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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

3079-101-1

C.441/48.

YEAR
1954

SUBJECT:

Unidentified Objects -

RETAIN

D.N.I.

60-23/12.

Johnson
27/11/57

P.A.
Libbuckay
30-1-63

PA

P.A.
11/11/55

P.A.
1/2/55

P.A.
14-10-57

P.A.
7-2-61

P.A.
P. Hedley
19/12/57

P.A.
11-11-57

6/11/57 (54)

13/2/61 (54)

3079-101-1

~~DRAFT~~

Referring to statements that "flying saucers" had been reported by a Naval aircraft, the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Francis) stated today that it was a fact that during a night cross country flight from the R.A.N. Air Station at Nowra on 31st. August, last the pilot of a Naval aircraft, flying at 13,000 feet ^{one hour} had observed lights on his radar with vague shapes beneath. The lights had passed ahead of him at a very fast speed. He was at the time flying at a speed of 220 knots. The pilot had contacted Nowra and advised them.

It was later ascertained that the only other aircraft in the vicinity was a T.A.A. Convair.

The report was passed by Naval Intelligence to R.A.A.F. Intelligence in accordance with the usual procedure for dealing with reports of such a nature. The reports are collated and examined at R.A.A.F. Headquarters.

Revised to Minister 1720
16/12

To Mr. Kern, of Sydney Daily Telegraph
(at Canberra) 2415
16/12

D R A F T

The Minister :

The report in yesterday's Melbourne Herald re "Saucers" is shown as being sent from Nowra by E.H. Cox. There is a further statement in an early Herald today 16th. December shown as having been originated at Sydney, and another in a later edition originating in Canberra. The latter says that the naval pilot who is alleged to have reported the "Saucers" is believed to be Lieutenant R. O'Farrell. It was in fact Lieutenant J.A. O'Farrell.

The original report was sent by Nowra to the Director of Naval Intelligence in Melbourne on 2nd. September, 1954 and was passed to the Director of Air Force Intelligence who apparently collates such reports. Nothing developed from this one.

The report from Lieutenant O'Farrell read as follows :-

"I have the honour I was indicating 220 knots."

It was ascertained that the only aircraft in the area at the time was a T.A.A. Convair on a Northerly course.

"Herald" Thursday 16th Dec. '54

THOSE SAUCERS BAFFLE NAVY EXPERTS

SYDNEY, Today. — Naval authorities admitted today that they cannot find any "human source" for the "flying saucers" recorded on a radar screen at Nowra.

At the same time that the saucers were seen on the screen a Sea Fury pilot reported saucer-shapes flashing past him.

Authorities have confirmed that the pilot was "a man of experience."

They said they had investigated "every human source" but could not logically explain the shapes.

The mystery of the shapes is locked away in Naval files.

Top-secret

Professor Messell, of Sydney University, said today that flying saucers seemed to be a top-secret military experiment.

"No one is stupid enough to believe they come from outer space—but they could be a mili-

tary development," he said.

"There have been so many reports from ordinarily reliable people that there could be something in them.

In WASHINGTON, President Eisenhower said to-

day that a United States Air Force official had told him flying saucers did not come from outer space.

The President said this at a Press conference. He did not say whether he thought flying saucers existed.

*Melbourne Herald**Wednesday, December 15th 1954*

Navy radar picks up two "saucers"

From E. H. COX.

NOWRA, Today. — Two objects, believed to be flying saucers, have been recorded by radar at the Nowra naval air station.

This was revealed when the Minister for the Navy, Mr Francis, visited the station today.

A naval pilot flying a single-seater fighter from Canberra to Nowra just after dark a few days ago was joined in the air by two strange aircraft resembling saucers.

He called Nowra air control to trace him by radar.

Nowra reported that the radar screen showed three aircraft flying together.

The naval pilot identified himself by executing movements in accordance with directions from Nowra.

MUCH FASTER

He later reported that the two unidentified objects which flew in company with him for some time were much faster than his Sea Fury fighter.

His account of the subsequent movement of the mysterious machines was fully corroborated by radar records at Nowra.

No other planes fast enough to keep company with a Sea Fury were known to be in the area at the time.

