

1976: Rochester, NSW "Aggressive BOT"  
forces cyclist off road.

CEI

#### ZOOMING LIGHT INCIDENT

While in the Castlemaine area we visited the home of one of the witnesses to an unusual incident which took place at 7.30 p.m. on July 13. The two witnesses were Miss G., 27, and Miss R., about 24, both of whom are nursing sisters. Only G., who lives near Bendigo, was available for interview, as R. lives interstate. The following statements by G. have been selected from a tape-recorded interview:

I was driving to Deniliquin with a girlfriend who was in front of me on a motorbike, and I was travelling behind in the Kombi van, and we'd got about 10 miles out of Rochester. The actual place where everything happened was clear paddocks - there were no trees or anything...

...We were travelling along the Midlands Highway towards Echuca, and I was concentrating on my girlfriend because she just started to run off the road, and for a few seconds I saw this single light coming towards us - but not taking any notice - just thinking it was another motorbike. And the next thing I knew she was in the ditch, and the bright light had followed her right across to the other side of the road as far as the gravel.

And then I jumped out of the Kombi van to see where it went, because at the same instant as seeing it go to the side of the road and force her off the road, it just swung around in front of the Kombi van and down the side of the road. I jumped out to see if it was a bike, but it wasn't. There were no lights or sound or anything following it. It was very big and bright ... white.... It would have been I would have thought about three feet in diameter when I really think about it...

...When we discussed it later - she'd watched it for a lot longer than I did. At that stage I was concentrating on her. There was absolutely no sound - no tail lights to go with it afterwards.

...According to her - she thought it was a car with one light only. Then as it got closer it moved in closer towards the white line in the road, and it travelled down the white line for quite some distance, and then it started gradually to come over to her - it wasn't a quick happening according to her - and then all of a sudden it just zapped, and that was when she decided to head for the hills...

...It lit up over to the paddock fence, it was that big and it was that bright...It was just a light - there were no beams or anything...She thought it was a giant truck, because it got bigger and bigger as it got closer and closer. Then all of a sudden it just went swish like that, and I'm sure that's when she accelerated, because there were acceleration marks on the gravel...

...I suppose you could say I was in the motion of putting the Kombi into neutral, watching the light, opening the door and jumping out, and as I jumped out, that was the last piece of light that I saw... I did have a wireless on, but I had turned it off - and actually I turned it off because there was a lot of static in the air (Just at that time). She had been watching this light for a good five minutes I think.

Miss G. said that although she had seen the light approaching for one to two minutes, she had not taken much notice of it, thinking it was a car or motorcycle light, since it appeared to be travelling at the correct height - about 2½ feet above the road. It was not until it made the sudden swerve to the left, then a sharp swerve back to her right, across the front of her vehicle, that she realised it was anything out of the ordinary. Miss R. was travelling only 20 to 30 yards in front of the van, and the whole sequence took place in a very few seconds. She said that the object disappeared right opposite the van door, just as she was in the act of opening the door. She said that she was astonished when it seemed to just blink out, and, looking back down the road in the direction it was heading, could see nothing at all, nor hear any sound.

Her first thought was to hurry to her friend's assistance, but it was quickly ascertained that no injury or damage had been done - in fact Miss R. had not dismounted from the bike.

The extremely puzzling thing to both women was where the object had gone. At the spot there were no traces left behind, such as smell, smoke, or marks on the road or on the ground. Miss G. said that she had been past the same spot several times since and could see nothing that might throw any light on the mystery. The immediate area consisted of grazing paddocks with barbed wire fences on both sides of the road. Strangely, said G., a car passed them, going in the direction they were facing, just as she was half way from the van to assist her friend, and she was surprised that it did not stop to offer some assistance. She seemed certain that had the object been a vehicle of any kind, the car must certainly have seen it, if not collided with it.

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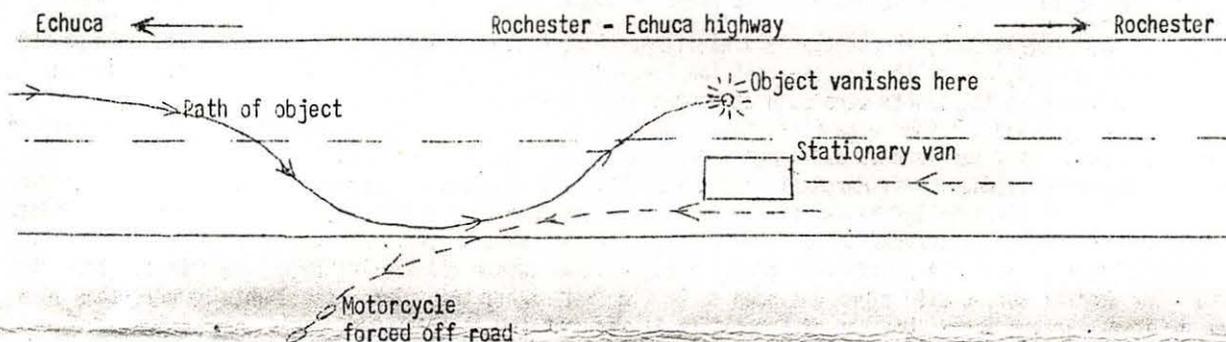
After regaining their composure and discovering that nothing was amiss, they were on their way again within a quarter of an hour. They reported no physiological effects due to the incident; however, their disturbed and puzzled state of mind persisted with them; so much so, in fact, that they both dreamed about the incident that night. When requested to complete the Society's sighting forms, G. said that at first they were reluctant to do so, as the incident "seemed so ridiculous".

The next day they travelled from Deniliquin to Melbourne, during which they noticed unusual difficulty in starting the van. It had to be push-started several times, and minor ignition and electrical problems have persisted ever since, despite a new starter motor being installed. (The van is a 1961 model) Whether these effects have any connection with the incident or are coincidental is impossible to say.

Miss G. claimed little prior interest in the subject of UFOs, and after listening to her relating the details for more than an hour, we came to the conclusion that she was a well-balanced individual, and unlikely to be fooled by something with an ordinary explanation. We discussed several suggestions, such as bicycle, free-wheeling motorcycle, etc., but she convinced us that she had not been fooled by any normal vehicle. She said that the light was bigger than a car headlight. Although she stated that it was about three feet in diameter, she later agreed that it was not a clearly outlined sphere, but a glowing mass bright at the centre and fading out towards the edges, and may possibly have been a smaller object appearing larger due to its luminosity.

We are unable to find an explanation.

- Ray Fischer.



Reconstruction of the incident, compiled from sketches by the witnesses.