

over Barnes School and then disappeared. I have never seen anything like it in my life before.'

"Earlier in the day when her son returned home at lunch-time from Thornhill School he said he had seen four UFOs together. Then on his way home from school last night he saw another. 'I didn't really believe him until he called me outside and showed me the one by Barnes School,' said Mrs. Naylor."

I find it hard to believe that the above sightings could all have been meteors, and equally hard to believe, assuming they were UFOs, that their appearances around about the time of the explosion could be mere coincidence, even if the explosion was due to a natural cause — which as far as I know has not been proved.

STRANGE AFFAIR ON THE KIMBA ROAD

Keith Basterfield

ON February 4, 1973, approximately 32 miles from Kimba, South Australia, a young man and a young woman, Mr. Brian Hunt and Miss Sharyn Finckler of Kimba, were travelling from Iron Knob to Kimba on Highway 1 (Eyre Highway) that evening. Mr. Hunt, who was driving, noticed what he at first called a "red flare" to their right, just off the road in a clearing. It was about 9.50 p.m.

Brian Hunt looked back and saw a rectangular shape, orange-red in colour, 10 feet high by 5 feet wide, with a sharply defined figure, in what he called a "white spacesuit," floating in the middle of it. This figure, looking like an ordinary human figure, appeared to be motionless some two to three feet from the ground, surrounded by the orange-red glow, with its hands and legs pointing slightly downwards, covered all over in white.

Realising "just what it was" he had seen, Brian Hunt accelerated the car from the steady 55 mph he had been doing, and motioned to Sharyn Finckler. It was a few seconds before she realised that he wanted her to look out of the car. When she looked back she saw in the clearing a deep orange-coloured glow rectangular in shape, with a white blob on top of it. She turned around to comment on it, and upon looking back again, observed that the orange glow now appeared to extend right across the road behind them. Several seconds later she again looked back, but this time there was nothing to be seen in the darkness.

Mr. Hunt, meanwhile, had concentrated on driving. He did not notice any unusual effects on the working of the car, and the witnesses themselves experienced nothing unusual, and noted no strange noises or odours.

They drove at speed to the house of Miss Finckler's parents in Kimba, and told them of the incident. Shortly afterwards they got in touch with the local police, and Constable Peter Summerton later drove out to the clearing with them. By 11.10 p.m. they were at the site of the observation, and they took a good look at the ground, trees and scrub in the area. They found no evidence to suggest a hoax, or to indicate a recent fire. There were no signs of any vehicle or pedestrian tracks.

The following day a Ceduna truck driver related to

Mr. Basterfield, whom we thank for this interesting Australian report, informs us that when Dr. J. Allen Hynek was in Australia last year the opportunity was taken to tell him about it and that, in view of the fact that it is a multiple-witness case, Dr. Hynek suggested that the full story be forwarded to FSR. We are happy to publish this account, especially in view of the similarity between the observed object in this case, and that reported by Miss E. Clappison at Rosedale, Alberta, Canada (see *FSR Case Histories*, Supps. 10 and 16 of June 1972 and August 1973 respectively).

Mr. Basterfield's investigatory organization, known as UFO Research, is, as he informs us, scientifically orientated, and has been in existence for six years, and aims to conduct deep probes into cases of this kind.

EDITOR

the Kimba police that he had passed the same spot [what *transpired* to be the same spot—? EDITOR] at about 10.00 p.m. on February 4. He had seen, inside the fence line, what appeared to him as a brightly lit caravan doorway, except that it was much taller than a normal door, and had a rectangular shape, twice as high as wide. It had a shape outlined in white inside it. He did not stop to take a closer look.

Brian Hunt recalled that a car had passed them just prior to their reaching the clearing. The driver of this vehicle was located, and stated that as he passed the clearing he saw "...a glow of light, rectangular in shape and orange in colour" which was a chain or two* outside the fenceline.

