56/483/1

CLOSED

SECRET
DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

BRANCH/ESTABLISHMENT:

TITLE REPORTS ON UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, STRANGE OCCURRENCES ETC

FILE No. 56 483 PART No. 1

CLOSE

RELATED FILES SHOWN ON INSIDE COVER

FORMER PAPERS:

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS:

DISPOSAL ACTION:

(1) Folio No.	(2) Referred to and Date	(3) Cleared Initials & Date	(1) Folio No.	(2) Referred to and Date	(3) Cleared Initials & Date	(1) Folio No.	(2) Referred to and Date	(3) Cleared Initials & Date
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123/125	S/W 21/12/65	27/12	185	22.9.67				
129	S/W 13/8	3/6	186	E.S.O				
131,2	S/W 17/6	20/6	184	S/W 13.6.68	17/6			
134	S/W 1/7/66.	1/7		11/7/68 CLOSED SEE	A12/3/2			
	S/W 7/7	7/7			A12/3/3			
146	ESO 4/8	4/8						
	S/W 22/8/66							
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✓	ESO 24/8	24/8						
157	PAO. 14/9	14/9						
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159/160	S/W	23/9						
193	S/W 14/10/66	17/10						
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181	SW 3/8/67	3/8						
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184	PAO 20/9/67	20/9						

INSTRUCTIONS :

(i) EACH PAPER ATTACHED TO A FILE IS TO BE GIVEN A CONSECUTIVE FOLIO NUMBER BY THE ATTACHING OFFICER. PAPERS MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM FILES WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF THE REGISTRY.

(ii) MARKINGS

(a) The Folio on which action is required will be indicated in column (1) above. Column (2) will show to whom the file is referred.

(b) When a folio is cleared, the action officer will initial and date column (3). If the file is to be referred to another officer, the folio number and the officer concerned should be indicated on the next vacant line.

(c) To re-submit the file at a later date, the relevant folio and the "R/S (date)" are to be entered in columns (1) and (2) respectively. Registry will complete Column (3) when the file is brought forward (or on prior cancellation of the marking).

(d) If the file may be put away the endorsement "P/A" will be made in Column (2). Registry will complete Columns (1) and (3) on examination of the file.

(iii) FILES ARE NOT TO BE ENDORSED "P/A" UNTIL ALL ACTION THEREON HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

FILE No.

SFC. 3.1.1.B. C.D.O. 3015

SECRET

RELATED · FILES ·

NUMBER			TITLE

AFFIX TRANSIT SLIPS (SFC. 3.2.6.) HERE

Folios 128 to 154 and ~~159 to 162 and~~ + 164 to 194 and removed to new file
56/3568 Scientific, Technical & Aeronautical Research Society 17/10/66

INDEXED

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44	S/W 11/10				89	P.O.S.R.S. 29/11		28/3	
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The file must not be PA until checked to see that all necessary action has been taken

File No. 56/483

This file was **CLOSED** on 8-4-68

For subsequent papers see AR/3/2 AR/3/3

Index Action

Fully Indexed	☐
Titles Only	☐
No Indexing	☑

File Examiner

T.S.P. 1703

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DIRECTOR,
W.R.E. SALISBURY.

56/483

W.R.E. WOOMERA.

17th June, 1968.

Attached is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Geoff Hodda of Broken Hill, N.S.W. regarding the discovery of a piece of metal on "Magpella" station. It is thought that this could be connected with the discovery of a metal sphere in approximately the same locality some years ago. The letter has been acknowledged and the writer advised that the matter has been referred to the appropriate authority.

(F.E. IRVINE)
Captain R.A.N.,
Superintendent.

...

185

[redacted]apt. F.E. Irvine.

56/483

17th June, 1968.

Mr. Geoff Rodda,
"Nagaella" Station,
Private Bag 84,
BROKEN HILL. N.S.W. 2880

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated 8th June, 1968 regarding the discovery of a piece of metal has been referred to the appropriate authorities who no doubt will communicate with you direct.

Youre faithfully,

(F.E. IRVINE)
Captain R.A.N.,
Superintendent.

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"Nagaella" Station,
Private Bag 84,
Broken Hill NSW 2880
8th June, 1968.

We[illegible]ons Research Establishment,
WOOMERA SA

Dear Sirs,

Whilst mustering here in extremely thick Mallee and Spinifex country on Tuesday last the 4th I came across a twisted piece of body metal of irregular shape approximately 21" x 15", which was black sheet steel and appeared to have burned at the protruding edges, as we have had several weeks of drizzly rain and this steel was not rusty I assume that it had not been there long. The rough location would be 70 odd Air miles South of Broken Hill and about 14 Miles East of the South Australian border.

If you would like to examine it let's know and I will Post it to you.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Rodda

(Geoff Rodda)

Melb. Phone 86-5849
Benambra. 'Phone 8

Benambra Stores
BENAMBRA 3900 Vic.
Aug. 27– '67 183

Captain F.E. Irvine.
Weapons Research Establishment
WOOMERA
c/o Box 1391 K, G.P.O., Adelaide.

56/483

Dear Captain Irvine,

re. NASA FACTS Vol II No. 15. pps 1–8

Please accept my warmest thanks for your letter & your short term loan of the above ~~volume~~ Number which is returned herewith. It has been a striking ~~lesson~~ lesson to the boys of the rich rewards arising from accurate observation. (I realise accurate should be in inverted commas by space standards!) The local primary school was staggered!

Because of the cleanliness of the air, elevation (above 2,000 ft above sea level) & location just E of the great dividing range causing cloud free nights about ten fold the number of stars are visible ~~there~~ at Benambra compared with Melbourne; and I am ashamed that in 1965 through lack of initiative and equipment I missed up there what should have been a useful accurate observation on the final moments of the re-entry of discarded retro-rocket motor. Now I try to have a compass, steel tent pegs and an accurate watch always in the car when I am in that district.

I am also ashamed ~~at~~ that 5 months before the first specimen ever ~~found~~ of the pygmy possum "Burramys Parvus" was found at the University Ski

REC'D
11-SEP 1967
CENTRAL REGISTRY
WOOMERA

Clubs Lodge at Mt. Botham, I, late at night picked up a strange pygmy possum not far from Mt. St. Bernard (on the way to U.S.C.) and made no location notes ~~at~~ on capture! — I took the specimen on with me to U.S.C. and released same because I had no time to build a proper cage & make other arrangements for its' transmission to Melbourne! It is now incumbent on me to "pull up my socks", go back & get ~~another~~ a duplicate specimen, as I feel sure the solitary specimen picked up at U.S.C in June was the one released by me in January.

Once again, thanks for your most stimulating co-operation,

Yours sincerely,

Alan Gilchrist M.B., B.S.,

(036050 Flt. Lieut. (Medical) R.A.A.F Reserve.
Medical Offic Australian Antarctic Expeditions
— to Heard Is 1947—8,
to Heard Is. 1963
to Macquarie Is. 1967.)

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Capt.F.E.Irvine,R.A.N.
05 333

5001

56/483

26th July, 1967.

Dr. Alan Gilchrist,
Benambra Stores,
BENAMBRA, Vic. 3900

Dear Dr. Gilchrist and Peter and John,

In reply to your recent letter it would appear that the object you saw on the 3rd July, 1967, was the satellite Pegasus 1. This vehicle was visible at the location on the day and time that you have given.

I am sending you a booklet dealing with Pegasus, and would be grateful if you would send it back after perusal as it is the only one I have.

Yours sincerely,

(F.E. Irvine)
Captain, R.A.N.,
SUPERINTENDENT.

DESPATCHED
26 JUL 1967
CENTRAL REGISTRY
WOOMERA

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO SUPERINTENDENT/WOOMERA	REGISTRY USE ONLY
	OUR FILE No. SA5644/2/1
FROM (Branch or Establishment) WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO
	DATE 26th July, 1967

S.F.C. 3.4.1 (8'63). C.D.O. 5150

YOUR REFERENCE

SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

Your memorandum of 21st July, 1967 in which you report a sighting by a resident of Yorke Peninsula some years ago, has been referred to Superintendent/American Projects Division.

2. The earlier memorandum of 16th August, 1962 from Superintendent/O.I.D. was written in the days when American Projects were the responsibility of S/O.I.D.

3. I have asked S/A.P.D. to take whatever action might be necessary on this latest report.

Harwood

DEPUTY DIRECTOR/TRIALS

RECEIVED 27 JUL 1967 CENTRAL REGISTRY WOOMERA

E.S.O.

'80

Capt.F.E.Irvine,R.A.N.
05 333

56/483

27th July, 1967.

Mr. M.A. Iwanczenko,
Box 85 Post Office,
MINNIPA, S.A. 5654

Dear Mr. Iwanczenko,

Thank you for your letter advising that you had found an object at the Minnipa Research Centre.

From your description it would appear to be the remains of a radar observation balloon from this Establishment. I am grateful to you for reporting the find, but we would not wish to claim it.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F. E. IRVINE

(F.E. Irvine)
Captain, R.A.N.,
SUPERINTENDENT.

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HANDWRITTEN MINUTE

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

SFC. 3.6.19. (JU 60)

C.D.O. 3621

TO ① E.S.O.
② SDI&S

FILE No.

DATE

SUBJECT: U.F.O's.

Any clues please?

21/7

S/Woomera.

Pegasus I was visible at that location on that day & at that time. Directions do not exactly tally, but as no other visible satellite was scheduled at that time, it was either Pegasus I or a re-entering satellite. We do not acknowledge the existence of U.F.O's!

answered 25/7/67

SW Pete & John Mummery 178
& Alan Gilchrist
BENAMBRA STORES
BENAMBRA.
3900 Vic.

The O.i/c.
WOOMERA.

As a Reserve Officer in the R.A.A.F., and having been M.O. to three Australian Antarctic Expeditions, I get considerable satisfaction in observing natural phenomena & have made two original observations (published) on bird migrations.

Therefore it was particularly fascinating to my two stepsons & myself when we observed in the extremely clear Benambra skies on July 3rd 1967 at *6.40 p.m. E.S.T. a very bright satellite proceeding from due South to due North. (Course could be ± 3 or 4 degrees as it was determined by hand held SILVA compass).

Should you be able, without much inconvenience to advise us of the probable identity of the satellite we would be very grateful.

Yours etc.

Alan Gilchrist
for Pete & John Mummery & self.

*0840 G.M.T. & appeared vertically over Benambra

56/483
S/W

RECEIVED
19 JUL 1967
CENTRAL REGISTRY
WOOMERA

Box 85
Minnipa 5654

Dear Sir,

On the 19th of July I found an object on the Minnipa Research Centre. It consisted of soft wood and silver paper. The top is pyramid shape on a square base. It has a small battery and globe attached to it by string and on the other end it has the neck of a balloon. The base is 23" square and the Right is 16½".

Just thought it may have been a matter of interest to you.

Yours Faithfully.
Mr. M.F. IWANCZENKO.

MOOMERA RESEARCH CENTRE
RECEIVED
29 JUL 1965

RECEIVED
24 JUL 1967
CENTRAL REGISTRY
WOOMERA

Superintendent,
Optical Instrumentation Division,
W.R.E., Salisbury

56/483

W.R.E., Woomera.

21st July, 1967.

IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS.

Reference is made to your D.5492/1/1 dated 16th August, 1962; it is advised that information has been received from a lady residing in the extreme south of York Peninsular who witnessed what could well have been space vehicle fragments on re-entry. Hereunder are relevant extracts from her report.

" About 5.30pm I was returning home from football with my two girls then 11 and 6 years when about 20 yards from our garage I leaned forward to change gears and became aware of something falling from high up in the sky. It was dusk with a glow about the western and southern horizons.

My first impression was that it looked like a large falling meteor, it seemed to be wreathed in a smoky haze this made it look roundish there was some part of it alight though I could see no flames, the part alight seemed to be central. The direction of its fall seemed to be SW to NE: but more west than south. It was not falling straight down but at an angle a sharp angle (see illustration) I could not pick out any definite shape because of the smoky haze except that it appeared like a round boulder encased in smoke. The smoke seemed to be going outwards and backwards over it as it descended.

The diffused light was still there. I stopped the car, switched off the dim lights, told the children to wind up the windows and lie on the floor of the car and I knelt down beside them, and saw that "it" was much lower in the sky, it now was fully alight, with great tongues of flame pouring from the front part to the rear to encompass the whole thing, it now resembled in shape what I should imagine a wingless plane would look like. The sheets of flame were pulled backwards and appeared to be six to eight ft in length there was no trail at all apparent - no separating parts - it seemed to be all intact but well alight. The angle was not as acute the object appeared to be settling more into an arc, more west to east than SW to NE. The arc was slight more

Quickly the flames changed so that the object looked like a fiery hot ingot which gradually went black from the front portion to the rear. I can remember the final glow as it was dying out then all was black and I saw nothing for about two seconds. It wasnt very far from ground level now as I leaned against the windscreen ready at the last second to throw myself over the children in case of accident. And then I had my first clear and distinct picture of the shape and outline of what looked like a rocket, it was much smaller than I anticipated probably 3 ft in length it was pointed directly to the east from the west flying parallel to the ground about 20 ft above the ground the front end was shaped like a cone and the rest like a cylander. The arc had gone it was definately going parallel to the ground. It was black as it was outlined against the slight glow from the south. It was moving smoothly but not at excessive speed with the cone pointed into the east. It disappeared from my view behind the pine tree (see illustration). I now had to look into the east it was quite dark, a small grove of trees extended beyond the pine tree, I saw nothing more no explosion no brightness or noise. The windows of the car were up. After about a minute I put down the window and looked and listened intently I saw or heard nothing above the slight movement of leaves in the trees and the noise of the sea about ¼ mile south.

/2..

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Next morning I thoroughly searched on area directly east of the house. Just beyond the grove of trees the ground is fairly stoney, with rock heaps and sheet rock. I looked for twisted wreckage at first then I noticed very minute black pieces as tho something had shattered, these were spread around fairly scattered. These bits were black they resembled burnt paper but seemed to have more density than I imagined burnt paper would have. I continued searching in widening circles and eventually found in a ploughed up paddock due south of the scattered black pieces about 250 yds away - a small heap of blackened material. The paddock had been ploughed up the week previous so the material was undisturbed it rested in the furrows not particularly imbedded if at all. It resembled in appearances what loosely rolled burnt paper would look like tho denser. It was about 12 to 15 ins high by 18 inches in length. It was very black, I could see no printing as is usual with burnt newspapers etc. Not caring to risk radio activity I found a stick and prodded it, it broke up but not as lightly as paper would.

I enquired from my husband but definitely he had not burnt anythihg there or further up where the black bits were. The paddock was later put into crop, so nothing remains that I know of, tho at times I have kept my eyes open when out in the paddocks beyond this area, but have found nothing else.

I think I have it all down and can add nothing further except that I thought that although the rocket was falling it did not seem to be entirely out of control, at no time did it jerk about, or separate, and from the first sighting to its disappearance behind the tree would probably be about fifteen seconds to twenty seconds certainly not less probably about twenty seconds.

After reading this through I find I havent mentioned anything about sound. Remember the windows were up, but I was aware of a rushing sound when the ? rocket was encased in flames but this might have been my imagination, I remember I was impressed by the smoothness and lessened speed of the blackened rocket as it glided parallel to the ground never wavering from the east, directly in its path were three tall gums with long branches there were gaps of course, it was only about 15 ft away that I found the tiny black particles mentioned before. Incidentally if it had not been for these trees it might have gone much further as our house and surrounding are on a rise and beyond this the ground level slopes away to St. Vincents Gulf. "

2. Since the incident happened some time ago the actual date is in douht. The authoress mentions "three years ago on a Saturday". In a further statement "the day after the first two American Astronauts made their flight" - it is understood that this was Wednesday 23rd March, 1965. Again she mentions at dusk between 5.30pm and 6.00pm - this does not agree with the last date.

3. Copy of illustration mentioned in second para of extract attached.

4. The lady in question has been assured that there will be no publicity associated with the incident.

(SGD.) F. E. IRVINE

(F.E. Irvine)
Captain, R.A.N.,
SUPERINTENDENT.

Box 9 Post Office
Edithburgh SA

14th July 1967

Mr L.J.A Hanlan

Dear Sir,

Thankyou for your letter dated 10th July 1967 and in reply will endeavour to give an accurate description of the descent of the rocket and that which I found next morning.

About 5.30pm I was returning home from football with my two girls then 11 and 6 yrs. when about 20yds from our garage I leaned forward to change ~~to~~ gears and became aware of something falling from high up in the sky. It was dusk with a glow about the western and southern horizons.

My first impression was that it looked like a large falling meteor, it seemed to be wreathed in a smoky haze this made it look roundish there was some part of it alight though I could see no flames, the part alight seemed to be central the direction of its fall seemed to be SW to NE. but more west than south. ~~of~~ It was not falling straight down but at an angle a sharp angle (see illustration) I could not pick out any definite shape because of the smoky haze except that it appeared like a round boulder encased in smoke. The smoke seemed to be going outwards and backwards over it as it ~~fell~~ descended. The diffused light was still there. I stopped the car, switched off the dim lights, told the children to wind up the windows and lie on floor of the car and I knelt down beside them

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Next morning I thoroughly searched an area directly east of the house. Just beyond the grove of trees the ground is fairly stony, with rock leaps and sheet rock. I looked for twisted wreckage at first then I noticed very minute black pieces as tho something had shattered, these were spread around fairly scattered. These bits were black they resembled burnt paper but seemed to have more density than I should imagine burnt paper would have. I continued searching in widening circles and eventually found in a ploughed up paddock

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I enquired from my husband but definitely he had not burnt anything there or further up where the black bits were. The paddock was later put into crop, so nothing remains that I know of, tho at times I have kept my eyes open when out in the paddocks beyond this area, but have found nothing else.

I think I have it all down and can add nothing further except that I thought that although the rocket was falling it did not seem to be entirely out of control, at no time did it jerk about, or separate, and from the first sighting to its disappearance behind the trees would probably be about fifteen seconds to twenty seconds

certainly not less probably about twenty seconds.

My husband and myself would be interested to know what it was that I saw if you are at liberty to tell us, and next time not so close please.

Yours faithfully
Mrs Ian Anderson.

P.S. After reading this through I find I havent mentioned anything about sound. Remember the windows were up, but I was aware of a rushing sound when the? rocket was encased in flames but this might have been my imagination, I remember I was impressed by the smoothness and lessened speed of the blackened rocket as it glided parallell to the ground never wavering from the east, directly in its path were three tall gums with long branches there were gaps ofcourse, it was only about 15 ft away that I found the tiny black particles mentioned before. Incidentally if it had not of been for these trees it might have gone much further as our house & surroundings are on a rise and beyond this the ground levels & slopes away to St Vincents Gulf. Hoping all this has helped you in some way and thank you for believing my story, I know I saw all this and that is all that matters to me, really

Yours faithfully
Mrs I Anderson

loosely piled material approx 12 inches high
~~about 12 inches high~~ and about 18 inch in length.
breadth about 9-12 inches

fuzzomed ground

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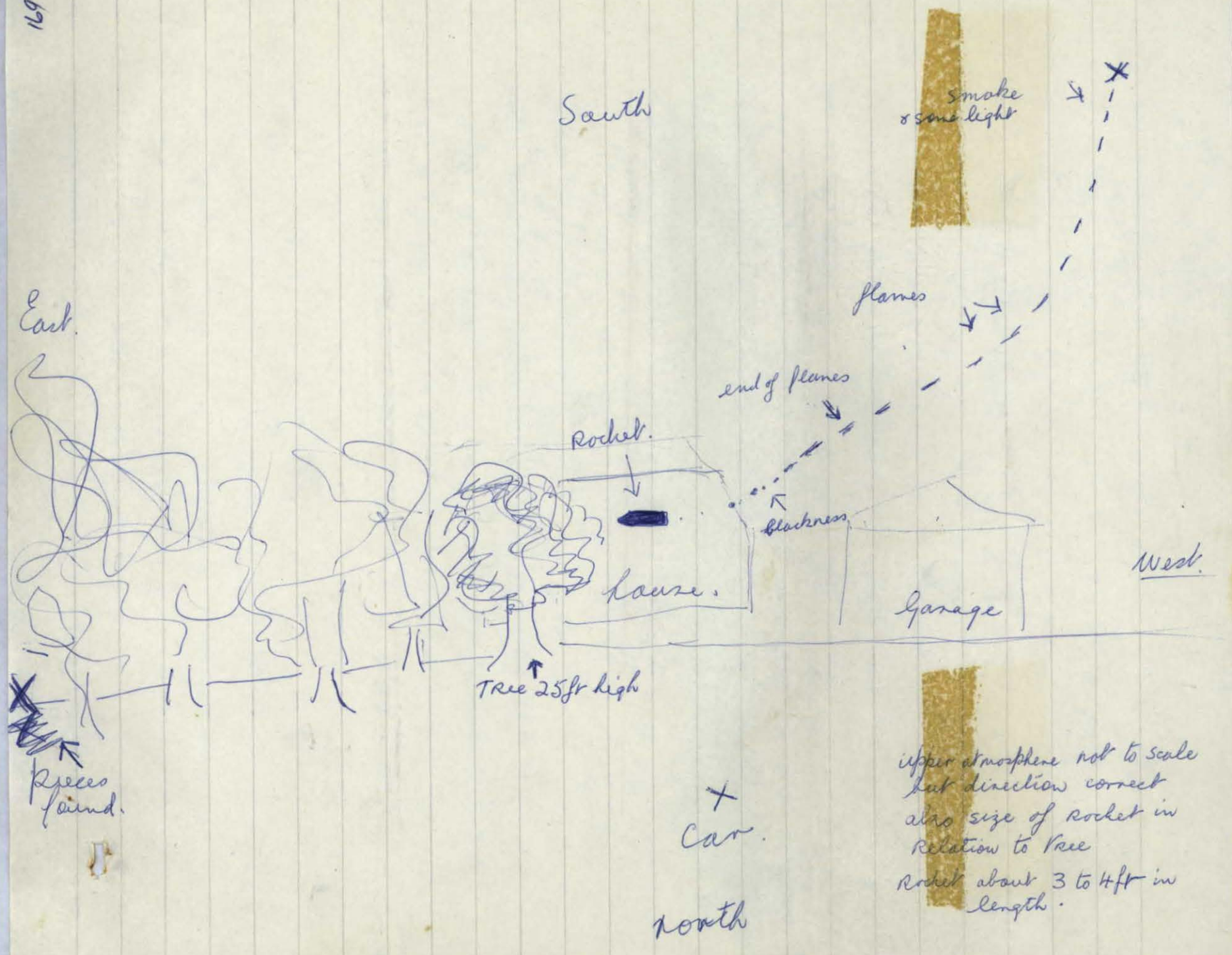
South
smoke & some light
flames
East.
end of flames
Rocket.
Blackness
West.
house.
Garage
TREE 25ft high
Pieces found.
Car.
North
upper atmosphere not to scale but direction correct also size of Rocket in Relation to Tree
Rocket about 3 to 4ft in length.

