

Summaries of James E McDonald's 1967 Australian UFO Witnesses Audio Recordings

Transcription and editing by Keith Basterfield ^{1} and Anthony Clarke ^{2*}
©November 2016*

¹ *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - Scientific Research, Adelaide, South Australia*

² *UFO Research (NSW) Incorporated, Sydney, NSW, Australia*

* Corresponding authors email address: keithbasterfield@gmail.com (K.Basterfield), inquiry@ufor.asn.au (A.Clarke).

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Introduction

James Edward McDonald (7 May 1920 to 13 June 1971) was a Senior Physicist of Atmospheric Physics and a Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona (USA). He was also a pre-eminent American UFO researcher during the 1960s and continued his research up to his tragic death, due to suicide, in 1971.

He was a vocal advocate of the serious study of UFOs and worked tirelessly to promote the study of UFOs by academia and scientific community³.

McDonald's, voluminous collection of correspondence, interviews that included magnetic tape audio, and printed materials, predominately relating to the period 1958 to 1971 are archived in the Special Collections at the University of Arizona Library (USA). He regarded the radar-visual (RV) UFO sighting reports as being one of his most important collections and hoped this archive would provide a valuable source of information for future investigators. There are documents and photographs that were collected by McDonald during his Australian visit in the archive.

The original audio recordings (magnetic tapes) for the period 1967 to 1968 have been digitised and copied to CD-R media and are held by the University of Arizona. The duplication of this material, including the audio recordings may be requested, for a fee, from the Special Collections at the University of Arizona. Copyright restrictions apply to the intended use of the documents and audio and permission to publish (including payment of a fee) must be obtained from the University before any publication.

This significant audio collection includes the tape-recorded audio interviews made during his visit to Australia (including Tasmania) in June/July 1967. McDonald was hosted by the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) located in Melbourne, Australia. During the visit, members of that Society, such as Colin Norris, Paul Norman and Jeff Rumpf were present during some of the interviews. In the following year, 1968, VFSRS was renamed the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS).

A copy of these CDs' files was obtained from the Special Collections at the University of Arizona Library, for research use. Permission to publish the audio was not sought, due to cost. Therefore, the audio files cannot be made available for download, or distribution to others. We would like to thank the Special Collections of the University of Arizona Library for providing the requested audio files.

Most of the 58 interviews that are summarised, in this document, were tape recorded when McDonald visited Australia. The Australian collection of audio, used for the summaries, has been archived, by the University, on 21 CDs, with the identification numbers: 5, 11, 24, 25, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59. Some of the audio recordings relate to sightings that occurred in the USA and are included in these summaries. It is likely that some of these reports have not been previously published. Some of the audio files provided by the University of Arizona had misspelt witness names and locations in the file names, these have been corrected, to the best of our knowledge, in the summaries.

The summaries in this document were transcribed from the audio, that was originally recorded by McDonald using his hand-held magnetic tape, audio recorder. He used this recorder during most interviews, and for some, he recorded the telephone conversations with the witnesses. Listening to the original audio gives a unique insight to the reports, that text alone, is not able to convey.

³ Druffel, A. (2006). *Firestorm: Dr James E. McDonald's Fight for UFO Science*. 2nd ed. Columbus, USA: Granite Publishing.

The dialogue also conveys an historical dimension, as in some cases, the witnesses have passed away and the speech is typical of mid 1960s, Australian utterances.

A significant number of relatively famous Australian witnesses to UFO sightings were interviewed during his visit, including Reverend William Gill, an Anglican priest who observed craft-like UFOs, with what appeared to be humanoid figures, on two consecutive evenings during 26 and 27 June, 1959, at Boianai, Papua New Guinea.

The interview with Barry Jones (Australian Federal Government Minister, between 1983 and 1990), on his radio show, recorded on the 5 July 1967 (Identification Code/CD Number: T03S2/CD05) in Melbourne, reveals that McDonald had been in Australia, investigating UFO reports, from the 24 June to the 10 July 1967.



Figure 1: Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, 25 June 1967 (Courtesy of Michael Swords at J Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies)

The audio recordings demonstrate how dedicated McDonald had been to what he termed, 'The UFO problem,' and he regarded, 'UFOs as the greatest scientific problem of our time.' McDonald also states in the audio that he is convinced that, at least, over the last 20 years, the Earth has been, 'visited and reconnaissance's by craft, that are not products of our technology.' McDonald further stated that the evidence for UFOs is, 'Nothing short of astounding.'

The demeanour of McDonald's commentary and questioning of witnesses, demonstrates that he was very methodical, intelligent and diligent in his research.

Kent Courtright of WCUE Radio, Ohio, USA

Identification Code/CD Number: T03S105/CD05

Date Recorded: 1 August 1961

File Size: 4.34 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 4:44

Interview Details: Kent Courtright (WCUE Radio, Akron, Ohio, USA) interviewing Captain Smith of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, USA regarding the UFO sighting by Ernest Stedvek

Sighting Date: 4 and 5 July 1961

Sighting Time: Not identified in audio recording

Location of Sighting: Akron, Ohio, USA

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in audio recording

Witness(es): Ernest Stedvek

Summary:

This interview is a recorded telephone conversation between Kent Courtright of WCUE Radio in Akron, Ohio, USA and Captain Smith at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, USA. The interview occurred on the 1 August 1961.

Captain Smith was asked regarding what conclusions had been made by the Air Force regarding the sighting of UFOs, on the 4 and 5 July 1961, that were reported by the pilot, Ernest Stedvek.

Captain Smith stated that the Air Force has nothing to add to what Major Friend has already reported, and that the initial weather data may indicate that the UFO was a star.

Captain Smith said that he was waiting on further weather data from South Carolina and that it would be at least a week before this data arrives. He said he may be able to make further comment on the sighting after reviewing the additional weather data.

Editor's note: *The correct spelling of Kent Courtright's surname was confirmed in his obituary* ^[1].

The file name of the original audio file supplied by the University uses the name Kent Courtwright.

Reference:

1. Legacy.com, (2010). James Kent "Ken" Courtright, Obituary. [online] Available at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesreporter/obituary.aspx?pid=141536045> [Accessed 18 Nov. 2016].
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George Popovitch Comments on Kent Courtright Contacting Major Friend

Identification Code/CD Number: CD05/T03S106

Date Recorded: after 20 September 1961

File Size: 8.08 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:49

Interview Details: George Popovitch comments on Kent Courtright's difficulty and frustration in attempting to contact Major Friend at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), USA regarding a sighting by Ernest Stadvec. The audio recording had been intended for Mr Fuller for his magazine articles.

Sighting Date(s): 4 to 6 July 1961, 29 July 1961 and 3 to 4 August 1961

Sighting Time(s): Day and night

Location of Sighting(s): Akron/Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Duration of Sighting: Not discussed

Witness(es): Ernest Stadvec and other unnamed witnesses

Summary:

George Popovitch recounts the numerous phone calls that Kent Courtright of WCUE Radio, Akron, USA, made attempting to contact Major Friend at WPAFB. The calls were to follow up on the Air Force's conclusions on the Ernest Stadvec sighting that occurred on 4 and 5 July 1961. Major Friend was difficult to contact, and appeared to be deliberately avoiding contact with Courtright. He was always claimed to be out of the office when the calls were made by Courtright. His final attempts to contact Major Friend had been made on 15 and 18 September 1961, without success.

Kent Courtwright was disgusted and called George Popovitch because he wanted to send the tape of the conversation with Major Friend to James E McDonald (refer summary CD05/T03S105 for conversation between Kent Courtright and Captain Smith at RPAFB, dated 1 August 1961).

Popovitch decided to call WPAFB on the afternoon of the 18 September 1961 to attempt contact with Major Friend. Popovitch was told that Major Friend was in Washington, USA, and that Captain Smith would be available to speak (Ken Courtright was told earlier in the day that Captain Smith would not be in for the day). Popovitch, 'Talked at length,' with Captain Smith regarding the Air Force's conclusions on the Ernest Stadvec sighting. The Air Force had apparently concluded that the sighting was due to, 'Light refraction'. Popovitch asked for a copy of the report on the incident to be posted to him, after one week he had not received the report.

On the 20 September 1961, Ernest Stadvec and George Popovitch were on public broadcast at Radio Station WCNS, USA. Stadvec complained to the radio audience that he could not believe the conclusion made by Captain Smith. He thought that attributing the sighting to, 'Light refraction' was ridiculous and claimed that no true investigation was carried out by the Air Force.

Popovitch stated if he receives the report from the Air Force he will forward this to Mr Fuller for his magazine.

Two other sighting reports were discussed by Popovitch:

1. A sighting that occurred on 3 and 4 August 1961 in the Cleveland/Akron, Ohio, USA referred to as the, 'Denver-Bennett incident.' This incident involved an object being 30 metres from a house at 10:15 pm at night on the 3 August 1961. The object apparently terrified the woman who was in the house. On the morning of the 4 August the woman's husband also sighted the object.

2. He had been out during the initial sighting. As a result, the Sheriff and Highway Patrol were called to the residence. This incident had coverage on the radio at the time and there were other reported witnesses. No other details of the sighting were given.
3. On the 29 July 1961, a pilot and his pilot wife reported a sighting. No other details were given on this sighting.

This audio recording was apparently intended for Mr Fuller's UFO magazine (the name of the magazine was not identified).

Editor's note: The year, 1961, identified in the summary is determined from the date of the recording of the telephone interview between Kent Courtright and Captain Smith of RPAFB that occurred on the 1 August 1961 (summary CD05/T03S105).

Major Friend was at the time, the USAF's Director of project Blue Book.

The correct spelling of George Popovitch's surname was confirmed from several book citations^{[1][2]}.

The file name of the original audio file supplied by the University of Arizona uses the name George Popwich.

The correct spelling of Kent Courtright's surname was confirmed in his obituary^[3].

The file name of the original audio file supplied by the University uses the name Kent Courtwright.

References:

1. Dolan, R E. (2002). UFOs and the National Security State: Chronology of a Cover-Up 1941-1973. Massachusetts, USA: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, p. 257.
 2. Colombo, J R.(1992). UFOs Over Canada: Personal accounts of sightings and close encounters. Ontario, Canada: Hounslow Press, p 53.
 3. Legacy.com, (2010). James Kent "Ken" Courtright, Obituary. [online] Available at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesreporter/obituary.aspx?pid=141536045> [Accessed 18 Nov. 2016].
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Unidentified Sound Recorded from Mountain Ridge at East Hoquiam, Washington, USA

Identification Code/CD Number: T03S107/CD05

Date Recorded: May 1967

File Size: 3.95 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 4:18

Interview Details: Unidentified sound recorded on a mountain ridge North of Hoquiam, Washington, USA

Sighting Date: May 1967

Witness(es): Not identified in the audio recording

Summary:

The recording was sent to James E McDonald by Betty Mc Clelland from East Hoquiam, Washington, USA during May 1967 and transcribed by McDonald onto another tape. Betty was identified by McDonald as being the Civil Defence (CD) Co-ordinator, at Grays Harbour County, Washington.

The audio of the unidentified sound was recorded on a mountain ridge North of Hoquiam, Washington.

McDonald states that the unidentified sound had been heard for approximately the last 30 days in the area, and that, 'Has a bleeping sound that has puzzled the CD officials.'

The recording of the unidentified sound starts at 0:41 and finishes at the end of the audio at 4:18.

The unidentified sound, the bleep, has a near regular cycle frequency, estimated to be 0.5 seconds (two bleeps per second). There appears to be some noise superimposed from the recording/transcription process.

A male and female voice can be heard, at various times, in the background, speaking to each other. The words spoken are near incomprehensible due to the interference of the louder unidentified sound. The identity of these persons is not known and they had obviously recorded the unidentified sound.

The cause of this unidentified sound is unknown, and therefore remains a mystery.

Barry Jones Radio Show with James McDonald, Australia, 5 July 1967

Identification Code/CD Number: T03S2/CD05

Date Recorded: 5 July 1967

File Size: 34.9 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 38:08

Interview Details: Barry Jones interviews James McDonald on 3DB radio in Australia.

Summary:

Barry Jones, talking on 3DB radio Melbourne, refers to page 24 of the *Sun* newspaper, and states, 'You will notice a small advertisement,' asking people who have witnessed a UFO, to phone the radio station between 9 and 10 am. Jones qualifies this by stating that he has Professor James E McDonald in the studio, as a guest, to answer questions and to take reports of UFO sightings. Jones introduces McDonald as a Senior Atmospheric Physicist and Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona (USA).

Jones asks McDonald, 'How long have you been in Australia?' he answers, 'Since the 24 (June), almost two weeks.' McDonald comments that there are lots of astronomers in Arizona and that it is the location of the Kitt Peak National Observatory and that he studies cloud physics and weather modification.

Jones asks McDonald about his interest in, 'Flying saucers,' McDonald answers stating that has had a full-time interest for a year and a casual interest for the last 10 or 12 years.

Jones states that McDonald has described, 'UFOs as the greatest scientific problem of our time.' Jones asked if he, McDonald, was serious when he made this statement? McDonald reaffirms his statement.

Jones asks McDonald to comment on this conclusion, McDonald states that that he is convinced that at least, over the last 20 years, the Earth has been, 'visited and reconnaissance's by craft, that are not products of our technology.' McDonald further stated that the evidence is, 'Nothing short of astounding.'

McDonald comments that the implications for man are enormous and unfortunately the problem is generally regarded as nonsense. Various mundane explanations are made for the phenomena, such as naturally occurring objects, Venus for example, and that the witnesses are incompetent. McDonald counters that argument by stating there is a large volume of reports that describe objects that have the appearance of a machine and therefore could not be confused with naturally occurring objects.

Jones opens callers to the radio station to ask questions to McDonald.

The first caller identifies himself as, 'Horton,' he states he cannot believe in the possibility of interplanetary visitors coming to Earth, and that he favours a scientific explanation such as, a 'Plasma.' McDonald states that this explanation is due to only one writer from Aviation Week (USA) magazine, named Philip Klass. McDonald comments that not all witnesses are seeing luminous objects, like plasmas, but instead solid metallic looking objects, some close, that resemble craft. They hover, move at high speed and in no way, resemble, hazy luminous plasmoid objects, that are naturally occurring and uncommon.

The second caller is Mrs Smith from South Caulfield, Melbourne. She explained to McDonald that she saw a cigar shaped object in the sky in 1949 over Hawthorn, Victoria at about 9 to 9.30 pm. It was stationary and had a dull light inside with lighting from top to bottom. She watched it for some time and got her daughter out to have a look. It was a clear night.

She called the *Sun* newspaper to report the object and was told by the person on the switchboard that he had also seen the object and that the newspaper was inundated with calls to report this object. There was a small article on the sighting in the *Sun* newspaper the following day. McDonald made the comment that since the object was stationary, and that there was no lightning, this ruled out several naturally occurring causes, including plasmoids.

The third caller had witnessed a, 'Shooting star,' that paused then moved in another direction. McDonald commented, 'That this is a dangerous category, with reference to, misinterpretation.' McDonald stated that many witnesses see this type of flight behaviour and that there may be many causes, some being for example, a helicopter.

The fourth caller witnessed about five years ago (1962), at 9 am in the morning an object hovering over metropolitan Melbourne at Eastern Hill. The object was described as cylindrical and silvery in colour before disappearing. The sky was clear. The reporter wondered why others had not reported this object. McDonald commented that people for various reasons do not report sightings and that some fear ridicule.

McDonald talked about some of the reports he had investigated on site with the Melbourne Flying Saucer Association, one that occurred in Moe, in the Gippsland region of Victoria. The witness, who was a farmer, had been milking his cows during February 1963 when a large saucer shaped object hovered over a tree about 100 metres away. The farmer reported that the cattle and horses stampeded in panic as a result of the sighting.

Barry, asked McDonald about his visit to the United Nations (UN) to speak about UFOs to the Outer Space Affairs Group on the 7 June 1967. McDonald stated that he had submitted formal statements urging the UN to act on the UFO problem. McDonald added that he had arranged to speak to Mr U Thant who is the Secretary General of the UN, unfortunately this did not occur, due to problems in the Middle East. McDonald claimed that the Secretary General of the UN has stated that the UFO phenomena is one of the most important international problems facing mankind. McDonald hoped that scientific groups would be setup by the UN to study UFOs.

The fifth caller recounted a sighting he had ten years ago (1957) while working as a civil engineer surveying the first geothermal power station in Wairakei, New Zealand. He and his assistant saw a flying saucer that rose in the distance and went up vertically, faster than an aircraft. They could see the UFO pass in front of and behind clouds as it moved in the sky. McDonald asked how far away it was and the person replied that it was about three kilometres away, dark grey in colour and its height was about 150 metres. His assistant denied seeing the object when they reported the event to their colleagues.

Jones asked McDonald about the official standing of UFOs with the USA Airforce. McDonald claimed that they treat the phenomena as, 'A nuisance,' and a burden that they must deal with, adding that the USA Airforce's Project Blue Book has only three investigators, for such a large project.

The sixth caller recounted a sighting she had on 17 November 1955 at Christchurch, New Zealand while on a train. She sighted two spinning white coloured objects in the sky that disappeared after a while.

The seventh caller reported a sighting that occurred in East Prestons, Victoria on the 8 March 1965 at 8 pm. Her daughter also saw the object, it was described as a, 'Spinning top,' and iridescent blue. The object was viewed with binoculars and it was a clear night.

McDonald was asked by Jones when he was going back to the USA and he said, 'The tenth (July 1967) after going to Tasmania and up to the northern part of the country.'

Editor's note: Barry Jones later moved into politics and served in several Ministerial portfolios in the Australian Federal Government, between 1983 and 1990.

This interview reveals that McDonald had been in Australia, investigating UFO reports, from the 24 June 1967 to the 10 July 1967.

Gary Taylor's Death and Ronald Sullivan's Sighting of 4 April 1966

Identification Code/CD Number: T08S101/CD11

Date Recorded: June 1967

File Size: MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 2:02

Interview Details: Audio sent to McDonald on the reports relating to the Burkes Flat UFO incident

Sighting Date: 4 April 1966 and a few days earlier

Sighting Time: Night

Location of Sighting: Burkes Flat, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Minutes

Witness(es): Ronald Sullivan and one other unidentified person

Summary:

An unidentified person recorded an audio report for McDonald (McDonald's voice is not heard in this recording). The person starts by saying that he had sent McDonald a newspaper cutting from the *Sun* newspaper regarding a boy (Gary Taylor), who was killed when his car ran off the road, north of Melbourne (the location is known to be Burkes Flat, a few days before 4 April 1966).

The person states that a couple of nights after this accident another person (Ronald Sullivan) saw strange lights in the field beside where Gary Taylor's car had crashed. The person, Ronald Sullivan, had described that the headlight beams of his car, 'Bent around as if they had been attracted by some fantastic magnetic force,' when he passed the lights in the field.

A few days after the newspaper article, Peter Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) was contacted by an unidentified person from Bendigo, Victoria. This person reported that his car had been travelling 400 metres behind Gary Taylor's car just before the accident. He said that he saw, 'Strange lights,' in the adjacent field and turned off a side road because he was frightened. He then heard a crashing sound, and that he did not realise this was a car crash. Peter Norris stated that the person sounded agitated and asked this person to contact the Bendigo newspaper or the Police.

Editor's note: The events described in this audio recording are generally known, in the literature, as the 1966 Burkes Flat UFO Incident, Victoria, Australia. This event occurred on the 4 April 1966.

This sighting is noteworthy since it describes the rarely reported phenomena of 'bent light' beams. There is a YouTube video on this incident at: https://youtu.be/c_n8FqLGkKI.

