

Compendium Books

Books of interest to readers of FSR

TIME WARPS	<i>J. Gribbin</i> £5.95
EXTRATERRESTRIAL ENCOUNTER	<i>Boyce</i> £4.95
PEOPLES OF THE SEA paperback	<i>I. Velikovsky</i> £1.75
INTO THIN AIR: People who disappear	<i>M. Begg</i> £5.95
BRIEFING FOR THE LANDING ON PLANET EARTH paperback	<i>S. Holroyd</i> £1.25
ALIEN INTELLIGENCE	<i>S. Holroyd</i> £5.95
THE UFONAUTS paperback	<i>H. Holzer</i> £0.95
OMENS OF AWARENESS paperback	<i>D. Tansley</i> £1.75

Many other titles in stock: UFOs, Fortean, Comparative religion, parapsychology, etc. Postage and packing 12½% extra, minimum 18p. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Compendium Books
234 High Street
LONDON NW1

Telephones:
01-485 8944
01-267 1525

We are pleased to announce that we now have further copies available of ...

ENCOUNTER CASES FROM FLYING SAUCER REVIEW



Compelling reading, this is an anthology of cases old and new, which builds up a picture of a phenomenon with a remarkable degree of strangeness.

Price 95p

Plus 18p postage & Packing
From FSR Publications, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Annual Subscription UK, Eire and Overseas (*including Canada*) £4.20, USA \$9.00 or foreign currency equivalent (bank exchange commission on dollar cheques covered by this amount).

Airmail extra for USA, S. Africa, Argentina, Brazil etc. \$7.00. (*Canada, please remit £3.30*) Australia, New Zealand etc. £2.90, Middle East £2.10. Single copies 70p. Overseas subscribers should remit by banker's draft on a London bank, by personal cheque in dollars (USA only), or by International Money Order. Giro No. 356 3251.

All mail, editorial and subscriptions can now be addressed to:

The Editor, FSR PUBLICATIONS LTD., West Malling, Maidstone, Kent, England.
(Tel: 01-639 0784)

Remittances payable to "FSR Publications Ltd"

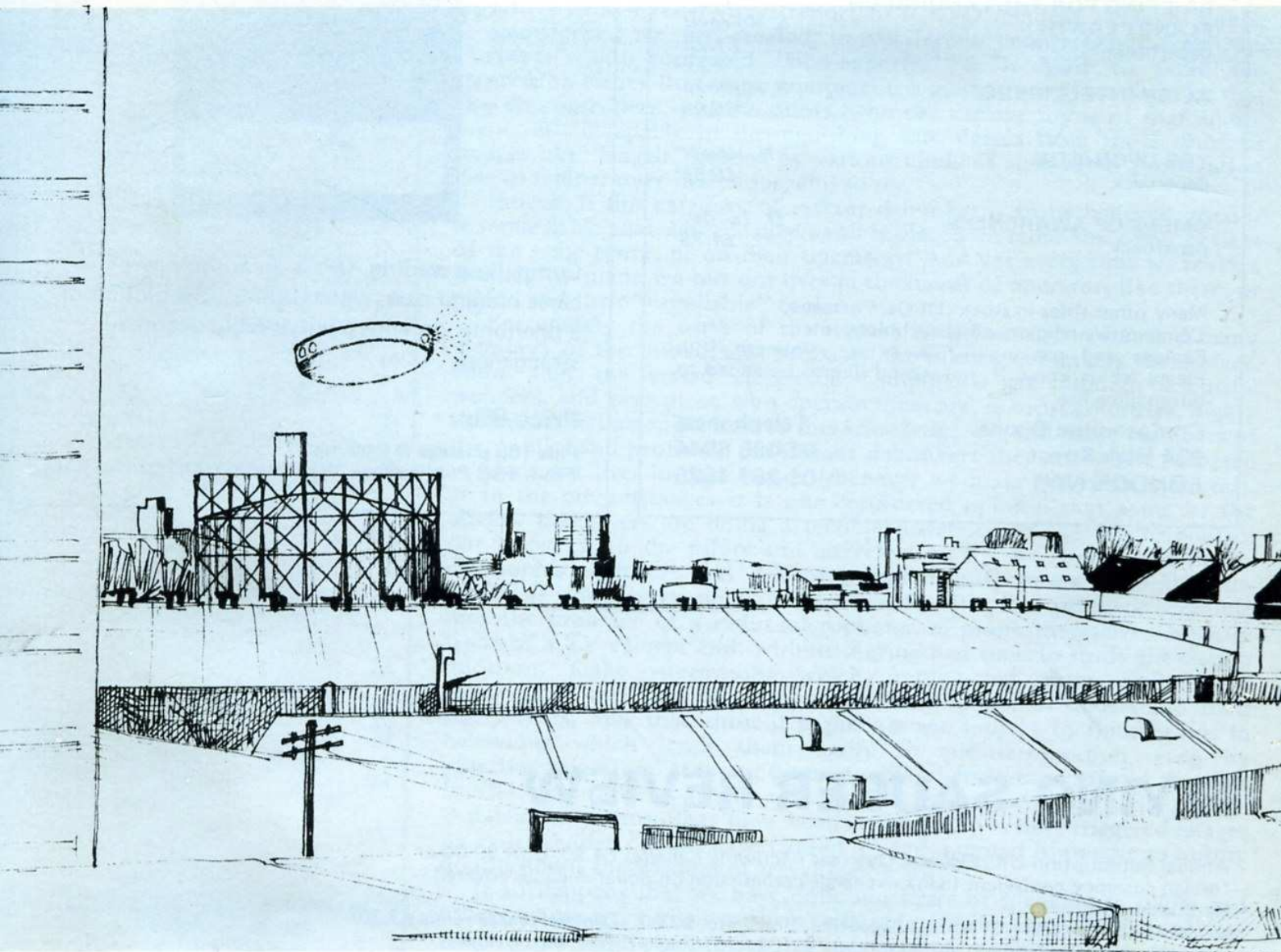
Artwork: Pauline Bowen

FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

FSI

Volume 25, No. 1 January-February 1979

70p



UFOs AND A GAS HOLDER

A REPORT FROM AUSTRALIA SEE PAGE 3

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

THIRTY YEARS AFTER KENNETH ARNOLD:

A SUMMING UP OF THE UFO SITUATION

Editor CHARLES BOWEN
Consultants
 GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRAI, FRGS, FRAS
 C. MAXWELL CADE, AInstP, FRAS, AFRAeS, CEng, FIEE, FIERE
 BERNARD E. FINCH, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS
 CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH, MA, FMA, Hon Companion RAeS, FRSA
 R. H. B. WINDER, BSc, CEng, FIMech E JONATHAN M. CAPLAN, MA
 I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS, MA, MSc, PhD, DSc PERCEY HENNELL, FIBP.
Overseas J. ALLEN HYNEK, PhD
 AIME MICHEL BERTHOLD E. SCHWARZ, MD
Secretarial Assistant JENNY RANGLES

CONTENTS

Debunking runs wild: Paul Norman	2
Focus of UFO attention — a Gas Holder! George Alahouzos	3
Thirty Years after Kenneth Arnold: a summing up of the UFO situation Dr. Pierre Guérin	8
Seven scared witnesses and a Humanoid: Verga Maurizio	17
Phenomenon observed over South Ural, Russia: V.V. Rubstov	20
UFO "Missile" scare: Trevor Whitaker	21
Book review: "Our UFO visitors." John Lade	22
Expanding UFO over Anglesey: Kevin Babbs.	23
Interesting news from Russia: Gordon Creighton	24
Life in the Cosmos: (notes on a Russian lecture)	25
Mail Bag	29
UFO over a Greek Taverna: Jenny Randles	31

© Flying Saucer Review

*Contributions appearing in
this magazine do not
necessarily reflect its policy
and are published without
prejudice*

For subscription details and
address please see foot of
page ii of cover

DISSERVICES RENDERED

WHENEVER a radar-visual report of a UFO incident becomes public knowledge, we are treated to vociferous counterblasts from the "experts" and confessed "non-experts." It is hard to avoid the impression either that radar equipment is given to malfunctions, or that the air controllers, and the pilots, who use various forms of that equipment, are incapable of distinguishing true signals from those spurious images like "angels" caused by various kinds of anomalous propagation due to temperature inversions, and so on.

Indeed, if this category of instant debunker is to be believed, then it is remarkable that any reliance at all is placed on radar and other devices of the same *genre*, or on their operators. And yet every time we make a journey by plane we put our lives in the hands of operators like these, or pilots, and their "unreliable" tools.

Fortunately the truth of the matter is different, for we, and many members of the public, and probably the instant debunkers themselves, know that the varied electronic equipments are modern scientific wonders, and that those who operate them are, in most countries, highly skilled and reliable. Because of this knowledge we, and many members of the public, and probably the instant debunkers themselves, are prepared to place our lives in their hands whenever we make journeys in aircraft.

In the circumstances it is our considered opinion that some of the instant debunkers are doing a terrible disservice to those who control our skyways, to the pilots and aircrew who fly the aircraft and to the electronics engineers and designers, and manufacturers. And this disservice is done every time they rush willy-nilly into print, or scramble into the presence of a radio microphone, or plonk themselves down in front of a TV camera and, without having had time to study the case in question, make suggestions which imply that these skilled and experienced men are not always sure how to use or understand their equipments, and that those equipments are subject to fluctuations in behaviour which lends them easily to misinterpretation, even by practised operators. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to suggest that this frantic urge to deny at any cost the fact that unidentified aerial objects — particularly those that have been seen visually — have triggered images on radar scopes, could have caused a large number of people to nurture doubts about the wisdom of travelling by air.

It so happens that we have done our share of speaking to pilots and others whose work involves them with radar, or direction-finding, or long range control equipment; that we have among our ranks those who have worked with radar (although in one instance, only with war-time radar—but make no mistake, some of the equipments which made use of magnetrons, and so operated on frequencies of 3000 and 10000 m/cs were, in 1943–45, very sophisticated and very accurate). Thus, with the support of such friends and acquaintances we are well aware of the incredible sophistication of devices which can bring aircraft in to land automatically in fog; aware of radars with which their operators can distinguish, purely from the responses, the types of aircraft within their range — and

that is not just the difference between, say, a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet and a Cessna 182, but the difference between a BAC 1-11 and a Hawker Siddeley *Trident*. Then there is equipment which can guide crowded streams of airliners to and fro across the Atlantic,* and elsewhere in the world. Also equipment which, even as long ago as 1944 could guide the RAF bombers to their target areas where the H2S radars, aiming downwards, would evoke responses which would mark ground features on the cathode ray tubes which, when aligned with a superimposed map, would indicate the precise moment for the bombing to take place. All of which leads, 35 years later, to modern control of missiles of various ranges, and to the near-miraculous control of Moon landing craft from Earth. All these things, and many others besides, achieved by radar, or other narrow beam marvels of the same electronic family.

The point of all this is that radars, and their associated equipments, are honest workhorses put to scores of operations where accuracy and reliability are essential. These remarkable tools and their skilled and practised operators do not suddenly become "unreliable" as when a pilot of, say, 23 years' experience, claims a radar-visual encounter with a UFO. Likewise, air traffic controllers with 15 or 20 years' experience behind them do not suddenly risk their professional reputations by being taken in by

"angels" or by misidentifying images on their scopes caused by anomalous propagation. It is our conviction that they can detect and recognise real signals whether they be stimulated by something solid, or by something having the attributes of solidity.

We imagine that when the thousands of reports — hitherto jealously guarded and hidden from the public gaze — are prised from the CIA treasure chest, as ordered by a United States Court following a successful action against the Agency, there will be egg on more than a few faces. We suspect too that more than a few reputations could be at stake. A reward for disservices rendered?