J.J.A. HANLON 05.224

56/483

10th July, 1967.

Mrs. Ian Anderson,
Box 9 Post Office,
EDITHBURGH....S.A.

Dear Madam,

Your letter dated June 6th 1967, advising the sighting of a rocket impacting in front of your car some three years ago has been passed to me for action. I am greatly interested in any further information you may be able to supply. In particular I would be grateful if you could describe, in as much detail as possible, the rocket from the first time you saw it until impact.

Advice would also be appreciated as to the possibility of recovering any parts of the rocket that may be available on your property. If any parts are available a short description would be appreciated.

Thank you for your interest and I can assure you that there will be no unwelcome publicity.

Yours faithfully,

(F.E. Irvine)
Captain, R.A.N.,
SUPERINTENDENT.

Scientist
Rocket Experiments Centre
Woomera
S. A.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS –

Box 9
Edithburgh S. A.
June 6th 1964

To Whom it may concern,

Dear Sir, 56/367

Several weeks ago I noticed an item in a periodical which concerned rocket experiments carried out three years ago these were secret. It has cleared up a mystery for me as one of these came down to less than twenty yards in front of myself and two daughters. I watched it from high up in the sky until its final stages. There were no damages to life or property, and we had the comparative safety of a car to protect us from flying bits & pieces.
At the time I thought the rocket had something to do with the space craft that had conveyed the first two american astronauts in space but it had confused me because these two astronauts had been picked up in the sea (capsule) the day before; You will be able to pinpoint the date with the previous information. also it was a Saturday and the time between 5-30 and 6 pm.
I did not report the above occurrence to anyone (except my husband later) as the thought of publicity & the possibility of being thought a crank stopped me. I read the papers thoroughly for weeks but found no report or mention any where. If I had known about the rocket experiments I would have contacted

Sfld E.S.O. - Ian deal with this 7/7

Woomera as soon as was possible.

If some one in authority would write, I could put down in words, exactly that which I witnessed as the impressions are still very vivid, even to the shape of the burnt out rocket in its latter stages.

I dont believe anyone else apart from myself & two daughters saw this rocket in this locality I have never heard anyone mention it, but this is understandable as our farm is out of town and our nearest neighbours are a few miles distant, and the other sides are St Vincent Gulf & Investigator Skeait. Please no publicity to newspapers. I only wish to give information for the Records.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ian Anderson.

766

Capt.F.E.Irvine, RAN.
05 333

56/483

24th January, 1967.

4310

Mr. E.R. Miller,
17 Read Street,
PORT PIRIE, S.A.

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the meteorite which you found at Yellowdine in 1935, and your kind offer to make it available for my inspection.

I am afraid that meteorites are a bit out of my line of country, but from enquiries I have made I believe that the Geology Faculties in Universities are most interested in them.

Perhaps you might feel inclined to make it available for inspection by the University of Adelaide as I am sure they would be interested.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) F. E. IRVINE

(F.E. Irvine)
Captain, R.A.N.,
SUPERINTENDENT.

19 Read St
Pt Erie

Dear Sir

I am writing to you in reference to a Meteorite that I found at Yellowstone W. T. in the year of 1935 It has 6 points ~~to~~ about ¾ inch in Diam – I had a Prospecters Permit at time I found it If you would care to have a look at it I will leave it Mr Welch the Mayor of Erie if it suit you or call above address

Excuse writing as I am nearly 80 and shaky

Yours E. R. Miller

165

3104

Col. J.D.Honeysett
05 333
56/483

27th October, 1966.

Mr. D. Whiting,
Gloucester Unidentified Flying
Object Investigation Society,
77 Tuffley Avenue,
GLOUCESTER, England

Dear Sir,

Your undated letter in which you request details of satellites visible from England has been received at Woomera, but I am afraid we are unable to give you the details you require.

In Woomera we only receive data on the satellites we track and of course the times and distances would vary from those in England as well as from day to day.

It is suggested that you write to the Radio Research Station, Slough, Bucks, who will, no doubt, be able to assist your Society.

Yours faithfully,

(J.D. Honeysett)
Colonel,
SUPERINTENDENT.

R R S Slough Bur 483 164
Windsfleet

G.U.F.O.I.S.

Gloucester Unidentified
Flying Object
Investigation Society
77, Tuffley Avenue,
Gloucester, England.

Dear Sir,

We are at the moment, trying to find out more information regarding the UFO sightings in England generally, and in Gloucester in particular, but are having difficulty in distinguishing UFO's from satellites. We wondered therefore, if you might be able to send us details of satellites visible from England; Apogee; perigee; Orbital Times, etc....

If this is possible, it would ease our task greatly, enabling us to sort out the more fruitfull sightings.

Most of us in the G.U.F.O.I.S., are under twenty, and still at school, but our reports go to the British UFO Research Association, Sec. Mr Anthony Durham, Clare College, Cambridge.

Yours Sincerely,

D. Whiting

David Whiting.
Hon.Sec.

DIRECTOR,
WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT,
SALISBURY

56/483

W.R.E., WOOMERA

J.D. Honeysett 05 333

21st September, 1966.

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT:

2999

I refer to my signal R6355 of the 9th September, 1966, concerning a sighting in the Evetts Field area.

2. For your information I attach a copy of a report by Squadron Leader Johnston, the O.C. of the Target Aircraft Squadron together with a covering letter by his Commanding Officer.

3. Every effort has been made to identify the aircraft sighted without success. In addition to the enquiries made by the R.A.A.F. both the Range Overseer and the Establishment Security Officer Woomera have made a number of checks with the pastoral properties within the Prohibited Area and checks were also made through the State Police at Andamooka and through Maralinga.

4. It is unfortunate that not withstanding the facilities we have available at Woomera that it has not been possible to identify the aircraft further.

5. I am not proposing to take any further action in this matter and have considered it closed.

6. Referred for your information.

(J.D. Honeysett)
Colonel,
SUPERINTENDENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

158

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.	YOUR FILE No. 56/483 OUR FILE No. 5/126/5 Wra.
FROM (Branch or Establishment) Security Branch, W.R.E., Woomera.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO DATE 15th September, 1966.

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT.

Reference folios 156/7 of Registry File 56/483.

2. Every effort has been made to identify the aircraft sighted by Squadron Leader JOHNSTON without success. In addition to the enquiries made by the R.A.A.F. both the Range Overseer and the writer telephoned a number of pastoral properties within the area; the State Police carried out, through their representatives, enquiries at Andamooka, and checks were made through Maralinga all with nil result.

3. It is a pity that so much time was lost before it was determined that the aircraft was alien to Woomera and it is disturbing to learn, not-withstanding modern aids and facilities, that it is not possible to identify it.

4. Because of good weather (light winds and smooth seas) and the large movement of light aircraft taking part in the Air Pageant at Parafield and Edinburgh together with the reported absence (see Gibber Gabber of 8/9/66) of a number of aircrew personnel and aircraft from Woomera the possibility, slight though it may be, of unknown foreign shipping in the Great Australian Bight taking advantage of the situation and launching an aircraft can not be Overlooked.

5. As discussed with you the possibility of using Range instrumentation in tracking such incidents in future will be explored. Because of the altitude (300 to 400 feet) in the present case it is not thought that these measures would have been successful. The holding of a Meteor on standby for scramble in such cases would most likely be unrealistic but could be examined.

6. Submitted.

(J.J.A. HANLON)
Establishment Security Officer,
W.R.E., Woomera.

Copy: Principal Officer Ranges.

CONFIDENTIAL

483

157

TELEPHONE:

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No. 1[redacted]/30/7/Air(62)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
No 1 Air Trials Unit
RAAF
WOOMERA SA

12th September 1966

Superintendent
W.R.E.
WOOMERA SA

SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT

1. Enclosed herewith is a report made by Squadron Leader J.H. JOHNSTON.

2. Air Traffic Control received the substance of this report at 1119 hours and initially simply stated that no Otter aircraft was flying. It proved difficult to get further information as Squadron Leader J.H. JOHNSTON was actively engaged as Pilot on the trial.

3. At approximately 1145 a full report was received, but it was then too late to investigate from the air.

4. Widespread checks were carried out through Adelaide, Ceduna, Whyalla, Port Augusta and Leigh Creek, but no relevant information was secured. Identification was complicated by the large number of light aircraft converging on ADELAIDE for the Air Show.

5. It is now considered that the only possible means of identifying this aircraft will be if Security can locate some other person at Koolymilka, Rangehead or nearby station who can give a more precise description.

6. This letter and report confirms telephone messages passed from Flight Lieutenant WHITE to the Superintendent and the Establishment Security Officer on Friday, 9th September 1966.

J.W. White FLT. LT.
for (L.M. BIRD)
Wing Commander
Commanding Officer

Encl:

PAA

ESO
Can checks be made of Flight Plans through RAAF and/or DCA checks with view to identity. See f 155 also
AW 14/9/66

MINUTE PAPER

(Write on this side only)

156

SUBJECT: SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT - KOOLYMILKA, AREA SIX ON 9th SEPTEMBER 1966 AT 1117 HOURS

C.O.

1. At approximately 1117 hours on 9th September 1966, I was in the Pilot's Control Tower for runway 12 on the northwest approach to EVETTS FIELD. A Jindivik Crew Training Sortie was in progress.

2. On completion of the third overshoot I swung the binoculars around to establish contact with the Jindivik which was south of EVETTS at that time.

3. While searching for the Jindivik I observed what appeared to be an aircraft of the high wing monoplane type, substantially white in colour with some red or orange markings, flying at an estimated height of 3 - 400 feet above ground level. The aircraft was sufficiently low to have its image distorted by heat haze which is always magnified when viewed through binoculars.

4. The aircraft appeared to be about 4-6 miles range, approximately south-south-west of the field and was travelling approximately north west at the time of sighting.

5. Because of the construction, colour and speed, I immediately assumed the aircraft to be a No 1 Air Trials Unit Otter and reported the aircraft as such.

6. I did not track this aircraft for more than ten seconds as the Jindivik required my attention. Three or four minutes later I again looked for this aircraft without success.

7. Flying Officer LERAY-MEYER was with me during this incident and he confirms the details of this statement.

(J.H. JOHNSTON)
Squadron Leader
OC TGTSQN

12 Sep 66.

56/483 155

CONFIRMATION COPY

VV RWA 076 HH
RR RAYXW
DE RAYXWR 028 09/0546Z
ZNY RRRRR
R 090540Z
FM HONEYSETT ROCRAN
TO RAYXW/DIRECTOR WRE WPNS
INFO ZEN/ESO ROCRAN
BT
R E S T R I C T E D R0355 56/483 SQUADRON LEADER JOHNSTON AT EVETTS FIELD REPORTED SIGHTING UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, RED IN COLOUR BUT NO FURTHER IDENTIFICATION, SOUTH OF EVETTS FIELD AT APPROXIMATELY 1120 THIS MORNING. RAAF HAVE CHECKED WITH DCA BUT NO REPORTED MOVEMENTS ADJACENT TO THIS AREA. AM HAVING FULL REPORT PREPARED BY S/LDR JOHNSTON. UNDERSTAND THERE ARE MANY AIRCRAFT CONVERGING ON PARAFIELD TODAY FOR THE AIR SHOW AND IT COULD POSSIBLY BE ONE OF THESE.
BT

1966 SEP 9 PM 3:45

AC
NNNNA

THIS MESSAGE IS CLASSIFIED. YOUR REPLY OR REFERENCE MUST BEAR MINIMUM CLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

127.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER,
W.R.E.,
SALISBURY

56/483

W.R.E., WOOMERA.

Col.J.D.Honeysett 05 333

22 December, 1965.

4421

Mr. E. Hooper of Princes Highway, Eden N.S.W. and Mrs. E. Walton of 294 Poictiers Street, Deniliquin, N.S.W. are seeking information on satellites.

2. I am enclosing their letters, and have advised them that you will answer their queries direct.

(L. Wraczynski)
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

22nd December, 1965.

4419

Mrs. E. Walton,
294 Poictiers Street,
DENILIQUIN, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Walton,

I am forwarding your letter to our Public Relations Officer at the Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, and he will forward the information you are seeking in due course.

Yours sincerely,

(L. Wraczynski)
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

Copy/HL

C/o R.L. Strickland,
Princes Highway,
EDEN N.S.W.

12/12/65

O.I.C. Woomera Rocket Range.

Dear Sir,

Being a very constant Sputnik watcher I would be extremely grateful if you could furnish me with some information about the various ones we see nearly every night.

Tonight we spotted two, the first one at 9.30 p.m. and travelling from west to east at a terrific speed and the second one travelling in the same direction but seemed to be very unsteady on its course. This was at 9.40 p.m.

Could you please tell me what speed these Sputniks travel at and what height and why they travel from west to east. For three nights we seen one travelling from south to north, the first of these that we have seen.

Hoping you can advise us on our Sputniks.

Yours Truly,

Ernie Hooper and Les Strickland.

Mrs. E. Walton
294 Poictiers Street,
Deniliquin

Sunday 5/12/65

Officer in Charge,
Satellite Tracking Station
Woomera, S.A.

Dear Sir,

This morning at 3.50 a.m. I saw a satellite cross from west to east from a northerly direction.

As this is the third time I have seen such an object within the last month and with less than an hour variation in time, from approx 4/20 a.m. first sighting to 3.50 a.m. today, I am wondering if it is the same satellite each time or is the sky full of these remarkable objects.

I am out each time the papers or radio say that a satellite will be passing near to this town, but with few exceptions have never sighted them, it is only when I do some sky watching without any planning that I see one and am fascinated with their mystery.

If you could tell me something about what I saw this day and at other times I will be more than grateful.

Yours sincerely,

E. WALTON.

UNCLASSIFIED

122

56/483

20th December, 1965.

4409

Mr. G.R. McClure,
Yuendumu School,
via ALICE SPRINGS, N.T.

Dear Sir,

I must apologise for not acknowledging your letter sooner, but let me assure you I was not "sucking eggs".

The object which you saw on Sunday the 15th October, was no doubt the satellite Echo One as it was viewed from Woomera the same night on a subsequent orbit.

At the time you saw it there was probably some very light cloud in the sky, which although not visible to you, dispersed the light giving an apparent indication of an explosion and then occluding the satellite together.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

(J.D. Honeysett)
Colonel,
SUPERINTENDENT.

483

12

Yuendumu School,
Via ALICE SPRINGS
19th October 1965

Officer in Charge,
Rocket Range,
WOOMERA

Dear Sir,

This is probably the story of Granny sucking eggs; but it may be of interest to you and, anyway it won't take long to read.

At approx. 11-35pm on Sunday 17th Oct., we were digging a car out of a sand bog 5 miles on the Papunya side of Central Mt.Wedge station, on the Wedge-Papunya road. Directly overhead a bright light appeared and moved in a direction towards approx. 5 degrees East of South. It fell to about 30 degrees from the horizon and then appeared to explode. The light disappeared but re-appeared almost immediately still moving to the horizon. It flared for a very short time and then ceased. It burnt with a greenish-blue light and was entirely different ~~XX~~ from the light of " falling stars ".

My wife, Nancy McClure, and Mr. and Mrs.J.Haigh, all of Yuendumu all saw the object and we more or less agree on the above data.

I hope this information may be of some use to you, if not you probably have a good waste paper basket.

Yours faithfully,

G.R.McClure

G.R.McClure
H.T.

AIW

483.

120.

COMMONWEALTH POLICE FORCE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT.

Headquarters Office,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

W. 2. 6.

Superintendent,
W.R.E., Headquarters,
WOOMERA.

Attention:- Establishment Security Officer.

Subject:- Green Flare Sighted - Area Red Lake/Shell Lagoon - Midnight 28th. August, 1965.

Attached are reports made by Senior Constable T. McQUAID and Constable First Class H.A.W. HOUSTON regarding the sighting of a Green Flare by three widely seperated people, two of whom were members of R.A.A.F. near Technical Area and one Commonwealth Police Officer at Missile Range.

The source of the flare could not be established.

.....Inspector.
(J.A. McCAHEY)
Officer in Charge,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

30/8/1965.

This file deals with strange occurrences - Reports.

It would be worth while to see the family and what KOPL was doing.

Commonwealth Police Force, 119
Technical Area Station,
Woomera Division.

29th. August, 1965.

W. 2. 6.

Officer in Charge,
Commonwealth Police Force,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

GREEN FLARE SIGHTED - area Red Lake/Shell Lagoon - Midnight - 28th. August, 1965.

I have to report that on the above date the following was recorded by me as duty N.C.O. Technical Area station:

00. 25hours. Mr. R.M. SMITH, R.A.A.F., Pass No. D5989 reported that some 25 minutes earlier while driving from Koolymilka to Woomera he had sighted a green flare. He stated that at approximately 6 miles from Technical Area he had noted a flare rise from the ground, curve over and descend to the ground again - this was on his left but he could not estimate the distance away. His report confirmed by a Mr. Cooper, R.A.A.F. travelling in company.

00. 35hours. Constable BATTY. J., Commonwealth Police Force, on patrol Missile Range reported that at about midnight in the vicinity of Contraves 1 he had sighted a green flare on a bearing toward Red Lake from his position.

00. 45hours. I contacted 1/C. Constable Houston at Missile Range police station and requested an immediate patrol be carried out in the vicinity Red Lake - patrol officer expected to depart M.R. at 01. 00hours.

01. 02hours. 1/C. Constable Houston reports having personally sighted the lights of a vehicle approaching M.R. on the Red Lake road - Constable VASS. F. has left to investigate.

01. 25hours. Constable Vass reports from Evetts Field to M.R. police station to effect he has not sighted anything - instructed by 1/C. Constable Houston to proceed to Red Lake Tracking Station and carry out a thorough check.

03. 45hours. Constable Vass returned to M.R. police station and reports all secure and correct at the Tracking Station- nothing unusual sighted by the Constable on his patrol.

06. 00hours. Road check carried out alternately by self and A/1/C. Constable Bidgood at Koolymilka/Woomera turnoff during the period from midnight proved fruitless - only one vehicle sighted during this time. Mr. KOPL, Pass No. D2763 moving from Koolymilka to Woomera West at 04. 30 hours - a Department of Works carpenter, does not speak very good English - is well known to 1/C. Constable Houston.

1/C. Constable Houston requested to submit report relative to action carried out by him.

T. McQuaid.
A/Senior Constable.

29. 8. 65.

COMMONWEALTH POLICE FORCE.
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT.

118

Missile Range Station.
Woomera Division.
29th August. 1965.

Officer in Charge.
Commonwealth Police Force.
Woomera Division.

SUBJECT :- VEHICLE MOVEMENT ON RED LAKE ROAD.

I have to report that at 12.55am, on 29th August 1965, I sighted the headlights of a Vehicle travelling on the Red Lake Road toward the Missile Range Station.

(1) At 01.00am I detailed Constable Vass who had just returned from foot Patrol, to intercept the Vehicle and escort it to Missile Range Station, I also imformed Senior Constable McQuaid of action taken.

(2) At 01.25am Constable Vass returned to Missile Range Station and stated that he was unable to locate the Vehicle, I passed this information on to Tech Area Station.

