reactions (e.g. headaches, eye irritations, insomnia, rashes, stigmata).

Techniques which distinguish between physically-induced and psychologically-induced physiological reactions.

Procedures to be followed during the hypnotic age regression of a UFO percipient.

Factors or variables by which groups of percipients and non-percipients can be distinguished (e.g. recent stress, "psychic" background, personality characteristics).

Application of the "percipient studies" methodology to percipients of other anomalous phenomena (e.g. poltergeists and apparitions).

It is the premise of this project that important findings about anomalous phenomena, and about human experience in general, can be gained by the in-depth psychological study of percipients.

If any researchers have suggestions on potentially useful proceures which could be incorporated in in-depth percipients studies, I would be pleased to hear their ideas. Input from both Australian and overseas researchers is welcomed if you can assist, please contact the

Project Coordinator:

Mark L. Moravec
26 Minnamurra Place
PYMBLE
New South Wales 2073
AUSTRALIA

forum



A UFO VISION ? THE MYSTERY OF "A MACHINE TO GO THROUGH THE AIR"

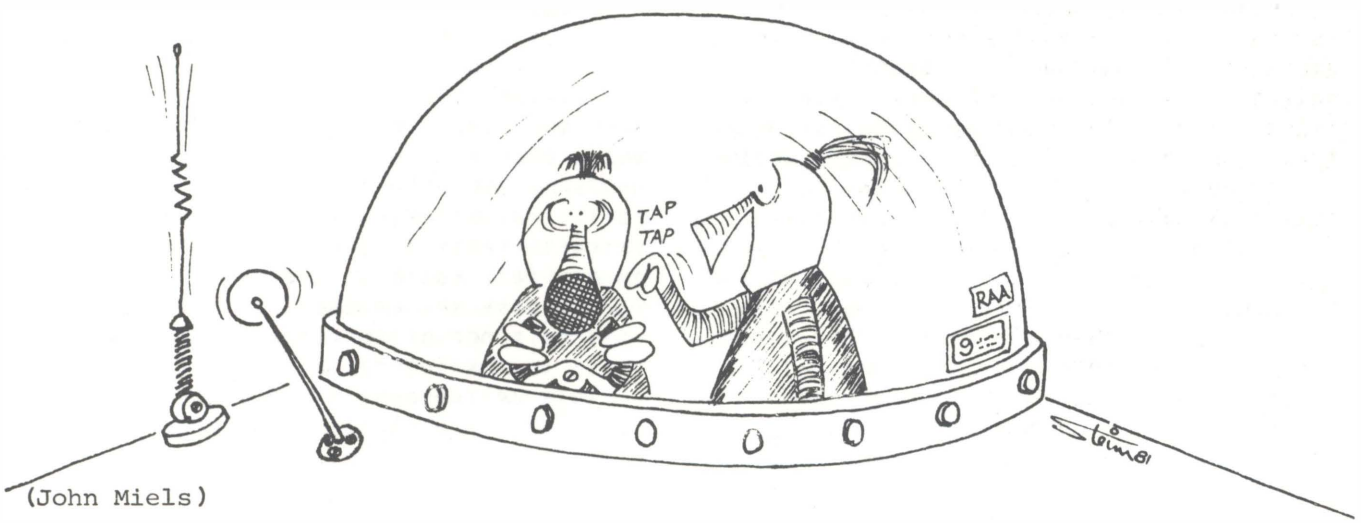
A CRITIQUE BY BILL LEET

(Reference: UFORAN Vol.3 No.1)

Restless in my mind are some points in Bill Chalker's scholarly and profound treatment of the 1873 Parramatta case. Mr Chalker's investigation, research, and thorough analysis of the reported phenomena are certainly thought-stimulating, but I can only wonder at his "Project Blue Book" suppositions.

Chalker cites Scott Rogo as an authority saying, "UFO abductions occur when the witness is in a state of psychological need, and when the unconscious mind needs to impart an important message to the conscious mind". Then a "supermind" makes it all imaginary. Soon, following this gem, Chalker quotes Ronald Siegel who says, "...given a sufficiently (sic) deep hallucinatory experience, the event can become quite 'objectively real' to the observer. In other words, the percipient can no longer distinguish reality from hallucinations". Is Chalker pulling our leg? How does he dispose of all the material, physical, physiological and psychological proof? The chunks of metal and soil, where does he toss them?

Bill Chalker's research, which culminated in this article, is praiseworthy, however, I strongly disagree with his conclusion that the events spring from a psychological, rather than a physical, source because he does not explore the alternative possibilities to my satisfaction, and possibly that of other readers.



(John Miels)

Better get a move on Throg,
we're over Russian air space!

"HAS THE MYSTERY OF THE FLYING SAUCERS BEEN SOLVED"?

BY: B. KONOVALOV, SCIENTIFIC REVIEWER FOR "IZVESTIA"
(CENTRAL PAPER OF THE PEOPLE'S SOVIET).

The following article was obtained by Paul and Cassandra Sowiak-Rudej while they were studying in the USSR as part of their recent world trip. It was originally published in "Izvestia" on April 2, 1982, and was translated with the help of a Soviet university student.

The article presents a new atmospheric-phenomena explanation for UFOs and contains some interesting insights into the Russian views on the subject.

SUBTITLE: The theory and experiments of Soviet scientists explain the origin and formation of the mysterious disc-like objects in the atmosphere and oceans.

Everyone has heard about flying saucers; some people have even seen them, and many are sure that they can only be the ships of mysterious extra-terrestrials watching the development of Earth's civilization. There have been quite a few films, and practical jokes, on the topic, and even more sincere speculations. Tragic cases have also been reported, where pilots have died, losing control of their planes while nervously pursuing the ghost of a flying saucer.

The flying saucer boom, that has not yet subsided, began in the U.S.A. in 1947, when K. Arnold, an American businessman, noticed some strange objects while on a business flight in his own plane near Mount Rainier, the second highest peak in continental America. "As they approached me", he told reporters, "I could quite distinctly see their outlines against the snow. They were flying close to the mountain tops like geese, stretching in a line as if they were chained together...I watched this chain of saucer-like objects, at least five miles long, for about three minutes as it weaved between the peaks. The saucers were as flat as frying pans and reflected the sun like mirrors. I saw them clearly". This report attracted everyone's attention and, after an initial period of criticism and ridicule by the press, it suddenly became the first bacillius of a real saucer epidemic. The mysterious saucers, later called Unidentified Flying Objects, were seen by many people, and the first explanation appeared: meteorological balloons, high-flying aircraft, meteors, paper kites, wind-blown debris, contrails, or just hallucinations. And finally persistent gossip asserted that they were the machines of the Russians, who had managed to achieve superiority in technology and were observing the secrets of the U.S.

At this time, the U.S. Air Force began to register and investigate all the reports, and discovered that about 80% of the cases could be explained easily (balloons etc.) while 20% were regarded as inexplicable. Scientists analysing this residue testified, however, that the witnesses had, in the overwhelming majority of the cases, encountered different sorts of optical phenomena in the atmosphere, and that the objects could not be Soviet secret craft. "The famous Sputnik launched by Soviet scientists on the fourth of October 1957 was the first genuine flying saucer", said the well-known astronomer, Professor Menzel, in a special chapter written for the Moscow edition of his book "On Flying Saucers", which, although written in 1962, is still relevant today.

Such sober analysis extinguished the high level of military interest, but not the passion of the public. Ancient history, chronicles, and the Bible were recollected, and from these it appeared that saucers had been observed from time immemorial. The dawning of the space age had merely diverted the saucer epidemic into a new channel. It became the general opinion that we, like ants, were being watched by the saucer-like ships of extra-terrestrials. "Witnesses" reported all kinds of crashes and catastrophes (although the stories were, of course, not sustained later). Some claim to have seen the bodies of small, green dwarves, while others populated the saucers with handsome athletes two and a half metres tall. Psychologically, the tenacity of the extra-terrestrial myth is simply explained by people's faith in the mysterious, the miraculous, the enigmatic. Such faith has existed since olden times, and may still exist in the future, although the objects of this belief have changed and keep changing. When the saucers disappear, something else will replace them. It's hard to fight this faith, and it may even be useless. This article, therefore, has been written for people who are capable of perceiving THE explanation of this natural phenomena, which uses logical and experimentally-corroborated arguments and not the blind

faith in extra-terrestrials.