Saucer Nest at Tully, Queensland, January 1966 and Strange Ring Like Marking Near Albany, NSW

Identification Code/CD Number: T08S102/CD11

Date Recorded: Probably prior to June 1967

File Size: 1.38 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 1:30

Interview Details: Description of ground markings at Tully, Queensland and Albany, NSW, Australia following UFO sightings.

Sighting Dates: January 1966 (Tully) and March 1966 (Albany)

Sighting Time: Not identified in audio recording

Location of Sighting: Tully, Queensland and Albany, NSW, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in audio recording

Witness(es): Not identified in audio recording

Summary:

An unidentified Australian reporter comments that, 'Rings,' in the grass that were found near Albany, NSW, Australia and in Bankstown, NSW, Australia may be related to the Tully, Queensland, Australia UFO sighting.

The reporter comments that the rings found in NSW, "Cannot be explained away as 'fairy-rings.' " The reporter explains that the grass was, 'Crushed down,' and that the grass appeared to be dead or dying.

In contrast, 'The Rings,' at Tully, 'Were twisted as if what had touched down had rotated.' This had not been reported to have occurred with the grass at Albany.

A report (in the USA, possibly reported by James E McDonald) is mentioned about two Sheriffs that had chased a, 'Possible UFO.' The comment was made that, 'Your friend,' had checked this report at the Planetarium.

Editor's note: This report was recorded by an unidentified Australian.

The tape was probably given to McDonald during his trip to Australia, between 24 June 1967 and 10 July 1967.

McDonald is not heard on this recording.

The report refers to the famous UFO sighting that occurred in Tully, Queensland on 19 January 1966, when a 'saucer' shaped object rose from Horseshoe Lagoon leaving an impression on the lagoon vegetation, referred to as a 'saucer nest' in various publications.

Military Tank UFO Sighting 24 April 1966, Australia

Identification Code/CD Number: T08S103/CD11

Date Recorded: Possibly May 1966

File Size: 4.67 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 5:06

Interview Details: Sighting of saucer from military tank at Puckapunyal Army Base.

Sighting Date: 24 April 1966

Sighting Time: 2 am

Location of Sighting: Puckapunyal Army Base, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Minutes

Witness(es): 23 unidentified Australian Army personnel

Summary:

The unidentified reporter of the audio recounts a meeting he attended with his friend, who is a Barrister, and an acquaintance of his friend, a Captain in the Australian Army Legal Corps. At this meeting the Captain stated that, 'On the twenty fourth of last month,' the captain was an observer at Puckapunyal Army Base.

The Captain had been observing seven *Centurion Tanks* on the firing range at 2 am in the morning of the twenty fourth. While the tanks were firing shells a UFO rose from the ground about 700 yards (640 metres) away. The tanks immediately stop firing and the personnel watched the UFO rise to about 60 to 70 feet (18 to 20 metres) in the air. The UFO appeared to stop and, 'Wobble slightly on its axis.' The object was described as, 'Dome shaped with a blueish metal reflecting in the moon light.' There were 23 Army personnel observing the UFO. The UFO, 'Appeared to be damaged on one side as if, 'Bashed in around the rim,' this looked like, 'A poor panel beating job.' In addition, the UFO appeared to have a patch of, 'Oil,' on the side that appeared damaged.

The UFO moved towards the tanks and stopped 150 yards (140 metres) away and an aperture opened on the UFO that appeared, 'Like the iris of a camera lens.' At this time one of the tanks gunners aimed the tank gun at the UFO and the iris, 'Snapped shut.' The UFO then moved to flank the tanks on the left 150 yards (140 metres) away.

The personnel described the UFO as being 45 to 50 feet (14 to 15 metres) in diameter and moving at the speed of a *Cessna* spotting aircraft that are used by the Army.

The UFO moved away to the West and appeared to be deliberately avoiding the position of the tank guns aim.

The next day (25 April) they located a depressed area about ten feet (3 metres) across (assumed to be in the location where the UFO had risen from, but not stated in the audio) with traces of oil, possibly from the tanks.

The reporter makes the comment that he is inclined to believe the report by the Captain and that the veracity of the report is problematic due to the secrecy of the Army. He further comments that most military services accept that UFOs exist.

Peter Norris, a UFO researcher with Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS), was advised of this report, he stated that he would follow up the sighting with his Army contacts. Peter has also written a letter to the Secretary of the Army regarding this sighting.

The reporter states that the Secretary of the VFSRS is friendly with the wife of the Commander at the Puckapunyal Army Base so there may be information provided by the Army because of the letter.

Editor's note: This report was recorded by an unidentified Australian.

The tape was probably given to McDonald during his trip to Australia, between 24 June 1967 and 10 July 1967.

McDonald is not heard on this recording.

At the start of the interview the unidentified reporter states, 'The 24th of last month,' to explain when the sighting occurred. If the recording was made in 1967 when McDonald visited Australia, then it is possible that the sighting occurred on the 24 April 1967, instead of the 24 April 1966 as recorded on the tape, possibly incorrectly.

James Kibel's 19 February 1957 UFO sighting in Melbourne, Australia

Identification Code/CD Number: T08S104/CD 11

Date recorded: Not identified in audio recording

File Size: 2.5 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 2:36

Interview Details: James Kibel comments on the 19 February 1957 sighting in Melbourne, Australia

Sighting Date: 19 February 1957

Sighting Time: 1.00 pm

Location of Sighting: Deepdene, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 10 minutes

Witness(es): James Johnson Kibel his fiancée Jill and his mother

Summary:

James Kibel and two others were sitting in the back yard of his mother's house, located at 1-3 Palm Grove, Deepdene, Melbourne. It was a beautiful, very warm and clear sky day. Kibel's mother noticed a glint in the sky and drew the attention of the others to it. It looked like a little blob of pink light in the sky. It appeared to get bigger and they all said it was like the top of a mushroom. It was stationary for ten minutes and bright pink in colour.

There was a camera without film in the house. After ten minutes, it turned a bright white; bright like the Sun. It started to rock backwards and forwards like a seesaw, then moved rapidly away towards the horizon. It was, 'Falling like a leaf,' and may have descended slightly.

Kibel said there are theories put forward by A Michel, in France, about objects descending in height as they move across the surface of the earth. He then corrected himself and said the theory came from Plantier, in France.

The sighting had startled them and they had read about UFOs. Kibel got in touch with Peter Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) and reported the sighting. Kibel thought the report was published in an early issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.

After the sighting Kibel, his mother and fiancée (later his wife) became interested in UFOs and gathered information about them.

Editor's note: Although the file title shows a date of 19 February 1957, in a taped interview with Kibel about his 1966 photograph, Kibel provides the date of this sighting as 19 February 1958.

Westall High School Sighting 6 April 1966 from May/June 1966, APRO Bulletin

Identification Code/CD Number: T08S105/CD11

Date Recorded: After June 1966

File Size: 8.55 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 9:20

Interview Details: Jim Kibel talks about the 6 April 1966 sighting of a UFO near Westall High School

Sighting Date: 6 April 1966

Sighting Time: Day time

Location of Sighting: Westall High School, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: over 20 minutes

Witness(es): Students and teachers at Westall High School, particularly Mr Greenwood who was the Science Master at the school and an unidentified Physical Education teacher

Summary:

An unidentified person (Jim Kibel) highlights inaccuracies in some of the Australian UFO sightings documented *Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) Bulletin*. For example, Jim comments that his photograph of a UFO had been published the wrong way around, in the last APRO Bulletin (May-June 1966).

One report in the *APRO Bulletin* is the UFO sighting that occurred at the Westall High School. This sighting refers to about 300 children, including two teachers, one being the Science Master, who watched a UFO manoeuvring away from five aircraft. The aircraft were reported to be from the local Aero Club. The heading in the Bulletin is quoted as, 'Officials Squash School Sighting.'

Kibel comments that his brother-in-law is on the committee of the *Australian Light Car Club* and that the Science Master at the Westall High School is also a member. Through his brother-in-law, Kibel arranges a meeting with the Science Master, at Kibel's house, to discuss the UFO sighting at the school. Kibel claims that during this meeting the Science Master, who was identified as Mr Greenwood, read the *APRO Bulletin* article on the sighting and that he claimed most of the facts were incorrect. Mr Greenwood also stated to Kibel, that the Headmaster was so scarred that he refused to go outside when told that there was an object in the sky. According to Greenwood, when the Australian Airforce (RAAF) contacted the Headmaster about the sighting, he apparently told them, 'Go and jump in the lake.'

Kibel states that the inaccuracies in the *APRO Bulletin* may indicate that Carol Lorenzen (Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin) had not collected the correct information for the publication.

Greenwood's account, via Kibel, alleges that he, Greenwood, was first notified of the sighting by a hysterical student who said that there was a flying saucer outside. Greenwood then apparently went outside, and initially could not see anything and then ran over to a group of students, then he saw the UFO.

The UFO was described as hovering close to the overhead high voltage power lines that were adjacent to the school. He described the object as, 'Being like bright silver and about the size of a car,' and, 'Resembled a bar or rod hovering in the air, a disk thing from the edge.' A light plane, like a Cessna was seen moving towards the UFO.

The UFO was hovering at about 1000 feet (300 metres) and about 2000 feet (600 metres) from where Greenwood was standing. At this stage, more students arrived, including the Physical Education teacher.

Apparently, the pilot of the first plane had radioed others, and four planes were now converging on the UFO. The planes were flying very close to each other. As the planes got closer to the UFO it would accelerate away and stop. The planes would again follow the UFO and the same evasive action occurred. This flight behaviour went on for about 20 minutes while the students and teachers were watching. The Headmaster finally came over and told everybody to return to their classes, this they did.

Later the Headmaster told the students that they would be punished if they talked about this sighting and the teachers were told that they may lose their jobs. According to Kibel, the threat by the Headmaster had appalled Greenwood.

Kibel states that Greenwood said to him that he was sceptical of UFOs until this sighting changed his thinking on this subject.

Kibel said that Greenwood told him that the Physical Education teacher refused to make any utterances about what he had seen, and that Greenwood did not think this refusal was due to the threats by the Headmaster.

Greenwood asked one of the older students, a girl, to describe what she had seen and this matched his observation. Greenwood claimed that, 'Half an hour later,' when he asked the same student about the sighting she would not say anything, the reason for this puzzled Greenwood.

Kibel stated that the sighting was not published in any of the papers, except for a local newspaper in Dandenong, Victoria.

Kibel stated that the UFO was about half the length of a *Cessna* aircraft, and according to Greenwood, 'The UFO appeared to be under intelligent control.'

Editor's note: The unidentified person speaking in this audio recording is Jim Kibel. This is inferred from the reference to, 'His photograph,' of a UFO on the front page of the May-June APRO Bulletin.

The veracity of Greenwood's account of the UFO sighting, as described by Kibel, cannot be verified.

The date of the sighting is incorrectly identified as the 7 April 1966, in the file name of the audio file supplied by the University of Arizona.

World of Space and Science - Don Allen ABC, USA Radio Program with James McDonald, March 1967

Identification Code/CD Number: 5T04S1/CD24

Date Recorded: 19 March 1967

File Size: 11 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 11:46

Interview Details: Don Allen of the ABC (American Broadcasting Corporation) Radio's, *World of Space and Science*, Los Angeles, California USA, interviews James McDonald. The interview with McDonald was pre-recorded in Tucson, Arizona prior to being aired on the radio program.

Summary:

James McDonald is introduced by Don Allen as being a Senior Physicist in Institute of Atmospheric Physics at The University of Arizona, USA and that he has studied the UFO phenomena for the last year.

A series of questions were given to McDonald during the interview.

McDonald was asked regarding the reality of UFOs, he replied that after ten months of investigation he is convinced that they exist, 'In our atmosphere.'

McDonald was asked what prompted him to start investigating the phenomena, he replied that he had been investigating at a 'Low pitched level,' for years and had always been puzzled by the phenomena. McDonald mentioned the UFO sightings that occurred last spring in Michigan, USA and in Tucson.

McDonald was asked about the evidence for UFOs, McDonald claimed that there were many observations from credible persons, both in the USA and overseas. McDonald claimed that the volume of sightings reported in the last twenty years, 'Is nothing short of astounding.'

McDonald cautioned that misidentification of naturally occurring, and man-made objects, including hoaxes, is part of the, 'Noise,' of sighting reports. McDonald claimed that he could satisfy himself, after talking to witnesses, that sightings could be dismissed, as a hoax or misinterpretation. The interesting reports that he was referring to were objects that are unusual and appear to be machines or craft, and in some cases, seen at very close distances, where misinterpretation would be unlikely.

McDonald was asked about the attitude of the Airforce in the USA towards UFOs, McDonald mentioned the Project Blue Book investigation of UFOs. He said that the government was, 'So disturbed,' by the volume of UFO reports in 1952/1953 that they commenced the *Robertson Panel* in 1953. He lamented that the panel worked for only three days and concluded that UFOs were not of extra-terrestrial origin and posed no threat. McDonald claimed that the CIA then decided that the volume of UFO sightings was, 'Clogging up the system,' and that debunking would be used to help reduce the public interest in the subject. This led to the August 1953, *Air Force Regulation 200-2 (AFR 200-2)* and *JANAP 146* in the USA.

McDonald claimed that the Air Force had downgraded the UFO reports to a, 'Nuisance.' He added that the Airforce's *Project Blue Book* investigating UFO reports was a low priority group that comprised, only a Major, Sargent, First Lieutenant and Secretary at Wright Patterson Airforce Base. McDonald claimed that the Airforce were, 'Victims of their own propaganda,' and that there appeared to be no cover-up by the Department of Defence (USA).

When asked, 'What are UFOs up to?', McDonald said he could not say with any certainty. His hypothesis is that they are of extra-terrestrial origin and possibly conducting reconnaissance on Earth.

McDonald said that he had not seen a UFO except for lights in the sky. He claimed that there were more reports of disk and cigar shaped UFOs.

He stated that the greatest wave of UFO sightings occurred in France during September/October 1954 and, secondly, the reports in the USA during 1952.

McDonald stated that some people may not report sightings due to the fear of ridicule. Therefore, there may be a significant number of unreported sightings.

When asked where do the UFOs come from, McDonald speculated that it is more likely that they originate outside in our Solar System and therefore interstellar travel is required.

Peter Norris Radio Interview, Australia

Identification Code/CD Number: 5T05S1/CD25

Date Recorded: 1965 (determined from the comment that, 1959 was six years ago, when referring to the William Gill sighting)

File Size: 7.7 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:23

Interview Details: Peter Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) is interviewed by an unidentified person on radio

Summary:

The interview started with Peter Norris talking about the formation of the federal UFO group that would represent all of Australia's UFO societies. At the end of the interview Peter is referred to as being the President of the newly formed Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation (CAPIO).

Peter was asked about the UFO societies in Australia and he replied, "Their are considerable numbers.' He went on to say that there is at least one society in each state, except Tasmania where there is none, South Australia and Western Australia have two societies.

When asked what is the approach of VUFORS he said, 'Trying to foster an objective approach to the subject; a scientific investigation.'

Peter explained that VUFORS deal with, 'First-hand information, as much as it is available,' including the exchange of reports and information with international UFO groups. He said that the Society publishes a twice yearly magazine.

Peter said that William Gill's 1959 sighting investigation is continuing. He added that Gill attended their convention with his friend, Norman Crutwell from New Guinea, to answer questions from the audience. Peter also stated that there was a Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) representative, Mr Roberts, at the convention to answer questions, he was identified as the Senior Research Scientist at the RAAF, Canberra.

Peter said that the RAAF was actively investigating UFO sightings through the RAAF's Intelligence division. The comment was made that the RAAF investigates some UFO reports before VUFORS is able to start their investigations.

When asked about the use of instruments, Peter said that the use of instruments to assist sightings investigations was limited due to the unpredictability of sightings. He added that their expeditions to One Tree Hill in the Dandenong Mountains, near Melbourne, had been unsuccessful since no UFOs were sighted.

When Peter was referring to the William Gill sighting he said that Mr T Dury, who was the Chief of the Civil Aviation Authority in New Guinea, in 1953, filmed on several frames of his video, an object that he was unable to identify. He claims that the video was sent to the RAAF for analysis, they in turn sent the video to the USA. Peter then said, 'What happened to the film after that is a mystery.'

Editor's note: This interview is predominately about Gill's famous 1959 UFO sightings and is interspersed with general discussion on subjects completely unrelated to UFOs. Coincidentally, this interview occurred almost exactly eight years after Gill's sightings New Guinea.

Reverend William B Gill, who was an Anglican priest with a mission in Boianai, Papua New Guinea, observed, with others, craft-like UFOs, one with humanoid figures, on the evenings of the 26 and 27 June 1959. Approximately twenty-five people, including teachers and medical technicians, also observed the phenomena. They 'signalled' to the humanoids and received an apparent response. This was one of many UFO sightings within a few weeks in New Guinea.

Gill documented the sightings with Reverend Norman Crutwell and subsequently the Australian media obtained these reports. After the reports were published, in August 1959, there was a media sensation, particularly in Australia.

Both William Gill and Norman Crutwell were Ministers in the Anglican Church and normally have the prefix, Reverend, before their names.

James McDonald Interviews James Kibel

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T0910S12/CD42

Date Recorded: 28 June 1967 at 4.20 pm

File Size: 46.2 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 48:05

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Jim Kibel (Part 1)

Sighting Date: 2 April 1966 (Also describes sightings on about the 19 November 1958, and in 1954)

Sighting Time: 2.21 pm

Location of Sighting: Deepdene, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Six seconds

Witness(es): James Johnson Kibel

Summary:

James Kibel was in the garden at his parents' house, on the western side. He was intending to use a *Polaroid 800* camera, with out of date Polaroid film, to take photographs of the garden. Suddenly, there was a terrific flash of light, which illuminated the area around him. He turned to face east and saw an unusual object, descending, almost vertically, in a sort of, 'Bouncing,' motion. It looked like a mushroom with the stalk facing downwards and the domed top, facing upwards. There was no noise associated with the object. The object was reflecting the Sun and was very brilliant.

He noted that the wind was blowing hard, from the north, and that the air temperature was about 26 degrees Centigrade. There was scattered cirrus clouds in the sky. The object then pivoted, so that the stalk was facing south and the bell top was facing north. At this point, while it remained stationary for about half a second he took one *Polaroid* photograph of the object. It then rotated 90 degrees, so that the stalk was now facing him.

The object then, 'Rolled,' to the north. After, 'Rolling,' the object lost altitude, jerked back upwards, then left at speed to the north. It was lost to view behind trees. Kibel then went to seek out a workman whom he knew to be elsewhere in the garden. He pulled the film out of the camera, and he and the workman, a Mr English, watched as the film developed and the image appeared. Kibel is not aware of any other witnesses in the neighbourhood.

Although the single image, showed a, 'Mushroom,' shaped silvery object with pink reflections on part of its surface. Kibel states that at the time he wasn't aware of seeing these reflections. He told McDonald that he had the impression that the object looked it was manufactured, and that he was sure it wasn't a small object. Although it had been very windy, the wind did not appear to have any effect on the object or its movements.

Kibel also described two other sightings which had been made from the same garden, but from the eastern side of the house.

The first of these sighting occurred about the 19 November 1958 at 12.15 pm. Kibel, his fiancée, and his mother were sitting outside on a warm day. Kibel was the first to notice a speck of light in the sky, some 15 to 20 degrees from the Sun. He thought, at first, that it might be a planet as he was aware Venus was visible sometimes in the daytime. He went into the house and brought out the 7x50 field binoculars for the observation. The object was a definite mushroom shape. It was bright, iridescent pink in colour. It then moved away from the Sun until it was overhead.