(3) I then detailed Constable Vass to carry out a Partol to Red Lake Area, and to make a carefull check of Buildings and Installations at Red Lake and to keep a good lookout for unauthorised persons duringthe duration of this Patrol.

(4) Constable Vass returned to Missile Range Station at 03.45am, and reported that all and Installations and Buildings at Red Lake Area secureand correct, and that no Vehicles or persons were sighted or located during the Patrol.

H. Houston
.....
H.HOUSTON. 1st Class Constable
Commonwealth Police Force.

Extract of Missile Range Occurrence Book Entry,
No. 246 of 29-8-65.

0025 hours. "In reference to Green Flares reported to Technical Area Station, Constable BATTY reported seeing a green flare in the vicinity of Red Lake area at midnight whilst returning from Contrave I Patrol".

H. HOUSTON.
I.C.C.

COMMONWEALTH POLICE FORCE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT.

17

Headquarters Office,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

W. 2. 6.

Superintendent,
W.R.E., Headquarters,
WOOMERA.

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The source of the flare could not be established.

.....Inspector.
(K.A. McCAHEY)
Officer in Charge,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

30/8/1965.

Commonwealth Police Force,
Technical Area Station,
Woomera Division.

29th. August, 1965.

W. 2. 6.

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Commonwealth Police Force,
WOOMERA DIVISION.

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1/C. Constable Houston requested to submit report relative to action carried out by him.

.....

T. McQuaid.
A/Senior Constable.

29.8.65.

COMMONWEALTH POLICE FORCE.
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT.

Missile Range Station.
Woomera Division.
29th August. 1965.

Officer in Charge.
Commonwealth Police Force.
Woomera Division.

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H. Houston
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Commonwealth Police Force.

Extract of Missile Range Occurrence Book Entry,
No. 246 of 29-8-65.

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H. HOUSTON.
I.C.C.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

3rd December, 1964.

3655

Ian Boyle,
9 Pearson Grove,
NORTH CAULFIELD, S.E.7

Dear Ian,

The satellite you saw was undoubtedly Saturn 5, which is in an orbit inclined at 31.5 degrees to the equator and with a perigee of 260 Km (160 miles) and an apogee of 680 Km (425 miles). On the 13th November, 1964, it would have been 600 miles due north of Melbourne and travelling west to east at a height of about 400 miles and a speed of approximately 300 miles per minute.

The Saturn 5 is one of a family of large boost motors being developed for use in the Apollo lunar programme.

I do hope that this information will be of interest to you,

Yours sincerely,

(J.R. PERRIN)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

9 PEARSON GROVE,
NTH CAULFIELD, S.E.7.
VICTORIA.
13-11-64.

RECEIVED
17 NOV 1964
REGISTRY
W.R.E.
WOOMERA

The Officer in Charge,
Satellite ~~&~~ Tracking Station,
Woomera,
South Australia.

Dear Sir,

~~Dr~~ At about 8.20 p.m. tonight, I saw a satellite travelling from west to east at an altitude of approximately 20°. I am hoping you can identify it.

My exact position is not available without a large amount of calculating, but my home is 2 miles east & 2 miles south of the old Melbourne Observatory. The position of the Observatory is, according to 1939 Nautical Almanac, long: -9 hours 39 minutes 53.60 secs, lat: -37° 49' 53.4". I trust this information will be sufficient to enable you to locate my home, approx.

I am a student at Caulfield High School, and am in form 3.

I trust you can help me, as I am naturally curious of the origin of this satellite.

Yours Sincerly,

Ian Boyle.

AMW

P.O./L.S. Could you solonkify please.
D. Leak. 13/11

Miss Leak,
Reply drafted
25/11

UNCLASSIFIED

File 56/483

22nd October, 1964

Miss P. Whyte,
P.O. Box 100,
WENTWORTH. N.S.W.

3152

Dear Miss Whyte,

As a result of your letter of 11th October, I have made some enquiries in an attempt to identify the object which you sighted. It certainly was not one of our rockets, and is unlikely to have been a meteorite if your father had time to waken you and your mother; meteorites move very fast and are not usually visible for more than a second or two.

In the past, reported objects of this nature have been found to be navigational lights of a very high-flying aircraft, or else an Earth satellite. Our Space Research Station advises that in early August the orbit of the American satellite Saturn 5 would take it over your latitude in the early morning at a height of 420 miles and it is like a very bright star when it is illuminated by the sun. It is usually white but if your atmosphere were very dusty, that could account for a reddish colour. It would take 3 or 4 minutes to go across the sky.

I am sorry that we cannot make a positive identification for you, but trust that this information may assist you to decide for yourself what the object might have been.

Yours faithfully,

(J.R. PERRIN)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E. Woomera

UNCLASSIFIED

483

112.

P.O. Box 100,
Wentworth. N.S.W.

11th October 1964

The Controller,
Weapons Research Establishment
Woomera. S.A.

Dear Sir,

My mother, father and myself have recently returned from a caravan trip around Australia, and while camped 54 miles south of Balgarno, at 3.20 am. on Sunday, 2nd August last, we saw a peculiar reddish object moving through the sky in a northerly direction. Dad saw it first, and had time to wake Mum and I to see it also.

We have wondered ever since then whether it was one of your rockets, or a meteorite, or just a plain ordinary flying saucer. We didn't hear of anyone else seeing anything at that time. A weather man whom we met on the jetty at Port Hedland told us he thought it would have been a meteorite – but then he said meteorites are generally a greenish colour, and the thing we saw was red.

So just in case you are in a position to answer "nuisance" questions from the general public I thought I would write and ask you whether our "thing" was one of your rockets? Any help you can give us to identify this object would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully
(Miss) P. Whyte.

Po/ILS ~~S/O~~ Cover raw draft reply for me Ths 20/10

111

UNCLASSIFIED

22nd June, 1964.

1725

Mr. R. Ingram,
c/- John F. Clarke,
Dispensing Chemist,
90, Victoria Street,
MACKAY. Queensland.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 28th April is acknowledged and although the information submitted was somewhat vague for identification purposes, the following information is submitted.

No. 1 Satellite appears to have been the 100ft balloon, Echo 1 and the other was the 130ft balloon Echo 2. Both these satellites were passing over Australia during the end of April in opposite directions at approximately the same time. On the date in question, both these satellites were photographed by our Baker-Nunn Camera at about 1900 hrs. E.S.T.

An amateur body which could help you is the "Moonwatch" organisation. If you write to Mr. Dick Vanderburgh at the Smithsonain Astrophysical Observatory, 60, Garden Street, Cambridge, Massachussets 02138, U.S.A., he will supply you with information (and probably equipment) to form your own "Moonwatch team".

Trusting this information meets with your approval.

Yours faithfully,

(J. R. Perrin,)
GROUP CAPTAIN
Superintendent, WRE, Woomera

UNCLASSIFIED

56/~~57~~. ~~367~~. 483. ~~97~~ 110.

PHONE 3272

P.O. Box 50

John F. Clark, Ph.C., M.P.S.

DISPENSING CHEMIST

90 VICTORIA STREET

Mackay

KODAK DEALER
CAMERA SUPPLIES

ASSOCIATED WITH
G. L. BUCK, L.O.Q.
OPTOMETRIST

28th April, 1964

Group Captain J R Perrin,
Superintendent,
Weapons Research Establishment,
Woomera.

Dear Sir,

Could you be good enough to furnish any information on two satellites sighted over Mackay, last night.

No1 Satellite appeared at 6.45pm, due south about 20 degrees above the horizon, travelling N.E.

It was about 2nd magnitude, passed between beta and gamma Aus. Triangle, then just below beta lupus, and disappeared in the light of the full moon, in the S.E. at 6,50 pm.

No2 Satellite appeared about 30 degrees above the northern horizon, about 10 degrees east of the meridium, travelling SSW, at 6.49 pm.

It passed before beta Leo, then practically through delta corvus, and below beta corvus, then about
x 10 degrees before alpha centauri, and finally disapeared next to alpha Aus, triangle, at about 7.03pm.

It appeared to be of minus magnitude, appearing slighlt brighter than alpha centauri.

Do you know of any amateur body which may be able to give us information on sightings on satellites, as there is a great interest in them, and we do not like to bother you.

Yours sincerely

R Ingham

~~Ltr~~ P.O.1/L.
Would you please draft reply for my signature
HT 1-5

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

27th February, 1964.

Mr. R. Ingham,
C/o John F. Clark,
Dispensing Chemist,
90 Victoria Street,
MACKAY, Qld.

0571

Dear Mr. Ingham,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th February, 1964. Our records indicate that the satellite you noticed on the 12th February was the United States Balloon Satellite Echo 1, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota.

I am listing below some data supplied by the Woomera Baker-Nunn Camera Station relating to the position of the Satellite as it passed over Australia that evening.

Time (E.S.T.)	Lat	Long.
7.41 p.m.	30°S	124°E
7.46 p.m.	20°S	135.5°E
7.50 p.m.	10°S	144.6°E
7.55 p.m.	Equator	152.6°E

Closest approach to Mackay was therefore between 7.46 and 7.50 p.m. when the Satellite height was approximately 1,000 miles.

Yours sincerely,

(J.R. PERRIN)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

27th February, 1964.

0570

Mr. Adair MacDougall,
"Dunollie",
Road Mail Box 364,
Howlong Road,
ALBURY, N.S.W.

Dear Mr. MacDougall,

Thank you for your letter and for your interest.

The satellite which you saw in the evening of the 22nd January was undoubtedly the United States balloon satellite Echo 1. The official designation of this satellite is 1960 Iota 1, and it is an inflated spherical balloon with a diameter of 100 ft. which was launched in August, 1960.

I do hope that this information will be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

(J.R. PERRIN)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO: Superintendent, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No. 56/483
	OUR FILE No. 61/1
FROM (Branch or Establishment): Meteorological Office, WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO: F. CALLUS T365
	DATE: 27th Feb., 1964

SUBJECT SATELLITE SIGHTING.

It is suggested that a letter on the following lines be sent to Mr. Ingham.

Our records indicate that the satellite you refer to in yours of 13th Feb.,was the United States Balloon Satellite Echo 1, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota.

For your information I am listing below some data supplied by the Woomera Baker-Nunn Camera Station relating to the position of the Satellite as it passed over Australia on the evening of the 12th.

Time (E.S.T.)	LAT.	LONG.
7.41 p.m.	30°S	124°E
7.46 p.m.	20°S	135.5°E
7.50 p.m.	10°S	144.6°E
7.55 p.m.	Equator	152.6°E

Closest approach to Mackay was therefore between 7.46 and 7.50 p.m. when the Satellite height was approximately 1,000 miles.

F Callus
.....

(F. CALLUS)

Meteorologist.

483.

106

PHONE 3272

P.O. Box 50

John F. Clark, Ph.C., M.P.S.

DISPENSING CHEMIST

90 VICTORIA STREET

Mackay

KODAK DEALER
CAMERA SUPPLIES

ASSOCIATED WITH
G. L. BUCK, L.O.Q.
OPTOMETRIST

RECEIVED
17FEB1964
REGISTRY
W.R.E.
WOOMERA

13th February, 1964.

The Officer in Charge,
Satellite Tracking Station,
WOOMERA.

Dear Sir,

I would be very obliged if you could satisfy my curiousity, as to which satellite passed over Mackay, last night.

It appeared in the due west, at 7.46pm, apparently partically on the equator, and within a few degrees of Mira, about 30 degrees above the horizon.

It passed on a steady course, north west, through the Pleides, and through zeta and eta Auriga, vanishing from view at 7.58 pm, in the vicinity of beta Auriga.

It appeared to be of 1st magnitude, when passing near Capella, it appeared to be of the same magnitude.

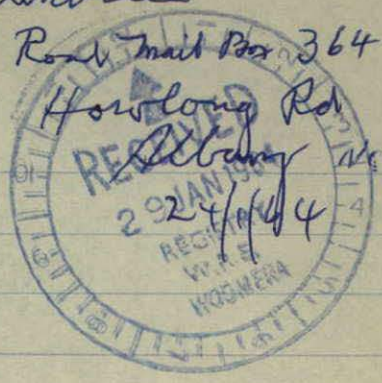
Yours sincerely,

R Ingham

R Ingham

12/2/64
0946Z. from W, near Mira Chm' Pleides disappeared 0958 near β Aurigae

483- "Dunollie" 105.
Rural Mail Box 364
Hornsby Rd
Chatswood N.S.W



The Officer-in-Charge
U.S.A. Tracking Station
Woomera SA

Dear Sir,

If the Undermentioned is of interest to you I am pleased to give it. If not, no need to waste your time to answer.

¼ to 9 PM 22 January 44. Saw a satellite cross sky above "Southern Cross", near to "Milky Way" went from South to North East from where by mere chance we all saw it with naked eye it took about 20 minutes to go out of sight. Was at first little brighter than a star but faded as it went further.

yours faithfully
Adair MacDougall

PS Undoubtedly Echo 1. No reply needed AMD.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

1st August, 1963.

1402

Mr. George Kenihan,
Box 79 Post Office,
SNOWTOWN, S.A.

Dear Mr. Kenihan,

I must apologise for the late reply to your letter which was written as long ago as January the 21st. When I received your letter I passed your information and request to our Space Research Station and somehow the correspondence was mislaid and has just turned up again.

The object which you saw in the early hours of 21st January was doubtless the United States balloon satellite Echo I. The official designation of this satellite 1960 Iota I, and it is an inflated spherical balloon with a diameter of 100 ft. which was launched in August, 1960.

It has an orbital path which is inclined to the equator by 47.26° and an orbital period of 115.15 minutes decreasing by about .0027 minutes per day.

I do hope that this information is still of interest to you and regret very much that my reply was not more prompt.

Yours sincerely,

(G.A. COOPER)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

103

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

1st August, 1963.

1401

Mrs. E.P. Wales,
120 Martyn Street,
CAIRNS, Nth. Qld.

Dear Mrs. Wales,

Thank you for your letter of the 3rd July, regarding the balloon satellite Echo I. We were impressed with the interest you have shown and the extent to which you had studied the behaviour of this particular satellite. Sighting times for satellites in particular areas are dependent upon the orbital period of the satellite in question, the inclination of the orbital path to the equator, altitude at apogee and perigee, the time of the year, and several other factors.

Our latest information on the 19th July, shows that Echo I (60091) has a period of 115.15 minutes decreasing by about 0.0027 minutes per day. The decrease is not a constant one and referring to 15th February, the period was 115.532 minutes with a decrease of 0.0016 minutes per day. Hence a very rough estimate would give a reduction of about 2 minutes in the period since the launch in 1960.

The sighting period after sunset and before sunrise varies with the time of the year, the periods being longer in summer than in winter and depending also upon whether the satellite is near apogee or perigee as a greater altitude will extend the sighting period.

The attached sketch shows the satellite and Earth (not to scale). if the Earth were stationary the satellite would always cross the equator at point P, but due to the Earth's motion of 361° per day from west to east then after one orbit has elapsed the point P will have moved eastward by $361^{\circ} \times \frac{115.15}{24 \times 60} = 28.87^{\circ}$.

Hence the direction from which the spacecraft comes depends upon which part of the orbit is being observed.

A further motion of the orbit is due to the fact that the Earth is not a sphere but bulges a little at the equator. This causes the apogee point to move in a circle around the spin axis of the Earth, i.e., to precess. The rate at the time of writing in 3.3 degrees per day. This rate must be added to Earth's rate in calculating the points of equator crossings. There are other influences, but these are secondary to the amateur observer. At this time we are unable to help you with observation times, but two books which you may find useful in making simple calculations and observations are:-

UNCLASSIFIED

"Handbook for Observing The Satellites" by N.E. Howard, published by Thomas Y. Crowell of New York, 1958.

"Satellites and Scientific Research" by D. King-Hele, published by Routledge and Kegan Paul of London, 1960.

The Moonwatch at Townsville may be able to give you observation times for Echo I in your area.

It is not easy to explain in purely lay-terms the factors to be considered in calculating sighting times, but I do hope that the above information will be of assistance to you and also that you will get some enjoyment out of your continued interest in satellite activity.

Yours sincerely,

(G.A. COOPER)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

101

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO SUPERINTENDENT, W.R.E., WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No. P/32/1.
FROM (Branch or Establishment) PO/ILS.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO
	DATE 30th July, 1963.

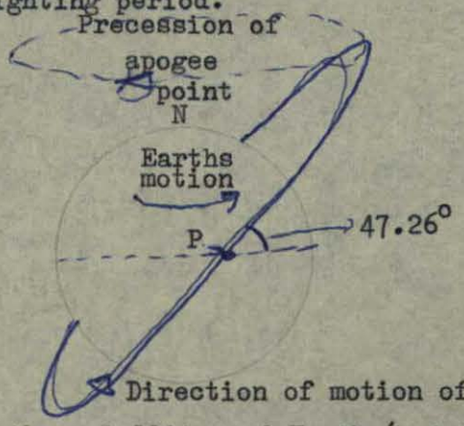
RECEIVED 31 JUL 1963 W.R.E. WOOMERA

SUBJECT :

The following notes prepared by Mr. Hird should help your reply to Mrs. Wales.

Our latest information on 19th July, shows that Echo I (60091) has a period of 115.15 minutes decreasing by about 0.0027 minutes per day. The decrease is not a constant one and referring to 15th February the period was 115.532 minutes with a decrease of 0.0016 minutes per day. Hence a very rough estimate would give a reduction of about 2 minutes in the period since the launch in 1960.

The sighting period after sunset and before sunrise vary with the time of year, the periods being longer in summer than in winter and depending also upon whether the satellite is near apogee or perigee as a greater altitude will extend the sighting period.



attached

The sketch shows the satellite and Earth (not to scale). If the Earth were stationary the satellite would always cross the equator at point P, but due to the Earth's motion of 361° per day from West to East, then after one orbit has elapsed the point P will have moved eastward by

$$361^\circ \times \frac{115.15}{24 \times 60} = 28.87^\circ.$$

Hence the direction from which the spacecraft comes depends upon which part of the orbit is being observed.

A further motion of the orbit is due to the fact that the Earth is not a sphere but bulges a little at the equator. This causes the apogee point to move in a circle around the spin axis of the Earth i.e. to precess. The rate at the time of writing in 3.3 degrees per day. This rate must be added to Earths rate in calculating the points of equator crossings. There are other influences but these are secondary to the amateur observer. At this time we are unable to help you with observation times but two books which you may find useful in making simple calculations and observations are:-

1. Handbook for Observing the Satellites by N.E. Howard, published by Thomas Y. Crowell of New York, 1958.
2. Satellites and Scientific Research by D. King-Hele, published by Routledge and Kegan Paul of London, 1960.

The Moonwatch at Townsville may be able to give you observation times for Echo I. in your area.

.....

(W. METTYEAR)
A/PO/ILS.

P.S.
Enlarged sketch attached.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

17th July, 1963.

1299

Chief Officer F.A. Douglas,
M.V. Lake Barrine,
The Australian National Line,
C/o B.H.P.,
WHYALLA, S.A.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th June, I regret the delay in replying.

Our records reveal that the satellite you observed on the 11th June, 1963, was most probably the United States Balloon Satellite Echo, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota 1.

I am sending you some orbital data which has been supplied by our Space Research Station and which may be of interest to you. The values of the elements of the orbit are continuously changing and the most recent values available are for the 11th July, 1963. They are as follows:-

Semi major axis	1.22938 earth radii
Eccentricity of orbit	0.05016
Inclination of orbital plane to equator	47.254°
Argument of perigee	19.741°
motion	+3.1699° per day
Right ascension of ascending node	107.382°
motion	-3.3009° per day
Anomalistic period	115.17043 minutes
motion	- .00233 minutes per day
Height of perigee	1069.77 Km.
Height of Apogee	1856.38 Km
Velocity at perigee	26989 Km /hour
Velocity at apogee	24411 Km /hour

(G.A. COOPER)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

MRS. E. P. WALES, 99
120 Martyn Street,
Cairns, N. Q.
3. 7. 63.

To The Weapons Research Establishment
Woomera. (Observation Dept.)

Dear Sirs,

I am an interested observer of the Baloon Satellite. I have followed it ever since it was launched in August 1960. I am not in any moonwatcher's club, just a housewife with a husband and family of 3. Although I have gathered certain data of Echo, I still am puzzled on certain points. I wonder if you could spare the time to tell me what I want to know?.

First, is it taking the same time to circle, as it did 3 years ago? Recently as it came up over the S. West Sky, it came exactly to the 2 hours, but before that it seemed to take about 5 minutes or so under that time. My last sightings were

11th June 6.10 P.M. & 8.10 P.M.
12th " 7.10 P.M.
13th " 6.10 P.M. again. (14th, Cloudy.) gone.

For nearly 3 weeks I watched it, and each time I saw it at these times — either at 7 or 10 minutes past 7 one night, & the next, and so on. It had never been so regular at all. In our local Cairns Post, the clipping I have from your quarter tells it would be seen at 8.15, but it was 8.10 here, and even after, 7.10, 8.10, 9.10, etc.

