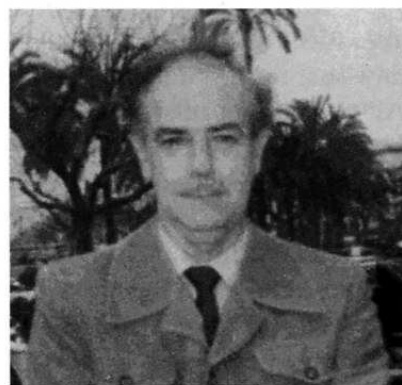


# THE "SKY PEOPLE"

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Omar Fowler

**I**n April of 1963, Mr. Derek Smith \*, his wife Dora, and their three children, Martin, Sharon and Andrew, left their home in England and travelled to Australia under the Government Immigration Scheme, to take up residence in Australia.

They initially set up home in Elizabeth, near Adelaide, but in July 1965, decided to move on and to make for the East Coast of New South Wales. They were travelling in an old Humber Super Snipe car and before long they were forced to stop at Canberra to have a leaking oil seal fixed. Once the seal had been replaced they were able to continue their journey and headed further on up the coast.

It was late on a Saturday night when they pulled into the "Oasis" caravan park at Windang, a small development on the Pacific coast, situated between Lake Illawarra and the Windang road. That night they slept in the car, as they were unable to find any accommodation until the following day. It was then that they met the proprietors of the site, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, who arranged to rent them a caravan. At that time, the Smith family had only intended to stay at the park for a short period.

It was on the following Monday and after some discussion with his wife Dora, that Derek Smith decided to look for work in the area. He succeeded in finding a job at a local timber mill, this was conveniently situated at Primbee, just a few miles up the road from the caravan park. Dora found places for two of their children at a local school (one was too young) and it was then that the couple decided to extend their stay at the "Oasis" park. As a result of their change of plans, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor arranged for the family to move into a "cabin", a residence with far more spacious accommodation. At one time this "cabin" had been a railway carriage, but it had since been converted into a neat little home, and sat at the end of the caravan park on a number of small brick piles.

In the evening, the family often went for a stroll along the shore of Lake Illawarra. It was a picturesque scene and the dotted lights of the shrimp boats could be seen bobbing around across the lake. Occasionally the family walked over the

high sand dunes and made their way along the white sandy beach overlooking the great Pacific Ocean.

When the Smith family returned to the "cabin" after their evening walk, they often tuned into the local radio station 2WL. They liked to listen to the old English comedy programmes frequently transmitted by the station. Occasionally there was a "static" or crackling noise interfering with the programme, but they put this down to thunderstorms which they thought were in the area.

The radio transmitter was quite close to the "Oasis" site, just across the road in fact. It was not long before the couple began to realise that the "static" noise, which sometimes blanked out the radio programme completely, occurred at the same time each week. Derek thought that the interference might be caused by something passing close to the transmitter.

The couple became curious about the "static" noise, and the next time that it was due, they decided to stand outside their cabin and to watch out for anything unusual. Derek had an old pair of ex-army x10 binoculars and with the aid of these, he would be able to search the night sky. "We didn't know if he would see anything" said Dora. "In the clear night sky of Australia, the stars appear to be brighter and there seem to be more of them" commented Derek.

Several nights passed as Derek searched the heavens with his binoculars, then at last his efforts were rewarded. Through the starry sky, he spotted three pinpoint of light, very high and travelling in an East to West direction.

As the lights came closer, their brightness increased and Derek made out the shape of three slender dart-like objects. The main colour of the darts was a brilliant white, but then pale blues and pinks seemed to wash over the length of the craft. Derek thought that possibly the colour changes might have been due to eye-strain. It was a difficult task following the small shapes across the night sky with a pair of old army binoculars.

For some time, Derek and his wife Dora had been interested in psychic phenomena. They had

experimented with a ouija board a few months previously and at various times had been successful in contacting something purportedly from "the other side". Dora had often questioned this unknown "force" about their future. The couple were once told that they would return to England within a few years, which was something that they certainly had no intention of doing. They had decided to make Australia their permanent home.

Dora suggested that it might be possible to contact the dart-shaped craft by means of telepathy and by using a ouija board. By these means, there was a chance that contact could be made. The couple decided that the next time the "darts" were due, they would have a board prepared and would be ready and waiting.

