

'MOTHERSHIPS' OVER AUSTRALIA

Paul Norman

I N May, 1967, I was invited to Boulder, Colorado, for talks with members of the U.S. Air Force sponsored project, headed by Dr. E.U. Condon. The purpose of the meeting was to present examples of UFO reports in Australia.

The invitation came as a surprise because I suspected the Condon Committee to be a computerized selection of Menzelian scientists, appointed by necessity, under pressure, by overwhelming and rising public interest by the worldwide flap which was occurring during that time. The purpose: keeping the "explanations" on the same old official track, sounding like a cracked phonograph record.

During the discussion the Australian scene was placed before the Project Committee, together with copies of outstanding reports recorded by various UFO research groups in Australia.

Over three years later I received a letter from Dr. David Saunders, dated September 11, 1970, which stated in part: "I well remember your visit to the UFO Project here at CU primarily, I think, because it was so informative. While it is true that the tangible information you left with us is buried in the Project files - files which Condon now treats as his personal property - you also left with us the realization that the UFO problem both exists and is recognised down there." In a followup letter Dr. Saunders writes: "I do recall some of the materials you left with the Colorado Project, but of course they all remained with the Project when I left. Condon says that all the Project materials have been destroyed. Even people who lent materials with the express understanding that they were to be returned have gotten the run-around - all the way from 'I haven't got time to look' to 'I regard this as my personal property.' Obviously, you won't be getting any of this back, so anything you can do to reconstruct the record will help."

It is thus that reports - on which private researchers spent large sums of their hard-earned money when travelling long distances to secure greater detail - are swept under the carpet when they compete with officialdom which, with its grants of public money, maintains a policy of public deception.

In his report *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (Bantam Books, New York) Section I "Conclusions and Recommendations" (probably the only book ever published with its conclusions at the beginning) the late Dr. Condon referred to the famous sighting by Captain Howard over the Atlantic Ocean in his BOAC *Stratocruiser** as a most unusual natural phenomenon, so unusual that it hasn't been

reported before or since. In the light of this how can any researcher in the field trust officially-sponsored projects? I personally presented three Australian cases to the project, and these were not only known among most Australian researchers, but also had been investigated by both private and official investigators. In addition I gave to the committee at least 25 other similar cases from places other than Australia.

Over Zanthus, Western Australia

Before giving the details of the three Australian cases, I will open with an account of an event which occurred just before the closure of the Colorado Project. It is a personal report prepared by Captain Gordon W. Smith, a pilot of Murchison Air Services - Southern Airlines of Western Australia. This incident occurred in the late afternoon of August 22, 1968, above the Zanthus district of Western Australia:

"Captain Walter Gardin and myself were returning from Adelaide to Perth on a Charter Flight. The aircraft was an 8 place Piper *Navajo*, registration VH-RTO, returning empty from Adelaide. At first sighting I was asleep in the cabin, Walter was at the controls. We were cruising at 8,000 feet with a true airspeed of 190-195 knots and tracking 270° Magnetic.

"At 0940 .G.M.T. (1740 W.S.T.) Walter abruptly wakened me in great excitement and asked me to come into the cockpit quickly. I did so, and he asked me if I could see what he was looking at. At first I didn't, because I was still suffering from the effect of sleep. However, after about thirty seconds I could see what he was excited about.

"Some distance ahead at the same level, and about 50° to my right (I was in the right seat), I saw a formation of aircraft. In the middle was a large aircraft, and formed (*sic*) to the right and left and above were four or five smaller aircraft. We were on a track of 270° magnetic and these aircraft appeared to be maintaining station with us.

"As we had not been notified of this traffic, I radioed Kalgoorlie D.C.A. (Department of Civil Aviation) communications centre asking them what traffic they or RAAF had in our area. The answer was

* [Captain James Howard, his crew, and most of his passengers, saw a giant shape-changing object with six smaller "satellite" objects in attendance. When a USAF fighter plane approached, vectored on to the scene by Capt. Howard, the six objects seemed to enter the larger object which then diminished in size and "went out like a TV picture shutting off." That was on June 29, 1954 - EDITOR]

none. So I then notified Kalgoorlie that we had this formation in sight and they, in turn, notified some east bound traffic of the danger of unidentified traffic 130 NM east of Kalgoorlie.

"At about this time we lost communications with Kalgoorlie on all frequencies. We were receiving Kalgoorlie carrier wave with no voice propagation, only a hash and static. In the next ten minutes I transmitted about seven times and I believe Walter did about five times with no results.

