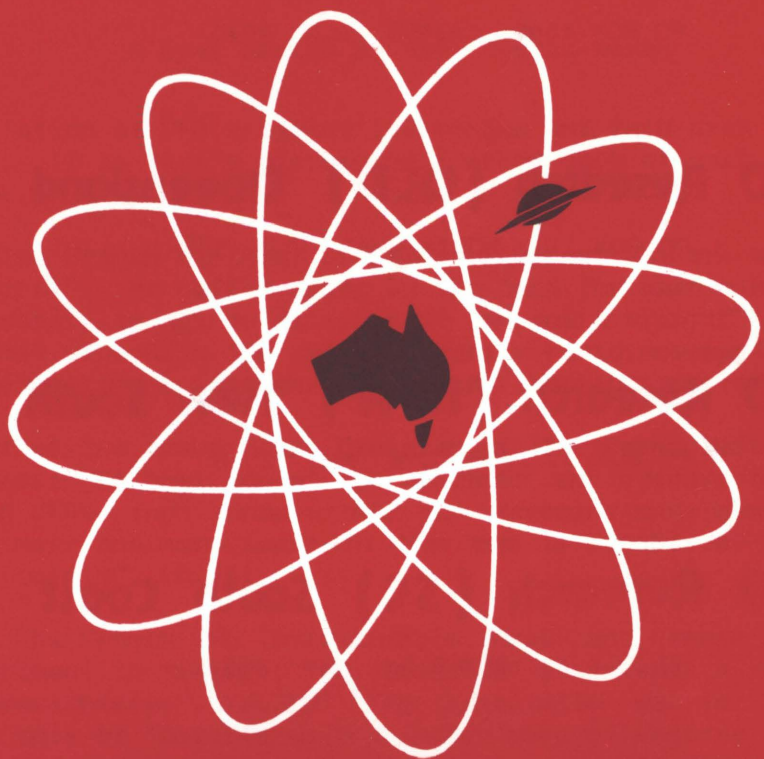


UFO Research Australia newsletter

ISSN 0726 — 1764

VOLUME 4, NO. 2
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1983

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No. SBQ1224



Australian Centre for UFO Studies

PO BOX 229, PROSPECT SA 5082



UFO Research (FNQ) Far North Queensland

PO BOX 1585, CAIRNS QLD 4870



UFO Research (QLD) Queensland

PO BOX 111, NORTH QUAY QLD 4000



UFO Research (NSW) New South Wales

PO BOX 6, LANE COVE NSW 2066



UFO Research (SC) South Coast

PO BOX 19, BERKELEY NSW 2506



Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC)

PO BOX 99, NORTH HOBART TAS 7002



UFO Research (SA) Inc. South Australia

18 FRANCIS AVENUE, PARA HILLS SA 5096



Perth UFO Research Group Western Australia

375 KEW STREET, CLOVERDALE WA 6105



UFO Research (WA) Western Australia

84 ACTON AVENUE, RIVERVALE WA 6103

UFO Research Australia newsletter

This magazine is published bi-monthly and presents the work of UFO researchers but is independent of any UFO organization.

The material presented here does not necessarily reflect the views of this magazine.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

AUSTRALIA:	$ 15.00
FOREIGN:	$ Aust. 18.00 (surface mail)
	$ Aust. 30.00 (air mail)

Overseas subscribers please remit by banker's draft or International Money Order (Australian monies please).

SINGLE COPIES:

$ Aust. 3.00

VOLUME 4 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1983 NUMBER 2

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EDITOR - PUBLISHER

Vladimir Godic
PO Box 229
Prospect, South Australia 5082

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Pony Barenson

CORRESPONDENTS:

AUSTRALIA:

Keith Basterfield, Jeff Bell, Russell Boundy, Michael Borley, Don Ferguson, Holly Goriss, Paul Jackson, Cassandra Sowiak-Rudej, Paul Sowiak-Rudej

FRANCE: Jean Bastide
ITALY: Massimo Greco
NEW ZEALAND: John Knapman
RUMANIA: Tiberius Topor
SWEDEN: Göran Sundqvist
SWITZERLAND: Yves Bosson
UNITED KINGDOM: David Rees

SPACE TECHNOLOGY: Jane Brooks

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editorial

THE EVOLUTION OF A UFOLOGIST - A PERSONAL VIEWPOINT

(Guest Editorial by Keith Basterfield)

In my investigations into the UFO phenomena, over the past fifteen years, I have passed through several stages. Initially, came the genesis when, fresh to the subject, I soaked up information from any source, like a sponge. Then came the years 1970-1973 which found me out in the field in one of Australia's few "flap areas" - the mid-north of South Australia. My other travellers, and I, spent hundreds of hours interviewing and learning about our fellow human beings, with all their inherent difficulties, as reliable recorders of an event. From this era emerged the beginning of an understanding of the phenomena.

From here the learning process blossomed, coupled with continuing interviews, investigations and, most importantly, research. My travels led me across south-eastern Australia and to knowing other Australian researchers. Ideas were exchanged and friendships developed. The UFO "residue" diminished in numbers as experience grew.

In the late 1970s an idea grew from which came my book: "UFOs - the Image Hypothesis"; although the raw manuscript carried more detail than the final product allowed.

Perhaps the human mind was capable of generating the phenomena!

The last few years have seen me retire from all organised groups except ACUFOS, where I hold the position of Reports Coordinator and compile the ACUFOS Reports Digest.

I have been, of late, quietly digesting alternative views on the subject: The birth trauma idea of Alvin Lawson, the Earthlight concept of Paul Devereux, the stationary whirlwind theory to explain physical traces in English crop fields. All appear to have their place in our area of interest.

One of my many sidelines is collecting Australian accounts of near death experiences. Here the same sane, reliable, average persons, who report UFOs, tell of their trip to a place where they meet dead relatives and sometimes a being of light. God perhaps? They return to tell their incredible story which is every bit as real to them as events related by UFO abductees.

Since first becoming interested in UFOs, in 1968, I have learnt that the universe can indeed be a strange, and sometimes frightening, place and that the Earth still has countless mysteries which she is only slowly conceding to us.

In religious analogy, I have at times been an atheist {pre 1968 - "there is no such phenomena"}; an almost believer {circa 1972}, and an agnostic {"yes there is a phenomena, but we do not know its cause and may never know"}. However, I reserve the right to become a "born again christian", or to hold any other position, as the evidence changes.

I would suspect many of you have been through some, or all of these, positions at times.

At the moment, I no longer feel the need to automatically invoke extra-terrestrials. The Earth and our minds appear a much more likely cause.

I recount my experiences, and changes, for two purposes. Firstly, to assist any of my colleagues who may be down in one of the many potholes, along the road to knowledge, and who are asking is it worth spending energy to haul themselves out and move on. My answer is a resounding yes!

Secondly, to point out that I don't believe that the mystery is going to be solved by armchair theorists, or professional scientists, but by us. It is going to be solved by fieldwork, patient research, and much thought and discussion. By fieldwork, I mean that we must get out and about actively unearthing facts - cold, hard facts. Following this must come the processes of collation, interpretation, and dissemination.

Dissemination must take place within the UFO literature. The general media cannot be trusted with such matters. One example of the excellent mediums around is this newsletter - UFORAN. It has risen Phoenix-like from its problems, due to the dedication and tender loving care of Vladimir Godic and Pony Barenson. They want to serve the UFO community in the way they know best - providing a vehicle for you and I to publish our ideas and findings. I urge you to support UFORAN.

Let's press on with new resolve. I fully believe the end is almost in sight.■

STRINGER/MANSON UFO SIGHTING

(Original report investigated by Bruce Harding throughout 1973. The report, upon which this article is based, comes from the files of the now defunct A.P.R.G. (Christchurch, New Zealand). Permission to reproduce this material was granted by Bruce Harding).

BY HAROLD J. KNAPMAN

(UFORAN Correspondent New Zealand)

DATE OF SIGHTING:

January 14, 1973.

LOCATION:

Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Christchurch, New Zealand.

WITNESSES:

1. Steve Stringer
2. Karen Manson (Steve's girlfriend).

BACKGROUND TO THE INCIDENT:

It was about 12.45 a.m. and Steve Stringer and his girlfriend, Karen, were out driving - Steve was teaching Karen to drive. They had been out since 8 p.m. and had not been drinking at all.

Steve described the site of the incident, which occured at 12.45 a.m., as "out in the middle of nowhere" and a later visit by the investigators confirmed this statement. The area is a zone of dairying and farmland with small roads, flat paddocks and trees. The site is situated some miles from the bustle of Christchurch.

It was a hot, warm, muggy night which Karen called "dead eerie" and Steve said, "it was a perfectly still night. Not a breath of wind...nothing".

Their statement, written by Steve, explains the circumstances surrounding the encounter. Steve said he heard a humming or "ringing" noise and was very "certain I could hear it". Following this, Karen spotted the object behind a dip in some very distant trees - it looked like an egg held at arm's length and was "plain" because it was not fuzzy edged (this point has more meaning later in the encounter). Karen said: "What gets me is we saw it out there and I said it looked like a flying saucer and then, the next minute, (we) looked up and it was just coming towards us. I still think they could hear us. (Karen laughs and Steve scoffs quietly at her.)".

Steve, on being asked by Karen to explain "it", dismissed the object as a plane and this deduction is understandable because the craft was sighted behind tree tops from quite a distance.

On the map the object is shown to have made a right-angled turn, but Steve and Karen weren't watching it at this stage and, thus, just assume this is what it did in order to manoeuvre. Afterall, they both now heard the humming noise and instinctively looked up to see the object flying high and yet downwards on a 45° slant. It was coming straight down and would have taken less than 5 minutes to travel from its original great distance to the close phase. In Karen's words, it came "right at us".

The sound was clearly audible, the car motor was not running and Karen said the sound "wasn't coming from any direction"....rather through the air "like wind".

Originally, i.e. within a week of the sighting, Steve described the object as having big spotlights around its bottom, but, after seeing a coloured impression of it, based on his sketch, he realised that the lights were around the middle instead. These lights were extremely bright and lit up everything. They showed no actual solid rivets or portholes on the craft - these may have been rendered invisible due to the intensity of the lights. Steve said, "it was all light with spotlights - big spotlights, all round. That's all we really remember". The object was a yellow-white colour and was very, very, close. Steve said, "it did not look metallic as such".

The following is Steve's description of the craft:

The object was bright - the light was "fantastic", unlike anything he had ever seen before. Steve likened it to the fictional craft in television's "Invaders" series of 1967-8. The sound produced was high-pitched. Steve and Karen both agreed that the lights were circular and "glared out everywhere - it was a big object it really was. Honestly,

I was just that scared when I first saw it, I didn't stop to take size or anything like that. We didn't know what it was". The lights "didn't have shafts of light like a spotlight coming down, but were just round circles of light glaring out ahead of them. The body was fuzzy now, with the lights, and this can be attributed to the fact that if you look into a bright light you can only see just a blurry outline - you can't picture anything behind it".

THE SITE:

The area consisted of "paddocks everywhere, as far as you can see". Steve estimated the paddock out ahead stretched for a mile and a farmhouse was about a half mile from where they were parked.

DETAILS OF THE CLOSE ENCOUNTER:

The UFO came round and went over a distant shed, it got to the first fence before Steve decided that was close enough as far as he was concerned. Because no lights were on in the nearby farmhouse, he engaged reverse gear and roared out backwards, leaving the headlights off to avoid attracting attention. Consequently, Steve almost went over the roadside embankment.

As Steve and Karen left they could see the object out of their back window - "close behind us".

The car started without difficulty while the UFO was in the vicinity. Steve said, "I'm pretty sure it didn't land, not at that exact spot where we were, because when we looked back, when we were driving off, it was over that spot at least - it would have been well over it". I (Harding) said, "so if you had have stayed there..." Steve replied, "yeah, well we didn't know". Karen added, "...coming straight for the window you know - if we had have stayed there we probably wouldn't be here".

Steve checked on its approach and said "... wasn't really rushing towards us, was it"? Karen replied, "no, no, well it wasn't taking its time and it wasn't rushing, you know what I mean"?

I (Harding) checked on possible "explanations", i.e. a plane or weather balloon. Steve said, "well a weather balloon wouldn't light up so much would it"? Karen did not believe she had witnessed a plane or a balloon. Steve rang to check on these possibilities but couldn't get through. However, Steve's sister's fiance, who worked at NAC, said it was unlikely that there would be any planes anywhere at that time of night.