S/10 P.O.S.R.S.
Could you draft a reply in laymans terms please?
Ltr Supt

I have tried to calculate when I will see it again at night. I make it that in 12 weeks, with a day sooner or later, it will be back in the same position. It must be coming over now in the early mornings, but nights are cold. If you could tell me when to look out in the next 2 or 3 weeks, early morning, I would look. By end of July it should be in the night sky again, is that so?

I noticed this; — in winter it is seen earlier, & for a shorter time than in summer. As it goes from view, it loses or gains time as it changes position, for example, it is dead on the 2 hours all the time, but if I try to calculate when I shall see it again, after a long time, I am always ½ hour out. It seems, every 12 weeks it is in the same position, but ½ hour later. I can't figure that one out. Again, when it finishes going from west to east, it disappears for only 7 to 9 days, & comes back again for 20 days, S.W. to N.E. I have seen it several times only in the early mornings, by chance. When it finishes being seen at night, do you see it in the morning immediately, or 2 weeks later?

Please excuse my blundering questions, but I am very interested in the satellite, it seems like a friend, and I have pointed it out to many people who had never seen it. Kind regards,

Yours sincerely, E. Pearle Wales. (Mrs.)

97

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.) C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO Superintendent, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No. 61/1
FROM (Branch or Establishment) Meteorological Office, WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO F. Callus T365
	DATE 15th July, 1963.

SUBJECT

SATELLITE SIGHTING - F.A. DOUGLAS.

It is suggested that a letter on the following lines be sent to F.A. Douglas.

Our records reveal that the Satellite you observed on 11th June, 1963 was most probably the United States Balloon Satellite Echo, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota 1.

Our Space Research Station has also supplied the following orbital data which may be of interest to you.

The values of the elements of the orbit are continuously changing; the most recent values available are for 11th July, 1963 and are given below:-

Semi major axis	1.22938 earth radii.
Eccentricity of orbit	0.05016
Inclination of orbital plane to equator	47.254°
Argument of perigee motion	19.741° +3.1699° per day
Right Ascension of ascending node motion	107.382° -3.3009° per day
Anomalistic period motion	115.17043 minutes - .00233 minutes per day
Height of perigee	1069.77 Km.
Height of Apogee.	1856.38 Km.
Velocity at perigee	26989 Km./hour.
Velocity at apogee	24411 Km./hour.

F Callus

.....

(F. CALLUS)

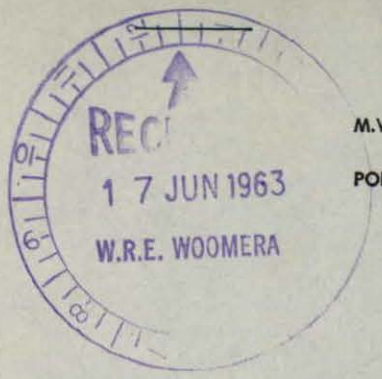
Meteorologist.

S.S.38

561/483

96

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LINE



M.V./S.S. ~~LAKE BARRINE~~ c/o B.H.P.

PORT Whyalla. S.A.

13th June 1963.

Director,
Weapons Research Establishment,
Woomera. S.A.

Dear Sir,

Sattelite Sighting Report 11th JUNE '63

Whilst at sea in passage Port Kembla, NSW, to Whyalla and in position Lat. 38 - 42 S , Long. 142 - 6 E, South of Port Fairy, Vic, a satellite was observed between Sirius and Procyon at an altitude of 15 degrees. It was travelling in a Northerly direction at what appeared to be a lower height than Echo 1. The time of sighting was 1809 EST.

Could you let me know if it was one of the recent Russian launchings.

Yours truly,

F. A. Douglas.

(Chief Officer)

AJW

UNCLASSIFIED

95

DIRECTOR, W.R.E. SALISBURY.

56/483

W.R.E. WOOMERA.

17 May, 1963.

0832

METAL BALL FOUND NEAR BROKEN HILL.

Attached is a copy of a letter from Mr. William Brenton NASH of Windhuker Strass 15, Wald Trudering, C/- Munich, Germany, wherein he requests information concerning the metal ball which was found near Broken Hill recently and which, it is understood, has been referred to you for identification.

No doubt you will reply directly to Mr. Nash.

(G.A.COOPER)
Group Captain
Superintendent, W.R.E. Woomera.

Encl.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

94

Mr. W.B.Nash,
Windhuker Strasse 15,
Wald Trudering,
C/- Munich,
GERMANY.

56/483

0831

17 May,1963.

Dear Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of 2nd May, 1963 wherein you have enquired for particulars of a metal ball recently found in this country, your enquiry has been referred to the Director, W.R.E., Salisbury, South Australia, for consideration and reply directly to you.

Yours faithfully,

(G.A.COOPER)
Group Captain
Superintendent, W.R.E. Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED
13 MAY 1963
W.R.E. WOOMERA

Windhuker Strasse 15,
Wald Trudering,
C/o Munich, Germany,
May 2, 1963.

The Woomera Weapons Research Establishment,
Woomera, Australia.

Gentlemen:

I read in a recent newspaper, that you have made an examination of a mysterious metal object, recently found in Australia, which object is said to be a pressure vessel from a space vehicle. I am on the Advisory Committee of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena, of Washington, D.C., and am extremely interested to learn more of your findings.

It would be appreciated if you would be kind enough to send me any information pertinent to this object.

Very truly yours,

William B Nash

WILLIAM BRENTON NASH
WINDHUKER STRASSE 15
WALD-TRUDERING
c/o MUNICH, GERMANY

Captain,
Pan American Airways

CAA - I believe full findings were published in "Sunday Mail" of 5/5/63. [illegible]

S/W.
Draft reply etc for signature if you agree. [illegible] 15/5/63

56/483. 92.

CONFIDENTIAL

MARALINGA RANGE SUPPORT UNIT,
MARALINGA,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

RECEIVED
29 APR 1963
W.R.E. WOOMERA

MAR/PF/R Comd

22 Apr 63

Superintendent,
L.R.W.X.E.,
WOOMERA S.A.

ASTRAL PHENOMENA OBSERVED AT MARALINGA ON 17th APRIL 1963

1. Subtended is a report submitted by Scientific Observers concerning an observation at 1858 hours on 17th April :-

> "At 1858 hours on the abovementioned day the TM Trials Team observed a luminous region in the sky bearing 090°M. from building TM 1 at an elevation of approximately 20°, adjacent to a star at this bearing, at a magnitude of approximately 2.
>
> One minute later a series of short duration (less than ¼ sec) flashes occurred at approx. 2 second intervals, each flash appearing at a vertical separation of about 2° below that preceding it.
>
> Subsequent to this a patch of luminosity, substending about 1° was observed lasting about 1 minute.
>
> A theodolite and hand bearing compass were set up to determine the bearing and altitude of the star referred to above on the following day.
>
> This star did not appear despite a clear sky. "

2. It is thought that these observations probably relate to the firing of a Skylark rocket reported in the press on the 19th April, 1963.

3. Forwarded for information and interest.

4. It is regretted that there is no fixed grid reference for the building referred to as TM 1.

W.G. Henderson

Colonel,
(W.G. HENDERSON)
Range Commander

So What?

CONFIDENTIAL

52/487

UNCLASSIFIED 91

22nd March, 1963.

0420

Mr. H.J. Gresham,
7 Steel Street,
MELBOURNE S.E.8

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 6th March, 1963.

Our records reveal that the satellite you observed on the 25th February was the United States Balloon Satellite Echo, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota 1.

Our Space Research Station has also supplied the following orbital data which may be of interest to you. It was taken on the 15th March, 1963.

Semi major axis	1.23198 earth radii
Eccentricity of orbit	0.01373
Inclination of orbital plane to equator	47.211°
Period	115.53 minutes
Height of perigee	1371.85 K.m
Height of apogee	1587.55 K.m
Velocity at perigee	25995 K.m/Hour
Velocity at apogee	25291 K.m/Hour

(G.A. COOPER)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483 90

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO Superintendent, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No. OUR FILE No.
FROM (Branch or Establishment) Meteorological Office, WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO F.Callus T365 DATE 20th March, 1963.

SUBJECT SATELLITE SIGHTING - H.J. GRESHAM, VICTORIA.

It is suggested that a reply on the following lines be sent to H.J. Gresham.

Enquiries made here indicate that the Satellite mentioned in your letter of 6th March, was the United States Balloon Satellite Echo, the official designation of which is 1960 Iota 1.

The Woomera Space Research Station have supplied the undermentioned orbital data for 15th March, 1963.

Semi major axis	1.23198 earth radii.
Eccentricity of orbit	0.01373.
Inclination of orbital plane to equator	47.211°
Period	115.53 minutes.
Height of perigee	1371.85 K.m.
Height of apogee	1587.55 K.m.
Velocity at perigee	25995 K.m./Hour.
Velocity at apogee	25291 K.m./Hour.

F. Callus
.....

(F. CALLUS)

Meteorologist.

~~56/367~~.

H.J. Gresham

7 Steele St.
Melbourne S.E.8.
6th March 1963

89

Astrophysical Department
Rocket Range
Woommera S.A.

Dear Sirs,

Would you kindly identify this satellite:

Observed on the ~~2.5~~ 25th February 1963.

Time and passage: 9 p.m. at Nadir to 9.03 p.m. at near-horizon.

Direction: West to East, slightly northwards.

Location: Approximately midway between Crux and Orion.

Size: Equal to 2nd magnitude star.

Luminosity: A steady, clear, golden light.

Progress: At an even rate in a straight line.

Thanking you for your information,

Yours faithfully,
H. J. Gresham

Sirius.

1. ~~8~~.

RECEIVED
23 JAN 1963
W.R.E. WOOMERA

56/482. 89

Box 79
Snowtown
Jan 21st
1963

To Superintendent.

Dear Sir.

This morning at 2-15 A.M. I saw a bright star shining about two degrees North of Alpha Centauri. It was as bright as the Pointers and as I knew there was no bright star there I thought I was looking at a variable star that had just blazed up.
Then I saw that it was moving slowly down the sky. With opera glasses I followed it for 5 minutes until it sank below the horizon beyond the Clare hills. Do you know if any of the known Sputniks would be going over at that time. It kept a steady course & went down South East by East as near as I could judge or should I say South East.
The stars and telescope making is my hobby and this is the first object I have seen and did not know what it was.
Trusting to hear from you

Yours faithfully
George Linihan

P.O.S.R.S. Club
Can you identify please.
Supt.

Supt/Woomera most probably echo satellite.
28/3/63

I live 6 miles North of Snowtown

CONFIDENTIAL 56/483 88

A.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO: SUPERINTENDENT/WOOMERA	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No. D5492/1/1
FROM (Branch or Establishment): CONTROLLER	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO: R.P. Bonnell, Ext. 518
	DATE: 16th August, 1962

RECEIVED 20 AUG 1962 W.R.E. WOOMERA

SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

A letter has been received from the Department of External Affairs stating that the United States Embassy has informally sought their assistance in obtaining information which might be used in the identification of space vehicle fragments. The Embassy stated that if a luminous object is observed in the atmosphere and/or fragments are recovered which might be associated with the re-entry or earth impact of space vehicles, the following information would be helpful in identifying the vehicle and determining its origin :-

1. Observation of Luminous Objects

   (a) Date and time of the observation(s).

   (b) Location of the observer(s) (city, town, etc. or geographic coordinates).

   (c) Trajectory or flight path of the object (compass heading) and its location relative to observer(s).

   (d) Burning characteristics, i.e. colour; whether light was steady or pulsating, whether streamers were emitted (sparkler effect).

   (e) Was break-up of the object observed? If so, the estimated geographic coordinates, locating the point of break-up.

   (f) Was noise associated with the flight?

2. Observation of Impact(s) and/or Recovery of Fragment(s)

   (a) Date and time of impact(s) or recovery of fragment(s).

   (b) Location of observer(s) and/or coordinates locating area where fragments were recovered.

   (c) Dispersion of fragments within the recovery area.

   (d) Was noise associated with the impacts?

   (e) If impacts were not observed, but heard, the date and time of noise.

   (f) Physical description of the fragments, i.e. length, width, thickness, weight, condition, etc.

   (g) Description of any numbers, letters, inspection stamps, or other identifying marks on the fragments.

   (h) Nature of terrain - wooded, sandy, pasture, etc.

/2

87

PO/SRS and PO/R at Woomera have been asked to report on such occurrences seen by members of their staff. Other people in the Woomera area may also notice this type of phenomena. When any instances are brought to your notice would you please arrange for as much of the above information as possible to be sent to the Superintendent, Optical Instrumentation Division, Salisbury. Before the report is submitted proper consideration should be given to ensure the phenomena can be reasonably judged to have been caused by the space vehicle rather than meteors, balloon sondes, aircraft, fuel tanks or other tiems jettisoned by aircraft, etc.

No special effort is justified in order to obtain these reports.

R P Bonnell

(R.P. Bonnell)
FOR CONTROLLER

6/30/1

UNCLASSIFIED 86

56/483

9th August, 1962.
3096

Mr. M. Allvar,
Head Teacher,
Primary School,
ELLIOTT, N.T.

Dear Mr. Allvar,

Thank you for your letter of the 1st of August. I believe that the strange light you observed on the western horizon on that night was the setting of the planet Venus.

At 9.15 p.m. Central Standard Time on the 1st August, 1962, the planet was on the western horizon on a bearing of 274° true, and would be seen from Elliott at an elevation of 2°. At present the magnitude of Venus is -3.7 which makes it seven times brighter than the brightest star, Sirius. The change of colour as this planet sets is a phenomenon sometimes observed when the visibility is unusually good and when the planet sets well after sunset. It is due to atmospheric refraction.

I trust that the above will provide you with the information you seek, and it has been most interesting to us to receive your observation.

Yours sincerely,

(G.A. COOPER)
Group Captain,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

86

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO: Superintendent, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No. 56/483
	OUR FILE No.
FROM (Branch or Establishment): Meteorological Office, WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO: F. Callus T365.
	DATE: 9th August, 1962.

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, STRANGE OCCURRENCES, ETC.

Reference Enclosure 85.

With reference to the attached letter from Mr. Allvar, Elliott, N.T., it is thought that the object seen was the planet Venus.

Survey Section state that on 1st August, 1962 at 9.15 p.m. C.S.T. the planet was on the western horizon on a bearing of 274° true at an elevation of 2° as seen from Elliott. At present the magnitude of Venus is -3.7 which makes it seven times brighter than the brightest star, Sirius. The change of colour as this planet sets is a phenomenon sometimes observed when the visibility is unusually good and when the planet sets well after sunset. It is due to atmospheric refraction.

F. Callus

.....

(F. CALLUS)

Senior Meteorologist.

56/483.

Primary School
Elliott. N.T 85
1st Aug. '62

The Officer in Charge.
Research Station.
Woomera.
S. A.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to enquire whether you can explain a strange light which we saw tonight. We noticed it in the western sky close to the horizon, about 9.15 p.m. It was very bright and large (much larger than a star) and was changing colour regularly - red, green, white. It seemed to be rotating. We watched it for approx. 5 minutes, when it sank below the horizon. We are wondering whether it is scientific in origin: I am sure its somethng "man made", and nothing to do with the stars - it was far too large to be a star.

Yours faithfully.

M. Allan

Head Teacher.

Miss Leak.

84.

Dr. J. H. V. Scott.

106 Thorne St.,
Wagga Wagga, 3S.,
29 May 1962.

Colonel Durance,
Box 1391 K., G.P.O.,
Adelaide.

Dear Colonel Durance,

It was good of you to reply at such length to the inquiry which settled for us the identity of the satellite seen here on March 6th. last.

I passed onthe information by letting the others read your letter.

Subsequent to that extraordinary sighting of what looked like a fourth to the normal three of Orion's Belt we found it on four, if not five occasions after that with one miss in the middle due to cloud. In these cases it rose north of Achernar each time with not much apparent difference in the arising site but it then went through the Southern Cross several times and each time getting more north of it till well north and the last time we were able to find it.

I think we were all a bit surprised to think that the thing we saw moving was at its earliest over s.W. Queensland and at latest beyond New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,

J. V. Scott M. B. &c.

P.O.S.R.S.

56/483 RESTRICTED

83

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO: Superintendent, Woomera.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No. 5.126.5. WRA.
FROM (Branch or Establishment): Establishment Security Officer, Woomera.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO
	DATE 11th May, 1962.

RECEIVED 11 MAY 1962 W.R.E. WOOMERA

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

The attached report of an Unidentified Flying Object was submitted by the Security Officer, (Administration) Mr. B. Gillespie is forwarded for your information.

2. The Meteorological Officer is of the opinion that the object could be a Meteorite.

(J.J.A. HANLON),
Establishment Security Officer,
W.R.E., Woomera.

S/W.

Copy to Rec SA ✓

14/5/62

RESTRICTED

82

REPORT ON AERIAL OBJECT OBSERVED

1. Name of Observer S.R.G.RADFORD, J.G.WHITBREAD & HANK VEEN

2. Address of Observer C/- J.R.STAFF MESS, WOOMERA.

3. Occupation of Observer INSTRUMENT MAKER, BOILERMAKER WELDER, AND TRADES HELP. (RESPECT.)

4. Date and time of observation(time given in 24 hour clock zonal time)
2000 hrs. Sunday 15/4/62

5. Period of observation(s) APPROX. 8-9 seconds

6. Manner of observation; (Give details of own position by map reference if possible, or by known landmarks, and describe any equipment used in the observation).
PLEASE SEE MAP

7. Where was object first observed, eg overhead, coming from behind a hill, over the horizon, etc.
OVERHEAD - ABOUT 80° UP FROM HORIZON.

8. What first attracted observer's attention, eg light or noise
LIGHT

9. Did object appear as a light or as a definite object
AS A SHARP WELL DEFINED ROUND OBJECT.

10. If there was more than one object, how many were there, and what was their formation. ONLY ONE SUCH OBJECT

11. What was the colour of the light or object BRILLIANT GREEN

12. What was its apparent shape ROUND

13. Was any detail of structure observable NO

14. Was any method of propulsion obvious NO

15. Was there any sound NO

16.* Height, or angle of elevation STARTED 80° AND DOWN TO HORIZON

17.* Speed, or angular velocity ABOUT ONE QUARTER THE SPEED OF THE USUAL FALLING STAR

18. State any experience which enables observer to be reasonably certain about the answers given to 16 and 17.
RADFORD IS A PILOT AND A MEMBER OF THE S/A AERO AND GLIDING CLUB.

19. Direction of flight with reference to landmarks or points of the compass
APPROX. 060° M. FROM POINT OF OBSERVATION. (MEASURED BY A COMPASS LATER)

20. Did the object remain on a straight path, deviate or manouevre at all.
ON A VERY SLIGHT ARC.

../2.

81

21. Was any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen.....NO.....

.....

22. Where did object disappear, eg, in mid air, behaind a hill, over the horizon.

BEHIND HILL

.....

23. Existence of any physical evidence such as fragments, photographs, or other supporting evidence.

THE PARTY SEARCHED THE AREA ON SUNDAY 29/4/62 FOR EVIDENCE

.....

OF IMPACT OR FRAGMENTS. THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.

24. Weather conditions experienced at time(s) or observation(s).

VERY CLEAR NIGHT, NO CLOUD, FAIRLY BRIGHT MOON.....

25. Location of any air traffic in the vicinity at the time of sighting

NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY.....

.....

26. Location of any meteorological stations in the general area.

WOOMERA.

.....

27. Any additional information.....NIL.....

.....

.....

MY ASSESSMENT OF OBSERVERS - RELIABLE.

.....

.....

* Since it is normally impossible to estimate the height and speed of a strange object it will uaually be better to endeavour to determine the angle of elevation of the object, the angle through which it moved and the time taken to do this.

Questions 25, 26 and 27 to be answered by interrogator.

(B. GILLESPIE)
SECURITY OFFICER, ADMIN. 8/5/62.

80

REPORT ON AERIAL OBJECT OBSERVED

1. Name of Observers. R.G.RADFORD, J.G.WHITBREAD, & HANK VEEN.

2. Address of Observer... C/- J.R.STAFF CLUB. WOOMERA. S.A.

3. Occupation of Observers. INSTRUMENT MAKER, BOILERMAKER/WELDER, &TRADES HELP. (RESPECT.)

4. Date and time of observation(time given in 24 hour clock zonal time)
20.05 hrs. SUNDAY 15/4/62.

5. Period of observation(s. seven seconds

6. Manner of observation; (Give details of own position by map reference if possible, or by known landmarks, and describe any equipment used in the observation).
PLEASE SEE MAP

7. Where was object first observed, eg overhead, coming from behind a hill, over the horizon, etc.
ABOUT 40° UP FROM HORIZON, ESTIMATED HEIGHT 4,000 feet

8. What first attracted observer's attention, eg light or noise
LIGHT, AND THE FACT THAT THE OBSERVERS WERE STILL LOOKING IN GENERAL DIRECTION AFTER OBSERVING THE FIRST OBJECT.

