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MINUTE SHEET

Reference

So. Intell *AG*

I have read Encl 1A with interest. Forward a
copy to AFHQ for information please.

15/7/52

Meadham

8760

**INSTRUCTIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN THE COMPILATION AND
USE OF FILES.**

1. When opening a new file, care must be taken to see that a file dealing with the subject is not already in existence and covers should be completed with details for which space is provided.
2. Cord laces only must be used to hold papers in file cover.
3. Minute Sheets to be attached to the left-hand inside cover and enclosures to the right-hand side.
4. Minute Sheets are to be used for correspondence within the Department. Correspondence from and to outside bodies is to appear as an enclosure and a brief summary of every enclosure is to be included in the minute which gives the enclosure its number and makes it part of the file. If the enclosure is in one part, its number will be followed by the letter "A," subsequent parts being lettered "B," "C," "D," etc.
5. Minute number one is to be on the printed side of the Minute Sheet and is to face the cover on the minute side of the file.
6. Correspondence on subjects on which a file already exists must not be made on loose Minute Sheets—the file must be obtained and action taken thereon.
7. Minutes must be added in numerical order and both sides of the Minute Sheets are to be used.
8. Files must not be passed between Branches by hand without transit slips.
9. Notes of action taken may be entered on the Minute Sheets, otherwise unaddressed minutes will not be made.
10. Minutes may be noted by Officers placing their initials over the reference to them at the minute head and such words as "agree" and "concur" may be used to obviate separate minutes by individual addressees. An Officer's initials so placed will indicate concurrence with the minute.
11. In Column 1 on the cover is to be indicated the persons for whom minutes or enclosures are intended, the number of that minute or enclosure and the date it is passed out from the last person noting (or otherwise using) the file being indicated in columns 2 and 3, respectively.
12. When the person indicated in column 1 has taken the necessary action on the file, he (or his representative) will draw a line through the reference to him in columns 1, 2 and 3 on the cover and will place his initials in column 4, indicating that the necessary action has been taken. He will then indicate on the next line to whom the file is to pass—completing columns 2 and 3.

B.0706.

CONFIDENTIAL

2A

5/1/27 (2A)

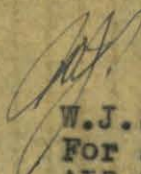
Headquarters, Eastern Area
Penrith 1.W. N.S.W.

16th July, 1952.

Secretary
Air Board
Victoria Barracks
St.Kilda Road
Melbourne S.C.1

REPORT ON UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS
ON 3RD MAY 1952

1. On the 3rd May, 1952, Sydney Newspapers featured prominently "Flying Saucer" reports. Attached hereto for information is a copy of a report prepared as a result of interviews with the persons concerned.


W.J. SADLER, Flight Lieutenant
For Air Vice Marshal
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING EASTERN AREA

Encl.

CONFIDENTIAL 1A

From : Flight Lieutenant W.J. Sadler (022070) Area Intelligence Officer and Squadron Leader M.C. Murray (011320) A.P.M.

To : Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters, Eastern Area.

Date : 8th May, 1952.

Ref : 5/1/27 (1A)

REPORT ON UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS ON 3RD MAY, 1952