"Also at about this time we noticed that the main ship split into two sections still maintaining the same level, and the smaller aircraft then flew out left and right but staying at the same level and coming back to the two main halves of the bigger ship. At this time there appeared to be about six smaller aircraft taking turns of going out and coming back and forming on the two halves.

"Sometimes the two halves joined and split, and the whole cycle continued for ten minutes. The shape of the main ship seemed to have the ability to change, not drastically, but from, say spheroid to a slightly elongated form with the colour maintaining a constant dark grey to black.

"However, the smaller craft had a constant cigar shape and were of a very dark colour. Their travel out and back had a peculiarity not associated with normal aircraft in that they appeared to travel out and come back without actually turning like a normal aeroplane would have to do.

"At 0950 G.M.T. the whole formation joined together as if at a single command, then departed at a tremendous speed. It did not disappear as, say, gas would, but it departed in about three or four seconds diminishing in size till out of sight.

"The weather at the time of the sighting was fine, with no haze above 5,000 feet and about 2/8 alto stratus cloud to the south of us and the other aircraft.

"NOTES ON UFOS:-

1. The distance from our aircraft of the UFOs would be impossible to gauge because the prerequisite for establishing distance is to know size; the size of these objects is unknown. However, for comparative size, the main ship compared with a Boeing 707 as seen from about ten miles away.
2. Immediately after the departure of the UFOs radio communications were restored.
3. Neither Walter nor I had the presence of mind to check if any deviation existed in our magnetic compass or Automatic Direction Finding equipment whilst in the proximity of the UFOs.
4. The whole formation maintained the same distance and bearing from our aircraft for the duration of the sighting.

"Captain Gardin and I discussed the sighting at length during and after the event, and came to the following conclusions as to whether or not the UFOs were (a) Balloons, (b) Gases, (c) Tricks of light, (d) aircraft:

- a) If the sighting were balloons we considered it impossible to see these balloons from thirty

miles. This would have been the distance covered by the aircraft from the first sighting to the disappearance. The UFOs maintained the same distance throughout whereas a free balloon would have a closure rate with us of 195 knots (our true airspeed) and would have at least passed us.

- b) The same argument as above.
- c) If they were tricks of the light, the colour of the UFOs should have changed at some time or another because the sun had had a considerable traverse, coupled with our westward travel during this time. Also due to the last two facts, any refracted light would have changed form drastically whereas the UFOs had very little change of shape or colour.
- d) We conclude that the UFOs were in fact aircraft with the solidity of aircraft, except perhaps for the fact of the ability of the larger UFO to split and change shape slightly."

The Toompang display incident

The observers of the following incident were interviewed by Mr. Jack Giuliano, editor of *Young Witness*, Young, N.S.W. I have spoken to him about this and other sightings. He said that he was sure these men were describing an incident as they saw it. I also followed up with an inquiry to Dr. Gascoyne, at Mt. Stromlo. He will make no additional comment.

Mr. Giuliano's article is taken from the issue of *Young Witness* of June 5, 1961:

"I spoke at the weekend to several men who watched smaller objects leave and return to a big sky object. The men were members of a seven-man lamb-marking party at Toompang. They watched the sky drama at midday on Wednesday [*presumably May 31, 1961 - ED*]

"I make no explanation of what the men saw. But I am convinced the men saw something. Any attempt to explain the happening away by smart remarks would be futile. The men are all reliable and unimaginative.

"I have rung both Mt. Stromlo Observatory at Canberra and the State Weather Bureau.

"Dr. Gascoyne, of Mt. Stromlo, said he could not hazard a guess about what the explanation might be. He asked for a copy of the report.

"A meteorologist at the Weather Bureau said that no equipment used by the bureau "would behave in that way."

"The man who first mentioned the story told me, 'I don't want my name mentioned. People will ridicule a fellow. But I know I saw this thing and I've seen some queer things in my time. Five of us saw it, in fact.'

"This is the story this man told me: 'We were marking lambs on Toompang. Near the lunch hour we heard what we thought was a jet. I looked up for the jet and saw an eagle-hawk, way up in the sky. I was taking a bit of interest in the eagle-hawk, when we heard another sound, as if the jet were overhead again. But I still couldn't see a jet.