In his statement, Steve made the point that the UFO looked like it was coming at them, but, on thinking this over, said, "at first I thought it was coming straight for us, but what the hell have they got to do with us, you know, sort of thing". Steve also said the UFO reminded him of some buildings at QE2 park.

When the object cleared the area above where Steve and Karen were parked, it cleared trees 25 to 30 feet high.

PHYSICAL EFFECTS:

Surprisingly, this case contains none. There were no effects on the car's ignition. Steve and Karen did not experience a rise in temperature as the UFO approached, nor did it leave any burn marks on them. The only effect was emotional trauma.

THE WITNESSES:

Steve and Karen are helpful, average, people.

Steve, when questioned on a 12.45 a.m. driving lesson, replied, "it doesn't worry me what anyone thinks, I teach here when I like". When asked why they didn't contact the media, Steve replied "...didn't think it was really worthwhile. We sat down and discussed it and it could have been a UFO, but, at that time, I didn't believe in them very much, and you just get laughed at. No-one believes you and that was it". Karen agreed.

I (Harding), asked them for their view on UFOs and this is what they said:

STEVE: "I've never really taken them into mind, but, seeing I've had the experience of one, well, I'm interested now".

KAREN: "I didn't even really know they existed before I saw one, so they didn't bother me".

Neither of the witnesses had seen a UFO

before, although they both admitted that they would like to believe they saw a UFO.

Karen has not had a driving lesson since the encounter. Both witnesses had spent quite a lot of time at the site before the incident, but, ever since, Steve says "now and again, during the day, but not at night, I jokingly asked Karen about her reaction if little men had walked out of it. She replied she would have 'died'". When asked how frightened she was, Karen said, "I was crying. Steve wanted to stop. As soon as we got out of it...down the road a wee bit, he (wanted to) have a look, go back, and I wouldn't let him, I was pulling at him to go". Of this, Steve said, "well, when you're not expecting anything - nothing you've ever seen before in your life, well your not going to stick around. It was really frightening, really frightening. Like, I've been out in the night in the bush and I'm not scared of the dark, or anything like that, but that really frightened me, really terrified me".

As a measure of his seriousness, Steve has staked his reputation on the truthfulness of his story. As he put it, "I told Bruce before, I didn't believe in bloody UFOs in the first place, until I seen what I seen that night. So, if I did believe in, and I was all keen on them, I could have illusioned something - but I didn't believe in them in the first place".

Brian Musson asked Steve if he felt there would be a logical explanation for what he and Karen saw and Steve responded, "yeah, there'd have to be for something like that to come down wouldn't there"?

FIELD INVESTIGATION:

Although a little disjointed, the investigation was conducted adequately and completely.

Harding's initial contact with Steve came by chance when an associate told him of the incident which he had heard from a relative.

Harding conducted a phone interview with Steve within a week of the occurrence and sent him a sighting report form which, due to other pressures and his often not being home, the witness did not return to Harding. The investigation was hampered for months by Steve not being home and not answering messages. Steve had problems - a car motor replacement, a pet lost causing obvious upset, etc. Harding sent the witness a second form which he lost. Steve complained that the form was inflexible for close encounters and Harding later came to see, and agree,with this.

Finally, the investigator got Steve to make and sign a statement, plus a sketch which Harding worked on and improved to his satisfaction.

On the evening of September 7, 1973, Steve and Karen visited Harding who said, "Steve really had wanted to help and did so during a clear spot. We all met for the first time and most of the quotes used in this report come from that first discussion".

Harding conducted the total investigation up until the afternoon of Sunday, January 27, 1974, when Brian Musson joined and assisted in the finalisation of the case. "We visited the site, reconstructed the incident of a year ago, we took photographs and I have a good model of the site".

INVESTIGATOR'S STATEMENT:

"In my opinion, this is another first class CE 1 case and I believe the reporters of this incident to be of the utmost integrity. Steve is a very good upholsterer and Karen holds a position in a leading fashion company".



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NEW ZEALAND ENTITY REPORTS

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

While much has been written on Australian entity cases, little has been heard of similar events in New Zealand. Although several excellent publications have come out of that country over the years, for some reason New Zealand entity reports have not featured very prominently in world-wide UFO journals.

New Zealand lies between 33-53° south, about 1600 km east of Australia, and has a population of about 3.2 million people spread over 270,000 sq. km (about the same size as the British Isles).

My research, todate, has uncovered 18 entity reports for the whole of New Zealand. These figures might best be compared with our fairly thoroughly researched 87 Australian cases from a population of some 15 million over 7,700,000 sq. km, or with the number of recorded global entity accounts which have reached 2100.

In order to rectify the lack of information about these 18 cases I present here a brief summary of these events for your benefit. The references shown following each abstract are the most original sources I could locate. Further references are available from the author for those interested in pursuing the matter.

GORE - July 30, 1909, 0500 hrs.

Two male dredgehands viewed an "air-ship" at close range. The ship lowered through mist and circled around. Two figures were plainly visible sitting on board the craft which was carrying lights at both ends. Finally, it shot upwards and left to the south-east.

(Auckland Weekly News 5/8/09).

PORT MOLYNEUX - later than July 1909

An air-ship is said to have alighted and occupants, who looked "Japanese", emerged and engaged a male onlooker in conversation.

(Unknown 1909 issue of Clutha Free Press).

WAIPAWA - August 3, 1909, night.

A resident declared he had seen a grey torpedo shaped structure which contained three men, one of whom shouted to him in a foreign language. The witness then watched the machine for some time. It had two lights and circled before leaving.

(Hawkes Bay Herald 6/8/09).

INVERCARGILL - January 1910, 2300 hrs.

Several witnesses, amongst them a vicar, the mayor, and a policeman, saw a cigar shaped object hovering at 30 m. A man appeared at a lateral door and was heard shouting some words in an unknown language. The opening closed and the object accelerated away and

was lost to sight.

(Passport to Magonia, Vallee, Spearman, London 1970, p.187).

CHRISTCHURCH - 1944/45, 1620 hrs.

A nurse is reported to have come across an "upturned saucer" and several small figures inside transparent "cases". One of the beings, who was no more than 120 cm tall, was situated outside the landed object. The entities appeared to be green coloured forms inside transparent oblong casings. They had quite large heads in proportion to their bodies. When the lady moved closer the little being "drifted" into the object through a small opening. The object then took off.

(APRG Journal 1974, No.1, pp.11-14).

BLENHEIM - July 13, 1959, 0530 hrs.

Mrs F. Moreland was crossing a paddock when a 6-10 m diameter "saucer" descended towards her and hovered at roof-top height. Through the object's dome she saw two men dressed in fairly close fitting suits of shiny material like aluminium foil. Opaque helmets rose from their shoulders. Their faces could not be seen. One man stood up, placed two hands in front of him, then sat down. A minute later "jets" fired and the object ascended vertically with an audible, soft, high-pitched whistle.

(Nelson Evening Mail 22/7/59).

WAIRAKEI - December 18, 1968, 2230-2300 hrs.

A Miss Harvey and a Mr Perego were travelling by car when they saw a "man" dressed in a "diver's suit" walking alongside the isolated road they were travelling. The man was about 170-182 cm tall, of average build, and had on a shiny, plastic-type, dark blue, loose fitting suit. There was a division or belt around his waist. A helmet was divided from the body by a collar or neck piece. This helmet was cylindrical, like a rubbish container, but flat on top and of a dark blue colour with a clear plastic square window in front.

(Auckland University UFO Research Group).

WHANGAMATA - January 1969, 2200 hrs.

A man and his wife were strolling along a beach when suddenly there was an uncanny silence and a feeling of wrongness in the air. Then four to six tall figures "floated" down some nearby sandhills and approached the witnesses. These beings were clothed from top to bottom in black with no visible faces, arms, or feet. A large, dense-grey, balloon (1.2 m diameter), with a flat bottom, suddenly appeared, at eye level, only a metre away. The witnesses turned and ran.

(Strangers in Our Skies, Dykes, INL Print, Wellington, 1981, pp.40-46).

AWANUI - February 22, 1969, Ca 0100 hrs.

A Mr Brown was walking home when he saw an incandescence behind some bushes. Going to look, he saw two men and a woman sitting on the grass. There seemed to be an invisible barrier between the two men which the witness walked into. One man had an invisible wall, which was "fuzzy" to the touch, around him. Mr Brown left but states that the next day marks were found at the spot.

(Auckland University UFO Research Group).

TIRAU - Late 1969.

A 30 year old woman saw a bright, yellow, glowing, light over a nearby hedge. Silhouetted against the light were five black, or dark, shadows which looked like figures and moved slightly, with one being higher than the others. The shadowed areas looked like the heads and shoulders of people, though no arms or legs were visible. The witness left the area.

(UFO Research Far North Queensland).

WALUKA - May 1971, 0200-0300 hrs.

A woman, who was having a cup of tea, looked through her curtains to see three "men" chatting on a nearby beach. The figures seemed to be shrouded in a grey mist. Nearby was a very bright red light. A little later a silver strip appeared on the water and seemed to light the way back to the red ball for the men. The strip disappeared and the red ball then left.

(Canadian UFO Report, Vol.2, No.3, p.25).

BROOKBY - January 8, 1975, 2330 hrs.

Mr Norton and Miss Ricard, whilst returning from a fishing trip, saw an object with a dome and legs. Inside, moving around, were three shadowy figures. The craft shot off over nearby hills. Mr Norton's mother, a nurse, said Miss Ricard was in a state of shock when they arrived at her house.

(NZ Spaceview, No.66).

GISBORNE - March 12, 1977, 0100 hrs.

Three young women spent a night looking for UFOs. Later, two hours of the night could not be accounted for.

One lady (B) was hypnotised and recounted waking at 1 a.m. to find a light shining in her eyes and a disc, with dome, hovering nearby. Two of the women were drawn along the beam of light to the object whilst the third woman slept.

B next recalled being inside a small, round, room. A humanoid, of average height, was present, dressed in off-white overalls and white boots. A non-verbal conversation ensued. The ladies were then returned, via the beam, and the object left at speed.

The second lady refused to by hypnotised.

(Strangers in Our Skies, Dykes, INL Print, Wellington, 1981, pp.46-49).

WAIMATA - December 2, 1977, 0300 hrs.

Awoken by his dogs, a farmer investigated and found a "saucer" on the ground. Two humanoids were carrying off one of his dogs. They were 143 cm tall, wearing close fitting, metallic-silver, overalls and white, opaque, helmets. The overalls were gathered at the ankles with elastic cuffs which extended over red, glowing, boots. On their hands were large silver gauntlets, with flared arm coverings, extending halfway up the forearms. The farmer fired a shot and apparently winged one of the entities. The craft took off at speed. Footprints were reportedly found.

(Xenelog, issue unknown).

WAIMATA VALLEY - December 8, 1977.

A man reported seeing an entity standing by the side of the road. The entity was 145 cm tall and wore a silver suit with no helmet and bright red boots.

(Xenelog, issue unknown).

WARKWORTH - January 1978, night.

A young couple flashed a torch at a light in the sky. It descended and landed 50 m away. It was round, saucer shaped, silver in colour, and glowing. A doorway opened and revealed a tall standing figure, apparently 2 to 2.3 m in height. The witnesses waved to the entity and the entity waved back. The door then closed and the object rose and left.

(Rodney & Waitemata Times, 1/2/78).

EAST COAST BAYS ROAD - April 2, 1978, 2030 hrs.

Ms Robinson was riding a motorcycle when she noticed a wedge shape, with lights, which stopped about 200 m away. She clearly saw two figures peering at her which were visible from the waist up and seemed to be wearing dark robes. A car appeared after several minutes and the object moved away.

(Auckland Star, 3/4/78).

DUNEDIN - July 11, 1981, 1815 hrs.

An 82 year old woman reported seeing a football shaped object, in an adjacent paddock, which glowed and pulsated. It had a light on its lower half which was as bright as a searchlight. Two entities were clearly visible within the object - one appeared to be piloting from a clear glass cabin in the nose whilst the other was standing in a central glass tube which extended beyond the top of the craft. Both entities were dressed in grey coveralls and had white skin and no hair. The lady called her son who also watched for a while.

(John Knapman, Christchurch).