The "question mark" has always been in the impetus of progress in science; sooner or later it had to be substituted by a "full stop" at the end of a serious scientific paper. The famous Soviet scientist, R.S. Monin, Director of the Oceanographic Institute and a corresponding member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, and Professor G.E. Barenblat, Head of the Theory Department, succeeded in explaining the appearance of the mysterious discs in the atmosphere and oceans that are perceived as the notorious flying saucers.

The atmosphere and the oceans covering the Earth are stratified by densities, or, to put it simply, form a sort of layer-cake; but a very peculiar cake, constantly in motion. If you pour a dense liquid into a glass and a lighter one on top of it, you will see that not only the top surface but also the middle boundary between the liquids will oscillate. The same will happen if we layer three or four liquids of different densities, and these oscillations are called inner waves. Such waves permeate the whole depths of the oceans and the atmosphere, and they, just like surface waves, can "break". At the beach, people often dive into the curving crests of the waves which crash down, and an English oceanographer, John Woods, also dived into the crests of the inner waves. Near Malta one summer, he dyed the water with fluorescent paint and photographed the breaking of the waves.

When the steep inner wave curves and breaks, a blob of mixed liquid is formed in which the particles of the two distinct layers are trappped, both above and below the boundary level. Due to the intensity of the mixing, the density, temperature, and other characteristics of the blob become, as it were, averaged out, and tend to be homogenous, developing, for instance, a constant density that differs from its environs. The blob then diffuses little by little in all directions.

Barenblat and Monin also studied the laws of diffusion applicable to mixed liquid in stratified mediums, and developed an equation that described the diffusion of the blob - the changes of its depth. This equation was, however, already known to scientists as one of the so-called non-linear heat-conduction equations. It is not simple, but can be solved by electronic computers. Using this method, a research associate of the computing centre of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, U.I. Tikhomirova discovered a striking preculiarity in such a mixed blob's development. Whatever the initial shape of the blob, square, triangular or cruciform, it always became circular before it began to diffuse. This greatly simplified the equation and allowed its exact solution to be found. It was ascertained that, during the diffusion, a ring, resembling the brim of a hat, stretches out from the blob in different directions, so that it becomes a disc. Diffusion of the mixed liquid takes place very slowly; it is a hundred times slower than that of a contrail.

Once a simple theoretical formula has been developed, it must be tested. An experiment was set up at the Institute of Oceanography by a Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, Feodorov and his associates, Zatsepin, Voropayev and Pavlov. In a special tank of stratified liquids, they created little blobs of mixing and observed their diffusion. Hundreds of experimental results were plotted onto the theoretical line characterising diffusion, but no matter how hard the experimenters tried to prevent the prime shapes from becoming circular, they failed, just as the theoreticians had.

Now let us turn to a pecular quality of the atmosphere and the oceans - turbulance. (In Latin, turbulent meant disorganised). The chaotic motion of the particles will differ inside and outside the blob of mixing. Outside, the density of the particles is greater in the bottom layers than in those at the top. Turbulence expends energy while lifting heavy particles upwards and causing lighter particles to fall. In the blob, however, there is no such loss of energy as the particles are mixed and the density constant, so that the inner turbulence is much greater than that in the surrounding environment; the blobs are, in fact, long-lived spinning tops. American researchers corroborated these findings experimentally while registering atmospheric phenomena from a tower two kilometres seaward from New York. They recorded wind speed pulsations in a 140 metre layer of the atmosphere, and obtained a peculiar result.

On one of the peaks, the inner waves began to break, and within a short time the pulsations in the mixed area reached speeds of 1m/sec, while out of this area the highest measurements were in only cm/sec. This meant that within the whole airmass there existed well-defined and highly turbulent regions of disc-like appearance.

But what would happen if such a saucer met descending aerosol particles (dust)? If the speed of their descent is greater than that of the turbulence pulsations, they will pass through the area. If, on the other hand, their speed is less than that of the pulsations, they will penetrate the disc and become trapped there. Thus, the saucer may become a point of accumulation for atmospheric particles and cease to be transparent so that IT CAN BE SEEN! Just as on a sunny day, you can perfectly see a small cloud of particles picked up from the road and caught in the turbulent wake of a tram.

From the joint and overlapping data of many observers and photographs, what has been determined about flying saucers?

a) They have a regular disc-like shape with a peculiar thickening in the centre which makes them resemble two plates put together with their bases outside.
b) They can fly.
c) Their flight has certain specific peculiarities: they are capable of great acceleration, sharp turns, and...sudden disappearances.

According to Barenblat and Morin, all that is easily explained. The atmospheric discs are essentially air in the air, and the mass of the trapped particles is negligible. Therefore, a slight gust of wind is enough to accelerate a saucer, a toy of the air currents. When, however, it accumulates too many dust particles, it will descent, wavering like an autumn leaf. As the gradual diffusion continues, it will turn into a pancake, and the moment will come when turbulence can no longer maintain a stable existence; the formation is destroyed and mingles with the surrounding air. That is the mysterious disappearance of the saucers, which are claimed to fly faster than the speed of light (which is, of course, impossible for material objects).

Confirmation for this theoretical work was received by the Soviet astronaut, G.M. Grechko. During his ninety-six day flight on board Salyt 6, he investigated the twinkling of the stars when they were setting over the Earth's horizon, "plunging" into the depths of the atmosphere. As predicted by the Soviet theoreticians, this twinkling is explained by the existence of discoid formations in the atmosphere. This reasonable explanation for at least the majority of the phenomena to which are ascribed an extra-terrestrial origin has been received by scientists with satisfaction. Naturally, it doesn't embrace all the cases of diverse atmospheric events taken for flying saucers, but it does account for the most typical.

The only people not satisfied by this sober, scientific theory are the members of the extra-terrestrial cult. These fanatics assert that while there may be natural saucers in the Earth's atmosphere and oceans, they could not exist in space. And yet they ARE observed by astronauts! The notorious Azhazha and other fanatics usually cite Grechko's observations in support of their arguments. It should be mentioned that the astronaut has himself to blame for this, or rather his inclination to play practical jokes. Once, on looking through the porthole of Salyt 6, he saw the formation of sparkling points flying on a parallel course. The sight was terrifying, and Grechko called out to Yuri Romanenko. "But these are dust particles"! said Romanenko, solving the mystery at once. The entire spacecraft had been covered with a furcoat of screen-vacuum heat insulation, consisting of multiple layers of the finest metal foil. This was flailed by micrometeorites into separate particles, which then became dislodged during the astronauts sessions on the running track and could be mistaken for flying saucers as they drifted alongside the capsule. Grechko decided to use this to have fun with his friends. When guests from Earth arrived, he warned them: "We are accompanied by flying saucers on our flight; if you see them, don't be afraid"! Nobody believed him, and they laughed at the joke. A few days later, Grechko decided it was time to show them flying saucers. While all the guests were busy elsewhere, he dislodged eight pieces of foil by tapping on the wall, then waited until they had drifted past the wings of the solar batteries, so that their distance from the station couldn't be perceived. Then he

called his comrades to the portholes and said: "Have a look! They are always flying after us in formation, keeping about a kilometre away". The capsule was just leaving Earth's shadow. Against the dark planet and the sky, the pieces of foil were sparkling brilliantly in the sunlight and could be seen perfectly. Not knowing that they were close, they looked like large, distant objects. One of the guests rushed for a pair of binoculars, and Grechko warned him: "They prevent us from studying them by disappearing faster than light"! and sure enough, when he returned the saucers had gone.

Grechko knew, of course, that the foil could only be seen as the station left the Earth's shadow, and that the reflected light from the planet would overwhelm the scintillation as soon as they entered the sunlit side of their orbit. Unfortunately, he did not explain the joke he had played, as he usually would have done, but only asked the guests to relate everything to V.I. Sevastyanov when they returned. He was also acquainted with the trick, and Grechko hoped that he would explain everything, they could have a good laugh, and that would be that. But Sevastyanov was on holiday. No explanation was given. And, while Grechko and Romanenko were still in orbit, their "witnesse's" story reached Moscow and started spreading round the country. To this day, this "irrefutable" fact has been used in the lectures of UFO fanatics, and Grechko, as if forbidden to speak, has not discussed the event. However, when telling me the story, he said, "I jump at this opportunity to announce in the pages of Izvestia that neigher I nor other Soviet cosmonauts have observed any real flying saucers. Nobody has forbidden us to speak about the subject - we just didn't see them".