1. It is desired to advise that on 4th May, 1952, Wing Commander I.L. Campbell requested that the Staff Officer Intelligence and the Assistant Provost Marshal jointly investigate newspaper reports on unusual sightings on 3rd May, 1952.
2. Kenneth John Shipley, P.M.G. employee, of No.37 Victoria Street, Burwood, was interviewed and he said "At about 6-10 a.m. on 3rd May I was sitting in a P.M.G. truck outside the Enfield Post Office with Reg. Edwards (P.M.G. driver) and William Anderson (P.M.G. employee) when Edwards drew my attention to a bright light moving across the sky. We all watched it for a few seconds from the truck, then we all scrambled out of the truck and stood in the street. Once while we were watching it, it disappeared behind clouds but I saw it again and pointed it out to the others. Finally it disappeared behind a cloud and we did not see it again."
3. When asked to describe the object Shipley said "It looked like a number (he thought six or seven) of circular lights in a straight line. The colour of the lights was similar to street lighting, there was no noise, no apparent shape. The height seemed to be similar to the height of aircraft I have seen flying around Sydney but the speed was definitely faster although I don't think it was twice as fast. The truck was facing south and the lights seemed to pass in front of the truck, moving eastward. The lights followed a straight path and did not climb or descend and I did not see any trail or vapour behind the lights." When asked how he knew the time Shipley said "Reg. Edwards said 'what is the time'? I was the only one with a watch which I looked at and said ten past six."
4. Reginald Edwards, P.M.G. transport driver, of Hawthorne Parade, Haberfield, was interviewed and said "On Saturday, 3rd May I was sitting in a P.M.G. truck in Emu Street, outside the Enfield Post Office with Ken Shipley and Bill Anderson, who are also P.M.G. employees. I leaned forward in the cabin to press the starter button and saw some bright lights moving across the sky. I said to the others 'Look at this' and we all watched for a few seconds, then got out of the truck and stood in the street for a few more seconds watching. The lights went behind a cloud and we lost them. Shipley saw them reappear and we watched them until they went behind a cloud and we did not see them again. The lights reminded me of a ship at sea at night with just the lights visible but no superstructure. They travelled in a straight line, did not rise or fall and seemed to be moving from east to west. I thought the speed may have been about 500 miles per hour. I later rang the Sydney Morning Herald and told them my story." When asked how large the lights were, in comparison with the street lights which were on at the time of the interview, Edwards pointed out an overhead street light about 300 yards away and said the lights he had seen were approximately the same size and colour. The light indicated by Edwards was the normal yellow street lighting.

5. Mr Bruce McKenzie, ex-R.A.A.F. officer, who is now an aircraft captain employed by East-West Airlines, was interviewed and he said "At about 0610 hours on 3rd May I was in a taxi with my First Officer, John Henry, and the aircraft hostess. When the taxi was about 400 yards north of the over-bridge which crosses Old Botany Road, Mascot, I sighted three large lights with a string of smaller lights behind them in the south west. They travelled rapidly, straight and level, in an easterly direction and finally disappeared behind a cloud bank. The three lights in front were very intense and white, and the smaller lights less intense and more of a yellow colour. The lights appeared to be visible for approximately five to ten seconds. At the time of the sighting I thought it was probably a jet aircraft."
6. Mr John Henry, an ex-R.A.A.F. Lancaster pilot, who is now a first officer with East-West Airlines, said "At approximately 0610 hours on 3rd May I was in a taxi with Bruce McKenzie and an airline hostess travelling south to Mascot, when I sighted some moving lights in the south west. The lights moved across to the east and disappeared. The lights gave me the first impression on sunlight shining on a line of wires, but I realised this was not the case and the sun had not risen and the street lights were off. The lights reminded me of a V.1 with a V.2 exhaust. I have seen both V.1's and V.2's whilst overseas in England."
7. Captain L.P. Lee, an ex-R.A.A.F. pilot and now a pilot employed by T.A.A. said "At about 0600 hours on 3rd May I was driving my car along the Hume Highway approximately twelve to fifteen miles from Mittagong on the Sydney side. I sighted an intense white light, round like a ball, at an elevation of 30° above the horizon. The light moved across the sky from south west to east and as it moved across it appeared to lose intensity and a string of smaller lights, like a tail, appeared to break away from the main body. This gave a blunt nosed cigar shape to the light. I watched the object for about 60 seconds and it seemed to maintain a straight and level course to the east until it disappeared. I stopped the car and discussed the matter with Mr Denis Bolton, also of T.A.A., who was following me in another car. We both dismissed the light as a large meteorite which finally broke up."
8. Mr M.J. Judge, a nerve specialist, No. 260 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, said "At approximately 0610 hours on 3rd May I was driving my car on Strathfield Boulevard from Strathfield to Enfield on my way to the Bankstown aerodrome. I am an instructor with the Kingsford Smith Air Services. I observed a bright cigar-shaped object with a cluster of lights at the forward end and a similar cluster at the rear end. I saw a grey mass connecting the two clusters of lights and I estimated the height to be approximately 5,000 feet and the speed 500-600 miles per hour. The object moved from west to east, appeared to descend slightly and disappeared from my view behind a cloud. On my arrival at Bankstown I told Mr William Burns, who is also an instructor at the club, of my sighting. Mr Burns told me that what I had seen was a Constellation aircraft arriving ahead of schedule. I estimated the time of sighting at 0610 as I had just previously heard 0608 given over the radio. I have since received a telephone call from another ex-R.A.A.F. pilot, Mr Thomas King, who told me he had also seen the object at the same time".