9. Did object appear as a light or as a definite object
AS A DULL LIGHTED OBJECT.

10. If there was more than one object, how many were there, and what was their formation. ONE ONLY

11. What was the colour of the light or object....DULL OFF-WHITE.....

12. What was its apparent shape.....DUMB-BELL.....

13. Was any detail of structure observable....NOT CLEARLY.....

14. Was any method of propulsion obvious.....NO.....

15. Was there any sound.....NO.....

16.* Height, or angle of elevation....ESTIMATE 4000'. ANGLE OF DESCENT 40°.

17.* Speed, or angular velocity..150 M.P.H.(APPROX).....

18. State any experience which enables observer to be reasonably certain about the answers given to 16 and 17.
....RADFORD IS A PILOT AND A MEMBER OF THE S/A AERO & GLIDING CLUB.

19. Direction of flight with reference to landmarks or points of the compass
APPROX. 060M. FROM POINT OF OBSERVATION

20. Did the object remain on a straight path, deviate or manouevre at all.
STRAIGHT PATH FROM 4000'. at ANGLE OF 40°. AND APPEARED TO IMPACT WITH SCRUB ABOUT 2-3 MILES FROM OBSERVATION POINT.

../2.

79

21. Was any trail of exhaust, vapour or light seen.....NO.....

.....

22. Where did object disappear, eg, in mid air, behaind a hill, over the horizon.

THE OBJECT APPEARED TO IMPACT ABOUT 2-3 MILES AWAY.

.....

23. Existence of any physical evidence such as fragments, photographs, or other supporting evidence.

THE PARTY SEARCHED THE AREA ON SUNDAY 29/4/62. for evidence of IMPACT OR FRAGMENTS. THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.

24. Weather conditions experienced at time(s) or observation(s).

VERY CLEAR NIGHT, NO CLOUD, FAIRLY BRIGHT MOON.

25. Location of any air traffic in the vicinity at the time of sighting

NO KNOWN TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY.

.....

26. Location of any meteorological stations in the general area.

WOOMERA.

.....

27. Any additional information...NIL.....

.....

MY ASSESSMENT OF OBSERVERS - RELIABLE.....

.....

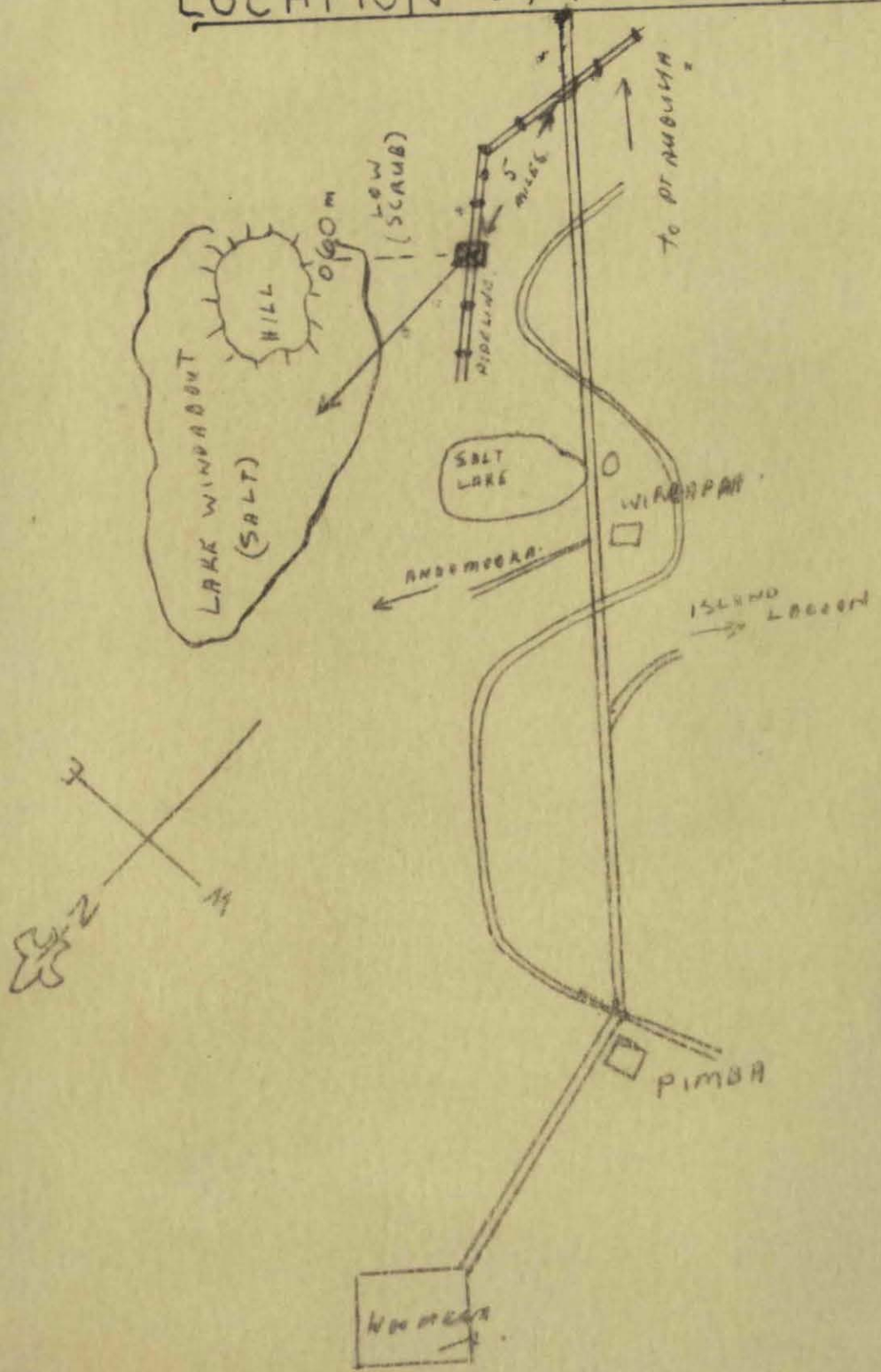
* Since it is normally impossible to estimate the height and speed of a strange object it will uaually be better to endeavour to determine the angle of elevation of the object, the angle through which it moved and the time taken to do this.

Questions 25, 26 and 27 to be answered by interrogator.

B Gillespie

(B. GILLESPIE.)
SECURITY OFFICER . ADMIN. 8/5/62.

LOCATION of POINT of OBSERVATION.



THIS IS A LARGE FORMAT DOCUMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE LEGIBLE IF SCANNED.
IF YOU WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUEST TO REF@NAA.GOV.AU

I.E.

MAP OF TARGET COURSE

SECRET

152° True (A)

Purple Dow

K5 K4 K3 K2 K1

Red Lake

Lake Kolymilka

TARGET AREA

Shell Lagoon

S7 S6 S5 S4

MA T...

1405 Hrs

5400 Ft

6000 Ft

R

B

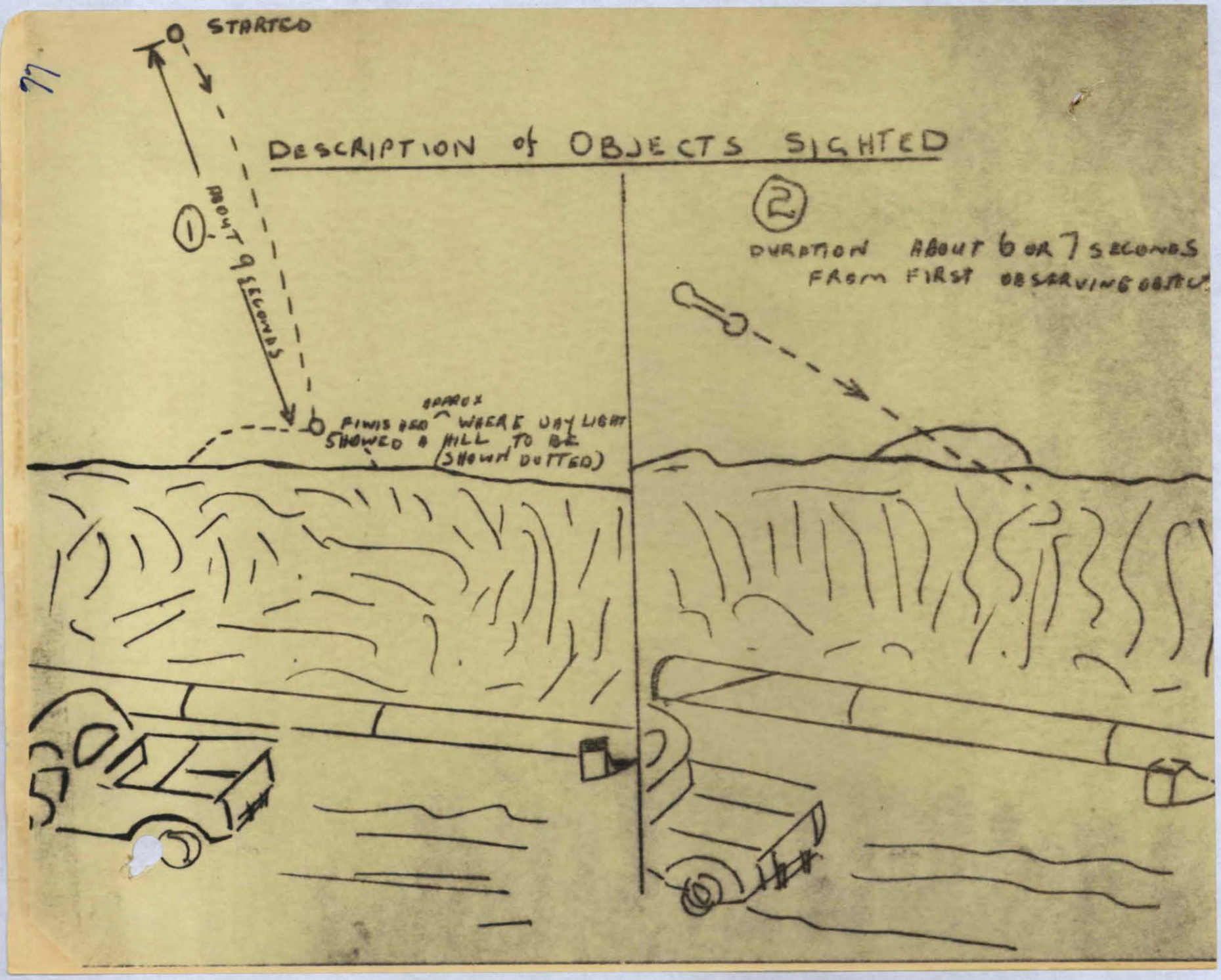
260 T... (A)

1415 Hrs

1417 Hrs

5000 Ft

77


STARTED
DESCRIPTION of OBJECTS SIGHTED
(1)
ABOUT 9 SECONDS
FINISHED SHOWED A
APPROX
WHERE DAY LIGHT
HILL TO BE
(SHOWN DOTTED)
(2)
DURATION ABOUT 6 OR 7 SECONDS
FROM FIRST OBSERVING OBJECT

UNCLASSIFIED 76

xxxxx 2

April, 1962.

1405

Dr. J.H.V. Scott,
106 Thorne Street,
WAGGA WAGGA, N.S.W.

Dear Dr. Scott,

You undoubtedly saw the American Echo satellite on the evening of March 6th. From your location, Orion's belt, at 7.30 p.m. E.S.T. would appear 25°W of N. at an elevation of about 53°. The Echo satellite at that time was over south-west Queensland at a height of 950 miles and travelling south-east at a speed of 15,850 m.p.h. (264 miles per minute). By the time you lost sight of it at about 7.40 p.m., it was well east of New Zealand, having passed over Newcastle, the Tasman Sea and the South Island of New Zealand.

This satellite is a balloon 100 feet in diameter made of very thin Mylar plastic sprayed with aluminium, and is used in communications experiments simply as a passive reflector of radio signals. It circles the earth every 116.3 minutes in an orbit which is inclined to the equator at an angle of 47.3 degrees.

You will appreciate that its very slow apparent motion is on account of its distance, its range from you on the 6th March being from 1,000 miles at its closest to probably 3,000 miles when it disappeared from view.

Yours faithfully,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendant, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/183

75

The Secretary,
Woomera Rocket Range e,
South Australia.

Dear Sir,

I would be obliged if you can tell me whatit was we saw here last night: -

I was out in the garden and on looking at the Constellation of Orion was just telling myself that this is nonsense - there ought to be only three stars in the belt and thought I was seeing things and quickly thought surely I am not a lucky witness to a nova. By then on standing quite still I could see then thatit was something moving . So the four stars (the odd man was on the left of the fixed three) for a time were in that odd position of shewing four in line. By the time Ihad run to the neighbours after going in to call my wife it was obvious it was moving at a majestic sort of pace. So we all watched it to see if it would score a bull on Sirius but I think it was a near miss,low. I followed it east by south till it disappeared about 15 deg. above the horizon due to high trees not far away. So that will give you a pretty exact line to follow with the time stated to be as near as can be jut about between 7.30pm. and 7.40pm and prbably not more than 7.35 when first sighted.

It was brighter than Rigel,the three of the belt and Betelgeuse and Aldebaran but at first sighting not so much superior to the three of the belt (it made me think it was just such another as the three) It was like a highly polished golden sphere reflecting the light back to us. Maybe having looked at it with a 10x50 pair of binoculars memory of its brightness goes a bit to that view so let us revert to the naked eye which thought it about a mate for the three of the belt.

A sweep of the western sky did not reveal the Suke to me. I was running a line about 45 deg. mostly on the north-west sector which I could use.

Yours truly,

J.I.V. Scott

Dr. J.I.V.Scott,
7 March 1962.
106 Thorne St.,
Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 38.

RESTRICTED

56/483

74.

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO Superintendent, W.R.E. Woomera.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No. 5/126/5 WRA.
FROM (Branch or Establishment) Establishment Security Officer, W.R.E. Woomera.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO
	DATE 31st. January 1962.

RECEIVED 31 JAN 1962 W.R.E. WOOMERA

SUBJECT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS.

The following is forwarded for your information - A report has been received from Mrs. E. Brewster of Coober Pedy of the sighting of an unidentified flying object on the night of 24th. January 1962. The object was observed for one minute. There was no noise.

2. The following details are submitted :-

(A) Approximate Height - Arm extended - Six hands width above horizon.

(B) Locality - N/W. of Coober Pedy in direction of Mabel Creek.

(C) Line of Flight - N/W. of Coober Pedy.

(D) Object appeared to be orange and blue light breaking into fragments. Object disappeared after breaking up.

No action

(J.J.A. HANLON),
Establishment Security Officer,
W.R.E. Woomera.

RESTRICTED

O. H. M. S.

RETURN TO SENDER

Mrs. K.H. Dunn,
~~Private Mail Bag,~~
~~Pudna Mutna,~~
~~Woolawatana,~~
~~via~~ COPLEY, S.A.

c/o Post Office
Pt Augusta

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS, RETURN TO
BOX 1391 K, G.P.O., ADELAIDE, S.A.

PT AUGUSTA
SOUTH AUST

All corr. to be addressed to
the Superintendent

Telegrams:
"Rocran" Woomera

Telephone: Woomera West 51

56/483

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

73

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, WOOMERA,

Postal Address:
BOX 1391K, G.P.O.,
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

21 April, 1961.

1659

Mrs. K.H. Dunn,
Private Mail Bag,
Pudna Mutna,
Moolawatana,
via COPLEY, S.A.

Dear Mrs. Dunn,

I am sorry we have been some time in sending you a further letter.

The Principal Officers in charge of various scientific matters on the Range are interested in the accuracy of your reporting, but of course, a lot of the work we do here requires and receives electronic and camera type results. There could be occasions when an observer might be of help, and should this occur, we would be glad to ask your assistance.

Thank you again for writing to us.

Yours sincerely,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

6 May, 1961.

2043

Messrs J.D. Lawrence & G. Craig,
Post Office Box 210,
LONGREACH, Qld.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your letter of 27th April, 1961, it is probable that the object you saw was a meteor of the larger variety, possibly approaching the fireball class. The familiar "falling star" is also a meteor, but in this case the size is so small (about one grain of sand) that the visible trail produced as it heats up in the atmosphere is not very bright. Larger pieces also enter the atmosphere but at less frequent intervals.

In areas remote from city lights, reports of larger meteors are more common. We frequently receive reports in and around Woomera area for example. The flash and subsequent sound of the explosion are typical of the larger meteor and this prompts me to suggest that this is the phenomenon you observed.

Yours faithfully,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO SUPERINTENDENT, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No.
FROM (Branch or Establishment) P.O./S.R.S., WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO P.V. Moran T.273
	DATE 12th May.1961

SUBJECT ENCLOSURE 69, FILE 56/483.

I suggest a reply along the following lines :-

"It is probable that the object sighted was a meteor of the larger variety, possibly approaching the fire-ball class. The familiar "falling star" is also a meteor but in this case the size is so small (about one grain of sand) that the visible trail produced as it heats up in the atmosphere is not very bright. Larger pieces also enter the atmosphere but at less frequent intervals.

In areas remote from city lights, reports of larger meteors are more common. We frequently receive reports in and around the Woomera area for example. The flash and subsequent sound of the explosion are typical of the larger meteor and this prompts me to suggest that this is the phenomenon you observed".

(P.V. MORAN)
P.O./S.R.S.

UNCLASSIFIED 70

56/483

6 May, 1961.

1878

Captain J. Maan,
m.v. "Sigli",
C/o Royal Interocean Lines,
255 George Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th April, 1961.

A check has been made on the positions of all artificial satellites at the time of your observation, and it is certain that the object sighted was the 100 ft. balloon launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and known as "Project Echo". The balloon material is a ½ thou sandwich of aluminium foil and "Mylar" plastic.

This satellite was put into orbit to provide a medium for "passive" communication experiments wherein radio messages are bounced off the sphere to be received thousands of miles from the transmitter. A secondary object was to study the variations in the density of the atmosphere at the satellite height by measuring the effects of atmospheric drag.

"Echo" was launched in August, 1960. Its height above the earth surface is of the order of 1000 miles. The orbit around the earth takes about 2 hours. When the sun shines on it during the night hours it appears to the observer as a moving star of magnitude 2 or thereabouts. Initially spherical in shape, the satellite has by now lost this shape to a certain extent and therefore the brightness varies as it rotates about its own axis.

I trust that the above will provide you with the information you seek. It is very gratifying to know that your intense interest in your sighting prompted your excellent letter.

Yours faithfully,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

69

576/483

P.O.Box 210,
Longreach.
27th.April. 1961.

The Director,
Rocket Range,
Woomera. S.A.

Dear Sir,

At approximately 8.42 p.m. on Sunday 9/4/1961 we were fishing on the Thomson River approximately five miles above Longreach when the whole area was lit by a flash resembling that of lightning. With no storm activity in the area our eyes were naturally drawn to the clear sky. Almost directly overhead we observed an object travelling at high speed and leaving a white comet like trail to a point approximately 30 degrees above the Northern horizon where it petered out in a trail of red sparks. It travelled almost half the sky in a second or two . Approximately three minutes later a dull explosion was heard.

This may or may not be a natural phenomenon but the information is supplied in the hope that it may be of use.

Yours faithfully,

J.D.Lawrence

G.Craig.

1. S/W

2. PO/SAF

Shall I send your "Echo" letter?

8/5

Re memo dated 1/5.

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

TO: SUPERINTENDENT, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No.
	OUR FILE No.
FROM (Branch or Establishment): P.O./S.R.S., WOOMERA.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO: P.V. Moran T.273
	DATE: May 1961

SUBJECT ENCLOSURES 63, 4, 5. FILE 56/483.

I suggest the following be the text of the reply to Capt. Maan's letter :-

"A check has been made on the positions of all artificial satellites at the time of your observation. It is certain that the object sighted was the 100 ft. balloon launches by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and known as "Project Echo". The balloon material is a ½ thou. sandwich of aluminium foil and 'Mylar' plastic.

This satellite was put into orbit to provide a medium for "passive" communication experiments wherein radio messages are bounced off the sphere to be received thousands of miles from the transmitter. A secondary object was to study the variations in the density of the atmosphere at the satellite height by measuring the effects of atmospheric drag.

"Echo" was launched in August 1960. Its height above the earth surface is of the order of 1000 miles. The orbit around the earth takes about 2 hours. When the sun shines on it during the night hours, it appears to the observer as a moving star of magnitude 2 or thereabouts. Initially spherical in shape, the satellite has by now lost this shape to a certain extent and therefore the brightness varies as it rotates about its own axis.

I trust that the above will provide you with the information you request. It is very gratifying to know that your intense interest in your sighting prompted your excellent letter."

E. B. Armstrong

for (P.V. MORAN)
P.O./S.R.S.

67

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

21 April, 1961.

1659

Mrs. K.H. Dunn,
Private Mail Bag,
Pudna Mutna,
Moolawatana,
via COPLEY, S.A.

Dear Mrs. Dunn,

I am sorry we have been some time in sending you a further letter.

