

Russ, Copy for your information. Keith 30/12/87

UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

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1975 KEMPSEY, AUSTRALIA, PHOTOGRAPHS:

UFO OR VENUS ?

KEITH BASTERFIELD December 1987

Two people travelling by car in Kempsey, New South Wales reported observing and photographing an unusual object on the evening of 21st July, 1975. An account of their observations plus photograph(s) appeared in Flying Saucer Review Volume 21 number 6 front cover and pages 2-3, (source 1) and UFO Research Australia Newsletter Volume 2 Number 5 pages 10-12 (source 2).

The following details are taken mainly from source 2. At about 8 p.m. the couple noted a bright object "...directly above the car travelling rapidly westward." It was estimated to have been at an altitude of 150-300 metres, travelling noiselessly at "fantastic speed." The couple (identified in source 1 as Mr. and Mrs. Glen Waters) attempted to chase the object in their vehicle. Upon arriving at the town's edge, the object was now seen "...to be hovering motionless in the clear evening sky." Upon alighting from their vehicle the Waters noticed nearby cows disturbed and dogs barking loudly.

Now hovering, the object changed colour white/yellow/red, pulsated, and Mrs. Waters reported it moved in a triangular fashion. Mr. Waters, an "expert amateur photographer" took several pictures using a Praktica LTL camera loaded with GAF 500 ASA colour slide film. By this time it was 8.08 p.m.

Mr. Waters went to attach a telephoto lens to the camera but while he did so the object descended and disappeared behind hills in the distance. At this point it is mentioned that the dogs and cows became quiet.

A "cigar shaped object" was said to have been observed by others in Kempsey, that night. Source 2 relates an observation by a woman who saw it passing overhead, changing colour red/green/yellow/orange.

So we have a rapidly moving object which stops, hovers, and causes a disturbance to cows and dogs before disappearing. Obviously a UFO ?

Unfortunately not. Source 1 tells us that the object was stationary just north of due west and provides three photographs and a sketch indicating the position of the object relative to that of the Sun at sunset.

From this information and utilising the Commodore 64's "Skytravel" astronomical programme it was easy to determine that the object in the photographs is in exactly the same position as the planet Venus.

At 8 p.m. Venus was about 2 degrees above the horizon, some 10 degrees north of west.

If the object wasn't Venus then there should have been two bright light sources in the picture, which there isn't. Scintillation at such a low elevation, and autokinesis can explain the observations of pulsation, change of colour and apparent movement. All the data presented fit the identification as Venus.

What about the fast moving object which started it all? I would suggest there were two objects involved in the Waters' sighting. Initially a meteor or satellite re-entry caught their eye. Then a sighting plus photograph of Venus. No-one is reported to have seen the fast moving object slow and stop in the position of the light in the pictures. This transference of attention from one object to another has occurred in other UFO reports.

How about the commotion amongst the dogs and cows? It is possible that they were disturbed by the light from a bright meteor/re-entry or that their disturbance was co-incidental. Allan Hendry in "The UFO handbook" page 163 lists a number of animal reaction cases where the stimuli turned out to be such things as the Moon, aircraft and Venus.

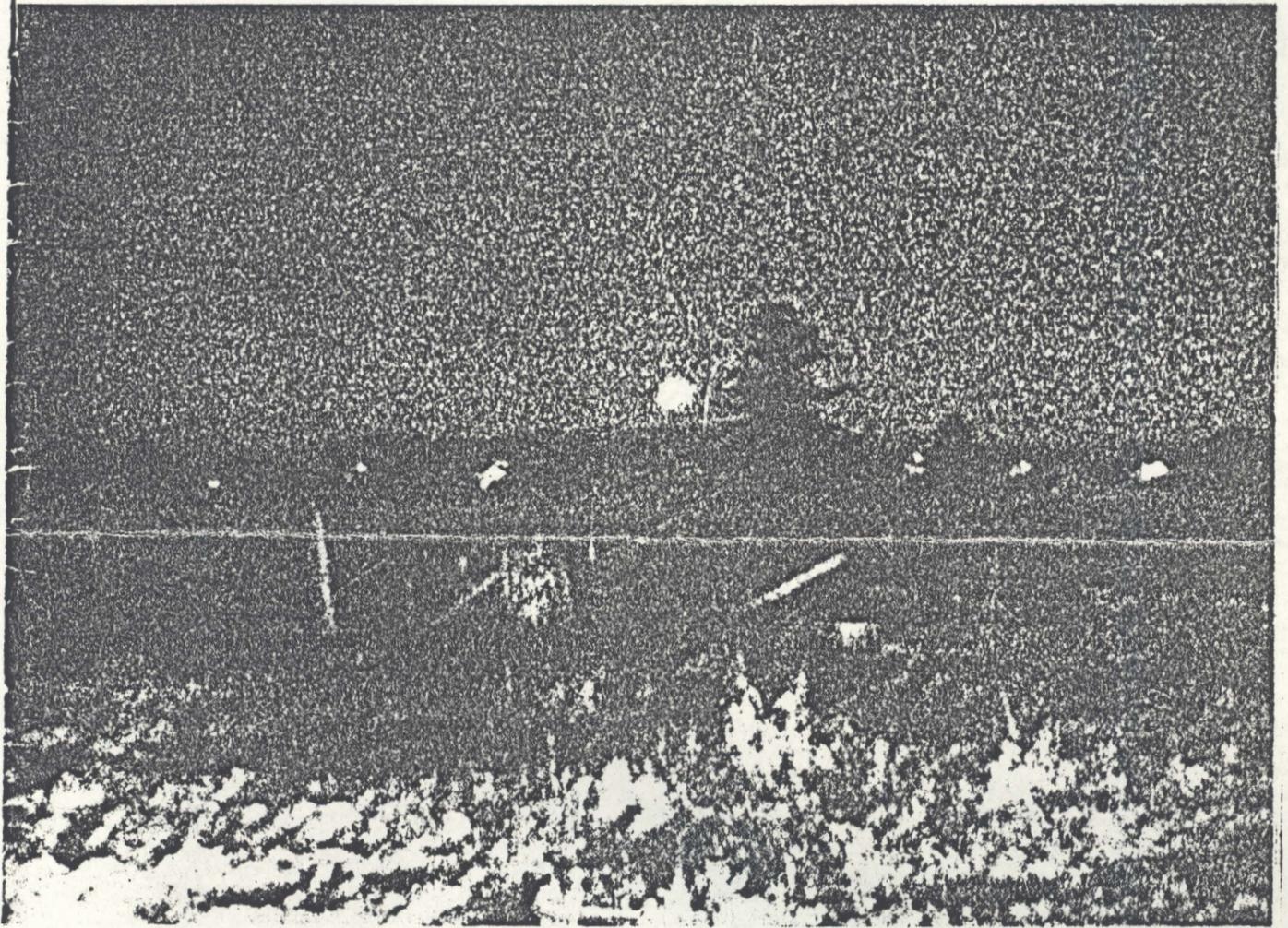
In summary, no data so far presented precludes the identification of the object in the 1975 Kempsey photographs as the planet Venus.

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UFO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM KEMPSEY

Continuing activity in part of New South Wales
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