9. Mr Thomas King, an employee of the Bank of New South Wales, Hunter Street, Sydney, was interviewed. Mr King is an ex-R.A.A.F. officer and is at present flying at Bankstown as an R.A.A.F. reservist. He said "I was driving my car along Lane Cove Rd. Ryde, proceeding in a southwesterly direction when I saw a bright light, like a particularly bright star, directly ahead at an elevation of 35° . The light was a blue white colour. The light first appeared to be stationary and then seemed to emit a trail or tail of light or sparks and then moved rapidly to the south east, passing from my sight behind a cloud. I suppose I watched it for about ten seconds but I did not see any particular shape nor could I estimate the speed."

10. Mr William Robert Burns, Aircraft Accident Inspector, employed by Qantas Empire Airways, Mascot, said "At about 0640 hours on 3rd May I was driving to Bankstown aerodrome and my attention was drawn to an aircraft in the south west, by my companion Mr Charles Fisher, Qantas Operations Officer. He said 'The Constellation is a bit early this morning'. I glanced up and saw what appeared to be the sun shining on the polished surface of an aircraft fuselage. I said 'It is a bit off the Connie's course, it is probably a D.C.4'. The object appeared to be flying on a straight course in the direction of Mascot. It seemed to be about 3,000-4,000 feet above the ground travelling at a normal aircraft speed. I did not follow its flight and merely dismissed it as an aircraft approaching Mascot. Subsequently I was informed that no aircraft arrived at Mascot at or about that time."

11. Mr Charles Fisher, Qantas Airways Operations Officer, said "At about 0610 hours on 3rd May I observed what I thought was a Constellation aircraft to the south west. I saw what appeared to be the sun shining on the polished surface of an aircraft and I thought I saw a fin, shaped similar to the fin of a Constellation. I said to Mr Burns 'There is a Constellation coming in, he is a bit early today'. Burns said 'It is a bit off track, it is too far south for the Constellation, it may be a D.C.4'. I was subsequently told that the Constellation I expected to see did not arrive at Mascot until about 0710 hours."

12. Mr James Edwards, clerk, of No.3 Towradgi Road, Towradgi, (between Bulli and Wollongong) said "At about ten past six on the morning of 3rd May I was walking from my home in Towradgi Road towards Prince's Highway. I saw a cluster of lights at an elevation of about 30° to 40° in the south west, travelling east. The colour of the light was yellow, similar to street lights. The cluster appeared to emit a discharge and break up slightly leaving a trail of light. The speed of movement seemed to be about half the speed of a falling star. The lights appeared to cross the coastline due south of my position and disappeared behind a cloud out to sea. I could not see any shape or size."

13. Mr Kelvin Ellis, No.39 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, said "I was riding a motor cycle southbound along the Hume Highway just on the Sydney side of Bargo, when I observed a blue-white light between the trees. It appeared to be oval shaped, tapering to a point at the rear and seemed to be travelling north-east. I stopped the motor cycle and with my companion, Miss Roma Crittendon, watched the light disappear behind some trees. I estimated the time to be a little after six a.m. by the distance I had travelled and the fact that I had turned off my headlamp and was driving with the park light on. The light appeared to travel in a straight line and left a trail of sparks approximately the same length as the main body but the light of the trail was less brilliant".

14. Miss Roma Crittendon, No. 55 Weston Street, Harris Park, said "I was travelling on a motor cycle with Kelvin Ellis of Westmead on the morning of the 3rd May. Just before full daylight I saw a blue-white light, oval in shape, between the trees with a trail of light with a lesser brilliance behind it. I watched it for a short time until I lost sight of it behind some trees. It appeared to be travelling in a straight line towards the north east."

15. Captain C.J. Ireland "A" Brachn, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, was interviewed on this matter. He said "I was travelling by car on the Prince's Highway near Heathcote at approximately 0600-0610 hours on 3rd May when I saw an object cross from the south west to the east at an elevation of about 30°. The object was brilliantly lighted. The front portion was an intense white with a blue tint and a string of following lights were yellow and flickering. I watched the object for approximately 45 seconds during which time it travelled through approximately 60° commencing in the south west and finally disappearing behind a large thunder-head cloud over the sea. When I first sighted the object I was driving at about 50 m.p.h. I slowed down and with my fist clenched and arm outstretched I covered the object with my fist. At the time of sighting I thought the object was a jet aircraft approximately over Kiama (60 miles south). The object appeared to be about double the length of a Convair aircraft at three miles."