UFO fanatics claimed that the American astronauts saw extra-terrestrial spaceships on the moon, so Cosmonaut N.N. Lukavishnikov, a participant in the Apollo-Soyuz program, asked Thomas Stafford whether it was true. Stafford answered that it was not, that there had been nothing of the kind, and that the reports were only rumours. The American expressed his negative attitude using the well-known expressiveness of the Russian language.

In Australia, a peculiar journal - "Speculations in Science and Technology", has recently been published. The Editor, in an advertising pamphlet, wrote: "And now we have a journal for speculative papers. General, detailed or inter-disciplinary papers on physical, medical or engineering sciences will be accepted by Dr Hönig from the West Australian Technological Institute in Perth". A remark followed this: "Articles on UFO and extrasensory perception (the extra senses which are now in fashion) will not be accepted".

The paper by Barenblat and Morin was published in "Reports by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences" - the most authorative journal of the U.S.S.R. because it gives a reasoned explanation of the observed natural phenomena. It shows a far more reasonable attitude than that of the editor of a specialised speculative journal. I think that our publishing houses should also issue books on the flying saucers, or at least reprint Menzel's book (mentioned above) with a new preface. The saucer epidemic can only be stopped by calm, scientific publications.■

AUSTRALIA 1982

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES HAS ADDED YET ANOTHER DOCUMENT TO ITS PUBLICATIONS LIST - ACUFOS D-17. THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS ABSTRACTS AND STATISTICS OF THE 1982 UFO REPORTS WHICH FLOWED THROUGH THE CENTRE. D-17 WAS COMPILED BY KEITH BASTERFIELD.

"AUSTRALIA 1982" CAN BE PURCHASED FOR $2 WITHIN AUSTRALIA FROM ACUFOS, PO BOX 229, PROSPECT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5082.

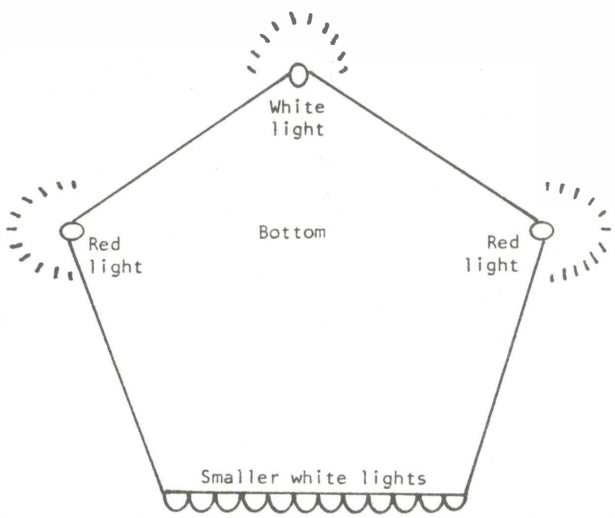
THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM OUR OVERSEAS OUTLET - ARCTURUS BOOK SERVICE, 263 N. BALLSTON AVENUE, SCOTIA, N.Y. 12302, U.S.A.

Pentagonal, Hexagonal, and Other Unusual UFOs

PART II

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

Since PENTAGONAL UFOs, Part 1 was published, covering an accumulation of cases from across the country; but stimulated by the reports of two pentagonal shaped objects seen near the city of Houston, Texas, U.S.A. I have received additional material from other researchers since the original material was published. That material will be summarised in this report.



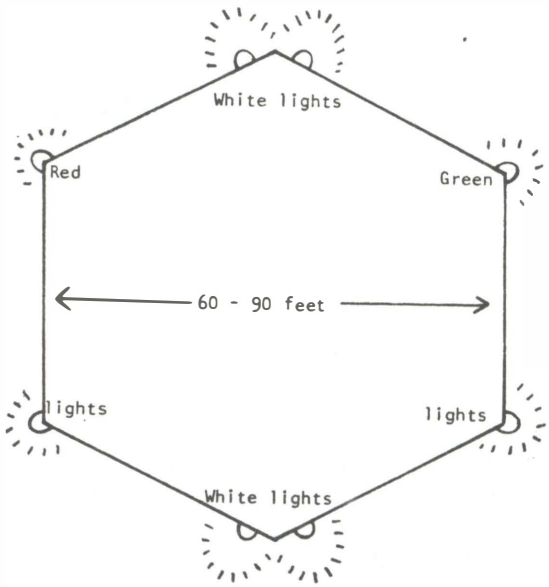
PENTAGONAL OBJECT
March 23, 1979
Bristol County, Massachusetts

In the October 1979, issue of the NEW ENGLAND UFO NEWSLETTER, Joe Nyman described a pentagonal object observed by two newsmen in Bristol County, Massachusetts. The event occurred at 7:25 pm on March 23, 1979. The two witnesses were Gerald Lopes and Steve Sbracci. They first observed the object as a light that would hover and then move ahead. When the witnesses finally parked their car and got out, the object moved directly overhead at approximately 1000 feet. They said it was shaped like home plate at a ball park, with a white light on the front, a red light on either side, and a series of smaller lights on the rear. The object was the size of a standard car and solid - it blocked out the stars as it passed overhead. The witnesses said the bottom of the object was brownish-black. They contacted the FAA at Logan Airport and the South Weymouth Air Base. Neither facility could give a clue as to the identity of the object. Mr Nyman verified that the advertising airplanes were not flying in the area at that time.

The October 1979, issue of the Tarheel UFO Study Group Newsletter described the sighting of a hexagonal object near Charlotte on March 5, 1979, at 11:45 pm. The object was seen by two women and one of the womens 15 year old son. The following is a quotation from the newsletter. "They noticed what at first appeared to be an airplane heading toward them in a southeasterly direction. At first two bright white lights were visible, but as it suddenly turned toward them and descended as it approached they could see several white lights. It passed from left to right over the car. Curious, they stopped the car. They looked behind them to see the UFO hovering over a substation a few hundred feet away. Lattice runs and tank-like structures were visible along a metallic hexagonal center. They estimated the object to be no longer than a 747 jet".

The Northfield, MN NEWS reported the sighting of a hexagonal object in the August 20, 1981, issue of the newspaper. The report described the sighting at 3:30 am Monday, August 10, by Russel Matson. He first observed the object as two lights about 1000 feet away. He stopped his car and got out as the object was 400 to 500 feet away and about 1000 feet in altitude. Then, he claimed the object turned and came directly overhead. The witness said "it was a perfect image. It was nothing I've ever seen before". He described the object as having a hexagon shape with a span of 60 to 90 feet and about 15 feet thick. He described the small sound as whooshing like gas escaping a propane tank. The object had two green lights on one side and two red lights on the other. It had white lights close together on the front and back. The speed of the object was 10 to 15 mph.

Matson viewed the object for 40 to 50 seconds.



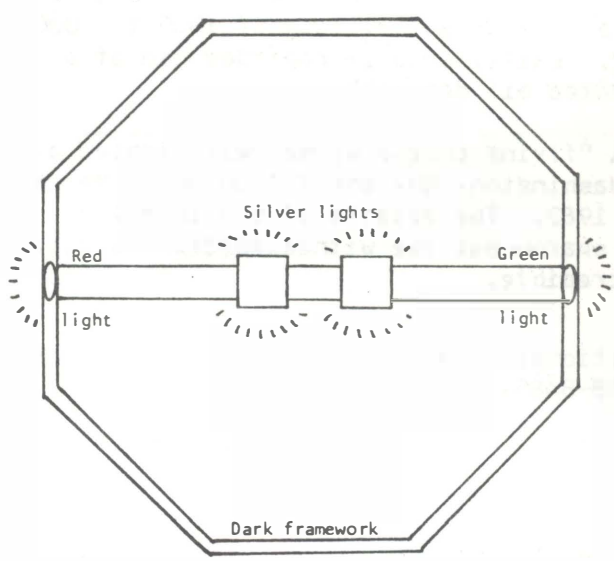
HEXAGONAL OBJECT
August 10, 1981
Northfield, MN

Tom Benson (The Sixth Quark Journal) provided two octagonal UFO cases from the pages of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. At 9:00 pm on May 31, 1975, Mrs Fry and her husband were driving through London. They stopped the car and got out to watch an octagonal object,with two silver lights on a cross-bar,cross the area. It was completely silent. They said it was moving very slowly when it went out and vanished completely. (Flying Saucer Review, Vol.22 No.4, 1976). At 6:10 pm on January 23, 1976, Shelley Barnes was returning home near the Rumsworth Lodge Reservoir in Bolton, England, when she became aware of a light over the reservoir. At first it was just a red light, then it streaked toward her and hovered just above roof-top level. The object was octagonal, with two large lights on the front. One was a steady amber and the other a flashing red. She said the object began to rotate on its axis and she felt her teeth begin to vibrate as if some ultrasonic sound was emanating from the object. (Flying Saucer Review, Vol.22 No.1, 1976.