The identity of the mysterious machines has not been discovered.

"Argus" Friday 17th Dec. 1954

Radar report confirmed

MINISTER SAYS SAUCERS WERE REAL

Canberra, Thursday

MR. FRANCIS, Navy Minister, tonight confirmed the sensational "flying saucers" report by a Royal Australian Navy pilot in *The Argus* yesterday.

Mr. Francis said the pilot, in a Sea Fury, observed "two lights on his radar with vague shapes underneath" as he flew 13,000ft. above Goulburn, N.S.W.

Official secrecy which had surrounded the sighting for three months was broken when Mr. Francis and a group of Pressmen visited the Nowra (N.S.W.) naval station—H.M.A.S. Albatross.

The Minister said: "It is a fact that on a night cross-country flight from Nowra on August 31, a pilot in a Sea Fury at 13,000 feet above Goulburn observed two lights on his radar, with vague shapes underneath.

"The lights passed ahead of him at a very fast speed as he flew at 220 knots (just under 250 m.p.h.).

"The pilot made contact with Nowra and advised them.

"It was later ascertained that the only other aircraft in the vicinity was a T.A.A. Convair.

"This was passed by Naval Intelligence to R.A.A.F. Intelligence," said Mr. Francis. The pilot is believed to be Lieutenant O'Farrell, formerly of Sydney, now stationed at Nowra.

Experienced Naval airmen at Nowra discount the possibility that the shapes were unauthorised aircraft.

"Herald" Thursday 16th Dec. 1957

THOSE SAUCERS: THE MYSTERY DEEPENS

CANBERRA, Today. — The naval pilot who was "buzzed" by two "flying saucers" is believed to be Lieutenant R. O'Farrell, of Sydney. But the authorities have not officially revealed the pilot's name.

This is part of the hush-hush surrounding the three-month-old saucer incident.

This hush-hush means that either the incident is not being treated seriously or it is under investigation.

But officers at Nowra, NSW, naval air station, where the saucers were traced on a radar screen, are certain that two objects were near the pilot.

This is a clear case in which "objects" have been independently recorded for the radar screen agreed exactly with the pilot's report.

The pilot, fearing that he might be "ragged" in the wardroom on his return if he abruptly reported flying saucers, called Nowra by radio and asked whether the radar screen showed his aircraft. He gave its position.

He received a reply that the screen showed three aircraft.

Nowra asked him to manoeuvre so that he could be identified. He did, and got a reply identifying his position.

He checked the subsequent movement of the mysterious aircraft.

When he returned to base his account of the movements of the two objects agreed with the radar report.

Naval authorities admitted today that they could not find any "human source" for the objects.

Navy finds...

SAUCERS "ON OUR RADAR"

TWO "flying saucers"
have been recorded by
radar at Nowra (N.S.W.)
naval air station.

Naval officers at Canberra and
Nowra confirmed this last night.

They said that the "saucers" flew
alongside a Navy fighter plane and were
traced on the radar screen before dis-
appearing.

The "saucers" iden-
tity is still a mystery.

In Brisbane late last
night, the Minister for
the Navy, Mr. Francis,
said: "This matter has
not been mentioned to
me. I will order an im-
mediate investigation.

The saucers appeared
three months ago when
a navy pilot was flying a
single-seater fighter
from Canberra to Nowra.

Just after dark the
pilot saw two strange
aircraft flying nearby.

He told Nowra air
control about the mys-
tery objects.

Then three aircraft
flying together showed
up on the radar
screen.

Nowra directed the
pilot to execute certain
movements to identify
himself.

He did so and the
saucers gradually drew
away and vanished.

All the movements
were confirmed on the
radar screen.

Secret

weapons?

In Canberra last night
senior Air Force officers
warned that many "fly-
ing saucers" were likely
to be reported in the
next few weeks.

They said that these
would be guided aircraft
and projectiles.

But they refused to
confirm or deny that
experiments had been
made with these pro-
jectiles on the coast.

3079-101-1
"Sun"
Tuesday
16th Dec. 1954

"A. Quis" Thursday 16th Dec. 1954

Official report: NAVY SAW 'SAUCERS' IN N.S.W.