* Your Editor once had the pleasure of taking tea with the captain and first officer on the flight deck of a VC-10. At 40000 feet we watched a Boeing 747 which — indicated clearly by the VC-10's radar — was 12 miles ahead and bumping its way at 33000 ft. Suddenly the 747 banked to the left and changed course. Our captain, feet up and enjoying his tea, indicated an instrument count-down and said we would have made the same manoeuvre by the time the countdown reached 0. At 2 we began to tilt to port, and by 0 we were turning on to the new course — all of this completely automatically and controlled, I gathered, through the airliner's computer from Shannon, some 1500 miles ahead of us. Quite an ordinary happening, but for your Editor, a very impressive one.

DEBUNKING RUNS WILD

But Ufologists make sure of a reasonable ending.

Paul Norman

This late item — which relates to the Australian TV film of UFOs, shot over New Zealand waters on December 31, 1978 (see FSR Vol. 24, No. 5) — is taken from an Editorial article in *Australia UFO Bulletin*, published by the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) of P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin 3189, Victoria, Australia.

BY this time most readers will be well aware of the press reports on the Radar-Visual-Photograph series of events in New Zealand.

Perhaps the Cook Strait Flap has done more to make ufologists out of newsmen, and clowns out of scientists, than any other event in UFO history.

No less than sixteen "explanations" have come from the scientific community. As usual, orthodox academics were snarling at ufologists for investigating and frowning on the press for printing news about mystery objects which they, the sceptics, could not recognize.

Meanwhile, following close on the heels of the Bass Strait incident of the missing Cessna, the UFO were grinding the sacred cow of orthodox science into beefburger.

One of the more amusing suggestions for an explanation came from an ornithologist. His offering was that the

UFOs were ... "Mutton birds flying inland for mating." If true, it should have been a great day for students of ornithology because it was the first recorded appearance of supersonic mutton birds which, for some unknown reason, were in a great haste to get on with the job. Clocked at five miles per second, this powerful species of sea gull would surely have been equipped with asbestos feathers.

Students of astronomy also were in line for a great discovery; the revelation came from none other than British astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell. Those speeding, manoeuvring and hovering objects were "meteorites which failed to burn up on entering the earth's atmosphere." Acceptance of this startling theory would probably depend on the extent of the mental blocks implanted in the minds of students.

In Australia and New Zealand astro-

nomers were insisting that the planets were responsible for this mass encounter with UFOs. Although these astronomers were closer to the scene of action than Sir Bernard, their knowledge of radar was millions of miles out of range.

From Sydney, an amateur astronomer claimed he had made a discovery which would put the ufologists out of business. He said his linescan analyser had picked up the largest moons of Jupiter. This "discovery" turned out to be about as accurate as a prediction from readings of tea leaves left in a cup...

Norwegian Aerospace expert Erik Tawdberg was sure that the thing that the TV film team most likely focussed their cameras on was *simple* ball lightning, but farmer John Acklan, near the Clarence River area, said that

(Continued on page iii)

FOCUS OF UFO ATTENTION— A GAS HOLDER!

A STORY OF NORTH MELBOURNE'S MYSTERY VISITORS — INCLUDING ENTITIES

George Alahouzos

Our contributor had returned to Greece before sending us his interesting article, which has since been held in reserve for several months. The article was skilfully sub-edited by Eileen Buckle, one of her last tasks before retiring from our ranks in 1977.

DURING the last few years, while living in Melbourne, Australia, a number of UFO sighting reports came to my notice. Most were concentrated on a small section of a mixed industrial and residential area in the district called North Melbourne (it is actually near the centre rather than to the north of the city).

There were very few sightings in 1971 and 1972. The year 1973 also began calmly enough, but as the months passed, the Australian flap, together with a West European wave, began to build up. But it was not until Friday, September 28 that things began to hot up over the industrial area of North Melbourne. On that date a brilliant star-like object was seen from the eighth floor of the Canning block of flats; it descended towards the industrial area and hovered over the gas holder, or gas tank (the importance of the gas tank will be shown later).

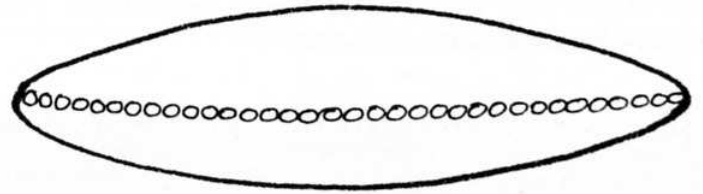
The following day, Saturday 29, brought another sighting report in the same area, this time with more detail. Frank Alescio, aged 14 at the time, had stepped out on to the front porch of his house which is situated in Queensberry Street. Small factories surround the house on all sides and at weekends the area is very quiet and dead. It was 6.30 p.m. and still daylight. Two or three blocks away, towards the south and at an elevation of some 100 feet, a large disc hung suspended in the sky, slowly rotating above the factories. The colour of the object was a dull metal-grey, its undersurface seemingly red-hot, a faint glow emanating from its base. Across the middle of the object was a row of white lights. On inspection through binoculars, Frank noticed the presence of a number of small red lights positioned in and around the larger white ones.

He watched in mute amazement as the object slowly turned. After half a minute he called his elder brother within the house to come and see the strange craft. In doing so, a high pitched buzzing or whining filled the air, originating in the direction of the disc. At the same time the object began to "fade out" or dissolve in mid-air. By the time Frank's brother had emerged it had completely disappeared.

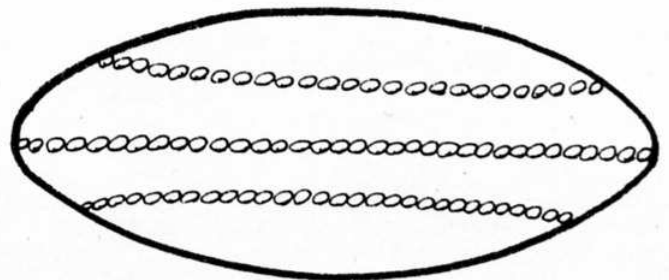
I received the sighting report first hand early the next Monday. I had to use a certain amount of per-

suasion to extract it from the witness and he had a nervous look about him, as though something was troubling him. He had no way of knowing that the night after his sighting another occurrence, very similar to his, had taken place above the industrial area.