16. Mr Arthur William Fidler, 306 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction, ex-R.A.A.F. pilot said "At about 0610 hours I was standing on the first tee at the Eastlakes golf course waiting to hit off at 0615 hours. I was looking to the south and saw an object with a fuselage shape brightly lit, in the south west. The light was white and the elevation about 40° degrees. I saw the object for about four or five seconds. The light appeared less intense at the rear of the object and it maintained a straight easterly course finally disappearing into a bank of cumulus cloud. I formed the impression that it was a fighter type of aircraft and not a bomber type."

17. Mr G. McKenzie, 66 Linda Street, Belfield, and a P.M.G. employee, said "Shortly after 6 a.m. on 3rd May I was standing at the back door of the house looking to the south. I saw a large white light move across the sky and it appeared to be round in shape. It did not have any tail or trail and was travelling at an elevation of approximately 30° to 40°. It finally disappeared behind a cloud."

18. Mr S.H. Hill, Hillcrest Ave. Hurstville, said "At about 6 a.m. or 6.15 a.m. on 3rd May whilst parked on the roadside near Minnamurra on the south coast, my companion Les Long drew my attention to a large lighted object in the sky south of where we were standing. It appeared to be a large airship, brightly lighted and yellow in colour. I estimate it would be about 200 feet long. When I first saw it I thought it would be about over Berry and travelling from the west to the east. It crossed the coast and disappeared out to sea. I did not hear any noise."

19. Mr Leslie Long, 98 Coogee Bay Road, Coogee, said "I was with Stan Hill near Minnamurra on 3rd May. I was standing at the side of the truck facing south when I saw what I took to be a large airship coming from the west and travelling in an easterly direction. I drew Stan's attention to it and we both watched it for a few seconds until it disappeared out to sea. It was brightly lighted and I formed the opinion that it was an airship."

20. Dr A.R. Hogg, Assistant Commonwealth Meteorologist, was interviewed at Mt. Stromlo, A.C.T. Dr Hogg said that no observations of the sightings reported in the newspapers, had been made on 3rd May at Mt. Stromlo. In explanation of the sightings he said that on or about May 6th showers of radiants from meteors may be seen just before sunrise. These showers occur annually and may be expected over a period of several days early in May. Dr Hogg explained that meteors and meteorites become visible when entering the earth's atmosphere, which extends to approximately sixty (60) kilometres above the earth's surface.

21. It will be noted that in every case the reported sighting occurred in the southern sky shortly after 0600 hours, the direction of movement being approximately west to east. Although it has not been possible to definitely fix the exact time each sighting was made, it is considered that all sightings were made at the same time, this time being approximately 0610 hours on 3rd May and therefore it is assumed that all persons reported the same sighting.

22. Where an impression of distance has been formed in most cases the observer was of the opinion that the lights or objects were within a ten mile radius, and where an estimate of elevation has been made the consensus of opinion is between 30° and 40°. Although various impressions of colours and sizes of lights were given, it is considered that the variations in reports were in most cases due to the short length of time the light was seen.

23. The investigating officers formed the following opinion:

- (a) The sighting was of a light, not of an object.
- (b) The light was of a considerable distance (not less than sixty miles) from the earth's surface.
- (c) The light was probably caused by a meteor or similar body.

In regard to the above opinions/although reports stated that an object had been seen, it is considered that the observers in these cases may have been influenced by a previous reading of reports in newspapers and magazines. The distance factor is borne out by the fact that all observers were facing the southern sky and whilst all had the opinion that the light was merely a few miles away, the most southerly sighting at Minnamurra (see paras 18 and 19) was approximately fifty (50) south of the most northerly sighting. It will also be noted that the observer in para 12 gave the elevation as between 30° and 40°. This observer was some thirty (30) miles south of Sydney which further supports the opinion of great distance, there being little change of elevation although the observer is thirty miles closer to the light. Furthermore, newspaper reports of sightings in Victoria at the same time, which were not investigated, support the opinion that the lights or objects were a considerable distance from the earth's surface.

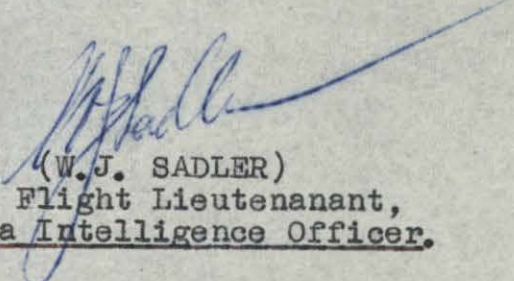
24. In support of the meteor theory many observers gave their impressions as a large light or lights, followed by smaller lights. The investigating officers are of the opinion that this impression could be given by the break up of a large meteor.