Looking over the events unearthed, it is surprising, although perhaps not, that four cases come from the early part of the cen-

tury. Readers will probably recall the large number of air-ships reported over New Zealand in 1909 and, like U.S. counterparts of earlier years, entities were part of the scene.

The spectacular 1959 Blenheim observation came just 16 days after the well known Papua sighting of Rev Gill et al, and is as interesting as any of our Australian events.

Following this came reports ranging from those of entities walking along roadsides to a possible abduction (more than we have had in Australia up until now). Although, in general, cases are similar to Australian events, the odd one of a farmer shooting "dognappers" might just be a little difficult for some researchers to swallow.

If any of our New Zealand readers know of other cases involving entities, I would appreciate hearing from them via the UFO Research Australia Newsletter.

newsclips

Universe won't end with a, bang, say astronomers

"THE ADVERTISER"
Adelaide, South Australia
November 11, 1983

CANBERRA — An international team of astronomers working with observations made at the Siding Spring Observatory in NSW believes it has proved the universe will not end with a bang, but will go on expanding forever.

Until now, the more popular theory has been that the force of gravity will eventually halt the present expansion of the universe.

At that point the universe would begin to fall back on itself — a process which would end with a "Big Bang" similar to that with which, theoretically, the universe began.

But according to the Australian spokesman for the international team, Dr Bruce Peterson, a senior research fellow at the Australian National University, their calculations show the universe does not contain enough matter for its gravitation to overcome the force of expansion generated by the initial Big Bang.

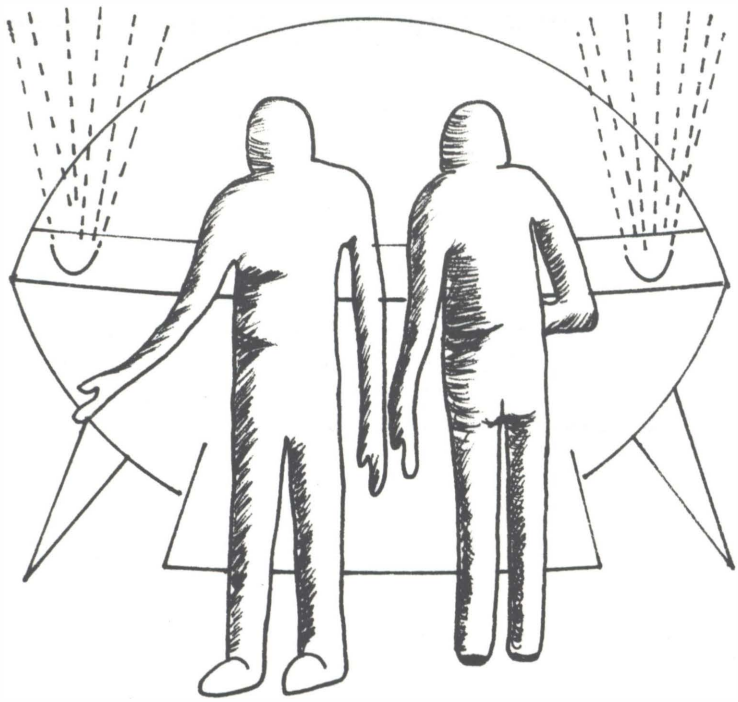
This means, he says, that the world will literally be without end.

It will, however, be a cold and dark eternity. All the stars will be extinguished one by one as they use up their nuclear fuel.

Ultimately the universe will become a lightless void, with a uniform temperature just above absolute zero.

The other members of the team are Dr G. Efstathiou, of Cambridge University, Drs A. J. Bean, R. S. Ellis and T. Shanks, all of Durham University, England, and Dr Zou Zhen-long, of Peking Observatory. All have been in Australia at various times working on the project.





AUSTRALASIAN UFO-RELATED ENTITY REPORTS

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

This article presents an indepth review of the available reported UFO cases in which entities are mentioned. Out of the sixty seven known events there are only twenty one which appear worthy of further study, based on the information to hand.

In September 1976, this author, together with Bill Chalker of Sydney, prepared "An Australian Catalogue of Close Encounter Type Three Reports" which summarised the thirty six entity reports which we had been able to unearth. This catalogue remained the standard work on the subject for some years.

Realising the need for a greater depth of investigation into these events, the Australian Entity Study Group was formed in January 1977 and was modelled along the lines of the MUFON Humanoid Study Group run by Dave Webb and Ted Bloecher. Participants in the scheme, besides myself, were Paul Jackson of Tasmania, Jeff Maynard of Victoria, Bill Chalker and Harry Griesberg of New South Wales.

Together, we set about gathering details of other entity events. Tasmania, which had not featured any entity reports in the original catalogue, soon produced half a dozen stories. Over a short period of time our thirty six original accounts blossomed to over one hundred.

Looking at these accounts, I became aware that they were not all of equal interest to UFO research. Reports ranged from descriptions of an entity walking along the side of a road, an ape-like creature chasing youths through scrub, through to a humanoid inside a UFO. To eliminate any confusion I suggested (1) that terminology should be adopted based on that used by Webb and Bloecher (2):

ENTITY REPORT TYPE A (ERA)

"A UFO report in which an entity is seen inside, entering, or leaving a UFO, or in close proximity to imply 'occupancy'. This entity can be human, humanoid, anthropoid, monster-like, apparitional, robot or other like in appearance. The distance between the observer and the UFO-related entity is of no effect".

ENTITY REPORT TYPE B (ERB)

"A report in which an entity is observed, there is no associated UFO, but the entity is similar to a type which has been reported in association with a UFO previously".

ENTITY REPORT TYPE C (ERC)

"A report where an entity is observed but

there is no association between the entity and the UFO phenomena as far as can be ascertained".

ENTITY REPORT TYPE D (ERD)

"A report which involves purely seemingly telepathic, audio or 'invisible' communication or entities, which seem to have some bearing on the UFO phenomena".

This notation was subsequently adopted by ACUFOS and utilised in the computer file held by ACUFOS. The notation and definition removes one problem associated with the use of "close encounter type three" which, by definition, can only be used to describe an encounter with an entity within a certain distance (150 metres) (3). Reviewing some of the global entity reports, there are accounts where reporters, looking through binoculars, see an entity inside a lighted object one kilometre away, or, in at least one Australian case, the object was reported to have been 8-10 km away (4).

Returning to our 100 plus Australian cases, upon employing the ERA-D classification we have a residue of 67 events. I have prepared a listing of these and this list is available from UFORAN.

A study of the available information on these cases was made between 1977 and 1980. I ended up with several categories into which I placed my conclusion on each report. These sub-divisions were:

(a) Suggested hoax,
(b) alternative explanations,
(c) insufficient information,
(d) a residue which appears worthy of further study.

Category (a) holds 5 cases, (b) 9, (c) 26, (d) 27, as follows:

(a) North Queensland 1954, Plympton 1964, rural Victoria 1966, Goulburn 1968, North Queensland 1974.

(b) Paramatta 1868, East Malvern 1954, Bowna 1961, Salisbury 1962, Gum Creek 1964, Ivy Tanks 1973, Grasstree Hill 1974, Goulburn 1974, Ten Mile Hill 1976.

(c) Central NSW 1893, Kelso 1909, Gore 1909, Kaikora 1909, Pt Molyneux 1909, Invercargill 1910, rural NSW 1919, central Australia 1951, Bankstown 1954, Hobart 1963/64, Clare 1967/68, Wynyard 1968, Penrith 1969, Midlands 1970, Cairns 1971, Warragamba 1971, Springwood 1973, Launceston 1964, Canberra 1974, Coffs Harbour 1975, Deception Bay 1975, Heathcote Road 1976, Bulloo River 1977, Mt Magnet 1977, Warkworth 1978, East Coast Bays Road 1978.

(d) Christchurch 1944/45, Berriedale 1948, Eucla 1955, Fiji 1957, Blenheim 1959, Boianai 1959, Belmost 1960, Sydney 1965, Wodonga 1967, Alberton 1967, Walcha 1968/69, Childers 1969, Flinders Park 1969, Greenacre 1969, Tirau 1969, Waluka 1971, Waikerie 1971, Bent's Basin 1972, Kuraby 1972, Campania 1972, Kimba 1973, Brookby 1975, Kettering 1976, Daw Park 1976, 7MI Beach 1977, Waimata 1977.

Just what are the types of report remaining in our residue? The following outline details of a few of these events.

DAW PARK, STH AUST., MAY 30, 1976.

A 17 year old, unemployed, youth was listening to music in his bedroom when the radio gave off "static" noises. The family dog, a German Shepherd, started to bark and the youth walked out to the porch to see what ailed the animal. Through a window, looking onto the back lawn, he saw a figure which seemed humanoid and was dressed in a silver suit, white boots, and wore a visor-like object over its head. On the entity's chest was a 30 by 30 cm box with a symbol, like a vertical figure eight, on it. The figure was some 165-175 cm tall with normal arm and leg proportions. His suit appeared to be all in one piece as far as the youth could make out from his 10 metre viewing range.

BELMONT, NSW, AUGUST 1960.

Mrs Helen Aldridge lives in an isolated part of Belmont North, a suburb of Newcastle, not far from the cliffs overlooking the ocean.

One night in August 1960, she was awakened by a buzzing sound and, upon opening her eyes, she saw a bright light shining in through her bedroom window. Curious, she got up to look and saw a most unusual sight. There, not more than 15-25 metres away, in

the space between her backyard and the cliffs was the source of the light - it was a round object, not unlike a large musical top and was sitting right in the paddock beside her home.

At first, Mrs Aldridge thought that a semi-trailer must have entered the place, but then she remembered that there were no gates and that the object did not really look like a semi.

After watching for a while, the witness tried to call her son but got no response. Her attention was then drawn to a movement in the garden below and she was shocked to see a person walking towards the house and looking at the ground, as if searching for something. When the being was only about three metres away, Mrs Aldridge quickly shut the window. The noise caused the nocturnal visitor to glance up at her and then quickly retreat towards the 45 cm high side fence. The entity reached the fence and stepped over, but continued watching the witness.

Mrs Aldridge waited no longer. She rushed to her son's bedroom and got him out of bed. Together they sped to the window but found that the person had gone as had the object. All that could be seen was a bright, glowing spot, much larger than a star, moving slowly, low in the sky, about 1.6 km away.

The object in the paddock was described as a very large top shape with a light, similar to a car's headlight, on its apex. This light rotated and projected a yellowish-white beam which illuminated the paddock, house and garden, as it swept around. The object itself glowed red and gold and showed a surface pattern like that of a camouflaged tank. It gave out a continuous low pitched buzzing sound. The whole structure was about 5 metres across and 1.3 metres high. A 35 cm lighted strip ran around the object and looked like a panoramic window. There were no supports, landing gear or other protrusions.

The being was described as 105-120 cm tall with body proportions normal by our standards. The mannerism and appearance were also normal. The entity seemed to be dressed in an olive-green, skin tight, suit of dull material. This suit, which lacked fastenings, had a helmet of the same material with a face plate of a non-transparent, orange coloured, plastic-like substance. The being's hands were not clearly seen, but appeared to be covered with gloves of olive-green colour. The boots were white-grey and looked like basketball shoes.

The whole experience lasted some 15 minutes and, after the first shock, the witness remained acutely aware of all that happened. She kept the event unreported for years for fear of ridicule but finally revealed the story to UFOR (NSW).

WAIMATA VALLEY, NZ, DECEMBER 2, 1977.

A farmer was awoken by his dog barking and, upon investigation, saw a landed "flying saucer" on the ground. Two humanoids were carrying one of his dogs between them and moving towards the object. They were 143 cm tall and wore close fitting, metallic, silver overalls and white, opaque, helmets. These overalls were gathered at the ankles with elastic cuffs which extended over red glowing boots. On the entities' hands were large silver gauntlets with flared arm coverings extending halfway up the forearms. The white helmets were rounded like large motorcycle helmets and extended from shoulder to shoulder without any markings or openings.

Alarmed by this sight, the farmer fired a shot and apparently winged one of the entities for the two beings dropped the dog and the wounded one ran off into some nearby bushes while the other ran into the craft, which took off at speed.

As you can see our residue category does indeed contain some provocative accounts.