On Sunday, September 30, at approximately 6.30 p.m., Wayne Crompton, aged 14, stepped out on to the balcony of his second-floor flat at 94 Canning Street (just across the road to the 20-storey block). He noticed then a dull grey, metallic-looking thing hovering above the gas holder, or gas tank, at about twice its height. The sun, in its early stages of setting, presented the witness with excellent viewing conditions. The object was a thick disc or ovoid, and possessed three rows of illuminated port-holes arranged across the body. Like the object of the previous day, it too emitted a red glow from the



Object seen by Frank Alescio on Saturday Sept. 29, 1973



Object seen by Wayne Crompton on Saturday Sept. 30, 1973

base, giving the impression that it was red hot. The witness watched the object for about a minute until a loud buzzing or whining issued from it, when it began to dissolve. The sound was described as like nothing the witness had ever heard before.

Neither of the two boys had any knowledge of the other's sighting. The only chance they could have had to tell each other was early Monday morning, and I doubt this was likely.

The following afternoon I recruited a volunteer, Jim Charisiou, to await the appearance of our mysterious guest. The reason for telling Jim, aged 13, to keep an eye open for the object was that I was fairly secure in the notion that no adults would co-operate with me. Also, Jim had an excellent viewing position if anything did occur (he was situated on the third floor of 94 Canning Street, right above Wayne Crompton).

At approximately 6.30 p.m., on Monday, October 1, "it" appeared for the fourth consecutive day. From the witness's position an object was seen to be slowly approaching, directly south of the 20-storey tower block at Canning Street. As it neared, the object resembled a large cigar, displaying three white lights on the leading end; its approaching height was about 500 feet, but this reduced considerably as it neared the Macaulay Road gas tank. On getting a better view, Jim noticed that it was actually a coin-shaped object "like a twenty-cent piece held at arm's length." A red light was now seen at the rear which threw forth sparks. When it first came into view the three white lights at the front went out of sight, giving the impression that the object had turned. It descended at a slight angle, slowly approaching the gas tank, stopped for an instant, and then moved backwards at an angle, ascending slowly until it had positioned itself just off the edge of the tank. There, having stopped, it tilted and hovered for several seconds, displaying its entire base. Having done this, the object shot off at great speed behind the flats, gaining height and heading north.

This object had displayed different characteristics to the previous objects observed, but its hull, metal-grey, coincides with other descriptions.

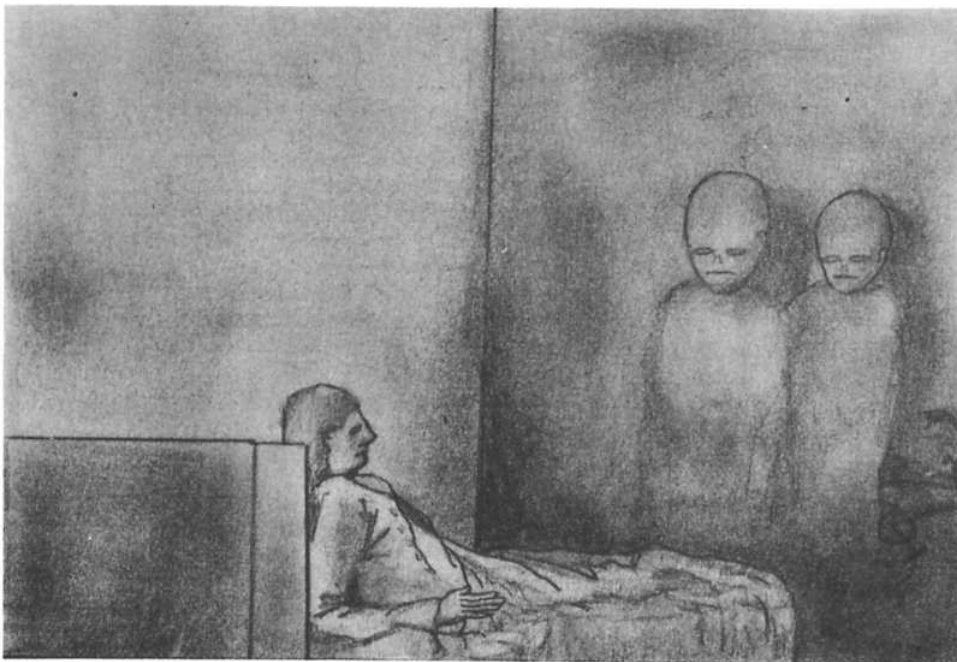
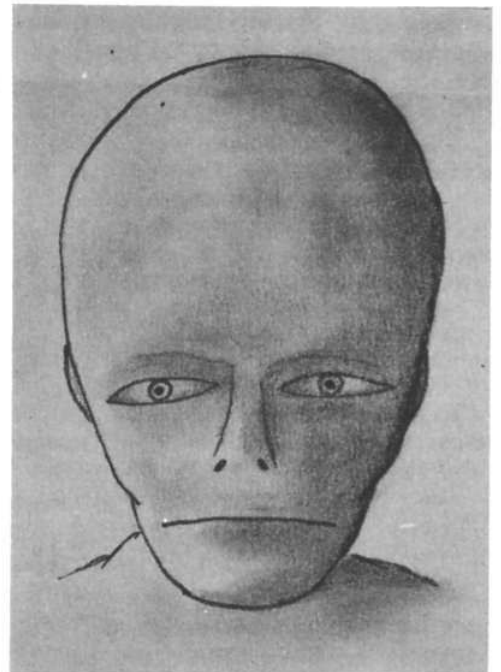
The witness visited my flat early next afternoon and willingly related his tale. I must admit that at first I was inclined towards disbelief, but he seemed so excited that my scepticism was weakened. It was not until a month later that I was able to add more information to this sighting. I met a person by the name of Greg Stillman who told me that on a certain (forgotten) date (he admitted it could have been in October), at approximately 6.30 p.m., he saw a metallic-coloured "coin" fly past the 20-storey block at Canning Street. It was said to have been at a fairly low altitude and to have displayed a row of lights which encircled its circumference at the base. It disappeared in the distance towards the north. The two descriptions tallied, but neither had any idea of the other's sighting.

