AR 158
Revised Oct 80

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

FILE No				Part No
OLD AIR	580	1	1	24

NOTE: This cover is to be used only for official file series recorded with Australian Archives. Form Number AR 111 is to be used for working papers.

SUBJECT: FILE NUMBER OLD AIR 580/1/1 pt. 24.

REPORTS ON FLYING SAUCERS AND OTHER AERIAL OBJECTS.

Folio	Referred to	Date Referred	Actioned by (Inits)	Folio	Referred to	Date Referred	Actioned by (Inits)
	P.A. 73	9.8.84	✓				

ARCHIVAL ACTION

FILE No OLD AIR 580 1 1 Part No 24

Stock No 7530-66-093-3093

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SINGLE SERVICE MA

PLEASE TIE TAG ON TOP OF FILE

SUMMARY OF SIGHTINGS

No	Place / Date	Person	Recd	Reply	Remarks.
1 / 5	DUBBO NSW 14 APR 73	H.H. ASHMORE	6 JUN	13 JUL 73 ✓	AIRCRAFT
2 / 10	THE ENTRANCE NSW 23 MAY 73	R FOWLINGTON	12 JUN	16 JUL 73 ✓	SPLIT IMAGE OF REFRACTED MOON & SING.
3 / 11	DONCASTER VIC 23 MAY 73	C.S. PERRIN	12 JUN	11 JUL ✓	POLICE CAR
4 / 9	MONTROSE VIC 17 MAY 73	G.P. McLENNAN	12 JUN	3 JUL 73 ✓	POLICE CAR
5 / 12	FOREST HILL VIC 23 MAY 73	MRS M. RACKHAM	12 JUN	22 JUN ✓	NO DETERMINATION. PROB SPACE DEBRIS
6 / 13	CHADSTONE VIC 29 MAY 73	B. TURNER	12 JUN	5 JUN ✓	JUPITER
7 / 6	VAUCLUSE NSW 18 APR 73	J. BRENNAN	12 JUN	22 JUN ✓	AIRCRAFT DEPARTING SYDNEY AIRPORT.
8 / 8	BOWEN QLD 5 MAY 73 (after)	C. TOPPENBERG	12 JUN	~~UNKN~~ N/R	UNKNOWN
9 / 2	MANLY NSW 26 MAR 73	P. RUSSELL	13 JUN	5 JUN ✓	AIRCRAFT SY-NEWCASTLE
10 / 1	ANTILL PONDS TAS 18 MAR 73	MISS H. DAVIES MISS M. KING	14 JUN	22 JUN ✓	LIGHT A/C & SIRIUS
11 / 3	RAVENSWOOD TAS 28 MAR 73	T.G. REYNOLDS	14 JUN	22 JUN ✓	SPACE DEBRIS
12 / 15	EAST DONCASTER VIC 31 MAY 73	K.J. & MISS J. BROOKS	15 JUN	18 JUL ✓	ANSETT B-727.
13 / 14	RINGWOOD VIC 29 MAY 73	C. LANE	15 JUN	19 JUN ✓	F-27 A/C WYN-MEL.
14 / 4	HOLBROOK NSW 31 MAR 73	D.S. MADDOCKS	20 JUN	11 JUL ✓	AIRCRAFT
15 / 7	MT ISA QLD 20 APRIL 73	H. HARSIMAKI	21 JUN	N/R 19/SEP	SEE FOLIO 15b (MINISTERIAL 569/4/53) MET BALLOON.

ISTRUCTIONS ON THE PROCEDURES TO
E FOLLOWED IN THE FILING OF CORRES-
ONDENCE AND THE HANDLING OF FILES
RE CONTAINED IN DEPARTMENTAL AND
NGLE SERVICE MANUALS

D/G to RES. 28-11-80

CLOSELY RELATED FILES				
File Number				Subject
				new cover 9.8.84

(AIR FORCE OFFICE)
MINUTE PAPER

DEFAIR 580/1/1
Reference AF554/1/30 (34)

Subject: RECLASSIFICATION OF FILES

Reference: A. DI(AF)AAP 810 para 326.

In accordance with Reference A, all folios, in all parts of Department of Air File series 580/1/1 are reclassified 'UNCLASSIFIED' with effect 7 May 82.

(G.A. PERSKE)
GPCAPT
DAFIS

7 May 82

20 APR 78 D 2030

SIGHTING #15

MT ISA MR HIRSIMAKI
QLD

(Hmiskrial 569/9/33)

580/1/1 Pt24 (15d)

19 SEP 1973

Mr H. Hirsimaki,
126 Webb Street,
MT ISA QLD 4825

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 20th April 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was the sighting of a meteorological balloon.

Investigations revealed that a balloon mounted with a 20 inch reflector and a white light was released from the Meteorological Section at Longreach airport at approximately 3.30 am on 20th April, and this balloon would, under the atmospheric conditions pertaining at the time, have reacted similarly to the light as described by you. The only apparent discrepancy is the speed of approach of the light as described, but the investigating team must treat that aspect of the report as speculative, as it is impossible to assess speed unless the size of the object and/or the distance from the observer is known.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

G.J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Resp by DR 19.9.73

DAFI Copy

569/9/33 (11)

MINISTERIAL FILE NO 569/9/33

A Sec A

Herewith are suggested draft replies relating to the subject unusual aerial sighting enquiry.

(K.R. JAMSON)
Gp Capt
DAFI

13 Sep 73

D R A F T

With reference to the request by the Hon. W.C. Wentworth M.P., for investigation of an unusual aerial sighting made on 20th April 1973, the investigation has been conducted and a draft reply to Mr Wentworth is attached.

Yours Sincerely

(F.J. GREEN)
Secretary

Approved
DAS
13/9/73

D R A F T

Dear Mr Wentworth,

In response to your enquiry addressed to the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, relating to an unusual aerial sighting made by Mr Hendrick Hirsimaki at Longreach on 20th April 1973, the Department of Air has carried out an investigation and concludes that the most probable cause was the sighting of a meteorological balloon.

Mr Hirsimaki, in answer to a request from the RAAF, related the story of the sighting and answered a specific questionnaire. The details supplied bore little resemblance to the sensational newspaper description and, in the opinion of the investigating team, did not resemble the descriptions of the 'Min Min Light' as quoted in the Australian Encyclopaedia, Vol 6, page 91 (a copy of which is attached).

It has been determined that at the time of sighting, a meteorological balloon mounted with a 20 inch reflector and a white light was released from the Meteorological Section at Longreach airport and this balloon would, under the atmospheric conditions pertaining at the time, have reacted similarly to the light as seen by Mr Hirsimaki. The only apparent discrepancy is the speed of approach of the light as described by the witness. The speed of an object is virtually impossible to assess unless the size of the object and/or the distance from the observer is known, and it is considered in this case that the speed assessment made by Mr Hirsimaki is in error due to his lack of knowledge of both of these factors.

Mr Hirsimaki has also been advised of the results of the investigation.

Yours Sincerely

R. BISHOP

Typed
DAH
13/9/73

The Hon W.C. Wentworth
1 Redman Road
DEE WHY NSW 2099

Weather conditions - Longreach (30th April 1973.

Fine 2/8th Cirrus
Light winds - SSW
Dry bulb 20°C Dew point 17°C Humidity 83%

Rainfall (general) March - twice normal rainfall
April - quarter

Radar balloon scheduled for release at 3.15 am.

Spoke to Mr Basil Finlay (Bureau of Mineral Resources - 499111 ext 617).
There is black soil in area but he did not seem to think that methane gas would be given off, however, a lot of rain fell in the area this year.

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of observer H. HIRSIMAKI Age 44

Address 126 WEBB ST

MT ISA. State Q Postcode 4825

Occupation PIPEFITTER

Phone (home) 34734 (business)

2. Exact location of observer Longreach airport

3. Start of observation: Date 20.4-73 Time 3.40 am/~~pm~~

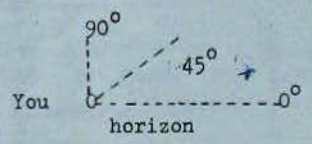
End of observation: Date 20.4-73 Time 3.48 am/~~pm~~

4. Accuracy of date 20th April 1973 times

5. Weather conditions at time of observation, referring to cloud, wind visibility etc. fine, visibility good. calm

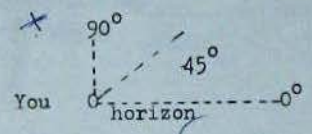
6. In what direction was the sighting first observed? 20° — 25°

At what angle to the horizon?



7. In what direction was the sighting last observed?

At what angle to the horizon?



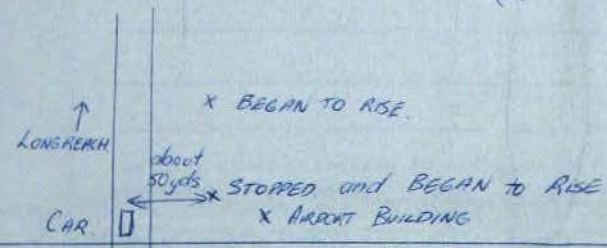
8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer (over page)

9. Describe the object(s)/light(s) in your own words, referring to the number, colour, size, shape, brightness (relative to full moon/star), movement, sound, speed, method of propulsion, manner of disappearance and any other unusual features. If possible provide a sketch.

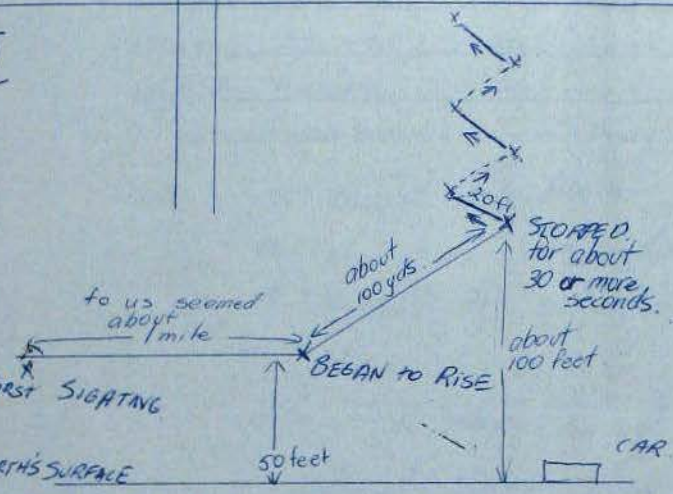
Weather
Terrain (Mourshy), Dept of Minerals & Energy
Bores
DMR SURVEY — MAP

/9. (cont'd)

I



II



it. BEGAN to hover upwards the continuous line shows when the light was brighter and dotted line shows when it was dimmer.

Each circuit took from about 1½ to 2 seconds

— Seemed to have been the size of a rising full moon.

III

DISAPPEARED. ABOUT 30 seconds.

AS IT MOVED IN THIS DIRECTION THE LIGHT BEGAN TO GET DIMMER UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED.

(size of a satellite) and speed of a satellite also. BEGAN TO MOVE IN SAME DIRECTION WHERE IT CAME FROM.

FROM the 'stopped position' in diagram ~~to~~ II to this position it took about 6-7 minutes.

× Seemed to have stopped hovering and appeared to have risen vertically.

10. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? No

11. How many other witnesses to the sighting? (Please provide names and addresses if possible) three others

AGE		ADDRESS
(42)	Hekna HIRSIMAKI - wore glasses	same as observer.
(17)	Kyösti HIRSIMAKI - wore glasses	
(13)	Anitta HIRSIMAKI -	

12. Any additional comments you wish to make.

- no sound whatsoever.
- as it came horizontally towards us it seemed to come at the speed of a jet.
- when it stopped it did so suddenly without even slowing down when it began to rise
- two days before we left Mt. Isa we had put a new battery in the car, ~~a~~ but after this sighting when I started the car the battery seemed almost flat.

Date 19th aug.-73

Signature V Hirsimaki

23 AUG '73

580/1/1 Pt24 (15c)

Mr H. Hirsimaki,
126 Webb Street,
MT ISA QLD 4825

Dear Sir,

The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence was requested on 13 June 1973 to investigate an unusual aerial sighting alleged to have been made by you on 20th April 1973 as reported in the 'Brisbane Courier Mail' newspaper of 26th April 1973. As a result of this request a letter and questionnaire were dispatched to you from this Department on 21st June 1973.

To date, no answer has been received, and to cover the possibility that either our letter or your reply went astray in the post, we enclose another questionnaire.

Would you please complete the questionnaire and return it to the Department of Air, Canberra, as soon as possible. Answers and narrative description should be as detailed as possible, to allow adequate investigation.

You may be assured that the investigation will be thorough and will be treated in confidence.

Yours faithfully,

(K.R. JANSON)
Group Captain
Director of Air Force Intelligence
for Chief of the Air Staff

C.D.O. 9780

MINUTE PAPER

(Write on this side only)

(15b)

Subject: AERIAL SIGHTING REPORT

DAFI (IR)

1. The attached copy of a letter forwarded today for signature by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence is referred in relation to your file 580/1/1 Pt 24, folio 15A of 21 Jun 73.

2. Please advise if a reply is received from Mr Hirsimaki - for further advice to Mr Wentworth on file 569/9/33.

R. J. Cantoni

14 Aug 73

A/Exec O Air

569/9/33

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mr Wentworth,

Further to my letter of 25th June, 1973 in response to your enquiry addressed to the Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, I am writing to let you know that I am still unable to provide any worthwhile information about the matter.

The press cutting from the Brisbane Courier Mail of 26th April, 1973 enclosed with your letter indicated that a Mr Hendrick Hirsimaki had claimed to have seen an Unidentified Flying Object on the outskirts of Longreach at 3.30 a.m. on Good Friday, 20th April, 1973. The Department of Air has written to Mr Hirsimaki seeking additional specific information to enable the investigation to be initiated. To date, Mr Hirsimaki has not returned the information requested, and in the interim, it will not be possible for the investigation to proceed.

If the information sought is obtained, thus enabling the investigation to proceed, I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

(R. BISHOP)
Minister Assisting the
Minister for Defence

The Hon. W.C. Wentworth, M.P.,
1 Redman Road,
DEE WHY. N.S.W. 2099.

INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Australian Encyclopaedia
vol 6 page 91

Often sighted —

Mrs Hughes — via Smith

580/1/1 Pt24 (15a)

21 JUN 1973

Mr H. Hirsimaki,
126 Webb Street,
Mt Isa QLD 4825

Dear Sir,

The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence has been requested to investigate an unusual aerial sighting made by you on 20th April 1973, and reported in the 'Brisbane Courier Mail' newspaper on 26th April.

Would you please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to The Department of Air, Canberra, as soon as possible. Answers and narrative description should be as detailed as possible to allow adequate investigation.

You may be assured that the investigation will be thorough and that you will be informed of the results. Thanking you in anticipation for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Janson

(K.R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

MT ISA MINES LTD 0775 42011

HENDRICK HIRSIMAKI
126 WEBB ST MT ISA
Nationality - FINNISH
Telephone - 34734

BUREAU OF ABORIGINAL STUDIES 1188711

1212

'Flying object' reported in West

MOUNT ISA. — Mr. Hendrick Hirsimaki, 44, a pipe fitter with Mount Isa Mines Limited, claims to have seen an unidentified flying object on the outskirts of Longreach at 3.30 a.m. on Good Friday.

20 APR 75

Civil Aviation Department officials in Longreach said yesterday they were interested in Mr. Hirsimaki's sightings. No one was in the tower at Longreach airport at the time.

Mr. Hirsimaki said that he and his family were passing Longreach airport at 3.30 a.m. when a bright light came towards them.

"I thought it a jet going to land on the airstrip," said Mr. Hirsimaki. "I thought it had switched on its lights to land on the nearby airstrip. The light was very bright.

"It came towards us at a height of about 50 feet. I pulled off to the side of the roadway and stopped the car.

"We watched through the windows of the car.

"It was travelling very fast — just like a jet — then, almost above us, it zoomed into the air about 100 feet and stopped.

"Then it started to spin — a bright yellow light.

"It then went up in the air until it was just a dot in the sky. Then it travelled north — just like a fast-travelling satellite."

HICK HIRSIMAKI

Enter File No on Logging Card for

above dated

known species, with strong development in New Guinea (at least 25 endemic species), others occurring in Indonesia, one in the Solomon Islands and two (*A. vaillantii* and *A. lucyi*) in North Queensland. *A. vaillantii*, the "marshall tree", grows to about 50 feet high in scrubs between the Tully and Daintree rivers, Qld. It has large, rather shiny ovoid leaflets up to 6 inches long, a strong durable reddish timber, and smooth bark, which contains a poisonous principle. Clusters of five to seven flowers with long stamens—about 1¼ inches—appear on the older branchwood, and the spectacular coiled, coral-red pods resemble beaded bracelets; when opened out they disclose black seeds set in canary-yellow sockets.

Neptunia is a small genus of perennial herbs or scrambling half-shrubs, related to the trees *Adenanthera* and *Dicrostachys* (a large Madagascan genus, with two representatives in North Australia), but differing in the absence of apical glands from its anthers. The 23 species described occur chiefly in tropical America and Malaysia; four have been recorded for Australia, all of them being endemic. *N. gracilis* and *N. monosperma* are almost prostrate and ranging from northern New South Wales, throughout eastern Queensland, to the Gulf country, Arnhem Land and the Kimberleys, W.A. *N. gracilis* (sometimes called "native sensitive plant") often grows thickly on good downs country to the exclusion of grasses, and is then a troublesome weed. *Leucaena glauca* (lead-tree), with white flower-heads, is a small ornamental tree of tropical America, cultivated in parts of northern Australia including the Darwin foreshore. J.H.W.

(*See also* ADENANTHERA; ALBIZZIA; ENTADA; MIMOSA; WATTLE.)

MIN MIN, a term of aboriginal origin, once applied to a hotel situated at a lonely spot in the north-west of Queensland, and later used for a "ghost light" reported to have been seen there and in other parts of the inland, particularly the Never-Never. The hotel in question, long since burnt down, was placed near a bore-head on the road between Warenda and Lucknow stations, towards Boulia, and it has been suggested that the "will-o'-the-wisp" light arose from spontaneous combination of certain gases, especially methane, given off by the bore.

Writing in the *North Queensland Naturalist* (Jan. 1954), G. B. M. Terris states that he and two companions saw a Min Min light operating, at 11 p.m. on 5th May 1953, on a black-soil plain of the Barkly Tableland, N.T. The light, which was white and very brilliant (more so than any planetary bodies observed at the time), faded at intervals and then acquired a bright red flash. It moved in irregular circles and spirals, though sometimes straight upward, to a height of about 1000 feet, and then descended almost to the ground. The phenomenon was observed for 10 minutes and was last seen disappearing into the ground. All of its movements were rapid.