Both his fiancée and his mother could also see it. It remained stationary in this position for about 25 minutes. Then it became intensely bright white in colour. At the bottom, it was like a ball of white light with, 'Fuzz,' around it and a pink cap. Kibel estimated its angular size as about two to three minutes of arc. Then the whole thing turned into a very bright, bright as the Sun, white coloured light with, 'Fuzz,' around it. It then started to move and descended, like a falling leaf to the horizon where it was lost from view. They reported the sighting to Peter Norris of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS).

The second of these sightings occurred during 1954 when Kibel's mother saw a disc in the eastern sky and called Kibel to have a look. It appeared to flip over continually, showing first a dark, black side; then a bright, white side. It disappeared behind tall trees in the back garden. The time had been about 5 pm, perhaps in August, late winter. Its angular size was estimated to be that of a ten cent coin, held at arm's length. It was likely to be thin as it disappeared at times. There were no known witnesses. His mother reported this sighting to a Melbourne newspaper but was accused of having been drinking.

The interview ended with some comments from Kibel. There was a Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) radio training school about one kilometre from the house. All three objects were there in the sky. The object he photographed appeared to be a machine. He had sat down and looked at the photograph for hours after it was taken. He did not see the pink reflections on its surface when he saw it, only later when looking at the coloured image.

He knew of other cases where photographs had been taken, but had been confiscated. He said he was aware that Air Force Intelligence had a large file of photographs. However, he said he was not able to talk about this information.

Editor's note: See Part 2 of this sighting interview, in the summaries.

James McDonald Interviews Sir George Jones

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T10S102/43

Date Recorded: 5.30 pm Wednesday, 28 June 1967

File Size: 14.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 15:44

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Sir George Jones in Melbourne

Sighting Date: 16 October 1957 (see editor's note)

Sighting Time: Early evening

Location of Sighting: Over Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Ten seconds

Witness(es): Sir George Jones and his wife

Summary:

Sir George Jones describes his sighting to McDonald. Jones states that one evening he and his wife had driven home to their house near the beach. As he got out of his car, his wife said, 'Look what is that.' They both witnessed a bright object approaching from the south over Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne. The object passed over their heads and disappeared to the north. The night was clear with a light breeze.

Jones could not remember the date of the sighting but thought it was about three years ago.

His first thought was that the object must have been one of the Russian Sputniks disintegrating. Then he considered a metrological balloon with a light. He decided that since the object was estimated to be travelling at 400 mph (640 km/hr) it could not be a balloon.

Jones was mystified by the sighting, and estimated its height to be 15,000 feet (4.5 kilometres). No sound was heard coming from the object. The light was a brilliant white, larger than street lights, but smaller than the moon, and, 'Surrounded by a mysterious envelope.' McDonald suggested that it may have been a meteor, however Jones discounted this as there was no evidence of any disintegration.

Jones claims that no others in his neighbourhood witnessed this object. The sighting lasted about ten seconds.

Jones claims that the sighting occurred three days after the burial of Sir Thomas White (26 April 1888 to 13 October 1957) and that this sighting had been reported, with some ridicule, in the *Herald* newspaper.

This was the Jones' only sighting.

McDonald asks Jones about his connections with the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) when he was Chief of Staff. Jones claims that the attitude at the RAAF was sceptical and that mundane explanations could explain all sightings. Jones recounts that while he was in the RAAF he was sent to Geelong to investigate a report of five unidentified objects witnessed in the sky.

Jones asks McDonald, if Reverend William Gill is, 'Still sticking to his guns,' McDonald replied, 'Yes, I am seeing him tonight.'

Editor's note: Sir George Jones (1896-1992) was a senior commander in the Royal Australian Airforce rising to the rank of Air Marshal.

Sir Thomas White died on the 13 October 1957 in Melbourne, Australia. His burial would have been a few days after his death. Therefore, the sighting referred to in this interview could have occurred on or near the 16 October 1957, that is three days after the burial. This sighting date is collaborated by the report ^[1] published in the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) Bulletin. This date is significantly earlier than Jones recollection in the interview, when he stated that the sighting had occurred three years earlier, that would be during 1964.

References:

1. Unpublished author. (March 1958). Former Air Chief Reports UAO. *Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) Bulletin*, p.2.
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James McDonald Interviews Andrew Greenwood

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T10S103/CD43

Date Recorded: 28 June 1967

File Size: 25.6 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 26:41

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Andrew Greenwood regarding sighting of UFOs

Sighting Date: 6 April 1966

Sighting Time: 10:15 am

Location of Sighting: Westall High School, Clayton, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: About 25 minutes

Witness(es): Andrew Greenwood

Summary:

McDonald had read the material on the case sent to him by Paul Norman and Peter Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS). Greenwood did not recall the date of the incident but was prompted by McDonald that date was 6 April 1966. Greenwood then described the incident.

Greenwood said the incident started when a female student raced into his class saying, 'Flying saucer outside.' She left the room, and then 5-10 minutes later it was morning recess, so Greenwood went outside to look for himself.

At the time, the school had 500 to 600 students and more than half of them were on the school oval beside the school buildings.

The object was to the south of the school, and airborne at all times. It was a grey colour against a blue-grey sky. At first, Greenwood could not see the object due to the lack of contrast against the sky, students pointed it out to him. It appeared to be two-thirds the length of a *Cessna* aircraft. It was cigar shaped, elliptical and at times, 'Bulged' in the middle; it changed shape. He estimated that the electricity pylons visible in the distance were 300 metres away. From this, he estimated that the object was one kilometre at its furthest and 500 metres at its closest approach.

Describing the object motions Greenwood said that it hovered at times. It would accelerate and disappear from sight, then someone would see it in another part of the sky. The object moved through an arc of perhaps 30 degrees, came towards them, at times, and sometimes went up and down. In summary, it hovered, moved slowly, and at times, fast.

When he first sighted the object, it was on its own. Then he saw one aircraft approach the object, then it moved to another part of the sky very rapidly, and the aircraft followed. It seemed to be playing 'cat and mouse' with the plane. Altogether there were five aircraft visible, Moorabbin Airport later said there were no aircraft in the vicinity. The Airport is about eight kilometres away. If you ever go to the Airport there are always aircraft in air.

At one stage the object disappeared behind a row of tall pine trees that were located about 600 metres away. Later, Greenwood and another staff member, Claude Miller, went over to the trees but saw nothing unusual.

Estimating the duration of the event, Greenwood said that the girls at the physical education class on the oval saw it 10 minutes before he did. He then watched it for about 15 minutes. Therefore, the total duration of the sighting had been about 25 minutes.

The object was a silvery colour against the sky. He lost sight of it as it vanished by accelerating away and was lost from sight. The aircraft were still there at this point. Asked about the ratio of the object's length to width, Greenwood estimated a ratio of 4 or 5:1. Greenwood did not hear any noises that he associated with the object.

Greenwood saw other objects go over the school fence while he watched this object. Asked about the time of the event Greenwood said it was morning recess when he saw it. He calculated the time at 9 am plus two forty-minute-long teaching periods which would make the start of his observation as about 10.20 am. However, he then said 10.15am. Recess was 15 minutes long.

Asked who else saw the object, he said, 'The physical education teacher Jeanette Muir and the senior English teacher Claude Miller [Muir?], who saw it last.' The Headmaster of the school was Frank Sambleble. The Headmaster spoke to the students at the assemble on 6 April 1966 about this incident.

The Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) officers didn't come to the school for about two to three days. The Headmaster told Greenwood that a RAAF officer came to the school and that he wouldn't let the RAAF office interview Greenwood as he was teaching. Greenwood understood that the RAAF officer was only in the Headmaster's room for a few minutes.

At the time of this interview Greenwood was teaching science at, Haileybury College. The age of the Westall High School students was 11 to 16 years.

Moorabbin Airport was contacted by the *Dandenong Journal*. The Journal interviewed dozens of people in the area but found no one who had seen the object. If it wasn't pointed out to you, you may not have been able to see the object.

Greenwood closed by saying, 'If people try and hide things, I want to find out more about them, it must be my perverse nature.'

James McDonald Interviews Reverend William Gill

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T10S2/CD44

Date Recorded: Started at 7.10 pm on 28 June 1967 in Melbourne, Australia

File Size: 56.8 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 60:00

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Reverend William Gill (deceased) about his 1959 UFO sighting in Boianai, Papua New Guinea

Summary:

McDonald asks Gill if the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) are continuing to suggest that his UFO sightings had a mundane astronomical explanation, Gill replies that he does not know.

Gill tells McDonald that the sighting occurred some time ago (eight years) and that he could not remember all the details of the sighting including dates, however the events were clear in his mind.

Gill tells McDonald that the night of the apparent response, by the humanoids, they waved with their torches, not expecting any response. They also attempted, with the torches, unsuccessfully, to indicate to the UFO, to land.

Gill explained that, at one time, there were four glowing humanoid figures on the top of the UFO for a considerable length of time. The humanoids had a, 'Sparkle effect,' that appeared to trace the outline of their bodies. The effect resulted in a type of halo, six to nine inches (15 to 23 cm) wide around their bodies and followed their movements. The central figure appeared to be doing something and one appeared to be looking at the witnesses on the ground. They appeared to be coming and going from the, 'Deck,' of the UFO.

On the following day, Gill and others, measured with a tape, on the field, a distance of 350 feet (105 metres), to where the UFO had been stationary in the sky.

McDonald asked Gill about the people who witnessed the sighting, Gill said that they were educated and partially educated natives, including a local named Steven Moi. There was also a teacher at another location who described a, 'Bright sixpence,' over the coastline with dots on it, on the night of their sighting.

Gill explained that a person had seen a stationary glowing object over Mount Nueva like a, 'Pressure lamp,' but none with what appeared to be humanoids. There was a glow reported by a trader on the same night as their sighting, the trader asked Gill if he had seen it.

There was also a report from a Government Patrol Officer who saw a bright light on the same night as their sighting. Gill said that the Patrol Office would not back up his sighting for fear of losing his job.

Gill claimed that he had been trying to find an explanation for his sighting and had read a few books on UFOs following this sighting. He decided that he was getting nowhere and tried to put it out of his mind, since it was turning into a futile academic and physiological exercise.

Gill mentioned that he had been interviewed by the *Post Magazine* and the *Brisbane Courier Mail Newspaper*.

Gill said that he is teaching History and English at Camberwell Grammar School, in Victoria, Australia and is the Junior School Chaplain. He submitted his resignation from the mission in New Guinea in October 1959 and returned to Australia. He added that he has eight children and needs a good income to provide for the family.

The report on the incident by Reverend Norman Crutwell was mentioned by Gill and suggested that McDonald visit Crutwell in New Guinea. McDonald claimed that his funds were limited and this would not permit him to visit New Guinea.

Gill said that the, 'Men in Canberra,' said that his sighting could have been a misinterpretation of the planets. Gill mentioned that they were facing west on the night of the sightings, and that Venus had disappeared from view before the sightings.

McDonald referred to a similar, 'Strange case,' that occurred in Kent, Ohio, USA, a month and a half earlier. A 22 year old person was driving a car and witnessed a lightning storm at 1.30 am. He then saw a cone shaped object on the side of the road and four to five glowing figures on the road. He thought he had hit one, he came to a stop and started to get out of the car but changed his mind. He saw the figures on the road behind the car as he departed. There was a dent in his car that could have been caused by hitting one of the figures.

McDonald also mentioned the well documented Hopkinsville encounter (1955) by a, 'Hill Billy family,' of small glowing creatures.

McDonald stated that, 'In the states there is still the same scoffing among scientists,' about the UFO phenomena. McDonald said that he had talked to staff at the Smithsonian Institute, Rand Corporation and Douglas Aircraft and been impressed by their interest in the subject of UFOs. McDonald was therefore hopeful of continued interest, and in his opinion, all the evidence points to it being extra-terrestrial and, 'From somewhere else.'

McDonald mentions his research on the 1896/1897, 'Airships,' from all over the USA that apparently displayed advanced technology, for the time, such as, 'Search lights.' A similar wave of sightings occurred in New Zealand in 1909. McDonald told Gill that this phenomenon has been reported throughout history and, 'Is much older.'

McDonald told Gill of the 1959 Moreland sighting that occurred in New Zealand. Mrs Moreland had been milking cows and saw a flying saucer like object hover over the peach trees on her property. Two humanoid figures could be seen inside the clear dome on the top of the saucer.

McDonald told Gill of the 1897 sighting in Leroy Kansas, USA by Alexander Hamilton, where an object was seen with, 'Six of the most hideous creatures looking down.' He added that National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) investigated this sighting

McDonald stated that, 'The problem is of enormous scope,' and that he had not done any cloud physics research for the last year while he was studying UFOs.

He added that he had talked to twenty scientific groups and had spoken at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) division of Radio Physics in Sydney yesterday, and is be speaking at the University of Melbourne tomorrow.

McDonald said that, 'In my University the Astronomers are down on this,' and 'These people have not looked at the facts.' McDonald added that, 'So I am doing everything I can to push this out in the open.'

Gill said that he walked 22 miles (35 kilometres) shortly after the sightings to get the Bishops Secretary to document his report, this journey took him 30 hours. Gill's thoughts at the time were, 'Let's get this down,' in a report.

Editor's note: This interview is predominately about Gill's famous 1959 UFO sightings and is interspersed with general discussion on subjects completely unrelated to UFOs. Coincidentally, this interview occurred almost exactly eight years after Gill's sightings New Guinea.

Reverend William B Gill, who was an Anglican priest with a mission in Boianai, Papua New Guinea, observed, with others, craft-like UFOs, one with what appeared to be humanoid figures, on the evenings of the 26 and 27 June 1959. Approximately twenty-five people, including teachers and medical technicians, also observed the phenomena. They 'signalled' to the humanoids and received an apparent response. This was one of many UFO sightings within a few weeks in New Guinea.

Gill documented the sightings with Reverend Norman Crutwell and subsequently the Australian media obtained these reports. After the reports were published, in August 1959, there was a media sensation, particularly in Australia.

This interview confirms Gill as an impressive and articulate witness, having a manner that lacks any perception or attempt of embellishment.

James McDonald Interviews Brian Kibel (Part 1)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T11S102/CD45

Date recorded: 28 June 1967

File Size: 20.8 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 21:37

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Brian Kibel (Part 1)

Sighting Date: 1956 (may have been 1953)

Sighting Time: Day

Location of Sighting: Near Kanangra Walls, near Oberon, New South Wales, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 45 seconds

Witness(es): Brian Johnson Kibel; and four other unidentified people

Summary:

Brian Kibel was in a remote area near Kanangra Walls, near Oberon, New South Wales. It was plateau country, where a road runs to an escarpment with a 300 metre cliff descending to a valley floor.

It was an overcast and cold day, with a low cloud ceiling only 30 metres above. He walked out to the edge of the escarpment and looked down to the valley floor. Straight down was what appeared to be a silver water tank on the valley floor. There was no road and trees were sparse. There were two to three moving objects observed. They were moving around what appeared to be the tank; 'Dots,' moving around.

Kibel walked back from the cliff edge, a distance of about 50 metres. He then heard a slight humming sound, like a dynamo running at medium pitch. As he turned around to face the cliff edge, he saw an object, rising from the valley to up above the edge of the cliff. It appeared to be six metres from the edge of the cliff and 50 metres from where he was standing. It was rising at a speed he estimated to be 30 km per hour.

The object looked like it had a satin like, stainless steel surface finish. In shape, it was like a squashed upside down light bulb with the socket facing the ground. It was inclined at a slight angle with vertical slots in a collar around the base. It came directly at him and he ran away, it then passed over him at about ten metres altitude. He was able at this point to get see the details of the underside of the object. He was then running for his life, and went into a bush to hide. He was able to look up into a hollow collar beneath the object and noticed a tube-like structure inside, he saw what looked like an inverted cup.

The object went on climbing and when it was about 80 metres away it moved into the clouds. The humming noise then diminished. When it passed over him there was no downdraft effect. He also noticed that there were three balls on the bottom of the object. He sketched this for James McDonald. He estimated size of the object to be 15 x 7 metres.

Features that Kibel noticed on the object; slight bump on top; metallic appearance; straight line surface feature; appeared to be seamless and two vertical lines around the base.

Later, in about 1962, Peter Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) did a recorded interview with Kibel.

Kibel had been about 17 or 18 years old at the time of the sighting.

Brian's address, at the time was, Flat 1/115 New South Head Road, Vaucluse, Sydney, New South Wales.

There were four others present who witnessed the object; a clergyman and three ladies from Sydney. They told Brian that they had seen it rise from the valley floor. They had been about 150 metres from him. Brian did not get their names. All the witnesses sketched the object.

The duration of the event had been about 45 seconds. The object had been going into the wind and the wind had been blowing in his face.

James McDonald's Thoughts on the Brian Kibel's UFO Sighting

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T11S103/CD45

Date Recorded: 28 June 1967

File Size: 5.9 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 6:27

Interview Details: James McDonald's comments on the meeting at the Anderson house, Melbourne, Australia

Summary:

McDonald states that this recording is about the evening of interviews at the Anderson house.

McDonald comments that Peter Norris and Jim Kibel have informed him that the number of UFO sightings in South Australia is very high. Colin Norris indicated that the per capita rate is higher in South Australia than any other state in Australia.

McDonald said he talked about the, 'Cover-up, versus foul-up, hypothesis,' with Kibel and Norris. McDonald thought that there must be some, 'Serious analysis of the problem,' in the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF). Apparently, McDonald was told that unidentified people were shown albums of high quality UFO photographs, that were, 'Of outstanding interest,' to the RAAF.

At the Anderson house, Jim Kibel had, 'Guardedly,' informed McDonald that there was a lot more evidence and that Kibel, 'Intimated that there must be some recognition of the dimensions of the problem within the RAAF.'

McDonald thought that there was a possibility that the RAAF are ahead of the US Airforce on UFO investigations, he commented that the RAAF appear to have taken a more serious approach. McDonald suggested that the RAAF may be, 'Puzzled by the American Airforce's stand on it,' and knowing that there is, 'Something more to it,' they could be, 'Stood off by the American Airforce's position.'

McDonald said he spoke to the group at the Anderson house for half an hour after he first talked to Reverend William Gill.

Jim Kibel took McDonald, 'Aside,' and suggested that he and McDonald could, 'Talk confidentially about some aspects to the problem.' McDonald thoughts were, 'Not sure what he had in mind.' McDonald thought that Kibel was guarded because he is in the Civil Defence and has obligations. Jim Kibel said to McDonald that he did not want his name mentioned to the public, and that Brian Kibel did not have any such reservations on being identified.

McDonald stated that they had organised, 'When and if,' to meet up with Jim Kibel and visit the site where Jim Kibel photographed a UFO at the, 'Balwyn site.' McDonald commented that, 'This seems like a very interesting one indeed,' referring to Jim Kibel's sighting.

Editor's note: The recording is a summary by McDonald, of the meeting at the Anderson house. It is apparent from the McDonald's dialogue, that, Peter Norris, Reverend William Gill, Jim Kibel and Brian Kibel were at the residence. There is likely to have been others including the Anderson family.

The claim that the frequency of UFO sightings, in South Australia, being above that reported in other states of Australia is speculation.

Apparently, Jim Kibel gave the impression that he had more information on UFOs that he was willing to disclose, confidentially, with McDonald.