The January 21, 1981, issue of the KENT EVENING POST, Maidstone, England, reported the sighting of an octagonal shaped object on January 2, 1981, at Petworth, England. The witness, Peter Langride, is a television scriptwriter. He and his 15 year old son said "the thing was dark, but a deeper dark than the night and it had lights around it - they were yellow and created a haze rather than a beam, rather like disco lights". The object appeared to be reverberating. The word he used to describe the effect was "purring", but there was no audible sound.

Heather Chinigo and Judy Gudaitis experienced a close encounter near Killingly, CT, on August 25, 1981, at 9:15 pm. They first noticed two bright lights which were square - in the glimmer of the light they could see an object shaped like a lopsided stop sign. The witnesses said the object followed them when they turned and drove in different directions (Norwich, CT, Bulletin, August 27, 1981).

Theresa Schmidt and her three children saw an octagonal shaped object about 10:00 pm on August 18, 1981. They said it hovered about 200 feet over the driveway. It was the size of two cars and appeared to be 20-25 feet in diameter, with red and green flashing lights. No sound was detected (Sandston, MN, Pine County Courier, September 3, 1981).



OCTAGONAL OBJECT
May 31, 1975
London, England

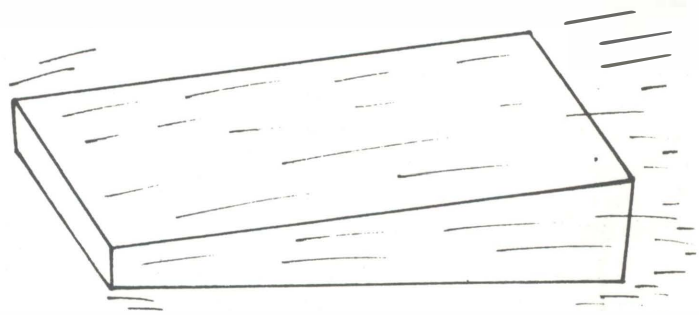
Square objects are being reported also. Elida Dempeter of Bromley, England, report-

ed a square object about 9:00 pm on May 21, 1981. She said: "I looked to my left and saw a great white, bright, light. It seemed like a cluster of lights, but it came over as one big light. It was above the house and looked square". (Kent, England, Bromley Times, May 28, 1981).

A Westfield, IN, couple spotted what they called "a square-like object, whitish in appearance, with red and green lights shining upward, forming a crescent-like shape". It was September 15, 1981, when the couple saw the object 300 feet above the ground just below the clouds. They said it hovered and then moved slowly, like drifting to the north, where it finally disappeared over a wooded area. (Westfield, IN, Enterprise, September 30, 1981).

Tracy Schey and Dennis Bailey observed a square-shaped UFO over Olympia, WA, on June 15, 1982. They were in their car when they saw some lights in front and above them. Bailey told his step-brother, "UFO at 10 o'clock". He said it was cruising along, going due east. The object had two large lights, one on top, the other on the bottom, but there were many more small flashing lights. The size was larger than a 747 jumbo jet. The huge square shaped thing flew at an altitude of 1000 to 2000 feet. Bailey said it reminded him of a "lighted oil derrick".

A "flying cheese wedge" was sighted over Mt Washington, NH, about 9:00 pm on March 22, 1982. The details of the incident are sparœ, but the witnesses are described as credible.



FLYING CHEESE WEDGE

March 22, 1982
Mt Washington, NH

Unusual shapes are puzzling, but continue to be reported. Some of the witnesses are people with flying experience; others work for the media and are well versed in investigative techniques. The repeated reports of two lights on the objects force the investigator to consider the possibility that aircraft landing lights are responsible; however in many of the cases airport and FAA personnel have verified the absence of aircraft traffic. The repeated reports of red and green lights resemble the running lights on aircraft; but the witnesses are often directly below the low flying objects and have a clear view of the shape - definitely not that of an aircraft as we know it. It would be easy to pass these sightings off as misidentified aircraft; but this would be giving an answer for the sake of having an answer to close out the file. I'd rather have a positive identification in each case; otherwise it is better to leave it open to speculation.

Additional reports should be sent to John F. Schussler, PO Box 58485, Houston, Texas 77258-8485, U.S.A.

ADDENDUM TO "THE FEDERAL HYPOTHESIS"

By William H. Spaulding

Through an oversight on my part, I neglected to point out that my article THE FEDERAL HYPOTHESIS (UFORAN Vol.3 No.2) drew heavily upon the work of Peter Kor - especially Part 2 of his article IS THERE A PLOT TO PROMOTE SAUCERS? (KOR's KOSMOS, Issue 8, November 1980). Large portions of that article appear verbatim in THE FEDERAL HYPOTHESIS. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of that article or contact the author should write to:

KOR's KOSMOS
C/o 1207 Cordova Rd
Mayfield Heights
Ohio 44124, U.S.A.

PROJECT VISIT

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team) is a nonprofit corporation consisting of professional members including doctors, engineers, and scientists, as well as supporting members such as secretaries, artists and news personnel.

Within the field of UFO study, our organization has focused its efforts on the scientific and engineering study of the internal systems of unidentified space vehicles and of the physiology of the beings which occupy these vehicles. Scientific and engineering data come from (1) transcripts of conversations between psychologists or case investigators and the UFO abductees, (2) followup converstations with abductees, (3) an analysis of medical injuries sustained by the witnesses during UFO close encounters, (4) data recorded by electronic and photographic means, and (5) physical evidence examined at the location of the incident.

The objectives of this research are to (1) determine if there is a correlation of scientific and engineering data from case to case, (2) identify internal systems which are most prevalent, (3) evaluate the purpose of these systems, (4) determine how these systems operate, and (5) share the information obtained with the public at large.

To date VISIT has cataloged 86 abduction cases. Medical effects were noted in 66 of these cases. Vehicle internal information was gained from 19 of the cases with 45 more of the cases offering potential internal systems data. Electromagnetic effects were noted in 56 cases. A time loss was noted by the witness in 44 of the cases.

VISIT has composed a list of questions which will aid the investigator of abduction cases. The questions deal in detail with the space vehicle engineering systems, medical examination, and instruments used, physiology of the beings, and the physiological after effects on the abductee.

VISIT cannot achieve its goals without the cooperation of the expert investigators in the field. In return for case information, we will provide the investigator with a scientific and engineering critique of the data obtained in the case as well as provide the expanded findings of our research.

Although we hold all particular case information strictly confidential, it is our objective to provide the general results of our research to educational institutions, government agencies, doctors, scientists, other specialized experts, responsible UFO organizations, news media, and the general public. The interchange is accomplished through letters, quarterly public meetings, articles in scientific journals, television and radio publications, articles for the journals of various UFO organizations and participation in symposiums.

A special project currently underway is the preparation of a catalog of UFO cases where the witnesses exhibited medical injuries . The project is in the data gathering phase. Once the archives have been analyzed for appropriate information a standard data base will be developed, then the material will be assembled for publication.

REPORTS DIGEST

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies has commenced a new service recording the UFO sighting reports flowing through ACUFOS. This service is in the form of a document compiled by Australian researcher Keith Basterfield. It is called the REPORTS DIGEST. This publication will present mainly Australian material but details of significant overseas reports will be included whenever possible.

Please note that the publication frequency of the REPORTS DIGEST will depend on the quantity and quality of incoming reports. However, the publication will, on average, usually be produced once a month. Subscription to the REPORTS DIGEST is per 12 issues and not by year because the publication may not always be produced on a monthly basis.

Subscription rates are Australia $11 & Overseas $ Aust 12 (surface mail) & $ Aust 15 (air mail). Please send cheque or money order (overseas subscribers please remit by International Money Order or banker's draft in Australian dollars) to ACUFOS, PO Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082.

ABDUCTIONS/CONTACT!

Who's kidding you?

BY: WILLIAM H. SPAULDING

Abductions and contacts by purported creatures of UFOs have existed, at least in UFO literature, for years to the disbelief of numerous researchers. To others, it was a welcome relief from the mundane saucer sightings. After all, so many UFO researchers have made that quantum jump from, "we now know that saucers exist" to "who is piloting these machines", and in the process violated all logical and established scientific investigative methods.