Earlier reports on the subject have come from many parts of the interior, have described varying types of light, and have been productive of numerous theories. George Farwell, in *Land of Mirage* (1951), quotes several bushmen of the Centre as having seen in wild places a single bright light, like that of a motor-car, which faded when approached; and he cites an aboriginal as having said that the mystery light was not known before the coming of the white man. Various writers in Queensland newspapers have given detailed descriptions of their experiences with the supposed Min Min. One man states that a light which he saw near the Landsborough River zigzagged along a ridge until it reached a tree, and then it illuminated the trunk, rose among the branches, and emitted an eerie greenish glow about 3 feet in diameter; after that it travelled about 100 yards away, only to return and pass through the branches of the tree without illuminating the trunk. Another writer records having seen the light numbers of times, but only in the winter months following the tropical wet season; in each of his instances the light travelled at the one height above grass (rising or falling according to the ground's undulations), and in each instance it gave the impression that it was "breathing, expanding, and shrinking".

Suggestions regarding the origin of the phenomenon, naturally varying in accordance with the type of light observed, have included references to ball lightning, the effects of the clear inland air on the appearance of twinkling stars (this theory is emphatically rejected by most bushmen), the glow produced by certain nocturnal insects, and the effect created by certain species of fungoid plants in association with a certain type of soil. Because of the sporadic nature of the occurrence, no scientific investigation has been made, but the tentative view of geologists relates the phenomenon, at least on its larger scale, to gases from bores or marshy ground.

It may be noted that most of the features reported to be associated with the Min Min are similar to those recorded in relation to the ignis fatuus ("foolish fire"), the "will-o'-the-wisp" or "corpse candle", which occurs, irregularly and unpredictably, over marshy ground or in graveyards in certain parts of Britain and the Continent. The ignis fatuus is usually explained as being the flame of burning marsh gas (largely methane), which has been ignited by hydrogen phosphide contained in decaying organic matter.

MINERALS AND MINERALOGY. This article contains a brief survey of mineral production in Australia, with special reference to those minerals

31 MAR 73

SIGHTING # 14

HOLBROOK
NSW

D. S MADDOCKS

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 P24(14b)	12 JUL 73	~~[illegible]~~ BS/5/1/AIR(35) DATED 14 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HQWAC	SQN LDR F.E. REED

SUBJECT
REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr D.S. Maddocks in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr D.S. Maddocks

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M. Cretton	M. CRETTON	FLG OFF	IR.2	2408

580/1/1 Pt24 (14a)

11 JUL 1973

Mr D.S. Maddocks,
65 Palmerston Crescent,
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting at Holbrook NSW on 31st March 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was a light aircraft.

It is common practice for light aircraft to operate at night with landing lights on for identification purposes. When operating under night visual meteorological conditions in areas outside DCA control, such as Holbrook, these aircraft are not required to submit a formal flight plan notification to DCA.

It is the opinion of the investigating team and of the Officer-in-Charge, DCA, Wagga, that the object sighted was such an aircraft. As records of these flights are not kept it is impossible for us to confirm this theory.

We trust that this explanation will be satisfactory to you and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Copy
DMS
10 Jul 73

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

580-1-1 DAFI 7.6.73

Wagga 211100

Headquarters
RAAF Base
WAGGA NSW 2651

BS/5/1/Air(35)

14th June 1973

Department of Air

For Information:

DAFI

Headquarters Support Command

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Enclosed is a report of an unusual aerial sighting in the Wagga district.

For Headquarters Support Command. Your 5/6/1/Air(45) dated 6th April 1973 refers.

(F.E. REED)
Squadron Leader
For Officer Commanding

Enclosures: 1. Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting by Mr D.S. Maddocks

RECEIVED 20 JUN 1973 DAFI

b. in what formation were they?.....

12. What was the colour of the light or object?..... White. - later turned orange, just before moving off.

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer Donald Scott Maddocks Age 29.
2. Address of observer 65 Palmerston Crst Sth Melbourne Vic 3205.
   Phone 695211
3. Occupation of observer Company director
4. Date and time of start of observation March 31/73. 1900hrs.
   How certain is the date? 100%
   How accurate is the time of start? within 20 minutes
5. Duration of observation 10 minutes
   How accurate is your estimate? with 2 or 3 minutes
6. Observer's location at time of sighting 'Mt Raven' a property 5 miles south of Holbrook, N.S.W. 2644.
   How familiar is observer with this locality? quite
7. Weather conditions at time of observation clear sky.
8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation none
9. Where was object first observed? :
   a. Relative to your surroundings It appeared to be direct in line with the town of Holbrook
   b. angle of elevation 10%
   c. compass angle bearing almost due north.
   d. how accurate are these estimates? within a few degrees.
10. What first attracted observer's attention? A bright white light which intermittently faded to Magnitude Star brightness 3. then back to full luminosity Mag. 1.
11. If there was more than one light/object :
    a. how many were there?
    b. in what formation were they?
12. What was the colour of the light or object? White. - later turned orange, just before moving off.

~~RESTRICTED~~

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards). Twice magnitude of a Magnitude 1. star. ie morning star

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon. Twice size of Venus

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes). as above

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? due north at 10% - check with map.

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? No

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity

none

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? 500 feet if the object was only 5 miles away.

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances There was no angular velocity - it travelled parallel with the ground.

20. Give duration of any stationary phases. 2 minutes

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres moved eastwards slowly, thru about 8°

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen. orange glow.

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings. disappearing rapidly over eastern horizon.

b. angle of elevation. 10%

c. compass angle bearing. NNE

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? extremely rapid

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc). no

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of ~~his/her~~ his ability to estimate angles and angular velocity. Member of the Victorian Astronomical Society. Telescope building group.

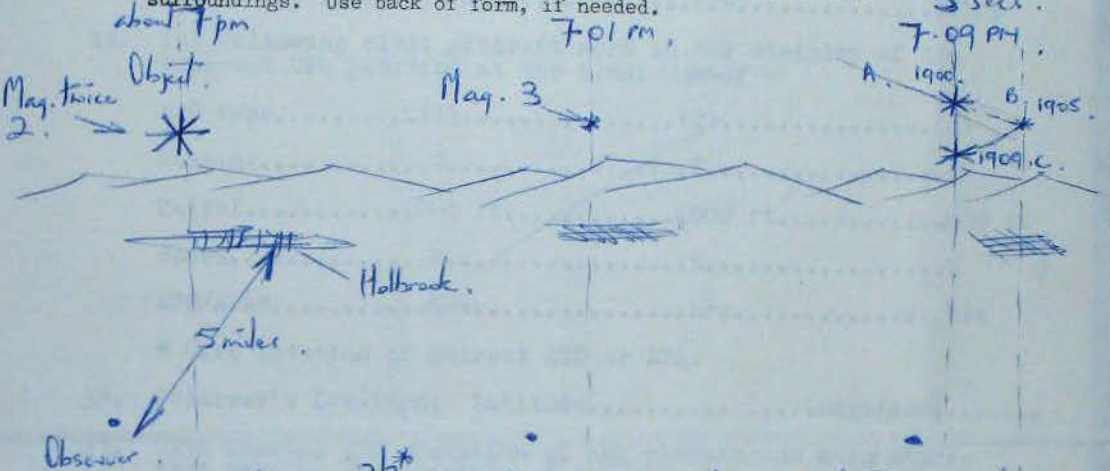
27. How many witness to the sighting? One other

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area? NO

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation? NONE

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation? Stars do not move at the speed of the object. Satellites do no change their direction nor do planets. Fireballs or marsh gas do not disappear over an hour in 5 secs.

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.



P.S. The following *~~Monday~~ 2/3* after the sighting, I rang the Depart. of Civil Aviation's Flight Service Unit at Wagga. The unit controls, or rather, monitors aircraft - civil or military - over the Holbrook area. I spoke with the chap that was on duty, a Mr. R.M. Phillips. He said he was on duty from mid afternoon Sat. to about 9PM. He had no knowledge of the object. I might add, WAGGA is about in a line line North of the object. So it would have been over WAGGA. As I said distance was hard to estimate.

Signature. Waddaks Date. April 3 1973.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time: - NONE -

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time: - NONE -

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA.

34. Observer's Location: Latitude.....Longitude.....

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that portion of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.....

36. A meteorological ballon was released from....WAGGA.....

at....1000....Z. Colour..WHITE..Weight...100.....gm

~~Radio-sonde**/radar**: Candle**~~/battery** (** delete as required)

General wind profile....SOUTH WEST TO WEST.....

Maximum height tracked....~~10~~ 36,000 ft at.....1030.....Z

Was it known to have burst? YES.

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of....N/A.....°C

at....N/A....ft, measured at....N/A.....Z hrs from..N/A...

.....N/A.....station. INVERSION MEASUREMENTS MADE AT 2300 Z EACH DAY ONLY.

N/A = NOT APPLICABLE

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc. relevant to the sighting...NIL KNOWN.....

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.....N/A.....

40. The cause (or limely cause) of the sighting ~~could~~*/cannot* be determined.

41. The object reported ~~probably was~~*/may have been* (delete as required)..AN..AIRCRAFT..OPERATING..WITHOUT..FORMAL.....
.....FLIGHT PLAN..NOTIFICATION..TO..DCA.....

Officer-in-Charge
Department of Civil Aviation
Wagga Wagga N.S.W.
26/5/93

.....(Unit).....(Name)

.....(Date).....(Rank)

29 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 13

RINGWOOD VIC

C LANE

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No. 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 Pt 24 (135)	20 JUN 73	HOSC 5/6/1/AIR (64) OF 17 MAY 73 AND HOSC 5/6/1/AIR Pt 4(1) OF 12 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HOSC	C INTELLO

SUBJECT
REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed for your records, are copies of letters from this Department to Master C. Lane and Mr J.R. Emerton, in reply to their reports of unusual aerial sightings

ENCLOSURES: Copies of letters to Master C. Lane and Mr J.R. Emerton

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M. Cretton	M. CRETTON	FLG OFF	IR 2	2408

580/1/1 Pt 24 (13a)

19 JUN 1973

Master C. Lane,
6 Wonga Road,
RINGWOOD, VIC 3134

Dear Clive,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 29th May 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was an aircraft approaching TULLAMARINE airport.

On the evening of 29th May two Fokker Friendship aircraft were flying below 2000 feet altitude from Wonthaggi to Plenty, bound for Tullamarine. The first aircraft (VH-TQR) landed at 6.15 pm. The other (VH-MMV) followed VH-TQR five minutes later on the same track. Additionally, a temperature inversion was apparent at 300 feet altitude maintaining a pollution level below that altitude.

The opinion of the investigating team is that the object sighted was the second aircraft, carrying out delaying manoeuvres ('esses' along track) prior to a left hand turn for final approach to Tullamarine airport, and the navigation lights of the aircraft were distorted in colour by the pollution.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

for Donsell PRI

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Replied
DAH
18 Jun 73

MEMORANDUM

RAAF FORM A273 MAR 63

For use within the RAAF only
Write or print clearly

OUR FILE: 5/6/1/Air Pt4(1)

FROM: HQSC

DATE: 12 JUN 73

TO: DPF! ~~DEPAIR~~

ATTENTION: DAFI IR2

REFERENCES: DEPT OF AIR HQS DAFI 580-1-1 7.6.73

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Attached are unusual aerial sighting reports from Master C. Lane and Mr. K.J/ Miss J.L. Brooks

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RANK AND APPOINTMENT	PHONE EXTN
Gibbs	R.O. Gibbs	Flg Off Int 1	7410

C.O.O. 9777

RESTRICTED
JUN 1973

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer Clive Lane Age 13

2. Address of observer 6 Wongs Road Ringwood 3134

Phone 870 7231

3. Occupation of observer Student

4. Date and time of start of observation Tuesday May 29th at 6:10 pm

How certain is the date? completely

How accurate is the time of start? within 5 minutes

5. Duration of observation 30 - 45 seconds

How accurate is your estimate? unsure - the very min 30 very max 1 min.

6. Observer's location at time of sighting Railway Place Ringwood near telephone booths

How familiar is observer with this locality? Have lived in Ringwood for 12 years.

7. Weather conditions at time of observation Unsure but I think they were fairly clear as I think I saw a star.

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation nil

9. Where was object first observed? : Approx. over 'Eastland' Shopping Cntr.

a. Relative to your surroundings I couldn't tell the height with any accuracy, so unable to say I thought it was no more than a mile away along the ground

b. angle of elevation 30° approx

c. compass angle bearing N.W. approx

d. how accurate are these estimates? 5° out, elev. Between WNW and NNW

10. What first attracted observer's attention? Nil Just looked around sky and saw it

11. If there was more than one light/~~object~~ :

a. how many were there? 2

b. in what formation were they? appeared to be attached to each other

12. What was the colour of the light ~~or object~~? one orange one red

RESTRICTED

5/6/1973

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards). Street light at 150 - 200 yards

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon... roughly as big as Venus

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes)... X Slightly less than ¾"

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? N.W, 80° elev. elevation from school work, worked out bearing later

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? No

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity ... Nil (Possibly due to traffic noise:)

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? 80° when first observed to 15°-20° when disappeared behind building

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances. Faster than a light plane usually appears to be travelling.

20. Give duration of any stationary phases... Nil

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres. (over page 3) (attatched)

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen... Nil

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings. Behind Burwood Shopping centre on Whitehorse road opp. Phone Booths.

b. angle of elevation... 20°

c. compass angle bearing... N.W. (It went approx. straight towards horizon)

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? Behind building (also - I attatched)

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc). No

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity. School. Science work on stars (for angles). No idea about Angular Veloc. Very interested in aircraft.

27. How many witness to the sighting? Only me as far as I know

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?...No.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....

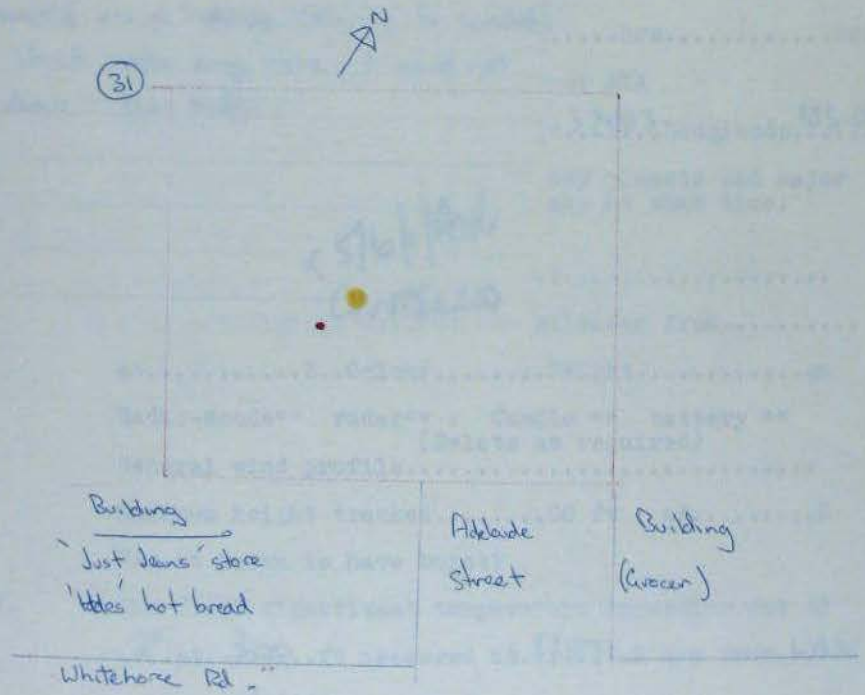
30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....

.....

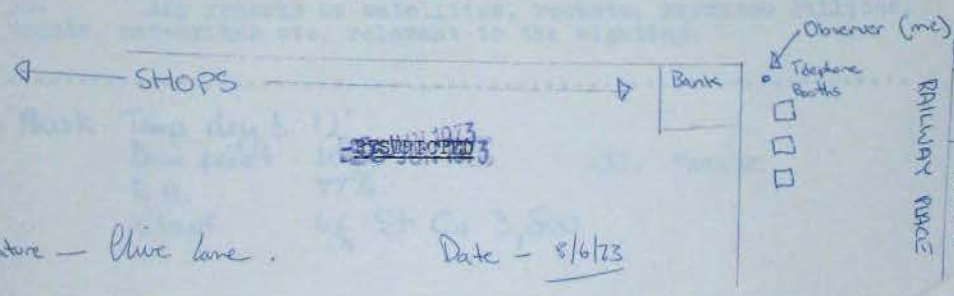
31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

A helicopter would explain it (also light plane) except for the intermittently flashing red light behind object. Also I think it was travelling too fast, as well as the apparently random deviations and manouvres it performed.

(31)



Signature..... Date.....



Signature — Clive Lane. Date — 8/6/73

Appearance and Sighting

At 6.10 pm on Tuesday May 29th, I saw an object while standing in Railway Place Ringwood. When I first saw the object, it was at 80° elevation on a bearing of about N.N.W. or N.W. It was moving quite fast, and took only about 30-45 seconds to disappear behind a building at about 10° or 15° above the natural horizon. It was an orange light, as big as a planet. It also had a red light, which was not present all the time, but when it was flashed intermittently and irregularly. It was moving at a fairly even speed although it was swerving in short esses until it was just above the building, when it started to make a long gradual turn to the left until it disappeared. It was moving roughly on a heading (allowing for swerves) of N.V. If it made any noise, I could not hear it above the traffic.

x 5/6/1/Ant
CINTELLO

I Manoeuvres

[illegible] was swerving rather [illegible]cally both to left and right with only brief straight sections. Then just before it disappeared behind building it started a longer ~~turn~~ slower turn to the left.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type....Nil....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type F27 VH TQR..(1) F27 VH MMV (2).....(3)

Heading. TULA fm DEVONPORT T TULA fm WYNYARD .....T

Height. below 2,000 ft below 2,000 ft.....000 ft

Speed..200-240...K..200-240..K.....K

~~ATD~~/ATA*. 0815.....hrs..0818.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude. 37483 Longitude. 145.08E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from.....

at.....Z..Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of

.2°..at..300..ft measured at.1100..Z hrs from.LAV

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....

~~6pm~~ 1800K Temp dry b. 12°
Dew point 10°
R.H. 87%
Cloud 6/8 St Cu 3,500

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....

.....

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting
** can/~~cannot~~ be determined.

41. The object reported probably was ** ~~/may have been~~
A/C listed at para 33

.....