James McDonald Interviews John Mc Cuckey

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T11S203/CD 45

Date Recorded: 29 June 1967 at Chelsea, Victoria, Australia

File Size: 15.1 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 16:30

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews John Mc Cuckey

Sighting Date: 10 April 1966 (Easter Monday)

Sighting Time: 11.30 am

Location of Sighting: Near Mount Cathedral, Taggerty, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 20 minutes

Witness(es): John Mc Cuckey, Douglas Kent and others

Summary:

John Mc Cuckey explained his sighting to McDonald. Fourteen people including friends and relatives were on holidays with Mc Cuckey, when two airborne objects were witnessed at 11.30 am, by Douglas Kent. Commercial jets were also seen traversing the sky throughout the day. The objects were near Mount Cathedral that is close to the town of Taggerty.

The objects were some distance away and the sky was clear and without clouds.

Mc Cuckey's first impression was that they were two weather balloons. When Mc Cuckey viewed the objects with binoculars he could see that they were spherical. He described a tail on each sphere as, 'Looking something like a shuttlecock,' and appeared to be, 'Feathery.' The metallic surface finish on the spheres was described as like an, 'Aluminium substance.' There were no markings on the objects. Apparently, the tails were not always visible. The objects were stationary for about 20 minutes, then one sphere disappeared at high speed, in a westerly direction and was lost from sight in a few seconds.

Mc Cuckey then said to McDonald that they went for lunch at about 12.15 pm, the remaining stationary object was still in the sky. They had been watching the objects for 20 minutes before lunch. When they returned from lunch the remaining object could not be seen, and obviously had moved away.

McDonald questioned Mc Cuckey for additional details, and he said that he was having difficulty remembering. Mc Cuckey estimated that when the two objects were visible they would have been six diameters apart and located at an elevation of 45 degrees. He added that the tails were one-third of the diameter long and it was easy to lose sight of the objects without using binoculars.

James McDonald Interviews Kerry Smith

Identification Code/CD Number: ST12S101/CD46

Date Recorded: 30 June 1967 at Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, Australia

File Size: 22.5 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 22:51

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Kerry Smith

Sighting Date: 30 March 1967

Sighting Time: 8.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Four and a half miles (seven kilometres) north east of Peterborough, South Australia

Duration of Sighting: Approximately five seconds (first encounter)

Witness(es): Kerry Smith and his brother Adrian

Summary:

Peter Norris organised for McDonald to speak to Kerry Smith by phone. The interview between McDonald and Smith was recorded while they were speaking on the telephone.

There were several UFO sightings reported during the interview.

The first sighting occurred on or near the 30 March 1967 while Kerry Smith and his brother were driving their *Holden* car approximately four and a half miles (seven kilometres) north-east from Peterborough. The car lost power at 8.30 pm and stopped. When they got out of the car to open the bonnet they noticed a sphere located 100 feet (30 metres) away in a paddock. The sphere went straight up and disappeared in seconds, it had what appeared to be a, 'Purple and blueish,' exhaust gas and no lights. After the sphere disappeared the engine on the car could be started.

They continued in the car and shot a rabbit and noticed a light in a creek bed, it was described as looking like a, 'Fluorescent light.' The light was about 100 yards (90 metres) away. The light was eight to twelve feet (two to four metres) off the ground and had a, 'Strong blueish cast.' The size of the light was estimated to be 100 feet (30 metres) long and five to eight feet (two metres) high. They observed the light for about 30 seconds and left.

During the return trip, they noticed another airborne object like a disc 15 to 20 feet (six metres) in diameter that had an exhaust of various colours. The car engine did not stop this time. The next day Smith returned to the site but could find no evidence of a landing site.

Smith reported that another person, named Bob, had an incident where his car stopped unexpectedly at Peterborough in the same week as their encounter.

Other reports of encounters with UFOs causing vehicles to malfunction were reported by Smith, however the descriptions were confusing to follow.

Editor's note: Kerry Smith's interview was confusing since the chronology and details of the sightings were not clearly distinguished. Consequently, McDonald had difficulty following the details of the sightings, while at the same time trying to make notes.

There is a reference to this sighting, dated 30 March 1967, in the Australian Flying Saucer Review (AFSR) ^[1], a Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) file ^[2] and an UFO Research (South Australia) Incorporated report (not cited).

There is also a report in a RAAF file ^[3] relating to a UFO sighting at Peterborough on the 3 April 1967, by Mr Pratt. This report may be unrelated to the sighting in this summary.

References:

1. Australian Flying Saucer Review (AFSR), Number 10 (1969). Fairy-Ring. p. 31
 2. RAAF, File 580/1/1 part 7. p. 142-143
 3. RAAF, File 580/1/1 part 7. p. 150-151
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James McDonald Interviews Andrew Van der Brink

Identification Code/CD Number 3T12S1203/CD46

Date Recorded: 30 June 1967

File Size: 32.1 MB

Interview Duration: (m:s): 33:25

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Adrian Van der Brink

Sighting Date: Could be the 8 or 9 May, the year was not identified in the audio recording

Sighting Time: 9.55 pm Central Standard Time (CST)

Location of Sighting: About 20 miles (32 km) south of Woomera, South Australia, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Ten seconds

Witness(es): Adrian Van der Brink

Summary:

Adrian was driving towards Woomera. At a location about 23 miles (37 km) south of Woomera, there is an area on the road where you can see the lights on a collimation tower, at Island Lagoon. This tower is illuminated with red and white lights.

Shortly after he saw an object between the tower and the line of the road. The object was to the left of the road. When the tower became visible he had slowed his vehicle to about 10 mph (15 km/hr). At this point an unusual light appeared on the horizon, rose vertically and then foreshortened. The light was like a fluorescent tube.

He had to bend down in his seat to keep the phenomenon visible through the front windscreen of this car. When it foreshortened it appeared to have stopped moving. It then shrank to a dot, and vanished. The total time for the observation was estimated to have been ten seconds.

His immediate thought, and indeed his thought at the interview, was that it had been a rocket launch from Woomera. The azimuth of the sighting from the place where he was, would have been in line with one of the firing ranges. However, Van der Brink stated that he had checked with a technician at Woomera, who advised him that there had been no launches at that time.

He had the impression that the light, which was blue/white in colour, became smaller, because it was receding. In angular size, its width, compared to the Moon may have been three minutes of arc. He estimated its length, as equal to that of a cigarette held at arm's length. It had a very steady motion and the angular elevation of the final dot, was estimated to be 45 degrees.

He was certain it had been a rocket launch, but no rockets had been launched at that time from Woomera.

James McDonald Interviews John Coyle

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T12S204/CD47

Date Recorded: 1 July 1967

File Size: 23.2 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 25:24

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews John Coyle and his sister regarding their photograph of a UFO. The second part of the audio is recorded in a car with other persons on an unidentified day, obviously after the 1 July 1967.

Sighting Date: 5 March 1967

Sighting Time: 5.30 to 5.45 pm

Location of Sighting: Melbourne, Australia, exact location not identified

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in audio recording

Witness(es): John Coyle (age 15) and his sister Miriam Coyle (age 13)

Summary:

McDonald asks questions to John Coyle and his sister, at their residence, regarding a UFO sighting that they witnessed and photographed. The sighting occurred in a paddock, about three quarters of a mile from their house (1.2 km). During the interview, McDonald was looking at the set of photographs.

Six photographs were taken of the UFO with an *Anny* analogue camera (Japanese manufacture). John explained that he purchased the camera in 1966, after being asked by McDonald. The reason for using the camera that day was that John wanted to use the remaining film in the camera before having the film winding mechanism repaired.

John and his sister, Miriam, were walking across a local paddock that was located about three quarters of a mile (1.2 km) from the train tracks. They were returning from filming trains when Miriam observed an object in the sky. Their distance from the object is not identified in the audio recording. They took six photographs, in quick succession, of the unidentified object. The order that they were taken was not known by them.

McDonald asked if John had the negatives, he replied, 'Yes.' McDonald said that the order that the photographs were taken could be determined from the shape of the cut edges on the negatives. McDonald suggested that they try to reassemble the negatives to determine the order in which they were taken.

The audio recording then jumps to what sounds like being in a car, John and Miriam are present, it is raining. McDonald had apparently driven a car to the location where the sighting had occurred. McDonald was using the images as a reference while trying to locate the exact location of the sighting. Comments relating to the possible locations in the paddock are heard while they are in the car. McDonald could not confirm the location, with certainty, using the trees in the photograph as a reference. There was joking and discussion in the car and it was obvious that McDonald was prepared to go out into the rain to get a better view. It is not confirmed if they could identify the exact sighting location.

The recording jumps to another day and McDonald is in a car with unidentified persons in Victoria. One of the others has an obvious American sounding accent. They were talking about various local sightings, the Moe and Taggerty, Victoria sightings were mentioned, including other sightings. They were also talking about power generation and the open cut coal mine at the Morwell Power Station in Victoria, possibly referring to a UFO sighting at this location.

McDonald mentioned the flying disc that was photographed, in Brazil, and the investigation of the photograph by Phil Hardman. McDonald said that there were, 'Suspicious features about the light and shadow pattern on that set of photos; they don't seem to match.' McDonald made the comment that there were five photographs in the series that were taken in Brazil.

McDonald made the criticism that images were published, 'Indiscriminately,' in the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) Bulletin.

Editor's note: The unidentified person with the American accent in the car with McDonald is Paul Norman, who is a member of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS). Apparently, Paul hosted McDonald's visit to Australia in 1967.

James McDonald comments on this case, in the audio recording, identified 3T14S205/CD49 in this summary collection.

The sighting occurred in Hallam, Victoria.

James McDonald Interviews Charles Brew

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T13S101/CD48

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 33.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 34:25

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Charles Brew

Sighting Date: Not stated during the interview. Known by editor to be the 15 February 1963

Sighting Time: 7 am

Location of Sighting: Moe, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 15 to 16 seconds

Witness(es): Charles Brew, and his son Trevor, who heard the sound but did not see the object

Summary:

This recording was made on Brew's property. The recording starts with McDonald apparently consulting a sketch and referring to a, 'Rocky outcrop,' on the property. Brew then indicates the location of the outcrop. He comments that the object appeared on an overcast, and raining morning when he and his son were milking the cows. The cloud base was low.

Brew looked out of the shed when he saw an object coming out of the heavy cloud. He commented to his son that it looked like a flying saucer. It moved across the sky and then hovered just above a large tree, at an estimated height of 40 feet (12 metres), for a period of eight to ten seconds, then went off to the west into the clouds and was lost from view. The duration of the sighting was estimated to be 15 to 16 seconds. He estimated that the distance to the tree, above which it had hovered, was 75 to 80 yards (70 to 75 metres).

The time of the sighting was about 7 am. There were no lights on the object and it was not glowing. There was a, 'Whirring noise.' When it took off it made a different noise, that Brew and his son said sounded like, 'A lump of wood being swung around in the breeze.' There was discussion about exactly what this sounded like, and reference made to the sound made by an, Aboriginal Didgeridoo, it is unclear from the interview if Brew and his son agreed on the sound comparison.

Brew stated that his cows were affected by the object. Half of the cows started off in one direction, the rest went the other way. He said that the cows responded about five to six seconds after he first saw the object.

McDonald asked about the cows being affected, and Brew said that there were 40 cows milked, ten in the stall, and 30 waiting in a yard to be milked. It was the first batch of 40 cows that had run off, to the north. There had been a ten percent drop off in milk production in the week following the sighting.

The object, when hovering, had been at tree top height and then shot off. His son, Trevor had heard the sound. When the object was hovering, he noted that its underneath was slowly rotating. He described the object as being like a coloured, toy spinning top, but slightly flatter.

McDonald then spoke to the son about the noise. He said it was not like an engine, but like a ruler in the wind. There was discussion about what this sounded like, Trevor said it was difficult to describe accurately. Brew said that around the bottom of the object there were something like holes, little hooks or scoops. It was turning slowly. Asked to estimate its rate of rotation, he guessed about one revolution per second. It was revolving anti-clockwise, as seen from his location. The object took off at a steep angle, it had also descended at a steep angle, out of the clouds.

He said that for the rest of the day, and most of the next day, he had a headache. There were no other physiological effects. Trevor did not get a headache.

There were no other known witnesses. Jack Williams was their nearest neighbour.

Asked about other sightings, he said that Len Roswell at Willow Grove, three years previously, had seen an object while he was carting hay, in the western sky. The object appeared big and long, shaped like a, 'German sausage.'

Brew revealed that he thought he may have seen two humanoid figures in the top, transparent area of the object. He was not sure about this, and therefore he did not mention this until McDonald asked if there were any other points about the sighting which he wished to mention. He said this was something like the sighting by a Mrs Moreland in New Zealand. Brew revealed that about six months after his sighting, Mrs Moreland had written to him

Asked about any other sighting, Brew stated that a friend of his, Ron Dent, had seen a flying saucer.

Discussion in Car About the Charles Brew's UFO Sighting

Identification Code/CD: 3T13S102/CD48

Date Recorded: 1 July 1967

File Size: 2.1 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 2:10

Interview Details: Discussion regarding the Charles Brew sighting

Sighting Date: 15 February 1963

Sighting Time: 7 am

Location of Sighting: Moe, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 15 to 16 seconds

Witness(es): Charles Brew

Summary:

McDonald comments that Brew found an unusual looking rock buried on his property. Discussion amongst people in the car ends by concluding that, Dr Berson suggested, 'Brew dig around.' Brew then came up with a football shaped black coloured rock.

Someone in the car commented that, 'It had coloured patterns inside it.' Another person states that it is in the possession of a person named Giles.

Editor's note: This recording is a very short discussion between McDonald and members of Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) as they drove back from Charles Brew's property.

Geoff Rumpf Interviews Robert Preston

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S102/CD49

Date Recorded: Not identified in recording

File Size: 9.12 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 9:57

Interview Details: Geoff Rumpf, a member of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS), interviews witnesses of a UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 12 June 1964

Sighting Time: 5.55 pm

Location of Sighting: Hallam, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Approximately ten minutes

Witness(es): Robert Preston, Janette Stevenson, Dorothy Merford and another unidentified person.

Summary:

This audio tape recording by Geoff Rumpf was re-recorded by McDonald.

On the 12 June 1964 Robert Preston (19 years old) was driving a car with the Jannette Stevenson (17 years old) and Dorothy Merford (17 years old). They were travelling from Dandenong to Belgrave South when they witnessed an object in the sky at 5.55 pm. An unidentified friend was travelling behind them in another car, this person also saw the object. Robert was identified by Rumpf, as residing at Hallam Road, South Belgrave.

Rumpf asked Robert, who was in the first car, where the sighting occurred, Robert stated that he was driving along Hallam Road, in the centre of Hallam, when he, 'First noticed it.' Robert stated that his passenger, Jannette Stevenson saw the object first. He pulled over to the side of the road to get a better view of the object.

Robert explained to Rumpf that the object appeared to be hovering, at approximately, an angle of forty degrees, relative to ground level. They watched the object for ten minutes when, 'All of a sudden, it took off at great speed.' The object was described, by Robert as travelling south, towards Melbourne and being flat. Robert said that it 'Looked like a coin turned on its end,' with 'An extremely brilliant light on the front of it,' and, 'A pale yellowish/white one on the rear.' Robert explained, after being asked by Rumpf, that the lights did not change colour and there was no associated interference with the car ignition or radio. No noise could be heard coming from the object.

The person in the car that was following only noticed the light in the sky.

Rumpf confirmed that Robert had not been contacted by the Government or Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) about this sighting.

On the following day Rumpf interviewed Janette Stevenson, who was the first person to see the object. Janette was identified as residing at Emerald Road, Narre Warren North, Victoria. She explained that they were almost at the corner of Hallam Road, Hallam when she noticed a red light in the sky. Janette explained that the light appeared to be glowing more than any other star, and that it appeared to be stationary. After she drew Robert's attention to the object, he pulled over to the side of the road and stopped the car. Janette then lowered the car window to get a better view. She estimated the object was as big as a plane, noiseless and located approximately half a mile away (800 metres).

She could not see the shape of the object. Then the object, after appearing to be stationary, moved in front of the car and went in a westerly direction, towards Melbourne.

Rumpf confirmed that Janette had correctly reported the trajectory of the object, Robert reported, incorrectly, that he first saw the object in an easterly direction. Rumpf said that in the sighting report, Janette identified the object as being slightly dome shaped on top. Rumpf identified the other witness in the car with Robert and Janette as Dorothy Merford (age 17) who resided in Courtneys Road, South Belgrave, Victoria. The car following behind passed the first car when it stopped, and then continued without stopping.

Editor's note: The spelling of the witnesses' names has been determined from the pronunciation in the recording.

McDonald interviewed Robert Preston with Geoff Rumpf on the 2 July 1967, this audio recording is identified 3T14S202/CD49 and included in the summaries.

In this interview, Robert claims that there were three passengers in the car he was driving, and not two as claimed by Rumpf, in this interview. Additionally, the other car, that was following, was not mentioned. Some other details of the sighting are different.

Allen Davies UFO Sighting as Told by Paul Norman

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S201/CD49

Date Recorded: 2 July 1967

File Size: 5.18 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 5:39

Interview Details: Paul Norman from the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) describes the Allen Davies incident to James McDonald

Sighting Date: At least a year before 2 July 1967

Sighting Time: Night

Location of Sighting: Traralgon, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in audio recording

Witness(es): Allen Davies

Summary:

McDonald recorded Paul Norman speaking about the report by Allen Davies while they were on their way back to Melbourne. Norman had spoken to Davies on the phone sometime prior to this interview.

Paul Norman reported that neighbours of Allen Davies saw an aerial object in his suburb at night, Davies did not see the object. On the night of the sighting the lights in Davies' house, 'Dimmed.'

The next morning Davies noticed a four feet (approximately one metre) diameter circular depression in the grass at his home. The location was described by Norman as, 'In his garden at the back.' Norman said that Davies' cat avoided the area and if carried into the area it would jump away.

Norman commented that it was, 'About the same size as the impression up at Maryborough.' Norman explained that this was, 'The Sullivan case,' when asked by McDonald.

Norman did not know the exact time of this event, and said that it occurred, 'Over a year ago.' Norman said that, at the time, there was a picture of the depression in the paper. The location of the sighting was identified as Traralgon.

James McDonald Interviews Robert Preston

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S202/CD49

Date Recorded: 2 July 1967

File Size: 22.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 24:30

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Robert Preston regarding his UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 12 June 1964

Sighting Time: 6.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Hallam, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Estimated to be seven minutes

Witness(es): Robert Preston, Janette Stevenson and two other unidentified passengers in the car

Summary:

On the 12 June 1964, Robert Preston was driving his car north on Hallam Road, Hallam when he noticed a bright orange light in the sky. The time was approximately 6.30 pm and it was on dusk. He had three passengers in the car. Robert was returning home to South Belgrave. The bright orange light was described as, 'In the westerly direction above us,' and on the eastern side of the car.

Robert said that he saw the light first then one of the other passengers noticed the light. Robert claimed that the light was so bright that they stopped the car in Hallam Road, Hallam and got out to get a better view, at this stage it appeared to be stationary. They could not see any stars because of the twilight, there were no clouds. The light was bigger and brighter than a star.

McDonald asked Robert what was the relative angular size of the light and he replied about twice the size of the moon. The light/object was described as having a dim white light on the front and an orange light on the rear. The object was estimated to be elevated at twenty degrees relative to ground level and approximately 800 feet (240 metres) from Robert.

After getting out of the car they watched the object for two to three minutes then, 'All of a sudden, it took off,' in a westerly direction. The lights did not change in colour or intensity during the acceleration. The object stopped again after travelling about a mile (two kilometres) and then took off over the horizon towards Melbourne. The completed sighting lasted for five to seven minutes.

When driving along the Princes Highway, Robert first noticed the light and thought it was a *Shell* service station sign. When they turned into Hallam Road, Hallam it became obvious that the light was in the sky. Then Janette who was one of the passengers in the car noticed the light and pointed it to the others.