OUTCOME OF OUR ANALYSES

1. Of particular importance, I believe, is the location of many of the events. 20 out of 27 occurred in a rural/isolated place, as compared with 7 within a suburban area. This is a reflection of Michel's comment on the 1954 French wave that population centres were avoided by landings (5); Vallee's comment that the number of landings seemed inversely proportional to population distribution (6); and Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos' work presented at the 1976 CUFOS technical conference (7).

2. Another important finding is that over three quarters of the reporters appeared to be in a familiar environment. One would perhaps expect a higher quantity of strangeness from someone who sees an object in a familiar environment, and also the minimum possibility of misidentification.

3. Diurnal peaks in these cases are between 1500-1800 hrs and midnight to 0300 hrs, local time, which is at once familiar and unfamiliar. A 1500-1800 hrs peak is not one normally associated with UFO events, whereas the 0000-0300 hrs one is (8).

4. Duration is mainly short with a peak between 10 to 100 seconds. This may be said to increase the chances of misidentification of a mundane object.

5. 25 out of 27 cases involve one and only one object.

6. Almost half of the cases involve one entity only, and all, but 2, were of humanoid type beings.

In summary, in a perfect case, we would be dealing with reports of humanoid beings and single objects witnessed by one reporter at least 50% of the time, usually in an isolated/rural locality, and of short duration. However, the normal picture is far from this ideal when we view the style and types of entities. Little sense is made from interaction between entity and reporter. What remains is a complex of similar, but at the same time dis-similar, stories. There is not one single case where physical events (traces) and a definite being have been reported together.

From the viewpoint of the professional scientist, these ERA events remain unsubstantiated verbal accounts only.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Future lines of research present themselves from this review:

1. Firstly, we need a better collection of data from all investigators. I believe we have not been gathering sufficiently in past cases. Documentation of entity reports needs to be improved. Response time from report to investigation needs to be reduced, possibly to a maximum of a week.

2. Once we have better collection of data, we need far more discussion in an investigator's documentation, e.g. discussion as to why the entity walking along a road couldn't have been a human in disguise, why the event coud not have been a dream, hallucination etc.

3. Once the report is compiled we need an adequate means of distributing details of the report. The AESG has started disseminating information already and offers a proven method for effective distribution of the report in an accurate fashion.

SUMMARY

ERA cases contain a fascinating multitude of raw data bits and are a rich sub-category of the whole subject. Looked at carefully, they may well provide the much needed key to determining an explanation for the UFO phenomena.

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SHOULD NASA FLY PRIVATE CITIZENS ABOARD THE SPACE SHUTTLE ?

BY NASA ADMINISTRATOR JAMES M. BEGGS

(Submitted by Jane Brooks - UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)



Man's interest in space has always included the desire to travel, explore and understand its vast horizons. NASA has always believed in an open program and has gone to great efforts to keep people informed. Through such media as onboard television, people have travelled into space vicariously. Now a new opportunity is emerging - for people to go themselves, to see for themselves and to share with others. It has long been a desire of NASA to allow private citizens to fly. Now with the United States in possession of the Space Shuttle and with access to space becoming routine, the opportunity for private citizens to fly as passengers deserves careful consideration. This means that the many interrelated questions must be examined before any agency decision can be made. Therefore, I've asked a small task force of our NASA Advisory Council to study these questions and evaluate the options for selecting passengers. I encourage you to help them with their work.

The maximum current Shuttle capacity is seven people for seven days, which would include a standard crew of four: commander, pilot, and two mission specialists. These crew members are,and will be, NASA astronauts (with the exception of one individual under a European Space Agency/NASA mission specialist training agreement).

The remaining three slots, if not filled by NASA or user-community trained payload specialists, could provide an opportunity for one or more private citizens to travel aboard the Space Shuttle. The requirements they would have to meet would not be as rigorous as those for astronauts.

A diverse range of people have already expressed an interest in flying as passengers: the news media and such correspondents as Walter Cronkite and Jules Bergman, entertainers such as John Denver and the Rolling Stones, film companies, authors, artists, public figures, futurists and the man or woman who is simply determined to go. We can assume that there are many people that we have not heard from yet.

The total number of citizens interested in flying aboard the Shuttle cannot yet be estimated. But one can assume that the figure would be a large one. So the current challenge before the task force is to determine what kind of criteria to apply to pick the relatively small number of private passengers that can be flown. To give you some sense of the enormous size of such a recruitment/selection task, there were almost 3,500 applications in 1980 who met the rigorous *minimum* qualifications for 19 astronaut openings.

John Naugle, formerly our chief scientist, is heading the group to study the questions raised in selecting private civizens for flight. He contributed to the development of the mission and payload specialist concepts. The members of the task force being a spectrum of diverse persectives and expertise to this task: Capt. Richard H. Truly, pilot of the second Space Shuttle mission; Daniel Fink, formerly General Electric's vice president for corporate planning; Sulvia Fries, historian; Willis Hawkins, chairman of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel that oversees the Shuttle program; James Michener, an author who has spent a good deal of time understanding NASA and its history; Julian Scheer, who headed public affairs during the early days when NASA's open policy was developed; and Florence Skelly, president of a major marketing research firm noted for its understanding of the American people, their values, expectations and perceptions.

The task force has adopted a working as-

sumption that: (1) there will be a policy of continuing flight opportunities for private citizens; and (2) NASA needs to establish a "fair" policy and selection process that assures a range of passengers who would bring the fullest benefits to the public. And they're looking at the following kinds of questions in trying to determine a selection process that is perceived as fair:

- What should the objectives for flying private citizen passengers be? What should their flight role be?
- Should they be integrated into the overall mission and be given tasks to perform or fly aboard strictly as observers?
- What would the benefits to the American people or the world at large be if private citizens are flown aboard the Shuttle? Should consideration be given to selecting not only citizens from the United States but from foreign countries as well?
- How do you determine who gets priority in flying?
- What are the medical and training requirements that would be necessary for private citizen flight roles?

The first meeting of the task force was devoted to identifying such questions. Now the group is fact finding with meetings scheduled for NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, in October and Kennedy Space Center, Florida, in November. In addition, the group will contact a small number of people around the country who might have data or insights to share. They plan to have their report to me sometime in late winter.

The question of flying private citizens aboard the Space Shuttle is clearly a complex one. However, when we find the answers that make it possible to fly passengers, these passengers will be taking another significant step for mankind. Clearly they will set a dual historical first: in the mode of conveyance, the Space Shuttle; and in their destination, the reaches of space.■

SOURCE: NASA Activities, October 1982.

forum



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

SAY IT IN FORUM IN 500 WORDS OR LESS.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND DISCUSSION

IS WELCOMED AND WILL BE PUBLISHED

WHENEVER SPACE PERMITS. - ED.■

"THE ISLE OF USTICA IS LIKE THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE"

TRANSLATED BY MASSIMO GRECO

(UFORAN Correspondent - Italy)

In the Italian, Milan, newspaper - "La Notte", the following incident was reported on April 19, 1982. The actual event took place over the Mediterranean Sea, near the Isle of Ustica, on April 17, 1982.

THE REPORT:

ROME - "Our 'Bermuda Triangle' nearly claimed another victim when a mysterious 'unidentified flying object' went very close to a DC-9 in flight from Milano to Palermo.

It was 11.29 a.m. on Saturday when the Control Tower at Rome Airport received a dramatic message from the pilot of the airline jet, Mr Salvatore Morabito, who informed the Control Tower that the aircraft was strongly shaken by the passage, at a distance of one kilometre, of an object with a trail of fire behind it. In that moment, the DC-9 was thirty miles from the Isle of Ponza on the flight path 'Ambra 13 Alfa' at an altitude of 8,200 metres.

Something strange must have occurred. This is confirmed by Mr Gilberto Rossi, co-pilot of a G-222 (military aircraft), who was transporting a stock of parachutes from Pisa to Trapani - 'we saw a big flame, probably a detonation'.

A tragedy was avoided, but only narrowly - 'it's a true miracle, we thought that those were our last minutes', said the 110 passengers on arrival at Palermo.

But what about the UFO? There are many hypotheses about its origin: At the time of the incident there were NATO forces conducting manoeuvres called 'Distant Drum' in which Italian, German, English and American aircraft participated. Also the U.S. aircraft carrier 'Eisenhower' was involved so it was logical to accuse the pilots of being responsible for a missile launch which missed its target. However, General Franco Ferri, entrusted by the Defence Department to conduct an official enquiry, stated categorically: 'The manoeuvre was carried out without any sort of missiles. The aircraft were armed only with bombs, we are certain of this as regards the Italian jets, however, we are awaiting U.S. confirmation that the American planes carried no missiles'.

This highly placed officer also said that between 11.05 and 11.25 a.m. the Italian interceptors F-104S and the American F-14 Tomcat simulated attacks on the aircraft carrier, with bomb launches, from an altitude of 1,500 metres. From 11.25 to 11.30 a.m., all the naval vessels involved united and fired shots at sea level. From 11.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Italian and American aircraft attacked the defence of the Eisenhower from an altitude of 1,520 metres. At 11.40 a.m. the jets demonstrated the 'sonic bang' at low altitude, lower than 300 metres.

According to the Defence Department, the NATO manoeuvres are not responsible for what happened to the DC-9 over Ponza. The hypothesis of a sonic bang is rejected, as is that of a gun shot. The only plausible hypothesis is a missile, but who launched it?

The area between Ponza and Ustica is now becoming a Bermuda Triangle for in this zone fourteen incidents have occurred during the past eight years. During 1980 an aircraft exploded over Ustica. Last year, from August 4 to August 8, a tragedy was avoided three times by a postal aircraft which was almost destroyed by a 'ghost missile'. This area is an important crossroad for 'unidentified' aircraft and submarines coming from the U.S.S.R., Libya and Albania. Maybe these constitute the real explanation for these strange events.

OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE UFO CONTROVERSY - A PROGRESS REPORT

BY BILL CHALKER

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During 1982, I was able to:

(a) Examine the majority of the extant UFO files held by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

(b) Examine the entirety of the extant UFO files held by the Department of Aviation.

(c) Initiate discussions with a defence scientist privy to the official files and the inner workings of governmental policies and approaches to the UFO subject.

(d) Initiate enquiries with other Australian agencies and individuals re UFO file holdings.

(e) Undertake enquiries with overseas government departments re UFO file holdings (in particular, the Ministries of Defence in the U.K. and New Zealand, and the USAF re Project Blue Book, the latter, in relation to Australian cases).

(f) Undertake discussions with the Department of Aviation/Bureau of Air Safety Investigation on the Valentich affair, and

(g) publish some of the results of my enquiries.

THE RAAF FILES

The RAAF files held by the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) were examined over four separate visits to the Department of Defence Russell Offices in Canberra during 1982 - namely, January 11-14, May 7, June 4 and October 8.

A total of 56 files were examined. They fell into three categories:

(1) "Unidentified Flying Objects - Reports of Sightings" - 47 files covering the period 1955 - 1982. Three files covering the period 1973/74 have yet to be examined

(2) "UFOs - Enquiries from Members of the Public and Flying Saucer Organisations" - 7 files covering the period 1966 - 1981, and

(3) "Investigation of Flying Saucers - Policy" - 2 files covering the period 1953 - 1969. The current "policy" file has not yet been made available.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION FILES

The DOA files held by the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation were examined on November 19, 1982, during a visit to their Melbourne office.

Four files were examined and their contents included:

(1) Previously "secret" papers related to the famous Drury film affair. (1)

(2) Details about early reports from 1952 - 1968.

(3) Early RAAF documents and reports (copies) no longer available in the RAAF files, due to the original files, ostensibly, being destroyed during the Department of Air (now Department of Defence (Air Force)) move from Melbourne to Canberra in the early sixties.

(4) Papers relating to the controversial Bouganville Reef event of 1965, which appear to confirm that the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) had no knowledge of it, at least at the level of DCA-Director-General in Melbourne. (2)

DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENCE SCIENTISTS

Detailed discussions have been undertaken with a retired scientist who has worked in the Defence Scientific and Technical Intel-

ligence (DSTI) section of the Joint Intelligence Bureau (JIB, now Joint Intelligence Organisation - JIO).

The scientist, in a civilian capacity, had access to the RAAF/DAFI UFO files in 1954 and later, as JIB "liaison" to DAFI, had access to the DAFI files during the late sixties. He was in a unique position to examine the files and observe the policies and approaches of government agencies (DAFI, JIB etc.) to the UFO question.