4 SECU ..... 12 JUN 73
(Unit) (Date)

R. O. Gibbs ..... Flg Off
(Name of Investigating Officer) (Rank)

** Delete as necessary

31 MAY 73

SIGHTING #12

EAST DONCASTER VIC

K. J. BROOKS
MISS J. BROOKS

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No. 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 P. 24(123)	20 JUN 73	HQSC 5/6/1/1 NR P. 4(1) OF 13 JUN 73
TO: HQSC	ATTENTION: CINTELLO		
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS			

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr K H Brooks in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr K H Brooks

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M Crutten	M CRETTON	FLG OFF	IR.2	3408

580/1/1 Pt24 (12a)

18 JUL 1973

Mr K.H. Brooks,
39 Ross Street,
EAST DONCASTER VIC 3109

Dear Sir,

With reference to the unusual aerial sighting witnessed by you and your daughter on 31st May 1973, the investigating team has determined that the most probable cause was a Boeing 727 aircraft.

Ansett Flight 830 from Hobart to Melbourne was at the time of sighting, enroute from Wonthaggi to Tullamarine. On this track the aircraft would normally fly directly over East Doncaster but on this occasion, due to conflicting traffic, the aircraft was deviated to the west at a distance of 25 miles from Tullamarine. It then overflew the city to land on runway 34 at Tullamarine at 7.20 PM.

The aircraft would appear to be stationary while tracking directly towards the sighting position, and when it turned to the west, the starboard (blue) navigation light and flashing red anti-collision light would be visible. Additionally airline aircraft are now using landing lights and/or taxi lights from distances of up to 100 miles from the destination airport and this would have been the large bright light seen.

The reason that no sound was heard is that the aircraft engines would have been at low RPM during the descent, and the distance of the aircraft from your sighting position was an arc of 10 miles radius.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Typed
Draft
16 Jul 73

Noted
Dep Dir
18 7 73

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

MR. KENNETH JAMES BROOKS Age 43

1. Name of observers..MISS..JANETTE LEE BROOKS..Age 20.....

2. Address of observers..39..ROSS..ST....EAST..DONCASTER..

.....V.I.C.....Phone..848-1902..

3. Occupation of observers..VAN.DRIVER..,.....TRACER..848 1611 50 51

4. Date and time of start of observation..31-5-73.....7.15 p.m....

How certain is the date?....THURSDAY..EVENING....31st MAY....

How accurate is the time of start?.....

5. Duration of observation.....APPROX..19-15 mins..23 minutes

How accurate is your estimate?.....APPROXIMATE.....

6. Observer's location at time of sighting....DONCASTER..RD.....

...FACING SE-EAST.....

How familiar is observer with this locality?...CLOSE..TO.HOME.....

7. Weather conditions at time of observation...RELATIVELY..CLEAR..NIGHT

...LITTLE..WIND.....

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation..WITHOUT..AIDS..

.....

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings.....SEEMED..TO..BE..TOWARDS..

....MITCHAM...AREA.....

b. angle of elevation.....—.....

c. compass angle bearing.....—.....

d. how accurate are these estimates?..UNABLE..TO..GIVE..ACCURATE ACCOUNT.

10. What first attracted observer's attention?..CAR..HEADLIGHT..TYPE..LIGHT (WITHOUT BEAM). LIGHT DIMINISHED IN SIZE FOR FEW SECONDS THEN ...REAPPEARED...BRIGHTLY....AS..IF..CLOUD..HAD..PASSED..OVER..IT.

11. If there was more than one light/object : ONE LARGE BRIGHT LIGHT FAST FLASHING RED LIGHT BLUEISH LIGHT.

a. how many were there?.....3.....

b. in what formation were they?.....COMPACT.....

12. What was the colour of the light or object?...AS..ABOVE.....

RESTRICTED

Hughes 902308 906531

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards)....BRIGHTNESS SIMILAR TO CAR HEADLIGHT.....

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon....—.....

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes)....—.....

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?...NO WAY TO DETERMINE ANGLE....

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious?.....NO.....

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity .....NO SOUND.....

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?....—.....

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances ...DID NOT SEEM TO BE TRAVELLING AS QUICKLY AS AN AEROPLANE.....

20. Give duration of any stationary phases.....FROM FIRST SIGHTING APPROX 2 MINUTES.....

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres.....MOVED TOWARDS CITY.....

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen.....NONE.....

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings...MOVING TOWARDS WEST.....

b. angle of elevation....—.....

c. compass angle bearing....—.....

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?...UNTIL OUT OF VISION....

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc).....NO.....

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity....—.....

.....

27. How many witness to the sighting?.....4 WITNESSES.....

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....NO.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....HELICOPTER.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....
.....TIME OF SIGHTING.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

Signature.....P.L. Brooks..... Date..7.6.73...

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type...Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type..127.....(1)..F28...(2)..F27.....(3)

Heading.Tula from SE..T..Tulla fm E T..Tula fm E..T

Height.below..2,000 ft.below 2,000 ft.below 2,000 ft

Speed..below 200..K..below 200 K..below 200 K

~~ATD~~/ATA*.1920.....hrs..1921....hrs.1922.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude.34:47 S Longitude 145:06 E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus ~~only.~~

.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from.....

at.....Z..Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of

....at.....ft measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....

.....

40. The cause (~~or likely cause~~) of the sighting
** can/~~cannot~~ be determined.

41. The object reported probably was ~~was/may have been~~
1. The F28 or 727 (1) & (2) para 33, the stationary phase referred to in para 20 was probably caused by aircraft travelling towards observer.
2. A copy of the information obtained at initial report has been included for your information. Observer has changed his detailed report, particularly the duration of observation.
3. The three aircraft in para 33 were operating E of Melbourne to R/W 34 @ TULLA

HBSCU 12/6/73
(Unit) (Date)

Gibbs ..... Flg Off
(Name of Investigating Officer) (Rank)

* Angel of Mercy is not IFR therefore not considered.

** Delete as necessary

7834311

INITIAL UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING REPORT

1. Name of Observer: Mr Brookes and his Daughter

2. Address of Observer: 39 ROSS ST
E. DONCASTER 8481902.

3. Date and time of start of observation:
31 MAY 23 1915

4. Duration of observation: ½ min to 1 min

5. Observer's location at time of sighting:
Near Home

6. Brief description of object(s): Bright Light
Stationary in sky - No noise - Several flashes which disappeared for short while then moved off towards City.

7. Object's bearing when first observed:
Due South

8. Direction of travel: STATIONARY

9. Speed: N/A

10. Angle of elevation: Very low on Horizon

11. Object's bearing when last observed: West towards City

Wx dry 15° Dwpt 12° RH 82% 3/8 ACu @ 13,000 3/8 Cirrus @ 25,000
Mr Brookes rang initially to enquire if any helicopters were operating in this area. He also advised that friends of his attending his home saw the same light on their way over and thought it might have been the "Angel of Mercy" helicopter as there was a bad accident on the corner of Blackburn & Dandenong Rds.

28 MAR 73

SIGHTING # 11

RAVENSWOOD TAS

T. G. REYNOLDS

DEPAIR SSeb/1 (NA/NA) 22 JUN 73 HQSC 5/6/1 HW(79)

HQSC C INT O 12 JUN 73

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed are copies of letters to Miss H. DAVIES and MR T.G. REYNOLDS in answer to reports of unusual aerial sightings.

As these sightings were investigated by MR R. HAZELL, THSATC, you are requested to forward copies to him for maintenance of records.

Enclosures. Copies of letters to
MISS H DAVIES
MR TG REYNOLDS

R. EGLE DAFIO 2405

580/1/1 Pt 24 (11a)

21 JUN 1973

Mr T.G. Reynolds,
3 Suncrest Place,
RAVENSWOOD,
LAUNCESTON, TAS, 7250

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 28th March 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was re-entry of space debris to Earth's atmosphere.

Presently there are 2902 man made objects in space, and debris periodically burns up on re-entry to atmosphere. From the description provided and the duration of the sighting, the most logical explanation is that an item of space debris, which was tumbling during re-entry, broke into two separate pieces. Reflection of the sun, which would have been below the surface horizon, would be seen as 'flashing' because of the tumbling action of the bodies.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G.J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Sgl cpl
DAM
19 Jun 73

MEMORANDUM

RAAF FORM A273 MAR 63

For use within the RAAF only
Write or print clearly

OUR FILE: 5/6/1/Air (79)

FROM: HQSC

DATE: 12 JUN 73

TO: ~~DEPAIR~~ DAF1

ATTENTION: DAF1-IR2

REFERENCES: DEPT. OF AIR RAS DAF1 7-6-73 580-1-1

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Attached are unusual aerial sighting reports from T.G. Reynolds and H. Davies/M. King of LAUNCESTON.

RECEIVED 14 JUN 1973 DAF1

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RANK AND APPOINTMENT	PHONE EXTN
Gibbs	R.O. GIBBS	Flg Off INT 1	7410

C.D.O. 9777

11. If there was more than one light/~~object~~ : 1 followed by another

a. how many were there? 2

b. in what formation were they? Second slightly to starboard

12. What was the colour of the light or ~~object~~? white

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer...T.G. REYNOLDS.....Age...46.....

2. Address of observer...3 SUNCREST PLACE, RAVENSWOOD, LAUNCESTON.....

.....Phone...N.K.....

3. Occupation of observer...Clerk.....

4. Date and time of start of observation...7.20 p.m. 28 Mar 73.....

How certain is the date?...Certain.....

How accurate is the time of start?...Fairly accurate.....

5. Duration of observation...Approx. 2 minutes

~~RESTRICTED~~

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer T.G. REYNOLDS Age 46

2. Address of observer 3 SUNCREST PLACE, RAVENSWOOD, LAUNCESTON

Phone NIL

3. Occupation of observer Clerk

4. Date and time of start of observation 7.20 p.m. 28 Mar 73

How certain is the date? Certain

How accurate is the time of start? Fairly accurate

5. Duration of observation Approx. 2 minutes

How accurate is your estimate? NOT ACCURATE

6. Observer's location at time of sighting Ravenswood.

How familiar is observer with this locality? Lives there - VERY FAMILIAR

7. Weather conditions at time of observation Bright sky - little cloud

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation

Binoculars - not very effective (NO EFFECT AT ALL)

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings Almost directly overhead

b. angle of elevation Approx. 85° towards ENE (heading ENE)

c. compass angle bearing NOT KNOWN

d. how accurate are these estimates? ESTIMATION ONLY

10. What first attracted observer's attention? Childrens observations

11. If there was more than one light/~~object~~ : 1 followed by another

a. how many were there? 2

b. in what formation were they? Second slightly to starboard

12. What was the colour of the light or ~~object~~? white

~~RESTRICTED~~

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, e.g. ordinary street light at 100 yards)
Bright star (flashing)

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach? :

a. relative to Venus or Moon... About Venus (second smaller-less bright)

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's lingth (about 20 inches from the eyes)... NOT NOTED

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?... ALMOST DIRECTLY OVERHEAD

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious?... No

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity
~~Nil~~ NO SOUND

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?... MAX 85° ELEV. MIN. ABOUT 30° ELEV.

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estim can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances... Estimated similar speed as acft. travelling 200 m.p.h. at 2000 ft.

20. Give duration of any stationary phases... NIL

21. Describe any deviations or maneeuvres... straight line

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen... no

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings... TO THE ENE

b. angle of elevation... NOT NOTED

c. compass angle bearing... NOT KNOWN (ABOUT ENE)

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?... disappeared in distance

25. Do you know of any associated ph ysical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc)... No

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity...
Met. observer in P.N.G. once

27. How many witness to the sighting?... 1 boy (12yrs) 1 girl (10yrs)

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area? No

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) whould be nearest to explaining your observation? Possibly Satellite

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation? lights were flashing IRREGULARLY

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed. N/A.

Signature [illegible] Date 2 May 73.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time: NO MILITARY AIRCRAFT

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T..... T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time: NO CIVIL AIRCRAFT

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location : Latitude 41°27's Longitude 147°17'E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that portion of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only SEE REPORT

36. A meteorological balloon was released from LAUNCESTON AIRPORT at 281000 Z Colour WHITE Weight —gm

~~Radio-sonde~~ **/ radar** : ~~Candle~~ **/ battery** (** delete as required)

General wind profile ~~2900 25K~~ SURFACE CALM VIS 20NM UNLIMITED NIL CLOUD INCREASING WITH HEIGHT - 270/25K

Maximum height tracked 43,000 FT ~~000 ft~~ at 28 1115 Z

Was it known to have burst? YES

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of NO SIGNIFICANT INVERSION C at .....ft, measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc. relevant to the sighting NO VISIBLE SATELLITES

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

Signature..... Date.....

if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating. **No acft. known at that time.** — NO RADAR AVAILABLE.

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting ~~was*~~/cannot* be determined.

41. The object reported probably ~~was*~~/may have been* (delete as required) REFLECTIONS FROM SPACE JUNK

(M.J. HARELL)
FRT LT
INVESTIGATING OFFICER.

3 May 73

LAUNCESTON AIRPORT (Unit) J.T.W. DOBSON (Name)

28/3/73 (Date) S.O.C. (Rank)

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT
ON THE SIGHTING OF AN UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECT AT LAUNCESTON ON 28 MAR 73

INTRODUCTION

1. This sighting was initially reported through Department of Civil Aviation(DCA) channels and returned to this unit for investigation.

2. On the evening of the 28 Mar 73 the Senior Operations Controller(SOC), Mr J.T.W. DOBSON, at LAUNCESTON Airport received a telephone call from Mr T.G. REYNOLDS regarding an unusual aerial sighting. Two children of Mr REYNOLDS, a boy aged 12 years and a girl aged 10 years, had drawn Mr REYNOLDS attention to two flashing lights. The initial sighting was made at 1920K.

3. Mr DOBSON(SOC) was interviewed, and stated that he received a telephone call from Mr REYNOLDS at 1940K on 28 Mar 73 reporting the sighting of two flashing light sources. Mr DOBSON said that Mr REYNOLDS's statements were rational and the tone of his voice indicated that he was not imaginative regarding his sightings.

4. Mr DOBSON completed Part 1 of the Report on Unusual Aerial Sightings and despatched the report through DCA channels.

5. The investigating officer interviewed Mr REYNOLDS on the evening of 2 May 73. Although over a month had elapsed since the sighting and the interview, Mr REYNOLDS statements were essentially the same as those first reported. Only the statements of Mr REYNOLDS were considered because the two children were too excited and considered too young to give sound opinions.

6. Mr REYNOLDS stated that he was standing on the front lawn of his house when his two children attracted his attention to two flashing light sources. He said that the lights were almost directly overhead and travelling in a East - North - Eastly direction. A second light was close to, but slightly to starboard of the first light. The colour of both lights was white.

7. Mr REYNOLDS said that the first light was about the size of the planet Venus, and flashing with the intensity of a bright star. The second light was slightly smaller and less bright than the first. He said that there did not appear to be any regular pattern to the flashing of either light, moreover the flashing from both lights was very irregular.

8. Attempts, made to observe the lights through binoculars did not prove effective. Mr REYNOLDS estimates, that he observed the lights move across the sky for about two minutes, until they disappeared in the distance to the East - North - East. The lights did not deviate in heading at any time during the observation. Mr REYNOLDS then telephoned DCA to report his

/observations

observations.

QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE

9. The evidence given by Mr REYNOLDS is considered sound. Mr REYNOLDS had had some basic meteorology observer training with the RNZ, and from the statements made to Mr DOBSON and the investigating officer Mr REYNOLDS does not appear prone to lapses of imaginative thinking.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

10. The following aspects were considered, in attempting to find a satisfactory explanation:

a. Aircraft. There were no known civil or military aircraft in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

b. Meteorological Balloons. A balloon was released from LAUNCESTON Airport at 281000Z, some 40 minutes after the sighting.

c. Local Phenomena. The only local phenomena in the area are are two television transmitter towers located on Mt BARROW (4637 feet), 15 miles East of LAUNCESTON. Red warning lights are located on top of each television tower. Because of the red lights on the television towers and Mr REYNOLDS familiarity with their position, the towers can be discounted.

d. Visible Satellites. There were no visible satellites at that time.

e. Meteorological Conditions. At 1800K the weather in the area was:

Wind - surface calm, increasing with height to 270/25K at 8000 feet.
Cloud - Nil.
Visibility - 30 nautical miles - unlimited.
Inversions - no significant inversions.

f. Celestial Bodies. The planet Saturn had an elevation of 45°, but was barely visible to the naked eye in the North - West sky. Other planets that may have affected the sighting were well below the horizon at the time of the sighting. Therefore, celestial bodies have no bearing on the sighting.

/CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

11. The most probable cause of the lights seen by Mr REYNOLDS were reflections from rolling 'space junk'. Rolling 'space junk' would reflect the sunlight at various angles and this may account for the irregular flashes of light seen by Mr REYNOLDS. This theory is supported by the duration of the observation, approximately two minutes, and that the lights did not deviate from heading during the observation.

TASATC
3 May 73

(M.J. HAXELL)
Flight Lieutenant
Investigating Officer

18 MAR 73

SIGHTING # 10

ANTIL PONDS TAS

MISS H. DAVIES
MISS M. KING

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	550/1/1 (10A/HA)	22 JUN 73	HQSC 5/6/1 AIR(79) 12 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HQSC	CINTO

SUBJECT
UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed are copies of letters to MISS H. DAVIES and MR T.G. REYNOLDS in answer to reports of unusual aerial sightings.

As these sightings were investigated by FLT LT HAXELL, TASATC, you are requested to forward copies to him for maintenance of records.

Enclosures: Copies of letters to
MISS H. DAVIES
MR T.G. REYNOLDS

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
[signature]	R. EGLE	SQNLDR	DAFIO	2408

21 JUN 1973

580/1/1 Pt 24 (10a)

Miss H. Davies,
6 Forest Road,
LAUNCESTON, TAS 7250

Dear Miss Davies,

With reference to the report of unusual aerial sightings made by yourself and Miss King on the evening of 18th March 1973, the most probable causes were sightings of an aircraft and the planet SIRIUS.

At the time of the sighting made from the area of Antill Ponds, a Beechcraft aircraft which was en route from Hobart to Launceston via Tooms and Campbelltown, was north east of Antill Ponds flying at 8000 feet. From your description of the lights observed, and considering the terrain features east and north east of Antill Ponds, the investigating team is of the opinion that the sighting was of that aircraft's navigation and identification lights.

The second sighting of a single white light in the western sky, although not conclusively determined, was, in the opinion of the investigators, the planet Sirius. This planet was highly visible with a magnitude of -2 bearing of 290°T at an elevation of 33° above the horizon. The planet had apparent westerly movement, in relation to the Earth, and would have faded from view fairly rapidly.

