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UFO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM KEMPSEY

Continuing activity in part of New South Wales See page 2



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CONTENTS

Is Kempsey a UFO "Wind Eileen Buckle	ow'	'? 2
On two passages in The III		5
Keyhoe: the CIA exposed Jonathan Caplan		7
UFO Witnesses and Field Investigators: Dr. R.F. Haines		8
A voice from the past: E.L. Plunkett		11
Ufonauts as Time Travellers: S.E. Priest		12
Tele-Mystery: August C. Roberts		14
Commentary on Roberts Mystery: Dr. B.E. Schwarz	24	18
"Forced Feeding" by UF(entities: J.M. Bigorne		20
From the Center for UFO Studies:		24
Lancashire Round-up: Jenny Randles		27
Mail Bag		29
Readers' Reports		32
World Round-up		111
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CHEATS

[JFO REPORTS are frequently very strange and, thanks largely to this fact, the subject of "ufology" has its own high strangeness index. As it happens this strangeness is all too frequently enhanced by the activities of groups of people who orbit the fringes of the subject. Among these groups - who usually protest their abiding interest in ufology - will be found both those with neo-religious or evangelistic tubs to thump, and also a weird breed on the far side of the circle who seem dedicated to killing off the subject. To achieve this end they go to remarkable lengths. On occasions we have interviewed witnesses of UFO events who have fought shy of speaking to us because there have already been others, posing as investigators, who have got there first and have browbeaten them. Then there have been instances of statements made to the press, some by known subscribers to Flying Saucer Review, in which bona fide researchers have been ridiculed and, as in one instance that springs to mind, the conclusions of the Condon Report have been fulsomely praised. More recently there have been premeditated and deliberate hoaxes designed to compromise investigators.

In its March 1976 issue the Merseyside UFO Bulletin (now appearing in the County of Surrey) devoted the lion's share of its space to an article by one D. Simpson who ran a group under the initial letters SIUFOP (the "S" standing for Surrey). In his article Mr. Simpson traced the story of the 1970 Warminster "UFO photographs" taken by Mr. N. Foxwell, a story which had appeared in FSR under the signatures of

John Ben, Terence Collins and others.

Readers will recall that in our July-August issue of 1972 (Vol.18, No.4) we revealed that we had learned that there was every likelihood that the whole affair was a hoax, but that Mr. Foxwell, after being taxed with this information by Mr. Ben, had denied this in his reply. He was shocked, he wrote, that Mr. Ben, who "must be joking" should try to discredit him by "inventing such backbiting stories." In a letter to the Editor of FSR, Mr. Foxwell said he was "confused by the numerous stories circulating" at that time.

Well, we admitted we had been "taken for a ride" and that the laugh was on us, but it has taken Mr. D. Simpson nearly four years to pluck up the courage to admit that he, Foxwell and others had carried off the trick, with Mr. Foxwell now standing exposed as someone confused only as to what is true and what is not. The excuse for all this reprehensible behaviour was that it was a "scientific experiment" to test the reactions of ufologists, etc.

We must congratulate Mr. Simpson on having added a new dimension to scientific method: hypothetical contriving, observational

deceit and experimental confidence trickery.* And it is plain that this modern method has been employed to make a snide attack on FSR — although it should be remembered that when the discussion was at its height some six years ago we never made any claims other than that the images on the photographs were unidentified lights, or luminous objects.

We do not claim that FSR is infallible, and when we learn that we have made a mistake, or have been involved in a mistaken evaluation of data, and so on, we do not shirk the responsibility of admitting the mistake. That there have been mistakes is hardly surprising, for we publish this magazine on a shoestring budget under increasingly difficult circumstances. We have neither the time nor the money to spare for mounting our own investigations either at home, or to the ends of the Earth, and we do not enjoy the benefit of our own large world-wide network of investigators. Consequently we have to rely on the good faith and objectivity of others. (Whenever the opportunity arises we endeavour to encourage our collaborators in distant parts of the

world to make detailed investigations and re-investigations. This was done to good advantage, for example, in the Trancas case in Argentina, when the re-investigation was carried out by Dr. O. Galíndez and Sr. A. Astorga after we had met Sr. Astorga in London and suggested the project to him.) Sometimes — but rarely — we are let down, and then it is invariably unintentional.

