

UFO OVER TANAMI

Fiery objects were seen in the night sky over the Tanami, according to Rabbit Flat roadhouse proprietor Bruce Ferrands.

He said the sightings had been made by him, as well as station workers at Mongrel Downs and open-air picture theatre patrons at Balgo Mission.

Mr. Ferrands said at about 2 am on Saturday,

June 7, he had seen a flash of light reflected on the wall of the roadhouse laundry.

About three to five minutes later he had heard a distant explosion and had felt "rolling vibration" of the ground.

He had later heard from Mongrel Downs workers that they had seen a flame shaped like a "brilliant white ball" move in a southerly direction at low altitude.

The object had disintegrated south of the Mongrel Downs homestead and the workers had heard a concussion that sounded like thunder.

Mr Ferrands said it appeared the object had gone down near Highland Rocks.

However, a police plane diverted from Docker River had failed to find any trace of the object during a search of the area on the same day.

Mr Ferrands said he was inclined to think the object had been a meteorite.

The lack of traces could possibly be explained by the disintegration of the object before it hit the ground.

Mr Ferrands said there were reports from Balgo Mission that "a bright ball of white light" had passed over the open air theatre some time before last Sunday.

People at Mongrel Downs had also seen a fiery object moving in a south-westerly direction at about 10 pm on Wednesday last week.

Centralian Advocate

Thursday 19th June, 1980

Things that go flash in the night

LOOK...UP IN THE SKY...IT'S A BIRD...IT'S A PLANE!
NO, IT'S.....A, U.F.O.?

DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAYS OF SUPERMAN - "STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET, WITH POWERS AND ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF NORMAL MEN"? IT WAS GOOD CLEAN ALL-AMERICAN CELLULOID FANTASY THEN, BUT TODAY THE WORLD'S SKY-WATCHING HAS TAKEN A MORE SERIOUS ASPECT. SINCE THE 1950'S THE NUMBER OF CLAIMED U.F.O. SIGHTINGS HAS ACCUMULATED A VERITABLE MOUNTAIN OF PAPERWORK. AROUND 15 MILLION AMERICANS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN UFO'S IN A RECENT GALLOP POLL - EVEN PRESIDENT CARTER SAYS HE'S SEEN ONE.



All of the scientists involved in the study of UFO's agree on one thing - that the overwhelming majority of reported sightings can be explained in terms of natural phenomenon. What they fail to agree on are the small number of cases that apparently defy rational scientific explanation.

The United States Air Force instituted the now famous Project Blue Book - a definitive attempt to compile data on reported sightings and to explain them as natural phenomena. Not all of the reports could be explained away, however. In a joint study by the Battelle Memorial Institute and the United States Air Force of 2199 UFO reports its analysis showed that the more reliable the report and the better the sighting conditions the more likely the evaluation was to be "unknown". In its "excellent" reliability category (where sightings had been made by such persons as airline pilots, radar operators and other professional people trained to be reliable observers) 33 per cent were "unknowns".

It's a subject surrounded by a considerable amount of emotional hysteria - even evidenced by the physicists, astronomers, psychologists and professors of various associated disciplines who are involved in the study of the UFO phenomenon. Even these supremely rational creatures tend to be polarised in their "belief" or "disbelief" of UFO's. I recently read a discussion of the UFO dilemma which recounted the story of an Irish woman who was asked if she believed in fairies. "No," she said, "but they're there". It's the same with the UFO's - whether you believe

in them or not is not likely to make any difference to them.

What we can do, though, is sort out the natural meteorological optics which are so often confused with UFO's. There are quite a number of these and they account for ninety per cent of the "UFO" sightings in Australia over the last fifteen years. The other ten per cent comprises seven per cent which could not be followed up because of insufficient information and three per cent which remained unidentified or unexplained. These figures show roughly the same proportions as studies in America and other countries.

Lets have a look at some of these "Identified Flying Objects." as described by the Regional Director of S.A. Bureau of Meteorology, A.T. Brunt.

Ball Lightning: This is an electrical phenomenon, found in or near thunderstorms. It is not like conventional lightning, but takes the form of an orange or reddish ball a foot or so in diameter. This floats just above roofs or tree tops and has been known to enter open windows. The ball can disappear with an explosion which has caused loss of life under mysterious circumstances. Ball lightning has been known to follow motor vehicles, due to some form of electrical attraction, but people are quite safe inside a closed vehicle. Lightning balls also left strange circular shapes on striking the ground.