No sighting was recorded on Tuesday, October 2. Unfortunately, that was the day I got my first chance to wait for the mystery visitor. The following night, however (October 3), a different sort of event took place. The witness, Kelvin Shaw, who had been aiding me in collecting information, received a "visitation." He stated that he was puzzled about the incident, not being able to tell whether he had dreamed it or whether he had been awake. His story goes as follows:-

After having woken up in the late hours of the night, he noticed that apart from himself and his sleeping elder brother, there were some other presences in the room. In the darkness he could make out two figures standing before the wall facing him.

They both seemed tall, but this is probably due to the fact that they were standing in mid-air, suspended about a foot off the floor. One of the two "men" was

Right: Entity observed on October 3, 1973



Left: The author's impression of the bedroom scene of October 3, 1973

slightly behind the other and both swayed gently from side to side. As they stood there, swaying, the witness distinguished certain facial features from the little light which entered the room. Both "men" had large, bald heads, slit-like eyes, lipless mouths and small flat noses. Their ears were pressed back against their heads. No description of clothing was made due to the darkness that enshrouded them and which hid such details.

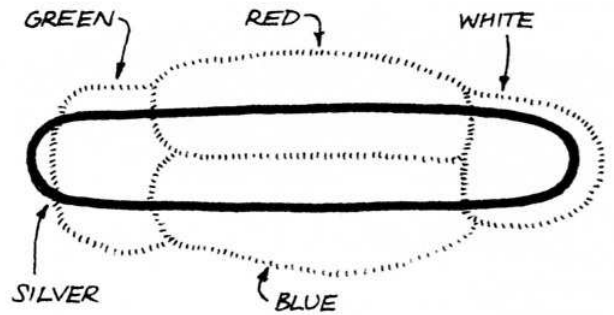
After standing and quietly observing the witness for a certain period of time, the leading "man" opened his mouth and a high pitched whining filled the room. At that precise moment both entities began to fade and soon the two visitors had disappeared "as though it were an illusion."

When I questioned the witness, he stated that he had not been scared in the slightest but had just felt curiosity. Neither his brother nor anyone else in the house had woken up during this time.

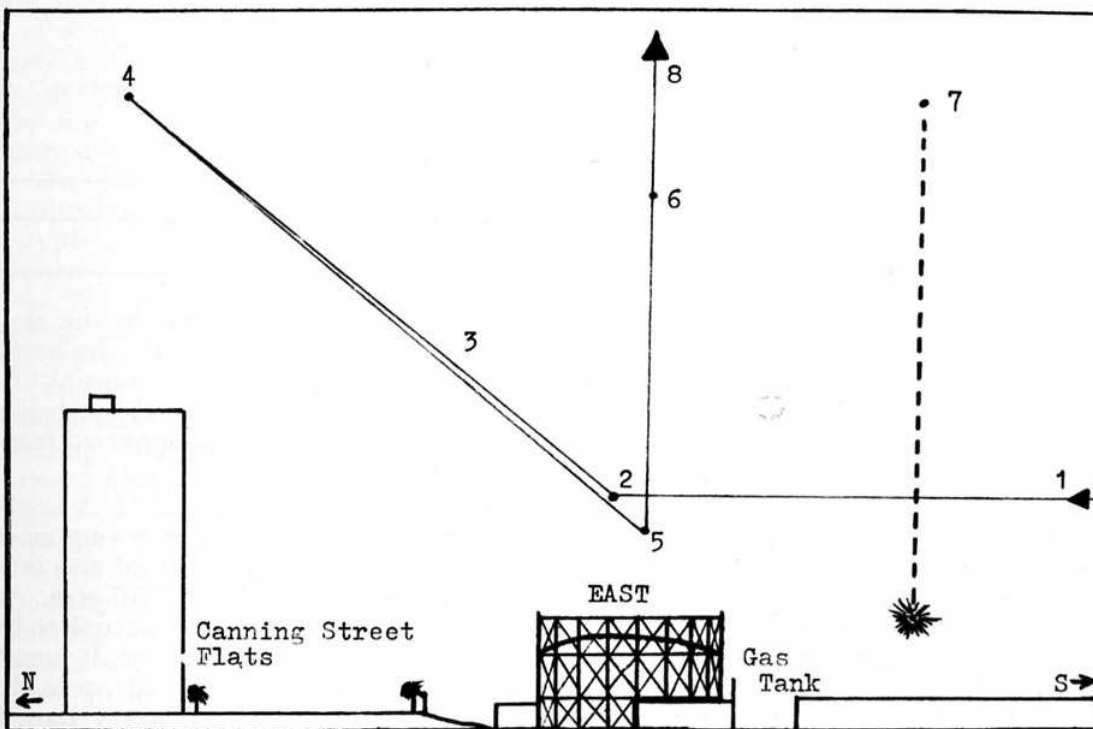
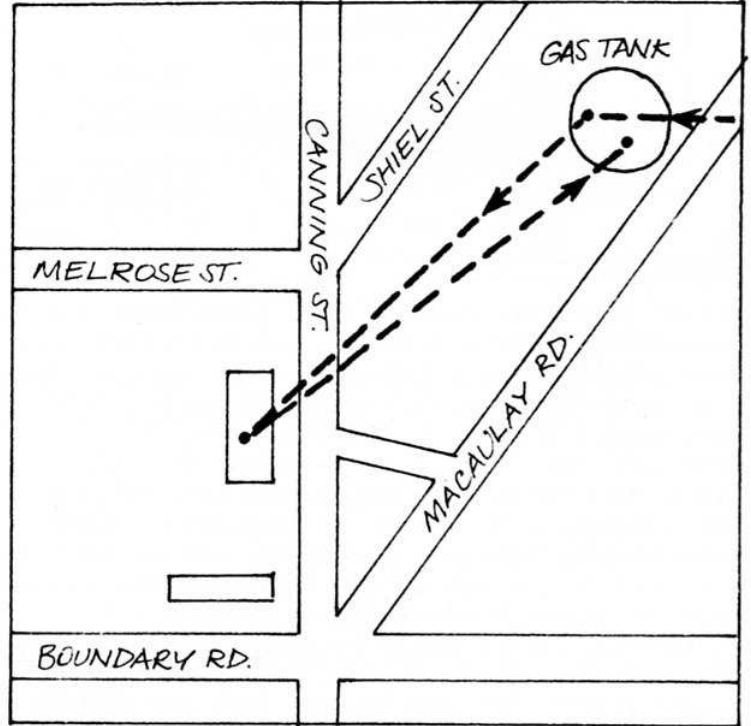
There was a total lack of sightings after the visitation until January 1974, when I received a collection of three sightings one day (January 24).