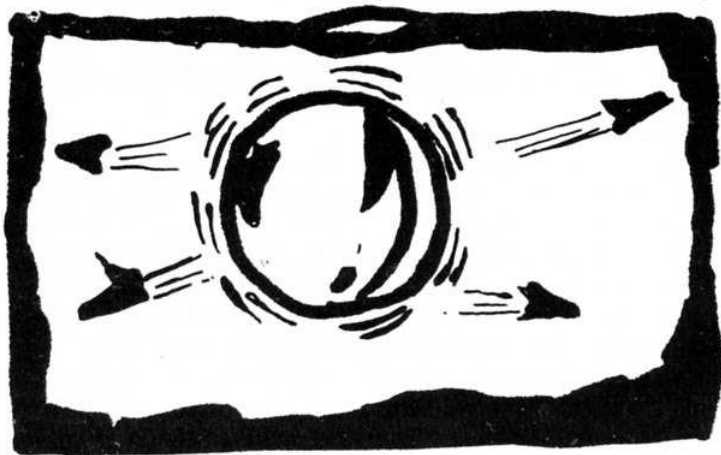
"Then I saw this round object. It looked like a silver star, and seemed to be over Wyalong, it was so

high up and so far away. It was stationary. I said to the others — there were seven of us— “Get a load of this”

“One man is short-sighted. Another who is not could not pick up the object. But four others did, and watched it off and on for over an hour, possibly two hours.

“I saw one object leave the first object and go to the left, and later two others go to the right, then come back.

“One of the other men said he saw two objects go to the left. I wouldn’t know about that. We were working marking lambs, and we weren’t able to keep an eye on it all the time.



Toompang sighting, based on a sketch in the Young Witness

“The objects I saw leaving the stationary object seemed round. But when the one I saw leave it on the left came overhead as it went towards Young, I could see it seemed to be V-shaped.

“But what tricks me is that nobody else has mentioned anything about it. When I went home the first thing I said to my wife was, ‘Has anything come over the air about anybody seeing things in the sky?’

“She told me nothing had. I don’t know what I saw, but I know that when the objects left the stationary object on the right-hand side they went out to the side and then went straight up fast. The one that passed overhead towards Young was really travelling.”

“A second man backed this up. He said he could not say that any of the objects were V-shaped. They all appeared to him to be round, shimmering slightly in the sun. At times the silver sheen winked a little on the small objects as they were leaving or returning to the main object. They left slowly, then went out at high speed, circled and returned, slowing down as they approached the big stationary object. ‘They then seemed to land on it or go into it because they disappeared when they reached it,’ he said.

“This man also said there was no chance of its being an optical illusion of any kind. ‘Three or four of us at a time watched an object leave the big object commenting about where it was going and what it was doing.’

“This man said he had told the others that ‘somebody should phone some authority about it.’

“But a combination of being four or five miles from a phone, of having work to do, and of risking scorn decided them against this. However, the man did get a pair of dark glasses out of the glove box of his vehicle. The glasses made it easier still to watch the things.’ he said.

Mr. Neville Sheahan, a ‘Toompang’ employee, said he was one who saw the objects repeatedly. Mr. Sheahan, who gave permission for his name to be used, said the large object seemed to him to be round, with a dome on it.

“The small objects which left it seemed flatter. A tennis ball could have covered the big object. We watched them when we sat down to lunch.

“About two o’clock the sun moved around in that direction and we couldn’t see the things any more against the strong light.” he said.

“Mr. Jim Hobson, of Moppity Rd., who also gave permission for his name to be used, said that he looked up for the object when the first man mentioned it. ‘I looked for it, saw it, and said, that’s only a star.’ The others said, ‘How could you see a star in the daytime?’

“Next thing I saw another object leave the first one and go out to the right. I knew then that it wasn’t a star but I couldn’t say what it was.”

“All the men said that there was no doubt the object was a manufactured one. They also said that it was so unbelievable that if any of them had seen it on his own he’d have ‘thought he was mad.’

“All the men were interviewed separately. Their stories agreed in substance, with just enough discrepancy to testify to the truth of their stories.

“They were all asked if they knew that two naval officers at Canberra Naval Base had photographed a round, glowing object at night recently, and that this object could not be identified by the astronomers. All said they knew absolutely nothing of any other report.”