Our early settlers knew them as "balls of fire". In previous centuries there have been many case histories with descriptions which fitted ball lightning phenomena but

by Sue McLoughlin

people ascribed them to ghosts or poltergeists.

Lenticular clouds: These are lens-shaped or almond-shaped clouds which form under special circumstances, mostly on the lee side of a mountain range. Air and droplets move through the cloud, but the cloud form remains stationary or nearly so for some time giving the impression they are "hovering".

St.Elmo's Fire: This is another electrical phenomenon which builds up on the edges of objects moving through an electrical field. It appears as a luminosity at the extremities of masts and aerials of ships as well as parts of aircraft and can take the form of streamers or luminous globes colored from blue, green and violet to pure white.

Haloes: A halo is a multicolored circle caused by refraction of light through fine ice crystal clouds and it is identified by the red coloring being nearest the sun. It is easy to recognise when you can see the whole halo through cirrostatus clouds, but small segments of the halo through scattered ice clouds are sometimes saucer-shaped.

Corona: This is caused by the diffraction of light through clouds of fine water droplets and the red colouring is furthest from the sun. Segments of a corona are saucer shaped and are usually colored red or green; these are known as iridescent clouds.

Noctilucent Clouds: Are caused by reflection of sunlight from meteoric dust high in the stratosphere. They are bluish or silvery white, not visible in the daytime but stand out after sunset. A feature is their apparent rapid movement as the sun gets further below the horizon.

Green Flash: A brilliant coloration which flashes above the sun as it is about to set. It requires special optical conditions for the flash to be seen.

Mirage: This is the common form of optical illusion of apparently distorted or displaced objects. It is a refraction phenomenon caused by abnormal temperature distributions in the lower layers. Ships can be seen well over the horizon and the sun or moon can be seen well after they have set.

Auroras: Are caused by radiative emission from nitrogen and other molecules during magnetic storms. They assume a variety of shapes and col-

THE STAR

4/6/78

Continued from page 11

ours in the form of streamers, rays, arcs, draperies, crowns and bands. In Australina latitudes, auroras are relatively rare.

Planets, Stars and Meteors are also often reported as UFOs. For example, the planet Venus can sometimes be seen in the daytime and if jet stream cirrus clouds are passing, the planet seems to be moving quickly. Pulsation and changes of colour at night are other causes of misinterpretation.

Apart from these natural "UFO's" there are a number of man-made effects often suspected of being UFO's including satellites, balloons, and searchlights.

All this is not to say, of course, that no UFO's exist and no super-human terrestrials are floating about our atmosphere, observing us for whatever reasons they have in mind. The important sightings are the ones which have been thoroughly investigated and still not yielded any reasonable scientific answer. And there seem to be a sufficient number of these sightings to rule out the crackpot element as being the only UFOlogists.

It is unlikely that the UFO controversy can be settled by anything we "Terrestrials" can do, but perhaps you'd better make up your mind, when that unearthly voice booms over your shoulder "Take us to your leader", who you're going to send them to.

THE STAR

4/6/78

People report strange UFOs

An unidentified flying object was sighted by several local people late on Wednesday last week.

They said two bright yellow objects travelled in a westerly direction over the town at a high speed and apparently at low altitude.

The objects were described as "quite large" and silent.

One person said he saw them at 10 pm, and another, at 11 pm.

Brody King, 19, said he was at the drive-in theatre on Wednesday night when he saw an oval-shaped object about 2000 metres above him flying across the top of the drive-in screen.

He said flames appeared to come out of the back of the object and he then saw two smaller ones behind it. The objects were

visible for three or four minutes at about 10.15 p.m. he said.

A report was received from some people, including children who had seen an unidentified object while camping at Hamilton Downs the same night.

Inquiries with flight service of the Department of Transport have established there were no aircraft in the area at these times.

The Meteorological Bureau reported that they had no weather balloons in the area on Wednesday night.

An informed source suggests the objects may have been a low-orbiting satellite hitting the atmosphere, burning up and breaking into pieces as it came in at a low angle.