As the time approached, the couple sat patiently at the table in their cabin. They had made their board from a sheet of brown paper pinned down on the table, with the letters and numbers arranged in a circle around the paper. Derek and Dora sat facing each other, their fingers placed on the base of an upturned glass. If any "contact" was made, the glass should move from letter to letter spelling out the message.

Any moment now the multi-coloured darts should be approaching the Pacific coastline. The couple sat listening to the radio, waiting for any sign that the "darts" were on their way.

They glanced at the clock, then the wireless static began. The "darts" were right on time! Derek and Dora placed their fingers on top of the glass and concentrated. There was no need to spell out a question on the board, it seemed as if their very thoughts were being read and understood. Suddenly they felt a surge of power, a force; a very strong force was at work!

The glass sped from letter to letter, first a "Z" and then an "I", making up the name "ZI". What did it mean? Derek and Dora thought deeply, "Who was "ZI" they asked? They waited, then once again the glass began to move, "We are the Sky People" came the reply! The couple sat quietly, stunned by the response. The "Sky People" had often been referred to by the old Aboriginal wise men, a subject that Derek had been studying since his arrival in Australia. More questions and answers followed before the "darts" moved on and the contact ended.

During the weeks that followed, Derek and Dora were regularly in touch with the "Sky People". They no longer bothered to walk outside their cabin to watch for the tiny illuminated darts passing high overhead, but instead waited at the table with their board at the ready. They thought it strange how the children always slept heavily on these occasions and they were never once disturbed during the two-way communication that was now taking place regularly twice a week.

Derek and Dora were completely secretive about their actions, for they thought that their

neighbours might not take too kindly to stories of their contact with the "Sky People". Derek often took notes, but these were usually on odd scraps of paper. Unfortunately, during the couple's many moves, the notes have been lost or destroyed. Derek and Dora have since had to rely on their memories to recount the details of the many contacts that were made.

**Derek once asked the "ZIs" the purpose of their visit to Earth. The "Sky People" replied that they were the "Guardians" of our world and that they had been visiting the planet for many thousands of years. They said that they had landed here "many times". On another occasion, when the couple asked the "Sky People" where they lived, they replied "closer than you think"!**

The question and answer episodes continued for some time but Derek and Dora could remember only a fraction of their past "conversations". At one time, they asked the "Sky People" their names, as the couple wanted to know who they were speaking to. The "ZIs" replied that unlike us, they did not have individual names, but they had titles that changed according to their task in hand. They thought it strange that we were all named individually.

Curiosity now overcame Derek's and Dora's initial fear and, thinking hard, they asked their contact if they could meet one of the "Sky People" face to face. At first the "ZIs" reply was negative, "No, you would be frightened of us". Derek was curious, "Why would we be afraid" he thought? Back through the "board" came the reply, "because we are bigger than you".

During the weeks that followed, Derek repeatedly asked for a meeting with the "Sky People". He felt certain that knowing the "ZIs" were friendly, he would be able to overcome any initial fear that he might have. Derek's persistence finally paid off when at long last, the "Sky People" agreed to a meeting. The couple were told to go to a point along the shoreline of the lake, during the time of the "ZIs" next fly-over.

As the time for the meeting drew closer, the couple had a feeling of excitement, but Dora was apprehensive. Had Derek been right to insist on a meeting with the Sky People? What would the "ZIs" look like, would the couple be abducted, would they ever see their children again? The questions flooded through Dora's mind. Within a few days, the time for the meeting with the "Sky People" arrived. Derek and Dora settled the children in their beds and then set out for the lake shore on their way to the rendezvous point.

As they walked through the night, they felt that something was wrong. A light aircraft was flying backwards and forwards across the lake, as though searching for something. The couple watched it in silence; could it be a spotter aircraft of some kind? The small aircraft continued its circling and flew back and forth for some time.

There seemed to be no sign of any "Sky People", perhaps the plane had scared them off? The couple continued to wait, but there was still no sign of the "ZIs", what could have gone wrong? Finally they decided to make their way back to the caravan site as there now seemed to be little chance of a meeting taking place.

Derek and Dora tried to contact the "Sky People" that night, but there was no response. What had happened to them? The couple decided that they had no alternative but to wait until later in the week, when the next "flyover" was due. They might then find an answer to the riddle of the missing "ZIs".

Later the same week, the hour of the rendezvous approached and once again the couple prepared to make contact with the passing craft. They positioned the "board" on the table and waited, and soon they felt the surge of power coming through the glass.