We trust that these explanations are satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Explan
DAG
19 Jun 73

~~RESTRICTED~~

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer Miss. H. Davies/ Miss. M. King Age Adults 23/22 yrs

2. Address of observer 6 Forest Road / 6a Elizabeth Street. Launceston
Phone Nil

3. Occupation of observer Teacher / MUSIC Art Student

4. Date and time of start of observation 18/3/73 10.10 p.m. - 10.20. 11.05-11.10 p.m
How certain is the date? Sure
How accurate is the time of start? Looked at watch

5. Duration of observation 1st— 10 minutes 2nd—5 minutes.
How accurate is your estimate? ~~By watch~~ ESTIMATE ONLY

6. Observer's location at time of sighting Antill Ponds (1st)
(2nd) 18 miles south Launceston by guide posts.
How familiar is observer with this locality? Know road well

7. Weather conditions at time of observation Partly overcast low cloud E.
moon visible through cloud at times

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation naked eye.

9. Where was object first observed? :
a. Relative to your surroundings N.N.E. (1st SIGHTING)
W (2nd SIGHTING)
b. angle of elevation ~~45 - 50 degrees~~ 30 to 40 (1st SIGHTING) (Approx). LOW ELEV. & NOT SURE (2nd SIGHTING)
c. compass angle bearing N NE (1st SIGHTING) WEST (2nd SIGHTING)
d. how accurate are these estimates? rough

10. What first attracted observer's attention? Moving light, very bright - twice size of big star

11. If there was more than one light/object : one light / object.
a. how many were there? one
b. in what formation were they? N/A

12. What was the colour of the light or object? Bright white light
LIGHT CHANGED TO GREEN & THEN TO PINK. (1st SIGHTING ONLY)
2nd SIGHTING — REMAINED BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT.

~~RESTRICTED~~

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, e.g. ordinary street light at 100 yards)
Brighter than street light - very strong intense.

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach? :

a. relative to Venus or Moon. Larger than Venus - smaller than Moon.

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes). NOT NOTED.

15 What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? Travelled East/West followed zig zag path up and down.

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? No

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity
Nil

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? Appeared to get smaller and smaller and elevation gradually decreased (DISAPPEARING & 2nd SIGHTING)

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estim- can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances. Very very fast and then appeared to almost stop then move very fast again

20. Give duration of any stationary phases. ~~Few seconds.~~ NO STATIONARY PAUSES

21. Describe any deviations or maneeuvres. MOVED HORZ + VERT.

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen. No

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings. 18 miles S of L'ton.

b. angle of elevation. ~~30 degrees (not sure)~~ NOT SURE

c. compass angle bearing. West of road (Hobart/Launceston)

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? Just lost sight in distance

25. Do you know of any associated ph ysical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc). No

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.
Mild interest only

27. How many witness to the sighting? 2

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area? No

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) whould be nearest to explaining your observation? Nil

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation? Nil

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

Reported by 'phone 12.30 p.m. on 19 Mar 73.

Signature M Gibbs SOC LAUNCESTON Date 19/3/73

Helen Davies 4/5/73.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time : NO MILITARY AIRCRAFT

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time : ONE CIVIL AIRCRAFT TRAVELLING HOBART TO LAUNCESTON VIA CAMPBELL TOWN.

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..BEECHCRAFT.....T.....T.....T

Height.....8.,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

AIRCRAFT ESTIMATED TO BE ABEAM ANTILL POND (TOEAST) AT 2215 K

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA.

34. Observer's Location : Latitude..42° 14' S.....Longitude..147°25' E (1st SIGHTING)
LAT. 41° 40' S LONG. 147° 16' E (2nd SIGHTING)

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that portion of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.....SEE REPORT.....

36. A meteorological **balloon** was released from .....LAUNCESTON AIRPORT

at...18.1000.....Z. Colour.....WHITE.....Weight.....—.....gm

~~Radio-sonde~~**/radar**: ~~Candle~~**/battery** (**delete as required)

General wind profile.....NW / 10 KTS.....

Maximum height tracked.....40.....,000 ft at.....18.1005.....Z

Was it known to have burst? YES

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of .....NIL INVERSION. C at .....ft, measured at.....Z hrs from..... .....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc. relevant to the sighting.....MET BALLOON ONLY.....

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace

if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.....NIL RADAR AIRCRAFT NAV LIGHTS OPERATING.....

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting can*/SEE REPORT cannot* be determined.

41. The object reported probably was*/may have been* (delete as required) .....SEE REPORT.....

(M.S. HARBLE)
FLT LT
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

4 May 73

.....TAEATE (WANKLESTON).....(Unit).....(Name)

.....4 May 73.....(Date).....FLT LT.....(Rank)

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT
ON THE SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECTS AT ANTILL PONDS AND
SOUTH OF LAUNCESTON ON 18 MAR 73

INTRODUCTION

1. These two sightings were initially reported through Department of Civil Aviation(DCA) channels and returned to this unit for investigation.

2. On the 19 Mar 73 the Senior Operations Controller(SOC), Mr J. GIBBS, at LAUNCESTON Airport received a telephone call from Misses H. DAVIES and M. KING reporting two sightings of unusual aerial objects. The reported sightings were made on the previous evening, the 18 Mar 73 at 2210K and 2305K respectively.

3. Mr GIBBS(SOC) was interviewed, and stated that he received a telephone call at about 1200K on the 19 Mar 73. He said that he conversed with Miss DAVIES, although, he could hear both witnesses discussing answers to his questions.

4. Mr GIBBS completed Part 1 of the Report on Unusual Aerial Objects and despatched the report through DCA channels.

STATEMENTS BY THE WITNESS

5. Despite numerous attempts, Miss KING could not be contacted for an interview. However, the investigating officer interviewed Miss DAVIES on the 4 May 73.

6. Because of the time lapse between the sightings and the interview Miss DAVIES was unsure of some of the minor details of the sightings. Miss DAVIES said that she was the passenger, and Miss KING the driver of the car travelling from HOBART to LAUNCESTON on the Midlands Highway. Miss DAVIES stated that, in fact, she made most of the observations and Miss KING saw very little as she was too busy driving the car. Therefore, only the statements made by Miss DAVIES need to be considered.

7. Miss DAVIES said that on the night of 18 Mar 73, while travelling from HOBART to LAUNCESTON, two unusual aerial objects were observed. The first sighting was made at ANTILL PONDS and the second 18 miles south of LAUNCESTON. Each sighting will be discussed separately.

First Sighting

8. Miss DAVIES said that the sighting occurred while approaching and passing through the village of ANTILL PONDS. She said that a single white

/bright

bright light was noticed to the North-East of the highway. The light appeared to be just above the ridgeline of hills located to the east of the road. The light was moving generally in an East to West direction horizontally, but moving in a haphazard manner in the vertical plane. Miss DAVIES estimated the vertical displacements to be about 200 feet. Occasionally the light disappeared behind the ridgeline crests.

9. Miss DAVIES brought the attention of Miss KING to the light. After observing the light for some time, the car was stopped to gain a better view. Throughout the observation, the colour of the light appeared to change from white through light green to a very pale pink.

Second Sighting

10. The second sighting occurred at 2305K, 18 miles south of LAUNCESTON. Miss DAVIES said that a single white light source was sighted to the West of the highway at a low angle of elevation. She said that the light appeared to move vertically in a haphazard manner and then disappeared in the distance with the angle of elevation getting very low.

11. Miss DAVIES stated that the colour of the white light did not change throughout the observation. On this occasion the car was not stopped, but Miss DAVIES said that a number of other vehicles travelling north on the highway slowed and appeared to be observing the light.

QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE

12. Mr GIBBS(SOC) said that when reporting the sightings by telephone Miss DAVIES appeared to be rational and not emotionally disturbed regarding the sightings. From Mr GIBB'S statement and the interview, the investigating officer concludes that Miss DAVIES is a sound, sensible woman. However, Miss DAVIES did say that she and Miss KING were frightened at the first sighting, but not the second.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

13. The following aspects were considered, in attempting to find a satisfactory explanation:

a. Aircraft. There were no military aircraft movements. The only civil aircraft movement was a Beechcraft aircraft transitting from HOBART to LAUNCESTON. The aircraft is estimated to have been five miles abeam(to the East) of ANTILL PONDS at 2210K; the time of the first sighting. There were no aircraft movements at the time of the second sighting.

b. Meteorological Balloons. A meteorological balloon was released from LAUNCESTON airport at 2000K. However, it would have not been visible at the time of both sightings.

/c. Visible

c. Visible Satellites. There were no visible satellite passes at the time of the sightings.

d. Local Phenomena. There is no local phenomena in the area of the first sighting. Regarding the second sighting, the only local phenomena are two television transmitter towers on the top of MT BARROW (4637 feet) located to the East of LAUNCESTON. As the second sighting was to the West, this phenomena can be discounted.

e. Meteorological Conditions. At 1900K, the general weather conditions in the area of both sightings were:

Wind - North - West at 10kts.
Cloud - 8/8 Alto-stratus above 10000 feet, with the possibility of lower cloud in mountain areas.
Visibility - 20 miles.
Inversions - No significant inversions.

f. Celestial Bodies. Saturn was the only planet visible above the horizon at the time of both sightings. Saturn was at 10° angle of elevation in the North-West sky, but barely visible to the naked eye.

CONCLUSIONS

First Sighting

14. The most probable cause of the light seen by Misses DAVIES and KING were the navigation lights of the Beechcraft aircraft to the east of ANTILL PONDS.

15. From interviewing Miss DAVIES, the investigating officer concludes that the original estimate of the duration of the observation of 10 minutes is incorrect. Miss DAVIES said that the original estimate included time spent on discussion between Misses DAVIES and KING after the light had disappeared, and not total observation time. Therefore, the duration of the sighting is estimated at four to six minutes. Also, Miss DAVIES admitted that the light was not observed for brief periods during this time span as her vision was obstructed by the vehicle going around bends in the road.

16. The investigating officer is familiar with the ANTILL PONDS area. The highway and ridges to the east are generally orientated North - West/ South - East. East of and close to the highway the hills rise steeply from the surrounding terrain to heights of about 500 to 700 feet. For the light to have been seen behind the ridgeline Miss DAVIES must have been confused directionaly and the light was actually travelling South - East to North - West. The aircraft was on a Northly track when abeam ANTILL PONDS. The varying relative speeds between the moving car as it turned corners, and the aircraft would account for the reported varying speeds of the light.

/17. The

17. The changing colours of the light may be explained by a combination of two factors. Firstly, that the single light was in fact the flashing navigation lights of the aircraft; and secondly, some use of imagination brought on by fear.

18. Likewise, the vertical displacements of the light may be a combination of imagination and the flashing navigation lights appearing and reappearing behind the varying heights of the rideline crests.

Second Sighting

19. Due to insufficient information about the second sighting, the investigating officer cannot explain the most probable cause of the sighting.

20. The planet Saturn was discounted as the planet was at 10° angle of elevation and barely visible to the naked eye. There were no significant temperature inversions that may have caused refraction of light.

21. The investigating officer is convinced that Miss DAVIES was not confused directionally and the light was, in fact, observed to the West of the highway. However, the duration of observation is questionable and may have been about two or three minutes.

22. The witness also said that other vehicle traffic slowed and appeared to be watching the light. This part of the report cannot be confirmed as no other persons have reported a similar sighting on that date.

23. Although the investigating officer has no reasons to doubt second sighting, it must be remembered that Misses DAVIES and KING may still have been disturbed by their first sighting.

TASATC
8 May 73

(M.J. HAZELL)
Flight Lieutenant
Investigating Officer

26 MAR 73

SIGHTING # 9

MANLY
NSW

P. RUSSELL

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEP.I.S	580/1/1/P-24(9b)	10 JUN 73	HQOC 5/15/1/AIR(35) OF 7 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HQOC	SONTEN

SUBJECT
REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr P. Russell in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr P Russell

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M Cullen	M. GREENHUN	FLG OFF	IC 2	2408

580/1/1 Pt24 (9a)

-8 JUL 1973

Mr P. Russell,
726 Manly National Building,
MANLY, NSW 2095

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 26th March 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was a scheduled commuter airline aircraft flying to Newcastle.

Normally, logical explanations are available in answer to sighting reports and it has been established that a scheduled commuter service departed Sydney Airport at about 8.35 PM on 26th March. This aircraft followed the coastline at about the time of your sighting. The red light observed would have been the aircraft's port wing navigation light. The flashing white light was most likely the cabin light or wing inspection light of the aircraft. With normal up and down movement of the port wing in mild turbulence it is feasible that this white light could be momentarily obscured by the wing during flight, giving a flashing effect. When the aircraft banked or manoeuvred slightly to alter course, it would appear to remain stationary for brief periods as described.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Typed
DAH
5 Jul 73

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: PENRITH 2331

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND SYDNEY"

HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL COMMAND
RAAF
PENRITH 1W NSW

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/15/1/Air (35)

7th June 1973

Secretary Department of Air (Attention : DAFI)

DAFI

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

1. Herewith is a report of an unusual aerial sighting submitted by Mr P. Russell of Manly NSW.

2. On receipt of the report it was found that Mr Russell had omitted to provide certain facts pertinent to the sighting, hence the late submission of the report to your department.

(K.D. CLARK)
Squadron Leader
for Air Officer Commanding

Enclosure: UFO Report

10. What first attracted observer's attention? A WHITE FLASHING LIGHT GOING ACROSS THE SKY

11. If there was more than one light/object:

(a) how many were there? ONE

(b) in what formation were they? SINGLE

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer PETER RUSSELL Age 20

2. Address of observer 326 MANLY NATIONAL BUILDING MANLY NSW 2095 Phone

3. Occupation of observer BANK OFFICER

4. Date and time of start of observation MARCH 26, 1973

How certain is the date? VERY CERTAIN

How accurate is the time of start VERY ACCURATE

5. Duration of observation 5 MINUTES

How accurate is your estimate? VERY ACCURATE

6. Observer's location at time of sighting MANLY NSW

How familiar is observer with this locality? VERY FAMILIAR - LIVE HERE 2 YEARS

7. Weather conditions at time of observation VERY VERY GOOD

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation NONE

9. Where was object first observed:

(a) Relative to your surroundings OVER NORTH HEAD

(b) angle of elevation 50° - 75° (74 FROM 7TH FLOOR)

(c) compass angle bearing SOUTH EAST (FROM 7TH FLOOR)

(d) how accurate are these estimates FAIRLY ACCURATE

10. What first attracted observer's attention? A WHITE FLASHING LIGHT GOING ~~[illegible]~~ ACROSS THE SKY

11. If there was more than one light/object:

(a) how many were there? ONE

(b) in what formation were they? SINGLE

12. What was the colour of the ~~light or~~ object? BETTOM WAS A RED LIGHT TOP WAS FLASHING WHITE LIGHT

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, e.g. ordinary street light at 100 yards) VERY MUCH BRIGHTER THAN STREET LIGHT AT 100 YDS

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach:

(a) relative to Venus or Moon ABOUT THE SIZE OF VENUS JUST A LITTLE BIGGER,

(b) relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes) HEIGHT BETWEEN LIGHTS 1/4" WIDE 3/4"

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? FROM THE FLOOR ANGLE 25° AND COMPASS BEARING ~~SE~~ EAST (WITHOUT ~~[illegible]~~ DOUBT)

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? NO

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity NO

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? APPROX 75° HEIGHT 1/2-3/4 MILE

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances ~~[illegible]~~ MUCH FASTER THAN ANY JET (BUT HAD TO SLOW DOWN TO A STOP & THEN PROCEED AGAIN)

20. Give duration of any stationary phases 3 SECONDS

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres NONE

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen. RED LIGHT ON THE BOTTOM & WHITE FLASHING LIGHT ON TOP

23. Where was object last observed:

(a) relative to your surroundings GOING UP TOWARDS DEE WAY & OTHER NORTHERN BEACHES

(b) angle of elevation 25°

(c) compass angle bearing N.E

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? DISTANCE

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc) NO

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity .....NONE.....

27. How many witness to the sighting?..APPROX. 18.....

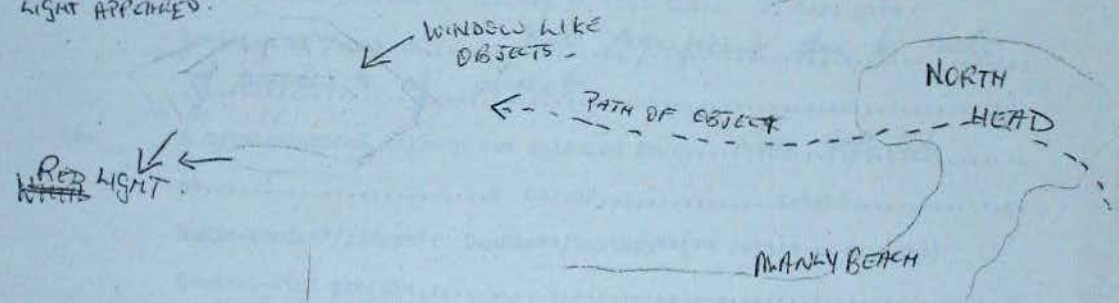
28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?..YES.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....NONE.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....NOTHING THAT COULD MATCH IT.....

31. Please sketch the ~~light~~/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

EACH TIME THE OBJECT ROTATED A WHITE FLASHING LIGHT APPEARED.



Signature..... Date. APRIL 2, 1973.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

None reported

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

None reported

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA.

34. Observer's Location: Latitude.....N/A.....Longitude.....

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that portion of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.....Not significant due to rate of movement of object.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from....None reported.....

at.....Z Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde**/radar**: Candle**/battery**(** delete as required)

General-wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked....., 000 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?.....

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of...N/A....°C at

.....ft, measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comments, meteorites etc. relevant to the sighting..Direction of movement.....
rules out the possibility

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating .....N/A.....

.....

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting ~~was*~~/cannot* be determined.

41. The object reported probably ~~was*~~/may have been* (delete as required)

.....An unreported aircraft on northerly heading following the coast - a practice not uncommon with light acft.

.....HQOC.....(Unit).....K.D. CLARK.....(Name)

.....5 June 73.....(Date).....Sqn Ldr.....(Rank)

5 MAY Approx.

SIGHTING # 8

BOWEN
(OKW)

C. TOPPENBERG

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form)

1. Name of observer C.J. TOPPENBERG Age 52

2. Address of observer 9U WILLIAMS ST
BOWEN Phone NIL 077804-207

3. Occupation of observer CPOT CLERK (MAIN ROADS DEPT)

4. Date and time of start of observation DATE NOT NOTED APPROX 3.30 AM.
How certain is the date? see U
How accurate is the time of start 100%

5. Duration of observation 30 MINUTES (APPROX)
How accurate is your estimate? 99%

6. Observer's location at time of sighting
9U WILLIAMS ST BOWEN
How familiar is observer with this locality?
RESIDENT 30 YEARS

7. Weather conditions at time of observation
FINE + CLEAR

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation
NIL: NAKED EYE

9. Where was object first observed? :
(a) Relative to your surroundings WESTERLY
(b) Angle of elevation APPROX 45°
(c) compass angle bearing NOT TAKEN
(d) how accurate are these estimates 50%

10. What first attracted observer's attention? DISTURBED REST. + HAPPENED TO LOOK OUT OF WINDOW + SAW BRIGHT LIGHT IN SKY. TOO BRIGHT + GLITTERING TO BE STAR OR AIRCRAFT.