Rev. Lionel Browning’s encounter in Tasmania

The second case which I presented, and which was destroyed by Dr. Condon, was an incident which occurred October 4, 1960. The case was later investigated by professor James E. McDonald. Since the Rev. Browning’s encounter has already been told in the language of the ufologists, the following account is in the late Dr. McDonald’s words:—

“Near Cressy, Tasmania, a sighting was made by two reliable witnesses on October 4, 1960. Rev. Lionel B. Browning, an Anglican clergyman, was admiring a rainbow as he and his wife looked out a window of the rectory. It was 6.10 p.m., the sun was just setting in the west. A curtain of rain concealed Ben Lomand ridge off to their east and extended through the southeast and to their south. Mrs. Browning suddenly called Rev. Browning’s attention to what they both first interpreted as a large aircraft emerging from a rain curtain nearly due East. Although the Brownings never felt entirely sure of

the range of this object, they estimated it at perhaps 3 miles, since the object seemed to be over an estate known to be at that distance. Their first guess that it was an aircraft was next modified to an aircraft stalling, since the speed of the object was crudely scaled from the subjective size and distance.

"I had an opportunity to interview Rev. Browning in July, 1967, and verified contemporary press accounts. He and Mrs. Browning quickly noted that the cigar-shaped object seemed to lack wings, and had several vertical bands or ridges on its grey-coloured surface, and some odd protuberance on its forward end. They watched it glide northward for about a minute before it suddenly stopped in mid-air and hovered over the ground at an altitude they very roughly guessed at 400-500 feet. Then, from out of the rainclouds farther east, there came about half-a-dozen much smaller objects, of perceptibly discoid form, the Brownings stated. These smaller discs moved much faster than the larger cigar-shaped object, at speeds that Rev. Browning stated to me might have approached jet-aircraft speed. He stressed that these smaller objects skipped like stones on water, a phraseology that I learned from associates of Rev. Browning did not originate from any previous study of UFO reports, since, prior to that October, 1960 sighting, Rev. Browning not only ignored UFO reports but took a very negative view of the authenticity of most such reports.

"The Brownings next saw the discs seem to take up a formation around the cigar-shaped object, which had been hovering motionless during the approach and formation of the smaller objects (whose diameter the Brownings guessed at perhaps some tens of feet, in contrast to the perhaps tenfold larger length of the cigar-shaped object). Then, the entire assemblage started moving towards the South, back into the rainshower out of which the large object had first been seen emerging, whence the group was lost from sight, terminating the observation after a total elapsed time estimated by the witnesses as about two minutes, perhaps as long as three minutes.

"These objects were illuminated by the setting sun, and Rev. Browning emphasized to me that there was a distinct difference in tone between the dull grey of the larger object and the shiny, metallic lustre of the smaller disc-like objects.

"The Brownings, after a brief discussion of this event (which by then they construed as some Russian devices), called the nearby airfield to report it, which ultimately brought it to the attention of the RAAF. I have recently had a letter from the RAAF officer who did the interrogation of the Brownings who states in his communication that the Brownings 'impressed me as being mature, stable, and mentally alert individuals who had no cause or desire to see objects in the sky other than objects of definite form and substance.' That impression is attested to by many others who know the Brownings personally, as I established by direct queries in Hobart and Melbourne last year.

"My questions as to the ultimate public explanation which the RAAF put on the sighting

elicited somewhat bitter comment from Rev. Browning, comment which I later found elaborated in press clippings made available to me by the officers of a very creditable private UFO group in Melbourne, the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS). The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, RAAF, made official explanation early in 1961: 'The phenomena was the result of the moonrise associated with meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting. On 4th October, 1960, moonrise (full quarter) at Cressy would have been visible shortly after 1800 hours and in an ESE direction. The objects apparently seen were near the sky-line in an easterly direction. The presence of "scud" type clouds, moving in varying direction due to turbulence in and around the rain squall near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects.'

"Such an 'explanation' has a curiously familiar ring to anyone who has studied large numbers of USAF 'explanations' of UFO sightings. One can quickly establish that the moon was full on the date of the Cressy sighting and that it would have risen not in the ESE but a few degrees north of east. And, still worse for the official explanation, there was not only a dense rain storm obscuring all the eastern sky as seen from the Cressy rectory, but the highest mountain range of Tasmania lay behind those dense clouds to further obscure the just-rising full moon. (Ben Lomond, summit 6160 ft., lies to ENE of Cressy, and the ridges extend off to the south and north from that summit point.) From my own viewpoint, as one interested in atmospheric optics and in unusual refractive and reflective anomalies, the official suggestion that 'scud' subject to turbulent motions could (had the moon not been wholly obscured by rain and mountain) be optically distorted into anything remotely resembling the phenomena reported by the Brownings seems entirely out of question. (Because USAF explanations have many times asserted, as has also Dr. D. H. Menzel in his writings on UFOs, that the sun and the moon can be 'reflected' off the sides or tops of *clouds*, it may be well to state that nothing in decades of meteorological optical observations supports such a notion, save for the phenomenon of the 'undersun,' which involves specular reflection off tabular ice crystals falling in completely *non-turbulent* air, and visible only from an aircraft or elevated vantage point. Sun and Moon do not yield anything like distinct images by *reflection* off the walls of clouds, all UFO explanations invoking such optical absurdities are unreasonable. It might be added that Menzel has repeatedly erred in referring to sundogs, i.e. parhelia, as resulting from 'reflection', since that familiar optical effect is caused by ice-crystal *refraction*.) In asserting such a meteorological explanation as was issued by the RAAF intelligence office, little evidence of scientific knowledge was exhibited, unless that office felt that the essential features of the Brownings' account had to be simply disregarded as unreliable. Yet the interrogating RAAF officer who investigated the case had no such inclination.