No structure could be observed where the lights were located. And at no time could they hear any sound associated with the object.

Robert mentioned another sighting he had witnessed; this was described as like a bright star that moved in the sky.

Robert told McDonald that he did not report the sighting at Hallam to the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF). He finally added that the local newspaper in Belgrave published an editorial on the sighting and that the artist's drawing was incorrect since it showed the object as cigar like, in shape.

Editor's note: Geoff Rumpf had previously interviewed Robert Preston about this sighting. This audio recording is identified 3T14S102/CD49 and is included in the summaries.

Some of the details of the sighting, described by Rumpf, vary to that described by the witness, Robert Preston in this audio recording.

Geoff Rumpf Interviews R V Pollard

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S203/CD49

Date Recorded: Unknown but re-recorded by McDonald on 3 July 1967 at 0.30 am

File Size: 8.20 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:57

Interview Details: Geoff Rumpf interviews RV Pollard regarding his UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 10 July 1964

Sighting Time: 3.15 am

Location of Sighting: Tintinara, South Australia

Duration of Sighting: A few minutes

Witness(es): Mr Pollard and four others that were not unidentified

Summary:

This audio tape recording was copied by McDonald on the 3 July 1967 from Rumpf's recording of the interview with Mr Pollard. Mr Pollard was identified by Rumpf as residing at Breakwater Road, East Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

Mr Pollard had been returning to Victoria, by car, after a trip to South Australia on the 10 July 1964. At a location, approximately three miles (five km) past Tintinara, on the Adelaide side of the highway one of the passengers noticed a light behind the car at 3.15 am. Pollard commented that, 'There was something coming down the road towards the car at a height of 50 feet (15 metres).'

By this time, the others in the car were alerted to the presence of the light. They could see an object, that was, 'Cylindrical in shape and bluish in colour.'

As the object go closer to the car they could see on the cylinder, 'Two little lights approximately eight feet (two metres) apart.' The cylinder was described by Pollard as being saucer shaped, when it got closer.

The night was described as dark and windy. There were five people in the car, including Mr Pollard. The height of the object was described as just above the highway light pole wires and therefore approximately 30 feet (nine metres) high.

The object approached from the left side of the car and followed the road up to the car, then proceeded directly over the car, before they stopped the car. Pollard then stopped the car, and they all got out to find that the object could not be seen. There was also no sound that may indicate the presence of the object. There was no interference with the car's ignition during the encounter, the car did not have a radio, so radio interference could not be confirmed.

Pollard described the object as being saucer shaped, with what appeared to be two windows or portholes. A yellowish colour could be seen through the portholes. The saucer was estimated to be 12 to 15 feet (four to five metres) in diameter. The surface finish appeared to be metallic, without protuberances.

The object was first noticed coming from over the trees on the side of the road 50 yards (45 metres) behind the car.

The flight characteristics of the object were described by Pollard as like, 'Gliding.' Pollard immediately stopped the car when the object moved over the car. Their initial thoughts were that the object may have been a helicopter but they thought this was unlikely as they had heard nothing. After they stopped the car and got out they started to feel scared and returned to the car and proceed driving back to Victoria.

The size of the, 'Portholes,' on the object were described by Pollard as being twelve by eight inches (300 to 200 mm). The light emanating from the portholes was described as, 'Quite yellowish, similar to a fog light on a motor car.' The object had no illumination or glow except for the two lights.

Editor's note: During the dialogue Rumpf refers to Pollard having the initials VR before his surname. Therefore, his name may be VR Pollard instead of RV Pollard as identified by McDonald.

Geoff Rumpf Interviews Lloyd Baker

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S204/CD49

Date Recorded: Not identified in audio recording

File Size: 10.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 11:24

Interview Details: Geoff Rumpf interviews Lloyd Baker regarding his UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 4 March (year not identified in audio recording, likely to be between 1964 and 1967)

Sighting Time: 3 am

Location of Sighting: Near Avalon, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Between one and two hours

Witness(es): Lloyd Baker and an unidentified person

Summary:

This audio recording between Rumpf and Baker is a re-recording by McDonald.

Lloyd Baker was approaching, in a car, the turn off to Werribee, a few miles (three kilometres) past Avalon when he first noticed a light, seen through trees. Lloyd's initial thoughts were that the light was a Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) pylon light. Lloyd's described why his attention was drawn to the light, 'I have never seen a light like it, was such a huge light.' The time was, 'Just after,' 3 am and there were a few stars visible in the dark sky.

The light was described, by Lloyd, as large and bright, 'Like looking into a search light, at very close range,' and having a 'Molten appearance.' There appeared to be two lights.

Lloyd was driving to Melbourne and the light was behind his car, and he was turning frequently, trying to identify the source of the light

The light appeared to be stationary, then started to, 'Rise very rapidly into the sky,' going east, towards Melbourne, then south east and, 'Skirted,' Melbourne. Following this the light moved east over the Dandenong ranges, the light then appeared to be stationary again.

The light was described as easy to see and a, 'Well defined object.' The appearance was described as, 'More like an apple with what appeared to be antenna, from the top, where the stalk would normally be, five of these antenna, the main one, with four others, branching off.'

Lloyd continued with the description of the object, in detail, 'The two top ones were slightly bent,' with further description, 'The one on the right-hand side was petal shaped with a spooning effect towards the end,' and, 'The two at the base, one was a stubby one, that was on the right-hand side.' He added, 'The one on the left-hand side was twice as long, possibly three times as long, and glowed a reddish colour.' The glow was described as intermittent, 'Like a stick taken out of a fire at night time.'

Additionally, the object had what looked like a, 'Hatchway,' and this was, 'Distinctly visible.'

Lloyd said that when the object got to the Dandenong Ranges it appeared smaller but still quite visible, appearing to be the size of a cricket ball and that the antennas were visible.

While over the Dandenong's the object, 'Emitted, from the hatchway a pinkish type bubble,' this bubble grew to the size of the object, then after a few seconds, disappeared.

When the object was in flight it appeared to be surrounded by an elliptical belt of white light, described by Lloyd as, 'Like snow on a television screen,' and he added that, 'This belt of light was not as bright as the object.'

No sound was heard from the object, although it may have been too far away to confirm.

The object was described as larger than any conventional aircraft and, 'As large a city building.'

When Lloyd first sighted the object, it may have been 100 to 150 feet (30 to 45 metres) off the ground, and no more than a mile (approximately two kilometres) high, at any stage.

Lloyd was so excited he stopped his car at, South Box Hill, and asked a butcher to come out of his shop to witness and confirm the sighting. Lloyd said that the butcher stated, 'That he never thought he would live to see anything like it.'

Lloyd noticed an aircraft in the sky at the time. The aircraft was located a few miles (three kilometres) on the Laverton side of Melbourne, he added that the aircraft may have been military and appeared to be heading in the direction of the object.

Lloyd said that others, on his behalf, contacted the RAAF about this sighting. The RAAF said that they had no knowledge of any unusual sightings that night.

Lloyd stated his occupation as a journalist.

James McDonald Comments on the John Coyle Case

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T14S205/CD49

Date Recorded: 3 July 1967

File Size: 4.03 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 4:24

Interview Details: James McDonald comments on the John and Miriam Coyle UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 5 March 1967

Sighting Time: about 5.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Hallam, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Several minutes

Witness(es): John Coyle (age 15) and his Miriam (age 13)

Summary:

McDonald comments about the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) report on the sighting by John and Miriam Coyle. McDonald is at the Southern Cross Hotel, in Melbourne.

John and Miriam are identified as residing at, 27 Alexander Street, Hallam, Victoria.

At about 5.30 pm they were heading across a paddock towards old Hallam school when Miriam saw, 'What she first thought was a fast aircraft.' John thought that the object was a UFO and started taking photographs of the object. The object was moving around them in a circle for a period of two and a half minutes.

McDonald commented that John purchased the camera at *Coles*, for 95 cents or a dollar.

The UFO was described as, 'Circling around at almost stalling speed,' and would have crashed if it was an aircraft.

The object was described as making no sound, silver in colour and shaped like a disc. The weather was cloudy and cold.

The object was below the cloud level and had a relative size, equivalent to, a five cent piece held at arm's length.

There were no trees in the paddock therefore the comparative height of the object could not be estimated.

McDonald said that John turned 15 years old on the 24 January 1967, Miriam was 13 years old.

John thought that the object was a UFO, however Miriam, did not believe in the existence of UFOs and therefore doubted John's claim.

McDonald said that Miriam described the object as, 'Looked like a silver disc with a slight rise on the top.'

The object was moving in circles around John and Miriam, each orbit took about two and a half minutes. Following several orbits the object slowed down, moved closer to them and then moved away, to the west and over the horizon.

Mrs Coyle who was John and Miriam's mother, said that John came home very excited after the sighting. McDonald stated that he said, 'Mum we saw a flying saucer.'

The black and white film from John's camera was taken to the Mc Kean's Pharmacy, at Dandenong for development into photographs. The head of the camera department at the Pharmacy was Mr Williams.

Editor's note: The interview with John and Miriam Coyle was recorded by McDonald and is identified 3T12S204/CD47. This recording is included in this series of summaries.

James McDonald Interviews Francis Pearman

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T15S101/CD50

Date Recorded: 3 July 1967 at 11.35 am

File Size: 16.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 17:28

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Francis Pearman regarding her UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 16 August 1965

Sighting Time: 6 pm to 7 pm

Location of Sighting: Warburton, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Six to seven minutes

Witness(es): Francis Pearman (73 years old at time of interview)

Summary:

Francis Pearman is identified, by McDonald, as residing at Box 26 Main Road, Warburton.

The UFO sighting occurred on the 16 August 1965 when Francis Pearman observed a light from her property at Warburton. The sighting occurred at between six and seven at night. The sky was free of clouds.

Francis was taking the dog outside, as she did most nights, when she noticed a light, described by her as, 'I've never seen a light like that one,' and, 'A most peculiar light.' When being asked by McDonald to precisely describe the light she had difficulty putting this into words. McDonald said, to assist with the description of the light, 'Light was coming out through a shell or covering,' she agreed that this was a suitable analogy.

The shape of the UFO was described by Francis as, 'Flattish saucer shape thing,' and having a slightly raised section on top. He also said that the light was a, 'Twinkling kind of light,' and that, 'The whole thing radiated this light.' McDonald said that the colour of the light was yellowish/red.

The location of the UFO appeared to be in the valley viewed from the back of her house. The UFO appeared to be hovering at tree top height during the six to seven minute observation, and then vanished from view. The size of the UFO appeared to be the size of a full moon.

Francis was certain that the UFO was not an aircraft and it was close enough to confirm that it was not a helicopter. The distance to the UFO was estimated to be two to three miles (three to five kilometres).

Francis claimed that her neighbours were sceptical of her sighting.

A person from the local paper interviewed Francis about this sighting, and that she was informed that there was another report of a light being sighted in Wandin, at noon, on the same day.

McDonald asked Francis to sketch the UFO and then they went outside the house to view where the UFO had been seen.

Editor's note: Francis Pearman's address is identified as Main Road, Warburton. There appears to be no Main Road in Warburton and it is likely that the Main Road is the Warburton Highway. This is the main road into the town.

James McDonald Interviews Donald Barnes

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T15S102/CD50

Date Recorded: 1.35 pm at Seville. The date was not identified in audio recording.

File Size: 20.2 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 22:03

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Donald A Barnes regarding his UFO sighting

Sighting Date: 25 May 1965

Sighting Time: 3 to 3.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Gruyere, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 10 to 15 seconds

Witness(es): Donald A Barnes, Fred Jacobs and Johnny Burgi

Summary:

On the 25 May 1965, Donald A Barnes, Fred Jacobs and Johnny Burgi were pruning peach trees when Fred noticed an unusual object in the sky. The object had come from behind the Steele Ranges, that were in an easterly direction from their location. The time was between three and three thirty pm and the sky was cloudy, it had been raining in the morning. The object appeared to be moving south along the Yarra Valley.

The orchard was owned by Johnny Burgi.

Donald was on a ladder when Fred drew their attention to the object. Donald said that the object had been moving horizontally, as fast as a jet, below cloud level. The shape was described by Donald as circular with a dome on the top with a, 'Silvery,' colour. The bottom of the object was flat and its appearance was described as, 'Hazy.' The distance to the object was estimated to be three miles (five kilometres).

The sighting lasted for 10 to 15 seconds and the object was not seen again after it passed behind trees on a ridge.

Donald was 17 years old at the time of the sighting and 19 years old at the time of the interview with McDonald.

When Donald first sighted the object, he thought it was a, 'Flying saucer.'

Another person reported the sighting to the *Lilydale Express*, and subsequently Donald was interviewed for an article in this newspaper. The Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) found out about this sighting through this newspaper article.

Editor's note: The Steele Range identified in the audio recording could not be located on a map of the area.

James McDonald Interviews Janette Stephenson

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T15S104/CD50

Date Recorded: Not identified in audio recording

File Size: 7.46 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:09

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Janette Stephenson, via telephone, regarding her UFO sighting

Sighting Date: Not identified in audio recording

Sighting Time: Not identified in audio recording

Location of Sighting: Hallam, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Seven minutes

Witness(es): Janette Preston, Robert Preston and an unidentified woman

Summary:

Janette Stephenson was a passenger in the front seat of a car, driven by Robert Preston when they noticed a, 'Bright red light straight ahead of us.' There was another unidentified woman was in the car.

They were travelling to Hallam. They initially thought the light may have been a light on a tower or an aircraft but when it got closer they realised it was something else.

When they turned into Hallam Road the light was positioned behind the car. In Hallam Road, the light appeared to be in front of the car, about two miles away (three kilometres), on the right-hand side. At this point they stopped the car and wound the car window down, but did not get out of the car. No noise could be heard from the light. The light then, 'Turned right angles, on our right, and went over towards Melbourne.'

The light was described by Janette as being shaped, 'Long and raised,' appearing circular, with a red glow at one end and a lighter glow at the other end. She also described it as having the appearance of a, 'Saucer upside down on a table,' and having a flat surface on the bottom.

The light was out of sight in about 30 seconds after they had stopped the car.

Janette had difficulty in estimating the size of the light/object, commenting that it appeared to be bigger than a helicopter.

James McDonald Interviews Kit Francis Williams

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T16S1/CD51

Date Recorded: 10 pm on 3 July 1967 at Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne

File Size: 53.7 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 58:42

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Kit Francis Williams regarding his sighting during a World War 2, Lancaster bomber flight over Germany

Sighting Date: 25 April 1945

Sighting Time: 9.45 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Location of Sighting: Near Kaiserslautern, Germany

Duration of Sighting: Probably a second

Witness(es): Kit Francis Williams (pilot) witnessed the sighting of a UFO. There were six other flight crew in the Lancaster during the incident.

Summary:

At the time of the sighting Kit Francis Williams was an Acting Squadron Leader in the Royal Airforce (RAF), England. Kit was in the 617 Bomber Squadron based at Woodall Spa, East Lincolnshire, England.

The sighting occurred on the 25 April 1945 while on a bombing mission for Bomber Command's Special Duties Squadron. Kit was the pilot of the *Avro Lancaster* bomber, that was in the position of the wing finder toe in the flight group. This was the final bombing mission in Germany by the RAF in the Second World War. The mission comprised 25 to 26 aircraft, and had been tasked to bomb, 'Hitler's hideout, Berchtesgaden.'

The UFO incident occurred at 9.45 GMT just after a turn near Kaiserslautern, Germany on the final approach to Berchtesgaden. The *Lancaster* was at an altitude of 16,500 feet (5030 metres), the sky was clear below and there was a solid cloud cover at 18,500 feet (5640 metres). The nearest aircraft would have been two miles (three kilometres) to the port. The main bomber group, referred to as the, 'Gaggle' would have been ten to fifteen miles (16 to 24 kilometres) behind.

Kit, who was the pilot, witnessed, without warning, what he described as, 'Like a great blanket, a woolly blanket,' that may have been four to five miles wide (six to eight kilometres). Kit explained that it, 'Seemed to fill the whole of the windscreen,' of the aircraft and that its colour was grey/brown like, 'An old army type blanket.'

The object appeared to be moving in the vertical direction past the windscreen of the aircraft, and was gone, 'In an instant.'

Immediately following this sighting, the only bomb in the aircraft broke loose, from its mounting, and, 'Crashed,' through the bomb bay door and out of the aircraft. The bomb was a 12,000 pound (5443 kilograms) armour piercing type, known as a, 'Tallboy.' Kit could hear and feel the vibration of the bomb crashing through the bomb bay doors.

At the same time as the bomb loss, the electrical power in the aircraft failed. This resulted in the four propeller engines losing power and therefore the aircraft could not be properly trimmed from the lift caused by the bomb's weight loss.

All four engine revolution counters started to drop and all other electrically powered instruments ceased to function. Kit said during the interview that it was, 'Obvious that my electrics had gone,' and they were losing height.

The emergency action plan was commenced where the inboard port engine was, 'Feathered,' the other three engines continued, 'Windmilling.' The, 'Feathered,' engine was locked in its starting position and then started using the backup battery power system. The three other engines were successfully started using the same technique, since, 'Windmilling,' engines could not be started without first being, 'Feathered.' The aircraft had dropped 4000 feet (1220 metres) to an altitude of 12,000 feet (3658 metres) due to the power loss.

At the same time as Kit was working on starting the first engine when he, 'Thought he had hit his head on something,' and a, 'Sudden sensation of a pounding headache,' this sensation continued.

Due to the damage caused by the detached bomb, the bomb bay door could not be closed, apart from that there appeared to be no other damage to the aircraft. The other aircraft in the group continued with their bombing mission. Kit's aircraft returned to the base in England, since they were now without a bomb.

An aircraft in the group apparently saw the bomb being dropped from Kit's aircraft and its loss of altitude, they did not see anything else, such as, the unidentified object seen by Kit.

Since the headache occurred, Kit was having difficulty getting his reflexes working normally and having to think about an action before its execution. Kit noticed that the Engineer and the Bomber appeared to be having the same experience, of a headache. Kit commented that the Bomber, 'Gave the impression that someone had walked up behind him, and slapped him hard, between the shoulder blades,' adding that the Engineer had the same expression. After talking to all the crew he confirmed that they all had the same type of headache. The headaches were so debilitating that they were all taking a variety of pain relief medication that were in the emergency kits in the aircraft.

Because of the condition caused by the headache, Kit had not been able to land the aircraft successfully and ran off the runway at the end, and onto a grass verge.

After landing their *Lancaster* in England, an ambulance was waiting for them.

At the time of the incident, Kit was 19 years old, the eldest of the flight crew, the Navigator, was 26 years old.

Kit told McDonald that after landing the crew and himself were taken for medical treatment and interrogation, over a period of eleven days. They were first transferred to the base hospital then to Wokingham, England. Following this, to the 'Guinea Pigs,' hospital at Rauceby RAF, where all the medical specialists were located. They were finally moved to High Wycombe, Bomber Command headquarters and then to the MI9 Enemy Intelligence and Interrogation Centre. The medical treatment consisted of various tests and the taking of medications to mitigate the headache, none of these treatments were successful. Kit commented that he was in a poor state of health because of the incident.

Kit said on the eleventh day is, 'When the headache dispersed.' Kit had found out that all the air crew, except the rear gunner, had ceased having headaches on the same day, within 12 hours of each other. The Rear Gunner took three weeks for the headache to dissipate.

The seven crew in the *Lancaster* were all different physical builds, and apparently that they were all equally affected by the headache. Kit commented to McDonald that he suspected that the unidentified object had caused the power loss in the aircraft, the headaches and loss of physical co-ordination.

