

# Burst of UFO activity in Tasmania

W. K. Roberts

Our contributor writes on behalf of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre.\*

WE have had in the past few weeks reports unprecedented in the history of UFOs in Tasmania. Previous cases here have not involved landings, or car pursuits, and have been of a sketchy nature. The following is a summary of the present wave of sightings.

**1. Norwood, May 22.** (Norwood is just south of Launceston which is some 100 miles north of Hobart.) Under the heading "UFO hunt moves to Launceston," the *Examiner* of June 5 reads:

"Bright lights, flattened undergrowth and an eyewitness report of an unidentified flying object have led to an investigation by the Tasmanian UFO Bureau in the Launceston area. The Bureau, which describes its 80 members as 'ordinary, sane people,' started the investigation after a man reported seeing three lights—red, white and blue—land in bush country two miles from the city.

"The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he saw the lights settle among trees in a paddock near the suburb of Norwood at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday. He said: 'The lights settled, then took off in a flash of colour, like a skyrocket.' The sighting prompted immediate investigation by the Tasmanian UFO Bureau, who went to the area under the guidance of president, Mr. Jeremy Holden, of Trevallyn. Mr. Holden said yesterday that the group found a flattened area of undergrowth and dense bracken and blackberry bushes. The flattened area was about 10ft. in diameter, but it had no specific shape and the undergrowth was not flattened in an orderly manner, he said. The bureau has now called on anybody else who saw the lights to 'speak out'."

There is not a great deal that I can add to the newspaper cutting as this case was investigated by the Tasmanian UFO Bureau of Launceston. They are satisfied that the report is genuine, and have classified the object as a UFO.

**2. Cethana to Wilmot Road, May 23.** (The Wilmot area is on the north-west coast area of Tasmania 120 miles NNW of Hobart.) Mr. L. G. Riley was travelling home at 7.30 p.m. when a flickering light on his driver's side window caught his attention. Winding down his window he saw to his right a coal-red, round object, pacing his car at a distance of 100 to 150ft. The UFO was at about 100ft. altitude, but later, during the 15-minute sighting, it came as low as 50ft.

Mr. Riley was travelling uphill at 25 mph and increased his speed up to 40 mph, but the UFO continued to keep pace with his car. The UFO was seen to travel behind timber alongside the road, and on one occasion cast a reflection on a large gum tree.

Before reaching the top of the hill, the UFO (estimated size about 30ft.) moved ahead of Mr. Riley, so he

stopped atop the hill to get out and obtain a better view of it. The object was now some 150 yards away, and, travelling in an up and down motion, was lost to sight over the rise ahead towards Wilmot. No noise was heard by Mr. Riley.

Driving on, Mr. Riley sighted the UFO to his right over the rise, but it then crossed the road ahead of him and disappeared down a gully to his left after being visible through the trees for a short distance. The UFO had been in sight for some two miles in all.

**3. Lynchford, May 25.** (Lynchford is about 130 miles north-west of Hobart.) Mr. C. Archer was awoken at 2 a.m. by the barking and yelping of his dogs, and a strange humming noise like a big, loud generator. Looking outside he was unable to see anything to account for the noise. After some half an hour the humming faded away. On May 26, a flattened area of grass and blackberries was found some 150-200 yards distant from the house at Lynchford. The area was about 30 × 15ft. with a spiral pattern in the middle, and containing six irregularly-placed indentations.

On May 27, the family's 4-month-old kitten died, a car stopped 50 yards from the UFO site with an electrical fault, and two visitors to the area claimed that their watches had stopped. An autopsy by the Queens-town Police failed to find any cause for the kitten's death; it was probably outside at the time of the humming noise. Mr. Archer said the dogs acted "dopey" that week and stayed around the house. Usually they would go off hunting for a couple of days at a time.

By the time the weekend was over, many people had been to the area and a further flattened area similar to the first was found, together with four smaller 10ft. diameter areas with three indentations each, roughly in the shape of a triangle of base 3ft. and some 9ft. to the mark at the apex. The marks were about 8in. deep. Heavy dews and downdraughts were suggested to explain the unusual areas, and there had indeed been heavy dew the week before, followed by 15-20 knot winds on the 21st and 22nd. However, Mr. Archer claims the area was not flattened on the 24th (it is waste ground by the way). Of course, the response from the dogs, the humming noise, indentations, and kitten's puzzling death would still remain unexplained.

