

FLYING SAUCERS OVER TASMANIA

Clergyman's remarkable testimony

IN World Round-Up for January-February we printed a brief report of a sighting over Cressy. We are indebted to our reader Mr. A. T. Collins who has sent us the following account which appeared on the front page of the *Examiner* for October 10, 1960. The incident took place on October 4.

An Anglican minister and his wife, previously sceptical about reports of visitors from other planets, are sure they have seen flying saucers and a mother ship.

The Rev. Lionel Browning and Mrs. Browning, of Cressy, revealed their experience yesterday although it occurred on Tuesday night.

"We did not say anything about it before because we were reticent about releasing such fantastic information," said Mr. Browning.

Other Cressy residents have reported a mysterious, frightening explosion on the same night.

At 6.10 on Tuesday night Mr. and Mrs. Browning were looking east through the rectory window at a rainbow.

Mrs. Browning said she saw a grey cigar-shaped object emerge from a rainstorm. She pointed it out to her husband.

Mrs. Browning measured the object with a needle held at arm's length.

"It was about 300 feet," she said.

"It was three or four miles away, travelling north about 400 feet off the ground."

"There were about four vertical bands along the side of the object.

"At the bow end of the ship there was a rod jutting out with what seemed like a small propeller or some radar device on the end."

Mr. Browning said that the object had a dull surface, even

though the setting sun was shining on it.

He said that any noise would have been drowned by the wind.

He estimated that the object was travelling at less than 50 m.p.h.

He said that previously he had been sceptical about reports of flying saucers.

"At first I thought this object might have been refracted light, but the thing had too much substance," he said.

"And it was certainly no normal aircraft because it was travelling below stalling speed."

Mr. Browning said that the "ship" was travelling below cloud level at the time.

He said: "The ship travelled in a perfectly straight direction towards Western Junction.

"After about a minute of steady movement, the ship stopped in mid air.

"It hovered above the Panshanger Estate, about three miles away.

"We watched the stationary object for about 30 seconds, fascinated.

"Then out of the clouds above and behind the ship, five or six small discs came shooting at terrific speed.

"They came towards the ship like flat stones skipping along the water.

"The small objects stationed themselves beside their mother ship within a half mile radius."

Mr. Browning described the smaller objects as "flying saucers, about 30 feet in diameter with a flat underside and a rounded dome on top."

He said the objects were light grey in colour but bore no other distinguishing feature.

"After several seconds the ship, accompanied by the saucers, reversed the way it came," he said.

"The ship did not manoeuvre to return because the rod end was the last section of the ship to be covered in the rain cloud.

"It returned faster than the speed at which it had emerged and was gone from sight after 30 seconds."

Mr. Browning said that he believed the object was travelling towards Western Junction under cover of the thick rain.

"It appears the ship sailed on for some seconds unaware that it had shed its protection," he said.

"Possibly when this was discovered the saucers were called to the mother ship.

"The objects then moved back into the cover of the rain storm."

Asked why he had not made the sighting public earlier, Mr. Browning said that both he and his wife were reticent at releasing such fantastic information.

"However, I informed Launceston Airport officials immediately after the episode," he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Browning decided to release the information when they heard there were other witnesses.

Two hours after the sighting, many outlying residents in the Cressy-Perth district were disturbed by a loud explosion.

Mrs. J. D. Robson, of Barlington Estate, said the explosion was too loud to be coming from Poatina.

"It was a loud explosion like someone banging heavily on the wall; I could feel the earth shake," she said.

Mr. Brad Spencer, who also lives in the district, said there was a great explosion followed by rumbling and vibrations.

"It was like a bomb or an earthquake," he said.

Mrs. H. Spencer, of Woodlands, Cressy, said that the explosion shook the house.

The reports indicated that the

explosion came from the direction of Panshanger estate, over which the sightings were made.

Civil Aviation Department officers said they had made a report to headquarters of Mr. Browning's sighting.

No aircraft were in the vicinity at the time of the report.

As might be imagined, the Rev. Lionel Browning's account of his sighting caused a tremendous amount of local interest. His rectory was besieged with enquiries to which he replied: "I do not believe that the saucers

come from another planet," and added that in his opinion their source was Russia. "Their movements seemed to suggest that they were accustomed to the earth's atmospheric conditions and local terrain."

A scientist approached by the *Launceston Examiner*, Dr. Bruce Scott, could not ratify or discount Mr. Browning's report. He conceded, however, that "things did happen beyond our experience and understanding." Dr. Scott is a senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania. He is generally

recognised as the Tasmanian authority on satellites and objects from outer space. After having given very careful consideration to Mr. Browning's story, he made the customary observation that may saucer sightings could be conventionally explained, but had the honesty to admit that "it does appear that there are occasions when something beyond our present range of experience and understanding may be involved." He concluded: "But I don't disbelieve in flying saucers."

International UFO Observer Corps

THE FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Volume 2 No. 5 (September-October 1956) announced the formation of the International UFO Observer Corps. This step grew out of the world-wide interest aroused by the two International Flying Saucer Sighting Days in 1956: sighting forms were provided and Observers were asked to watch the sky, with one or more companions, for a regular definite period each week.

During the past year we have noticed that:

1. The great majority of sightings reported to us continued to come from people having no previous knowledge of flying saucers. Organised watching, though more productive of results than looking for a needle in a haystack, was not sufficiently so to encourage constant repetition. Corps

Observers could not achieve the convincing and occasionally spectacular sightings reported from chance encounters.

2. If the crews of extra-terrestrial craft, which we believe flying saucers to be, wish to make contact with people on earth or, at least, gently to convince greater numbers of their existence as visitors to this planet, they have been either unaware of Corps activities or unwilling to take advantage of the opportunities provided.

3. Lacking the encouragement of gathering evidence, some Corps members turned to other sources of information, through medium ship, myths and traditions, leading to preconceived opinions inimical to research with open minds.

After much consideration, therefore, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

has decided to discontinue the Observer Corps in its present form, but to widen its scope and to invite *all* its readers to send in reports of sightings which they have either personally witnessed or have investigated in their neighbourhood. This step is really a recognition of a state of affairs that has, in fact, been in existence for some time. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW takes this opportunity of thanking those readers who have sent in such competent reports of sightings from all over the world.

In future, printed sighting forms will not be supplied. It has been found that witnesses have presented much better reports if uninhibited by any stereotyped form of questionnaire. Naturally, we would like the time, date and place to be stated precisely, but we feel that the other details can be better expressed in the reader's own style.