TWO "Flying Saucers" have been reported by a Naval pilot—and plotted on radar—over Goulburn, 60 miles from Canberra.

The pilot reported he had seen the "saucers" flash past his Sea Fury at supersonic speed.

The Navy report is the first authenticated information in the world of the existence of "flying saucers."

But officials revealed yesterday that the incident occurred three months ago.

A Navy pilot then reported to Nowra Naval air station that he had seen two unidentified objects overtake his aircraft.

When he saw the objects he asked the air station radar control to check their screens.

The radar officers then reported back that they could see three objects on the radar screens including the Sea Fury.

In a report to senior naval authorities, the radar officers said they were unable to identify the two other objects on the radar screen.

The pilot's report said he was flying over Goulburn at 15,000 feet when he saw two lighted objects flash past.

He said they easily passed his Sea Fury propeller-driven fighter which was capable of flying at least 450 m.p.h.

The pilot reported the incident to Nowra radar officers about 9.30 p.m., and radar officers, after a check, revealed that there were no other aircraft in the vicinity at that time.

Navy pilots at Nowra and senior Navy men declare they are puzzled by the report.

The pilots, many of them with combat experience in Korea, discount the possibility that the two objects could have been unauthorised aircraft.

● Continued on Page 5.

Navy saw saucers

● Continued from Page 1.

In talk among themselves they refer to the "flying saucer incident," but, because of the "top secret" classification of the incident, news of the occurrence has been kept from the public.

Reports of the Goulburn-Nowra incident are believed to have been sent to intelligence and technical branches of all three services.

The report follows similar reports over the past year by service and civilian pilots and by civilians who have reported strange objects over Melbourne and other East Australian areas.

There is now a special order to Navy and R.A.A.F. pilots to watch for unidentified flying objects.

It is believed that a special watch has been instituted on all radar stations in Australia.

CONFIDENTIAL

605/178/17

File No.

N.I.D. INTERNAL CIRCULATING CHIT.

SUBJECT: Unidentified objects.

[illegible]

Recipients please sideline points of
interest.

27 SEP 1954

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KDG/RF

605/17G/17.

CONFIDENTIAL
UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

3079 | 101 | 1

5. OCT 1954

D. A. F. I.

The attached reports, forwarded by the Commanding Officer, R.A.N. Air Station, Nowra, are passed for information.

2. Investigation by this Division has shown that:

- (i) Lieutenant O'Farrell is an entirely credible witness.
- (ii) Witness saw a mass associated with the lights, but was unable to distinguish any form.
- (iii) It was a clear starlit night with no moon.
- (iv) Witness was visibly "shaken" by his experience, but remains adamant that he saw these objects.
- (v) There was no question of collusion between the two witnesses.
- (vi) There were no Naval or Air Force aircraft in the area at the time, but there was a T.A.A. Convair at 14,000 feet on a Northerly course.

D. N. I.
1st October 1954.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
3079/101/1

605/173/17.

Naval Intelligence Division,

1st October 1954.


CONFIDENTIAL.

Commanding Officer,
R.A.N. Air Station,
NOWRA, N.S.W.

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

Your letter 281/1 of 6th September, together with enclosures, was forwarded on to me by Captain (Air).

2. It is advised that the reports have been passed to the Committee which has been sent up to consider such reports. The Committee desires to express its thanks for such a well authenticated sighting.


J. McL. Adams)
Captain,

Director of Naval Intelligence.

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3079 / 101 / 1

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

(R.A.N. Air Station, Nowra's letter No. 281/1 dated 6 September, 1954.)

W. H. M. King

II.

No. 013/4/10

The Director of Naval Intelligence,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE.

Forwarded for information.

2. A copy of my reply to the Captain, N.A.S. Nowra,
is also enclosed.

M. W. Jones

COMMANDER FOR
CAPTAIN (AIR). A.O.L.

Office of Captain (Air),
R.A.N. Air Station,
SCHOPIELDS. N.S.W.

27/9 24 SEP 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of the Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
3079-101-1

Royal Australian Navy.

From The Captain, R.A.N. Air Station, Nowra.
Date 6th September, 1954. Reference No. 281/1
To Captain (Air), Australia.
Subject UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

The attached reports are forwarded for information.