**4. Wilmot, June 20.** Mrs. R. H. Dawkins, glancing through her window at 10.45 p.m., noticed to the south an object larger than the full moon, with a light either side, dropping down towards a nearby paddock.

She turned off all the lights in the house and watched as the two side lights went out and a series of small lights came on around the central light. At this stage all the lights appeared to dim. Mrs. Dawkins went next door and woke her mother-in-law. Together with her uncle they all watched the UFO standing in the

\* 62 Leonard Avenue, Moonah, Tasmania, Australia, 7009.

paddock only 400 yards distant. The estimated size of the central light was about 20ft.

They went out in the road for a better straight-on view of the UFO. They watched in all for over an hour-and-a-half until the UFO's lights suddenly went out. The next day nothing could be found at the spot where the UFO had appeared to land.

**5. Narrawal July 9.** Mr. V. Williams' farm is just a few miles west of the location of the last report at Wilmot and six miles north from that of Case No. 2. The farm is some 100ft. above the paddock in which his children noticed a strange bright white light at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Williams viewed the UFO only 300 yards away through binoculars. He could see it was just in front of the paddock gate and estimated its size as 16ft. long by 4ft. high. The UFO was very bright but did not seem to light up the area around it. As he watched, it seemed to float along about 20 yards and change to a red colour. It also seemed to flare up at each end and flicker.

He decided to drive to the gate and investigate the UFO. However, en route he lost sight of the gate and on arriving could see the same or similar object in a paddock some  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the east. Deciding he couldn't catch the UFO he went to tell his cousin about it. On returning some half an hour later, no lights were to be seen. Reflection of the moon on fog was suggested, but the weather records at Erriba 6 miles south of Wilmot record no fog. Mr. Williams and an acquaintance in the area observed no fog on the evening in question, and the Weather Bureau state that conditions were not conducive to fog.

We hope you find the above sightings of interest. TUFOIC has no explanation other than UFOs at present.

### Mountain lights

In one of your articles "UFO Flap at Pudasjarvi, Finland,"\* we noticed similarities to a report in Tasmania dating from last December. We refer to the light seen over Sarkivaara Mountain which released smaller balls of light. We thought you may find our story of interest and have set it out below. The names and addresses of the three young witnesses (ages 15, 17 and 18) are on our files but they requested their names be withheld in the event of any publication.

The sighting concerned took place on the evening of December 18 and early hours of the 19th, 1970. Weather in Hobart had been fine and warm at 83° with some stratus cloud on Mt. Wellington 5 miles west of the city. Our initial report was from New Town, a northern suburb, and the second incident was on the road to the summit of Mt. Wellington itself. The stratus had dissipated by early evening. Our witnesses, three youths, had parked their car near a children's playing area about 11.00 p.m. in the suburb of New Town. Whilst "messaging about" on the swings, one of them noticed a bright star-like light at some height above Mt. Wellington; it started to move slowly south-east (left). He called his friends' attention to it, thinking it might be a satellite. This idea soon proved to be wrong as a

second light appeared to the north-east (right) and approached the first light. Finally, a third light appeared above the two and all three manoeuvred about each other above the mountain.

One of the witnesses went to a nearby phone-box and called a local radio station who said other people had seen the lights and it was probably hydro-electric workmen with searchlights. This explanation proved to be without substance, there being no power lines in the area or work being done on Mt. Wellington.

Meanwhile, the three lights had eventually lined up. One winked out and the remaining two fused into one larger disc or oval-shaped light which seemed to move towards the witnesses before remaining stationary over the mountain.

Two of the witnesses then decided to drive up the Pinnacle Road to the top of Mount Wellington, as the searchlight explanation did not seem plausible. They estimated at least half an hour had passed since their first seeing the light. On leaving New Town, they lost sight of the light and on arriving at the top of Mt. Wellington about midnight, or not long after, they were unable to view anything to explain the lights.