/11.

11. If there was more than one light/object:

    (a) how many were there? .....

    (b) in what formation were they? .....

12. What was the colour of the light or object? ONLY LIGHTS VISIBLE.

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg, ordinary street light at 100 yards). MUCH BRIGHTER THAN STREET LIGHT @ 100YDS

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach:

    (a) relative to ~~Venus or~~ Moon 1/4

    (b) relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes) 1" DIA

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?
    OBJECT APPEARED STATIONERY NAKED EYE -

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? NO

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity NO SOUND

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?
    NOT ABLE TO BE ESTIMATED

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances SEE 15

20. Give duration of any stationary phases WAS STILL IN SAME PLACE OVER ½ HOUR VIEWING. IT WAS THERE WHEN I VIEWING CEASED

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres NIL

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen
    INTENSE WHITE, RED & BLUE "TWINKLING" LIGHTS

23. Where was object last observed? :

    (a) relative to your surroundings SEE 15

    (b) angle of elevation ✓

/(c)

(c) compass angle bearing...NOT TAKEN

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? SEE 20

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity, etc):
.....NO.....

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity .....

27. How many witnesses to the sighting? 1 (MY WIFE)

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....YES.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation? PLANET NEAR TO EARTH

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation? MUCH TOO BRIGHT + NO MEDIUM COMMENTED ANY PLANETS NEAR TO EARTH AT DATE

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

OUTLINE INDISTINGUISHABLE - APPEARED AS APPROX CIRCULAR MASS OF LIGHTS.

Signature G. J. Lappenberg Date 16/7/73

580/1/1 Pt24 (8a)

14 JUN 1973

Mr C. Toppenberg,
Box 306,
BOWEN, QLD 4805

Dear Sir,

A colour transparency taken by you of an unusual aerial sighting, has been received at this Department for evaluation.

At present we have insufficient information about the sighting, and it is requested that you complete the enclosed form and return it to us as soon as possible. When completing the form, would you include a detailed narrative description of the sighting.

The colour transparency has been retained so that it may be studied further in conjunction with the information contained in your report. Following evaluation, the transparency will be returned to you.

Yours faithfully,

G.J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Explap
DAH
13 Jun 73

14 NOV 1973

580/1/1 Pt24 (8c)

Mr C. Toppenberg,
Box 306,
BOWEN QLD 4805

Dear Sir,

With reference to the unusual aerial sighting that you witnessed and photographed, the investigating team regrets that it is unable to determine the cause.

Normally, logical explanations are available in answer to sighting reports, and statistically, only 3% of sightings are not able to be solved. Of these, the majority contained insufficient information from which to deduce causes.

With this particular sighting it is thought that the light source was probably a gaseous substance - such as methane - which could have risen from the swampy area in the vicinity, but this theory cannot be substantiated.

Enclosed is the colour transparency which was forwarded to us for evaluation and we thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

7 NOV 73

NOA
Resp by DPR
14.11.73

AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

TELEPHONE: 311611
G.P.O. Box 1416,
IN REPLY QUOTE BRISBANE.Q.4001.

Naval Staff Office,
Edward Street,
BRISBANE.

QNI.17/46/1

5th June, 1973.

Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,
Department of Air Force,
Russell Offices,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - BOWEN

Following is the text of a message received from Mr. John Robert Porter, Post office box 281, Bowen, 4805, during the course of routine communication. Mr. Porter acts as the Naval Coastwatcher at Bowen.

Box 306 Bowen
6 minutes Time exp

"U.F.O.'s !

Time 3.30 AM about four weeks ago, in Western Sky more South West in my opinion. The photo was taken by Chris Toppenberg, Phone 207 office hours."

Enclosed is the 35 mm Kodak transparency.

Mr. Porter is classified as a reliable Coastwatcher and has assisted this Department on numerous occasions. Further detail, if required, can be obtained from Mr. Toppenberg C/- Mr. Porter at the Bowen address.

It would be appreciated if the transparency could be returned to Mr. Porter as soon as possible after evaluation.

(Peter V. Blackman)
Commander, R.A.N.
NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
QUEENSLAND

Enclosure: Transparency

18 APR 73

SIGHTING # 7

VAUCLUSE
NSW

J. BRENNAN

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 (78)	22 JUN 73	HQ 5/9/AIR (70) 5 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HQRIC	FIO

SUBJECT
UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed for your records is a copy of a letter to Mr. J. Brennan from this Department in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

Enclosure: Copy of letter to Mr. J. Brennan.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
[signature]	R. EGLE	SQN LDR	DAFIND	2408

580/1/1 Pt 24 (7a)

21 JUN 1973

Mr J. Brennan,
707 Old South Head Road,
VAUCLUSE, NSW 2030

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 18th April 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was a civil aircraft operating out of Sydney International Airport.

Departures to Melbourne were scheduled by Ansett Airlines and TAA for 9.40 pm, however, the exact times of departure are not known. The noise abatement procedures in operation at the airport would necessitate these aircraft taking off to seaward. The opinion of the investigating team is that the departure of one of these aircraft from Sydney was the cause of the sighting.

During the period from 9.15 pm to 9.45 pm on the 18th April, twenty one aircraft movements were recorded at Sydney Airport. All of these aircraft were under radar surveillance and no extraordinary radar traces were recorded. To maintain traffic separation of inbound/outbound aircraft, it is feasible that an aircraft would be required to turn left after take off before setting course for Melbourne. Additionally, altitude restrictions may have been applied, thus precluding continuation of the climb until after setting course. The lights, as described, can be attributed to the landing lights and anti-collision light of the aircraft. The landing lights are often left on after take off to provide visual identification to other aircraft in the area.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

A
Applpl
DAH
20 Jun 73

HQ.579/AIR (70). ANNEX E

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form)

1. Name of Observer..John BRENNAN.....Age..Not Given

2. Address of Observer..707 Old South Head Road VAUCLUSE

.....Phone Number 3374208

3. Occupation of Observer...Engineer.....

4. Date & Time of Start of Observation...18APR73 9.40PM....

How certain is the date?.....Positive.....

How accurate is the time of start?..~~10xtox15xmins~~ Positive

5. Duration of Observation.....10 to 15 mins.....

How accurate is your estimate?.....

6. Observer's location at time of sighting..Rear verandah of

.house.at.above.address.....

How familiar is observer with this locality?..lives there..

7. Weather conditions at time of observation..Clear. Light....

.scattered.cloud.....

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation.....

..Binoculars.....

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings..East of DIAMOND BAY...

.....

b. angle of elevation...Low above the horizon.....

c. compass angle bearing...East.....

d. how accurate are these estimates?.....unknown.....

10. What first attracted observer's attention?..Bright.stationary

.white.light.....

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there?.....one only.....

b. in what formation were they?.....

/12. What was

12. What was the colour of the light or object?..White with red at one end.....

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards)
Like a very bright star but larger than Venus

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach? :

a. relative to Venus or Moon...not known.....

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from eyes).....not known.....

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?

local knowledge

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious?..none associated with the light.....

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity.....

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?

did not alter height

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances....Could.not.estimate.speed.but.seemed.to.be.faster than aircraft

20. Give duration of any stationary phases..Appeared.to.be.stationary when first seen

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvresflew.north.for.¼.mile then turned south and disappeared south of Botany Bay

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen....none

23. Where was object last observed? :

a. relative to your surroundings...south.....

b. angle of elevation.....merging.on.the.horizon.....

c. compass angle bearing...not.given.....

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?..faded.....

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity, etc)

no

/26. State any

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.

.....Engineer.....

27. How many witnesses to the sighting?.....5.....

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?

.....no.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?

.....aircraft.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?

appeared to move at abnormal speed.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form if needed.

Statement by Observer:

5 people observed this sighting from the verandah of his house. When viewed through binoculars, there seemed to be two white lights with a red light moving between them. The object was stationary when first seen, then moved north for about a quarter of a mile (several lengths of the ship) and then turned south at speed, finally increasing speed to an abnormal speed and disappearing. When first sighted, the object appeared to have been hovering over a large ship, whose rigging lights were ablaze. The ship was standing well off the coast and appeared to be heading east. An aircraft also appeared to overfly the object and the sound of aircraft engines was heard.

Signature.....Date.....

14

MEMORANDUM

RAAF FORM A273 MAR 63

For use within the RAAF only
Write or print clearly

OUR FILE

FROM: RAAF AACC MASCOT

DATE: 18 APRIL 73

TO: HQOC

ATTENTION: OPS OFF

REFERENCES

SUBJECT: UFO REPORT

1 This report was received by me at 2230 hours on Wednesday April 18th.

2 The observer Mr Brennan states that he and four (4) others observed the object. They were first attracted by a bright light which they thought was a star. At first it was stationary, then moved north and finally moved quickly south, rapidly disappearing.

3 Mr Brennan further states that the object seemed to be hovering over a large ship whose mooring lights were ablaze. The ship was seawards of the coast and heading East. Also at the time of ~~passing~~ observing he believes an aircraft overflew the object. SAFC Sydney has no report

4 As far as I can tell I would say the caller was genuine and really believes what he saw

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RANK AND APPOINTMENT	PHONE EXTN
G Anderson	G. ANDERSON	FT LT MTCO	669 2073

PU0728 (45?)

/39. When an

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT.

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type SEE ATTACHED.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type SEE ATTACHED.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA.

34. Observer's Location: Latitude 33S15S...Longitude 151 17 E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from SYDNEY.....

at 0900.....Z. Colour.....Weight.....gm

~~Radio-sonde~~**/ radar**: ~~Candle~~**/ ~~battery~~** (** delete as required)

General wind profile CALM.....

Maximum height tracked.....,000 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of.....°C

at.....ft, measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc relevant to the sighting.

.....

/39. When an

39. When identified as possible aircraft, include radar trace if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.
All attached

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting can*/~~cannot~~* be determined.

41. The object reported probably ~~was~~*/may have been* (delete as required)
Commuter type aircraft landing/taking off from Marcot or Navy ASW aircraft.

See attached Statement.

HQ RICHMOND
(Unit)

5 JUN 73
(Date)

D.W. NEUMANN
(Name of Investigating Officer)

FLT. LT.
(Rank)

STATEMENT BY INVESTIGATING OFFICER

1. This report was received by Flt Lt G. ANDERSON, MACO, RAAF AACC MASCOT, and forwarded direct to Headquarters Operational Command, on 18th April 1973. The report was forwarded to the Formation Intelligence Officer, HQ RICHMOND, on 3rd May 1973, for transcription onto the current format and for further investigation. The FIO (AIR4) was being employed as AIR2 (Operations Officer, HQ RIC) for the month of May, and was unable to carry out an immediate investigation until this date.

2. The following information was obtained from the sources indicated:

SHIPPING: (Maritime services board). At least 9 large ships were off SYDNEY during the night 18/19 April. It is not the custom of the MSB to keep a log of the position of each ship other than their entry and departure times from Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. There is no record of any ship reporting any unusual sightings to the MSB, Pilot Station or Coastal Radio.

NAVAL SHIPS: (Fleet Headquarters, Garden Island). The only Naval Vessel at sea was HMAS BRISBANE which was conducting ASW Controller exercises off Jarvis Bay and Port Kembla with TRACKER, A4 and WESSEX Aircraft. The Ship's Log is available, but no record is maintained of the aircraft movements and positions during the exercises. At various times during these exercises, aircraft carry out individual exercises on targets of opportunity.

RAAF AIRCRAFT: (No 1 Control and Reporting Unit). Night flying exercises were carried out with MIRAGES from WILLIAMTOWN until 2230K, mostly at and above Flight Level 31. Mirages were acting as both attacking and defending aircraft. Logs are kept of the aircraft engaged in the exercise and the type of intercept but not of the actual position of each aircraft at any given time.

CIVIL AIRCRAFT: (DCA Mascot) 21 aircraft arrived or departed from MASCOT in the period 2115K to 2145K. Five aircraft, a Fokker Friendship, a Twin Otter, two Beechcraft and a Cessna, made approaches below 3,000 ft from seawards in this time.

.../WEATHER

WEATHER: (DCA Mascot) There was no significant weather reported at this time. Runway in use: 34, Temp 21C, wind calm, cloud 2/8 scattered above 10,000 ft. Noise abatement procedure in force, ie., land runway 34, take off runway 16.

A RADAR Met balloon (non illuminated) was launched at 1900K.

3. UNIT EVALUATION:

a. The sighting was within visual range, about 20 miles, of DIAMOND BAY.

b. Three known RADAR units, No 1 CRU, DCA Mascot and HMAS BRISBANE, were operating in radar contact range of the sighting.

c. No unidentified or unusual RADAR TRACE is recorded or has been reported by any of the Units.

d. No ship reported any unusual occurrance.

e. Numerous aircraft were operating in the area from sealevel to above Flight Level 31.

f. Noise abatement procedures in force at Mascot required aircraft to make seaward approaches and departures.

4. CONCLUSION

The most probable explanation is that Mr Brennan sighted a commutor type aircraft either arriving at or departing from MASCOT. Less likely, but still posssible, was a Naval aircraft carrying out an ASW exercise against a target of opportunity.

5. The visual perception of the position, movement and brilliance of lights at night is most deceptive, as is graphically illustrated during fieldcraft exercises. The Investigating Officer is very sceptical of the ability of untrained observers to estimate the range, direction or speed of a moving light in the absence of reference points.

D W Neumann

(D.W.NEUMANN)
Flight Lieutenant

RAAF RICHMOND
5 JUN 73

29 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 6

CHADSTONE
VIC

B TURNER

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 P.24 (66)	10 JUL 73	HOSC 5/6/1/AIR (77) of 8 JUN 73

TO: HOSC
ATTENTION: CINTELLO
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed for your records, is ~~a~~ copy of a letter from this Department to Mr B. Turner in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr B. Turner.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M Gretton	M. GRETTON	FLG OFF	IR 2	2408

580/1/1 Pt24 (6a)

- 6 JUL 1973

Mr B. Turner,
4 Swanson Crescent,
CHADSTONE, VIC 3148

Dear Mr Turner,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 29th May 1973, it has been determined that the object sighted was most probably the planet JUPITER.

Astronomical charts show that at 11 PM on 29th May, JUPITER was visible with a magnitude of -2 at an elevation of 15 degrees and an azimuth of 100 degrees. This position coincides with the position of your sighting. Additionally, a temperature inversion of one and a half degrees at 200 feet was recorded at that time, and this would account for any distortion to the normal colour and appearance of the planet due to trapped pollutants below that level.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G.J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Copy
DAFI
5 Jul 73

MEMORANDUM

RAAF FORM A273 MAR 63

For use within the RAAF only
Write or print clearly

OUR FILE: 5/6/1/Air (77)

FROM: HQSC

DATE: 8JUN73

TO: DEPAIR

ATTENTION: DAFI IR2

REFERENCES:

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING.

1. Enclosed is an unusual aerial sighting report from Mr. B. Turner 4 SWANSON CRES CHADSTONE 3148

RECEIVED 12 JUN 1973 DAFI

SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	RANK AND APPOINTMENT	PHONE EXTN
Gibbs	R.O. GIBBS	Flg Off INT 1	7410

C.D.O. 9777

DURING JUST LOOKING THROUGH WINDOW I NOTICED UNUSUAL BRIGHT LIGHT

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there? ONLY ONE

b. in what formation were they?

12. What was the colour of the light or object? REDDISH ORANGE LIGHT

RESTRICTED

5/6/1/AIR
CINTELCO

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer ....Sarah Turner.....Age ...38.....

2. Address of observer...A. Swanson Crescent.....

.....Swansonia.....3148.....Phone..569 8416....

3. Occupation of observer.....Teacher.....

4. Date and time of start of observation..May 29 73.....10.15 PM..

How certain is the date?.....Certain.....

How accurate is the time of start?..10.15 Time First Seen By me

5. Duration of observation.....15 Mins.....

How accurate is your estimate?.....Approx Watching Within 5 mins

6. Observer's location at time of sighting...At Home At Address

.....About.....

How familiar is observer with this locality?....Quite Familiar.

7. Weather conditions at time of observation.....

Some Light Cloud But Clear Above Eastern Sky

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation...Binoculars.

.....

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings.....To the East.....

.....

b. angle of elevation.....15°.....Approx.....

c. compass angle bearing.....East By South.....

d. how accurate are these estimates?.....Approx.....

10. What first attracted observer's attention?..When Returning For.

Next Just Looking Through Window ... Noticing Unusual Bright Light

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there?.....Only One

b. in what formation were they?.....

12. What was the colour of the light or object?..Reddish Orange Light

RESTRICTED

5/6/1973
CIMELLO

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards) Ordinary Street Light But Appears To Be At A Distance of 15 Miles

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon ..... Moon Smaller .....

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes) ..... 1" .....

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? .....

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? ..... No .....

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity ..... No .....

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? ..... From Approx 10° - 15° Over 15 Mins.

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances .....

20. Give duration of any stationary phases ... Remained Hover 5 Mins

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres .. Appeared To Move From Southerly Direction Further East

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen ..... No .....

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings ..... East .....

b. angle of elevation ..... 15° .....

c. compass angle bearing ..... Approx East .....

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? The Light Faded & Did Not Re Appear While We Were Watching

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc) ..... No .....

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity .....

..... Trained Training As Teacher & Lecturer .....

27. How many witness to the sighting? ..... Two .....

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....NO....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....~~Very~~ STATIONARY AIRCRAFT WITH EXTREMELY LARGE + BRIGHT LIGHT.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....

.....HOW..DO...AIRCRAFT....REMAIN..STATIONARY...IN..MID AIR.

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE ACCURATELY AT IT APPEARED TO BE MANY MILES AWAY. IT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A STAR WHICH IS A WHITE LIGHT, RATHER MORE THE YELLOWISH LIGHT OF A GLOBE. RATHER THE LOOK OF A STREET LIGHT SUSPENDED IN MID AIR. WAS FIRST NOTICED BY SWITCHING OFF INSIDE LIGHTS IN HOUSE WHEN RETIRING FOR NIGHT + JUST LOOKING THROUGH WINDOW AT WEATHER. WAS UNUSUAL ENOUGH TO ATTRACT ATTENTION. THE LIGHT FADED GRADUALLY PERHAPS 3 TIMES BUT RE-APPEARED SUDDENLY. ON SECOND APPEARANCE SEEMED HIGHER IN SKY + SLIGHTLY MORE EAST.

