

VIDEO FILM OF A UFO OVER CANBERRA (FEBRUARY 17, 1990)

By Gordon Creighton

Mr. Zoran Ivanisevic, aged 45, a resident of Kambah, a southern suburb of the Australian Federal Capital, Canberra, was suffering from a neck injury and was unable to sleep. So, at about 5.15 a.m. on Saturday, February 17 1990, he decided to get up and go out into the garden and smoke a cigarette.

Arriving in the garden, he glimpsed what at first sight he took to be an unusual star, in the East. "At first I thought it was a star. But I'd never seen one like that before! It was about ten times bigger than a star... like a type of disc."

He called to his wife, Ljubica, to bring out their VHF video camera and film the object. (She had to do the filming, owing to his neck injury.) They filmed it for about 1 minutes, and went back into the house to play the tape. And they found that the video, with its automatic focus and aperture, provided a much clearer picture even than their visual sighting. Said Mr. Ivanisevic: "I realized that it was not a star. It was a bright circle, and in the middle there was a black hole".

The tape indeed shows a bright round light with small indentations on two opposite sides.

After watching the tape, Ivanisevic went back into the garden. But the object was gone.

He estimated that the thing was at a height of about 1500 m., possibly above the Queanbeyan district. He said it appeared to be hovering, and was "projecting its light primarily sideways, parallel with the horizon". He lost no time in giving details of the matter to an official of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and said that he would be handing over a copy of the tape for examination by the RAAF. Summing up, he said: "I've read about UFOs, and seen people on television talking about them. I always had a little bit of doubt about those people. But now I am changing my mind".

For our knowledge of this case we are indebted to FSR reader Mr Brian Richards of Murdoch University, Western Australia, who at once sent us the relevant press reports. Mr. Richards was able to provide many further details,



ON TAPE: The UFO over Canberra

including the fact that the video picture of the UFO had been relayed nation-wide throughout Australia on Terry Willesee's "Coast To Coast" programme (Channel 9). This went out at 11.00 p.m., most probably on the night of Saturday, February 17. Mr. Richards confirms that viewers who saw the programme were much impressed by the great clarity of the image. He also confirmed that what the witness had lent to the RAAF was merely a copy of the video. (As we all know, Australia has a peculiarly "bad record" owing to the considerable number of cases in which Australian officialdom has expressed an interest in films or photographs of UFOs and then obstinately refused to return them to their owners, sometimes even denying that they had ever received them!)

In due course Mr Brian Richards was able to telephone Mr Ivanisevic at his home in Canberra, and acquire various further precise details, so we are not dependent here on third-hand accounts or media stories only. In the twenty-minute 'phone interview, Mr Ivanisevic said that the UFO, at an angle of about 60° and, as he felt, possibly at an altitude of around 1500 metres, was, at arm's length, of the apparent size of a hand-span wide. He described the UFO as seeming to have "four indentations" on its under-side, plus a central "hole".

Mr Richards informs us that on the night of Sunday, February 18, the Australian TV Station 2CC ran a feature on the case, *in the course of which they also interviewed other witnesses of the same UFO*. When he wrote to the TV station enquiring whether copies of transcripts or tapes were available, their general manager replied negatively. "Our Station's policy is to only release broadcast material in cases of legal intervention." (From Mr. Richards' letter dated March 20, 1990, to FSR) (Thanks and credit to FSR readers Brian Richards and H.F. Bradley)

Press sources seen:-

Canberra Times, Canberra, 18/2/90

Daily News, Sydney, 19/2/90

The Age, Melbourne, 19/2/90

Daily Mirror, Sydney, 19/2/90. ■

“MISSING TIME”

ON THE D47 IN NORTHERN FRANCE

(“I don’t know what happened to me...”)

EXTRACT FROM LUMIERES DANS LA NUIT, NO.305 (SEPT./OCT.1990)

(Translation from French. G.C.)

One night in the early part of the summer of 1976, in northern France, Claude Damman was driving homewards in a small truck (Mercedes 206D, with a 9 h.p. Diesel engine).

At the southern limit of Steenvoorde, he was just preparing to leave the D48 and to turn left onto the D47, going southwards. It was at this point that he noticed, in the sky towards the WSW, a glow that seemed to him to be quite abnormal.

After the crossroads, he continued to watch this glow, now on his right. It was getting slightly nearer, and dropping as it came. He tried to figure out what it could be, and thought momentarily of the glow from blast-furnaces. But it wasn’t that. He could see perfectly well that it wasn’t that.

He pulled up near a windmill situated on the right-hand side of the road, and watched.

“At first”, he says, “when it was approaching, it was a light with hazy edges, but when it halted, its edges were sharp. It lit up the ground underneath, and the windmill too....it lit up the whole area right as far as my truck. You could have read a newspaper”.

The thing, of a uniform orange-red colour, was not more than about 120 m. or 150 m. from him, and its base, which was flat, was maybe no more than 10 m. or so from the ground.

Claude Damman had now got down from his truck and had approached nearer to the light, though...not too near...

The thing was still stationary there, behind the windmill. And this continued for a certain time.

Then, a few moments later, he returned to the truck, resolved to leave. But when he turned the ignition key, the engine refused to start. It was the first time that this had ever happened to him! Usually his truck started up at the first turn of the switch...

Since the truck refused to budge, Claude Damman got out again and went back to take another look at the thing. But now it began to move

away, quite slowly, and rising slightly, in the direction from which it had arrived.

So Damman returned to the truck and tried the starter again. The engine started up straight away.

All of which had astounded Claude Damman, one may be sure, but what astounded him even more was the time when he got home and looked at the clock. *It was past 2 o’clock in the morning.* Now _ this was quite unbelievable. It ought to have been a lot earlier than that, given the time that it was when he had passed through Steenvoorde, given the amount of time that he recalled having spent in watching the phenomenon of the light, and given the distance that he still had to cover before he arrived home.

“I just couldn’t grasp it”, he told us. “I don’t know...it was just like a sort of hole in the time...What struck me so forcibly was the time when I got home....and then, that business about my truck not starting up. And then, when I did move on again, I felt all

queer for a while....”

He told his wife about the experience, but insisted that she speak to nobody else about it. And for thirteen years nobody knew a thing about the episode. Then, in 1989, by pure chance - a chance named Paulette Daudel - we were enabled to hear his recollection of it all. After having kept a total silence about it for 13 years, he gave us a relaxed account of the entire affair. He had realized (thanks for your help, Paulette!) that we weren’t going to laugh at him, and I even got the impression that he was quite relieved to be able to relate his experience to somebody.

For some years past, this sort of experience has had a name: *MISSING TIME* — in other words, a ‘memory hole’ but a ‘memory hole’ related to a close encounter.

As to what we know about the phenomenon — we know only the outer appearance. As to its true nature, that eludes us entirely.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR

No- it no longer completely "eludes" us, and we know quite a lot more about "missing time", and what happens in it, than either we or the LDLN's Editor knew so recently as 1990 ■

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