About 12.30 a.m., they left the summit but had only driven  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile down the road when a star-like light appeared to the west (left) following the ridge line some mile or more distant. It descended to a bright dome-shaped area of light situated on the mountainside a mile from the road. This light appeared to be just below the ridge which was lit up behind the object.

As they brought the car to a halt, similar lights blinked on and were seen to approach the dome from above and to the right. There then followed a series of lights coming and going from the dome. Watching this scene for a while, the witnesses became uneasy and continued on their downhill journey. The lights were still there until the hillside was lost to view after they had travelled only a short distance.

T.U.F.O.I.C. learnt of, and investigated the sighting early in January. First, a check of major planets was made but none was in a position to even account for bright stationary lights. The location of the dome-shaped light is rough, uninhabited mountainside at 4,000ft. An attempt was made to locate the landing point, but due to the rough terrain, this proved too difficult. The local radio station was contacted for further leads, but as the report had not been used as a news item, there was no knowledge of other calls. The witnesses saw a few other cars at the mountain top and were surprised no one else reported the lights. To date, there appears to be no satisfactory explanation for the case and it remains on our files as unexplained.

### Explanations considered by T.U.F.O.I.C.

1. Bright stars hidden and revealed by clouds. First, there were no stars of any magnitude in the area of the sky concerned and the Weather Bureau advised that the stratus cloud had dissipated by evening.
2. Headlights from cars on the mountain road reflected on low clouds. This explanation also fell short after the Weather Bureau's advice was obtained—nil cloud meant no reflections.

\* FSR, Case Histories, Supplement 2, December 1970.

(Continued on page 16)

# Brazilian cases in 1968 and 1969—Pt. 6

Dr. Walter Buhler

THIS is the closing part of my collection of Brazilian UFO reports for the period under review. It will be seen that the wave is still of sizeable proportions in May and June 1969. Altogether there are two "occupant" cases, and several other reports which are very interesting and sometimes staggering. In mid-July the wave came to an abrupt end and there were only two other reports towards the end of the year.

## MAY TO DECEMBER 1969

### 115. May 1, 1969. Guanabara.

For several minutes a flying saucer was observed by officials of the 6th Public Security section.

*O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, May 4, 1969.

### 116. May 2, 1969. Pavuna, State of Guanabara.

For one hour a flying saucer was observed performing evolutions at high speed, departing finally at 5.30 a.m. It was seen by personnel of the 6th section of the 29th Police District, this being the second time in this month, but there were also sightings on April 27 and 28. On this occasion, the object seen presented a consecutive series of varying shapes, now a star, now a drinking glass, now a cup, now a dish, and it varied its colour through blue, green, yellow, to orange. The control towers of the Radio Patrol Service and of the Highway Control Checkpoint were informed, and their personnel also saw the object.

*Diário de Notícias*, Rio de Janeiro, May 3, 1969.

### 117. May 2, 1969. Niterói, State of Rio de Janeiro.

At 10.00 p.m. an egg-shaped UFO, which emitted a shrill sound and a beam of light, was seen by the police detective Bento Durão de Barros. The UFO was only in view for a few minutes, as it hovered above the shrubberies of the Legislature Gardens, where usually the Governor of the State attends to his official business in view of the repair work now being carried out on his Residence, the Palácio Nilo Peçanha. The saucer vanished at a terrifying speed, and an account of the matter was entered in the official record by Sr. Carlos Gomes, the Commissioner of the Third Police District, "in order that Police Deputy Expedito Cardoso may duly advise the correct quarters."

*O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, May 3 and 4, 1969.

### 118. Beginning of May, 1969. Osasco, State of São Paulo.

Sr. Nelson Remedi, residing at No. 609, Avenida Professor José Azeredo Minhoto in this town, photographed a flying saucer which was executing rapid manoeuvres, both horizontal and vertical, and varying its colour. At one moment it projected a more powerful beam of light from a sort of door on the craft.

*O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, May 4, 1969.

### 119. May 5, 1969. Pavuna, State of Guanabara.

At 9.00 p.m., a retired naval lieutenant, Sr. João Pereira, saw a number of luminous balls of various colours hovering stationary in the sky, and watched them for about twenty minutes.