The Principal Officers in charge of various scientific matters on the Range are interested in the accuracy of your reporting, but of course, a lot of the work we do here requires and receives electronic and camera type results. There could be occasions when an observer might be of help, and should this occur, we would be glad to ask your assistance.

Thank you again for writing to us.

Yours sincerely,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

66

56/483

2 April, 1961.

1658

Mr. Lindsay R. Curtin,
Edeowie Station,
Brachina,
via PORT AUGUSTA, S.A.

Dear Mr. Curtin,

Thank you for your letter which I received this morning and in which you mentioned seeing an explosion flash replaced by a circle of smoke in the sky on the 5th April.

It was one of ours, and was a Skylark, and parts of the flash and smoke were seen as far away as Queensland, but thank you very much for writing to us on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY
WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

65

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

SUBJECT :

P.O.S.R.S.

I would be grateful if you would drop me a draft reply which could be forwarded to Captain Naan.

You might also note the other three to whom a copy of his letter has been sent.

20th April, 1961.

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

30/483

84

FROM: m.v. "Sigli", 12/4/61. DEPT. No. PAGE 1

TO: The professor in charge of
Woomera Rocket Range, Central Australia.

Dear Sir,

Hoping we are not intruding on your time, which, undoubtedly you can use better than to be bothered with stories whihh must be of common cause to you, but to us the thing we saw, described underneath, was so inspiring that I could not do otherwise than to take the liberty to write to you, hoping you might be able to let us know what it possibly could have been.

On the night of the 4th of april, local time 3.14 hours, gmt 1944 hours of the 3rd of april, in position 05 degs 22 mins north and 119 degs 17 mins and 30 secs east in the near vicinity of Sandakan, British North Borneo, the 2nd officer D. Plooy, who was on duty at that time, called me over to the starboardside where he stood. He pointed out to me an object in the sky, approximately 2 to 3 degrees north of the star Vega and asked me if I saw it moving. At first sight I could not make out which of the two was Vega, as they were so close to each other and so much alike in magnitude and brilliancy. Then, as the 2nd officer told me, I saw that strange starlike object moving slowly through the sky in northeasterly direction. The 2nd officer took bearing and height of it, which were North 38 degs East and 47 degs high.

We could follow it going down to a height of 25 degs, where it disappeared behind the cloudes and then again from a height of about 15 degs to 10 degs, after which it disappeared again.

We are sure that if the sky had been cloudless, it would have been seen going down over the horizon. The length of time it took to move from 47 degs to 25 degs was 7 minutes.

10 SRS
10 L.

Of course we all have heard much about rockets, Russian as well as American, and the only explanation we can give to this moving object is that it must have been one of those rockets.

Nevertheless we have described to you the facts as good as we are able, and if anything of this object is known to you, I hope you will be so very kind as to take the trouble of informing us about it. We remain

Yours faithfully,

J. Maan,
captain Dutch m.v. "Sigli".

D. Plooy,
2nd officer m.v. "Sigli",
c/= Royal Interocean Lines,
255 George Street,
SYDNEY
A U S T R A L I A.

P.S. Copies of this letter have been sent to:

The professor in charge of
Mount Stromlo Observatory,
Canberra, Australia.

Professor Lovell,
Jodrell Bank, Cheshire,
England.

The professor in charge of
Cape Canaveral Rocket Range,
Florida, U.S.A.

Edeowie Station 56/463 62
Brachina
Via Pt Augusta.
10th April 1961.

RECD.
17 APR 1961
W.R.E. WOOMERA

Dear Sir,

Please find hereunder a description of a strange phenomina we observed in the sky on 5th April 1961

TIME: BETWEEN. 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm.

DESCRIPTION: An explosivelike flash replaced by a circle of smoke.

We first observed this phenomina West of the group of stars known as the "Saucepan" then travelling approximately due east in a straight line, then ~~zig~~-zagging all over its original course.

Hoping that the above data will be of interest and possible use to you and looking forward to your comments, I am

Yours Faithfully
Lindsay R. Curtin.

tot.

61.

S.F.C. 3.4.1. (MAR. 59.)
C.D.O. 2855

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM — DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

REC'D. 4 APR 1961 W.R.E. WOOMERA

TO: SUPERINTENDENT, WOOMERA.	YOUR FILE No. 56/483
	OUR FILE No.
FROM (Branch or Establishment): P.O.S.R.S.	FOR ENQUIRIES REFER TO: Mr. P.V. Moran.
	DATE: March, 1961.

SUBJECT ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR. K.H. DUNN.

I agree that Mrs Dunn has acute powers of observation. However, the need for an observer in the Copley area for satellite work is not great. Any requirements which might arise would be urgent ones and we would have a severe communications problem in the case of Mrs.Dunn.

(P.V. MORAN)
P.O.S.R.S.

S/W.

60.

56/483

20 March, 1961.

1349

Mrs. K.H. Dunn,
Private Mail Bag,
Pudna Mutna,
Moolawatana,
via COPLEY, S.A.

Dear Mrs. Dunn,

Thank you very much for your letter written on the 9th March and which I am afraid took some six days to reach us. Your information was most concise, and I do admire your powers of observation.

We have many scientific departments here, and some of them may be interested in having a good observer such as yourself. I am forwarding a copy of your letter to them, and it might be a little while before I get any replies. When this is so I will write to you, but in the meantime thank you for the trouble you have taken.

Yours sincerely,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

S/W
We have no immediate requirement, but in view of the intelligent report will keep Mrs in mind

22/3

P.O.R.
P.O./S.R.S.

Is an observer as alert as Mrs. Dunn of any interest please.

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

561/483. 59

PRIVATE MAIL BAG
PUDNA MUTNA
MOOLAWATANA
VIA COPLEY. S.A.
9-3-61

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
RESEARCH DEPT.
WOOMERA.
S.A.

Dear Sir,

I thought I would send this letter to you, incase the information proved useful to your department.

The evening you send the "weather" rocket up, we had an excellent view of all that happened.

Went outside & noticed what appeared to be zig zag strips of shining tin foil in the sky. Called my husband out & whilst wondering what it was, noticed to the right of it & much higher, a white glow beginning to form. It looked like a large moon hidden by a dense mist. Then after two or three minutes there came a bright light, like a star, within the white glow. Then came an orange glow, the

P.T.O.

bright light disappeared only to return a minute or so later. All this time the orange vapour was growing in size.

Then we noticed the shining star like object moving in a definite direction, leaving a trail of orange vapour behind it, as it moved further away.

We assumed it must have been a satellite launched & the first bright light was the second stage rocket sending it further into space. Apparently what we saw was the cone of the rocket shining in the rays of the sun.

Should you at anytime wish us to observe any such happenings, we would gladly help in any way, as the sky is always clear up here.

Of course I would type such records & be more specific as regards to times & directions etc.

This is more or less a short note to see

if you are interested in gathering such data from outside Woomera.

Hoping this has been of help
I remain
yours faithfully
E Dunn
(MRS. K.H. DUNN)

56

RESTRICTED 56/483

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT - MT. EBA:

5/126/5 WRA.
28th November, 1959.

Regional Security Officer (SA),
ADELAIDE.

The following information is forwarded in amplification of verbal report of 19th November 1959 - your YA3/18/2 of 20th November 1959.

2. Mid-day of 19th November 1959, the undersigned interviewed Peter WALTON, acting Camp Manager, Mt. Eba, reference his report of the previous day to Flt./Lt. REES, R.A.A.F., that a helicopter had been sighted near Mt. Eba Camp.

3. Walton reported that -

(a) At approximately 0945 hours on 18th November 1959, he had just walked outside the Mess Hut at Mt. Eba, when he heard the sound of a helicopter - he recognized the sound by "the beat of the blades".

(b) He was accompanied at this time by Albert James GEORGE, employed as a stationary engine driver at Mt. Eba Camp.

(c) He sighted the helicopter, full side on from the right hand side, over the top of a small hill located approximately S.S.E. of the Mt. Eba Camp (This is about 1½ miles). Angle from eye level was approximately 30-35°.

(d) The craft appeared to hover, dipped, and then moved upwards and away in a S.S.E. direction.

(e) When he tried to direct George's sight onto the craft, George, although he could hear it, could not see it.

(f) During service with the auxiliary Coast-guard in U.K., he had frequently seen helicopters (Sikorsky craft), and at the time he thought this was one of that model, because it was a distinctive orange colour - similar to that colour used on Air/Sea Rescue helicopters.

(g) The length of time of sighting was estimated at 10-12 seconds.

4. When shown a copy of Green and Pollinger's "Aircraft of the World", Walton stated that the helicopter appeared not as deep as an LAR3 Type 36 "Hound", more of a cross between a Bristol 171 Mk 4 and a Bell 54 (XH 15).

RESTRICTED

...../2.

55

5. Peter WALTON, born 6th February 1928, Middleborough, U.K., permission two vide SWH7906/2 of 12th June 1959, served 4½ years in Royal Navy, and is considered a reliable witness.

6. Albert James GEORGE, born 15th February 1914, Birmingham, U.K., permission two vide SA Sec 54/799 of 21st July 1954, served 6 years in the R.A.A.F. (3 years at Woomera) and is also considered reliable.

(A. G. Halden)
Security Officer,
W.R.E.Range, Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED.
UNCLASSIFIED

54

56/483

30 November, 1959.

3751

The Master of Vessel,
M.V. Illowra,
PORT KEMBLA, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your memo. and notes regarding the unidentified flying object seen near Cliffy Island Lighthouse on the 16th November, 1959.

Your report has been forwarded to the Royal Australian Air Force whose responsibility it is to check on such matters.

Yours faithfully,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

C.O., No 1 AIR TRIALS UNIT,
R.A.A.F.,
WOOMERA, S.A.

56 483

Col. R. Durance T.333

W.R.E.,
WOOMERA, S.A.

30 November, 1959.

UN-IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS:

3750

It is understood that the R.A.A.F. is responsible for collating and/or investigating reports on Un-identified Flying Objects.

Attached are two documents, being a letter and some hand-written notes covering an U.F.O. observed by the Second Mate M.V. Illowra.

Would you be good enough to place these through your channels.

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

Unclassified

50

UNCLASSIFIED

18th September, 1959.

2921

B. Mitchell, Esq.,
"Coolooli",
4 King Street,
Bellerivi,
TASMANIA.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 6th September, 1959. I very much appreciate your action in taking the trouble to write to this Establishment on your sighting.

The object you saw probably was not a satellite. The dying stages of satellites can be predicted with reasonable accuracy and none were due in at this time.

The object was most likely meteoric in origin. Your description of the glow effects and speed is remarkably similar to reports on objects sighted in recent months here at Woomera. The apparent slow speed - much slower than normal meteors - could be explained by the aspect of the trajectory from your viewing point. In other words, the object may have been approaching almost directly towards you and the angular speed was therefore low.

It is appreciated that there is much which remains to be explained on the matter of natural objects and their approach through the earth's atmosphere. Thus the opinion expressed above is not necessarily correct. However, Ithink you may take it as highly likely that the object was not man-made.

Yours faithfully,

P.V. MORAN,
Principal Officer,
Satellite Tracking Station,
Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483
PVM/EW

56/483. "Coolooli" 49

4. King St.
Bellerive
Tasmania
6.9.59

The Superintendant,
The Observatory,
Woomera
South Australia

Dear Sir,

Last Thursday night at approximately 9 P.M. I saw an object that could have been the casing of a sputnic falling through the atmosphere and burning up.
I first saw the object in the sky in the form of a glowing ball, more orange in colour than red, and not not at all dazzling to the eyes. It was in the S. E. at between 30° & 40°, falling in a S. W. direction at a pace comparable with that of a jet plane — not at an enormous speed. It looked to be only a few miles away & I would suppose a few feet in diameter.
Almost immediately after I saw it it emitted flame that trailed behind it for, I would say, some 50 diameters, finishing in fading tail as if tiny fragments were burning off. The object was obviously turning over, and the flame which was of a reddish yellow, ceased, but occurred again a second or so later & ceased again just before the object disappeared behind a high hill (Mt. Nelson). I 'phoned The Mercury soon afterwards & told them about it, but I have not located any

mention of it in print, so I decided to forward the information to you, as surely some people must be interested.

The evening was perfectly clear and I had a wonderfull view of it.

I would suggest that I observed it for a period of from four to five seconds, during which period, as I have previously stated, it emitted two tails of flame, each identical with the other.

It is my opinion that the object would have hit the earth's surface not many miles away.

It would be most surprising to me if ~~it~~ it was not reported from further South. The Mecury spokesman said that there had been other reports.

I would like to know what you consider the object was? It was of course man-made & I should say definitely a casing.

I would suggest it could have been (say) six feet in diameter and was not more than twenty miles from here when it passed.

Yours faithfully

D Mitchell

PO/STS - Should you prepare a reply?

RD 11 Sep 57

UNCLASSIFIED

56/483

31st August, 1959.

2695

Staff Engineer,
A.M. Byers Company,
Clark Building,
P.O.Box 1076,
PITTSBURGH 30, Pa.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your informative letter of 10th August, 1959, which described an unidentified flying object sighted off the Panamanian Coast on 23rd January, of this year.

In the main the Press reports about Woomera you quoted were quite correct. An object was sighted here on the date mentioned, and several witnesses reported the event.

The Authorities you mention have been noted, and the details forwarded to our Headquarters.

Again our thanks for the trouble you have taken, and our envy of your fishing trip !.

Yours sincerely,

(R. DURANCE)
Colonel,
Superintendent, W.R.E., Woomera.

UNCLASSIFIED

56/1483

~~56/34~~ 48
~~139~~

Arafura Hospital
IGNORE Darwin N.T.
17 August 1959.

Dear Sir.

First of all I'd like to ask you could I come and see your Dept some day. Ill. now tell you why, 19,50. I was working in New Guinea place called Lae there I saw some thing which mite be of your interest. I and four Natives were together we were very frighten at the time, that night I told others but I was told I was crazy the two Natives died day later shok I think other two don't now where they got too ofcause I got no help to find them but a week later I left the place too. it dos sand silly but I could tell you

more.

About my self I'm a New Zealander age 35 trade Painter if I could be of any help I'll do all I can.
You see, I'm not a good writer thats why I can not put it in writing which would save time

Yours faithfully
M.J. Hardcastle.

56/483 46

A. M. Byers Company
Established 1864
CLARK BUILDING · P.O. BOX 1076
Pittsburgh 30, Pa.

REC'D.
19 AUG 1959
W.R.E. WOOMERA

AIR MAIL

10 August 1959

Reply to
7 St. Paul Street
Baltimore 2, Md.

Officer-in-Charge
Woomera Rocket Range
Adelaide, Australia.

Dear Sir:

In the July 22nd,1959 issue of the Baltimore Evening Sun the following appeared:

"FLYING OBJECT SPOTTED OVER ROCKET RANGE

Adelaide,Australia,July 22 (Reuters)- An Unidentified flying object, looking like a bright white badminton bird, was sighted over the Woomera rocket range in southern Australia Monday night, range authorities said today.

The object, sighted by trained staff, was traveling south.

It was not associated with any range firing, the authorities said.

Sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported at various other places in Australia the same night."

I thought that you would be interested to know that we saw an identical object-if not the same- at 7.04 PM the night of January 25 in the Pacific Ocean off Panama. There were eleven of us, including two crew, in the Pescadora on a fishing trip out from Balboa in the Canal Zone. We anchored back of Pescadora Island, one of the Las Perlas group for the night, which is situated about 75 kilometers south east of Panama. It was a black night and one of the passengers said "look at the jet plane". We all looked and realized that it was not a plane because there was no noise and it was white with a stubby tail, the latter being about as long as the body of the object. We were facing north west so the object came from the south west and was traveling to the horth east about 30 degrees above the horizon. We watched it for about 20 seconds and then reported it by ship-to-shore radio to the Information Center at Quarry Heights in the Canal Zone. When we returned on Sunday we were advised that a number of people had seen the object in the Canal Zone and it had been written up in the local newspaper. Due to information restrictions in the Canal Zone we could obtain no further information. However, in your official capacity, it may be that you can get this information from the Information Center which is located as designated "Quarry Heights, Canal Zone."

CORROSION COSTS YOU MORE THAN WROUGHT IRON

I thought you would be interested in this bit of information and if you should want further confirmation you may write to Mr. B. W. Forgeson, Scientist-in-Charge, U.S.Naval Research Laboratory, P.O.Box "B", Rodman, Canal Zone,Panama, Mr. Forgeson is part owner of the boat. I have been working with him on corrosion studies in the tropics for the past 10 years down there.

Incidentally, the object appeared to be self-propelled at a constant speed. It is difficult to say how large it was for obvious reasons, however it was white like a star, the body appeared to be bullet shaped and it had a stubby white tail about the length of the body.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. J. Mayer
Staff Engineer

REC'D. 9 DEC 1957

Swan View Rd.
Greenmount
W.A.
1-12-57.

Chief Scientist
Dear Sir,

Tonight on the radio I heard that you wanted information about any objects seen in the sky. At 2-15 P.M. today my brother-in-law and I saw a very bright object falling rapidly due south from here. It was about three times the size of a star with a slight streak following and as it fell it appeared to become larger and turned green in colour then seemed to break up. I said it the racket casing. Anyway there you are that is my information.

I remain

yours sincerely
(Mrs) Mary Winsor

RESTRICTED 43

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY
LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

R.A.D. 27 JUN 1957

SUBJECT: Radar Interference K 203.

25th June, 1957.

Superintendent, Woomera:

At 0900 hours on 24th June, it was noted that there was a large amount of interference on the P.P.I. of the No. 4 Mk. 7 Radar situated on Range "E". This interference was between 30,000 yards and 80,000 yards, and between bearings of 305°T and 035°T. The elevation was below 25°.

At 0940 hours this interference had shifted, and was between 40,000 yards and 120,000 yards (the maximum range of the radar) and between bearings of 360°T and 100°T.

All interference had vanished by 1030 hours. The only cloud in the area was approximately 4-5/8th cirrus in the Northern portion of the sky, and was not of the type which would normally give any 10 cm. radar reflections.

The wind at cloud height was approximately 287°/142 knots.

This information may be of interest to the air support squadron at Edinburgh.

D.A. Needham

(D. A. NEEDHAM),
for Principal Officer, Ranges.

DFN/bje

OPALS

ROBERT TROW.
COOBER PEDY OPAL FIELDS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

42

20.4.1956 13.

~~1209/19~~

The officer
in Charge
Guided Missiles Dept
Woomera

Dear Sir

I was awake on the dugout
at 1 am Thursday when the
loudest explosion I have heard
here in 30 years occured
The explosion vibrated through
the dugout.
Another explosion took place
35 minutes later, but was
much fainter, no doubt
some distance away.
Perhaps you are interested -

Yrs
Robert Trow

REC'D.
26 APR 1956

[? Home brew]
9th

41
209/19.
12

Rocket Range
Woomera.

Peak Hill
West Aust.
13th Apr 56.

An object we observed here today may be of interest to you
At approx 1 pm this object passed west of here at about the speed of a sky master leaving behind a straight vapour trail (white). There was no noise.

Other people say 35 miles sw
I saw the vapour cleared & the object
started to earth.

Do you think the above
commenced its journey from Woomera

Yours truly
W. Burrows.

11A

UNCLASSIFIED

ABJ:KR

40

1209/19/Security

04430

20 MAY 1954

Chief Superintendent

.... Forwarded herewith for your information, are two reports of an unidentified object sighted at Woomera on the 5 May 54.

2. The persons reporting were separated by a distance of approximately three hundred yards and give corroborative accounts of what each observed.

3. It has been noted that a similar object was observed on about the 3 May 54, by two ladies at Henley Beach, South Australia, and reported in "The Advertiser" of 4 May 54.

for (A.G. PITHER)
Group Captain
Superintendent LRWE Range

101

39

UNCLASSIFIED.

FLYING SAUCERS.

S/110/2/WRA.

15th May, 1954.

The Regional Security Officer, (S.A.).,
ADELAIDE.

Herewith attached are Reports submitted by Mr. S. Baker, an officer of Vickers-Armstrong Limited and Staff/Sgt. G.A. Trotter, Radar Operator on the subject of unidentified flying objects observed on 5th May, 1954.

2. The persons reporting were separated by a distance of approximately three hundred yards and give corroborative accounts of what each observed.

3. It has been noted that a similar object was observed on about 3rd May, 1954 by two ladies at Henley Beach, South Australia and reported in "The Advertiser" of 4th May, 1954.

4. Forwarded for information.

Security Officer.
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

Copy: Superintendent Range.
R.A.A.F Field Security Section.

10B

COPY.

WOOMERA.

7th May, 1954.

38

R.S.O.

REPORT ON A FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED ON 5TH MAY, 1954.

I was at Range R1, (Post R1), the Radar Post, standing by the Security Officer's Hut, and looking towards the Radar Post at approximately 1645 hours, observing one of our trials through binoculars.

This object appeared to be travelling towards me or directly across a path of the approaching Canberra. When it got to the path of the Canberra it turned to my right and was going in the direction from which the Canberra had just come.

