



## “Peace-Symbol” UFO over Ceylon

THANKS to the courtesy of Mr. B. U. E. Ramage of Kandy, Ceylon, we received the following article through our good friend Mr. Geoffrey Watkins. It appeared in the Kandy journal *Weekend* of July 30, 1971, and the author is Rex de Silva. Under the headline “A Flying Saucer Comes to Ceylon” the story reads:

“A flying saucer, possibly with celestial beings lurking in it, was seen over Ceylon a few days ago. Not less than two hundred people in the tea country of Hewaheta, about 120 miles from Colombo, have seen this Unidentified Flying Object on the night of Saturday, July 17, 1971. This is the first time a UFO had been spotted in the Asian skies.

“When I visited Hewaheta yesterday, I was told that perhaps thousands would have been eye witnesses to this rare phenomenon in the sky. I questioned more than fifty people in and around the site where the UFO was sighted as well as several others from areas as far as 15 miles away from Hewaheta. And surprisingly, the descriptions given by all of them tallied without a single contradictory statement from anybody.

“A senior tea planter, Mr. Parl Abeywickrema, Superintendent of Rookwood Estate, Hewaheta, who was returning home from Pattiagama with his two Assistant Superintendents, Oswin de Alwis and Nimal Dunuwille, and the driver at 10.45 p.m. on the 17th night, first saw a bright circular object, a little bigger

than the full moon, above the rocky horizon. He showed it to his three companions in the car. They told me that this strange object at first glance was ‘really a breath-taking sight.’

“At the time they were travelling in Mr. Abeywickrema’s Morris Station Wagon through Hope Estate, nearly 6,000 feet above sea level.

### Speechless

“A little later, while proceeding towards Rookwood, they observed that the UFO was moving towards them, said Mr. Abeywickrema. Therefore he asked his driver to stop the wagon. The planters confessed that they were speechless with fear at that time.

“All four of them then saw the UFO which was stationary in the clear sky at an elevation of about 1,000 feet above ground level and a distance of nearly a quarter-mile away. They claimed that the object was circular in shape with two side wings. Suddenly, after 10 minutes or so, the UFO travelled at lightning speed towards them and stopped just 100 yards away and began descending to about 100 feet from ground level.

“Terrified, driver Wijesinghe got into the wagon to hide. In his excitement he had released the handbrakes, which made the vehicle move backwards on the slope. Three planters jumped just in time to block the vehicle and save it from plunging down a 4,000-foot precipice.

## Peace Symbol

"Mr. Abeywickrema and his assistants gave me a detailed description of this extra-terrestrial space-ship of which they were able to get a very close glimpse for over five minutes. They claimed that it was a round object of about 25 feet in diameter with two tapering wings on either side. The central circular chamber with fuselage in the shape of a hippy peace symbol had been illuminated and cast a fluorescent yellow glow, but did not glitter like a star.

"The wings, which had two fins on either side, were also illuminated, but not as brightly as the main cabin. They said that there was no sound at all, even when it moved. No movement of any beings inside was observed. The outside construction, they claimed, was of a translucent material that resembled fibreglass.

"After remaining motionless for a few more minutes, the UFO took off at an angle of 45 degrees into the south western skies. Just before it moved away, the two wings were drawn inside the cabin and only the circular cabin was seen hurtling through space.

"At the bottom of the carrier they saw three red blinkers similar to that of an aircraft. They also said that when the craft stayed stationary, the lights inside the circular cabin were dimmed, leaving only the wing lights on. When it moved on, the lights became powerful and it was like a ball of fire.

"Mr. Abeywickrema also claimed that at about 2.00 a.m. on July 18, he witnessed two more similar mysterious objects, both in the shape of a football, moving in the skies but a long distance away. His driver, Sirisena Wijesinghe, told me that at 3.00 a.m. in the morning of Sunday the 18th, he got up when the two Alsatian dogs started barking. To his utter surprise, he realised that they were barking at a mysterious portent in the skies. It was the same celestial object he witnessed about four hours earlier.

## Apparition

"On the same night (July 17), Mr. A. E. Perera, a junior assistant factory officer, was walking towards his immediate boss's quarters three miles away from the Hope Estate sighting. He was a few yards from his senior's quarters when he saw a very strange object in the sky, something that really made him nervous, as it was neither the moon nor a star. He hurried indoors and called his senior, Mr. P. T. H. Rodrigo, to show this mysterious light in the skies. Both being devout Christians, they were baffled as well as scared, for they have heard of supernatural apparitions from heaven.

"After consulting their colleagues, they had come to the conclusion that the 'apparition' was a huge satellite launched by the USA or Soviet Union. But they were taken aback when the craft started moving to and fro in the sky, at times slow, and at times very fast. They had watched the UFO for about 20 minutes.

## Evil Spirit

"Both these gentlemen said that almost all the workers doing the night shift in their tea factory had witnessed this space happening at about 2.00 a.m. on July 18. I met several of these workers at their lines and they described it with awe in their faces. They surmised that

the mysterious flaming object was a demon in disguise, so they are getting ready to conduct some ceremony to drive out the evil spirit.

"Ramasamy, a watcher, said that he saw a strange object in the sky at least three times, from 10.00 p.m. on Saturday till 2.00 a.m. on Sunday. Mr. Karupan, leader of the Ceylon Workers Congress Trade Union in one estate at Hewaheta, told me that he first saw a luminous ball-like object descending from the skies at about 10.30 p.m. on Saturday night. Six people in his household too had seen it.

"'I thought a soundless illuminated helicopter was descending on our estate' said Rajaratnam Vedanayagam, a trainee tea maker of Rookwood Estate. But later he realised that it was some alien spacecraft that was hovering above the tea plantations.

## Unusual sunlight

"About three miles from Hewaheta, an appu\* named Velusamy saw the UFO at about 3.30 a.m. on July 18. At first he thought it was the sun rising on the wrong side. Velu had been so excited that he woke the entire household to show the phenomenal 'sun rise'.

"I enquired from a passer-by on the Maturata road about 20 miles from Hewaheta who had heard about the 'Chandrika'† as he called it. He directed me to a house at Rikiligaskande where a retired estate man named Mr. J. R. Perera was believed to have seen it. I could not meet Mr. Perera there as he had gone home to Pamunugama the previous day.

"Later I was able to meet him in Pamunugama. His description of the flying saucer tallied with what I had heard at Hewaheta."

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## Comment by Eileen Buckle

Of course, as any seasoned reader of FSR will know, this is *not* the first time that a UFO has been seen over Asia, or in the Indian sub-continent for that matter. Admittedly, we receive far fewer reports from that region of the world and this might be due to poorer communications in these countries. It is interesting to note the reactions to this phenomenon by the Sinhalese people, some of whom not surprisingly tended to look at it from a religious angle. The writer himself displays some subjectivity, but altogether he is to be commended on his thorough approach in contacting so many of the witnesses and giving a full and straight account of what occurred.

\* appu = a cook.

† Chandrika. This most likely means "Little moon" (as affectionate diminutive way of referring to it); it is also a girl's name.

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.

# Burst of UFO activity in Tasmania

W. K. Roberts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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