It should be recorded that the editor of the Merseyside UFO Bulletin, John Rimmer, claims that neither he nor his assistants, Messrs. John Harney, Peter Rogerson and Roger Sandell, knew anything more about the "experimental hoaxing" (their choice of description) than they had read in FSR. We are obliged to accept that statement, and are relieved to do so as Mr. Harney and Mr. Sandell have contributed articles to our journal in the past. Nevertheless one cannot help but wonder what was their purpose and what motivated them when they choose to resurrect the mouldering corpse of the Foxwell photographs.

We are thankful that we do not feel a need to stoop to cheating by perpetrating hoaxes to support our views, whether they be for or against the subject, and readers may rest assured we will never knowingly open our pages to those pathetic cheats who do.

IS KEMPSEY A UFO "WINDOW"?

Eileen Buckle

MANY of our readers will remember the local "flap" centred on the town of Kempsey in the Northern part of New South Wales, Australia, in 1971*. We were indebted to Miss Patricia Riggs, Associate Editor of The Macleay Argus, Kempsey for supplying us with information on what was taking place there. Nor has activity ceased from that time to this. Kemsey, it would seem, is a "window" area through which emerged the brilliantly illuminated object shown in the adjacent, indubitably genuine, photographs. The details, again supplied by Miss Riggs, are as follows—

On July 21, 1975 Glen Waters and his wife, Jennifer, of Smith Street, Kempsey, were driving in the centre of the town when they spotted a large, bright object in the clear sky, directly overhead. The time was 8.00 p.m. The object was estimated to be between 500 and 1,000 feet up and was travelling rapidly to the west. It was too fast to be a satellite (it was described as moving "a few times faster than a jet plane"), and was also too big and too low. No noise was heard.

When the witnesses arrived at River Street, where they stopped to observe the object, the cows grazing on the river bank below were noticed to be disturbed and they could hear dogs on farms across the river barking in an agitated fashion.

On reaching the westernmost point of its flight (just north of due west), the object stopped and

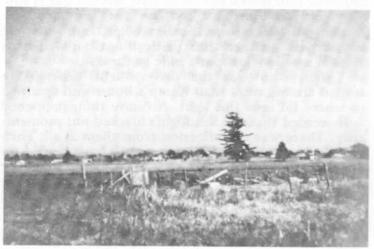
The object as seen in the second photograph (enlarged)

^{*} Mr. Simpson is (for him) in good company. The convener of the Condon Committee was not averse to using tricks either — as was shown by Drs. D. Saunders and (the late) James E. McDonald.

^{*} FSR, Vol.17 No.4, and Case Histories Supplement No. 8.

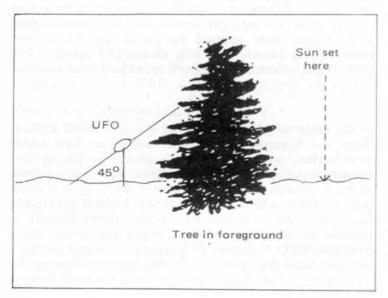


Photograph 1, taken at 8.05 pm, camera hand-held (also shown on front cover)



Photograph 2, taken at approx. 8.08 pm with camera on tripod (over exposed)

hovered for ten minutes and started changing colour: bright white, faded, bright red, faded, bright yellow. It seemed to be pulsating at regular intervals until it suddenly dropped vertically, by now a round white light, and disappeared. Waters was unable to say if the object dropped behind the main range of hills (the Great Dividing Range) or the foothills.





Photograph 3, taken at approx. 8.08 pm with camera on tripod (using a different setting)

He took the first photograph at 8.05 p.m. The camera was hand held. He then set the tripod and took the other two pictures with 10 and 15 seconds between them. He had finished at 8.08 p.m. He was adjusting his camera to another setting when the object dropped behind the hills. His wife said it appeared to move up and down a couple of times before it slowly disappeared.

The total duration of the sighting was 15 minutes. It was night when the pictures were taken. Waters used a fast colour film and one of them is somewhat overexposed. Miss Riggs mentions that the river is not visible in the photographs, but the witnesses would have been no more than 100 metres from it. The pine tree and the buildings are on the opposite (western) side of the river where there is a farming community called Euroka.

Landings too?