The couple concentrated their thoughts, "Where were you" they asked the "ZIs"? They sat quietly, waiting for the reply. Once again the glass moved, it sped from letter to letter and it read, "Not come, Spotter Plane", "Go now to agreed place".

The request for a meeting now caught them by surprise. They would have to take some quick action if they were to reach the meeting place in time. Derek and Dora set off through the night, treading cautiously as they went. Luckily, although it was night, the sky had a starlit glow and the couple were able to follow their usual path alongside the lake. They had to walk through a thickly wooded area before arriving at the meeting place. This was situated in a small clearing at the edge of the woods.

Soon they reached the rendezvous point and leaving the cover of the trees they stepped into the clearing. The couple paused for a moment and peered into the darkness. **Suddenly Dora grabbed Derek's arm, they both stopped, it was as if they had been frozen to the spot! "He's there, over by that tree" whispered Dora.**

The tree that she had referred to stood out from the others, it was on the edge of the woods and clear of the undergrowth. The trunk of the tree had no branches or foliage near the ground and it ran up for some distance before the branches spread out, forming a wide dark canopy overhead. Derek could just make out a shadowy figure standing by the trunk, but Dora was able to see more (her long sight was better than Derek's).

Speaking in a whisper, Dora described the tall human-like figure standing under the tree. It appeared to be dressed all in black, in a type of one-piece suit. It was tall and slim, but not thin. The couple stood transfixed, peering through the darkness at the stationary shape.

After what could only have been a few minutes they saw a movement as the hands of the tall dark figure reached towards its middle. It seemed to touch its belt, then quite suddenly it disappeared.

Once again the shadow of the tree resumed its normal shape. "He's gone" Dora gasped.

**The couple found that they were both able to move freely once again, but what had held them? Derek wondered if it had been purely fright or some other force that had restrained them during their encounter? They stood quietly for a few moments, but there was no sign of the shadowy figure returning. After a brief discussion the couple made their way home, having decided to return to the clearing on the following day.**

Next morning Derek and Dora retraced their steps to the secret rendezvous. They came to the spot where they had stood on the previous night and looked across the clearing. "It was over there" said Dora.

**Slowly they made their way across to the old tree where the shadowy figure had been standing; it was a distance of some twenty yards. "His head was level with that" said Dora and she pointed to a projection from the trunk. Derek glanced up and looked at the jutting stump, it was some eight feet from the ground! No wonder the "ZI" people thought the couple would be sacred! The "Sky People" were apparently eight feet tall!**

Derek and Dora chatted for a while discussing the previous night's experience, and finally they made their way back along the shore of the lake, to the caravan site and their cabin.

Derek Smith and his family were soon destined to move on from their home at the "Oasis" site, but there was still one strange final episode to be played out.

One night, shortly before they were due to leave, the coast was hit by a violent tropical storm. The rain fell in sheets and the wind howled through the trees, tearing at the leaves on the branches overhead. Debris and overhead electric cables fell down on the site. Thunder and lightning shook the cabin, the young children were terrified. Suddenly there was a vivid flash of lightning, the lights of the cabin flickered and went out.

Each cabin had an electrical trip switch situated where the cable entered the van. In the event of a power surge the trip switch would operate and cut off the power supply. Their cabin was mounted on brick piers, and the switch was positioned in a corner under the extended roof of the cabin, some ten feet off the ground.

Derek was in a difficult situation, because of the intensity of the storm. He dare not leave the safety of the cabin to try and trace the fault. In any case, a ladder would be needed to reach the switch situated high up at the back of the van. The children were crying, it was a terrifying situation for them. Derek could do nothing until the weather abated.

The storm continued to rage, the wind howled, branches and leaves beat down on the roof of the cabin. There was another brilliant flash of lightning. For a split second, Derek thought that



he saw the silhouette of a figure standing outside the window, but he could have been mistaken. Suddenly the lights came on again... there was no logical explanation for the power supply being reconnected.