The investigation

The case first came to our notice through a news clipping from the *Whyalla News* of February 16, 1973, which reached us by February 24. That evening we tried to telephone Mr. Hunt at Kimba but he was not available. We then despatched a reply-paid telegram. A reply was received, and arrange-

* A chain = 66 feet, or 22 yards,—EDITOR

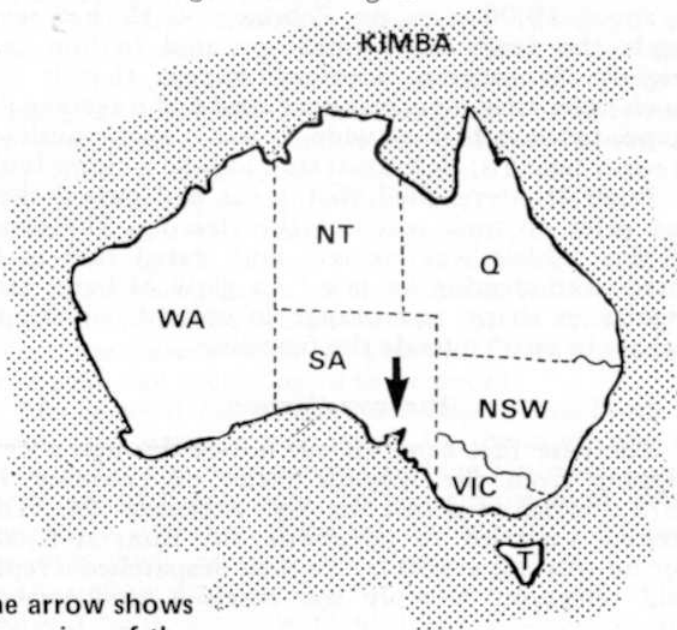
ments were made to interview Mr. Hunt and Miss Finckler on the following Saturday, March 3. Four members of our investigating team, Dean Piovesan, Peter Horne, Peter Powell and myself, made the journey to Kimba.

We made a stop on the road at a point 23 miles from Iron Knob and 32 miles from Kimba. The terrain there consists of flat land, with trees ten to twenty feet high, and small scrub set in a deep reddish-orange coloured, dry soil. The barbed wire fence line lies some 20 - 30 yards from, and parallel to, the road at this point.+ Visibility is limited to about 50 - 100 yards from the road, depending on the angle of vision regarding the trees.

We drove on to Kimba, and first called at Miss Finckler's house. Her father confirmed that on the night of the incident the couple had returned there at about 10.30 p.m. He saw that Mr. Hunt was white-faced and trembling, and obviously distressed about something. When they were told what had happened, the police were called. A police constable arrived and soon afterwards drove off to the site with his daughter and Mr. Hunt.

Our next move was to put through a telephone call to the police constable's house. His wife answered and told me that when her husband arrived home she would ask him to come to our next interview, which was to be at the Fincklers' home. When we arrived there at 2.00 p.m., Miss Finckler and Mr. Hunt were present, and the constable arrived five minutes later.

Miss Finckler and Mr. Hunt re-told their accounts, and Constable Summerton confirmed that he had gone out to the clearing, some 32 miles from Kimba, where, he stated, he had been unable to find any trace of footprints, or tracks, or other marks which could possibly account for what the young couple reported they had seen. When referring to his notebook he showed us a sketch of the object and "man" as drawn by Mr. Hunt. It was then too that he confirmed that two other people had reported seeing an identical thing the same night.



The arrow shows the region of the sighting

The first of these was the truck driver, Mr. Allan Degnor (c/o Post Office, Ceduna) who said that he was passing the clearing at about 10.00 p.m. when he saw a large caravan "doorway" with a figure in white in the middle of it. There was, however, nothing else of a structural nature to be seen at the top, bottom or sides of this "door." He said that he had not stopped.

Secondly, Mr. Max Inglis had been driving a car which passed the young couples' car a short distance before reaching the clearing. Brian Hunt and Sharyn Finckler remembered that a car had passed them at this spot, and they told us that they had stopped about a quarter of a mile from the clearing for about two minutes while Mr. Hunt "went behind a bush." At this stage they had noted nothing odd.