Kit explained to McDonald that he knew of a similar event that occurred just after Christmas 1944 when a *Hawker Tempest*, piloted by John Dunk, lost power over the English Channel. The pilot had bailed out of the aircraft. Another similar event occurred in Nine Squadron during August 1944, when an aircraft lost power and the crew bailed out in the same area as Kit had lost power.

Kit claimed that there were other bomber crews at High Wycombe Bomber Command, at the same time he was there. He noticed that these crews were taken to the same sections in the Command buildings and he therefore speculated that they may have been there because they had similar experiences while flying.

Kit witnesses one other sighting on the 1 January 1955 in the central highlands of Malaysia. He, 'Was advised that there was a peculiar aircraft flying around the area.' Therefore, he climbed, with others, at 'Frasers Hill,' to observe the unidentified object. He was the Field Security Officer. He did not initially notice anything, but the Tamil who had seen the object previously, climbed a tree to get a better view. Kit said that the Tamil, 'Right out of the blue he started screaming has head off,' and came down the tree to point, and he observed, 'There was a puff, looked like a puff of green like smoke, like you would see from a smoke bomb.' The, 'Puff,' was six to seven hundred feet (180 to 210 metres) above the tops of the mountains. As it expanded Kit took several photographs until it dispersed over a period of six or seven minutes. The colour of the, 'Puff,' was described by Kit as being, 'Bright sea green.' Apparently, the Tamil has seen a flash of light before the, 'Puff.' At that time, he had the same feeling that the headache may reoccur, like the one he had in 1945. This discomfort lasted for about an hour and then dissipated. The Tamil had previously sighted the, 'Peculiar aircraft,' and described it as being like a flat shiny ball and without any noise.

Kit told McDonald that he resided at, Ortolan Avenue, Broadmeadows, Victoria. His telephone number was 309 2468.

Kit said that he had no lasting disability because of the incident in 1944. After leaving the hospital he commenced flying two weeks later with a doctor and another pilot on board to assess his ability for flying. He later joined the Tiger Force, in Burma, and after that he worked at London University. He went to Japan after their surrender, at the end of the Second World War, and eventually moved to Australia.

When he had the second headache in 1955 he, 'Had the impression that one was around,' referring to the unidentified object.

Kit thought, at the meetings with other air crew, that talk of UFO activity is, 'Conspicuous by absence.' He also claimed that religious people are not comfortable with discussing the reality of UFOs.

Editor's note: This is a compelling report for several reasons. This incident occurred before Kenneth Arnold's sighting of UFOs on the 24 June 1947, the first post War sighting in the USA and credited with being the first of the modern era of UFO sightings. The other significant aspect to this report is that the proximity of the UFO may have caused the electrical failure in the Lancaster bomber, and the consequential, identical physiological effects on all seven, flight crew.

The Lancaster bomber normally had a crew of seven; the pilot, flight engineer, navigator, wireless (radio) operator, bomb aimer/front gunner, mid-upper gunner, and rear gunner.

Hitler's mountain retreat and headquarters, known as the Berghof, was in the Obersalzberg region, of the Bavarian Alps, Germany, near the town of Berchtesgaden.

An internet search confirmed that on 25 April 1945, the British bombed this area, see <http://www.scrapbookpages.com/EaglesNest/Berghof.html>.

Peter E Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) was with McDonald when this audio recording was made.

James McDonald Interviews Judith Magee

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T16S202/CD51

Date Recorded: 2.30 pm on the 4 July 1967 at Judith Magee's residence in Brighton, Victoria, Australia.

File Size: 10.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 11:27

Interview Details: Judith Magee describes three UFO sightings

Sighting Date: The first occurred on 8 March 1962, no exact date was known for the other sightings

Sighting Time: One sighting occurred at 6.45 pm, another at 9.30 pm and no time was identified for the third sighting

Location of Sighting: The first sighting occurred at Brighton, Victoria, Australia, the location of the other sightings was not identified

Duration of Sighting: First sighting was 15 to 20 minutes, no time was identified for the other sightings

Witness(es): Judith Magee

Summary:

Judith Magee was in her backyard on the 8 March 1962 when she noticed a stationary light in the sky. The time was 6.45 pm, at sunset. Judith initially thought the light may have been Venus, as it was the same size, but excluded this, since the planets were in conjunction, and the light was in the wrong position to be Venus.

She went inside the house and get the 12 x 50 binoculars. Judith described the light, viewed through the binoculars, as having a, 'Saturn shape,' that was only visible when viewed through the binoculars. Judith said that the, 'Sun was casting a shadow on the top right hand side of it, which gave the appearance of having a [word inaudible] or a ledge, something like it.' The light was located sixty degrees above the horizon. She viewed the motionless light for 15 to 20 minutes and went inside the house. When she returned, five minutes later, the light was gone.

Two other separate UFO sightings were described; the dates were unknown but thought to be in 1962. Both UFOs appeared to be spherical, tumbling and possibly moving as fast as an aircraft. The UFOs emitted a, 'Swishing sound.' One of these sightings was identified as occurring at about 9.30 pm.

The other UFO appeared near an aircraft that was on descent for landing. Judith contacted the pilot of the aircraft by telephone, he said that he did not see anything unusual during the landing.

McDonald makes the final comment, 'Does not sound like a meteor.'

Editor's note: Judith Magee was identified as being a Committee member of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS).

James McDonald Interviews Dr V J Hajek

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T16S203/CD52

Date Recorded: 4 July 1967

File Size: 13.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 14:15

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Dr V J Hajek regarding his UFO sighting, via telephone

Sighting Date: Thought to be 1952

Sighting Time: Between 11 am and noon

Location of Sighting: In vicinity of Lorne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 12 seconds

Witness(es): Dr V J Hajek and his wife (name not identified)

Summary:

Dr V J Hajek and his wife were riding a motor bike on the road to Lorne. His wife was riding as the pillion passenger. They had just crossed a creek and heard a loud noise on their left-hand side, that sounded like a, 'Landing jet plane.' Dr Hajek then said, 'I look to the left, where the sound was coming from, there I saw this strange object.'

Dr Hajek braked the bike and stopped and he and his wife looked at the object in the sky. The object was low on the horizon at an angle of about 15 degrees to the horizon. He made the comment, 'As soon as I saw it, I knew that it was something I had never seen before.'

The object had no wings, rudders or any other appendages and, 'Looked like when you look through a fan.' The appearance was transparent and ellipse like in shape. The course of the object was parallel with the direction of the road they were on. The object was approximately a quarter of a mile (400 metres) away and at about 200 feet (60 metres) elevation.

The object was moving as fast as a jet and rising slowly, when it was approximately one mile away (approximately two kilometres), 'It became like a shining little rectangle.' The estimated size of the object was 30 feet (nine metres) long and five feet (150 cm) wide with a metallic/silvery appearance. The thickness was described as, 'Like a sheet of metal.'

The sunlight reflecting off the object surface confirming that it was rotating on its horizontal axis. After 12 seconds the object faded from view, being obscured as it moved in front of the direct sunlight.

The initial sound they heard lasted for a few seconds and died away as the object moved further away.

There were no other witnesses.

Editor's note: Peter E Norris from the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) was with McDonald when this telephone audio was recorded.

James McDonald Interviews Ronald Sullivan

Identification Code/CD: 3T16S204/CD52

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 21.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 21:55

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Ronald F Sullivan

Sighting Date: 7 April 1966

Sighting Time: 8.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Maryborough to St Arnaud Road, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not stated during recording

Witness(es): Ronald F Sullivan

Summary:

Sullivan was driving long a bitumen road in a 1965 Ford Falcon sedan, at approximately 60 mph (96 km/hr) speed. The sky was very clear. There was no moonlight and there was a slight breeze. He first saw a light and thought it was the rear lights of a tractor in a paddock. As he got closer he saw a light, that lifted off the ground. This light had, 'Tubes of coloured lights.' These 'lights' were, 'All the colours of the spectrum.' The tubular coloured lights were coming off it. There appeared to be a, 'Disc or cone 10 to 15 feet (three to four and a half metres) in diameter.' Each, 'Tube,' was four to five inches (10 to 13 cm) in diameter.

The police determined that the position of the object, in the paddock, could have been 20 to 30 feet (six to nine metres) from the road, since a depression was found in the paddock located at that distance from the road. The, 'Disc,' was estimated to be 20 to 30 feet (six to nine metres) above the ground, at one point.

The most unusual aspect was that this car's headlight beams, 'Bent,' to the right, towards this light formation, 'As if they were magnetised.'

McDonald asked if Sullivan could see the beams of his headlight, Sullivan said, 'Yes.' Questioning then lead to the suggestion that a car, half a mile ahead (one km), and going in the same direction, as Sullivan, was kicking up dust. This was suggested as the reason Sullivan could see the beams of his headlight. The headlights of the car were sealed in and could not independently move.

The police, Sargent Suttie from Maryborough, found a ground marking in the paddock. A circular depression in the ground, four to five feet (10 to 13 cm) in diameter and seven to eight inches (18-20 cm) deep. These measurements were smaller than what Sullivan would have estimated from the size of the, 'Disc.' There were no human or animal markings around the depression. The soil inside seemed to have been rippled in a clockwise direction.

Sullivan noted no unusual noise above the noise of his vehicle. The motor of his car was not affected, just the headlight beams appeared bent. Responding to a question from McDonald about suffering any physiological effects, Sullivan said, 'Only paralysis.' Further questioning led him to say, 'A temporary mental paralysis.' He was not frightened at the time, but hours later he queried what had happened.

At the time he had only told his wife about this event. However, when he heard about the death of a motorist in that same spot, he told the Police what he had seen. They went out with Sullivan to the spot and found the depression in the paddock.

McDonald then questioned Ronald about the, 'Bent,' headlight beams. Sullivan admitted it was difficult to properly describe what exactly occurred to the headlights. The total duration of the effect to the headlights was only, 'A couple of seconds.' The headlight beams veered to the right by 30 to 45 degrees. The headlights had then momentarily turned off. Following this they came back on and the beams, 'Bent,' 30 to 45 degrees to the right. The headlights then functioned normally. Sullivan said it was difficult to describe this incident.

He did not stop the car to investigate but travelled approximately 40 miles (64 km) to his destination.

McDonald asked if the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) had investigated, Sullivan said, 'They had not.' McDonald asked if the Department of Civil Aviation had investigated, he said, 'No, they had not.' Only the police, UFO Investigation Center (UFOIC) and Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS), and some university students had investigated this sighting.

Ronald concluded that the headlights had been, 'Bent,' by magnetism or gravity.

James McDonald Interviews Rodney Coutts, Melbourne, Australia

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T17S101/CD53

Date Recorded: 9.35 pm on the 4 July 1967

File Size: 12.3 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 13:29

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Rodney Coutts, via telephone, regarding his UFO sighting

Sighting Date: Not identified in the audio recording

Sighting Time: Not identified in the audio recording

Location of Sighting: Near 797 High Street, the suburb was not identified.

Duration of Sighting: Less than five seconds

Witness(es): Rodney Coutts and his wife

Summary:

The interview was recorded with Rodney speaking to McDonald on the telephone.

Apparently, the incident occurred in a residential street in Melbourne, identified as opposite 797 High Street, the suburb was not identified.

Rodney Coutts and his wife were parked in their *MG* motor vehicle when Rodney, 'Had the impression we were being watched.' Rodney was sitting in the driver's seat and his wife was sitting, next to him, in the front passenger's seat. McDonald asked if Rodney had experienced that feeling previously, he replied that it was rather unusual for him to have that feeling.

Rodney looked over his wife's shoulder, while they were both sitting in the car. At that instant, he noticed a, 'Whiteish green ball of light,' through the passenger side curtain window of the car. The ball of light was two to three feet (approximately one metre) from the car, on the passenger's side. Then his wife turned around and saw the same object.

The ball appeared to be a perfect sphere and was one to two feet (300 to 600 millimetres) in diameter. The sphere appeared to be hovering in the same position and emitted no sound that could be heard. The sphere then moved around the rear of the car and up to the driver's side of the car, maintaining the same distance from the car. The sphere then moved to the rear of the car, and, 'From there it shot straight up into the sky.' By the time they got out of the car the sphere was nowhere to be seen.

The sighting lasted for about two to five seconds.

There appeared to be no change in colour of the light during the sighting.

Rodney had not reported the sighting and inferred it had happened a few years ago.

There were no other witnesses to the sighting.

McDonald asked Rodney what was his occupation and he replied that he was worked for a Pharmaceutical company as a supervisor of the sales staff.

McDonald asked Rodney if he had any other UFO sightings, Rodney replied that he had seen what looked like a luminous disc, moving low across the sky, at least thirteen years ago.

Rodney Coutts is identified by McDonald as residing at East Brighton, Victoria, Australia.

James McDonald Interviews Kenneth Marshall

Identification Code/CD Number 3T17S102/CD53

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 19.3 MB

Interview Duration: (m:s): 20:04

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Kenneth Marshall

Sighting Date: 6 February 1955

Sighting Time: At night

Location of Sighting: On the South Gippsland Highway, East of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in the audio recording

Witness(es): Kenneth Marshall; his mother, his uncle and two aunts

Summary:

Marshall was not sure of the date, McDonald claimed the date was the 6 February 1955. They were travelling by car to home from a funeral, at a speed of about 55mph (90 km/hr). There was no traffic, and they were on a straight section of road. They noted a light in the sky which became brighter, and Kenneth mentioned to his uncle, that whatever it was, it had a, 'Decent set of lights on it.' He slowed the car down to let it pass. However, the lights remained at about 200 to 300 yards (180 to 280 metres) behind them. It lit up their whole car.

They all looked at it. After about 30 seconds it split into two lights.

The main part went off to their right, across a paddock, parallel to the ground. They watched it for a couple of hundred yards (180 metres), then it accelerated. At this point they saw it as an, 'Illuminated railway carriage with windows.'

The other part went to their left, but all of them watched the one to the right. They continued driving down the road and knew that there were no cross-roads. They were all puzzled by this event.

This event didn't frighten them, Kenneth reported the sighting to Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) in Melbourne, Australia. They thought, at the time, that it was just a vehicle with bright lights, until it split into two; one to the right and the other to the left.

The original light in the sky looked like a wartime, 'Sperry light.' These were four to five feet (one to two metres) in diameter. It had clearly defined edges, and was white in colour. At a rough guess there were, 'Six or seven windows.'

There was no effect to either the car or to any of the passengers.

Editor's note: The spelling of the witness surname is from the file name of the audio file supplied by the University of Arizona. This spelling could be incorrectly stated, as the common spelling is, Marshall.

James McDonald Interviews Dr A Kukla and Fiancee

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T17S103/CD53

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 28.2 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 29:22

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Dr Antoin Kukla and Audrey Lawrence

Sighting Date: 27 July 1965

Sighting Time: 5.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Near Carnarvon, Western Australia, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 30 minutes

Witness(es): Antoin Kukla and Audrey Lawrence

Summary:

Antoin Kukla was interviewed first.

The couple were driving towards Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia with their Bull Terrier dog in the vehicle. Antoin saw a green light in the sky which he thought was an aircraft. His fiancée didn't say anything at first, then when the green light disappeared she asked if he had seen, what she had seen? They continued driving and after two minutes, suddenly, they saw an object. He braked the vehicle, and they both got out.

Antoin estimated the object was a half to three quarters of a mile away (one kilometre). After about ten minutes he went back to the car and got out a monocular to view the object. It filled the field of view of the monocular. He watched it for five minutes, then handed the monocular to his fiancée. He was unable to estimate the size of the object, apart from being big, perhaps bigger than a few feet (one metre). All this time it oscillated in the sky. He thought it was approximately 80 feet (24 metres) high.

The light appeared to be similar to a rugby football, being symmetrical about its axes. When it was moving, its colour changed to red. When the car was stopped, it was green in colour. Finally, after moving up and down, and from side to side, it moved to the west. The next day they visited the location where they saw the object and found nothing to explain the sighting. They were terrified.

Antoin recounted another sighting made by men at the property of his fiancée's brother. He claimed that the Bureau of Meteorology and the Carnarvon tracking station had also observed this object.

Audrey Lawrence was then interviewed.

Audrey had told her brother the story of what happened to Antoin and herself. Later, her brother said that some Aboriginal workers on his station had seen a 'Funny light,' come from the south-west, high in the sky. There were two long tracks in the sky. It travelled across the sky and had been visible for 30 minutes. Someone had telephoned the Carnarvon tracking station and been told that they and the Bureau of Meteorology had seen the light.

When it was overhead on her brother's property, it appeared to be going straight up, towards the Moon, and then disappeared.

It was seen over a very wide area, from Carnarvon to North Hampton and Port Headland. The sighting was not reported in the newspapers. Television station *Channel 9* had got the whole story but it was all, 'Hushed up,' and presented at night around the end of 1966.

During their sighting the object initially looked like a green coloured light and then it disappeared. It then appeared as an orange coloured light. They stopped the car, and saw it in the north, travelling from west to the east. The light grew in size from, 'Bread and butter plate size, to three feet across (one metre).' Antoin said that he thought it would crash. It dived at their car, and kept ahead of them. It circled three times and came back to its original position. It hovered over the road at times, 20 feet (six metres) high. When it was circling, she saw a green glow, that illuminated the tree tops.

During the sighting Antoin's watch stopped for about 30 minutes. Their dog was disturbed, and wouldn't get out of their car. There were no effects on the car and no physiological effects noted by them.

James McDonald Interviews James Kibel (Part 2)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T18S101/CD55

Date recorded: July 1967

File Size: 5.3 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 5:29

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Jim Kibel (Part 2)

Sighting Date: 2 April 1966

Sighting Time: 2.21 pm

Location of Sighting: 1-3 Palm Grove, Deepdene, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Six seconds

Witness(es): James Johnson Kibel

Summary:

Kibel opens by stating that he had been in the garden to take pictures of the flowers, and garden in general. There was a terrific flash of light, 'Across here.' There was a thing, 'Up there,' it was behind the chimney. He raised the camera, and took a photograph and hit his nose as a result. He then dropped the camera to waist level. The trees in the garden had been full of foliage.

He then went to see a workman, Mr D English, on the property. English said he hadn't seen anything. Kibel took the photo out of the camera and they both saw the image. Then there had been a loud bang which seemed to come from the north-east. The willow tree, visible to McDonald had been three times the size, in April 1966.

McDonald asked about the red reflection seen on the surface of the object, in the photograph. Kibel said this reflection may be caused by the two storey house belonging to a solicitor next door, or by another house in the area that had a grey roof.

Then McDonald referred to a sketch which he had of the house and garden, which also indicated the position of the object. Kibel stated that the sketch had been drawn by himself and Peter Norris, and Kibel's mother. Kibel stated that the object may have been much further away than the position shown on the sketch. He pointed out to McDonald that English, 'Was here.' Kibel stated that the sketch had been done hurriedly about a month after the incident. The chimney in the photograph was the one by the garage.

McDonald asked Kibel, 'His estimate of the size of the object?' Kibel replied, '15 to 20 feet diameter (five metres).' McDonald asked, 'The height above the ground?' and Kibel responded, 'One hundred or so feet (30 metres).' Kibel said that the duration of the event had been about 6 seconds, and that part of this time he was messing with the camera. They checked the model of the camera and confirmed it to be a *Polaroid 800*. The focal length of lens was not shown on camera. They again discussed how could the red reflection on the image be a roof.

Editor's note: This audio recording was made at Kibel's parents house, in the garden, at the site of the visual and photographic sighting by Kibel. See Part 1 of this sighting interview in the summaries.