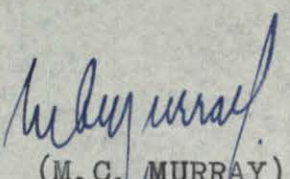
25. Recommendations:

It is recommended that any future investigations as a result of newspaper reports be conducted as follows:

- (a) Copies of all leading State and Interstate daily newspapers be obtained covering the period of the reports.
- (b) The Commonwealth Meteorologist be contacted for an opinion as to reports and sightings made by official observers.
- (c) Individual interviews then be undertaken if deemed necessary.

26. Attached are copies of various reports which appeared in Sydney newspapers.


(W.J. SADLER)
Flight Lieutenant,
Area Intelligence Officer.


(M.C. MURRAY)
Squadron Leader,
Assistant Provost Marshal.

SEVEN MEN REPORT SEEING A "FLYING SAUCER"

Seven men reported seeing a "flying saucer" over the Sydney area and at Parkes, 180 miles by air west of Sydney, yesterday.

They said it was a cigar-shaped object, well lit, which flew silently and very fast.

R.A.A.F. and Civil Aviation officials and meteorologists at the Sydney Weather Bureau could not give an explanation.

The "flying saucer" was reported over:—

PARKES at 6 a.m. (by one man);

ENFIELD, western Sydney suburb, eight miles from the city, at 6.10 a.m. (by three men);

BELFIELD, adjacent to Enfield, at 6.10 a.m. (by one man);

BEROWRA, seven miles north of Hornsby, at 6.17 a.m. (by two men).

PARKES:

"White Object"

Mr. L. Bailey, of the Parkes radio station 2PK, said he saw a white object, flat at one end and pointed at the other, flying over the town at 6 a.m.

It was about 4,000 feet up and travelling at 450 miles an hour.

Mr. Bailey said he was on his way to conduct the station's breakfast session. He watched the "saucer" for at least two minutes until it disappeared into cloud. It travelled silently.

BELFIELD:

Fast And High

Mr. G. McKenzie, of Linda Street, Belfield, said he was on his way to work about 6.10 a.m. when he saw a "flying saucer."

"I thought I was seeing things and could hardly believe my eyes but the object passed overhead at about 500 miles an hour and travelling at around 25,000 feet," he said.

ENFIELD: "Like Ship At Sea"

Three P.M.G. employees said they were on their way to work at Enfield at 6.10 a.m. when they saw an object which appeared to have many lighted windows.

The men are:—Reg Edwards, of Hawthorn Parade, Haberfield; William Anderson, of George Street, Enfield; and Ken Shippley, of Victoria Road, Burwood.

Edwards, who acted as spokesman for the three, said: "We were in my truck outside the Enfield post-office when we saw the 'flying saucer.'"

"It was well to the north of Enfield and travelling north to south.

"It took us a couple of seconds to realise we weren't dreaming.

"We then dashed from the truck to get a better view.

"It was a long thing like an airship or a submarine, and all lit up like a liner at sea.

MADE NO SOUND

"It was at least three or four times larger than a four-engined Skymaster, it made no sound as it flew, and travelled at about 500 miles an hour.

"One thing we were all convinced about, it was definitely not a meteor or any kind of star.

"It travelled across the sky as straight as a gun barrel and appeared to be on a fixed course.

"We saw it for at least a full minute, and ran to the corner of the street to watch

Jay morning and no one will ever convince us we didn't see the 'saucer.'"

BEROWRA:

"Due South"

Keith Holmes, 19, dairy-farmer, of Turner Road, Berowra, and Gordon Ross, 21, university student, of Crowley Road, Berowra, said the object they saw appeared over Berowra at 6.17 a.m. It was travelling due south at a high speed.

It was well lit and they could see sparks coming from a type of exhaust.

OFFICIALS:

No Known Plane

Officials in the operations



MR. R. EDWARDS

it finally disappear into a bank of clouds.

"I used to think stories about flying saucers were fairy tales but now the three of us are convinced they really do exist.

"We could even see the exhausts at the back of the 'saucer' which looked like jets.

"When you see things like this it kind of makes you wonder how long we all have to live.