Do we actually know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that UFOs exist? Do we know what UFOs represent? This writer feels that all we can say with any authority, at this time, is that the UFO phenomena exists. It is extremely premature to worry about the "pilots" of the saucers when so little concrete data exists on the basic UFO phenomenon.

Contact stories had to enter the world of saucer research, no matter how absurd the notion or how hard certain investigators attempted to stop this movement. A prime example of negative close encounters belief comes from the past-NICAP director, Donald Keyhoe. He continually censured the personage connected with the saucer abductions and contact events. Major Keyhoe's philosophy simply stated, claimed it was "acceptable" to believe in UFOs as real, viable devices, but it was outrageous to place any credence in the contact/alien entity stories. By using this approach throughout the years, NICAP kept the interested populous in check, and subsequently the sparse interest by the ultra-liberal element of ufology subsided temporarily.

Major Keyhoe was an important part of the entire flying saucer history and a force in keeping many of the interested-in-saucers away from the contact/abduction cases. He was the first "perceived expert" to provide a "sensible" explanation to the phenomenon and his organization, NICAP, was instrumental in exposing the now-popular "cover-up" by governmental officials. The GSW lawsuit against the CIA and subsequent FOIA activity have supplied generous information about Major Keyhoe.

In numerous documents, both the Air Force and the CIA view Keyhoe as a radical individual with misgivings concerning his judgement on the saucer mystery. In one document from John McCormick (Majority Leader of Subcommittee Members) in answer to Major Keyhoe's letter concerning proposed congressional hearings on UFOs, Mr McCormick attacks Keyhoe for his "evident dislike and malicious intent towards a great branch of the military" (Air Force).

There are two perspectives when considering the role that Major Keyhoe played in the overall flying saucer picture. One scenario would show that he was a motivating force behind the basic (grass-roots) saucer movement, regardless how factual his data. His writings were not very popular with government primarily due to the popularity of the subject, still they knew Keyhoe could be handled without too much trouble.

The second synopsis portrays Keyhoe as a vigorous defender of the popular extraterrestrial belief and an individual susceptible to government manipulation. In most of Keyhoe's writings he references numerous "sources" that provide him with certain data on saucer incidents. This could be due to his past military vocation or the impressive membership structure of NICAP. In any event, the more Keyhoe screamed about the government's injustices towards saucer investiga-



Betty & Barney Hill

tions, the more firmly the officials defended its position. Since Keyhoe firmly believes in a large cover-up and the wrong doings of those in charge, the stage was perfectly set for Keyhoe to be a receptacle for potential misinformation.

The more Keyhoe attacked the government's saucer foundations the easier it was to "guide" his direction. It that direction was extraterrestrial origins and near-chastisement towards those who believed in contact events, then that was the type of information that was disseminated. The end result would easily keep this prime saucer figure (at the time) away from potentially more accurate answers to the mystery.

As time passed, a faltering NICAP organization and a total lack of central UFO leadership in the field, collectively led to new ideas and the time was right for contact stories with space beings ever-present to gain a rapid increase in popularity. Aided by some discouraged saucer researchers that left the grass-roots concept of flying saucer belief, the ever-increasing popular tabloids and the classic "favourite" cases, like Betty & Barney Hill, the contact/abduction syndrome was off and running.

What could be the possibilities for these close encounter events? The following listing is considered the best choices by most researchers:

1. All events in this category are hoaxes.

2. Some events are attributable to a "real" physical incident and a psychological manifestation, whereas the witness claims or believes he has had a close encounter with space creatures.

3. All events are real as well-supported by the high volume of incidents in all western civilizations.

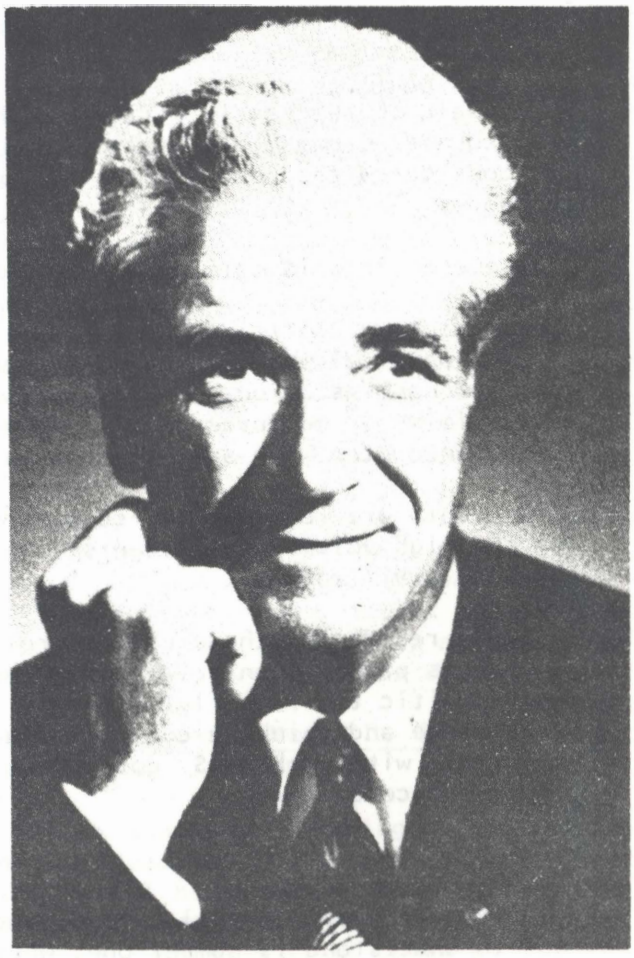
4. A small residue of these events are staged as part of manipulation on the body politic to frame flying saucer acceptance and thinking control by authorities within the U.S. government intelligence agencies.

CATEGORY ONE

Of all these possible explanations the easiest to understand is number one, whereas, all events are hoaxes. Unfortunately, this theory like other similar explanations which categorize by stereotyping, falls short as a logical blanket answer. It is a common mistake by anyone attempting to provide answers to the UFO problem or a specific segment of the same, to use an all encompassing explanation. It does not matter if a person is pro or anti-UFO in their belief, as it is a time-proven mistake to attempt the shotgun approach to UFO explanations.

Yet, in fairness to this possibility, it is easy to understand why many individuals think negatively about this facet of ufology. Going back to the early fifties, we find the ravings of George Adamski, which included his famous California desert encounter in which he purportedly talked to Venusians.

Now whether Mr Adamski deliberately concocted a hoax, or maybe he was an unwitting victim of a Federal manipulation, and by sheer accident part or all of these elements combined to make his book "Flying Saucers



George Adamski

Have Landed" very successful. In any perspective the end result of Adamski's popularity and following is unbelievable. Even today, years after George Adamski's death, hordes of Liberal "contactees" still "believe" in his saucer stories and his pseudo-religious teachings.

Yet in reference to Adamski and the volume of similar world-wide contacts, many serious saucer researchers shun Adamski belief and follow in the more moderate concepts of "flying saucers". These concepts, with help from Major Keyhoe, strongly advocated that it was permissible to "believe" in saucers, but not in "contact" with the "pilots" of these machines. However, the Adamski incident presents a vexing problem for all followers of saucer reports who faithfully belived in the Keyhoe systems.

In a pure psychological sense, Adamski, with or without help, unknowingly subdivided the factions (cliques) of saucer enthusiasts by even greater proportions. There were two major groups; those that overwhelmingly accepted his encounters and those who vigorously opposed his story, assuming that "extraterrestrial intelligence" (whatever that is) would make suitable contact with men of Earth's sciences. All of us are still waiting for this to occur.

The problem for the Moderate researcher was obviously difficult to cope with. They have been stimulated (the writer included) to believe in physical, nuts-and-bolts hardware from another world, and we probably expected that the saucers would land or crash to make their presence known. When it happened in the custom reported by Adamski's writings, it certainly did not follow what Keyhoe had projected would happen.

When serious researchers looked at Adamski's proof, his stories and photographs held no evidence and the division of the physical believers and the fringe cultists reached new proportions. But Adamski's teachings and followers did not die. Today his stories permeate many cultures. It was total blind faith opposing logical scientific fact. It's no wonder the vast percentage of persons who think this type of UFO event is pure hoax based on the small amount of strong evidence.

However, the fringe element of UFOs has caused still another division. Some prominent researchers have stated that UFO cases of abductions are different than a contact case, and support this claim with the following logic. "Since there are so may similar cases they must be real". So now the close encounter type cases have three popular groupings among researchers:

A) Those persons who reject all cases in this cateory -

B) Those who believe in voice and mental communication with space races with a definite religious trend and -

C) Those that reject both groupings A & B and strongly support the abduction theory as described below.