Police said they had received no reports of UFOs.

Centralian Advocate 13.4.78

UFO FLIES OVER ALAWA

Several people reported seeing an unidentified flying object over Darwin last night.

The Air Force Traffic Controller at Darwin Airport said last night he had about six telephone calls from people who said they had seen a flying saucer.

Mrs Audrey Gough rang the News with a reported sighting.

She said her family and neighbors saw a group of red and white flashing lights in the eastern sky at 7.15 pm.

Mrs Gough said she had seen a similar group of flashing lights from her home in Hall Crescent, Alawa, on five other occasions.

The lights moved rapidly from east to west at 609m (2000 ft) before dis-

appearing she said.

And despite the air traffic controller's explanation that the lights Mrs Gough saw were from a DC10 Jetliner flying via Darwin to Noumea she insisted it wasn't a plane.

"It wasn't anything like a plane, she said. "I was watching a plane when I saw this other thing out of the corner of my eye on the horizon."

"The red and white

lights were flashing on and off like morse code."

A Bureau of Meteorology spokesman said there was nothing in the sky that could have been mistaken as a UFO.

The RAAF's Orderly Officer said Mrs Gough could have mistaken a plane landing for a UFO.

He said planes approaching Darwin airport came from the same direction that Mrs Gough had seen the lights in.

NEWS 11/3/74

UFO circle looked so real!

Some ground - level visual proof of the unidentified flying object over Casuarina was reported yesterday.

A News reader reported a "flying saucer nest" in Rapid Creek.

The "nest" is slightly off to the left of a short-cut path through grass at the corner of Sabine and Robinson Roads.

It is slightly under 1.800 metres (six feet) in

diameter and the grass is flattened in a circular clockwise pattern.

It appears to be dead.

An eyewitness who claims to take the short-cut every day on his way to the local hotel said it was not there before Wednesday afternoon at 12.30

However, a reporter got chatting with youngsters near the site.

They mentioned that for more than a week one boy had been spinning his motor b'ke around and around, the front wheel stationary and the rear wheel circling.

And that patch looked so real!



This is the UFO over Casuarina in recent nights, recorded by News photographer Beat Erismann. The object shone with a bright white light and had a distinct halo. There was no moon the night the picture was taken — Tuesday at 5.30 am. Casuarina shopping centre lies behind the street lights. The photograph, in which the object has been blown up to give a better picture, was taken with a Nikon, with 10-second exposure at F2.8 using a 50mm lens.

NEWS 28/2/74

The News snaps that UFO

by GENE JAMES

The mysterious object seen in the skies above Casuarina over the course of the last few nights has been photographed.

At least a dozen people have seen the object, two of them police officers, since it was first sighted a week ago by two welfare officers.

The sightings began on Wednesday, February 20.

Two welfare officers connected with the hostel in McMillans Rd saw two bright objects at approximately 3.30 am — a cross-shaped light and a half-moon lying on its back.

The objects appeared to be just above the south-easterly section of

the RAAF base.

The objects were observed by welfare officers Vivienne Dallen and Tony Muschat for more than three hours.

During that time the objects moved from side to side, faded to pin-pricks of light and then grew large again, settled down behind a nearby row of trees — permeating the area with a bright white light, and then again rose up into the sky.

The sightings continued for the next four nights and the cross-

shaped object observed by a dozen people.

On Monday night News photographer Beat Erismann spent the night at the home of Charmaine and Roelf Hart in Goodman St, Casuarina.

The Harts had seen the continuing phenomenon from their back verandah.

At 5.30 am Tuesday Beat saw a very bright white light in the sky. "It slowly grew in size," Beat said, "brighter

than anything else in the sky. I then took my photograph.

"Shortly afterwards the object moved slowly upward, receding as it did so until it became invisible."

An officer with the Weather Bureau at the airport stated that at 5.30 am on Tuesday visibility was 20 miles.

No moon was visible. Officers at the RAAF base declined to comment on the photograph

and report until investigations were carried out.

But they admitted "there was definitely something there."

They will interview the witnesses involved and the reports compiled forwarded to Canberra.

The Bureau of Meteorology also agreed "that there was something there, all right."