"None of us were suffering from hang-overs yesterday.

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Sunday May 4th. 1952.

"Flying saucer" seen in Sydney

Eleven people in Sydney and others at Berowra and Parkes yesterday claimed that they saw a "flying saucer."

All of them said they saw the saucer soon after 6 a.m.

One of them, Mr. M. T. Judge, of Chatswood, an ex-Air Force instructor, is an instructor at the Kingsford Smith Aero Club, Bankstown.

"I was in the Boulevard, Strathfield, when I saw the object 4000 to 5000 feet up, between Bankstown and Mascot.

"It appeared to have no wings, was cigar-shaped, many times the size of an aeroplane, and had two sets of very bright lights at each end.

"The object flew into a cloud and disappeared.

"When I saw it the time was 6.9 a.m."

"Blue trail"

Mr. Alan Humphries, 37, of Strathfield, and Neil Hedges, 17, of Auburn, saw the "saucer" when they were delivering ice in Auburn.

"At eight minutes past six we saw a very bright object coming towards Sydney from the south-west," Mr. Humphries said.

"It was shaped like a cigar, had two brilliant white lights in front, and left behind a blue trail.

"It was much bigger than any plane I've seen."

A Weather Bureau official said last night that a Bankstown man had reported seeing a huge object over Sydney early yesterday.

An East-West Airlines pilot and first officer told Mascot airport officials that they saw the "saucer" while travelling to the aerodrome in a taxi.

They said the taxi-driver also saw it.

Three P.M.G. men said they saw the "saucer" at 6.10 a.m. when they were going to work.

They are William Anderson, of George Street, Enfield, Reg Edwards, of Hawthorn Parade, Haberfield, and Ken Shippley, of Victoria Road, Burwood.

Mascot airport officials said that no aircraft was known to be in the area at the time of the reports.

Weather Bureau officials said that no meteorological balloons were in the area.

N.S.W. flying saucers mystery

NOT PLANES OR ROCKETS

New reports of "flying saucers" and "flying cigars" from Sydney, Leura and Kiama yesterday threw no new light on the mystery.

But the R.A.A.F. had no jet aircraft in the air at dawn on Saturday, when the "saucers" were seen.

View of scientists

Experts said the "cigars" definitely were not rocket projectiles being tested.

Scientists said they would bet "hundreds to one" that the "flying cigars" were not man-made.

On Saturday 11 people in Sydney, Berowra, and Parkes reported seeing a cigar-shaped object in the sky.

They estimated its height at from 4000 to 25,000 feet, and its speed at hundreds of miles an hour.

New reports yesterday were:

Mr. S. H. Hill, of Hillcrest Avenue, Hurstville: "I was at Minnemurra, three miles north of Kiama, South Coast, when I saw a torpedo-like shape at 6.5 a.m. to 6.10 a.m. on

and was travelling towards the sea.

"Mr. Les Long, of Randwick, and I watched it for 30 seconds."

Mr. R. Pearson, of Winston Street, Leura, said he saw the object travelling silently from the west soon after 6 a.m.

He described it as "a string of lights moving very fast."

Weather Bureau officers ruled out the possibility of the object being a meteorological balloon.

They said that weather officers at Mascot, Canberra, Wagga, and Jervis Bay released small balloons at 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. daily.

At Rathmines officers released bigger balloons at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

They said that the chance

WEDNESDAY, 14th May, 1952

Applications close

Application forms are obtainable from and returnable to the Commonwealth Public Service Inspector, 7th Floor, Phillip House, 119 Phillip Street, SYDNEY, NSW 5701.

Male British subjects, 17 years 11 months to 50 years 6 months are eligible to apply.
Commencing salaries (subject to cost of living variations) are at 18 years, £360 per annum; at 19, £432; at 20, £486; at 21, £514 rising to £746.
Three weeks annual holidays on full pay—sick leave on a liberal scale—superannuation benefits—6 months furlough after 20 years satisfactory service.

For appointment as Mail Officer, Refer to Gazette No. 29 of 17th April, 1952.)
porary employees of the Mail Branch should apply for Examination No. 3918 for appointment as Mail Officer. Refer to Gazette No. 29 of 17th April, 1952.)

Astronomer Says "Saucer" May Be Meteor

The director of the Riverview Observatory, Father D. O'Connell, said last night the "flying saucer" which people reported they had seen early on Saturday was probably a bright meteor.