Mr. Inglis had told the policeman that, just after passing the stationary car, he had seen an orange glow to the right-hand side of the road. It was a "glow of light, rectangular in shape, orange in colour," which would have been a chain or two outside the normal fence line. He said that he would have placed this clearing at about 33 to 34 miles out of Kimba. However, we learned that after Mr. Hunt and Miss Finckler saw the object they travelled approximately two miles before they saw a post indicating that it was 30 miles to Kimba. In the circumstances they consider their estimate to be reliable.

Mr. Inglis stated that he thought that what he saw might have been an accident, and he slowed down, but as soon as he realised that something wasn't quite right, and seeing that there would soon be another car (Mr. Hunt's) following his, he decided to keep driving slowly and see what the following driver did. When the following car was seen to accelerate after passing the clearing, he too put on speed and arrived in Kimba well clear of the other car.

Everything stated independently by Mr. Hunt and Mr. Inglis confirmed the statements of the other party.

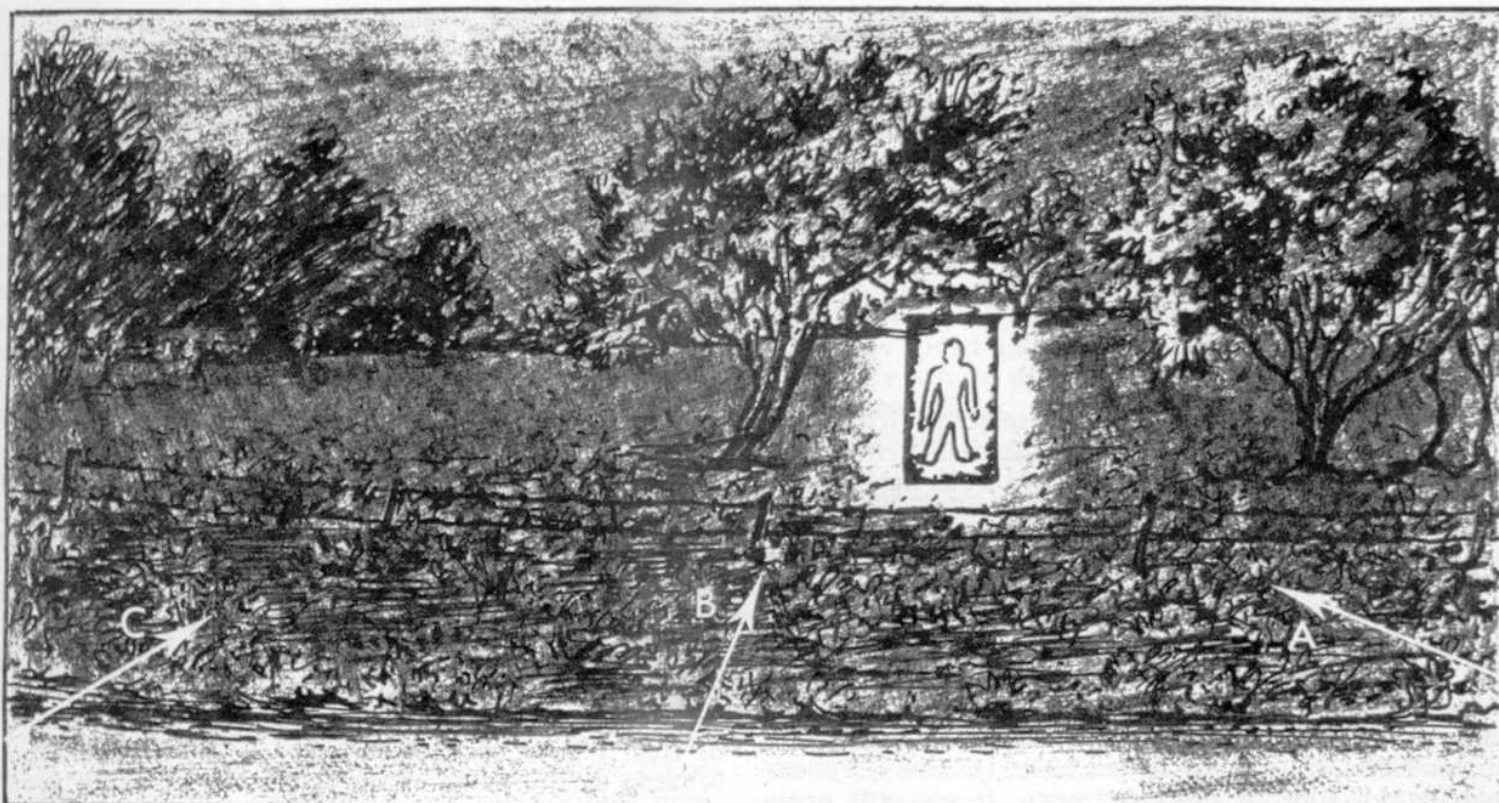
Finally we went out to the clearing with Constable Summerton. It was found to be semi-circular and about 100 yards across. It was clearly visible from the roadway once one was level with it, but there was a limited view of it from the approach side. The side that followed was fairly open, and that tallied with the description of visibility given by the young couple.