The abduction cases, as opposed to contact cases, are those that are devoid of communication and trips to other planets and generally have the scenario of "missing time and

medical examinations of the claimee". These events, however, always lack physical evidence and are supported by PSE, polygraph testing and regressive hypnosis. Yet, research has shown that a vast majority of these cases are fraudulent and the "scientific" methodology of hypnosis and lie detector testing was devoid of data, especially in the hands of a non-expert operator. Still these same researchers persist that UFO abdcutions are plausible because they are different than the contact stories and do not violate the Keyhoe method of saucer belief.

There have been numerous technical papers written outlining the failures of subjective PSE and hypnosis testing in the hands of non-professionals. Over half of the States in this country outlaw PSE testing as a viable method of extract testimony due to its less than 20 percent accuracy, regardless who was operating the device. Still, this does not stop the UFO researcher. They maintain the volume of similar reports, from a vast demographic distribution, well-support their theory of "the next logical progression in UFO events".

CATEGORY TWO

The second category of this type of event is more difficult to comprehend, yet it is possible that witness could have a physical sighting of the UFO phenomenon and later claim that a psychological encounter transpired. Generally these latent revelations are surfaced with regressive hypnosis. It truly surprises me that so many researchers will authenticate a Close Encounter of the Third Kind based on this type of subjective testing and substantiation.

This is not to imply that all hypnosis results are fraudulent, it simply infers that additional data and professional testing is required prior to validating an abduction case based on a single hypnosis session by a non-medical doctor. Some current research by Dr Lawson, from the University of Long Beach (California), with regressive hypnosis, is revealing some interesting results. His numerous experiments with hypnosis techniques have found less than satisfactory results. In a majority of cases the witnesses (volunteer test subjects) related "stories" of fantasy similar to the same type being reported by the "UFO" witness of contact/abduction cases. It was conclusively proven that simple suggestion from the hypnotherapist can frame the basis of the story for the witness.

Too many cases unfortunately have had improper testing performed and during this testing process the UFO event becomes a believable story to the witness and the novice tester. News accounts twist the results of the tests and journalistically interject the objective manner of the evaluation, which further enhances the story. The witness(es) now has gained a rapport with the hypnotist and has additional "faith" in the encounter event. On-lookers and enthusiasts now claim that this particular story is similar to previous encounters and that the event is established as "real" beyond reasonable doubt.

Now why should we believe this type of event over that of a typical sighting of a UFO that lacks the sensational portion of the close encounter? Unfortunately, too many people in the field of UFOs place credence in the close encounter cases. In this writer's opinion, and it's been proven, that it's too easy to make the transition from a UFO sighting to a UFO-creature abduction case. Believability of close encounters, in the minds of many, is proper and still appears as a middle-of-the-road approach to the phenomenon. After all, it's an avenue many times removed from the "foolish fringe" of the saucer field.

How does the abduction encounter vary from the Adamski-type cases? Many envision abduction as more "believable" and closer to the logic of the Keyhoe system of UFO-behavioral criteria. Sure an abduction encounter is void of the purported communication between the "alien" kidnapper and the victim and the case is loaded with stories of "missing time" and "medical examinations". But these encounters do not jeopardize the popular premise of physical ETH-type incidents!

Still many cases in this category violate the Hynek prerequisite (1) system, therefore, multiple witnesses and physical (trace) evidence, although the high strangeness index is obvious. The Hynek prerequisite system is frequently overlooked by the saucer investigator and close encounters, as previously described, are still pursued as the

missing or final evidence in the UFO mystery.

But what happens when a "good" abduction case provides physical evidence, such as the Betty & Barney Hill star-map or if the event takes place during a high cycle of reports, such as the Pascagoula, Mississippi incident? Many researchers feel they have hit saucer paydirt!

The Hill's star-map caused an unfortunate claim of events that was motivated by the desire of ufologists to find hard proof after the favorable test results of Dr Simon's hypnosis sessions. The star-map which was drawn by Betty Hill in the early sixties, was purportedly observed by the witness aboard the spaceship. Year's later, after a detailed search by Mrs Fish, the map was "located in a vast star system". The problem with the logic applied to this map is that other scientists have located dozens of similar star systems by just "connecting the dots" in the proper sequence. Therefore, the conclusion is that the map proves nothing.

The Pascagoula incident occurred during the flap of 1973. Dozens of UFO reports were being reported and the bizarre case of Pascagoula made the headlines by two prominent researchers - Drs Hynek and Harder. Although no physical evidence was ever uncovered, the reports reaching the media stated the "sincerity of the witnesses" and the favorable test results of the hypnosis. Following the typical pattern of UFO researchers, the case was a "classic" example of abductions and this incident set the stage for future cases of this type.

CATEGORY THREE

Probably the least plausible category of close encounter events is the assumption that they are all real, bona fide occurrences. This is a stereotyping to the tenth power and foolish logic. Much of the evidence of this category comes from researchers insisting that the theory is a global phenomenon. To wit: How can the witness in South America report an identical experience as the person in the United States years previous, unless the events were real?

Yet "believers" are relying on the investigation techniques of unknown researchers. What methods did the investigator use to quantify the event? Why have many believers overlooked the fact that writings on abductions and contacts have permeated the world for years? In fact many foreign UFO groups build their memberships on this segment of the Saucer mystery. It was only after certain UFO researchers of reputation started to look at these close encounters, did they gain any noticeable prominence.

Keyhoe's program to chastise the USAF kept these encounter stories out of respectable UFO literature for years. But when the taboo crumbled, the gates opened up and the fundamentalist researcher was finding himself overwhelmed by the influx of the Liberal element.

When one looks at the events in South America it is apparent that many of these cases are suspect and lack evidence. Although a few cases hold up to a cursory scientific approach, which by the way, has never been defined for UFO research, the majority of the South American cases can be explained by the culture reporting the phenomenon. In a country that is overflowing with extreme religious beliefs, cultist tendencies and superstitions, many of the subjective UFO events can be placed in proper perspective with little effort.

Yet, some of the reports persist as a "real" event, whereas "something happened to the witness(es)"! But that "something" is a wide gap from outerspace visitations. Since many serious researchers have spent so much time studying these cases, surely it would be disheartening to imply that it all has been a waste of time. It appears to this writer that the field needs to establish immediate criteria for contactee/abduction cases and start on a program to cull the obvious hoaxes from the suspect and potentially valuable cases.

What scientific methods or technology can be used on verification of a witness and their story? In this writer's opinion, as aid to all researchers, a manual or operating procedure should be generated that delineates the specific testing requirements for these cases. The following is considered the minimum acceptable requirements:

1. A comprehensive polygraph test initiated by a certified polygraph operator with a minimum of five years experience.

2. A second polygraph test to verify the results of the first, by a different, yet equally competent operator.

3. Hypnosis performed by a competent medical doctor with at least five years experience in medical-related hypnosis work.

4. A physical examination, including body fluid testing, by a professional medical doctor, with emphasis on hallucinogenic drugs in the system.

5. A complete medical history of the witness, as applicable, and if available.

6. A tape recording of the sighting/encounter narrative and the testing procedure described in Items 1, 2 and 3.

7. Any case older than 60 days from the alleged "encounter" date, shall not be evaluated as too much time has transpired.

8. Photographs should be taken of any important details pertinent to the sighting, i.e., a mark on the witness' body or a peculiar marking near the sighting area, the witness' car, etc.

9. Electrical and/or mechanical devices that "suffered" purported failure modes must be evaluated by competent service technicians to determine the reason(s) for the failure. These devices refer to vehicles, watches and other machines that have been reported to malfunction during an observation of the UFO phenomenon and/or an encounter with occupants of "spacecraft".

Granted, following the above criteria will not solve the entire mystery, standardization in investigative methodology will start to establish a data base and quickly remove most of the hoaxed cases and those presently considered borderline by some saucer enthusiasts.

CATEGORY FOUR

The last category of close encounter event possibilities, evaluates the potential of a manipulation by the government, for the purpose of enhancing the saucer saga with a few false encounters. This theory will be offensive to both the anti-ufologist, to whom all cases are hoaxed and the pro-researchers, with a strong belief in extraterrestrial visitations. Yet this theory is more plausible than the others in a logical sense. Since many of the serious researchers agree that close encounters are not all real or hoaxes, and probably a combination of both, then a hypothesis explaining some of the fundamental facts in these highly subjective cases may make more sense.