BY OBSERVING AIRCRAFT TRAVELLING BETWEEN SALE + LANGTON WE SEEM TO BE BELOW DIRECT AIR ROUTE

HAVE LOOKED EVERY NIGHT SINCE BUT HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN.

Signature..... Date.....JUNE...2...1973...

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type....Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type...Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....000 ft.....000 ft.....000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude 37.54S Longitude 145.04E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

Possibly Jupiter but Air Almanac places it lower @ 2300

36. A meteorological balloon was released from....N/A....

at.....Z..Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile...NW..moderate...2/8 cloud

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was ~~of~~ not measured till 2100K when 11° at 200 ft ~~measured at.....Z hrs from LAV.~~ was recorded.

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....No prediction charts for this period.....

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....

.....

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting ~~** can~~/cannot be determined.

41. The object reported ~~probably was **~~ / may have been

a. Temp. inversion showing bright orange lights from Mt. Dandenong hostelment area further south than actual location; or

b. Jupiter (see para 35).

When Mrs Turner made initial telephone report she said her husband thought it was a star but she ~~knows~~ knew better. Possibly member of fruit cake fraternity.

HQSCU 8 JUN 73
(Unit) (Date)

R.O. Gibbs Flg Off
(Name of Investigating Officer) (Rank)

** Delete as necessary

23 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 5

FOREST HILL VIC

MRS M. RACKHAM

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-6064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 (GB)	22 JUN 73	HQSC 5/6/1 AIR (74) 7 JUN 73.

TO	ATTENTION
HQSC	CINTO

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed for your records is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mrs M. Rackham in reply to her report of an unusual aerial sighting.

Enclosure: Copy of letter to Mrs M. Rackham.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
[signature]	R. EGLE	SQNLDR	DAFIO	2408

580/1/1 Pt 24 (5a)

21 JUN 1973

Mrs M. Rackham,
38 Jackson Street,
FOREST HILL, VIC 3131

Dear Mrs Rackham,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 23rd May 1973, we regret that our investigation has not been conclusive in determining the cause. From your description of the sighting, however, the investigation team considers that the most probable cause of the sighting was an item of space debris burning up on re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere.

The Spacewarn Bulletin issued by the World Warning Agency for Satellites gives predicted decay dates for known satellites and subsequently issues actual decay dates. From the information currently held we are unable to confirm that an item of space debris did decay on 23rd May.

For your information, of the 6397 man-made objects catalogued since 1957, 2902 were still in space on 29th April 1973. These objects periodically decay and burn up on re-entry to the atmosphere.

Thanking you for your report.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Explan
DAH
20 Jun 73

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: 69 0550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, MELBOURNE"

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
RAAF
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE SC1 VIC 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/6/1/Air(74)

-7 JUN 1973

Department of Air (DAFI/IR2)

DAFI

REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL OCCURRENCES

Reference: A. Our 5/6/1/Air(64) of 17th May 1973

1. Attached are unusual aerial occurrence reports from Mrs M. Rackham, Mr G.McLennan and Mr C.S. Perrin.

2. The sound reported by Mr McLennan was made by a police siren. The sound reported by Mr Perrin may also have been made by a police siren. Although the sound reported by Mr Emerton(at Reference A) is not the exact sound of a civil ambulance, it is similar. It is thought that unusual weather conditions, possibly temperature inversions or cloud cover, were ducting siren sounds during May.

(R.O. GIBBS)
Flying Officer
For Air Officer Commanding

Enclosures: 3 reports

DISPATCHED 24 MAY 1973

RECEIVED 29 MAY 1973 NGSC REGISTRY

24 MAY 1973

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer MRS. MARGARET RACKHAM Age 29

2. Address of observer 38 JACKSON ST. FOREST HILL 3131 VIC. Phone 878 1702

3. Occupation of observer HOUSEWIFE (former teacher)

4. Date and time of start of observation 23rd MAY 1973 Approx 9.05 p.m

How certain is the date? POSITIVE

How accurate is the time of start? Within 2 minutes

5. Duration of observation 15-20 Seconds

How accurate is your estimate? Approximate only

6. Observer's location at time of sighting Front garden of residence - 38 Jackson St. Forest Hill.

How familiar is observer with this locality? Quite Familiar

7. Weather conditions at time of observation Fairly clear sky, few high windswept clouds

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation NONE

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings Almost overhead, travelling southwards (in line with street)

b. angle of elevation E. 15° W. approx. 15° from overhead ie - 75° from horizon

c. compass angle bearing ??? In direct line with Blackburn Road.

d. how accurate are these estimates? Approx.

10. What first attracted observer's attention? Moving orange light, first seen by my husband, who called me.

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there? ONLY ONE

b. in what formation were they?

12. What was the colour of the light or object? YELLOWY-ORANGE

DISPATCHED 24 MAY 1973

x 5/6/1 Ai
c Ltd

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards)... Brighter than any star or planet, but less brilliant than moon

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon... Venus - perhaps

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes)... ¼" (Not really sure)

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?... NO IDEA APART FROM ANSWER TO QUESTION 9

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious?... NO

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity

NO SOUND

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?. BELOW CLOUD LEVEL, perhaps height of light plane.

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances Couldn't estimate, except to say that it took 15-20 secs to go from overhead to 30° above horizon

20. Give duration of any stationary phases... NONE - STEADY SPEED

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres... NONE

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen... NONE

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings... IN SOUTHERN SKY, ABOUT 30° ABOVE HORIZEN.

b. angle of elevation... 30° approx

c. compass angle bearing... Between Sth and SSW

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? light flickered twice then went out. No further sighting

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc)... NO

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity... NONE

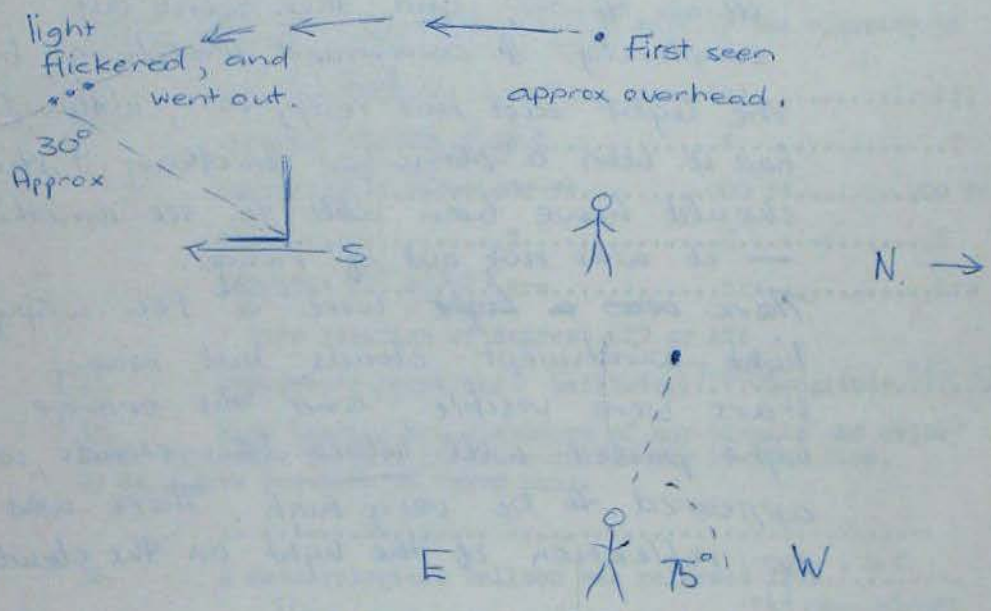
27. How many witness to the sighting?... ONE

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area? No

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation? light aircraft with no sound, only one orange light, travelling at steady speed, light turned off long after flickering, before it should have been out of sight.

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation? Being a fairly clear night, I would expect to hear some sound from that height, also, not usual to have 1 orange light & no others on plane.

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.



I hope this is of some help – I'm afraid I'm not a very good observer.

Signature M.J. Rackham Date 25th May 1973

At about 5 minutes past 9.00 p.m. on May 23rd 1975, I sighted an unusual orange-yellow light moving steadily in a southerly direction across the sky. My husband, who brought this light to my attention, noticed it as he turned to face the west, returning inside the house. We were not looking for anything at the time.

I then watched the light, noting direction (which did not change), until it reached about 30° about the southern horizon when it flickered — off-on, off-on, and then went out completely. I continued watching, but the light did not reappear, although had it been a plane or something I still should have been able to see something — it was not out of range.

There ~~was a light~~ were a few wispy light windswept clouds, but many stars were visible, and the orange light passed well below the clouds, which appeared to be very high. There was no reflection of the light on the clouds.

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type....Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type..PA24 VH-BTI..(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..Training flight.....T.....T.....T

Height..up to 2000' ~~000 ft~~.....000 ft.....000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

~~ATD~~/ATA*..abt 2130 K.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude..37.50S.....Longitude..145.08E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from..L.A.V.....

at..1100.....Z..Colour..lamp..Weight..Not considered.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of

....at.....ft measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....Nil.....

.....

40. The cause (or likely cause) of the sighting ** ~~can~~/cannot be determined.

41. The object reported ~~probably was **~~ / may have been

.....VH-RTI night training out of Moorabbin. Moorabbin control reported to make limits on training flights but limit flexible. The pilot, Mr P Mooney, said he made two circuits, MOORABBIN – E towards DANDENONG – NW towards Monash University (Cnr Blackburn Rd & Frances Hwy) – SSW for MOORABBIN & could have been on similar bearing to report but ~~was~~ would have been 4 miles S of reporting point. Aircraft lights don't agree with report. Mrs Rackman originally reported sighting of "a few minutes" but has changed to "15-20 seconds" at Part 1. No Satellite Information Bulletin available for this period.....

(Unit) HQOCU (Date) 5 JUN 73

Flg Offr O Gibbs

(Name of Investigating Officer) (Rank)

** Delete as necessary

17 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 4

MONTROSE G. P McKENNAN
N/C

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 Pt 24(4a)	4 Jun 73	HOSC 5/6/1/AIR(74) DATED 7 Jun 73

TO: HOSC
ATTENTION: CINTELLO

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr G. P. McKennan in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr GP McKennan

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M Cretton	M. CRETTON	FLG OFF	IR.2	240E

580/1/1 Pt24 (4a)

- 3 JUL 1973

Mr G.P. McLennan,
Browns Road,
MONTROSE VIC 3765

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 17th May 1973, it has been determined that the most probable cause was a passing police car.

Our investigations have shown that at approximately 00.28 AM on 17th May, Victorian Police Car 30, containing Senior Constable Cain and Constable Smythe, received an urgent call to proceed to The Basin. The car travelled via Canterbury Road to Montrose, thence via Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road and Basin-Olinda Road to The Basin, checking side roads along the way for an alleged offence. The car was in the vicinity of Browns Road at about 01.00 AM. The sound heard would have been the noise of its siren, which is a 'Heathkit' model and is capable of a variety of sound productions, and terrain effects would be responsible for the apparent overhead path of the sound. The light would have been reflections from its two flashing blue beacons, headlights and spotlight. At about 01.16 AM, the Police closed the case and the car returning to base would account for your second sighting.

A similar report was received from a reporter at Sassafras for a corresponding date/time period, and she has subsequently identified the sound heard as that of the siren on 'Car 30'.

We trust that this explanation is satisfactory and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Sydney
DAM
2 Jul 73

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer GRAEME PENFOLD McLENNAN Age 35

2. Address of observer BROWNS ROAD NORTH, MONTROSE 3765 Phone HOME 728-3526 WORK 347-1544.

3. Occupation of observer DESIGN DRAUGHTSMAN

4. Date and time of start of observation THURSDAY 17TH MAY 73 1.00 AM (MORNING.)

How certain is the date? ACCURATE

How accurate is the time of start? ACCURATE - WOKEN BY DOGS SCRATCHING AT WINDOW & OBSERVED TIME

5. Duration of observation APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES.

How accurate is your estimate? NOT ACCURATE.

6. Observer's location at time of sighting 1st IN BEDROOM LOOKING OUT WINDOW 2ND OUTSIDE UNDER VERANDAH.

How familiar is observer with this locality? VERY FAMILIAR

7. Weather conditions at time of observation COLD, WET & DARK. NOT MUCH WIND. (NOT STRONG WIND) & CLOUDY.

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation WHEN RADIO WAS TURNED ON ONLY STATIC HEARD (ie) NO SOUND.

9. Where was object first observed? :

a. Relative to your surroundings STH. EAST CORNER OF HOUSE. SOUTH 40° TO 50° EAST

b. angle of elevation APPROX 60° TO 70°

c. compass angle bearing 40° TO 50° EAST OF SOUTH.

d. how accurate are these estimates? APPROXIMATE

10. What first attracted observer's attention? DOGS BARKING & SCRATCHING FRANTICALLY AT BEDROOM WINDOW & WHIMPERING.

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there? ONLY ONE.

b. in what formation were they? NIL

12. What was the colour of the light or object? VERY DULL LIGHT

RESTRICTED

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards). SOURCE OF LIGHT WAS DULL AT 100' BUT AS NIGHT WAS DARK AREA SURROUNDING WAS REASONABLY DEFINED.

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon. COULD NOT ESTIMATE ANY SIZE.

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes). COULD NOT ESTIMATE ANY SIZE.

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?.....

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? NO.

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity A NOISE SIMILAR TO THAT HEARD WHEN TUNING A SHORT WAVE RADIO. QUITE ERIE.

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)? 60° THEN OVERHEAD

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances .....
COULD NOT ESTIMATE ANY OF THESE.

20. Give duration of any stationary phases. APPROX 2 TO 3 MINS.

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres. MOVED FROM EAST TO WEST, DISAPPEARED & HEARD SOUND.

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen. JUST A DULL LIGHT

23. Where was object last observed :

a. relative to your surroundings. DISAPPEARING TO WEST.

b. angle of elevation. APPROX 70° TO 80°.

c. compass angle bearing. WEST.

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? A DULL DISAPPEARING LIGHT OR SHADOW ON THE GROUND AND THE NOISE SIMILAR TO SHORT WAVE RADIO.

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc). I HAVE INSPECTED THE AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIGHT BUT DID NOT OBSERVE ANY VISIBLE MARKINGS.

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.....
OBSERVER IS A DESIGN DRAUGHTSMAN

27. How many witness to the sighting? 3 PEOPLE HEARD IT BUT DID NOT SEE IT.

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area? NOT ACTUAL SIGHTINGS JUST THE SOUND.

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation? THE NOISE OR SIGNAL ASSOCIATED WHEN SWITCHING FROM STATION TO STATION ON SHORT WAVE RADIO.

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....

.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

SEE ATTACHED SKETCHES.

Signature: Graeme P. McSeman Date: day 27th 1973.

Brown Road North
Montrose 3765
Victoria
May 18th., 1973.

The Secretary,
Headquarters
Support Command. RAAF.

Dear Sir,

At approximately one am on Thursday May 17th 1973, I was awakened by my dogs frantically barking at the rear of my house, when suddenly one dog came to the front bedroom window and began to scratch and whimper. I got out of bed & as a normal practice for me noted the time. I noticed that the dog was extremely frightened and trembling. The other dog was still barking and I looked through the rear bedroom window and called out to him. He then ran to the garage. Through the rear bedroom window I noticed a dull light and heard a sound, similar to that heard when changing stations on short wave radio.

The light was not a strong light and I did not see any actual object, I just heard this rather strange sound which was very strong. I went outside but I could not see anything else, just this dull light shining behind the trees. I then went inside and the sound then shifted diagonally across my house from east to west, and the sound gradually disappeared. I then switched all outside lights on and called my dogs however they would not obey & remained in the garage.

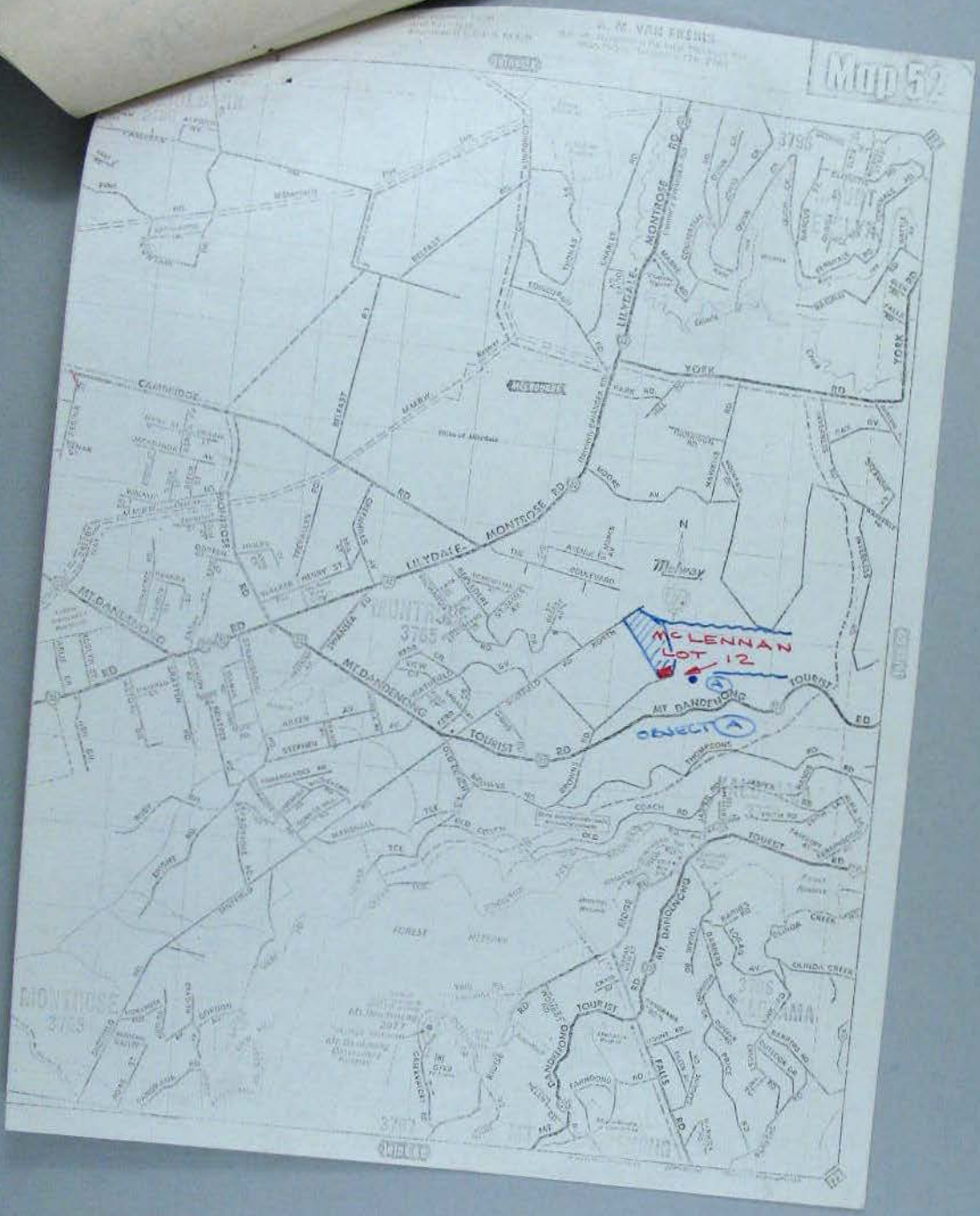
About ten minutes later the sound came back, it appeared to follow the same path. I could actually see the dull light pointing down but not object.