Further to my discussions with him by phone and letter, I was able to meet him personally during May 1983. I have found his information extremely informative and it has served to compliment and supplement data I have amassed from other sources. A detailed picture of the history of official involvement in the UFO controversy, in Australia, can at last be discerned.

OTHER AUSTRALIAN AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Upon my request, on July 13, 1982, the Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI) declassified documents relating to the famous radar-visual Sea Fury incident of August 31, 1954. These included written statements by the Sea Fury pilot and the Nowra Naval Air Station radar operator and a previously "confidential" memorandum from DNI to DAFI. (3)

In correspondence with R.H. Mathams, former Director of Scientific Intelligence (JIB/JIO) and author of the book: "Sub Rosa - Memoirs of an Australian Intelligence Analyst", he indicated to me that, "DSTI had only a marginal interest in UFOs; our analytical resources were limited and I had to take the position that we could not afford to become too involved in investigation of the UFO sightings until we had reasonable grounds for believing that they were of foreign - as opposed to alien - origin. We relied on DAFI to make the initial investigations and, at times, assisted in the interpretation of the resulting data". Mr Mathams is not the defence scientist mentioned earlier.

Other agencies and individuals have either been contacted, replied, or are in the process of being contacted. I do not, at this stage, propose to possibly jeopardise results, with premature disclosures of current and future lines of enquiries.

OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES

Enquiries with some overseas government deparments have borne fruit.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD), Defence Secretariat, Division 8, of the United Kingdom, indicated:

"a. MOD's records on UFOs go back to 1962. Most of the material is reports of individual sightings by members of the public, passed on to us via ATC centres, police, RAF stations, etc. As an indication of the size of our holdings, we received 2250 sighting reports between 1978 and 1981.

"b. MOD investigates UFO sightings solely to determine whether they indicate anything of defence interest. No attempt is made to find a positive identification for every object seen. We have, therefore, no category of 'unexplained' sightings..."

A reply from New Zealand authorities confirmed that there appears to be little organised effort to investigate UFOs there. No comprehensive records are maintained.

From the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., where the USAF Project Bluebook files are held, I have received copies of documentation held on some Australian cases. (4) I also have on order microfilm copies of a comprehensive Bluebook index and all photographic holdings.*

THE VALENTICH AFFAIR

On May 26, 1982, the Department of Transport (now Aviation) released to me their Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report on the disappearance of VH-DSJ and its pilot, Frederick Valentich. It would appear that this document was made available only to parties having a bonafide interest in the incident. It would appear that, via my correspondence with the Department, they were satisfied that my interest, despite it being from a "ufological" point of view, was never-the-less bonafide. I am aware that the same report has been denied to other parties, whom on the face of it, appeared to have had a bonafide interest. (5)

During my November 19, 1982, visit to the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation, I had the opportunity to discuss the Valentich Affair with Mr A.R. Woodward, A/Director of the Bureau. He referred to the files on the case, he had in front of him, to answer some of my questions, however, access to these files was denied to me, on the basis that all "air accident" investigation files were privileged information. It was evident that they were only treating the affair as an "accident/incident" pertaining to air safety investigation.

More recently, when I questioned him on the alleged discovery of the aircraft, VH-DSJ, off Cape Otway, by divers, Mr Woodward indicated that no action was planned by the Department of Aviation. In the event that VH-DSJ was actually salvaged, the Department would confiscate the aircraft in view of it being the subject of an aircraft accident investigation.

Dr Richard Haines has provided me with an advanced complimentary copy of his "Journal of UFO Studies" paper: "Results of Sound Spectrum Analysis of the Metallic Noises of a Tape-recorded Radio Transmission Between Cessna VH:DSJ and the Flight Service of Melbourne, Australia". (6)

PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

I have been able to publish part of the results of my research into official Australian government involvement in the UFO controversy:

(1-2) "UFOs and the Royal Australian Air Force - the Inside Story", in the UFO Research Australia Newsletter (UFORAN), Vol.3 Nos.2,3 and 4 (March-April, May-June and July-August, 1982) and MUFON UFO Journal No.175 (Sept. 1982) and No.176 (Oct. 1982), the latter in a slightly edited form.

(3-4) "UFOs: Australia's Secret Documents Revealed", in Omega - Science Digest, Sept.-Oct. 1982, and the APRO Bulletin, Vol.30, No.10 (Oct. 1982) and Vol.30, No.11 (Dec. 1982) as "Australian A.F. UFO Report Files".

(5) "The RAAF UFO Files", The Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies Vol.3, No.3 May-June, 1982.

(6) "The RAAF Files", UFORAN, Vol.3, No.4, July-August, 1982.

(7) "Valentich Disappearance - the Official Verdict", ACUFOS Bulletin, July 1982.

(8) "UFOs - the Secret RAAF Files", by Ken Anderson, The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), May 22, 1982.

(9) "Air Force Files Examined - UFO Sightings 'Still a Mystery'", by Tim Cribb, The (Sydney) Sun, December 8, 1982.

The British Flying Saucer Review (FSR), via Gordon Creighton, have indicated an interest in publishing some of this material. UFO Nyt, the Scandinavian publication, have also been given permission to publish material. The Orbis multiple part publication, "The Unexplained", may also be briefly refering to this research with an article by Jenny Randles in the near future.

I will continue to release the results of my research as time permits.

I have made limited copies of some documents available to those individuals with bonafide interests, e.g. Nebo area events of 1964 and 1965 (7) and a possible "landing" near Mandurana in 1978 (8) to UFO Research (FNQ); 1957 radar visual event in Tasmania (9) and 1960 USAF aircraft encounter near Cressy (10) to TUFOIC; Groote Eylandt (1964) "EM" event (11), radar-visual event at Kalamunda (1969) (12) etc. to UFOR (WA), and various "aircraft /UFO encounters" to Dr Richard Haines, who is specialising in such cases.

In view of the fact that I have signed a DAFI document undertaking to preserve confidentiality, I have to maintain strict control of the RAAF documents released to me. As time permits, documents will be released with confidential details (names etc.) deleted.

SPECIAL AREAS OF STUDY

During my reviews and research of official files several particular areas of study have received additional attention. These include:

(1) The case for and against official

"cover-ups" of UFO data:

More than twenty individual accounts from civilian sources allegedly indicative of "cover-up" activities were and are being examined. I hope to report on my findings shortly.

(2) The Drury film affair:

Most of the original documentation is now secured. Frames from the film are in my possession, however, they are of poor quality. Mr Drury has been contacted and was most helpful with my enquiries. A report on my investigations will be made available when completed.

(3) Reports by military personnel:

Reports by service personnel have been collected together and a report will be made available when completed.

(4) Reports from aircraft:

Such cases have been isolated and are to be added to an expanded catalogue in conjunction with Keith Basterfield's revision of his existing document on this theme. (13)

(5) Official policies to UFOs:

A number of official documents relating to policy have been secured. The evaluation of official policy re UFOs in Australia from 1950 through to 1983 is fairly clear. I will be reporting on this in due course.

(6) Summarising and indexing official file holdings:

Preliminary general indexes are already being worked on which will cover the period 1950 to 1983.

(7) Search for missing files:

While it appears that I have been able to examine the majority of RAAF/DAFI file holdings, a few individual file parts remain to be located and examined. These include:

(i) Three sighting file parts covering reports during about 1973 and 1974. Major cases known to be in them have already been secured (e.g. UFO over North West Cape (14) and a physical trace event near Nebo (15)).

(ii) The "current policy" file.

(iii) The original DAFI files prior to 1955. There is official evidence that these may have been destroyed during the move of Defence from Melbourne to Canberra in the early 1960s. Fortunately, a previously secret report written in 1954, and made available to me, summarises much of the DAFI files of the period 1950-1954. As already mentioned, early DCA UFO files I examined also hold copies of a number of reports and documents from these missing DAFI files of the early 1950s.

Other files are being searched for, however, it is thought that, in some cases, the "missing" files may have been "recovered" as new file series (or the earlier parts of more recent file series). Following the erratic history of official UFO files has sometimes been daunting. I am confident that I have established a fairly thorough understanding of the DAFI UFO files, so much so that the DAFI intelligence liaison officer I have worked with during 1982 was once moved to tell me that I knew the DAFI UFO files better than he did, in fact, better than anyone in the Department of Defence. This can in part be seen as a reflection of the significance DAFI/RAAF may now appear to give UFO reports.

CONCLUSION

As someone who has taken a special interest in the degree of official involvement in UFO investigation in Australia, for more than a decade now, I have personally been amazed at the extent of the material I have been allowed to become privy to in just one short year - namely 1982.

We have gone from a confused and vague picture of clandestine official involvement to a detailed understanding based on direct officially sanctioned file reviews by a civilian researcher.

In closing I will say that I will be working

very hard at making available to each and all the full extent of what I have learnt during this study and the benefit of a much closer relationship with the RAAF.

References and Notes:

(1) The Drury film affair refers to an incident during 1953 wherein Mr T. Drury. Deputy Director of DCA in Papua, took a movie film of a daylight object which exited a "cloud" at high speed, climbing at about 45 detrees, and disappeared. The film was examined by RAAF and USAF, however, it appears the film itself subsequently "disappeared". The affair has now been one mainstay of the claim made by many civilian researchers that there is an official "cover-up".

(2) The Bouganville Reef event involved the alleged photographing of a UFO by a pilot of a DC6 aircraft. It has been alleged that evidence about the case, including the film, has been confiscated by DCA officials and subsequently covered up. The classified papers I examined consisted largely of internal communications between the Queensland Regional Director of DCA and the Director General of DCA, which appears to confirm a lack of knowlege about the event, at least at the level of Directors of DCA.

(3) The Sea Fury incident involved a naval pilot flying over the Goulburn area of New South Wales, encountering two unidentified lights, the presence of which were confirmed by ground radar.

(4) In particular the classic Drury affair of 1953 (see (1) above) and the Willow Grove close encounter of 1963, wherein farmer Charles Brew had a very explicit sighting of a UFO on his property. The incident featured animal reactions and apparently related headaches for Mr Brew.

(5) See ACUFOS Bulletin, July 1982. The "Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report" makes no definite conclusions as to cause but indicated "the reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined".

(6) See also, for example, "Valentich - Bass Strait (Australia) Affair", in R.D. Story's "The Encyclopedia of UFOs", Doubldday, 1980, and New English Library, 1980, and "The Devil's Meridian" by Kevin Killey and Gary Lester (Lester-Townsend, 1980).

(7) These events refer to an unusual ground mark and an apparently unrelated UFO sighting at the same location.

(8) An extraordinary phenomenon ostensibly had landed in a cane field east of Mandurana, Queensland. It was witnessed by four people for three hours!

(9) This event occurred on August 27, 1957, and involved radar tracking of a fast moving object by Met Radar at Hobart, after being alerted via a visual sighting at Launceston ATC.

(10) On November 15, 1960, a USAF JV57 aircraft operating out of East Sale RAAF base encountered a UFO at a closing rate in excess of 800 knots.

(11) In this case a light source approached a ship off Groote Eylandt on January 23, 1964. It came within 6 ft. of the ship, underwater, and was described as "a ghostly white light, in the centre was a shadow which rotated in a clockwise direction causing the light to pulsate". The ship - a barge - was approached by the light at high speed. In total six patches of light were observed, varying in size from a mile across down to quite small. All were the same colour and all pulsated at 12 pulsations for 9 seconds, then irregular, then back to 12 for 9 seconds. "The compass swung out of control, but became worse as the light approached".

(12) ATC radar operator at Kalamunda, 1835 hours on May 23, 1969, received a strong, stationary "paint", 300 degrees, 9N miles from the airport. He had first observed the return whilst talking on the phone to a woman reporting an object "like a big streetlight" over Cloverdale at that time. The "paint" was of 36 seconds duration on the screen. An aircraft was about 4N miles SE of the UFO, but no visual

sighting was made. The woman reported the object had departed to the north at tremendous speed and had disappeared from sight

(13) "A Report on Observations of UFOs from Aircraft Crew Members in Australia".

**These have now been received and the index is being thoroughly examined to facilitate, eventually, a full record of all Australian cases held within Project Bluebook files.* ■

-B.C. 11/6/83

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.