When it got directly over the Canberra it slowed down. During this time I found it very hard to believe what I was seeing, so I shut my eyes and then looked again through the binoculars and the object was still stationary over the flight path of the Canberra.

Since it appeared to be the same relative size as the Canberra through the binoculars, I thought it would be possible to see it with the naked eye. However, when I looked over the top of the binoculars the object had either gone or I could not see it with the naked eye, and when I looked again through the binoculars I could not pick it up.

The object appeared to be travelling about three times as fast as the Canberra, but of course it is impossible to estimate, since I did not know what height it was. It was perfectly circular all the time and a dark grey colour, and gave the appearance of being translucent. It did not glisten at all when it turned or was it shiny.

(Signed) Sydney BAKER.

Vickers-Armstrongs.

10 e

Post "R".

6th May, 1954.

37

T.C.A.R. (A).

RE UNIDENTIFIED TARGET OBSERVED ON RADAR 5TH MAY, 1954.

Sir,

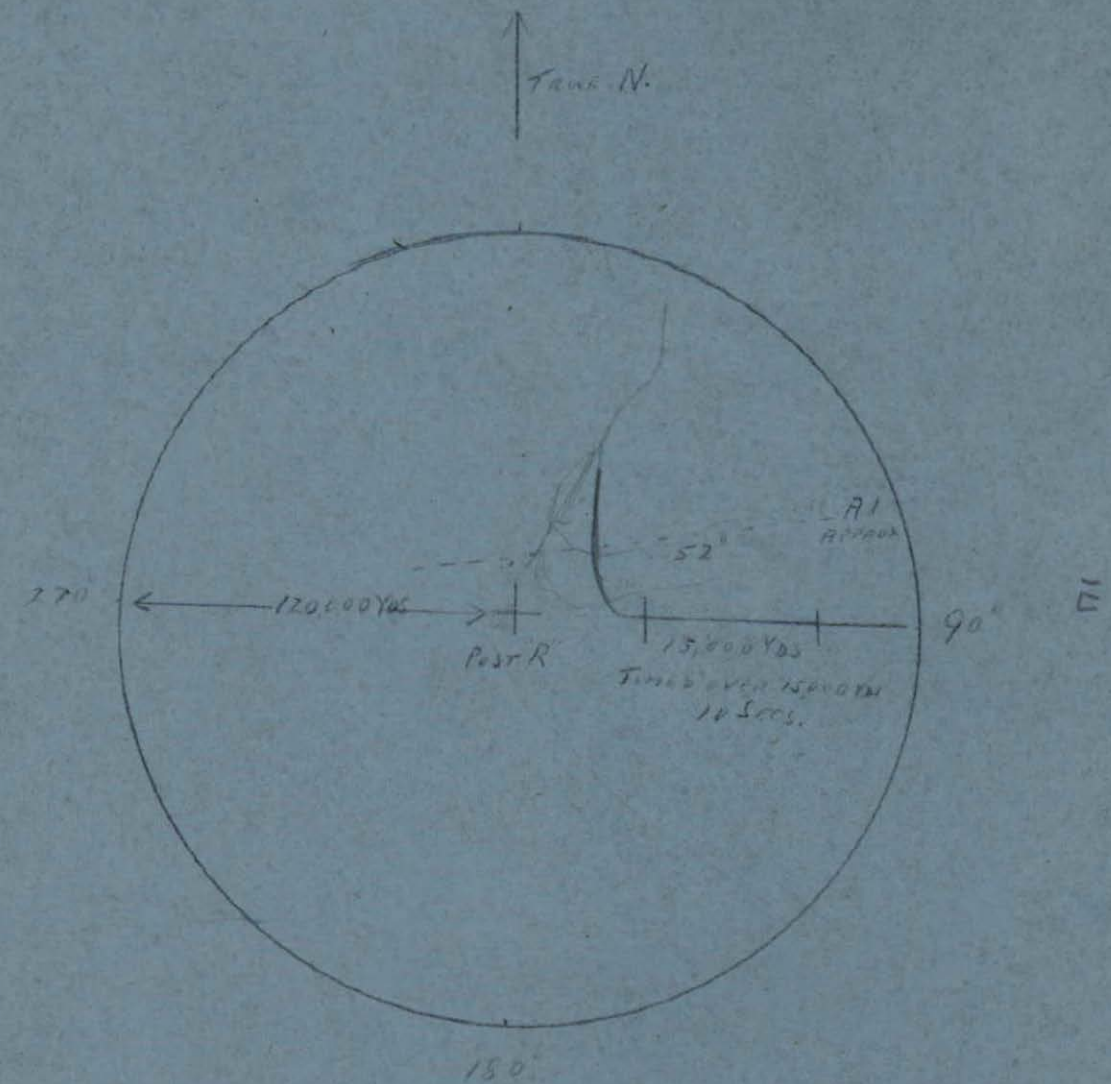
At about 1600 on 5th May, an unidentified Target was observed on Radar AA Number 4 Mk 6.

The target appeared on High Beam at a range of about 60,000 yards Brg 355° approaching "R", described a Hyperbola over "R" and went out at a bearing of approx 90°. On its way out it passed behind Spotting Tower, "S2". I timed it over 15,000 yards 10 seconds which would make its speed approximately 3600 M.P.H. Cfn. KRANZ observed this occurrence with me. Since the target was followed to 70,000 yards on High Beam the height would be greater than 60,000 feet. See Diagram on next page.

George A. TROTTER, S/Sgt.

107

36



COPY OF ROUGH SKETCH
BY S/SGT TROTTER
POST RI OPERATOR

9A.

RESTRICTED

35

:DB

Chief Superintendent

02956

4 DEC 1953

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT

A verbal report received from F/Lt. Starkie on Saturday, 14th November, 1953, regarding sighting of glare believed to be exhaust of Aircraft at 0145 hours on 14th November, 1953, was passed to Principal Officer Flying.

2. Principal Officer Flying received two confirmatory reports from Sqn. Ldr. and Mrs. Anderson who stated they saw navigation lights of aircraft flying North to South at 0150 hours the same day.

3. Action taken to identify aircraft by Principal Officer Flying was unsuccessful.

for (A.G. PITHER)
Group Captain
Superintendent LRWE Range.

1209/19/See

BA

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

SUBJECT :

6/121/1/WRA.

19th November, 1953.

Superintendent Range.

A verbal report received from F/Lt. Starkie on Saturday, 14th November, 1953, regarding sighting of glare believed to be exhaust of Aircraft at 0145 hours on 14th November, 1953, was passed to Principal Officer Flying.

2. Principal Officer Flying received two confirmatory reports from Sqn. Ldr. and Mrs. Anderson who stated they saw navigation lights of aircraft flying North to South at 0150 hours the same day.

3. Action taken to identify aircraft by Principal Officer Flying was unsuccessful.

Security Officer.
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

7A

INWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE. (COPY ONLY). 33

MSA 13082.

MR 1398.

ME 405.

URGENT

TO HERINGTON ADELAIDE

RPT. MORRISON X200.

RPT. CARTER X200.

COPY MADDERN WMA

FROM PHILLIPS

RESTRICTED.

IDENTITY OF AIRCRAFT SEEN BY ANA ON A.M. 15/10/53 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY DCA AS TAA WHO CROSSED ANA'S FLIGHT COURSE TWO MINUTES AHEAD OF ANA.

TOD MELB.	1210	22/10/53.	SW
TOR RANGE	1150	"	EDC.
TOR SALS	"	"	JM.

9

32

MINUTE SHEET Reference

Sighting at "A" range on D1 day.

R. S.O.,

1. The radar operator was interviewed by the RAAF Field Security Officer.

2. The object on the radar screen was first sighted by a female computer operator who was in the radar box with the radar operator, who agreed that it appeared to be an aircraft.

3. The radar operator expressed the opinion that the "blip" on the radar screen may have been caused by a flock of birds.

4. In view of the fact that the people in the vicinity of the "sighting" saw only the Beaufighter sent to investigate and were able to describe that aircraft fairly accurately, it is considered that the radar "sighting" was not an aircraft, and that further investigations are not warranted.

J. Bell Lt.
RAAF Field Security Officer.

Noted J.H.

S/R
P.O.E. } A.F.

Min 7, 8 and enclosure 8A.

" 9.

S/R Ref 8A Should C/S be informed? Reply 1/12

R.A.A.F. Form A 60.
(MAY, 1936)

58846 8.42 St 8090

[OVER

1209/A/ SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

31

SUBJECT :

6.

S/R. R.C.O. 1. With reference to our teletalk on "D1" Day, concerning reports of unidentified a/c movements, a precis of events and action taken is recorded below:-

(a) 0647K. 1421 17Z S/L Jewell MANNALA reported to S/L Pickard A.O.R WOOMERA that Cpt Taylor in a TRADCA reported sighting an unidentified a/c in the Cape Elizabeth area. Time of sighting 1419 15Z, course northerly, estimated speed 250K, above cloud 8,500', showing a pinkish nav light.

(b) Action taken to check possible civil movements, or other movements associated with Totem. Signal sent by AOR Woomera to AOR(A) at 1421 42Z. Negative reply 1421 50Z.

2. Steps taken to have "A" range radar manned at 0700K.

3. No further action or information at this date.

4. Control Tower Woomera advised P.O.F that Range A radar reported what appeared to be an a/c on their screen, time 1012K, position 40 nautical miles N.E of Radar.

5. Beaufighter (F/L Knudsen) which was in the circuit was despatched to search the area at 1020K. Under radar guidance this a/c proceeded to the point & conducted a square search, with negative results

6. During this search, 1030K, Radar reported the position of the a/c as 60/70,000 yds E, from which all contact was quickly lost.

7. Filter room were instructed to send telegrams to appropriate stations near the area, to ascertain if any visual sightings were made. No reports that explain the unidentified a/c have been received.

8. Civil Aerodio Leigh Creek advised that the only civil movement recorded at or about the time of the radar sighting was a civil Dakota on the Adelaide-Darwin route. This a/c was on the ground at Leigh Creek at the time.

9. Action has been taken to have "A" Range radar manned from 0700 hours on D2 day.

7

G. Tuck. W/C
P.O.F.

S/R
P.O.F. } 1. Vide see T/T enclosed. Apparently refers to first sighting.

Jck 26/10.

1209/A/SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

31

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

SUBJECT :

6.

S/R. 1. With reference to our teletalk on "D1" Day, concerning R.C.O. reports of unidentified a/c movements, a precis of events and action taken is recorded below:-

(a) 0647K. 1421172 S/L Jewell MALALA reported to S/L Pickard A.O.R WOOMERA that Cpl Taylor on a TAADCH reported sighting an unidentified a/c in the Cape Elizabeth area. Time of sighting 1419152, course northerly, estimated speed 250K, above cloud 8,500', showing a pinkish nav light.

(b) Action taken to check possible civil movements, or other movements associated with Totem. Signal sent by AOR Woomera to AOR CH at 1421422. Negative reply at 1421502.

2 Steps taken to have "A" range radar manned at 0700K.

3. No further action or information at this date.

4. Control Tower Woomera advised P.O.F that Range A radar reported what appeared to be an a/c on their screen, time 1012K, position 40 nautical miles N.E of Radar.

5. Beaufighter (F/L Knudsen) which was in the circuit was despatched to search the area at 1020K. Under radar guidance this a/c proceeded to the point & conducted a square search, with negative results

6. During this search, 1030K, Radar reported the position of the a/c as 60/70,000 yds E, from which all contact was quickly lost.

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7

G. Tuck. W/C
P.O.F.

S/R
P.O.F. } Pls see T/T enclosed. Apparently refers to first sighting.

JH 26/10.

6A

30

T.G.42B.

Sch. C. 6322
8/1950

This Telegram has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations. The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

TELEGRAM

The date stamp indicates the date of reception and lodgment also, unless an earlier date is shown after the time of lodgment.

CHL. No.	Office of Origin.	No. of Words.	Time of Lodgment.	No.
	(COPIED) (4.55P) WOOMERA WEST	22/20	PR 4.45P	

TELEPHONED TELEGRAM - POST

LANGFORD

FILTER ROOM WOOMERA WEST

AIRCRAFT WAS HEARD IN OUR VICINITY APPROX 7.30 15/10/53 NO AIRCRAFT AT 10.30 15/10/53 ... MANAGER ANDAMOOKA

Bros. work reported only aircraft sighted was Beaufighter at 1030.
J.T.

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE

SA

29

RS 5643

TO CHIEF SUPT.

FROM ROCRAN

RESTRD

AN OBJECT HAS BEEN DETECTED BY RADAR THIS MORNING AT 1030
IN POSITION 60,000 TO 70,000 YARDS EAST OF POST R RANGE A.
IT WAS PROBABLY AN AIRCRAFT CIRCLING. SO FAR IT DOES NOT CHECK
WITH ANY MOVEMENTS KNOWN BY DCA OR US. WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING.

TOD RNGE 1330 15/10/53 EDC

TOR SALS " " MLG

PSO

4A.

28

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. ~~38~~.

AIRCRAFT ON PROHIBITED AREA

1. The nature of the experiments and trials on this Range require that strict security and safety precautions be observed, particularly in relation to aircraft flying within the boundaries of the Prohibited Area.

2. The possibility is ever present of unauthorised aircraft flying over this area.

3. All personnel are instructed to report any aircraft which appear to be in any way unscheduled, or unexpected, that is, flying at times and on routes not normally associated with the daily routine of the Range.

4. Reports should be made by telephone immediately to the Principal Officer Flying:-

Telephone - Tech. 173
Woomera 122

or, if not available -

Range Security Officer - Telephone - Tech. 71
Woomera 124.

5. Where possible the report should include -

(a) Type of aircraft.
(b) Colour or Markings.
(c) Estimated height, course and speed.
(d) Where sighted.
(e) Time sighted.

6. If any doubt exists, report immediately.

7. All personnel are requested to co-operate by reporting any aircraft about which the slightest doubt exists.

(A.G. PITHER)
Group Captain
Superintendent LRWE Range

~~4-8-72~~ 3-9-45.

Distribution:
Section Commanders and above

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

L. R. W. E.

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

27

SUBJECT:

5. Cont'd.

something sinister about the A/C. I should inform C/S of all occurrences, and if it were considered desirable a special intelligence report could be called for.

(Sgd) R.M.G. PORF.
1 Sep 53.

6.

POF.

Will you please draft a suitable order to cope with this problem.

(Sgd) A.G. PITHER. G/Capt.
Superintendent LRWE Range.
3 Sep 53.

NOTE OF ACTION.

File returned unactioned after discussion with S/R.

(Sgd) G. TUCK. S/Ldr.
P.O.F.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

L. R. W. E.

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

26

SUBJECT:

1.

PORF.

Please study Encl. 3A and let me know your reactions.

(Sgd) A.G. PITHER
Superintendent LRWE Range.
27 Aug 53.

2.

S/R.

It is impossible to make any reliable deductions from the reports as to what the objects might have been. Only one observer (Downwood) has given an estimate of the course followed, and it appears to be in very good agreement with the wind direction between 0 - 3000 ft. It all appears quite harmless.

I think that people observing such things should notify the Trials Officer, Senior Officer of the Range, etc., at once, and that I should then be informed, and failing myself, yourself, or thirdly POF. One of the first persons to be consulted would be the Met. Officer. If there is any real mystery or interest, or any apparent violation of regulations, as for example when unauthorised aircraft appeared, I think the C/S should be told without delay.

It may be a good idea to issue a Routine Order on the subject.

(Sgd) R.M.G. PORF.
1 Sep 53.

3.

PORF.

Will you please draw up a suitable Admin.Instruction on this subject.

(Sgd) A.G. PITHER. Sup.
3 Sep 53.

4.

PORF.

Please study enclosures on this file, and let me know what you think should be done on this problem of unidentified aircraft.

(Sgd) A.G. PITHER
Superintendent LRWE Range.

5.

S/R.

I think every opportunity should be taken to establish the identity of the aircraft. If successful, legal proceedings should be taken. If not there is little to be concerned about from the Establishment's point of view unless there are recurrences, or

17 3A

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

25

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

SUBJECT :

8/110/2 - WRA.

19th August, 1953.

Superintendent Range.

Herewith Report on objects reported as being Flying Saucers.

2. Reference paragraph 7 of the Report, advice has now been received from Salisbury that the Vinten Film was examined and showed nothing.

3. As discussed on 17th August, 1953, any future reports received will be referred immediately to you to permit investigation by technical personnel.

J. A. Maddern
Security Officer.
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

RESTRICTED

From the Trials Officer, Range "A", had scanned the sky with binoculars for approximately 20 minutes on the afternoon of 29th July but had seen nothing.

7. It was ascertained that during Trial Number 383 held on the morning of 29th July a round object had been mistaken for a bomb being released by Lincoln aircraft engaged in the trial and a series of photographs had been taken. These are normally despatched to Salisbury. Mr. R. Polkinghorne, O.I.S.C. advised S.O.O. to teletype Mr. Watson, P.O.B.B. to examine films of Trial 383 and ascertain if any objects appear on the negatives.

8. Deductions as to nature of objects.

Taking into consideration the following factors -

(a) No interference on radar screens, on range.

(b) No interference with electronic equipment.

(c) The fact that in most cases objects could only be seen through binoculars of 10X magnification.

(d) The apparent hight speed of the objects indicating possible low altitude.

(e) The small size of the objects.

it is believed that the objects seen were balls of thistle seeds and vegetation which, during certain periods of the year collect on the ranges and roll along the ground propelled by the wind. These balls of seeds sometimes are blown into the air and are carried along by air currents to considerable height.

In the absence of photographs or further information, and no samples of the objects being obtained on the day in question, it is proposed that investigation be postponed pending any further advice from Salisbury.

9. The above submitted for information.

Capt.

Security Officer Operations.

1C 3E

COPY ONLY.

WOOMERA.

30th July, 1953.

Sub-Inspector Hayes,
O.C. Peace Officer Guard,
WOOMERA.

Sir,

Re Object Sighted in Sky 29th July.

At approximately 1035 a.m. on 29th July I was on duty at Camera "B" Post watching trials in progress. As I was following line of flight my attention was drawn to a shiny object in sky.

I couldn't say how high or at what speed the object was, but I can say it was travelling towards "CH" from Camera "B" and I could see a marked acceleration when or approximately time store left 'plane.

(Signed) A. DOWNWARD.

C.P.O. 2651.

1A 2A

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

LONG RANGE WEAPONS ESTABLISHMENT

RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

SUBJECT : UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT.

6/121/1 - WRA.

20th August, 1953.

Superintendent Range.

Following two reports concerning aircraft sighted in the vicintity of Evettsfield on 29th and Range "A" on 30th July, an investigation into the incidents was commenced by this Branch (attached Report dated 30th July, 1953 refers).

2. The incident reported at Evettsfield appears to have been related to the movement of a Mines Department Survey Aircraft which was observed at least 40,000 yards South of Evettsfield and consequently outside the boundary of the Prohibited Area, e.g. South of the East-West Railway Line.

3. The incident reported from Range "A" has been carefully investigated with up to the present nothing but negative results.

4. The following sources of information have been checked:-

(a) The homesteads in the vicinity of the Range Area (See attached Report from Filter Room and telegram replies).

(b) The Chief Security Officer, Melbourne who contacted all R.A.A.F. Headquarters concerning the incident.

(c) Salisbury Security Branch who made inquiries at 24 Squadron, Mallala.

(d) The R.A.A.F. Provost Marshal concerning Flt./Lt. Whiteman's private Mustang aircraft based at Bankstown, New South Wales.

(e) The Principal Officer Flying, Woomera, S/Ldr. Tuck.

(f) X200 Site.

5. Forwarded for your information.

J.M. Madden
Security Officer.
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

32/5.

RESTRICTED 18 26.

Field Security Section,
L.R.W.E.R.

30 July, 1953.

Range Security Officer.

REPORT

CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT SIGHTED

ON 29TH AND 30TH JULY, 1953 IN VICINITY

OF TRIAL RANGES BY SECURITY OFFICER OPERATIONS.

INTRODUCTION.

1. Following two reports concerning unidentified aircraft sighted in vicinity of Evettsfield on 29th and Range "A" on 30th July a preliminary report on the investigation was made by the Security Officer Operations follows below -

2. Incident Number I at Evettsfield.

An unidentified aircraft was sighted by F/Lt. F. Barnes through binoculars at 1205 hours on 29th July on a bearing of 180 degrees while F/Lt. Barnes was at Evettsfield hangar. It was a considerable distance away and it was not possible to ascertain its type or number of engines. Radar at Evettsfield also recorded the aircraft. This matter was not reported to Security Branch at the time.

Inquiries made with Filter Room revealed that no aircraft belonging to L.R.W.E.R. were in the vicinity at the time.