X 3/6/1 Mr C. [illegible]

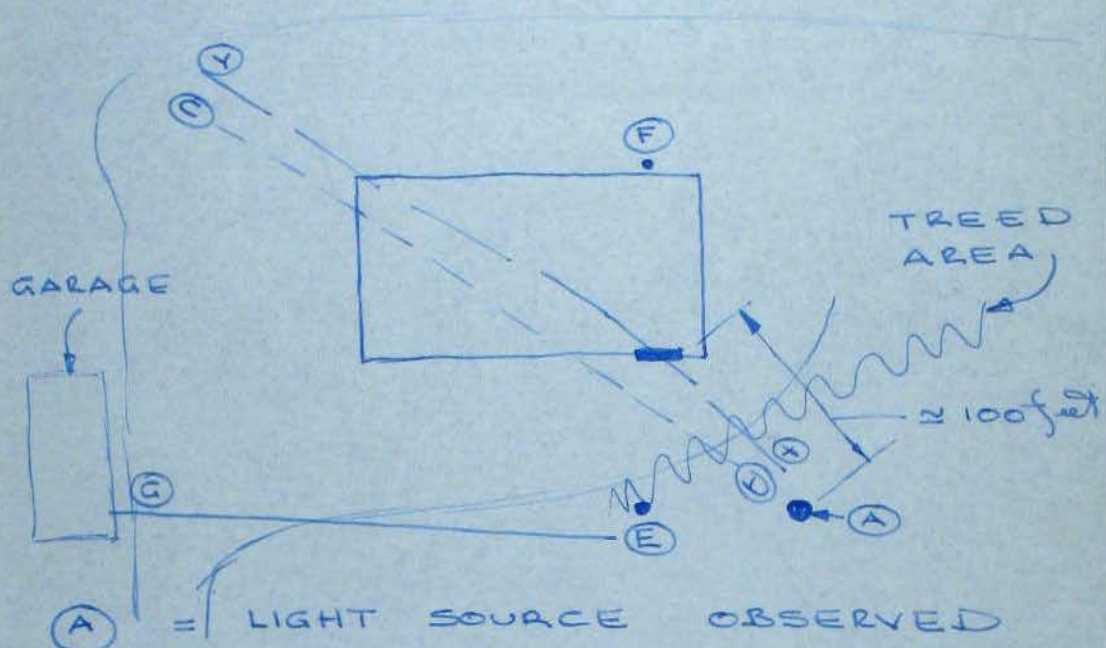
Whatever the object or light was I have no idea however my dogs would not enter the area with me on the following weekend, they would not obey my commands.

I have enclosed a few sketches of the area and hope they are of use to you.

Yours faithfully
Suzanne M. McSennan.


Map 52
McLENNAN
LOT 12
OBJECT A
MONTROSE RD
LILYDALE
YORK RD
CAIRNDOE
MT DANDENONG
TOURIST RD
BUTCHER
COACH RD
FALLS RD
FOREST
N

May 28th 1973.



(A) = LIGHT SOURCE OBSERVED FIRST & HEARD THROUGH WINDOW (W)

(X)(Y) = PATH OF SOUND ON FIRST OBSERVATION

(C)(D) = PATH OF LIGHT & SOUND ON RETURN OR SECOND OBSERVATION

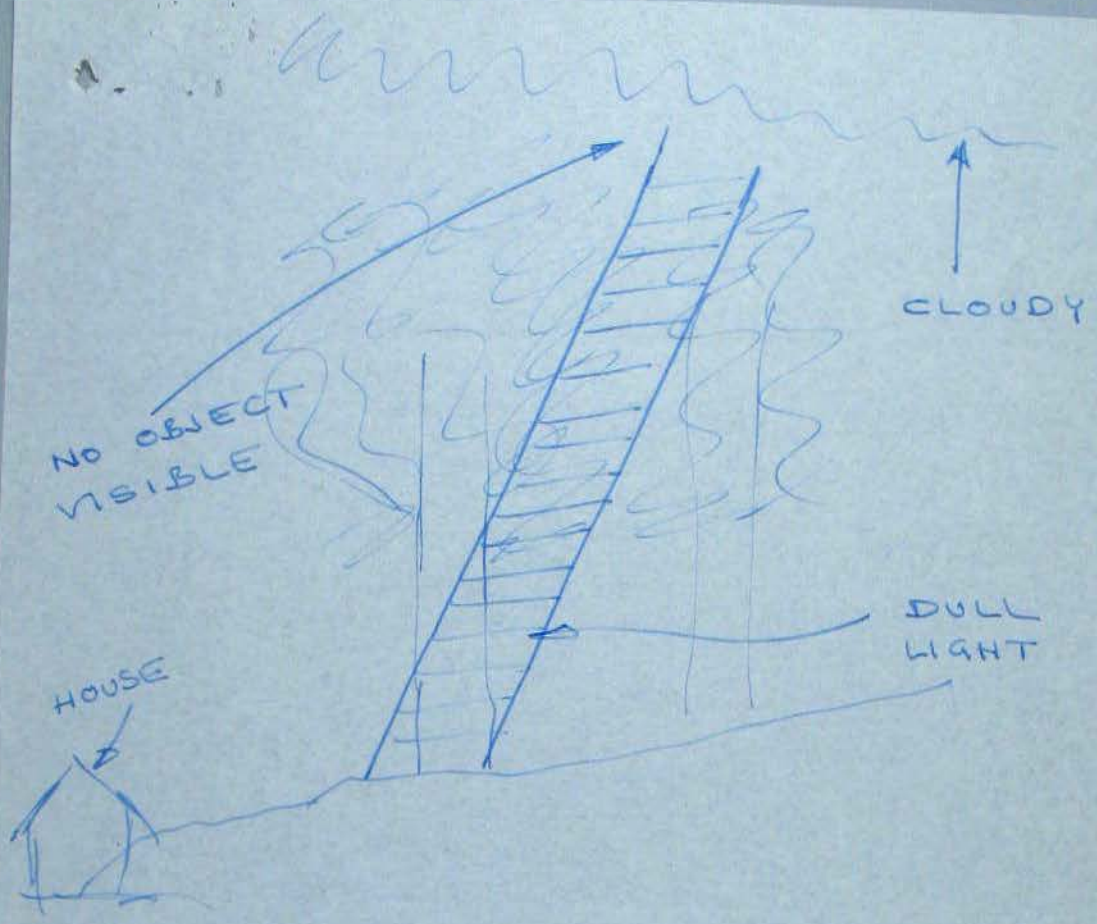
WHEN FIRST OBSERVED AND HEARD LIGHT APPEARED STATIONARY AT POINT (A) BUT AT NO OTHER TIME WAS LIGHT STATIONARY.

(E) = DOGS BARKING.

(F) = DOG SCRATCHING AT BED WINDOW

(E)(G) = PATH OF DOG RUNNING TO GARAGE

—S. P. McSerman


CLOUDY
NO OBJECT VISIBLE
DULL LIGHT
HOUSE

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type.....Nil.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....000 ft.....000 ft.....000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude.....37.49S.....Longitude.....145.18E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

.....Not applicable.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from.....

at.....Z..Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of
No significant inversion
....at.....ft measured at.....Z hrs from.....

.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....

.....

40. The ~~cause for~~ likely cause(s) of the ~~sighting~~ report ** can/~~cannot~~ be determined.

41. The object reported probably was ** / ~~may have been~~

Victorian Police Car 30 containing Snr Constables Caine & Constable Smythe. At 0028 this car was called urgently to The Basin (see ANNEX A). It travelled via Canterbury Rd to Montrose, thence via Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd & Basin - Olinda Rd to The Basin checking side-roads en-route seeking a girl reportedly being attacked. This car is fitted with two blue beacons which were constantly illuminated. The siren is a "Heathkit" model and is capable of a warble, a "yap-yap" note, a constant high pitch and can be manually operated for short bursts of sound. The siren was operated on warble for short periods as the policemen searched tracks and side-roads. Senior Constable Caine has advised Senior Sergeant

.....
(Unit) (Date)

.....
(Name of Investigating Officer) (Rank)

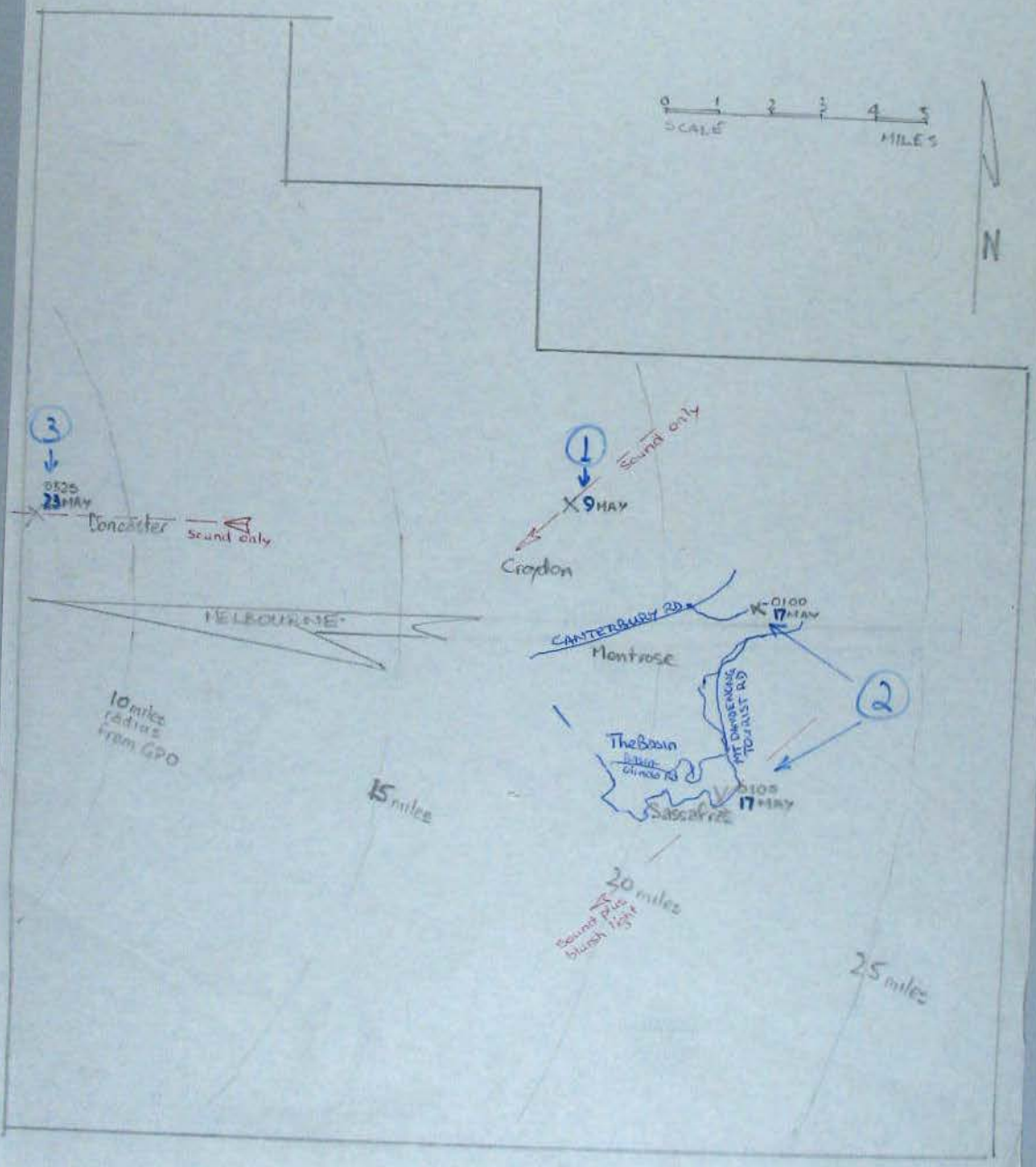
Campbell (Sgt i/c D24) that Car 30 was on Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, ~~at 01~~ in the vicinity of Browns Rd, at 0100 hrs. The police closed the case at 0116 hrs. The siren on Car 30 could blast the saddle off a nightmare; depending on terrain the sound could certainly rise. Doppler effect is considerable.

** Delete as necessary

HQSCU. 6JUN73

R.O. Gibbs Flg Off

ANNEX A


0 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE
MILES
N
3
0535
23 MAY
Doncaster
sound only
1
sound only
9 MAY
Croydon
MELBOURNE
CANTERBURY RD
0100
17 MAY
Montrose
2
MT DANDENONG TOURIST RD
The Basin
Sassafras
0100
17 MAY
10 miles radius from GPO
15 miles
20 miles
sound plus blush light
25 miles

23 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 3

DONCASTER
VIC

C.S. PERRIN

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 Pt 24(35)	12 JUN 73	HQSC 5/6/1/AIR(74) DATED 7 JUN 73 BSLAN 5/4/AIR(11) DATED 7 JUN 73

TO: HQSC
ATTENTION: CINTERNO
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Enclosed, for your records, are copies of letters from this Department to Mr C.S. Perrin and Mr G. Clarke in reply to their reports of unusual aerial sightings.

ENCLOSURES: Copies of letters to Mr C.S Perrin and Mr G. Clarke.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M Gretton	M GRETTON	FLG OFF	IR 3	2408

580/1/1 Pt24 (3a)

11 JUL 1973

Mr C.S. Perrin,
4 Reida Street,
DONCASTER, VIC 3108

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual noise near your home on 23rd May 1973, the opinion of the investigating team is that the most probable cause was the siren of a passing police car.

A number of Victorian police cars now have the 'Heathkit' siren fitted. This siren is capable of producing a variety of sounds which are apparently distorted by local effects of terrain or atmospheric changes.

At the time of your observation, there was a significant temperature inversion recorded in the Melbourne area and this, in conjunction with the terrain structure in your area, could feasibly have caused the apparent path of the noise over your house.

Although this theoretical explanation cannot be proven we trust that it is acceptable and we thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G J Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Explan
DAG
10 Jul 73

~~RESTRICTED~~

RECEIVED

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer C. S. PERRIN Age 55

2. Address of observer 4 Rerda St

Lancaster Phone 615 8896 857 6284

3. Occupation of observer Property Officer

4. Date and time of start of observation 5-25 23/5/73

How certain is the date? correct

How accurate is the time of start? within ½ minute

5. Duration of ~~observation~~ hearing sound 10-20 seconds

How accurate is your estimate? within 10 seconds

6. Observer's location at time of ~~sighting~~ hearing In bed

How familiar is observer with this locality? lived in property 20 years

7. Weather conditions at time of observation overcast

8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation NONE

9. Where was object first ~~observed~~ HEARD? :

a. Relative to your surroundings FROM REAR OF HOUSE

b. angle of elevation FROM REAR OVER HOUSE TOWARDS WEST.

c. compass angle bearing east to west

d. how accurate are these estimates? House faces due west sound seemed to come from behind to front

10. What first attracted observer's attention? noise

11. If there was more than one light/object :

a. how many were there? Sounded like only one object

b. in what formation were they? No object sighted

12. What was the colour of the light or object? did not sight object

apparently because cloud was low

~~RESTRICTED~~

5/6/73 C Fritz

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards)..... —

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach?:

a. relative to Venus or Moon..... —

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes)..... —

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? East to West difficult to determine elevation say 100 feet

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious?..... NO

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity Reverberating rising & falling

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?. See 15

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances ... Slow

20. Give duration of any stationary phases.. did not seem to actually stop

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres..... —

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen..... —

23. Where was object last ~~observed~~ heard :

a. relative to your surroundings. travelling towards west from house

b. angle of elevation..... See 15

c. compass angle bearing..... 270°

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?.. sound faded (as by distance)

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc)..... NO

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.. Elementary Survey studies

27. How many witness to the ~~sighting~~ hearing?. only ~~two~~ known of one (MY WIFE)

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?...No.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your ~~observation~~ hearing?.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....

.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form, if needed.

As near as I can determine the sound made was similar to the the sounds made in a picture shown by Channel 9 on Sunday 20 May 1973 at 1.P.M. called "Conqueror of Atlantis".

Signature.....Stewart Perry..... Date.....31/5/73.....

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....Not considered.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading..... T .....T..... (T)

Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time.

A/C type.....Not considered.....(1).....(2).....(3)

Heading.....T.....T.....T

Height.....000 ft.....000 ft.....000 ft

Speed.....K.....K.....K

ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

* Give location of nearest ATD or ATA

34. Observer's Location: Latitude.37.47S..Longitude.145.09E

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that position of the sky at that time. By day, give location of Venus only.

.....Not considered.....

36. A meteorological balloon was released from.....

at.....Z..Colour.....Weight.....gm

Radio-sonde** radar** : Candle ** battery **
(Delete as required)

General wind profile.....

Maximum height tracked.....00 ft at.....Z

Was it known to have burst?

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of 1°...at..300...ft measured at..2100 Local hrs from..LAV.
developed to 4° @ 5,500 inversion base @ 0900 hrs 24 MAY
.....station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, comets, meteorites etc, relevant to the sighting.

.....

Dry temp 12°
Dew point 5°
R.H 62%
7/8 Alto Cu / Alto St at 10,000'

/39. When an

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating.

.....

.....

40. The ~~cause (~~or likely cause~~)~~ of the sighting
** can/~~cannot~~ be determined.

41. The object reported probably was **~~/ may have been~~
1. A police car with siren activated travelling along Doncaster Rd, north of Mr Perrin's house. The Victorian Police have not been able to locate a car in the area at the time but have stated that road patrols use sirens ~~to clear in~~ in short bursts to clear approaching intersections or groups of vehicles. They have no detailed records of police car movements unless called to a special point by D24 (police communication:)
2. A slight temperature inversion over Melbourne may have ducted the sound to Mr Perrin's ~~[illegible]~~ house. No ambulance in area.