GATE THEORY - Proposed by: Dr B.E. Finch. Concept: UFOs and their occupants have different atomic structure, which allows them to exist undetected in our own plane of existence. Periodically, a gate opens and closes at various locations on Earth, allowing the the UFOs to briefly enter our system as visible objects. Source: The UFO Gate Theory, B. Finch, Flying Saucer Review Vol.26, No.1.

GULF THEORY - Proposed by: Numerous authors, researchers etc. Concept: UFOs represent a system so far in advance of us that we can never comprehend what they really are. Just as an ant could not "understand" our cities, or an amoeba, under a microscope, understand the mysterious arrival and departure of the scientist's probe, so we can only observe the activity of UFOs with no way of detecting the underlying reason behind it. Source: O. Binder op. cit.



HYPNOTIC EXPLANATION - Proposed by: APRO investigators. Concept: This explanation was first postulated in connection with the Simonton Case. The idea is that UFO sightings are implanted into the minds of hypnotized subjects who are thus led to believe that they have undergone real experiences. Source: J. Keel op. cit.

HOLLOW EARTH - Proposed by: Richard Shaver and others. Concept: The Earth is hollow with entrances at both poles. The interior is inhabited by a superior race, descendents of Atlantis and Lemuria. These people periodically emerge in flying machines and are sometimes observed by us. The evidence given in support of this theory includes the following points: satellites shot over the poles frequently, or always, malfunction; the Earth, according to polar explorers, gets warmer toward the actual pole; measurements taken of the polar regions show a larger area of land than expected, therefore, we are including some of the interior; butterflies and other warm-climate plants and animals have been found near the poles - since they could not normally exist in these regions, they must have come from inside. Source: O. Binder op. cit.

To be continued...



ABDUCTIONS, 'E.T.s' AND BIRTH TRAUMA

The origin of alleged CE-III events

BY ALVIN H. LAWSON, PHD

Are UFO abduction stories true?

Several hundred persons all over the world have claimed (usually under hypnosis) that they were levitated into waiting UFOs by extraterrestrial creatures, examined, and released. Surprisingly, "abductees" are usually sincere, but their tales have remained controversial because there has been no way to prove them either false or true. However, I believe I have discovered a reliable means of distinguishing a fantasized abduction from one which could reflect actual events. Further, I also believe I understand the nature and origin of alleged CE-III experiences.

In 1977 I was involved in an interesting study of hypnosis and abduction reports.* Dissatisfied with the incredible tales our hypnosis sessions with alleged abductees were yielding, we decided to test the reliability of hypnotically retrieved CE-III data. We selected a group of volunteers who knew little or nothing about UFOs, hypnotized them, and asked them to imagine being abducted. We expected obviously fallacious accounts against which we could check "real" reports, but in answer to our questions the subjects gave us elaborate narratives with countless similarities to and no substantive differences from actual cases.

The imaginary CE-III study was important because it encouraged a healthy skepticism about abduction yarns and hypnotically derived data. It also suggested that abductions have to do with inner rather than outer space, and thus challenged the extraterrestrial hypothesis of UFO origin.

Although nuts-and-bolts UFO proponents have generally ignored the implications of our work, my recent research has only intensified our earlier skepticism. The imagery and events in abduction reports are similar to those in a wide variety of established mental processes, including drug-induced hallucinations, near-death experiences, shamans' trances, religious visitations, and particularly revivified memories of birth trauma (BT). Although most theories about abductions relate them to extraterrestrial visitors or other exotic ideas, BT events provide a likely psychological source for abduction imagery, and by their universal yet idiosyncratic nature they help explain the similarities as well as minor differences in CE-III reports from diverse cultures worldwide.

It is possible to relive the physical and psychological ordeal of one's own birth trauma through drug therapy or even under hypnosis. While BT revivicications do not always limit themselves to a subject's actual natal situation (sessions often include fantasized data and memories) they are thought to be generally accurate.* Revivification data support my hypothesis that "abductees" unconsciously use major components of the birth process as a matrix for a fantasized

My colleagues were Dr W.C. McCall and John DeHerrera.

abduction experience. Abduction/BT parallels are obvious from this perspective: the fetus, taken from warmth and comfort and subjected to prolonged distress in the birth tunnel, emerges into a strange world with bright lights, unconfined space, entities, an examination, and various novel sensory stimuli. Similarly, abductees are levitated through a tunnel of light into a UFO's vast, brilliant interior where alien creatures examine and probe their bodies, often painfully.

REPORTED HUMANOID CHARACTERISTICS	HUMAN PRENATAL CHARACTERISTICS
Diminutive size (2-5½ ft.).	Small througout gestation.
Frail-appearing body.	Frail until late in gestation.
Disproportionately large head.	Head large from 4th week.
Eyes comparatively large.	Eyesockets, eyes comparatively large
Hands, feet missing or rudimentary.	Hand plates 5th week; foot plates 5th week.
Claws or webbed fingers and toes.	Fingers, toes webbed until 8th week.
Underdeveloped ears, nose, mouth.	Underdeveloped ears, nose, mouth.
No genitalia evident (most cases).	Genitalia ambiguous until 12 week
No fingernails, toenails.	Nails undeveloped until 12th week.
Arms longer than legs.	Arms longer than legs until 4th month
Skin color pallid grey or white.	Pallid skin until 6th month.
Skin wrinkled.	Skin wrinkled until 7th month.
Hairless bodies.	No hair until 8th month.

Additional parallels in BT narratives include such staples of CE-III reports as missing time, umbilical pain, womblike rooms absurd events, sexual excitement, a sense of ineffability about the entire experience, and many others. The dominant CE-III/BT entity type is a humanoid which closely resembles a fetus or embryo. It is probable that this fetal humanoid (found in about a third of all reports is a projection of the witness's memory of the prenatal self. Note the underdeveloped anatomical features in the comparison above.

Are the abduction/BT parallels farfetched? Perhaps not, for the BT hypothesis is testable in several ways. First, narratives can be scrutinized for echoes of the witness's birth history. (One abductee said a jointed metal clamp held him, twisting his back - was he reliving a forceps-aided delivery? If so, that can be verified.) Again, since BT imagery is earthbound data unrelated to UFOs, its presence is a criterion which can distinguish fantasies from "real" CE-IIIs. (Regrettably, few if any non-BT narratives exist, and I think the reason is obvious.) Finally, if any abductees who report late-stage BT sensations such as extreme head pressure and sudden relief are truly cesarean born (i.e., lacking in such natal experiences), the BT hypothesis would be proved false; if there are no such cesarean abductees, it would be confirmed.

The birth trauma hypothesis is one of the very few "falsifiable" theories yet proposed about abduction reports, which because of their bizarre character have assumed a significance in UFO literature way out of proportion to their supporting evidence. Despite claims to the contrary, physical evidence in CE-III cases remains intractably ambiguous, and multiple-witness abductees typically describe separate, subjective experiences rather than a shared abduction event - a persuasive indication of a psychological rather than physical experience. Admittedly, confirmation of the BT hypothesis would not solve the entire UFO mystery, for people would continue to see "unknowns" in the skies (though there is no proof that nightlights and other UFOs are related to alleged abductions); and there would still remain the greatest mystery about abductions - the nature of the stimulus which initially triggers the abduction/BT hallucination in a normal human being. But if it were confirmed the BT hypothesis would show that abductions are not physical in nature, and would also demonstrate that these are valid

**See Stanislave Grof, "Realms of the Human Unconscious" (Esalen, 1975) for an excellent discussion of perinatal revivification sessions, Cf. also Thomas Verney's "Secret Life of the Unborn Child" (Summit, 1981) and R.D. Laing's "Facts of Life" (Ballantine, 1976), especially Ch.5.*

psychological experiences which carry implications far beyond UFOs for research in fetology, consciousness, and the brain. Finally, it would present unanswerable objections to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and one would hope that in time the interminable gush of media sensationalism about alien-bearing UFOs might ebb enough to allow a few serious if mundane studies of the psychology of CE-III percipients.

If the BT theory is disproved we will have to return to square one. Even if verified we have to explain how the fetus's immature neurological makeup is able to retain experiences for later recall. The most informed observers speculate about molecular memory systems. However, as we learn more about birth the abduction/BT parallels grow inescapable. A recent book on abductions, "Missing Time" (Marek, 1981), contends that UFOs have secretly abducted thousands of victims, basing its claim on a group of hypnotised subjects' reports of periods of missing time for which they could not account. But scientists have lately found that oxytocin, the hormone which floods both mother and fetus as it initiates birth contractions, causes amnesia in laboratory animals - and probably in the fetus as well.* Thus most of us do have a missing time experience which we can recall later under proper stimulus, but it relates not a CE-III but to ordinary events in a normal birth.

Bohus, Bela, et al., "Oxytocin, Vasopressin, and Memory: Opposite Effects on Consolidation and Retrieval Processes", BRAIN RESEARCH, 157: 414-417, 1978.

ARTICLES BY A.H. LAWSON:

"'Alien' Roots: Six UFO Entity Types and Some Possible Earthly Ancestors", MUFON SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS, 1979, pp.152-176 (available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, Texas, USA 78155, $10 + postage.)

"Archetypes and Abductions", FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE, Sept/Oct., 1980, pp.32-36.

"A Testable Hypothesis for the Origin of Fallacious Abduction Reports: Birth Trauma Imagery in CE-III Narratives", in PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1981 CUFOS CONFERENCE (Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, Ill, forthcoming.)

"Hypnosis of Imaginary UFO 'Abductees'", in PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS (Warner Books, 1980), pp.195-238.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dr Lawson, who is with the English Department at California State University, has also written "The Salzburg Colloquium: A Participant's (Biased) View". This informative article will appear in a future UFORAN.



UFOs AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE — THE INSIDE STORY

This history making series of articles, by Bill Chalker, appeared first in UFORAN (Vol.3 Nos.2,3 & 4).

We have, in storage, a limited number of back issues of these three magazines. They are available for $ Aust 6.50, which includes postage and handling. Address your orders to: PO Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082.

UFO TECH NOTES

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

INTRODUCTION

UFO investigators, critics, and believers alike too often accept or reject cases based on too little real data. During this past year I have noted a number of cases where investigators have rushed to give an explanation for certain sightings; the usual planet, balloon or helicopter variety, where the investigator used the data at hand but never entered the field. To do this they chose to let their experience override facts. The witnesses may have patiently told the investigator that Venus was visible at the same time, or that the balloon in question wasn't launched until several hours later, nevertheless, the case was safely listed as an IFO. Nobody gains from all this, but science does suffer.

If we are to ever find a responsible set of explanations for the UFO enigma we must drop the excuses for not thinking creatively or scientifically and try to never pass up the potential for paydirt. Specialists often have trouble keeping up with advances in their own fields and are often totally out of phase with changes in the state-of-the-art in other fields. It is not necessary to have an "answer" for every UFO that is reported; but it is important to get involved in observation, study, and experimentation concerned with establishing and systematizing facts, principles, and methods, as by experiments and hypotheses. Dr J. Allen Hynek summed it up real well in Palm Beach when he said, "I'm merely reporting to you what has been documented". We need more of this reporting of documented facts.

These UFO TECH NOTES are offered as an alternative tool in the complex field of UFO investigation and analysis. The plan is to cross all discipline lines and present ideas, study summaries, techniques, devices, and concepts of potential value to the researcher. The goal is to stop being satisfied with statements about certain aspects of UFO behavior being impossible - to find out what is really happening. Maybe we can create a future of understanding in this field and overcome the nonsense factors. As a futurist, I plan to try.

EYEWITNESS REPORTING

According to recent Gallup Polls more people are accepting the reality of UFOs and more individuals have had a UFO experience. Often the witnesses are experienced observers such as pilots and law enforcement officers; while many others are of the untrained variety. Nevertheless, the eyewitness testimony reveals a continuing pattern of unexplainable events.

Critics are quick to point out that the subjective phenomena of vision depends on the brain as much as the retina of the eye - much depends on what we think we see. This is supposed to mean that if we see a UFO it is because we wanted to see a UFO; therefore the witness testimony is of little value. Such thinking is pure hogwash.

In a fairly recent meteorite case in Texas witnesses were spread over hundreds of square miles. The incident took place at night and lasted only seconds. Evenso, the eyewitness reports were so good and so consistent that researchers were able to recreate the event and determine the path of the object. Admittedly, this was an uncontrolled event, but with highly satisfactory results.