Seven men—one in Parkes and six in the Sydney area—said on Saturday that they saw the "saucer" about 6 a.m.

They said it was a cigar-shaped object, well lit, which flew silently and fast.

Last night the "Herald" received telephone calls about every quarter of an hour reporting "flying saucers."

Reports of "flying saucers" also came from north-eastern Victoria and from Adelaide.

Father O'Connell said last night: "The accounts given by people when they see something unusual are normally a little confused."

"The descriptions which were given, however, had nothing that would be inconsistent with the theory that the men had seen a meteor."

"Of course, a meteor would be travelling at a speed closer to 100,000 miles an hour than to 450, and would be far, far higher than these people estimated."

"But to the untrained eye, under certain conditions, it might well appear to be quite close and moving more slowly."

Father O'Connell said the meteor would not have been seen at any observatory, because nobody would be watching at 6 a.m.

SOUTHERN REPORTS

Mr. Kelvin Ellis, of Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, and his fiancée, Miss Roma Crittenden, of Weston Street, Harris Park, said they saw the "flying saucer" over Bargo, in southern N.S.W., while they were travelling towards Sydney on a motor cycle about 6 a.m. on Saturday.

They said its description was similar to reports published in "The Sunday Herald" yesterday.

Mr. Ellis said a car load of people passing through Bargo also saw the "flying saucer." He spoke to the motorists about it.

Mr. J. Carmody, interstate truck driver, of Station Street, Wentworthville, said he and his wife saw the "flying saucer" while they were driving through Benalla, in northern Victoria, at 3.30 a.m. on Saturday.

At Wangaratta, in north-eastern Victoria, Mr. Bob Luke, railway signalman, said yesterday he saw "an object like a tremendous

rocket" cross the sky to the east of Wangaratta at 6.10 a.m. on Saturday.

"A guard named McInerney saw it too, from the window of his van, as his train was leaving Benalla," he said.

"It was too big to be an ordinary rocket, and too slow to be a meteor."

FROM THE SEA

Mr. G. Preston, of Malabar Road, Malabar, said he saw a "flying saucer" in Sydney at 8.20 last night.

He said he saw the object for about three minutes as it was coming in from the sea at a great height.

DISC REPORTED IN S.A.

ADELAIDE, Sunday.—Mr. R. J. Skinkfield, an engineering student, of St. Peters, said to-day he had seen a small white disc over the city moving relatively fast towards the south about 12.15 p.m.

He said it moved in a straight line a long way from a high-flying plane, then disappeared over the rooftops.

R.A.A.F. officials said later the plane was making weather observations and the reported object had no connection with it.

LATE NEWS

Scientists Say "Saucer" Was A Meteor

Scientists in N.S.W., Canberra and Victoria say that the "flying saucer" seen by more than a dozen people in N.S.W. and Victoria on Saturday morning was a meteor.

IN SYDNEY, the Deputy Director of the Meteorological Bureau, Mr. J. Hogan, particularly commended a report sent to him by Mr. J. Edwards, of Towradgi, near Wollongong, as showing signs of careful observation.

Mr. Edwards said: "At approximately 6.10 a.m. on Saturday I saw an object in the sky from my home.

"It had the appearance of a comet or meteor that had broken up into three or four smaller pieces, together with an accompanying amount of sparks which were probably the smaller pieces of the original body.

"It appeared in the southwest and headed in a direct line due east.

In Outer Space

"It appeared well above the earth and I would say it was well up into the outer space.

"I could not even estimate its speed, but I would say it travelled at about one-half or one-third the speed of a shooting star.

"The main difference was that it travelled on a level course. It was also much larger and more easily seen and flew from west to east.

"What I saw had no resemblance to a 'flying saucer' nor any other type of 'space ship'.

"I would attribute the 'sparks from the exhaust' as the finer particles such as one sees in the tail of a comet."

Meteor Shower

IN CANBERRA, the Commonwealth Astronomer at Mt. Stromlo Observatory, Dr. R. Woolley, said that a shower of meteors had caused the many reports of flying saucers over New South Wales during the week-end.

He added that the chief assistant at the observatory, Dr. A. R. Hogg, had seen a bright meteor with a slow-disappearing trail at 5.15 a.m. on Sunday.

He had been using a telescope, but said that the meteor would be visible to the naked eye as a bright light moving at high speed.

Unanimous

IN VICTORIA, two scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, who claim to have seen the object on Saturday morning, also insist that it was a meteor.