Since the tools used to investigate the abduction/close encounter are extremely subjective and are solely dependent upon the expertise of the technician, most, if not all data retrieved from these cases is erroneous. Even the criteria of investigation previously detailed, will fail bitterly, if the analyses is performed by non-professionials. I think most pro-UFO researchers, that support close encounters, would be hard pressed for a list of cases that underwent a total scientific evaluation/technique. There are too many suggestive theories and twice as many assumptions made on these events.

How can anyone in the field accept one case and reject dozens of others? What separates the fine line between the so-called "real" and hoax encounters? Better data or testing techniques? More plausible witnesses? Continued gullibility by the investigators? It's easy to understand why the critics can insult this type of UFO encounter based on what has transpired to date.

However, let's assume that someone within the government intelligence community, possibly a secret component of the CIA or the super-secret NRO (National Reconnaissance Organization), has a need to enhance saucers or deliberately misdirect the research being conducted on the phenomenon. Or possibly there's a higher prioritized reason to conceal government saucer activity. A theory of purported mind control and psychological testing by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the CIA has been forwarded to this writer. The need for mind control, as a psychological offensive or defensive weapon system, has been paramount with the Federal government since 1951, and is well-supported by numerous documents obtained under the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).

A typical scenario of covert mind control testing could easily transpire by using the saucer story as a cover. It would be quite simple to create a saucer aura by publicly stating that UFOs do not exist or infer that "unbalanced" persons report seeing the phenomenon. Then stage a UFO sighting. Through the use of drugs or other suggestive means, the witness would experience a "real" close encounter. The value of a few experiments of this type would be overwhelming. The test subject would be ideal and totally unsuspecting. Since most individuals do not believe in UFOs and are well-aware of the automatic "crackpot" label that goes with individuals who report "weird encounters", the witness would subconsciously disregard the reality due to this preconditioning and the experiment would provide much better data than a controlled test with volunteer subjects.

Additionally, valuable data would be obtained on the interface of the subject witness with the persons responsible for the testing, the reaction of UFO publications and other media and finally the reactions of the public to such a "sensational" event. It is obvious that a lot of information could be obtained from one simple staged close encounter.

Another reason to stage a close encounter on unwitting witnesses would be the enhancement of pro-saucer theories, therefore, outerspace visitations, to offset the real reason or cause of saucer reports. It could be the government wants the public to keep the possibility of outerspace-orientated saucers on their minds to distract from the primary reasons of periodic UFO reports which could possibly involve the government's intervention of the public's lives (or at least their minds), a perfect cover for clandestine weapon system testing and as a useful ruse to offset a political situation.

It is important to understand that only a few "false" incidents will be required to serve the purpose of the ruse. It will not require hundreds of events or millions of dollars. To further quantify the theory of staged events, researchers need to carefully analyze the data from the foreign countries, especially those in South America and then compare the data to the cases in the U.S. If most of the South American events deteriorate under careful evaluation and can be attributed to superstitions, hoaxes or religious origins, then the few "good" cases in the United States will have more significance. This culling will establish patterns to close encounter/abduction cases that can be helpful in future reports and help reduce the aura associated with the global extent of close encounters.

Regardless to which theory is the most accurate, the important fact to remember is the total lack of data to support any single or combination of these explanations. At present, the major question that continually arises with these incidents concerns the fact that a lot of people are worried about the origin of the "space race" piloting the UFOs and no one has yet proven what a UFO really is.

The greater the amount of wild hypothesizing attributed to these cases the less anyone of reputation is going to take them seriously. Unless the field immediately implements scientific controls over the investigation into these cases, the data will remain ambiguous and useless.

Could it be that "select" individuals, like George Adamski, were deliberately fooling the public and other cases like the Betty and Barney Hill abduction were nothing more than experiments in manipulation? The time has come for all researchers to seriously ask the question - who's been fooling me.

(1) Named after Dr J. Allen Hynek, past scientific consultant to the United States Air Force's Project Blue Book.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES - BIBLIOGRAPHY SERIES VOLUME ONE: EXOBIOLOGY AND UFOLOGY

AUTHOR: John Prytz *PUBLISHER: The Australian Centre for UFO Studies*

REVIEWED BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies which has gained a reputation for its production of documents which are of value to the researcher has now published a rather unique addition to its collection.

Since April 1979, John Prytz of Canberra has been compiling the "ACUFOS Bibliography Service" column, in the ACUFOS Journal, which featured bibliographies on various specific subjects of interest to ufologists - a task undertaken by no other UFO journal in the world and one for which many compliments have been received.

The ACUFOS Bibliography Service will continue to appear in the ACUFOS Journal, however, the need was felt for a consolidated volume, and here it is. This Bibliography is anticipated as the first of a series of master bibliographies, dealing with exobiology and ufology, which will be of interest to researchers. It is a "selected bibliography" - John has chosen the two main criteria of interest to their likely audience, and accessibility of material, to base his choice of contents on.

Contained within the volume's 115 pages are references to source material from SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, NATURE, NEW SCIENTIST, NEWSWEEK, ICARUS, SCIENCE NEWS and hundreds of other journals, magazines, major monographs, the electronic media etc. As will be detected by the reader, John has concentrated on the relatively "popular" literature which can be found, for example, at local or state libraries. UFO special interest journals have not been reviewed as they are not, generally, readily available to the public and would make the document unwieldy, far more expensive, and, besides, their contents are most likely already known to researchers. In this sense the bibliography is of great value because it means that the researcher does not have to spend valuable time pursuing journals etc., unlikely to contain more than the occasional article on the subject of main interest.

Browsing through the document one sees just what John means when, in his introduction, he states:

"Published information in all areas of knowledge is increasing so rapidly that it is almost impossible to keep track of it...Ufology and exobiology and other related topics are examples that have seen information explosions in recent times..."

Spread over headings as diverse as "Concerning extrasolar planetary systems", "Cosmic truths and consequences", "Ufology and theology" and "UFO fiction and novelty items" are 3676 entries which cover source material in the areas of the UFO phenomena, artificial intelligence, exobiology, aspects of astronomy and others which have in common the theme "extra-terrestrial life". Each sub-section opens with a pithy comment by John.

Existing bibliographies in this area are hard to obtain. Catoe's classic, UFOs AND RELATED SUBJECTS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, came out originally in 1969 (second edition 1979), whilst Sable's work, EXOBIOLOGY: A RESEARCH GUIDE, was published in 1978. Mallove's INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION: A BIBLIOGRAPHY and BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE are now two and four years out of date respectively.

To top off the massive number of entries, John has provided three indexes, a name index (approx. 1400 long), a journal and program title index (over 300) and a book review index (48), all of which are worth their weight in gold. If you want to know what items have appeared in ESQUIRE see references 834, 1332, 1489, 2075 and 2244. How about articles by T.A. Heppenheimer? See references 1159, 2379-2380, 2424-2425 etc.

All in all, a mammoth job, extremely well done and destined, without a doubt, to become a standard reference work for years to come.

This document is available from The Australian Centre for UFO Studies, PO Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082, at a cost of $ Aust 15 which includes postage (surface mail) and handling.

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES - BIBLIOGRAPHY SERIES VOLUME ONE: EXOBIOLOGY AND UFOLOGY, is also available from:

Arcturus Book Service
263 N Ballston Ave
Scotia, N.Y. 12302
U.S.A.

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THE CATALOGUE OF UFO PERIODICALS

(Researched, compiled and edited by Tom Lind)

REVIEWED BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

Tom Lind of the United States is to be congratulated on the production of THE CATALOGUE OF UFO PERIODICALS which is useful to both the casual browser and the serious researcher as a reference tool.

It seems, at first, an easy task to "merely" compile a listing of basic data on past and present periodicals containing UFO/UFO related material, however, a glance at the final product will show the reader it has been no easy task - lots of work and dedication have obviously gone into the project.

In the catalogue's 281 pages there are, by my count, 1142 entries, each of which consists of title, publisher's country of origin, date of first issue, last issue (if ceased), frequency and any noteworthy comments. Some pieces of data are missing because they are either not known or couldn't be established. Tom, in his foreword, writes that he hopes to rectify these omissions by the production of periodical supplements which will keep the catalogue up to date.

This first catalogue of UFO periodicals is an excellent production. It is good to see one individual producing something of value to all researchers.