Results of the U.S. Army PROJECT SKYFIRE study of attempts to improve visual detection through use of search patterns and optical aids showed a similar success with visual observations. In the February 1973 HumRRO Report No. TR-73-3 a summary of research being conducted to ascertain the visual skills of operators of low-altitude air defense weapon systems showed a remarkable consistency in eyewitness reporting. This was in no way a UFO related project,

but the results are applicable. In 2500 samples an F4C Phantom jet aircraft was detected at a range of 12,000 meters, with little variance in the data. The conclusion of the study is as follows: "The most general conclusion that can be drawn on the basis of the research reported here is that the greatest facilitator of visual detection is a pair of 'sharp' eyes. Although it cannot be categorically concluded that optical aids and systematic search patterns do not have beneficial effects upon detection time, the studies reported here certainly indicate that it is not easy to improve unaided visual detection through either optical assists or training in systematic methods of searching for small targets. Rather, it would appear that fundamental characteristics of vision such as visual acuity and, possibly, the field of view are the major sources of variance in determining the time required to acquire visual targets".

The interesting point in all this is that the F4C aircraft used in the study is of the same size as the typical disc-shaped UFO - about 35-40 feet wide, and the detection distance was repeatedly in excess of 7 miles. Visual detection is very important in this life or death situation, so why shouldn't it be equally important to the UFO researcher?

A NEW SPACE SURVEILLANCE NET

During the past several years a number of scientists, researchers, and politicians have suggested the utilization of the North American Air Defense Command's (NORAD) Baker-Nunn space cameras to record UFO data. The Baker-Nunn is a 6000-pound film camera system that can track and photograph those satellites which are too small or too far out in space to be observed by the radar and telemetric elements of the NORAD system. These units were located at Edwards Air Force Base in California, San Vito dei Normanni in Italy, Sand Island in the Central Pacific, on Mt John in New Zealand, and at Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada. The Baker-Nunn is said to have the capability of tracking a speeding bullet at 200 miles. It is easy to speculate on a number of potential UFO tracking applications for this system.

Now Baker-Nunn is obsolete. A new five site system; with 40 in. telescopes, video cameras and digital computers will be installed at White Sands, N.M., Hawaii, Korea, North Africa, and in the Middle East. The new system - called ground-based electro-optical deep space surveillance (GEODSS) - has been designed to provide both increased sensitivity in its detection of objects and increased speed with which the data can be analyzed.

The GEODSS will be able to detect objects on the order of 1 square meter at 20,000 nautical miles altitude reflecting 10% of its light. An automatic moving target indicator makes the GEODSS ideal for tracking space objects, including UFOs. Additional information can be found in Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine, May 22, 1978.

METAL IDENTIFICATION

During the month of June 1974, a fisherman was operating his boat on the Little River near Georgetown, La., when he came upon a metallic disc partially buried in a sandbar. Recognizing immediately that it was strange to that environment he decided to retrieve it. Using his boat oar as a shovel he dug away the sand and obtained a circular piece of metal 38 inches in diameter, 1/8 inch thick, with a 14 inch hole in the middle. The donut shaped artifact was discolored on one side as if it had been very hot. The heating had caused that side to melt. As it did, subtle shades of many colors formed abstract patterns across the bubbled surface, along nodules, and on ragged edges. The pattern of molten metal seemed to swirl as if it had been spun while hot.

Close examination of the metal revealed some of its properties. It was extremely hard, tough and rigid. The non-molten side was the color of stainless steel. The artifact was actually beautiful, like a piece of abstract art.

The discoverer felt that he had found a piece of a "flying saucer", as there had been sightings in that area during the flap of 1973. Eventually, the artifact was obtained by David Kissinger of PROJECT VISIT in Houston and the identification process began. Since the material appeared to be of the type used in spacecraft construction it was taken to the Materials section of the Johnson Space Center, where it was immedi-

ately recognised as a dome from one of the Apollo Service Module storage tanks. It was titanium. This was not the first piece of material that had survived the intense heating of reentry from space.

If the "experts" had not been available this piece of material may have required a number of tests before an identification was made. This situation is not uncommon. Many UFO investigators have been faced with the decision of what to do about artifacts of all sizes and shapes.

The metalworking industry faces such decisions on a daily basis. Metals being stored for future use often turn up without identification, however, a number of tests have been identified that may be used to identify the unknown metals. These range from a simple color examination, to spark testing, to wet chemical and finally to spectrographic methods. Of course, the spectrographic technique is the one to use for a high level of accuracy and detail in the analysis. However, the one drawback is expense - it is costly and quite possibly not necessary.

In a great many cases, three simple tests - magnetic, spark and chemical spot - will supply enough information to identify it, or at least assign it to a particular family group. The process should start with an examination for color. According to IRON AGE magazine, red presents copper; tan for cupro-nickel; dark yellow for bronzes; light yellow for brasses; dark gray for zinc and lead; and white or gray for most other metals.

Next, a magnetic test will reveal iron, steel, nickel, and the 400-series stainless steels to be strongly magnetic. Monel, aluminum bronze, and cupro-nickel are slightly magnetic. Most others are non magnetic.

An experienced metal handler can tell a lot by the spark test - a process of holding the metal to a grinding wheel and observing the spark stream. Characteristics of interest are the length of the stream, the color, and number of carbon star bursts.

Chemical tests provide the next level of sophistication. Chemical tests may be very simple spot tests involving just a few chemicals; others may be more complex. The chemicals aid in determining the presence or absence of certain identifying alloying elements. They do this by forming precipitates or producing the colors that are characteristic of the unknown elements.

The Defense Supply Agency has developed a set of sequential charts to break down the identification process to very specific alloys. In addition, the American Society for Testing and Materials publishes detailed procedures for the wet chemistry techniques. All this is just the beginning of a very complex field; but one that is most valuable to the UFO investigator.

A final world of CAUTION - take care not to contaminate or destroy any UFO evidence. At the same time it pays to at least understand the process of metals identification; a process only briefly touched on in this tech note.

PROJECT VISIT DATA NEEDS DEFINED

Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team) members are seeking consistent, correlative data from abduction cases. Working from the baseline of not trying to prove that a given abduction actually occurred; rather seeking clues from a number of cases, VISIT analysts are busy constructing a technological model of what is happening.

As in any scientific endeavor one must be able to replicate the experiment and then seek answers by carefully manipulating variables. To put abduction cases in this context it is necessary to consider a basic set of elements that can be repeatedly addressed. For VISIT purposes, five elements are considered to be important: 1) Baseline data, 2) the witness, 3) the vehicle, 4) humanoids, and 5) post-incident follow-up.

Baseline data establishes the basis for comparison of the cases. The VISIT format not only seeks the usual time, place, and weather information, it looks for more subtle elements as well; such as what the witness considers a comfortable environment (i.e. home thermostat setting, humidity level, motor, clock and animal sounds, etc.). Once a thorough baseline is established

other elements can be readily compared from case to case.

Witness information covers a broad spectrum, ranging from personal comfort (discomfort), health state, and attitudes, to sensory data and physiological status during the incident. Of particular interest are sounds, odors, paralysis effects, and skin sensations like burning and tingling. Care should be taken during this phase of the investigation so as not to pass over seemingly insignificant facts. Bodily reactions can ultimately be utilized to determine the characteristcs of a variety of vehicle systems.

Vehicle information should contain the classic eyewitness type data, including perceived size, shape, color and movement. Equally important is the description of vehicle internal information. The witness can be helpful in this area by calmly explaining what was seen in familiar terms. As an example, a farmer would compare things to farm machinery, an actor to stage settings, and so on. The investigator needs to note and allow for this background and VISIT analysts will factor the conditions into the results. Additional data is needed at this time on lighting, air flow, surface temperatures and textures, and gravity orientations of fixtures.

Humanoid descriptions are important because they too can give clues as to the working of the machine. Our own space vehicles are designed to be compatible with astronaut physiology. Along this line the human factors experts have standardized many factors that affect systems design. Utilizing data on humanoid size, shape, strength, and dexterity, a comparison with the human design standards can lead to knowledge about the systems operated by the humanoids. Other factors, such as mouth and nostril size, apparent skin temperature, and body coverings leads to knowledge about humanoid metabolism and what types of life support they require. Unfortunately, the humanoid element is the most fear provoking to the witness and is therefore least accessible to the conscious mind.

The post-incident period for the witness is extremely important to Project VISIT. It is during this part of the case that "proofs" can be gained. VISIT experts advise that the witness seek immediate medical assistance from his/her personal physician. Recognizing that medical examinations are expensive, VISIT suggests having the witness's physician consult with a VISIT expert on what would be most beneficial in the given situation. Because Project VISIT is a specialty group and not a popular membership organization all cases should be handled through one of the major UFO organizations. This can be done by calling the headquarters of MUFON (512) 379-9216, CUFOS (312) 491-6666, or APRO (602) 793-1825, who will in turn contact the appropriate VISIT expert to assess the situation and relate what is needed. On the long term the witness should make sure any skin irritation is photographed for the record. Any unusual physiological or psychological developments should be closely monitored and reported. If hypnotic regression, voice stress analysis, or other assistance is needed it should be coordinated through the host investigative group. Project VISIT may be contacted by mail at PO Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546, U.S.A.

LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

The universe is so large and contains so much of the same materials throughout it that life could have developed near many stars. Indeed, we know with certainty that living systems evolved on at least one tiny chunk of water-covered rock in a remote corner of the Milky Way galaxy. Why, then, could life not have developed elsewhere?

Do civilizations exist in other parts of the universe? Could they have developed a technology similar to that on Earth? Do other worlds exist nearby that could be visited? Whence might visitors come? Could we establish communication with these civilizations? Or should we?

Questions about the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe are exciting, intriguing and, for some people, frightening. Indeed, the discovery of other advanced civilizations could have profound effects on nearly all human affairs.

What you have been reading is the introduction from a brochure by George Miller - LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE. As one might guess from this introduction material Mr Miller

is interested in contacting some form of intelligent life somewhere "out there".

Unfortunately, the brochure takes a cavalier attitude towards UFOs. But then, it does not pretend to be pro-UFO, or even "skeptical". The author is fair in his statements where he adds qualifiers such as "by any means we now know".

All in all, LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE is well written, easy to read, and should be carefully studied by all UFO researchers. Free copies may be obtained from:

Public Affairs Office
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
U.S.A.

A LIE DETECTOR FOR THE FUTURE?

UFO investigators and researchers are continually searching for new tools that may be applied to the never ending quest for truth. The police polygraph machine has been used in a number of incidents and with some small measure of success. Perhaps, one of the best known and most controversial polygraph cases is the Travis Walton incident. The use of that particular tool demonstrated a very real need for additional tools.

Supplementing the polygraph in a number of abduction cases is the use of regressive hypnosis. Drs Sprinkle and Harder have done much to demonstrate the usefulness of hypnosis. Evenso, the question still remains - "Is the witness telling the truth"?

A more accurate, but costly, technique is the Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE). The NATIONAL ENQUIRER makes extensive use of this tool, and with excellent results. Because of the cost, however, few investigators can afford to apply the PSE in their work.

What is needed is a low-cost, portable unit suitable for screening UFO incidents. Then, only those cases showing high credibility would need to be subjected to the more costly techniques.

Several commercial firms - Hogarth Corp., Dektor, Law Enforcement Associates, and Communication Control Systems - have been very active in refining the old police polygraph machine to make it available to a wider market. Hogarth has a mock-up of a stress monitor, or lie detector, small enough to fit in a fountain pen. Communication Control Systems is working on a unit to fit in a wrist watch.

Psycho-Science, Inc. of Mobile, Alabama, has marketed a lie detector as small as a transistor radio, selling for around $250. Their unit, the SA-X, measures stress through voice analysis. It electronically picks up voice micro-tremors which are otherwise inaudible and determines if stress is present. It has no printouts, but depends upon flashing green, yellow and red lights.