James McDonald Interviews Roger Parry Jones

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T18S102/CD55

Date Recorded: 5 July 1967

File Size: 23.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 24:21

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Roger Parry Jones

Sighting Date: 28 June 1967

Sighting Time: 6.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Box Hill, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 30 seconds

Witness(es): Roger Parry Jones and Christopher Parry Jones

Summary:

Roger, aged 11, was in his backyard. The Sun had set and it was twilight. The sky was slightly hazy. He heard a sound and then saw an unusual object in the sky. It was a light with an aura around it. It was shaped like a hat, with a flat bottom. There were four to five portholes in it, and a red light going around the object. The portholes were a greyish or dirty yellow in colour. Roger sketched the object for McDonald.

The lighted object was moving. The aura was red/yellow in colour. This aura was a steady light, but shimmering in places. Roger was facing west. The object was at a 30 to 40 degree elevation. It was first seen due west, then it went behind a large pine tree, guessed to be half a mile (800 metres) away.

Roger called out to his mother but she was busy and did not come out to look. However, Roger's brother Christopher, aged 13, did come out but did not see the object. No one else saw it. His mother rang up a radio station and TV station, *Channel 2* who advised her to ring the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS). She did not contact the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) or the police.

There were no physiological effects to the two boys. Roger was very excited after the sighting. Asked about the size of the object he responded that, 'It was wider than the Moon.'

James McDonald Interviews Mrs I Palmer

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T18S201/CD55

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 18 .9 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 19:38

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Mrs I Palmer

Sighting Date: December 1943

Sighting Time: Not identified in the audio recording

Location of Sighting: 30 km from Oslo, Norway

Duration of Sighting: 20 minutes

Witness(es): Mrs I Palmer, Captain L Witzke, Mr O Ortland and other unidentified witnesses

Summary:

Two Norwegian families saw these lights. It wasn't talked about at the time, as the Second World War was taking place.

Three cars were travelling down a mountain, in Oslo Fjord, 30 kilometres from Oslo, Norway. The occupants of the cars saw a, 'Strange thing,' on a clear night. It was a moving coloured light. It was initially seen as a light, then as an object on the ground. The object was 18 metres in diameter and on the ground. It looked like a big church bell, but flatter. They actually saw the light settle on the ground.

It was first seen as a yellow/orange coloured glow, 500 metres away. They saw it over the fjord, and coming towards them. They thought it was an explosion and then it came closer. The engines of all three cars stalled at a point where they saw the object on the ground. They later thought, 'Magnetism,' may have caused the cars to stall.

They all got out of the cars and walked towards the object. The object then departed straight upwards, before turning and travelling away horizontally. The object may have been warm, because the snow had melted in an 18 metre diameter circle where the object had landed.

Mrs Palmer said that she had heard of other sightings; the same type of object seen in the north of Denmark, the tractors could not be started (date unknown); another near Hanover, Germany in about 1948, 'A crop circle,' was found and an object was seen in the cornfield.

Editor's note: This is a telephone recording with a Mrs I Palmer, who in 1967 was living at 8 Berwick Street, Brighton, Tasmania, regarding the 1943 multi-witness sighting. The conversation, in terms of what occurred, is very difficult to follow.

James McDonald Interviews Alan Shaw (Part 1)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T18S202/CD55

Date Recorded: 6 July 1967

File Size: 10.1 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 10:33

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Alan D Shaw (Part 1)

Sighting Date: 8 January 1959

Sighting Time: 0900 hrs

Location of Sighting: Hobart Bay, Risdon, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 15 minutes

Witness(es): Alan D Shaw and W L Newton; both electrical engineers for the Tasmanian Hydroelectric Commission.

Summary:

The two men were inspecting a transmission structure near the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia.

Shaw read a typed statement to McDonald, that Shaw had prepared on the day of the incident.

At 9.20 am Shaw drew Newton's attention to what appeared to be a piece of newspaper in the air. The object may have been caught in an updraft, over the zinc works, at an estimated height of 1000 feet (300 metres), it floated down to about 200 feet (60 metres). It then accelerated to a high speed and disappeared between two buildings, about a quarter of a mile (400 metres) away. It was travelling at about 30 to 60 mph (110 to 220 kilometres per hour), and appeared to be, 'Flexible.' They later searched the area and found nothing to account for this sighting.

Newton then saw a similar second object, and both men watched it until it disappeared, behind the admin building, a few seconds after the first object disappeared from view.

To the north-west, both men then saw a third, high flying, high speed object, which travelled across the sky and disappeared behind Mount Direction, that is 1469 feet (448 metres) high. This one was small, and flashing a white light at 1500 cycles per minute. It appeared to be several thousand feet (over 300 metres) high. In one second it travelled through an angle of 20 degrees. A similar object was seen to the north-east. At one time this object made large clockwise circular motions in the sky. This object hovered, then moved towards the sun, before being stationary.

After seeing these four objects, the men witnessed another two. The latter two were jet black in colour and elongated, and observed to the north of the sun. Mr Newton thought they had emerged from the fourth object. They looked like inverted bowling skittles with the ball leading. The men each watched one of these black objects to watch. Shaw's one neared the Derwent River which at this point is 600 yards (550 metres) wide. He thought his black object was three to six feet (one to two metres) long and 300 yards (275 metres) away. When it got to about 100 feet (30 metres) above the river it stopped, then moved horizontally to the south for about 100 feet (30 metres). It descended vertically and entered the water with no splash, at 1800 feet (550 metres) from Shaw. Two seagulls were passing by and they appeared to momentarily stop and investigate the area where the object entered the river. The time was 9.45 am.

The weather was sunny, with a light southerly breeze with sparse clouds. Both men were wearing sunglasses during the observation.

Editor's note: Refer to Part 2 of this interview in the summaries.

James McDonald Interviews Alan Shaw (Part 2)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T19S101/CD56

Date Recorded: 6 July 1967

File Size: 19.3 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 20:09

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews Alan D Shaw (Part 2)

Sighting Date: 8 January 1959

Sighting Time: 9 pm

Location of Sighting: Hobart Bay, Risdon, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 15 minutes

Witness(es): Alan D Shaw and W L Newton

Summary:

Mr Shaw advised McDonald, that the previous year he had given a talk to the local Astronomical Society about the events of 1959. Shaw had prepared slides illustrating the event, which he and McDonald viewed as they spoke.

Shaw said that both the weather bureau and the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) had been informed of the observations but that no one had an explanation for what was seen. A check for weather balloons found that on this day none were released, apparently due to faulty equipment.

Shaw advised McDonald that on that day, a total of six objects had been seen; two, 'Paper,' like; two flashing and two black.

When viewing the slides, McDonald clarified various points as Shaw read from his statement (without the slides it is difficult to follow parts of the conversation).

The objects that looked like newspaper appeared to be a 2:1 ratio in size, and they were, 'Flexing,' as they moved. The second one, at times, had a shape like a carrot or a turnip. These disappeared behind buildings.

The black objects were near the sun. With sunglasses, and obscuring the sun, the black objects were clearly outlined and visible. They had no surface features. They were dull, jet black. When the object had entered the water he had seen no obvious splash.

McDonald states that objects entering the water is of interest to him.

Shaw said that the resident RAAF officer commented to Shaw that he may as well forget what he had seen.

Shaw gave a talk about the incident to members of the local Astronomical Society, as he was a member of that group.

Editor's note: Refer to Part 1 of the interview in the summaries.

James McDonald Interviews Elizabeth Wrobel

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T19S1202/CD56

Date Recorded: 6 July 1967

File Size: 28.2 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 29:59

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Elizabeth Wrobel

Sighting Date: 14 April 1966

Sighting Time: 3.00 am

Location of Sighting: Strickland Avenue, Hobart West, Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 10 to 15 minutes

Witness(is): Elizabeth Wrobel

Summary:

Mrs Wrobel was driving her car when she saw something in the sky, over trees in the distance. To the north-west there was a silent, bright glow, which she initially thought may be a bush fire. However, on looking she saw there were in fact four objects. They were shining a light downwards. The objects were flat on the bottom, rounded on the top, and well defined.

A pink light came downwards from the objects. She could clearly see the objects against the sky. The objects themselves were not glowing. It was a moonless night. This downwards light was very bright, in that it hurt her eyes.

McDonald asked her to estimate the distance to the objects. Mrs Wrobel thought that the trees would have been perhaps half a mile (800 metres) away. Asked to estimate the size of each object she said 50 to 60 feet (15 to 20 metres). She said the four objects were in a straight line and nearly touching each other. She thought they were nearly touching the trees. Asked about the duration of the sighting. She replied that she did not have a watch with her as she was going to work, but she guessed 10 to 15 minutes.

The objects remained stationary, then the one second from her left, went slowly upwards and then the lights from the entire four objects all turned to a very pale green colour. This single object then came back down slowly until it returned to its original position. She then took her eyes off them and when she looked back she could not see any of the objects.

After the sighting her eyes hurt and watered for at least a day. She noticed no odours, had no headache, and said there were no other witnesses present. She described the sighting to a woman at the Elizabeth Street paper shop, since she had asked Mrs Wrobel what was wrong with her when she first saw Mrs Wrobel that morning.

Another person, present at the interview, stated that at about the same time, but not known if it was the same day, had contacted them to mention something similar. A Mr Latham, at 1 am in the morning, in that same area, heard a loud swishing sound. He went outside and saw nothing to account for the noise. No aircraft fly over that area.

Another story was told, of a female neighbour of Mrs Wrobel, who heard of Mrs Wrobel's sighting, said that she too had seen something similar in that area, three times. This woman had told her parents about it, but they were not interested.

A fire, on 7 February 1967 had burnt down the trees in the area where the sighting had occurred.

James McDonald Interviews Peter Noar

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T19S202/CD56

Date Recorded: 6 July 1967

File Size: 7.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 7:16

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Peter F Noar

Sighting Date: Thought to be about 1955, but actually 27 September 1957

Sighting Time: Not identified in the audio recording

Location of Sighting: Hobart Airport, Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in the audio recording

Witness(es): Gordon Carter was the radar operator at the time of the incident

Summary:

Noar describes his recollections of a radar/visual event, which he thought occurred in about 1955, although he is vague regarding the year. He states that he cannot recall the time of day, or the type of weather radar being used.

Initially, there was a visual sighting at the Launceston Airport. Launceston contacted Hobart Airport and advised them of the visual sighting, to see if Hobart could pick up the object on their radar.

The Hobart radar wasn't in service at the time so someone went to the radar hut and warmed up the equipment. They picked up an object on the radar. The Launceston tower advised that their object was heading south from them towards Hobart, and wasn't concurrent with any normal aircraft movement.

The Hobart weather observers painted their object travelling north. It was seen to the north of Hobart at an estimated height of 9000 feet (275 metres), over Richmond, which is about six miles (9.7 kilometres) north of Hobart Airport.

Noar stated he thought the radar was a type WF77 from the Navy. The estimated speed based on the radar paint was 3000 mph (4800 kilometres per hour). Asked by McDonald if the radar target was a, 'Hard,' target, Noar replied, 'Yes.'

Noar said that Gordon Carter was the radar operator at the Hobart Meteorological Bureau. There were no other visual observers other than in Launceston. From what Noar could recall, the object was travelling horizontally.

McDonald asked if the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC) members, who were present at the interview, could follow up and interview Carter.

Editor's note: This interview is about a weather radar/visual sighting, said to have occurred in about 1955. This second hand account, actually refers to the 27 September 1957 Launceston/Hobart, radar/visual event, documented in RAAF file 580/1/1 part 1, digital pages 53-57 and 61-62.

James McDonald Interviews John Thompson (Part 1)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T19S203/CD56

Date Recorded: June/July 1967

File Size: 3.8 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 3:55

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews John F Thompson (Part 1)

Sighting Date: Various, between August 1965 and February 1966

Sighting Time: Various, mainly between 9.30 pm and 11.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Maatsuyker Island, 16 kilometres off the SW coast of Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Various

Witness(es): Three families living at the lighthouse.

Summary:

Thompson was working at the lighthouse between December 1965 and February 1966.

An unusual light was seen on various dates, mainly between the compass directions of SSW and WNW, usually between 9.30 pm and 11.30 pm. During each observation the sky was clear.

The light was of an indeterminate shape. Initially it was a point of light, and at times it appeared to grow in size.

Editor's note: Refer to Part 2 of this interview summary for additional details.

James McDonald Interviews John Thompson (Part 2)

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T20S101/CD57

Date Recorded: Ca. June/July 1967

File Size: 17.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 18:07

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews John F Thompson (Part 2)

Sighting Date: Various, between August 1965 and February 1966

Sighting Time: Various, mainly between 9.30 pm to 11.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Lighthouse on Maatsuyker Island, 16 kilometres off SW corner of Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Varied

Witness(es): Three families living at the lighthouse.

Summary:

Thompson was working at the lighthouse between December 1965 and February 1966. On one occasion a woman saw a light shining through the bedroom window and looked out the window. She saw a light disappearing behind clouds. This was in late December 1965. She estimated its angular size as equal to that of the moon.

In August 1965, before Thompson arrived at the Island there was an observation note in the lighthouse log that a white light had flashed white and red. Someone had sent a completed questionnaire to the Tasmanian UFO Information Centre (TUFOIC), in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. On that questionnaire, there was a statement, 'Fifteen feet long.' McDonald asked if anyone knew what that meant, and those present, indicated that they did not.

Most of the time the light was hovering, and at times it would suddenly move position. McDonald asked Thompson to estimate its angular displacement, he could not, then he said, 'It danced up and down.' McDonald queried whether the observers knew about scintillation, Thompson said that they did.

McDonald asked about patterns in the observations. Thompson said it was there mainly between 9.30 pm and 11.30 pm. It would initially be observed above the horizon and then gain elevation, but as it was seen in the south west it moved counter to the Earth's rotation.

Thompson had only once viewed the light through binoculars, and on this occasion it was a point source in size.

Sometimes it would be stationary for up to half an hour. Thompson could not estimate its distance. McDonald thought it wasn't a helicopter, aircraft, meteor or star.

It was always silent. At times the light cast a beam of light onto the seawater. The lighthouse was some 400 feet (120 metres) above the sea level.

Thompson later went to a nearby lighthouse, but did not see the mystery light from that location. Although the matter was referred to the Tasmanian Department of Shipping and Transport, there was no known investigation.

Thompson mentioned one other observation that had not been recorded. This observation occurred at night where a light was seen on the surface of the sea, it passed between the Island and the mainland. This light was observed for 30 minutes and he thought it may have been a Russian trawler. Later he learnt that another observer had reported a light lift off the seawater.

Editor's note: Refer to Part 1 of this interview in the summaries.

James McDonald interviews Reverend Lionel Browning

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T20S1202/CD57

Date Recorded: 6 July 1967

File Size: 18.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 19:33

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews the Reverend Lionel Browning

Sighting Date: Not identified in the audio recording, but known to be the 4 October 1960

Sighting Time: Not identified in the audio recording

Location of Sighting: Cressy, Tasmania, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Not identified in the audio recording

Witness(es): Reverend Lionel Browning and his wife, Mrs L Browning

Summary:

Browning states that the mountain range to the east was, Ben Lomond. There was a flat lake area and the Western Tiers were to their west. The Sun was over the Tiers at the time. Heavy rain cleared a little 15 minutes before sunset. It was still raining to the east, the south and the north.

He was looking out a window of a residence. His wife joined him there. They were noting the rays of the Sun on the green grass. Mrs Browning asked if he could see what she could see? This cigar shaped object emerged from the storm. It was initially partly covered by rain below the cloud base. Then it fully emerged. He thought it was a plane crashing but noted that it was travelling below the stalling speed for an aircraft. From memory he thought it came out about a mile and a half (two to three kilometres). Its distance from him was estimated to be up to three miles (five kilometres). He had a clear view of it. It was hard to estimate its size, distance or speed.

At the time he had contacted the local aerodrome and ascertained that there were no aircraft in the area. He had telephoned *The Age* newspaper, in Melbourne, but they did not follow up the story, instead the local paper published their sighting report. About a week later, he was interviewed by an officer and two men from the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF).

Beside the cigar, that he termed, 'A mothership,' he saw a number of smaller disc shaped objects. They had a flat underside which always pointed towards the ground. There was a thickness to them.

He put his head out of a window in his house to get a better view. The, 'Mothership,' was stationary. Discs suddenly appeared at the southern end. One came from the north and one from the east. They converged on the, 'Mothership.' The two which came from north and east were travelling fast and, 'Skipping like stones over water.' At times he could see their undersides.

The group of discs and the two that converged came to the northern end of the, 'Mothership.' They all started to go back into the rain storm. One of the saucer's forward edge tipped. He lost sight of it as it was pointing down at a 30 degree angle; the front end appeared to have dipped.

Other sightings occurred in Tasmania around this time. He did not investigate any of these sightings. The paper investigated reports.

Associated with the sightings there were unusual sounds. One was on the night of their sighting, between 8 pm and 9 pm. He personally heard two of these, 'Explosions.'

It sounded like a steel bar being struck, and was extremely loud. Cattle and sheep were disturbed and dogs barked. A man at the end of town saw a coloured object in the sky.

The RAAF investigated a sighting by a mother and daughter who saw a hovering object near their home. They stopped their car to get a closer look. The RAAF spent a day investigating this sighting.

Editor's note: The sighting occurred on the 4 October 1960, and is known, in published reports, as the Cressy, Tasmania sighting. The conversation was recorded, by McDonald, in a car, on the way to the airport.

James McDonald Interviews Warren Jackson

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T20S202/CD57

Date Recorded: 7 July 1967

File Size: 8.7 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 9:02

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews Warren Stanley Jackson

Sighting Date: November 1964

Sighting Time: 7.35 pm

Location of Sighting: Charleville, Queensland, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Eight to nine seconds

Witness(es): Warren S Jackson, and others

Summary:

This interview was recorded by McDonald in a car on the way to a radio interview. The witness, Jackson was driving this car at the time of the recording. Jackson's address at the time was Flat 2, 123 Belmont Road, Mosman, New South Wales (NSW).

It was reported that a, 'Flying saucer,' had been observed by numerous people located between central Queensland and central NSW.

Jackson had been working as a wool classer on a property. He was walking to a restaurant when it was getting dark. He looked up to see a long object, with, 'A searchlight,' illuminating from the front, and, 'A forked light,' illuminating from the rear. Each of the fork lights on the rear appeared to be, 'A searchlight.' The object made a noise like, 'A jet engine,' and similar to a, 'Hissing sound.'

The height and distance to the object was difficult to estimate. There was no shape apparent behind the lights. It travelled across the sky in a straight line, with a uniform motion. There were no physiological effects. He realized it was not a plane.

James McDonald Interviews Mrs Gael Penrose

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T21S101/CD58

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 7.8 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:06

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews Mrs Gael Penrose

Sighting Date: 1 January 1966

Sighting Time: 2 am

Location of Sighting: 11 to-13 kilometres north of Wee Waa, New South Wales, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Five minutes

Witness(es): Mrs Gael Penrose and Guy Norman (age 12)

Summary:

Mrs Penrose, from Lindhurst, Boggabri, New South Wales (NSW), was driving a car, with Guy Norman in the passenger's seat. They were driving along an isolated, unsealed road when they observed lights in the sky that appeared to be moving downwards. Mrs Penrose thought that the lights were an aircraft about to land. There were no airports in the immediate area. The lights were white in colour, and appeared to be descending, as if, about to crash. Then the lights levelled off and moved upwards at a steep angle. They repeated this sequence three to four times, before disappearing.