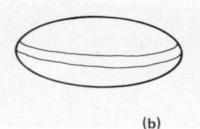
Since FSR published the 1971 UFO reports from Kempsey, amongst subsequent sightings there have been at least two possible landings.

On September 10, 1972, at 12.45 p.m., a Kempsey greengrocer, Mr. Allan James of Sea Street, was checking a load on his truck prior to descending from the top of Big Hill on the Armidale Road west of Georges Creek. He then noticed a long, cigar-shaped craft. According to the report in *The Macleay*

Argus:

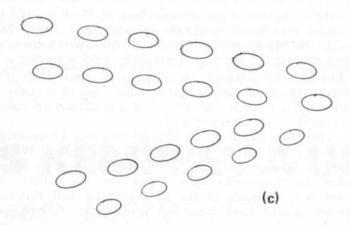
"It was 100 times bigger than a Boeing 707 and from each end came small objects — flying saucers — which grouped into an arrowhead formation before heading south-east. Mr. James said the small objects left the mother ship like fighters leaving an aircraft carrier. Once the flying saucers were out of sight, the large craft climbed at such speed that it had disappeared in seconds...The incident occurred in broad daylight and Mr. James had the craft in sight for at least ten minutes. He estimated the mothership was several thousand feet above the ground when the smaller objects were leaving."

Mr. James, who made regular trips between Kempsey and Armidale, had spotted what he believed may have been the same UFO on the ground eight hours before, at 4.30 a.m. the same day, whilst (a)



UFOs as drawn by the witness Mr. Allan James:

- (a) Huge "mothership" with small objects leaving at each end
- (b) one of the small objects
- (c) small objects grouped in arrow head formation



driving towards Armidale. Behind trees about 30 yards from the road he saw a strange purple glow. He slowed down and rolled down his window, but could not hear any noise. He drove on, the glow being visible in his rear vision mirror for some time. The object appeared to be emitting a ray of bright light, similar to a beam from a lighthouse, which was lighting up sections of the road.

A landing in a paddock

The second landing report was made by four teenagers who claimed they had seen a UFO at ground level on the night of Saturday, April 30, 1973.

Alan Wilcox, Ian Hudson, Patricia Flanagan and Sue Yabsley, all of Kempsey, first saw the object while returning from a fishing trip. Sue Yabsley told the Argus: "We were driving along the South West Rocks road towards Kempsey, about halfway between Kinchela and Gladstone, when Alan suddenly said, 'Look at that in the sky.'

"I looked up and saw an egg-shaped object high in the south-east sky. As soon as I looked the object simply dropped out of the sky at great speed and disappeared behind some trees. It took only a fraction of a second to come down and vanish. When I first saw it, the object was a bright yellow colour, broken by a lime green colour around the head of it as it dived towards the ground. We kept driving,

thinking we had seen the last of it, but when we had driven another 200 yards I noticed a distant

glow in a paddock about a mile to the east.

"Alan, who was the driver, kept driving. He turned around near Alan Kemp's house and returned to where I'd seen this light. A funny thing happened—it seemed that our headlights blacked out momentarily. There was no reflection from them at all. Then we all saw the object. It appeared to have landed on open ground, in front of a straight line of trees. We all saw it clearly. The object at this stage was domeshaped, something like a helmet, and had changed colour to a reddish orange. It kept changing colours about three feet above the ground.

"We were all scared and only stayed for about five minutes before we turned around again and started for home." Miss Flanagan maintained that although the object in the paddock had changed colours from red and orange, the underneath section had been a constant yellow. She said the light emitted from the object while it was on the ground had been too bright to look at for a long period: "It had no definite outline but there was the suggestion of

shape like a helmet."

On resuming their journey they saw another light in the sky, this time a ball-shaped object a long way up. It travelled straight across the sky "faster than a jet" and then seemed to circle the Smithtown transmitting tower, which is about 167 meters (550 feet) high, before shooting off again and disappearing.

* * * * *

In view of the number of notable UFO reports from the Kempsey area, from which we have made a selection, we are surely fortunate in having our correspondent, Miss Patricia Riggs, not only residing at such a focus of activity but also working in a newspaper office where many of the reports inevitably find their way. If we had many more friends in provincial newspaper offices, might not many more possible UFO "windows" become evident? Or have we just been lucky in having the right person at the right place? Just how rare are such areas of intense UFO activity?