One of the scientists, Mr. P. Gartner, said that he had seen the phenomenon while sitting in a car at Queenscliffe with a fellow-scientist, Mr. W. J. Fletcher.

"We are unanimous it was nothing but a large meteor," Mr. Fletcher said last night.

He said that the object could be easily confused as a flying saucer or cigar.

Dr. Woolley said that a meteor shower could extend for a number of days.

The Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Sydney University, Professor A. V. Stephens, said that in his opinion, too, the object had been a meteor.

"It is a dull solution, but it is the most likely of any in this case," he added.

Big Difference

However, the University's Professor of Physiology, Professor F. S. Cotton, said it was definite that the people who had reported seeing the "flying saucer" had not been imagining things.

"There is a great difference between the sighting of these occasional strange meteoric phenomena and the mass sighting of 'flying saucers' throughout the world, which occurred some years ago," he said.

Security Probe

In Melbourne last night, an official of the Commonwealth Security Branch said that the reports would be probed.

"The eye-witnesses' accounts are too incomplete to reject the strange object summarily as a meteorological phenomenon," he said.

Servicemen see 'flying saucers'

'NOT COMET OR CLOUDS'

Three servicemen yesterday gave new reports of seeing "flying saucers" near Sydney.

They made the reports to Dr. J. H. Piddington, principal research officer of the Radiophysics Division of C.S.I.R.O.

Angles and bearing

The servicemen gave Dr. Piddington the angle and bearing of the sightings.

A former R.A.A.F. operational pilot and five other people also reported to the Daily Telegraph that they had seen flying objects.

The Daily Telegraph passed these reports to Dr. Piddington.

Dr. Piddington said he would check the descriptions in the reports with certain types of clouds.

In Victoria reports of flying saucers came from an aircraft navigator and residents of Shepparton and Benalla.

Not "ours"

The nine new reports yesterday were from people who saw the objects late on Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Five of the observers are convinced that the "object" they saw was not light on a cloud.

The reports are:

● Mr. Arthur Fidler, of Woollahra, former R.A.A.F. operational pilot: "What I saw was nothing if it was not an aircraft. If it was not one of 'ours,' it was one of theirs."

[No R.A.A.F. jet planes were in the air early on Saturday or late on Friday night.]

"It was not a comet or a meteor, both of which I have seen in different parts of the world."

Mr. Fidler watched the object for 45 seconds from the first tee at Eastlakes golf course at 6.10 a.m.

He said: "It kept a steady course due east at an angle of 45 degrees from the ground to the perpendicular."

"It travelled at about 450 m.p.h. at between 3000 and 4000 feet, and glowed with a Neon-like glow."

"It held its height and did not fall away as it disappeared in a heavy cloud-bank."

Two R.A.A.F. servicemen each made a similar report to Dr. Piddington on two different "sightings" in the Bankstown area at 6.10 a.m.

Captain G. Ireland, of Victoria Barracks, said:

Captain Ireland said: "It was an object, not a light on a cloud."

"I saw it for 45 seconds through an arc of 60 degrees."

"The angle of sight was about 30 degrees."

"It kept a steady course and glowed like a fluorescent light against a clear sky until it disappeared in a dark cloud bank."

Mr. M. Felkin, of Sefton, near Bankstown, said he saw the object "glowing with light but making no sound" at 6.10 a.m. as he walked to Sefton station.

He said: "I saw it for a good ten seconds."

"I would not like to say what shape it was, or what color."

"It moved at great speed on an easterly course."

Mr. A. Bond, taxi driver, of Canley Vale, said he saw "a flying object" at 3.30 a.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Bond said: "It could not have been rays of the sun moving along a cloud as Dr. Piddington suggests."

"Flames seemed to come from the rear as the object rushed without any sound from the north-west to the south-east."

Miss Kathleen Weekes and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Weekes, of Chester Hill, said they saw what they thought was "a cone-shaped comet trailing sparks" at 11.45 p.m. on Friday.

"Hush" ban on saucers

MELBOURNE, Mon.—Australian Security intelligence officers have refused the Civil Aviation Department permission to investigate reports of "flying saucers," Mr. R. M. Seymour said tonight.

Mr. Seymour is superintendent of Air Traffic Control.

He said his department had planned to set up a

special section to collate facts on "flying saucer" reports.

Intelligence officials had told him that "flying saucers" were "security

matters."

Mr. Seymour said "saucer" reports which he had collected followed the pattern of similar reports in the United States.