They stated that no weather balloons were aloft at that time



NEWS 26/1/74

UFO over Casuarina

These people witnessed strange objects in the Darwin pre-dawn skies on four successive nights. From left to right: Tony Muschat, Vivienne Dallen, Roelf Hart and Charmaine Hart.

At least a dozen people, including two policemen, have witnessed unidentifiable flying objects

The sightings began last Wednesday morning when two welfare officers connected with the hostel in McMillans Rd saw two bright objects at approximately 3.30 am—a cross-shaped light and a half-moon lying on its back.

The objects appeared to be just above the south-easterly section of the RAAF base.

"We observed the phenomenon for roughly three hours," said welfare officer Tony Muschat.

"During that time they moved from side to side, faded to pin-pricks of light and then grew large again, settled

down behind the trees—peneating the area with a bright white light, then again rose up into the sky."

His companion and welfare co-worker, Vivienne Dallen, went on: "We rang one of our fellow-workers, Roelf Hart, who we knew was interested in such things.

"He and his wife went out onto their back verandah and also witnessed the lights... or whatever they were."

Tony Muschat added: "As the two shining objects rose up into the sky a beam of light shone down, illuminating an area about the size of a tennis court fairly close to where we stood.

"There was a second bright beam of light coming from the top

arm of the cross and pointing immediately skywards.

"Then both objects moved off at a very fast rate until they were little more than pin-pricks of light in the sky."

The following night, Thursday, the Harts (Roelf and wife, Charmaine) were ready.

So, too, was Annette Brown, 16 who is spending the night with them.

At approximately 5.45 am the cross-shaped light was again seen, apparently hovering over the Casuarina shopping centre.

"Our young guest became very frightened," said Mrs Charmaine Hart, "so we sent her back to bed and rang Casuarina police. "Two officers came around.

"One of them admitted that it was like nothing he had ever seen before and that in

his opinion it certainly was not a star."

Once again the object faded to the size of a pin-prick after hurtling upward at great speed.

The same object was seen by plumber Peter Vallance and his wife, Greta, of 49 Dripstone Rd, Casuarina.

"I rang the RAAF about it at approximately 5.30 on Thursday morning," said Mrs Vallance.

"Whoever I spoke with told me that, he too, could see it and that they had it under observation."

The cross-shaped object appeared at 5 am on Friday.

This time the Harts, the Vallances and near-opposite neighbours David and Maxine Richardson, who live in Truscott St, Casuarina saw the UFO.

As before, it disappeared at great speed, travelling upward at an angle of 45 degrees.

731159

UFO SIGHTINGS — FACT or FICTION?

Speculation about UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) continues throughout the world, which despite ridicule and scepticism, never quite seems to go away.

By Paul Arundel and Joe Zinns, members of the UFO Research Section in the Astronomical Society of Central Australia.

Newspapers, magazines and books all around the world tell of numerous sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, by many thousands of people.

Despite these many thousands of observers, the majority of the world's population have never seen a UFO. So what are we, the majority, to believe?

The great majority of sincere UFO sightings can be explained in terms

of natural physical phenomena.

These include, meteorological balloons, satellites, marsh gas, rocket meteorites, lightning, high flying aircrafts, unusual atmospheric conditions and the planet Venus.

But what explanation is there for those incidents which are not covered by the known explanations?

About four percent of all reported UFO incidents fit into this category.

It is this category, the unknown UFO inflames the imagination.

Much confusion and controversy exists over what constitutes a valid explanation for a UFO sighting.

Investigations can only be made after the fact, using the testimony in human nature, and in the health and physical condition of witnesses, extracting the true valid elements of sighting from numerous witnesses is, in general a very difficult task.

Reported

Most UFO sightings are reported by people who have not given UFO's a thought and contrary to popular belief are honest sane responsible citizens, who wish to avoid publicity and the ridicule that accompanies this phenomena.

The most famous and controversial, of these attempts to investigate and organize the information about UFO's is "Project Blue Book".

The project concluded without offering explanations for the unknown category, and claimed that even these, if the facts were known, would be explained in terms of ordinary physical phenomena.

This result have given rise to a widespread feeling that government officials are on to something, which if public knew the facts, would react with fear, alarm and chaos.