John Charisiou, younger brother of Jim, stated that for a few days running he had been observing the manoeuvres of strange craft over the gas tank. He was then ten years of age and I am fairly certain that he had not the competence to create the incredible accounts which, unfortunately, shortage of space does not allow me to describe here. They occurred on the evenings of January 20, 21 and 23, 1974. I arranged a meeting with John's older brother, Jim, and we organised a plan to wait for the object again that evening (January 24). Unfortunately some unforeseen circumstance arose and I had to leave, and as a consequence missed the return appearance. Jim was ready for it, however, along with his brothers, John (10) and Mario (8), and sister, Stella, and, of course, a camera.

The object began circling the gas tank, going round



Above: The object reported on January 21, 1974.

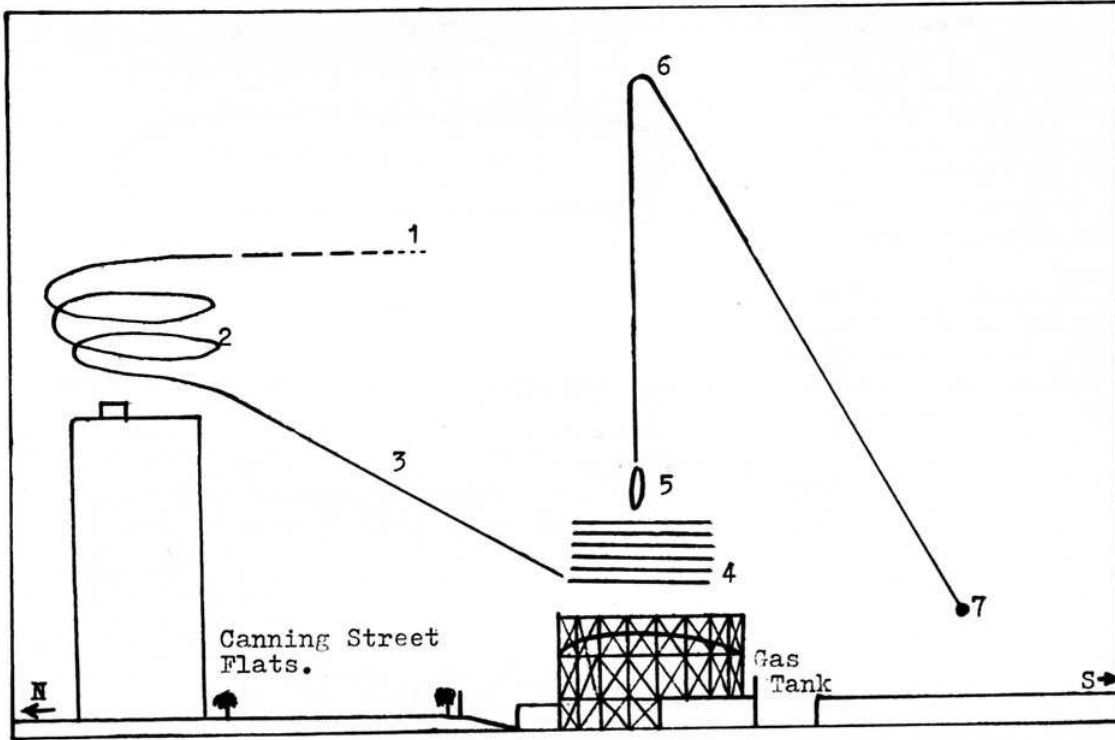


Above: Object's trajectory

Left: Movements of the object on Jan 21, 1974
Sketch by the author

Key:-

- 1 - Object approaches from South.
- 2 - Stops above gas tank.
- 3 - Speeds away from tank.
- 4 - Stops above flats.
- 5 - Shoots down over gas tank again and stops.
- 6 - Heads skyward and stops.
- 7 - Star falls out of sky.
- 8 - Object disappears into space



Left: Movements of the object seen on January 23, 1974, at 11.00 p.m. Sketch by author.

Key:

1. Object approaches from East.
2. Travels twice around flats.
3. Speeds out over gas tank.
4. Travels six times around tank.
5. Takes upright position like rocket then shoots skyward.
6. Curves downwards and heads for factories.
7. Haits above factories to South then "goes out."