The Catalogue of UFO Periodicals is available from: Mr Tom Lind, PO Box 711, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455 -0711, U.S.A., at a cost of $ US 12.50 plus US 75¢ postage and handling (orders outside the United States and Canada are $ US 2.00 extra), Florida residents add 5% for state sales tax.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This catalogue is also available from: Arcturus Book Service, 163 N. Ballston Ave, Scotia, N.Y., 12302, U.S.A.)

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena

AUTHOR: Harley D. Rutledge

PUBLISHER: Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1981, 265pp, $10.95

A BOOK REVIEW BY BILL CHALKER

Back in 1975, I presented a paper at the first national UFOCON conference, entitled "The UFO Flaps - a Context for Scientific Study", which sought to demonstrate that the apparent phenomenon of UFO sightings, singling out localised areas for protracted attention, placed the UFO mystery potentially into the domain of science. My argument was that if we could predict the occurrence of such "flaps" we could then, as researchers, monitor and examine UFO phenomena directly. In other words, UFOs would become the basis of a repeatable experiment - the classic mainstay of scientific method. I returned to this theme in my position statement in Ron Story's ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UFOs (1980). To project UFOs into the arena of direct scientific experimentation was to address one of the major stumbling blocks of UFO phenomena - their elusiveness.

I have had experience with a number of UFO flap areas, the most impressive from a personal view-point being the Tyringham Dundurrabin flap of 1973. Here, for a few short months, UFO phenomena seemed to regale this remote area on the New England Dorrigo plateau area of New South Wales. What amazed me more than anything was that I was able to experience some of the range of phenomena reported, for example, nocturnal lights, aerial objects, auditory phenomena, beams or shafts of light, "strange" sounds, etc. All fascinating but, unfortunately, curiously elusive. I would be the first to admit that my investigations of this area were not well equipped. My team was severely limited in what resources we could deploy, but at least we were able to document an ongoing flap almost first hand. One facet I found puzzling, but at the time regarded as coincidental, was that whatever these lights were, they seemed to display an evasiveness that ostensibly went beyond mere chance. However, over the years, various flap areas world-wide have often repeated the themes I encountered in the Tyringham area. While disappointed by the lack of hard evidence, the apparent characteristics of UFO flaps, and my own experiences, were enough to maintain my interest in this aspect of the UFO mystery. That brings me, after a rather long winded introduction, to the purpose of all this - the book, PROJECT IDENTIFICATION. I first heard of Dr Rutledge's work in 1973 and always wanted to hear more. When I heard that Rutledge had finally published a book on his study of a UFO flap area centred in Missouri, I wasted no time in contacting him. Dr Rutledge kindly sent me a copy of his book for review.

After reading the book I was left with a curious ambivalence. On one hand it was an application of a program I have long held dear - the idea of deploying well equipped teams into a flap in progress. On the other hand I was left with the conviction that the "UFOs" Dr Rutledge's team had observed were not as "unidentified" as was contended and that a large percentage may be attributable to prosaic factors.

Briefly, "Project Identification" consisted of deploying equipped teams into the field to study UFO phenomena. Equipment, at different stages, variously consisted of cameras, binoculars, telescopes, a spectrum analyzer, an oscilloscope, 3 transceivers and a generator.

reference library

Upon first inspection, the project was extraordinarily successful. In 7 years (but principally during 1973) the team observed 178 UFOs during 157 sightings and produced 700 photographs of these. Dr Rutledge makes the following distinction in his team's UFO sightings:

> Class A UFOs: "lights and/or objects that can be identified as having bizarre behavioural and/or physical properties that defy conventional explanation".
>
> Class B UFOs: "lights and/or objects that cannot be identified using available instruments, but which, in the judgement of the observer, do not display bizarre behavioural or physical properties that would defy rational explanation".

With these distinctions lets look at the totals again. Of the Project's observations 34 sightings were indicated to be Class A relating to 45 UFOs. Of these, 10 were from Dr Rutledge's own residence! None of the 700 photographs were of Class A events. In all Class A events, the UFOs either disappeared, cameras were not available, or nothing came out on exposures taken.

In evaluating the sightings described in the book, one can only make an educated assessment . One cannot doubt Dr Rutledge's sincerity nor his conviction that the Class A UFOs are "unknowns" but we can only go on what he tells us. Despite my concurrence for Dr Rutledge's approach, I was left with the impression that most, if not all, the Class B sightings perhaps had prosaic explanations and that perhaps many of the Class A UFOs may have been of a similar vein. I was not satisfied that all possible explanations of the numerous sightings had been exhausted. There were a few cases described in the back that I found puzzling, but I was not left with enough facts to form a definite opinion.

I was honestly disappointed in this inability to share Dr Rutledge's conviction that his Project Identification has isolated definite evidence of unknowns. There is no way, at this juncture, that we can be certain that either unknowns were present or prosaic phenomena were at fault. I must, however, applaud Dr Rutledge's efforts in presenting his evidence and I sincerely hope that he continues his efforts in the hope that something truly puzzling can be documented in such detail that it can no longer be deemed ambiguous.

Dr Rutledge has a difficult task ahead of him and I feel it would have a better chance of success, to everyone's satisfaction, if he evaluated his experiences, as described in the book, in a critical manner, using such helpful references as Allan Hendry's THE UFO HANDBOOK and Richard Haines' OBSERVING UFOs. Once having critically calibrated his data, Dr Rutledge's Project Identification would be better applied to flaps occurring in isolated localities which are, hopefully, least clouded by prosaic stimuli (e.g. aircraft etc.) and media induced contagion effects. The Piedmont area, the centre of the UFO flap covered by the book, is highly populated and being the centre of a highly publicised flap at the time - 1973 - the chances of prosaic phenomena playing a big part in any "UFO" sightings were very high.

In closing, let me just say that Dr Rutledge's book does not offer proof of UFOs, it does, however, indicate a methodology, which, if properly refined and applied, may provide the type of evidence that science holds dear, that is, UFOs could become the stuff of repeatable experimentation - the classic mainstay of scientific method.

UPIAR RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Editor in Chief: Vicente J. Ballester Olmos

This new journal will be of interest to scientifically minded ufologists interested in keeping abreast of European UFO research.

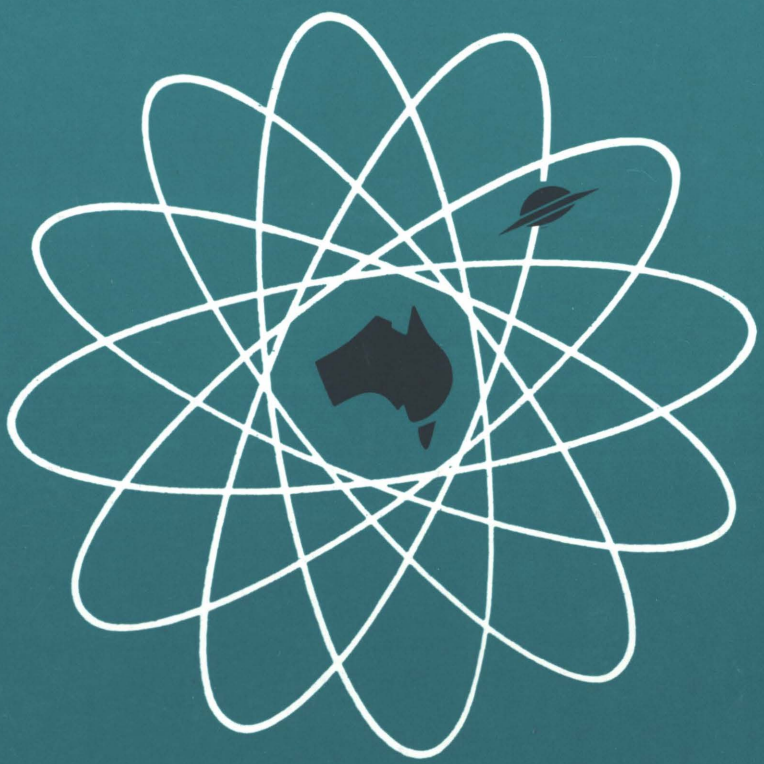
For further information contact: Coop. UPIAR S.r.1., PO Box 11221, 1-20110 Milano, Italy.

UFO SIGHTINGS REGISTER

May 1978 - 1981

The UFO SIGHTING REGISTER, compiled by the Perth UFO Research Group, is a 22 page document which records Western Australian sightings from May 1978 to May 1981.

This publication is now available from: Perth UFO Research Group, 375 Kew St, Cloverdale WA 6105, Australia, at a cost of $3.50, within Australia, which includes postage, and $ Aust 5 overseas.



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