**The next morning Derek and Dora stepped outside and walked around towards the back of the cabin. Derek was mystified by the incident the previous night and anxiously wanted to inspect the electrical trip switch. The couple walked to the rear of the cabin, paused for a moment and then looked up in amazement at the corner of the cabin.**

**There was a dark sooty area around the switch where the power surge had taken place. Not only had it been reconnected, but at the side of the connection was a sooty outline, that of a hand, a very large hand...**

**Derek and Dora made no further attempt to contact the "ZIs" and shortly afterwards they moved away from the area. By now, the Vietnam war had started, and things in Australia worsened. In 1967 the couple decided to return to England with their family... just as the "board" had predicted!**

\* **NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR:**The true name of the family is on record in our confidential files, but at the express request of Derek, we are calling them the

"Smiths." We should add that Mr. Omar Fowler now knows the family well (they are living in Derbyshire), as he has interviewed them four times before writing this report. ■

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Forrestal was indeed crazy as a loon and determined to commit suicide. Given the unexpected rare opportunity, he was still "sane" enough to take advantage of same, with the desired results.

A second theory postulates that the Government itself had grown paranoid over Forrestal's mental reliability and stability, and saw "suicide" — or perhaps a complete nervous breakdown — as the only safe way out. In this scenario, "they" wouldn't have pushed Forrestal so much as they might have simply allowed (and/or urged) him to push himself. Given a generous dose of existing suicidal tendencies, a mere gentle nudge and unguarded opportunity here and there would no doubt have been sufficient.

As for the conspiracy-cappers, they are quite capable of coming up with their own final scenario ■

**fsr**

## MAILBAG

### ***A Strange Sky Phenomenon of 1748. (A "Sundog"?)***

Dear Sir, — I am passing on the enclosed item in the hope that maybe it will be of interest to your readers.

I am a historian, and came across this\* 'sighting report' in the course of my work. It appeared on page 246 of the *Scots Magazine* (published in Edinburgh) of May 1748. The enclosed is an electrostatic copy from microfilm made by the National Library of Scotland.

As to what the correspondent in Carlisle is describing I have of course no idea, nor do I know whether any other reports about it appeared in any other papers.

Yours faithfully,  
**Dr. Robert Clyde,**  
60 South Trinity Road,  
Edinburgh EH5 3NX.  
March 2, 1993.

\* A letter from Carlisle, of May 25, gives the following account.

"A very remarkable phenomenon appeared in the sky yesterday at eight o'clock, and continued till ten, to the great surprise of the whole city. On the right of the sun there was a large circus, resembling the colours of a rainbow, but more bright, which was crossed in three places with a flaming colour, mixed with an azure blue; with streamers interspersed, and others darting out from the uttermost circle, like

a glory. The compass of the whole to the naked eye seemed to occupy the space of fifty yards. During its continuance the sun was very bright, the sky clear, and the air quite serene. We had no rain since, nor for forty eight hours before".

### ***UFO Concealed in Cloud?***

Dear Sir, — I have been interested in your subject for many years but only now am I writing in for details of your journal.

During the 1960s and 1970s, I — and also many of my friends — saw from time to time a number of strange things. In particular I recall — and I have never before reported this to anybody — that, around about 1968, I saw an object which appeared to me to possibly be generating its own sort of cloud-cover, or using existing cloud to hide in.

The object was in the sky above Southampton Water, between Fawley and Southampton Dock, and I viewed it from a tower block of flats.

As I say, many of us observed strange things during those years. One friend even claimed to have seen a UFO land at Cholderton during the 1970s. But of course, like the rest of us, he never reported it to anybody.

Yours faithfully,  
**Richie Bond,**  
34b St. Mark's Road,  
London W10.  
April 12, 1993.

**NOTE BY EDITOR.** We have not seen mention of this lately, but in the early days, especially in the 1950s, we saw a number of such reports in which witnesses spoke of craft or of objects which seemed either to use cloud-cover in which to conceal themselves or which possibly generated their own cloud-cover from which to spy on us.

### ***SETI — Dr. Guérin vs. Dr. Sagan***

Dear Gordon: — I enjoyed Dr. Guérin's article, "SETI: A MANIPULATION" in FSR 38-1 and agreed with every word. Especially his apt analogy: "... (it is as vain to seek to capture radio messages sent by the extraterrestrials as it would be for a primitive tribe to expect a message from the white man in the form of signals emitted by wisps of smoke in the Bush.)"

If, as we are well aware, the U.S. Government has irrefutable proof of the existence of extraterrestrials among us through tens of thousands of reports on sightings, contacts and abductions, and if, as claimed, they are dealing in secret with alien groups, then it is obvious the SETI listening program is a gigantic smoke screen to lull the public (and our scientific fraternity) into the belief that extraterrestrials if they exist are "way out there" and we are still seeking proof of their existence.

The attached Carl Sagan article\* from the March 7, 1993 *Parade Magazine*