After five minutes, and while Mrs Penrose was still driving, she saw lights in her rear vision mirror. She thought at first it was the headlights of a car behind them. These lights quickly approached their vehicle and appeared to pass over the roof of their vehicle, after momentarily hovering above the roof. The lights then were seen in front of their vehicle, and then travelling away to be lost from view. After seeing the lights, initially in the rear vision mirror, Guy leaned out of the car through the open window. He confirmed the lights were not from another vehicle, and that they were the same lights they had seen five minutes earlier.

McDonald asked Mrs Penrose if she could estimate the distance above the car roof. She thought it was hundreds of feet (100 metres), but Guy had thought it was on top of the vehicle. There was no sound associated with the lights at any stage of the observation.

It was a very dark night, and the white light from the lights faintly illuminated the area. There were three to four white lights with no apparent shape.

She mentioned the sighting to her brother who was on Collymongle Station, NSW. He said that one of the men on the station said he had seen two or three similar things and that, 'They go over the house.' This station is 20 kilometres from the road.

Mrs Penrose has not seen anything like this since this incident.

James McDonald Interviews Mrs J Naughton

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T21S1202/CD58

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 48.0 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 49:59

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews Mrs J Naughton, her daughter Serena, and son Kenneth

Sighting Date: Late February 1962

Sighting Time: 'A little before dusk.'

Location of Sighting: Port Moresby, The Territory of Papua and New Guinea

Duration of Sighting: Several minutes

Witness(es): Mrs J Naughton; Mr Kenneth Naughton; their daughter, Serena, and son, Kenneth

Summary:

At the time of this interview, the Naughtons' were living at, 15 Grandview Street, Pymble, Sydney, New South Wales (NSW), Australia. The interview was conducted by telephone, with breaks when Mrs Naughton consulted with her husband over various aspects of the sighting.

The date of the sighting was first believed to be February/March 1962, then Mrs Naughton decided it was late February 1962. The family were living in the Ela Beach area of Port Moresby, the capital city of The Territory. They lived in a house on a cliff overlooking the bay. She was standing on the front balcony of the house, facing the water. Her husband was inside and only saw the end of the sighting.

At the time of the sightings her son, Kenneth, was age ten, and daughter, Serena, age seven. They were both nearby at the time of the sighting.

Mrs Naughton, saw a rowing boat, stationary in the water below the house, with two, 'Men,' sitting in the boat. She watched this boat for five minutes. Then she looked at the top of a nearby mountain, where there was a red anti-aircraft collision beacon. She saw, 'This thing,' come around the mountain. It was round and appeared to be a grey/steel colour. It travelled over the bay in front of her, then turned to the left of her; turned again and hovered over the rowing boat. It stayed there for, 'A couple of minutes,' then departed. Her son was jumping up and down. Her daughter called Mr Naughton to come and look at it.

While the object had been over the boat, 'Signalling,' began. A white light came down from the object and shone on the boat. A fainter light shone from the boat towards the object. The light on the object flashed on and off. The light from the boat, shone upwards, like a torch. She thought the signalling appeared, 'Contrived.'

The object had a red light around its rim. Asked about its shape, she replied, 'That it was like a dinner plate.' It was saucer like, flat on the bottom and rounded on the top. She thought there was a little dome on the top, but said her son and daughter didn't see this. Around the rim of the base were a series of individual red lights. She had the impression this was due to red light shining out of portholes in the object. These red lights were not rotating or blinking. The signalling white light came from the right-hand side rim, near the bottom. The shape of the object was symmetrical around its central axis. It was distinct in outline and therefore, not blurred.

After further questioning, by McDonald, she stated that she had not seen the underneath of the object as it had hovered level with their cliff top house. She estimated the house was 30 metres above the water.

The light flashing from the object seemed to be in a pattern, of 1-2-3-4 down, and then a light from the boat below signalled the same sequence. There were then other sequences of flashing lights passing between object and the boat. She was unable to estimate the duration of this signalling.

The figures in the boat were sitting down. The, 'Man,' in the front was doing the signalling to the object, using a torch.

At this point Mrs Naughton made a reference to another sighting, by a man named Allan Davis. The day after the Naughtons' sighting, she heard from Mr Davis, a neighbour of theirs who had a nearby flat, that in 1957, over the same bay, Davis sighted a, 'Flying saucer.' He said that at 2 am one morning, in bright moonlight, he had seen an unusual object, signalling. Davis worked for the Australian Department of Civil Aviation.

McDonald asked Mrs Naughton if in 1962, there had been talk of Indonesian espionage in the area? She said there had not.

McDonald mentioned the 1959 Reverend William Gill sighting, and Mrs Naughton stated that she had read about it in the papers, and that she was aware that Gill had an excellent reputation. She had never met him.

McDonald asked what Mrs Naughton thought the family had seen that evening in 1962? She said she thought it was a, 'Scout ship,' that had been around since biblical times and watching our development; perhaps later to contact us when we had space travel. She had come to this conclusion since 1962.

McDonald then spoke to Serena, then aged 12. Serena's account was that there had been a, 'Flying saucer,' near the house, and a boat in the water, they were signalling to each other. The object had been white, with five to six lights around its rim. It looked like two saucers stuck together. She did not see the dome her mother thought she had seen. The object finally turned around and quickly moved away.

McDonald spoke to Kenneth, then aged 15 years. Kenneth said he saw the object come around the hill into the bay from his right. It was long and slender in shape. It was a shiny colour, silver and not very shiny. It had lights around its rim, which appeared to be reddish. He saw an exchange of light flashes between object and boat. The object finally left, after hovering. It went upwards and was lost from view, very quickly.

McDonald returned to speaking with Mrs Naughton and asked her about the relative diameter of the object. After much discussion she settled on a diameter of half a metre at three metres distance. She said that at no time was there any noise associated with the object and there had been no flames during its departure. She had seen nothing like it since.

Editor's note: Prior to 1945, Papua and New Guinea were separate areas. In 1945 Papua and New Guinea were combined in an administrative union. In 1949, The Territory of Papua and New Guinea, was declared and administered by Australia. In 1972, the name was changed to Papua New Guinea.

James McDonald Interviews Colin Trims

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T22S102/CD59

Date Recorded: 9 July 1967

File Size: 11.1 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 11:52

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Colin C Trims

Sighting Date: 9 March 1966

Sighting Time: Between 2.30 am and 2.45 am

Location of Sighting: Between Caboolture and Bribie Island, Queensland, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Two to three minutes

Witness(es): Colin C Trims

Summary:

Trims, aged 42 at the time, was a milkman on a delivery. He was driving along when he saw a, 'Fire,' in the distance. It was stationary and he was approaching it. He drove parallel with it for 200 to 360 metres. The light was a round, dark red ball with a white halo.

He estimated its size as nine metres diameter, and it was round, like a ball. It was over swampy ground which had been cleared. It seemed to be within a few feet (one metre) of the ground. There was no glow on the ground, and no apparent sparks, or flames. There was no noise associated with the ball of light, and it remained motionless. Then after a while it rose from the ground, slowly at first.

The sky was very clear and there was no wind. Stars were visible. He watched it for two to three minutes before it rose. He stopped his truck and walked across the road to a fence and stopped. Asked if he had noticed any unusual effects he replied that he had a clammy-sweating feeling. Another effect that he had noticed was that the radio in his vehicle went off about a mile before he got to the light. It didn't work again until about four hours later. There had been no effect on the vehicle's engine.

The object had risen into the sky as he watched from the fence. It rose like a balloon, with no change of colour or shape. It took about 60 seconds before it was out of view.

There were no other witnesses to the event, but he had spoken to a Mr Doo who had seen a fiery object some two weeks before Trims' sighting. Trims had never seen anything like this before or since. He thought it may have been 360 metres away, over the swampy land that had been cleared of trees.

Trims' wife had reported this sighting to the newspaper. The Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) had not been advised. He had been interviewed by a UFO group.

McDonald states that the 12 March 1966 *Courier Mail* newspaper published the date of Trims' sighting as Wednesday, 9 March 1966.

James McDonald Interviews Daphne Rugland

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T22S103/CD59

Date Recorded: 9 July 1967

File Size: 7.6 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 8:11

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Daphne Ringland

Sighting Date: 22 July 1965

Sighting Time: 7.30 am

Location of Sighting: 12 kilometres south of Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Several minutes

Witness(es): Mrs Daphne Ringland and Mrs Gloria Jones

Summary:

McDonald discusses a newspaper article from the *Courier Mail* that is about a sighting that occurred at 7.30 pm on the 22 July 1965, 12 kilometres south of Rockhampton.

The article states that Mrs Ringland was travelling as a passenger in a car driver by Mrs Jones. Mrs Jones was a, 'Star-gazer.' They were travelling towards Gladstone when Mrs Jones saw a bright light in the sky. Mrs Ringland suggested it was the planet Venus but Mrs Jones said it was too bright. Mrs Jones stopped the car, and they both saw a triangle of lights in the sky, evenly spaced. The one on the right-hand side was bigger and slightly smaller than the Moon with an irregular shape.

Then the two bottom lights began to descend, slowly at first. The one on the right occasionally, 'Lurched,' towards the right. They descended slowly towards the ground. The one on the left disappeared behind a nearby hill. The other one continued to approach them, and emitted, green/red/yellow coloured lights. The sky was dark since they were in the countryside. This light followed the contours of the ground. It appeared to be 180 metres directly ahead of their vehicle. It gave a, 'Jolt,' as it landed on the ground. There was no sound heard from the light. The lights appeared to be in two parts, with the top part rotating. The lights on top were a blur of green/red/yellow colours.

There was no defined shape to the light. Mrs Jones who had an interest in UFOs and suggested they go closer. Mrs Jones was always talking about flying saucers. They drove round to a side road in an effort to get closer to the light. After travelling one and a half kilometres from their previous position, they spotted a light among the trees glowing green/red and yellow. Mrs Jones wanted to get even closer, so they stopped the car and went across the other side of the bitumen road. Mrs Jones then said she heard a noise and re-entered the car. They continued to watch it from inside the car. They had at this point switched off the car's engine and headlights. An orange glow was seen and two red lights, like car tail lights.

James McDonald Interviews Gordon Jameson

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T22S201/CD59

Date Recorded: 9 July 1967

File Size: 12.7 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 13:34

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Gordon L Jameson

Sighting Date: Late 1952

Sighting Time: About 11 pm

Location of Sighting: Slacks Creek, Queensland, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 30 seconds

Witness(es): Gordon L Jameson

Summary:

On a Sunday morning, Jameson sighted three objects with a metallic surface appearance, in the sky. They were traveling parallel to the Pacific Highway, and travelling south. He thought that they may have been at least a 100 metres high. He could hear sound from the objects, which were doing figures of eight in the sky; in and out of each other. The sound was like an object cutting through the air, that made, 'A whooshing noise.' It was very loud. The figure of eight was in the horizontal plane.

They were traveling faster than a small, light aircraft, which he occasionally saw from the nearby training base. The objects were smaller than such aircraft. The objects were oblong. Asked about their size, Jameson responded that they were larger than a bird but smaller than a light plane.

Asked about their colour he replied that the colour was similar to that of aluminium. They were quite bright, and reflecting the sun as opposed to glowing of their own accord. They were smooth in appearance, and showed no structure.

When queried again about their movement, he said they were not in fact following a figure of eight path across the sky, but traveling across the sky, and weaving in and out of each other's path; wheeling like birds, as they travelled across the sky.

He estimated the total duration of his observation as about 30 seconds.

He had first seen the objects overhead, after initially hearing the sound and looking up, then watched them travel across the sky towards the horizon.

McDonald asked him if there had been any other witnesses, and Jameson said that there were none, but that a neighbour, Mr Russell, said he had also heard the same sound. Jameson at the time of the sighting, had called out for his wife to have a look, but she was unable to see the objects.

He rang the Amberley, Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) base and discussed the sighting with them. The RAAF had asked if he had advised the newspapers of the sighting? He said he had not. The RAAF said they would prefer that he did not contact the papers.

McDonald then returned to the question of the objects' shape. Did they have sharp edges or were they diffused? Jameson was unable to clarify this question.

Jameson advised that there had been a sighting of three objects at Dalby, Queensland, about 240 kilometres from Slacks Creek, Queensland on the same day. This sighting had been reported in the newspaper the following day.

James McDonald Interviews Vincent Doo

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T22S203/CD59

Date Recorded: 9 July 1967

File Size: 12.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 12:55

Interview Details: James McDonald interviews Vincent Doo of Brisbane

Sighting Date: Beginning of February 1966

Sighting Time: Between 8.30 pm to 9.0 pm

Location of Sighting: Toorbul Point, Queensland, Australia

Duration of Sighting: Minutes

Witness(es): Vincent Austin Doo

Summary:

At time of this interview, Vincent Austin Doo was living at, 111 Arthur Street, New Farm, Queensland. He had been living at *The Kiosk*, located at Toorbul Point, when the sighting occurred. Doo could not recall the date of the sighting, when prompted by McDonald. McDonald said that the date was at the beginning of February 1966, at between 8.30 pm and 9 pm.

Doo states that it was a lovely, clear night. There was moonlight, around the time of the full Moon. His television, 'Went out,' and he, 'Couldn't see nothing.' He was inside *The Kiosk* and couldn't receive any stations on his television. He got a ladder and went outside to look at his TV antenna.

Looking north, about 140 to 200 metres away, he saw an object apparently hovering over the mangroves. It then advanced towards him, at about 15 to 20 metre elevation. It came towards him until it was an estimated 75 metres away. Two dogs were heard barking. Then the object remained stationary and then went up and shot away, it made a noise like a vacuum cleaner. The object went back the way it had come, until it was obscured from view behind the trees.

There was a swamp near *The Kiosk*. When the object came down, he couldn't see it from where he was located. It was not visible in the six metres high mangroves. Doo said that on previous occasions he had found burn marks in the mangroves, he said, 'It burns the trees where it lands.' Some trees were burned and he had not seen any fires in this swamp. He had seen other burned areas in the swamp, perhaps in three or four locations.

McDonald asked if there were any burn marks associated with this sighting? Doo responded that he didn't see any that he could associate with the object seen at the beginning of February 1966.

Doo said that he had tried to get his wife to take a look but she wouldn't get out of bed. His son had not been at home that night. Asked about the size of the object by McDonald, Doo estimated it was four and a half to five metres in length and oval. Doo described the object as being lit up around its side with a glowing that projected downwards towards the trees. Its top was described as being, 'Real dark,' and that the bottom or base, had been lit up. There were no portholes in the object. Its closest distance to him was 25 metres (although earlier he said 75 metres). Doo also stated that, 'It would have landed but the dogs barked at it.'

After the object left, the TV, which was only two weeks old, started operating normally. Doo stated that, his previous TV, 'Played up a lot.'

McDonald asked about the colour of the glow from the object and Doo replied, 'It was white.' He stated that when the object was going away, the glow was a pink to cherry red colour. It left travelling north-west. Asked if he had a camera, he said he didn't. A report on the incident had been submitted to the Brisbane UFO group.

James McDonald Calls the US Embassy in Australia

Identification: Code/CD Number: 3T22S204/CD59

Date Recorded: July 1967

File Size: 2.0 MB

Interview Duration:(m:s): 2:02

Interview Details: James McDonald calls the US Embassy in Australia

Summary:

McDonald telephones the US Embassy and introduces himself, he states that someone at the Embassy had been trying to contact him, the day before, and that he, McDonald, is trying to confirm who called and what this is about. The operator transfers McDonald's call to Mr Wagner at the Embassy.

McDonald introduces himself to Mr Wagner, and states that someone at the Embassy had been trying to contact him the day before. McDonald asks, 'What was it about?' Mr Wagner informs McDonald that he checked with the weekend Duty Officer and has found nothing to clarify McDonald's query.

James McDonald Interviews Les Benedek

Identification Code/CD Number: 3T22S205/CD59

Date Recorded: June/July 1967

File Size: 9.4 MB

Interview Duration (m:s): 9:47

Interview Details: James E McDonald interviews Les Benedek

Sighting Date: 24 January 1966

Sighting Time: 10.30 pm

Location of Sighting: Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Duration of Sighting: 15 seconds

Witness(es): Mr Les Benedek

Summary:

On 24 January 1966 at about 10.30 pm, a Mr Benedek was in Perth, Western Australia. He said he was taking colour photographs when he saw a bluish-green light, he described the object as, 'It was oval shaped with an antenna on the front and dropped towards the river at terrific speed.'

Various details on this sighting have been published:

1. *Australian Flying Saucer Review*, Number 5, Victoria Edition, July 1966, p 20
2. *Australian Flying Saucer Review*, Number 9, UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC) Edition (image inside front cover)
3. *Sun Herald* newspaper, Sydney, 5 July 1966
4. *Perth Sunday Times* newspaper, 5 June 1966
5. *Life International* magazine, 18 April 1966

Benedek says that he moved back with the camera, and placed the camera on a rock. McDonald states that the second and third photographs were taken from a slightly different place, as indicated by the position of the brush in front. McDonald mentions someone called Martin, who was bothered about the first of the three photographs, in that the alignment of the distant lights suggests quite a substantial displacement from the other two photographs. The photograph in questions was the one showing a small dot. Benedek responds by saying that the first photograph referred to by McDonald may not in fact be the first one that he had taken. Benedek claims he used a complete roll of film.

Benedek was at Kings Park, Perth, taking photographs. Then he went towards the bay where there is a park. There he said he sighted the, 'Flying saucer,' and he was able to take three photographs of the object while standing at the same location. McDonald suggested that the first photograph was taken 400 to 800 metres from the other two photographs. Benedek wondered if he had mixed up the photographs.

McDonald said the pictures appeared in an UFOIC magazine cover with an arrow pointing to a dot. McDonald then discussed Martin's second point of concern. This was that photograph two, the one with the flare-like object at a higher angular elevation than photograph three, shows the streaks on a distance highway broken into three parts. A correspondent of Martin's had surveyed the site, this indicated that the small breaks in the photograph were caused by trees.

This finding appeared to confirm that there were only three cars. McDonald then states that based on this finding his estimate of the negatives' exposure time was 15 seconds.

Ripples on the streaks had been measured and corresponded with a breathing rate. He was puzzled about the tripod mounting and how the sinusoidal ripples had occurred.

Benedek claims that he had the camera on a tripod. He kept his finger on the button to keep the camera shutter open, allowing him to take a time exposure. The ripples in the photograph could have been due to his hand shaking. McDonald claims that Martin thought it was on a cable release. Benedek claimed that he had set the camera to, 'B,' and therefore not used a cable shutter release.

McDonald then asks, 'What about the estimate of 15 seconds?' Benedek is uncertain, stating, 'I thought it was less than 15 seconds, perhaps 10 seconds.' Benedek claims the object was hovering at first then moved downwards. Martin's correspondent had duplicated the scene using a 15 second exposure.

McDonald asked, 'How long it had been between when the photographs were taken and developed?' Benedek answered, 'It was a week.' McDonald then asks, 'What did you do then?' Benedek replies, " 'I took them to the Sydney Morning Herald', they said, 'We will reproduce them as black and white, why not take them to Life International?' " Benedek claims a Mr Shirley from Life International told him to submit the photographs to the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF). He did this, and an officer from the RAAF told him, 'Certainly not reflections.'

Life International published the photographs in the, 18 April 1966 edition.

Editor's note: It is claimed that the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) examined the photographs but nothing about this sighting has been found on RAAF files that are in the National Archives of Australia.

The correct spelling of Les Benedek's surname has been confirmed in various publications by Keith Basterfield ^[1]. The file name of the original audio file supplied by the University uses the name Les Berdick.

Reference:

1. Basterfield, K. (2016). Perth photographs – January 1966. [online] Unidentified Aerial Phenomena - scientific research. Available at: <http://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com.au/2016/11/perth-photographs-january-1966.html> [Accessed 20 Nov. 2016].