By quietly disposing of the problem public react-

ion will be at a minimum despite the controversy.

Professor J. Allen Hynek, director of the Underhimer Astronomical Research Centre at Northwestern University, Illinois and for 20 years the US Airforce scientific consultation on UFO's visited Australia recently.

During the visit he said that the UFO is not only an object or light seen in the sky (or upon the land) whose appearance and behavior mystify its observers, but also one that remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible.

Touching off renewed speculation on the origin of UFO's has been their sudden reappearance in the USA last month.

This new wave of sightings appears to follow a similar pattern, as others observed over the years, and from reports from other countries.

Many sightings have been observed near electric power installations and power lines.

Experiment

Ships, planes and cars often report trouble with electrical systems in the vicinity of sightings.

An experiment conducted several years ago, in which ammonia vapour was ignited by means of high voltage spark, produced an interesting result.

Glowing gas quickly assumed the shape.

Often associated with

research of this phenomena claim that UFO sightings around the world fall into definite "groups".

The most prominent being the "Flying Saucer" followed by the cigar shaped cylinder (often observed with smaller saucers, flying alongside, assorted globes, teardrops and hat shapes.

There does not however seem to be any hard fast rule, to guide one to recognise a UFO by its shape.

The UFO's are remarkable for the fantastic aerial manoeuvres that they are reported to perform.

This includes phenomenal speeds, high angle turns at impossible speeds and spontaneous maximum acceleration from standstill.

At night they glow and have been described as every colour imaginable.

Reports

Some reports say that some UFO's emit a brilliant white, or sometimes, coloured high that illuminates the surrounding area as was the case recently in Karoonda in South Australia, when the Graham family described a similar incident.

Reporting a sighting. In order to give information in a manner that will enable a proper assessment, here is a helpful guide.

The direction, angle from the horizon.

Time, position when first seen.

Time, position when

13-12-73

facts were known, would be explained in terms of ordinary physical phenomena.

This result have given rise to a widespread feeling that government officials are on to something, which if public knew the facts, would react with fear, alarm and chaos.

By quietly disposing of the problem public react-

Experiment

Ships, planes and cars often report trouble with electrical systems in the vicinity of sightings.

An experiment conducted several years ago, in which ammonia vapour was ignited by means of high voltage spark, produced an interesting result.

Glowing gas quickly assumed the shape.

Often associated with that of UFO's that of two inverted saucers with a smaller inverted saucer on top sometimes growing the appearance of portholes around the rim.

These laboratory UFO's approximately 30' mm in diameter, proceeded in a manner often associated with "Flying Saucers".

They would hover in one spot for several minutes, dip and soar off, sometimes move at tremendous speed before altering course abruptly, then break up or fade away.

Australia

On the Australian scene, UFO sightings are being reported every day.

There is in existence throughout Australia, a number of UFO groups actively involved in research and investigation.

Recently the Astronomical society of Central Australia formed a section concerned with UFO research, to handle the growing number of UFO sightings.

This section has been formed as a "scientifically orientated agency for the collection, evaluation and dissemination of UFO reports within the Central Australia Area."

Many of the recent UFO sightings in the area are currently being investigated. Reports are exchanged with other groups throughout the world, and compared for similarities differences, etc.

There is also a distinct possibility of future "sightings" due to the fact more people are searching the skies for the approaching comet Kohoutek.

Ufologists (people involved in the study and

South Australia, when the Graham family described a similar incident.

Reporting a sighting. In order to give information in a manner that will enable a proper assessment, here is a helpful guide.

The direction, angle from the horizon.

Time, position when first seen.

Time, position when last seen.

Descriptive features.

Normally a UFO sighting catches the observer by surprise, but by relating his exact position at the time of sighting, to where the "object" was first and last seen (this can be done by noting the relationship to houses trees, power lines etc) this information becomes very valuable.

People with information on sightings are urged to write to: UFO Research Section, P.O. Box 1588 Alice Springs N.T. 5750.

29110 ADV.

UFO ON WALKABOUT

The UFO sighted over Alice Springs last Wednesday seems to be touring the Territory.

Mr Bob Brent, 30 of Mitchell St. West, rang the News after seeing what he described as a "miniature sunset."

Bob was driving back to work after lunch when he sighted the UFO on the horizon off East Point.