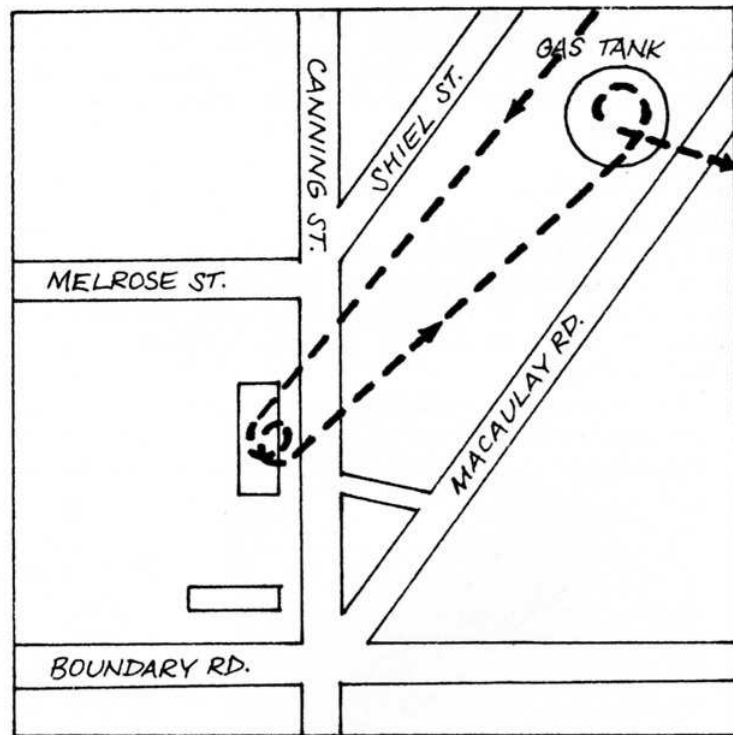
Below: Object's trajectory

it at least five times, then performing other manoeuvres such as going up and down and doing indescribable turns and dives. At one stage it reached a point higher than that of the 20-storey block of flats and a few times it approached very close to the witnesses' flat. They later described the object as having two red lights, a glowing red one and a green one, which would appear intermittently. When it passed very close, its edges, which were invisible in the darkness, became obvious, illuminated by the red light which gave it an indistinct coin-shape.

They raced to Jim's bedroom, which had an excellent view of the gas tank, with the intention of taking photos. But they had no flash and therefore tried turning on the bedroom light while holding two flash-lights at the camera. Two shots were made during the ten minutes' observation of the object. Upon reaching a point twice the height of the flats, it discharged a great mass of red sparks, then shot off into space at an incredible speed. As for the two photos, they never came out at all, which is not very surprising.

The following night it was planned to wait for the object again. This time we were fully equipped with camera, flashes and flashlights for signalling. Everything was ready. But it didn't show up. Nor did it show up the night after that. By the end of the week it finally appeared, but only one person had waited for it. This time it was not necessarily within the industrial area but more or less to the north. A photograph was taken by Frank Alescio, but after it was developed the negative was lost.

The next sighting within the area occurred at around 6.00 a.m. on Monday, March 18, 1974. Frank Alescio's father, Joe, had risen early to go to work. While preparing breakfast he noticed through the kitchen window that something was emitting a brilliant red light which illuminated the entire area. On stepping into the back yard he was surprised to



see a large round object hovering low in the sky, bathing everything around in red light. He also heard a sound issuing from the object, a continuous EEEE. When Joe reached the back yard, the object began to move off towards the east and disappeared from sight behind the buildings.

I myself made a sighting on June 1, 1974. A black-out occurred in North Melbourne, throwing most of the industrial and part of the residential area into complete darkness. This was around 7.30 p.m. At 7.45 p.m. I spotted an object which I first took to be an aircraft, though it was not in an air lane. It passed by at a very low (and dangerous) altitude, possibly less than twice the height of the 20-storey flats. I

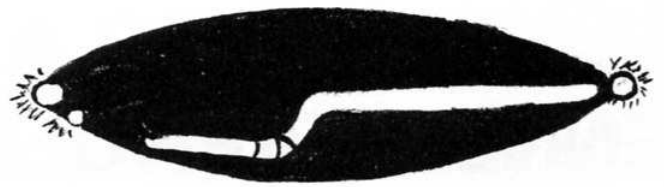
was therefore surprised to hear no engine noise. The craft resembled a thick cigar (I could see no wings, or winglights): across the fuselage was a long, thick, illuminated line which curved upwards near the middle and then straightened out again. At certain positions along the craft were several lights which in no way resembled those of an aircraft. The "plane" slowly sailed away to the west and disappeared. Within minutes the lights came on again.

There were further sightings later in the year. One made by Frank Alescio, on September 4, was really quite amazing. An object, which appeared first as a small white light with a faint aura, rapidly headed in his direction. It turned out to be a large, white, revolving disc emitting yellowish-white light; it had a row of red lights arranged across the middle. Within seconds it had approached so close to the witness that he had to shield his eyes from the glare. It appeared to be about halfway from his position and the Kensington flats, and of apparent size six inches held at arm's length.

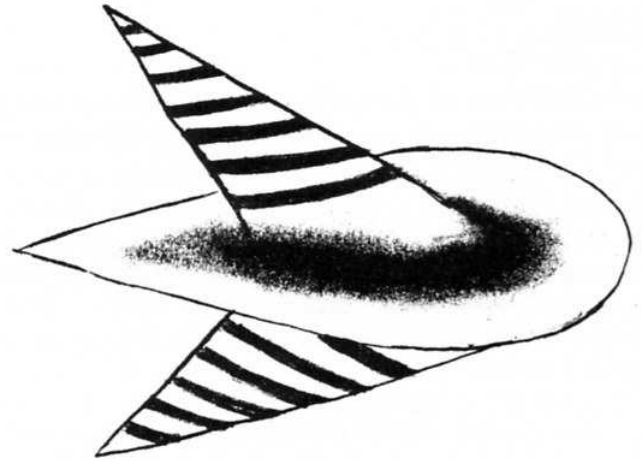
Before turning his face away, he observed that it had suddenly curved upwards into the sky. Upon regaining his eyesight, after having been nearly blinded, he could see that the object had somewhat ineffectively hidden itself within a large, solitary cloud and was now pulsating, increasing and diminishing in brightness at regular intervals. Soon, the cloud which the object had entered began changing colour, taking on a reddish hue. Having turned completely red, the cloud then disappeared — "just sort of vanished." The object was once again in the open.