3. Incident Number II at Range "A".

At 1010 hours an unidentified aircraft believed to be a Mustang was sighted from Post "CH" Air Ranges by several persons including the Trials Officer, (F/Lt. Banks), Security Officer Operations and Local Security Officer, Air Ranges. It appeared to be stunting over the centre line between Camera "B" and Kine "J". Its altitude was approximately 4,000 feet. It was also heard by persons who saw it. Radar on the range recorded its presence. The aircraft was stunting and did a roll, a dive and a loop. Inquiries made with the Control Tower, Woomera, A.R.D.U. and Control Tower, Evettsfield failed to identify it as an aircraft belonging to L.R.W.E.R. Further inquiries made with Air Control Officer, Parafield who controls movements of all aircraft from Adelaide to Woomera area also failed to reveal any information to identify the aircraft in question.

At the time the aircraft was sighted the Lincoln was up at height preparatory to making a live bomb run on the target at Range "A".

4. It is considered that the matter is of a serious nature and needs a full investigation in view of -

(a) the nature of the project at range extension.

(b) the fact that trials were in progress at Air Ranges.

5. It is recommended that -

(a) all personnel on ranges be advised to watch for a recurrence of this incident.

 RESTRICTED 19.

(b) That Peace Officers be instructed to look out for any strange aircraft while on duty on Ranges at all times.

(c) That A.R.D.U. have provision made for an aircraft to be made available to stand by in case of further incident in order that strange aircraft can be tracked and identified.

6. A signal has been sent to X200 requesting information dealing with the reported incident.

A.E. McKee Capt.

Security Officer Operations.

IC. 2C RESTRICTED

COPY ONLY.

18

REPORT FROM FILTER ROOM RE UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT.

Security Officer Operations.

Reference your discussion of the 31st July, 1953, concerning unidentified aircraft over Prohibited Area on 29th and 30th July.

2. The following homesteads were contacted with a nil report of any aircraft arriving or departing, replied telegrams attached.

Arcoona Station.
Roxby Downs.
Purple Downs.
Parakylia Station.
Billa Kaline.
Mt. Eba.
Mt. Vivian.
Bon Bon.
Wirraminna.
Coondambo.
Bulgannia.
Mulgathing.
Mabel Creek.
Broken Hill Air Radio.
Leigh Creek Air Radio.
Twins Outpost Radio.
Ingomar Outpost Radio.

3. A reply from Broken Hill Air Control reported that on 29th July at 1240 a Rapide Dragon Flying Doctor departred from Broken Hill for Marree and returned on the same day, having at no time entered the Prohibited Area.

4. A suggestion is that the area around Batchelor, Northern Territory, should be investigated, as this would be in the range of an aircraft fitted with spare tanks, and there are considerable good landing strips which are not used by Civil Airways.

(Signed) John LANGFORD.

Filter Room Operator.

3rd August, 1953.

RESTRICTED

17

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS.

Office of Origin.	No. of Words.	Time of Lodgment.
WIRRAMINNA.	12	1.50 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA.

NO KNOWLEDGE ANY AIRCRAFT ARRIVING OR DEPARTING HERE. - PICK.

BULGUNNIA. 12 8-46 a.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED 29TH OR 30TH. - RUSSELL.

THE TWINS OUTPOST RADIO. 15 4-10 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO PLANE LANDED OR DEPARTED ON 29TH OR 30TH. - MANAGER TWIN STATION.

MABEL CREEK OUTPOST RADIO. 17 10-22 a.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED HERE JULY 29TH OR 30TH. - NEILL MABEL CREEK.

KINGOONYA. 10 1-58 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PLANE. - STODART.

KINGOONYA. 12 3-52 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED ON DATES MENTIONED. - DAVIES.

INGOMAR OUTPOST RADIO. 15 10-6 a.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO KNOWLEDGE ANY AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED JULY 29TH OR 30TH. - MANAGER.

BILLAKALINA OUTPOST RADIO. 14 9-9 a.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED HERE 29TH OR 30TH. - COLIN GREENFIELD.

RESTRICTED

16

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS (Continued).

Office of Origin.	No. of Words.	Time of Lodgment.
WIRRAMINNA.	11	2-30 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED HERE. - J. JENKINS.

TARCOOLA.	14	2-45 p.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED OR SEEN IN VICINITY 29TH OR 30TH. - MORLEY.

RADIOGRAM. INGOMAR.	16	9-8 a.

FILTER ROOM, WOOMERA WEST.

NO KNOWLEDGE ANY AIRCRAFT LANDED OR DEPARTED JULY 29TH OR 30TH. - McDOUALL PEAK.

COPY OF TELETYPE MESSAGE.

MR 911
TO RSO WOOMERA
FROM CSO MELBOURNE
RESTD.

YOUR RM 852 NO RAAF ITEM OF THAT DESCRIPTION IN AREA ON 30TH JULY.

TOD MELB. 1013	4/8/53	SW
TOR RANGE 0943	"	EDC.

1A.

~~SECRET~~

ABC:KR

SECRET 15

5209 19 Security.

13 JAN [illegible] 3

002

Chief Superintendent

.... Enclosed herewith is various correspondence concerning several strange occurrences which have happened at Woomera.

The originals are being forwarded by the Security organisation to Melbourne, where it is understood the Director of Air Force Intelligence has been appointed Central Authority for Australia for enquiry into these occurrences.

Group Captain
Superintendent LRWE Range

1B. ~~SECRET~~

COPY

14

Security Branch,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA.

27th October, 1952.

The Security Officer,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA S.A.

FLYING SAUCER PHENOMENON OVER RANGE "G1"

In further inquiries made regarding the above subject Mr.G.Trefry, Meteorological Officer, has been interviewed. He states that such phenomenon has occurred before and has been known to affect radar. It is believed to be caused by ice packs at certain altitudes.

2. A summary of the weather for 8th October is given as follows "Fine, 5/8 high cloud 25,000 ft., warm temperature, 84F., strong northerly wind 25-30 m.p.h."

3. In view of the foregoing and in the absence of anything visible to the reporting Warrant Officer it is probably that the signals came from a cloud as described by Mr.Trefry.

(Sgd.) J.A.McCAHEY

Security Officer.

1C SECRET

13

Security Branch,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA.

24th October, 1952.

The Security Officer,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA S.A.

"FLYING SAUCER" PHENOMENON OVER RANGE "G1".

Resultant from a report submitted by W.O.II MILLWARD G.E. regarding an invisible phenomenon which registered on his radar station at Range "G1" on 8th October, 1952, this officer has conducted inquiries among other Radar Operators with a view to gaining further information. To date, however, nothing useful can be added to W.O. Millward's version (Appendix "A").

2. It will be observed from the time/height log in W.O. Millward's report that the phenomenon was locked to his radar beam for a period of at least twentyfour minutes which can in no way be compared with the alleged "flying saucer" phenomenon of previous reports. The height ranged from 1500 to 5600 feet during the time involved.

3. Inquiries made among other Radar Operators, particularly F/Sgt BIRKETT D., attached to Range "G" revealed that it is most probable that the snow cloud had some connection. However, the possibility of a neutron cloud is not ruled out and the fact that small portions were breaking away tend to show that whatever it was the radar was registering the target very efficiently on something other than ordinary snow.

4. As it is definite no object was visible there is nothing of security interest. The plan and report are submitted for record purposes.

(Sgd.) J.A.McCAHEY
Security Officer.

10. SECRET

12

Report Submitted by W.O.II MILLWARD

Date :- 8th October, 1952.

Red Line shows the course of the target.
Scale of map :- 10,000 ft - 1 inch.

At 1345 hours whilst searching for a Mustang on G1 a target was locked on to the above, the Shell Lagoon area. On looking through the telescope on radar dish (also visual tracker) no target could be seen (Radar Range 3000 yards).

The signal to noise ratio was at least 5 to 1 which is similar to that obtained from a large aircraft. At one time between 1345 hours and 1400 hours the target came within 1 mile distant and still no target was to be seen.

At 1405 hours I decided to plot the course of the target, this can be seen on the attached map.

At times during the movement of the target smaller targets seemed to detach themselves from the main target and drift away.

Time	Height
1405	3100
1406	2250
1407	1500
1408	1550
1410	1700
1412	2500
1412	3000
1413	3700
1414	3700
1415	4100
1416	4300
1417	4400
1419	5000
1420	5600
1421	5300
1424	4300
1424	4900
1426	3800
1427	5000
1428	4300
1429	4800

NOTE: At 0900 hours on 9th October, light snow fell at R2/Red Lake for a short period.

(Sgd.) G.E.MILLWARD WOII

I.F.

COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

11

INVESTIGATIONS GENERAL - FLYING SAUCERS

RSO/52/618

3rd October, 1952.

The State Security Officer,
Adelaide.

Attached hereto is a report submitted by Mr.J.A. McCahey who investigated reports that a strange object was seen at Woomera at about 2100 hours on 27th September, 1952.

2. The persons whose statements are attached are all reliable witnesses and it would appear that an object of cigar shape, whether man made or not, was observed.

3. Forwarded for information.

Security Officer,
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

Copy : Deputy Chief Security Officer, Melbourne.

16

COPY

10

Security Branch

L.R.W.E.Range,

Woomera.

2nd October, 1952.

The Range Security Officer,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA.

Subject: "FLYING SAUCER" OBSERVED OVER WOOMERA.

This officer reports investigation of information of an object alleged to be a "Flying Saucer" seen in the sky at about 2100 hours on Saturday, 27th September, 1952.

2. Statements have been taken from the following persons as a cross section of a reported number of people at Woomera who also observed the object:

2/45663 W/O2 HANLEY, E.J.V. new arrival to relieve
2/46902 W/O WALKER, A.F. who has been posted out from Details Issue Depot, Woomera, and due to depart on 29th September, 1952
Mr.Joseph AGER, Head Baker employed by Dept. of Supply and attached to D.I.D.
1/9043 Sgt.PHILLIPS, A. attached to D.I.D. Woomera.
Mrs.Lila Joy DEAN, Home Duties, 557 Woomera.

3. The firs four named above were at the Woomera West Theatre when Sgt.Phillips sighted the bright object in the sky. He drew the attention of W/O Hanley to it and he in turn nudged W/O Walker. In the meantime Phillips had informed Ager and all four were able to see the phenomenon before it was obscured by the projector tower after it had traversed the sky from a line to the right of the screen. This shows that the object was visible for several seconds as it traversed the sky on an even keel parallel with the earth.

4. Mrs.Dean was standing with her five-year-old son at the corner of the Junior Ranks Club on Central Avenue when the child drew her attention to a light. She thought he pointed to a motorcar light on the road near Woomera West in the distance but the boy corrected her and she saw the bright object as it travelled well above the horizon until it left her view over the horizon past the Phillips Ponds. Mrs.Dean stated that the time was about 2100 hours.

5. In each of these cases the persons concerned were quite sober and of responsible type therefore, no doubt exists regarding what they saw. This is further borne out by reports from other parts of South Australia examples of which are attached from "The Advertiser" Adelaide, under dates 29th, 30th Sept. and 1st October, 1952.

(Sgd.) J.A.McCAHEY

Assistant Security Officer.

1.H.

9

COPY

Statement of W/O2 2/45663, HANLEY E.J.V., D.I.D., Woomera, taken at 1850 hours 28th September, 1952, by J.A.McCahey, Assistant Security Officer.

I was one of a party of four D.I.D. personnel who attended the Woomera West Open Air Theatre on Saturday, 27th September. The others were Sgt/Maj.Walker and two others. I have just arrived up here myself. Sgt/Maj.Walker will give the other names.

Some time after the show started Sgt.Phillips, that's his name, nudged me on the arm and said "Look at this". I looked from my position on the left of the Projector towards the right of the screen and in the sky, well above the level of the fence round the theatre, I saw an illuminated object shaped like a cigar with a spurting light at the rear travelling from West to East in a horizontal way. It was travelling in an even keel and was observed until it was out of sight. As I saw the thing I then nudged W/O Walker and remarked "Look at this" at the same time pointing in the direction of the object. I would say that the object was visible to me for about five seconds. I did not hear any noise as the picture show may have drowned any.

Comparing the object with a shooting star I would say that it was definitely something other than a shooting star or anything from the heavens.

(Sgd.) E.J.V.HANLEY WO2

1.I.

COPY

Statement of W/O 2/46902 WALKER A.F., D.I.D., Woomera, made at 1910 hours, 28th September, 1952, and taken by J.A.McCahey, Assistant Security Officer, Woomera.

I was with W/O Hanley, Sgt.Phillips and Mr.Ager at the Woomera West Open Air Theatre on Saturday, 28th September.

At between 2045 and 2100 hours W/O Hanley nudged my arm and said "Look at the rocket". I looked directly right from my seat on the left front of the projector and saw the object and said "That is not a rocket". It was cigar shaped tapering off towards the back. It was lit up like a neon light with a haze around it. The colouring was whitish and the exhausts or flames at the back were yellowish or cream. I have no idea of the height but its size to me looked eighteen inches to two feet but comparing it with an aeroplane the size and height would be about the same as aircraft I have seen. From my position I would say the angle was 40 to 45 degrees. From the time I first saw the object until it went out of my sight I would say the time elapsed would be three seconds.

I have observed fast aircraft, meteorites and shooting stars. This object was travelling on an even steady keel faster than any aircraft I've seen but not as far as the falling star besides this object was travelling horizontally south-west.

(Sgd.) A.F.WALKER W/O

1.J

7

COPY

Statement of Mr.Joseph AGER, baker, employed by the Department of Supply and attached to D.I.D., Woomera, made at 1940 hours, 28th September, 1952, to J.A.McCahey, Assistant Security Officer.

I was with W/O's Walker, Hanley and Sgt.Arthur Phillips at the Woomera West Open Air Theatre.

We four were seated on seats back from the Exit Door on the left of the Projector. At about 2050 hours, the time was checked by Sgt.Phillips. Sgt.Phillips said to me "Look around to your right Joe, what do you think that is?" I looked and saw a peculiar object which I thought shouldn't be up here, it was travelling at such speed - faster than any of the jets up here. It was of a dark greyish colour and of airship shape. I thought that the lights being emitted from the stern were more yellow than the remainder. The object was travelling on an even keel at between four to five thousand feet. I guage this height from experience of flying. The direction of travel was s/south-west. It was in view to me for only two to three seconds and during that time it kept its definite course.

From my experience of aircraft of different types, meteorites and stars I have no hesitation in saying that this object was man made.

(Sgd.) Joseph AGER.

1K.

6

COPY

Statement of 1/9043 Sgt.PHILLIPS, A. attached to D.I.D., Woomera, taken at 2010 hours, 28th September, 1952, by J.A.McCahey, Assistant Security Officer, Woomera.

I accompanied W/O Hanley, Walker and Mr.Ager to the Woomera West Open Air Theatre on Saturday, 27th September, 1952.

At about 2050 hours we were seated on the left side of the theatre facing the screen and about third of the distance from the screen. My attention was drawn to a movement in the sky over the right hand corner of the theatre fence. I observed a cylindrical shaped object with what appeared to be two port holes with internal lighting. The whole had a lightish grey colour, the size appeared to the eye to be four to five feet. A Lincoln travelling at night at the same angle looks much bigger. It was moving on an even keel, horizontally from north-west to south-west, and at a height of about the height of the theatre fence doubled.

The object had moved some distance before I nudged W/O Hanley. I said "Do you see that", and pointed. I turned right and remarked to Mr.Ager, "See that".

The object was travelling fast - faster than any jet aircraft I have seen. It is difficult to estimate the speed especially at night.

I am not prepared to say whether this object was an earthly object, but it was a fuselage of some kind.

I have discussed this incident with Ager who shares room with me because we thought we had something which should be reported. I have today made a rough sketch setting out my impression of what I observed.

(Sgd.) A.PHILLIPS, Sgt.

11

COPY

Statement of Mrs.Lila Joy DEAN of House No.557, Woomera, made at 1630 hours, 29th September, 1952, and taken by J.A.McCahey, Assistant Security Officer, Woomera.

At about 2100 hours on Saturday 27th September, I was standing with my son five years old at the corner of the road by the Junior Ranks Club; my husband had gone down to the Peace Officers' Lounge to collect mail.

My son suddenly remarked "Look at that light" and pointed towards Woomera West. I saw a car light on the road by Woomera West and replied, "That is a motor-car". He said, "No, the light in the sky". I then observed a bright bluish white object travelling fast in the sky. I followed its movement from over in the direction of Woomera West until it went out of sight over the horizon past the Ponds. It was travelling much faster than any of the jet planes here and appeared to be travelling at about the same height as they usually fly. I could not discern any particular shape but thought the light was reflected off the object. I do not think it came from the heavens because it looked like a manufactured thing.

I told my husband when he returned and he said, "I wish I had seen it".

(Sgd.) L.J.DEAN

COPY 1.M

4

UNCLASSIFIED

INVESTIGATIONS GENERAL - ALLEGED OBSERVATION OF "FLYING SAUCER".

RSO/52/336

13th June, 1952.

The State Security Officer,
Adelaide.

Attached hereto are copies of reports concerning a strange object which was reported to have been seen at approximately 0345 hours on Monday, 28th April, 1952.

2. The delay in the submission of the report was brought about by the fact that the witnesses could not be contacted earlier.

3. P.O.1 Newall is considered to be reliable.

(Sgd.) A.B.CARTER

Security Officer,
Security Branch, WOOMERA.

Copy : Deputy Chief Security Officer, Melbourne.
Security Officer, Salisbury.

1.N.

COPY

3

Security Branch,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA.

13th June, 1952.

The Security Officer,
L.R.W.E.Range,
WOOMERA S.A.

"FLYING SAUCER" - ALLEGED OBSERVATION OF

This officer reports on continued investigation of unusual object observed in the sky by Peace Officer First Class Newell G.M. on 29th April, 1952 (See Appendix "A").

2. Several bus drivers were interviewed before the reporting officer identified the other witnessing person as Mr.Norman Henry GREGORY, Driver, Department of Works & Housing, Koolymilka, Pass No. 6147. He stated that he was at Woomera West Siding on the morning of 28th April and whilst awaiting arrival of the Budd Car sat in a Vanguard with Mr.W.H.Tomlinson. He said a Peace Officer was also in the vicinity. About three-quarters hour prior to the arrival of the Budd Car he observed an exceedingly bright object passing along the sky from South-east to West. He said he had never seen anything like this object before and compared it with a verey-light but ruled that such could not be the case because of its great height, distance of travel and the speed which was faster but not nearly as fast as the usual shooting star. Remarks were passed between Tomlinson, possibly the Peace Officer and himself whilst the object was in flight.

3. Mr.William TOMLINSON, employed by WILCKENS and BURNSIDE, Woomera, Pass No.4870, has been interviewed. He corroborates the information of P.O.1 Newell and Mr.Gregory. He stated that he looked through the windscreen of his car and observed the object travel horizontally across the sky from approximately South to West. It headed slowly towards earth. It was much larger than anything he had ever seen in the sky but did not move so fast as a falling star. It was not nearly so far off yet, probably, could have fallen to earth outside Australia. Asked by this officer if Mr.Tomlinson thought the object could have been manufactured on earth he said "Definitely not".

4. Mr.George Trefrey, Meteorlogical Officer was interviewed and the facts as obtained given with a request for observation on the subject Mr.Trefrey intimated that it was a peculiar thing that no Met. people ever observe "flying saucers". He checked his records and found that

COPY T.O.

there was some light cloud known as Stratus-Cumulus at about 2500-3000 feet moving at about 18 knots. There was a new moon which would be high in the sky at about 0330 hours, 28th April. He was sceptical of the phenomenon observed and put forward a possible answer saying that under circumstances with cloud similar to that on the occasion the powerful headlights of a moving car could be reflected in the cloud.

5. P.O.1 Newall was interviewed regarding the possibility of the object being a reflection of car lights turning a corner. He is definite that the object was in the sky because he saw it pass behind the cloud as well as in the clear starry sky.

6. In conclusion this officer is satisfied an object, most likely a meteor, was definitely observed by the three persons Newall, Gregory and Tomlinson and, although the time differs, is similar to an object observed by a milkman in an Adelaide suburb on the same morning.

(Sgd.) J.A.McCAHEY

Security Officer Material.

I.P.

1

COPY

Peace Officer Guard,
Woomera Detachment,
WOOMERA S.A.

8th May, 1952.

Range Security Officer,
WOOMERA.

Subject : - Supposed "FLYING SAUCER" - Seen at Woomera West.

Sir,

In reference to the above subject, I wish to report that at approximately 0345 hours on the morning of Monday 28th April, 1952, while waiting at Woomera West for the arrival of the BUDD car, I saw a very bright light in the sky. It was approximately 45 degrees above the horizon, in a South Easterly direction from my position when I first noticed it, and moving in a West North Westerly direction, keeping parallel to the ground. The sky was overcast and it had been raining earlier in the morning, but the light lit up the clouds, like that of a full moon, also the countryside was reflected by its brilliance. The light was visible through breaks in the clouds several times, and was the same color as a Meteor, and appeared to be the size of 1/3 of a full moon, and it was a good 15 seconds from the time I first noticed it until it disappeared in the distance.

A Bus driver remarked that "They are firing Rockets early this morning" and I remarked "That it was not a Rocket".

(Sgd.) G.M.NEWALL

No.2598 P.O.1