HQSCU (Unit) 7JUN73 (Date)

R.O. GIBBS (Name of Investigating Officer) Flg Off (Rank)

** Delete as necessary

23 MAY 73

SIGHTING # 2

THE ENTRANCE
NSW

R FOLLINGTON

580/1/1 Pt24 (2a)

Mr R. Follington,
Unit 7
146 Albany Street,
EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250

18 JUL 1973

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 23rd May 1973, the opinion of the investigating team is that the cause was the image of the rising moon as seen through a severe temperature inversion.

On that evening, the moonrise was calculated as approximately 10.30 pm for the latitude of the sighting position. In addition, a severe temperature inversion of 8° between the surface and 500 ft altitude was measured at Williamtown at 7.30 pm, thus creating ideal conditions of atmospheric density for immense low angle refraction of light.

Your description of the sighting is practically identical to a description contained in the publication 'Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects' written by Dr Edward Condon. A complete explanation (with diagrams) of the phenomenon of refraction relating to the sun or moon with an associated inversion is contained in the publication, and covers the 'split image' observation that you reported. The apparent horizontal movement can also be explained by the theory of refraction when related to a severe low level temperature inversion.

We recommend the publication to you as very informative reading if you are interested in the studies of unusual aerial sightings.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

Replied
DAPR
13 Jul 73

Noted
Reply by DAPR
16.7.73

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1 P. 24 (23)	17 JUN 73	HQWLM 5/2/AIR(50) OF 4 JUN 73

TO	ATTENTION
HQWLM	F10

SUBJECT
REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr. R Follington in reply to his report of an unusual aerial sighting.

Enclosure: Copy of letter to Mr. R. Follington

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
[signature]	M GRETTON	FLG OFF	IR 2	2+0P

RESTRICTED

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

DEPT. OF AIR 510-1-1 DAFI 7-6-73

TELEPHONE: Newcastle 65-1221

Headquarters
RAAF Base
WILLIAMTOWN NSW 2314

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/2/Air(50)

4th June 1973

The Secretary
Department of Air
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

DAFI

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (Attn: CC Intel O)

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

1. Attached is a report on an unusual aerial sighting submitted by Mr Robert Follington of East Gosford NSW, under the auspices of the Central Coast UFO Research Bureau. No further details are known other than those in the attached Report by Observer.

2. The objects sighted were two sets of flashing orange lights, barely moving.

3. No service aircraft from this Base were active in the area. A Masling Air Lines Beechcraft left Williamtown at 1912 hours for Sydney, but it is thought unlikely that this could have been the source of the sighting. Weather conditions were calm, visibility 20 nautical miles, and a severe temperature inversion of 8° from 0-500' was recorded at 1930 hours local. At the time of the sighting the moon, about ¾ size, was just above the horizon at a bearing of 120°. Three satellites were visible within the time span of 10 minutes before and after the sighting but have been discounted because of the very slow movement of the object.

4. However, as a result of the strong temperature inversion, it is possible that the sighting was a very distorted view of the rising moon.

5. Forwarded for your further investigation.

(A.F. BLACKBURN)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

RECEIVED 12 JUN 1973 DAFI

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

UNKNOWN

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? NO

/17. Describe

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part I - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form.)

1. Name of observer ROBERT FOLLINGTON Age 40
2. Address of observer UNIT 7 - 146 ALBANY ST EAST GOSFORD Phone Home 963029 Bus.
3. Occupation of observer CHIROPRACTOR
4. Date and time of start of observation 23-5-73 7:20 P.M.
   How certain is the date? CERTAIN
   How accurate is the time of start? BY WRISTWATCH
5. Duration of observation APPROX 5 MINUTES
   How accurate is your estimate? GUESSWORK
6. Observer's location at time of sighting HUTTON RD THE ENTRANCE NORTH N.S.W.
   How familiar is observer with this locality? DRIVING FROM TOUKLEY EVERY DAY
7. Weather conditions at time of observation VERY CLEAR NO CLOUD OR HAZE
8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation NONE
9. Where was object first observed:
   a. Relative to your surroundings OUT TO SEA
   b. Angle of elevation 30°-40°
   c. Compass angle bearing —
   d. How accurate are these estimates? —
10. What first attracted observer's attention? VERY BRIGHT ORANGY-RED LIGHTS
11. If there was more than one light/object:
    a. How many were there? 2 SETS
    b. In what formation were they? ~~Oval~~
12. What was the colour of the light or object? ORANGE-RED
13. What was the brightness? (Compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg, ordinary street light at 100 yards) BRILLIANT
14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach:
    a. Relative to Venus or Moon ABOUT MOON
    b. Relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from the eyes) UNABLE TO ESTIMATE
15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed? UNKNOWN
16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? NO

/17. Describe

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity
.....NIL.....

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?.....2.....FAIRLY.....LOW.....

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances. VERY - VERY SLOW
.....

20. Give duration of any stationary phases...APPROX.....5 SECONDS

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres.(SEE.....BACK).....

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen..NIL.....
.....

23. Where was the object last observed:
   a. Relative to your surroundings..SAME.....POSITION.....
   b. Angle of elevation.....30° - 40°.....
   c. Compass angle bearing.....—.....

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?.I.PROVE.....AWAY.....

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc).....N.O.....
.....

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.....—.....
.....

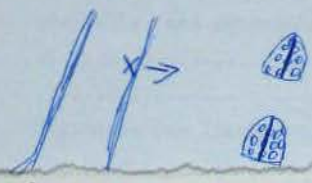
27. How many witnesses to the sighting?...MYSELF.....ONLY.....KNOWN

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....
.....NOT.....AS.....YET.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....NONE.....WHATSOEVER.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....
.....—.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form.



MANY ORANGE LIGHTS ON EACH OBJECT, FLASHING BEING WILDLY

my signature to accompany Raaf U.f.O. report form.

R. b. Follington

PTO

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity .....NIL.....

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?.....2.....FAIRLY.....LOW.....

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances.VERY - VERY SLOW .....

20. Give duration of any stationary phases...APPROX.....5 SECONDS

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres.(SEE.....BACK).....

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen..NIL.....

23. Where was the object last observed:
    a. Relative to your surroundings.SAME.....POSITION.....
    b. Angle of elevation.....30° - 40°.....
    c. Compass angle bearing.....—.....

24. What was the manner of its disappearance?.I PROVE.....AWAY.....

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity etc).....NO.....

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.....—.....

27. How many witnesses to the sighting?...MYSELF.....ONLY.....KNOWN

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?.....NOT.....AS.....YET.....

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?.....NONE.....WHATSOEVER.....

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?.....—.....

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form.

MANY ORANGE LIGHTS ON EACH OBJECT, FLASHING WILDLY, ONLY BEING BROKEN BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A BLACK BAND

PTO

Signature..... Date..23-5-73.....

21 OBJECTS TRAVELLED ALONG COAST TOWARDS TOWNLEY + BACK AGAIN.

BOTH OBJECTS IDENTICAL.

APPROX 100' APART, 1 OBJECT SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN OTHER.

ALSO ZIG ZAGGED UP + DOWN AS TRAVELLED

Part 2 - Unit Evaluation

32. The following military aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....NIL.....(1).....(2).....(3)
Heading.....T.....T.....T
Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft
Speed.....K.....K.....K
ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

33. The following civil aircraft were in the vicinity of the reported UFO position at the time:

A/C type.....NIL.....(1).....(2).....(3)
Heading.....T.....T.....T
Height.....,000 ft.....,000 ft.....,000 ft
Speed.....K.....K.....K
ATD/ATA*.....hrs.....hrs.....hrs

*Give location of nearest ATD or ATA.

34. Observer's Location: Latitude...33°20'...Longitude...151°30'...

35. Give bearing and elevation of any planets and major stars that were in that portion of the sky at the time. By day, give location of Venus only....MOON - JUST ABOVE HORIZON.....

36 A meteorological balloon was released from.....
at.....Z...Colour.....Weight.....gm
Radio-sonde**/radar**; Candle**/battery** (**delete as required)
General wind profile.....
Maximum height tracked.....,000 ft at.....Z
Was it known to have burst?.....

37. The first significant temperature inversion was of ..8....°C at ..0-500.....ft, measured at....0930....Z hrs from..WLM.... METEOROLOGICAL...station.

38. Any remarks on satellites, rockets, research balloons, ~~comets~~, meteorites etc relevant to the sighting..NONE APPLICABLE.....

39. When an aircraft is a possible identification, include radar trace if available, and ascertain which of the aircraft lights were operating
.....
.....

40. The ~~cause~~ (or likely cause) of the sighting can*/~~cannot*~~ be determined.

41. The object reported ~~probably was*~~/may have been* (delete as required).
..rising moon distorted by temperature inversion.

.....HQWLM.....(Unit)...A.F. BLACKBURN.....(Name)
.....4th June 1973.....(Date)....FLT LT.....(Rank)

14 APR 73

SIGHTING # 1

DUBBO
NSW

H. H. ASHMORE

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-5064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEPAIR	580/1/1P.24(1b)	16 JUL 73	5/1/AIR PT 1(15) OF 30 MAY 73

TO	ATTENTION
2 STO DEP	FLT LT R.L. DEAN

SUBJECT
REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Enclosed, for your records, is a copy of a letter from this Department to Mr H.H. Ashmore in reply to the report of an unusual aerial sighting.

ENCLOSURE: Copy of letter to Mr H H Ashmore

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M. Gretton	M GRETTON	FLGOFF	IR 2	2404

580/1/1 Pt24 (1a)

13 JUL 1973

Mr H.H. Ashmore,
64 Bennett Street,
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of an unusual aerial sighting on 14th April 1973, the opinion of the investigating team is that the sighting was of a light aircraft or 'World War II' type fighter aircraft.

In the Dubbo area, airspace is uncontrolled below an altitude of 18000 ft, and aircraft may operate below that altitude without flight notification to the Department of Civil Aviation. These flights are common but are impossible to check as no records are available.

We regret that the theoretical explanation cannot be confirmed, but trust that it is acceptable and thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. Odgers

(G.J. ODGERS)
Director of Public Relations

typed
DAH
12 Jul 73

NOA
DAH
DMP 13 7 73

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

DEPT. OF AIR 580 DAFI 17.5.73

TELEPHONE: DUBBO 82 4822

No 2 Stores Depot
Detachment "D"
DUBBO NSW 2830

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/1/Air Pt1(15)

30th May 1973

Department of Air (DAFI)

For Information
Headquarters Support Command (Command Intel O)
DAFI Headquarters Operational Command (SO Intel)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Herewith report of unusual aerial sighting investigated by Flt Lt R. L. DEAN (04184) Acct.

(C. F. SAUNDERS)
Squadron Leader
Officer Commanding Detachment

Encl : Copy of Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting received from Mr H. H. Ashmore.

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT
ON THE SIGHTING OF AN UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECT AT DUBBO ON 14APR73

INTRODUCTION

1. During the course of similar investigation submitted under cover of 2SDD 5/1/Air Pt1(14) 3MAY73 the following entry was noted in the DCA Control Tower Log Book at Dubbo:

"14APR73 1120
Mr Harold Ashmore reports sighting a silver object proceeding south doing aerobatics - no noise - estimated travelling at 200 KTS at about 10,000ft. Object viewed by Mr Ashmore and another person with binoculars until it disappeared at about 1110 to the south. Mr Ashmore phone 82 4372."

2. Mr Ashmore was interviewed on 7th May 1973 and returned the pro forma attached to the unit on 17th May 1973.

QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE

3. Mr Ashmore appears quite sincere in his belief that there are "beings out there" and is emphatic that he made a previous night sighting some two years before but did not report.

4. The qualified pilot who is stated to have witnessed the sighting is said to have moved to Western Australia, his address being unknown. His name was not given.

UNIT EVALUATION

5. Dubbo Airport tower have no record of any aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting and other information required by Part 2 of the pro-forma is not readily available.

6. The cause of the sighting cannot be determined.

(R. L. DEAN)
Flight Lieutenant
Investigating Officer

2SDD DUBBO
29th May 1973

FLT LT R. DEAN

ANNEX E

REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

(As a preliminary to completing this form, the observer is invited to describe the sighting in his or her own manner, using either separate sheets or the back of this form)

1. Name of Observer. Harold Henry Ashmore ..... Age 47
2. Address of Observer. 64 Bennett St Dubbo 2830
   ..... Phone Number. 82 4372
3. Occupation of Observer. Retired Clergy
4. Date & Time of Start of Observation. 14 APR 73 1110 ~~00~~ hrs
   How certain is the date? D.C.A. confirmation of report
   How accurate is the time of start? DCA confirmation
5. Duration of Observation. 7 to 10 mins
   How accurate is your estimate? Time established at start by Time signal on radio
6. Observer's location at time of sighting. In garden between 64 & 66 Bennett St Dubbo
   How familiar is observer with this locality? 10 yrs residence
7. Weather conditions at time of observation. Bright Sunny day very little cloud less than ½ coverage
8. Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation. Binoculars
9. Where was object first observed? :
   a. Relative to your surroundings. Directly overhead
   b. angle of elevation. 90° (12 o'clock)
   c. compass angle bearing. Due South
   d. how accurate are these estimates? bearing checked by Prismatic Comp
10. What first attracted observer's attention? Reflected Sunlight
11. If there was more than one light/object :
    a. how many were there? ONE
    b. in what formation were they? —

/12. What was

12. What was the colour of the light or object? Silver

13. What was the brightness? (compare with full moon or common light source at a stated distance, eg ordinary street light at 100 yards) very bright

14. What was the apparent size at nearest approach? :

a. relative to Venus or Moon

b. relative dimensions in inches at arm's length (about 20 inches from eyes) approx 3/8" to 1/2"

15. What were the bearing and elevation angles at nearest approach and how were these values assessed?
Bearing + Elevation were constant

16. Was any method of propulsion obvious? No

17. Describe any sound heard, including changes in pitch and intensity None

18. What was the maximum and minimum angle of elevation (or height, if an estimate can be justified)?
est height 10,000 ft

19. What was the maximum and minimum angular velocity (or speed, if an estimate can be justified)? If necessary, compare with the movement of familiar objects at stated distances
Min Velocity 200 K Maximum ? Very High Speed

20. Give duration of any stationary phases —

21. Describe any deviations or manoeuvres. object performed aerobatic manoeuvres

22. Describe any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen
None

23. Where was object last observed? :

a. relative to your surroundings climbing very fast due South

b. angle of elevation 90°

c. compass angle bearing Due South

24. What was the manner of its disappearance? climbed out of sight Due South at great speed — far above normal aircraft speeds

25. Do you know of any associated physical evidence (such as fragments, photographs, scorching, ground indentations, residual magnetism or radioactivity, etc)
NO

/26. State any

26. State any training which enables observer to be reasonably certain of his/her ability to estimate angles and angular velocity.

Opinion of Qualified Pilot -

27. How many witnesses to the sighting? ONE

28. Do you know of witnesses to similar sightings in the area?

No

29. What natural phenomenon (or phenomena) would be nearest to explaining your observation?

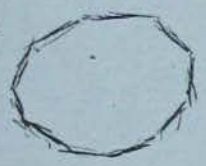
? Met balloon - but shape wrong

30. What are your main reasons for excluding this explanation?

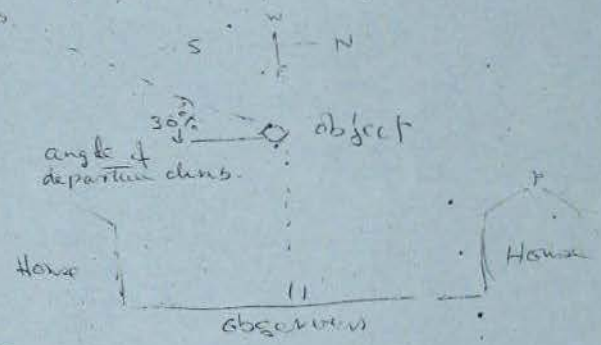
object performed controlled "acrobatics" and was propelled at high velocity

31. Please sketch the light/object with all details. If appropriate, sketch position and/or movement of object in relation to your surroundings. Use back of form if needed.

8 or 10 sided figure -



No windows or portholes apparent.



Signature.....Date.....

FOLIO 1

REGISTRY CLASSIFICATION PARTICULARS

CLASSIFIER

1 Original/~~Copy~~

2 Duplicate Copy made 6 JUN 1973

3 Date opened

REGISTRATION

1 Security Classification ~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

2 Title Reports on Flying Saucers and other aerial objects

Downgraded 7-6-73

3 Registration Number 580-1-1. PT 24 (new part)

4 Mark to DAFI

5 Cancel File No _____ vide this File and inform Movements Section of cancellation and new File No

6 Close File No PT 23

7 Cross Reference this File with File(s) PT 1-23.

SUBJECT INDEX

Posting	Precis

NAME INDEX

1

Heading	Precis

2 Alter File No on Logging Card for

Letter dated _____ Reference No _____

10187/72—L

F. D. ATKINSON, Government Printer, Canberra

FILE NO			PART	TITLE
580	1	1	24	REPORTS ON FLYING SAUCERS AND OTHER AERAL OBJECTS

ARCHIVAL ACTION

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS
~~Movements~~	file	~~6-6-73~~	Kme
DAFI	file	6-6-73	

S11C Dec 68 7530-66-031-9252

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF AIR

FILE No			PART	TITLE
580	1	1	24	REPORTS ON FLYING SAUCERS AND OTHER AERIAL OBJECTS

ARCHIVAL ACTION

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY (INITIALS)	REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY (INITIALS)
~~DAFI~~	file	~~26-20~~					
PA 73	file	28 NOV 80					
D/E to restricted							

FILE No 580 1 1 PART 24

CONFIDENTIAL

OTHER FILES BEARING ON THIS SUBJECT

FILE No	TITLE
XRPts 1-23	
Downgraded	7-6-73

AR 159
Introduced 1976
Stock No 7530-66-093-3094

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

OLD AIR	580	1	1

Part No 24

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON FLYING SAUCERS AND OTHER AERIAL OBJECTS.

Folio	Referred to	Date Referred	Actioned by (Initls)
	PA 73	28-11-80	
	OAFIS	26/1/82	
FILE	PUT AWAY PA 73	1/8/84	

Folio	Referred to	Date Referred	Actioned by (Initls)

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE No OLD AIR 580 1 1

ARCHIVAL ACTION

RESTRIC

INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE FILING OF CORRESPONDENCE AND THE HANDLING OF FILES ARE CONTAINED IN DEPARTMENTAL AND SINGLE SERVICE MANUALS

D/G REST 28-11-80

CLOSELY RELATED FILES				
File Number				Subject