In a rigorous search of the ground, trees and scrub, we found no marks, depressions, burns, rope marks on trees, and so on, although it should be remembered that we were there four weeks after the incident.

The witnesses

About two hours were spent with the main

+ When he read this account Mr. Creighton thought there may be a discrepancy here, for, as he saw it, a "chain or two outside the fence line" would have meant that the phenomenon was right on the road. As I read it, however, I take it that the road is *inside* the fence line, and that the great wide scrubland is *outside*.—EDITOR



Reconstruction of the event on Highway 1, as seen by Miss Finckler and Mr. Hunt. A: Mr. Hunt's first view. B: Mr. Hunt's second view. C: Miss Finckler's view.

witnesses, both of whom are in their early twenties. Brian Hunt works in Kimba itself, while Miss Finckler is a nurse at the Port Lincoln hospital.

On the evening concerned they were travelling home from Port Pirie where they had been on a visit to Mr. Hunt's parents. Their accounts did not vary when they were questioned in front of the police constable, who also asked questions. Constable Summerton knows them personally, and was sufficiently impressed with their testimony to make the 65-mile round trip.

Minor discrepancies, such as in their first estimates of distances and times of duration, were pointed out to them. We were able to get them to re-live the event in "real time" and found that the incident probably took less than one minute from start to finish.

Nothing unusual was noticed about the witnesses — which is not always our experience when interviewing some close encounter witnesses, or contactees. We feel there can be no question of their having concocted the story.

Comment

One is left with a firm impression that these people witnessed a real event of some kind. None of the witnesses saw the phenomenon come or go; it was simply there. There was an indication of movement, since Mr. Inglis saw only an orange shape, whereas Mr. Hunt saw both the shape and a figure in the middle of it, and Miss Finckler saw an orange shape with a white blob on top.

This is certainly one of the most puzzling reports which I have investigated.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (Vol.20, No. 2 of 1974) . . .

**FRENCH MINISTER SPEAKS ON UFOs
UFO LANDING AND REPAIR BY CREW**

by Ted Bloecher

**LUMINOUS 'SNAILS' NEAR TRAUNSTEIN,
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SOME RECENT WELSH CASES

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THE ITALIAN SCENE ONCE MORE

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AND, A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE...

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUES TO COME (Vol. 20, No. 3 and so on) . . .

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THE "THINGS" AT YSSANDON

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ANTHROMORPHIC PHENOMENA AT

SANTA ISABEL

by Dr. Oscar A. Galindez

STELLA LANSING'S CLOCK-SHAPED UFO

FORMATIONS

by Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz

TWELFTH NIGHT... AND A UFO

Which, with an Andalusian farmhouse incident, comprise two Spanish cases from 1961.

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

Translation by Gordon Creighton

THESE two cases have been selected from my Catalogues of Landings in the Iberian Peninsular. Both involve multiple witnesses and both have a high *strangeness rating*.