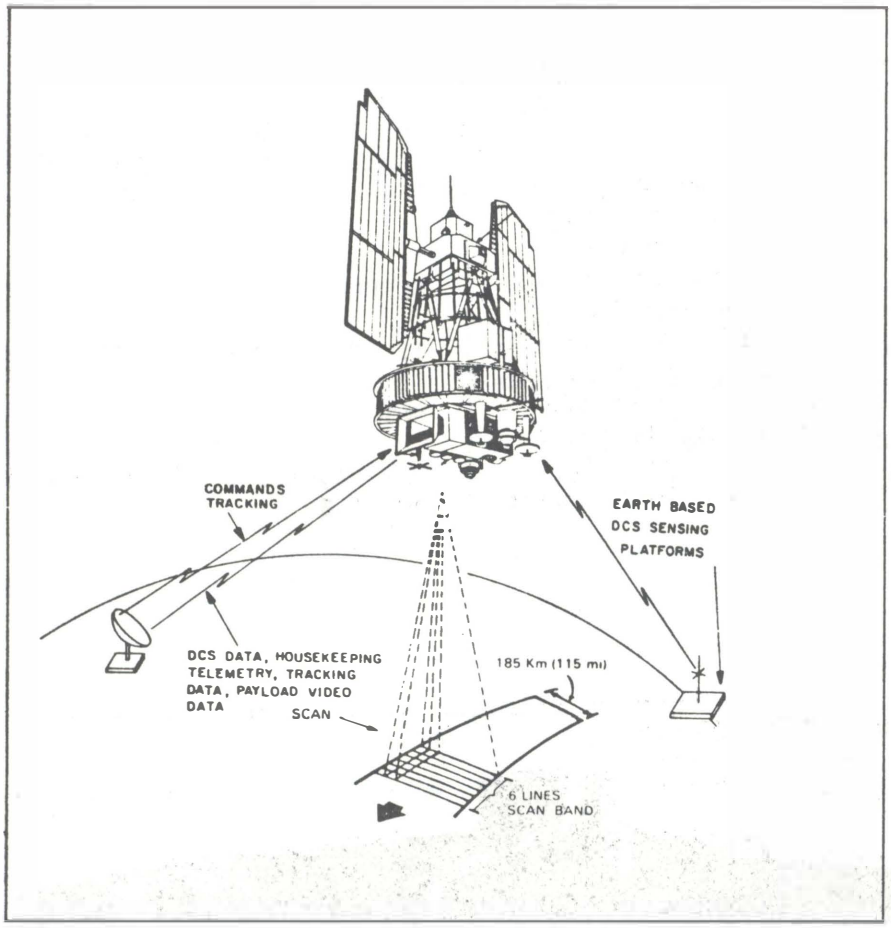
The $29.95 units are still sometime in the future, not now. In the meantime, we must make the most of the existing tools.

LANDSAT: AN EYE IN THE SKY. CAN IT BE USED FOR UFO INVESTIGATIONS?

The first Landsat spacecraft was launched on July 23, 1972. Since then two more have been launched and a fourth was launched in 1982. The Landsats have transmitted over one million images from space and have been a useful tool in studying the Earth's surface features.

The Landsats orbit the Earth every 103 minutes in a near-polar orbit at 570 miles in altitude. As such, they fly over the same area of the Earth every 18 days. Their multispectral scanners can image selected ground targets on each Earth orbit. One image covers 13,127 square miles. See figure 1.

The multispectral scanners produce images for four band of the electromagnetic spectrum as shown in figure 3. "Light reflectance data from the four scanner channels for the four bands are converted first into elecrical signals and then into digital form for transmission to receiving stations on Earth. The recorded digital video data are re-formatted into computer-compatible tapes and/or converted at special processing laboratories into black-and-white photo images. These images from the four different bands are recorded on four black-and-white films



Earth-based data, such as temperature, stream flow, soil moisture, and snow depth, are supplied to the Data Collection System (DCS) on Landsat. Simultaneously, the Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS) records an image that may be correlated with the Earth-based data later.

figure 1

The Landsat satellite orbits the Earth in a near polar orbit every 103 minutes. It makes 14 orbits per day, crossing 0° latitude at 9:30 a.m. solar time each orbit. These daylight passes are superimposed on a world map illustrating the orbit of the satellite.

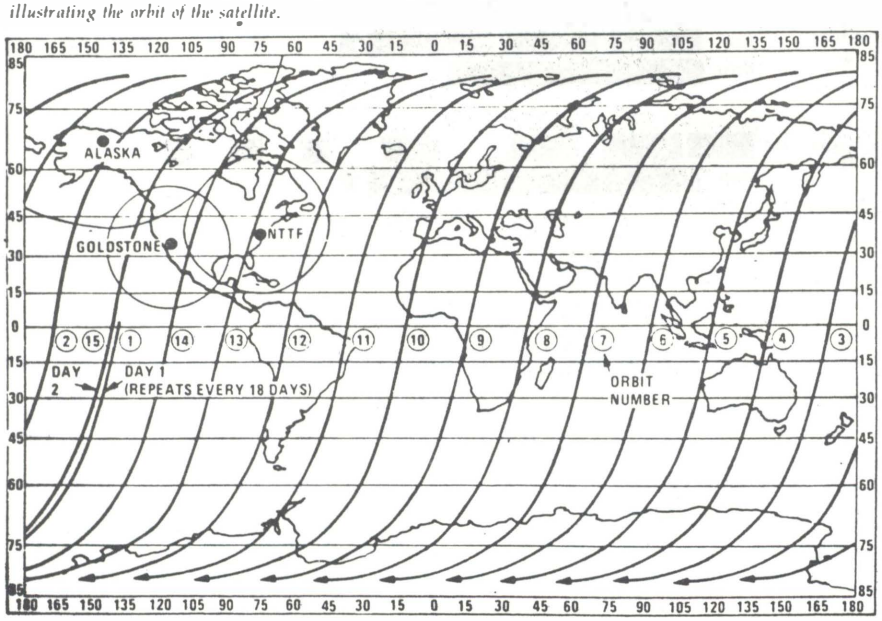


figure 2 shows typical ground tracks of Landsat flight

from which photographic prints are made in the usual manner". (1) The green band is best for underwater features. The two near-infrared bands are more useful in agricultural studies.

The Landsats have definite limitations for use in studying the ground effects from UFOs (i.e. crashes, explosions, etc.). They have low resolution, which means that an object must be larger than 260 feet to be recognizable on the image. They cannot be used to compile topographic features due to their monoscopic coverage. They rely on computer manipulation of the data and that is an expensive process. The images do not portray natural Earth colors. Therefore, the investigator must be selective in the use of these data. Most UFO artifacts would not be discernable.

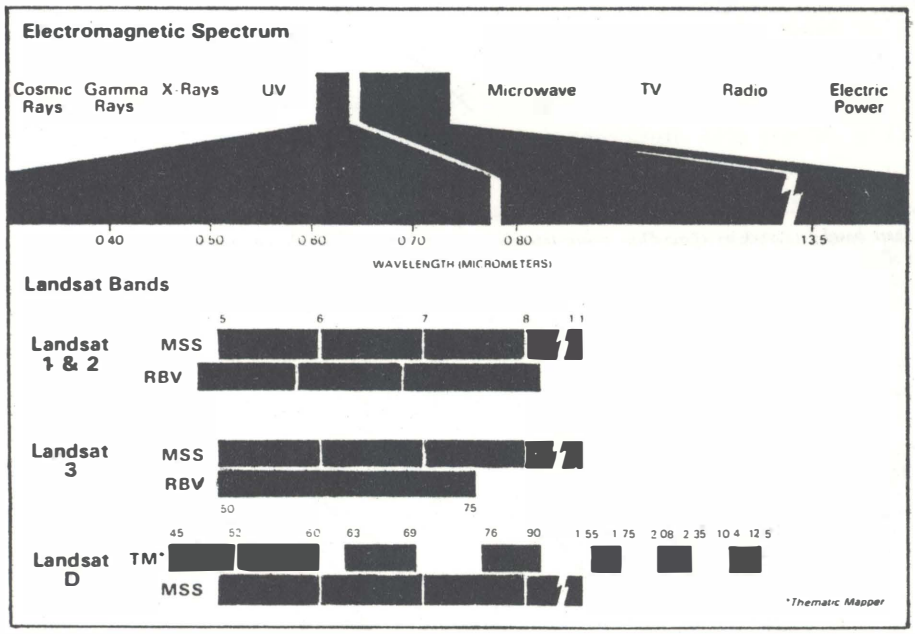
For further information about imagery, contact: U.S. Geological Survey, EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, SD 57198, U.S.A.

REFERENCES:

1. Air & Space, Spring 1982, pp.7-9.

NOTE:

The figures used herein were extracted from Ref.1.



. Bands on the Multispectral Scanner (MSS), Return-Beam Vidicon (RBV), and Thematic Mapper (TM) imaging systems are spatially compared to the enlarged visible and infrared sections of the electromagnetic spectrum.

figure 3

reference library

THE CRACK IN THE UNIVERSE

AUTHOR: J. BOURRET PUBLISHER: NEVILLE SPEARMAN UK 1974

A Book Review by Paul Sowiak-Rudej

This book is a collation of UFO oriented interviews and talk-back programs from France-Inter Radio. It is thus a disjointed looking-back at past UFO events in France and internationally.

Its forte is that the French Minister of Defence, Robert Galley, was interviewed which is claimed as a "first". Mr Galley spoke on the need for open minds: "the attitude of mind one must adopt...is not an attitude of denying a priori" (p.76). The Defence Department's interest lies with the extraordinarily rapid movement of the phenomena that both the French Airforce and Gendarmerie are tracking and recording on radar.

Claude Poher, Chief of the Space Probe Division of the French National Centre for Space Studies, states: "We must accept the evidence and prepare for evermore frequent confrontations with UFOs, not because they are becoming more numerous, but because mankind is growing more and more aware of them and is capable of facing this phenomenon scientifically and calmly". (p.34).

On March 23, 1974, the French UFO Investigation group and France-Inter organised a psychological experiment to measure "the impact of an intense psychological preparation of possible eyewitnesses". (p.165) The expectation was for an increase in reports, which would only be possible with a large base of observers. Although, as a result of the media coverage, thousands of people viewed the skies, the "sensitization of public opinion to the UFO problem via the audio-visual channels produced no increase in the number of sightings reported". (p.166)

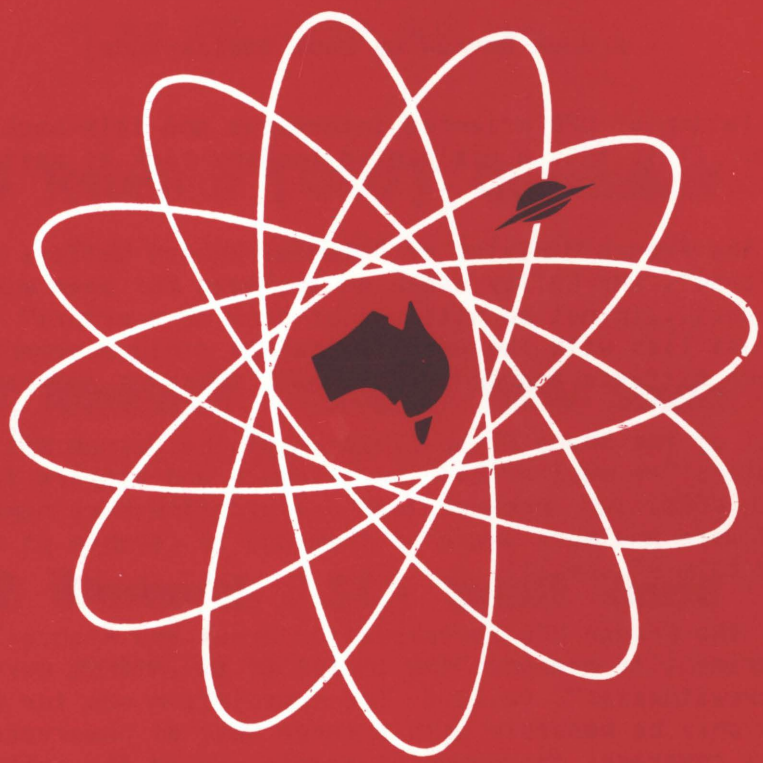
In another chapter, Dr Saunders points out that "it's the people with the best education in each country who furnish most of the reports". (p.206) NICAP has shown that, while the speed of aircraft and rockets tracked on radar has increased steadily with development, the speed of UFOs is still random. The Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomenon defined the subject and looked at the systematic formation of several hypotheses, which is interesting.

Over all, the book introduces new ground and reorganises old ground, and provies an insight into the French and European scene. I would particularly recommend the third part of the book to those who would like a summary of views from a wide range of scientists.

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