to disregard these witnesses' description of their observations, nor do I"

* * * * *

Professor McDonald was well qualified to evaluate both the witnesses description and the RAAF "explanation", since he was Senior Physicist in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona and one of the first scientists to make a thorough study of the UFO phenomenon.

* * * * *

The third case involving a large parent object apparently operating with smaller objects, which I

presented to the Colorado University project, was the famous Rev. Gill case in Papua†. This is so well known that it is not necessary to repeat it.

After years of struggling to inform the general public through the medium of publications, the press and public lectures, Gallup Polls are showing that uflogologists are winning the fight against officialdom which has followed an outmoded policy of "systematically debunking UFO reports in order to distract public attention from them."

† [The account of this event was given by the Rev. Canon Norman Crutwell in FSR Special Issue No. 4, *UFOs in Two Worlds* - EDITOR]

THREE LANDINGS IN ITALY (Continued from page 8)

"spheres" incident during the evening of Sunday.

After a first examination by the Agricultural Institute at Turin of the maize cobs which we collected for them at the landing place, it has not been possible to fix the reason for the premature "drying" which, of course, could have been caused by natural factors.

It is interesting to note that Roberto Pozzi tends to identify the cigar-shaped object which he observed as an experimental (secret arm) Russian or American aircraft. Before his sighting Roberto had seen the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and had read Dr. J. A. Hynek's book *Rapporto sugli UFO*

(*The Hynek UFO Report*) which a friend had lent him. Nevertheless we think his testimony is genuine, and that he really underwent the experience he has described.

In the same way we think the CEII incidents at Frugarolo and Spinetta Marengo which, unlike that at San Michele, have not received publicity and have not been reported in any newspaper, are very interesting. The enquiry goes on.

During the same period as the Alessandria affairs - the first fifteen days of September - there has been a big wave of UFO visitations throughout Italy, including several CEII and CEIII cases.

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.

Fortean Times

poltergeists - sea-serpents - UFOs - miracles -
freak weather - teleportation - wildmen - cycles -
visions - falls of stones - fairies - ancient astronauts -
strange deaths - disappearances - mass-hysteria -
ball-lightening - showers of fish - ghosts - levitation -
coincidences - curiosities - mysteries - portents

FORTEAN TIMES, the world's leading journal of news, notes, reviews and studies on all strange phenomena, alternate-reality theory and related topics. Acclaimed by top writers in these fields as indispensably continuing the work of Charles Fort and recommended as essential reading for anyone seriously interested in exploring the frontiers of human knowledge and experience. Quarterly, 52 pages crammed with data, indexed annually. Write for further information.

Subscription: 1 year - £3.00/USA \$8.00.
Sample copy: 75p/USA \$2.00.

FORTEAN TIMES (Dept FSR),
9-12 St Annes Court, London, W1 England.

UFOs AND SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

- CLOSE ENCOUNTERS the strange truth about UFOs,
by Alan West and David Jefferis: £2.10
ROUND TRIP TO HELL IN A FLYING SAUCER,
by Cecil Michael: £2.50
PLEASE EXPLAIN Mysteries of the universe, by
Isaac Asimov: £1.05
THE PSYCHIC POWER OF ANIMALS, by Bill Schull
£1.05
UFO PROJECT BLUEBOOK, by Brad Steiger: £1.30
FLYING SAUCERS & THE INNER EARTH, by Kurt
Glemser (booklet): 96p
ALIEN MEETINGS, by Brad Steiger: £1.50
FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED, by Desmond
Leslie & G. Adamski: £3.75
paperback £1.15
THE CRACK IN THE UNIVERSE, by Jean-Claude
Bourret: £4.50
JOURNEY INTO INFINITY, by Johannes von
Buttlar: £3.75
THE LOST TRIBES FROM OUTER SPACE, by Marc
Dem 90p
VELIKOVSK RECONSIDERED, by editors of Pensee
£2.00
SECRET OF THE AGES, by The Earl of Clancarty
86p