"It was about the size of a typewriter, and looked like a shimmering sunset," he said.

"It was red with a blue

haze around it. Just as I pulled up it shot straight up and disappeared completely.

He said the object left no vapor trail.

Last Wednesday, Helen Brown, 14, rang Alice Springs police to say she and 11 friends at a barbecue saw a UFO.

She described it as a light hanging from the sky in colors of red white and blue.

Two UFO's were sighted over Alice Springs last month.

More UFO's

At least 13 people, including a school headmaster, saw a UFO over Darwin last night.

The principal of Nightcliff Primary School, Mr Charles Beresford, said he watched the bright yellow light through binoculars for more than 30 minutes.

His three daughters also saw it.

He said it shone brighter than a star, had a red ring and moved slowly to the east.

A similar object was seen by five adults and four children in Davern St., Alawa.

One of the people, Mrs Margaret Melvin, said it was extremely bright and moved quickly from the south. It was visible for more than an hour.

TUESDAY

23-10-73

UFO seen in

The UFO sighted over Alice Springs on Wednesday seems to be touring the Territory.

Darwin

Mr Bob Brent, 30, of Mitchell St West, rang the News yesterday after seeing what he described as "miliature sunset."

Bob was driving back to work after lunch when he sighted the UFO on the horizon off East Point.

"It was about the size of a typewriter, and looked like a shimmering sunset," he said.

"It was red with a blue haze around it. Just

as I pulled up it shot straight up and disappeared completely.

He said the object left no vapor trail.

On Wednesday, Helen Brown, 14, rang Alice Springs police to say she and 11 friends at a barbecue saw a UFO.

She described it as a light hanging from the sky in colors of red white and blue.

Two UFO's were sighted over Alice Springs last month.

FRIDAY

19-10-73.

New UFO report in Alice

News 12/10

Another UFO was sighted over Alice Springs on Tuesday night.

Helen Brown, 14, rang police to say she and 11 friends at a barbecue in Baucut Street saw the UFO.

She described it as a light hanging from the sky in colors of red, white and blue. It was seen at 7.15 pm and again at 7.54 pm when it was moving north.

Police found no trace of it.

Two UFO's were reported over the Alice last month.

Sergeant Andy McNeill, of the Alice Springs police, said if it was found the UFO would be held for questioning. And he warned Darwin residents to keep a look out for it.

13/9

Armed Police called to Airport on emergency

Both the Alice Springs and the Darwin airports were put on alert last Saturday morning following the sighting of an unidentified aircraft high over Derby in Western Australia.

DCA observers in Derby saw the aircraft at about 4.15 am on Saturday morning, heading in an east to south easterly direction.

The airport manager in Alice Springs, Mr Alan Miers, said that DCA observers saw what they thought was a very high flying aircraft at about 5.45am.

The aircraft appeared to be flying on the normal Sydney track, travelling to the south east.

Police and extra DCA staff were called to the airport in case the aircraft tried to land and refuel.

Mr Miers said the airport was put on a state of alertness which could have been made a full alert within a few minutes.

He said all centres have anti-hijack committees and the procedures were put into operation both here and in Darwin.

About ten armed police were called to the airport but the alert was called off at about 6.30am.

Mr Miers added that a Qantas flight which came over at 35,000 feet some time after the spotting had turned on its landing lights and the DCA spotters had seen it quite easily.

They reasoned that the unidentified aircraft must have been flying considerably higher — "much higher than normal."

Mr Miers said that the sightings were mysterious because there were no other aircraft in the area that they could have been confused with.

ANOTHER UFO SIGHTING

Another sighting to add to the growing list of unidentified flying objects seen in the skies over Alice Springs.

Mr Reg Smith the manager of Eyles Ltd. reported

that he had seen two glowing lights in the sky at 9.16pm last Saturday night.

Mr Smith said that the two glowing balls, one green and one red were travelling in a north east to south westerly direction at a speed far in excess of a normal aircraft.

The objects were in sight from about three to five seconds.

Mr Smith said that the lights were immediately adjacent to one another and too close to be associated with aircraft lights.

The objects made no noise and Mr Smith said that he could make no estimation of their size or the distance away from the town that they were travelling.

13/9/72