*Gazeta de Notícias*, Rio de Janeiro, May 6, 1969.

### 120. First week of May, 1969. Pavuna, State of Guanabara.

At 1.00 a.m. Sr. Ailton of the São Geraldo Bus Company, saw a "star" which was zigzagging and rushing to and fro in the sky, at times as though buffeted by the wind. At the São Pedro Football Club an "enormous luminous, white, stationary ball" was seen.

*Gazeta de Notícias*, Rio de Janeiro, May 6, 1969.

### 121. First half of May, 1969. Pedro Leopoldo, State of Minas Gerais.

The soldier José Antônio da Silva claimed that he was para-

lysed by a beam of light and taken into a flying saucer by two members of its crew with long beards. He was kept inside the craft for four days for intensive interrogation.

*Diário de Notícias*, May 16, 1969, and Report from CICOANI, the Belo Horizonte Centre for the Investigation of Unidentified Aerial Objects.

### 122. May, 1969. Itajuba, State of Minas Gerais.

Sr. Clixto Borges de Mouros of CONTEL was driving at night along the highway between Pouso Alegre to Maria da Fé, when his car struck, as it were, an "invisible wall", its wheels spun while it remained stationary, and its lights went out. Jumping out, he saw overhead an object from which came a dazzling brightness. When the object moved away, the car lights came on again. Terrified, he headed for the town, above which meanwhile the saucer was observed as it passed over at tremendous speed. The lights of the town went out as it did so (no apparent reason found).

*O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, May 30, 1969.

### 123. May 31, 1969. Itaguaí, State of Rio de Janeiro.

At 5.00 a.m., while travelling in a truck with number plate GB-6-98-84 towards the Eletrobras Plant, two men named respectively José Maria Braga and José Maria Neto saw, at an estimated distance of 800 metres, an intensely bright circular object. It had a red light on top, and was flying around above a hillock of capim grass. When the witnesses had got to a point about 100 metres from it, the saucer emitted a stronger, bluish, light. Then the light went out and, now a mere dark shadow, the saucer shot straight up into the sky without a sound.

*O Globo*, Rio de Janeiro, June 2, 1969.

### 124. May, 1969. Montes Claros, State of Minas Gerais.

At 3.00 a.m. a local notary public observed, in front of the Bishop's Palace, and at a distance of some 300 metres from where he was, a machine "like a concrete-mixer" standing on the road. When he had reached a point some 100 metres closer to it, the object rose up into the air, shedding a flood of light from its under part. It remained stationary for a few minutes at a height of around 100 metres and then departed, leaving a luminous trail. When he got to the spot where it had been standing, the notary experienced sensations of nausea.

*O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, June 1, 1969.

### 125. June 3, 1969. Angra dos Reis, State of Rio de Janeiro.

For several hours after 6.00 p.m., three flying saucers were flying about over Angra dos Reis. The cinemas were empty and dinners un-eaten, everyone wanting to see the phenomenon. Opinions among the eyewitnesses varied as to whether the UFOs were at a distance (i.e. height?) of anywhere between 3 kilometres and 6 kilometres. The saucers were flying in a triangular formation. After some three hours had elapsed, two of them made off out to sea. The third remained stationary for a while, and then commenced to perform fresh movements.

*A Luta Democrática*, Rio de Janeiro, June 5, 1969.

### 126. June 4, 1969. Federal Capital, Brasília.

Early in the morning Sr. Oldack de Oliveira, legal adviser to the Forestry Protection Service in Brasília, and Sr. Marcos Heusi Neto, both saw a round dish-shaped object. The "machine" moved about, now vertically, now horizontally, emitting intensely bright beams of light. The lights were constantly changing colour, at times going out altogether. The object finally vanished without a sound.

*Diário de Notícias*, Rio de Janeiro, June 6, 1969.

### 127. First week in June, 1969. Lavras, State of Minas Gerais.

During a cloudy night, and at a distance of about 150 metres from the point of observation, a red- and orange-coloured object about 50 metres wide was seen at a height of 1 metre