Prices include postage and packing. Dollars acceptable, plus bank charge \$1.00. \$1.00-50p. Booklists sent free with order. 20p if sent separately. Prices and availability subject to change. Enquiries should include a s.a.e. or international reply coupon. Write to:

Miss. S. R. Stebbing, 41 Terminus Drive,
Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6PR England.

NEAR-LANDING IN 1946 IN JOHANNESBURG

UNUSUAL OBJECT, AND ENTITIES, OBSERVED IN SOUTH AFRICA

John Judge

John is a field investigator for CONTACT (UK), and a member of the UFOIN team, who is active in the East Kent region where he worked with the late Sqdn. Ldr. Alastair Prevost. This is his first published report in FSR, which he prepared from material forwarded to UFOIN following the major UFO series in the *Daily Express*, and from interviews with one of the witnesses.

JOHANNESBURG, the "commercial capital" of South Africa, stands at more than 6000 feet above sea level, thus making it the highest city in the continent. It is famous for its surrounding gold mines, and is densely populated. A percentage of the housing is, therefore, "high rise" in nature, in order to accommodate this great influx of people.

In 1946 the area around Dalver Street was typical of the city at that time, with many flats above shops forming a square block that contained some waste ground in the centre. One corner of the square was taken up by the Langum Hotel, a building of some 45 feet. This was the scene of a most peculiar encounter of the third kind that was to befall Vida Goldsworthy and her younger sister, Mrs. Naudwin.

The younger of the two girls moved from Britain to South Africa before World War II, leaving behind her sister Vida, who was six years older and then unmarried. After her marriage to a South African, Mr. Naudwin, she soon invited Vida over for a holiday which was scheduled to last for some three months. This commenced in May 1939, but the onset of the war interfered with this, with all ships being commandeered for military purposes. Vida found herself stranded and had to make the best of it and sit things out. She obtained a job working for the government and took a flat with her sister in Dalver Street, since Mr. Naudwin was quickly drafted into the army. Here they continued to live for the next seven years.

In placing the date of the incident we are certain that it happened in 1946, because it was shortly before Mr. Naudwin came out of the forces. It was also during the summer months, thus placing the incident well before the first UFO publicity and the resultant excitement and, in some instances, hysteria.

It was a warm, still night, about 12.15 am (local time). There were many stars visible. Vida and her sister had been to the local cinema and, on their return decided to take their dog for a walk before retiring to bed. They gained entrance to the waste ground behind their flat by way of an area where a demolished house once stood. They released the dog from the lead and it ran on to the waste ground without hesitation while the two women stood on

the pavement at the entrance, chatting idly about the picture they had just seen.

Suddenly there was a loud thud, as if something had struck the ground somewhere in the darkness before them. Anxious in case an African had thrown something at their dog, they looked around. It was then that Mrs. Naudwin saw the object and drew her sister's attention to it as it hovered over the Langum Hotel by only about five feet, being therefore about 50 feet above the ground. Both women were mystified, having never before seen anything remotely similar, but they were not unduly alarmed. They automatically considered it was some new kind of military device, which was odd, but not out of place in the post war situation. At the time the significance of what they were observing was by no means apparent, and it was much, much later before this was realised.

The Object

The thing that hovered, partly over the hotel and partly over the roadway behind it (some 200 yards away) was basically rounded. In the shape of a saucer with a round ball in the centre. When first seen the ball was split exactly in two by the central saucer shape.

The witnesses were able to obtain a very clear view of the object as it hovered quite silently. Whether or not the "thud" they had heard was connected with the object is not known. In size it was about 25 to 30 feet across and about 15 feet high. The rim was of a brownish colour while the centre of the saucer was white. The central ball was a bright golden colour.

Having dismissed it as a military vehicle the women began to lose interest. They had only watched it for a few seconds but already their gaze began to move away from it. It was then that they noticed that the dog was by their feet and very calm.

At this point they heard a clicking noise and, immediately following this, the central ball began to drop down *through* the saucer shape, with a noticeable gap, and stopped when it was directly level with the roof of the hotel. There was no visible hole