Frank raced down from his rooftop observatory to fetch a camera. He had stepped on to the first rung of the ladder, with camera loaded with colour film, when all of a sudden a loud rumbling shattered the quiet atmosphere. (He stated later in my interview with him that the sound was not that of an aeroplane, and definitely not that of a helicopter either.) On looking upward Frank saw three red, glowing, oval-shaped objects in triangular formation, soaring overhead at a terrific speed; the rumbling increased to deafening proportions. When he finally reached the top of the ladder neither the large disc nor the three oval-shaped objects were anywhere in sight.

To wind up, I must mention a rather peculiar happening following a sighting by my young brother Aryiris (Rouly for short). At 7.05 p.m. on a day between September 24 and 27, from the window, he saw, for about three seconds, an object which he described as like a thick tadpole with swept-back wings at the sides; it was soundless and completely silver in colour except for the inner part of the fuselage which was dark, and black lines across the wings. On hearing his excited cries I ran to the window to learn what I had just missed. We sat looking through the large windows into the cold, stary spring night. At exactly 7.15 p.m. a nearby factory exploded, thrusting a huge red, menacing mushroom of flame into the quiet night. The area was illuminated by the dancing flames, giving the impression that soon the whole of it would be engulfed within the burning fury of the fire. But within five minutes, to our surprise, the fire had put itself out. No fire brigade



Object observed by the Author on June 1, 1974



Object sighted by Aryiris Alahouzos one evening of a day between September 24 and 27, 1974

had arrived, no hoses were brought out and the factory was old and had no sophisticated equipment such as sprinkling systems.

It is clear that some sort of observational work was underway above the industrial area. Due to lack of people walking in the streets in the late hours "they" had an excellent chance to observe without being observed. Of particular interest was the Macaulay Road gas tank and the Canning Street 20-storey block of flats. As for why, I cannot answer.

Since leaving Australia it has become increasingly difficult to collect information on the North Melbourne sightings, except by correspondence. We will see what the future has in store regarding the mystery visitor.

As you can see, most of the incidents were reported by teenagers. I would like to thank all those who helped me collect the reports. They were truthful in every respect and aided me to the best of their abilities.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

THIRTY YEARS AFTER KENNETH ARNOLD

A SUMMING UP OF THE UFO SITUATION

Pierre Guérin

The personal view of the UFO phenomenon by a high-ranking French scientist, Dr. Guérin, who has already made a number of contributions to *Flying Saucer Review*. This return to our pages is especially welcome. Dr. Guérin is an astrophysicist, Maître de Recherche with the French National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), and is a member of the official French investigatory team GEPAN. This article was specially sent to *Flying Saucer Review* and the translation from the French is by Gordon Creighton.

TO claim to any originality whatsoever is made in respect of the present article. Nothing new is offered, and it is admitted very frankly that the article owes everything to the excellent work already published by others. The sole merit to which the author sees himself entitled resides in the fact that he has synthesized the work done by others, clarifying and ordering facts and ideas, and setting them out in such a fashion that this confrontation leads to the automatic self-elimination of a certain number of shaky "hypotheses" in favour of the only conclusion that, in the present state of affairs, can enable us to account for the whole of the data to hand.

The UFOs which we shall be discussing here are of course those that still remain after the ruthless elimination of all cases where there has been confusion with known objects or known phenomena, and of all hoaxes, as well as of the (infrequent) cases of pathological hallucination. This "hard core of irriducibles" represents anywhere between 1% and 15% of all reported UFO sightings, depending on which sources one is using – which means at least several tens of thousands of UFOs over the past hundred years, not to mention those of previous centuries.

* * * * *

If one judges by the writings of the contemporary ufologists, Ufology is at present in an impasse. The best of the ufological reviews faithfully reflect this situation. Thus, for example, in the French language UFO publications, we more and more frequently find, one after the other:-

a) An article by such and such a physicist which – within the compass of the classic interpretation of the UFOs as extraterrestrial space-probes that are coming here to study us – aims at explaining those physical aspects of the UFO phenomenon which seem at the present moment already **capable of being made to fit our own present-day knowledge of magnetohydrodynamics and particle physics**. This being no doubt done in the expectation that new

advances in the field of theoretical physics will reveal for us the final secrets of the UFOs' propulsion.

b) A polemical piece by this or that ufologist who, while quite convinced of the physical reality of the phenomenon, lays emphasis rather on the deficiencies and the improbabilities of the classic extraterrestrial interpretation and on the nature – at the same time "paranormal" (in terms of the sociocultural context) – of the ufological manifestations. Which manifestations are forthwith blithely lumped together with parapsychological materializations (from entirely human origins) of flying objects and humanoid entities exemplifying our own unconscious imaginings at each stage of our development.

c) A critical study of a few inconclusive UFO cases, presented by a ufologist who has probably never been out in the field and investigated any serious cases, and whose conclusions, unjustifiably extended to the whole corpus of UFO reports, suggest that all the eyewitnesses could have "dreamt" their sightings as a result of the effect of some natural stimulus involving no intervention by any unidentifiable and artificial object of non-human provenance. All of which is in the end tantamount to denying the existence of the UFOs, and simply brings us back to the views so dear to the hearts of the late Dr. Menzel and of Klass and the "rationalist" intelligentsia, so-called...

None of the holders of these contradictory interpretations seem to be prepared to make the slightest compromise. The positions are all fixed, the discussion has become a dialogue of the deaf, the anathemas and excommunications begin to fly, though each of them of course self-righteously denies that the criticisms could apply to himself.

Such a state of affairs is naturally not peculiar to ufology: we have seen similar situations throughout the whole course of human history. It has happened every time when the development and acceptance of new concepts – which alone can make it possible to account for the *whole* of the observational data – have lagged far behind the actual accumulation of those data. A *global* interpretation of the