1. Twelfth Night...and a UFO

A few words first about the principal witness in this case, which I have chosen for the sobriety of his account and for its interesting details. He is Don Luis G. Ferré Casas, a young man with administrative and technical qualifications having pursued courses in business studies and in teaching. He was 33 years old at the time of his experience. It was not until more than ten years later that our investigation group, CEONI, gathered all the data which I give below. In June 1971, having found out where the witness lived, we wrote to him requesting his co-operation, and he completed one of our questionnaire forms. Further details were secured in the course of subsequent correspondence between him and myself.

The time was around 3.00 a.m., in the morning of the day of the Feast of the Epiphany, that is to say, January 6, of 1961. Sr. Ferré and his parents and his sister were staying for a few days on an estate at Torroja del Priorato, in the Province of Tarragona. His father, accompanied by the family's dog (a pointer), had just retired to his room on the first floor, and the rest of the family were still downstairs chatting in the dining room and about to go up to bed themselves.

For some reason which has not been specified, the mother went out on to the terrace, and at once called urgently to them to come, whereupon the witness and his sister both went out to the terrace. And there, right in front of the house, on the mountain, at a distance of some 1,500 or 2,000 metres from the house, they saw what at first looked as though the Moon had quitted the sky and had come down and landed on the Earth. But the Moon was still there in the sky, full, shining as brightly as ever, and without a cloud to veil it. It was a perfect night, with clear visibility, and the temperature in the neighbourhood of 10° Centigrade.

What they observed has been described as a disc-shaped object, seemingly solid, with clearly defined edges, with a colour and brightness resembling those of the Moon itself. They could detect no sound from the object. It was on the ground on the mountainous terrain, in a spot where there was a fair amount of vegetation round about. Comparing the apparent size of the object with a nearby water tank owned

by the local waterworks (this tank is a few hundred metres from the house) Sr. Ferré estimates that its real diameter might have been about six metres. (See sketch by Sr. Ferré.) The effect which this sight produced in the minds of the witnesses is well summed up by Sr. Ferré:

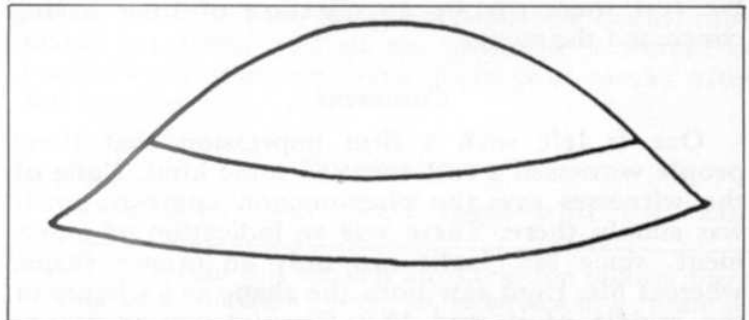
"A desire to investigate came over me, and I said I would like to get my shotgun and approach the object by a roundabout route. The object was as bright as the Moon. Or even brighter. But Mother went into a state akin to hysteria and so, in the face of this, I gave up the idea. So then we stood there looking at the thing as though it had been the most natural, purely everyday thing, and a great sense of tranquility took possession of us. And then, as there seemed to be no change, and without paying great heed to the matter, we went off to bed."

About twenty minutes had elapsed. The object had remained there in the same position throughout this time.

Next morning however, the mountain looked just as it did on all the other days. Although Ferré tried to find something which might have reflected the rays of the moonlight as a mirror does, he was forced in the end to the conclusion that there was nothing up there that could have done this.

And here is one final point, in the realm of the possible psychobiological effects produced in living beings by the UFOs. One day, as the witness was out hunting, with a pointer dog with an extremely good nose, he happened to walk across the place where the object had stood. The dog refused to follow him, and made a detour around the area.

Finally, the witness declares that on subsequent occasions, when the Moon is full, and looking out from that same window, he has never seen the phenomenon repeated.



Sr. Ferré's drawing of the UFO he saw on
January 6, 1961