2. It would be of interest to know if any R.A.A.F. aircraft were operating in the vicinity of Goulburn at this height at this time.

3. No Naval aircraft were in the vicinity.


CAPTAIN.

Encl.

CAPTAIN (AIR)
10 SEP 1954
AUSTRALIA

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 013/4/10

24 SEP 1954

The Captain,
R.A.N. Air Station,
Nowra. N.S.W.

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

With reference to your letter 281/1 dated 6 September, 1954, it has been ascertained that there were no R.A.A.F. aircraft in the vicinity at the time but that a Convair belonging to T.A.A. was in that area at 14000 ft. on a Northerly course.

2. Aircrew should be briefed to report by V.H.F. any unusual sightings on future occasions in order to assist in identification with the minimum delay.

(SGD.) J. B. W. GROVES

COMMANDER FOR
CAPTAIN (AIR). A.O.L.

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723 Squadron,
R.A.N. Air Station,
Nowra, 6C,
N.S.W.
2nd September, 1954.

Sir,

INCIDENT ON NIGHT CROSS COUNTRY AT 1900K
31st AUGUST, 1954.

I have the honour to submit the following report concerning an incident which occurred on 31st August during a night cross country flight from R.A.N. Air Station, Nowra.

2. The route was Nowra - Young - Temora - Yass - Nowra, and the briefed height 13,000 feet.

3. At 1858 I made the following position report to Civil Air Radio Canberra, "Ausnav 921 contact Yass at 13,000 feet estimating Nowra at 1920". This was acknowledged by Canberra, and, when South West of Goulburn, I changed over to 143.64 m/cs, 723 Squadron exercise frequency, and contacted Nowra.

4. After contacting Nowra at approximately 1910, I noticed a very bright light closing fast from "One o'clock". This bright light crossed ahead of me and continued to a position on my port beam where it appeared to orbit. At the same time I noticed a second and similar light at "Nine o'clock", which made a pass about a mile ahead of me and then turned in the position where the first light was sighted.

5. I contacted Nowra and asked if they had me on radar, hoping they would confirm that other aircraft were in the vicinity. They replied that they had 3 echoes and advised me to turn 180° (Course), to be identified if I required a homing. At this stage the two bright lights reformed at "Nine o'clock", from me and disappeared on a North Easterly heading.

6. I saw no other lights and was only able to make out a vague shape with the white light situated centrally on top. Their apparent crossing speed was the fastest that I have ever experienced, and at the time I was indicating 220 knots.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O'Farrell
.....
J.A. O'FARRELL
LIEUTENANT R.A.N.

The Captain,
R.A.N. Air Station,
Nowra, 6C,
N.S.W.

Enclosure: Statement by Petty Officer (R.P.I.) JESSOP.

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At 1907 aircraft 921 called up and asked if we had him on radar. After checking G.C.I. remote display, we found that two paints appeared on the display approximately 280 degrees 32 miles. After about 15 seconds another paint appeared in the same vicinity. One appeared to be tracking towards base, the others in a North Easterly direction.

About two minutes later we told 921 to fly 180 degrees if he wanted a bearing, so we could identify him. His reply was "Negative", so we did not track the paints any further.

Signed. K.E. JESSOP.
Petty Officer R.P.I.

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

CONFIDENTIAL No.

605/176/17.

N.T.D. INTERNAL CIRC LANDING UNIT.

Subject: *Flying Saucer Report.*

TITLE OF OFFICER TO WHOM FORWARDED.	INITIALS.	REMARKS.
<i>ADNI.</i>	<i>J. 16/6</i>	<i>Minute to DAFI.</i>
		<i>I understand they have a</i>
		<i>Flying Saucer Officer.</i>
<i>sh</i>	<i>W. 15/6</i>	<i>Minute sent</i>
<i>AB.</i>		

Recipients please sideline points of
interest.

CONFIDENTIAL

16 JUN 1954

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

CONFIDENTIALDEPT. OF THE
NAVY

3079 101 1

CONFIDENTIALNaval Staff Office,
FREMANTLE. W.A.

6/ 11th June, 1954.

Director of Naval Intelligence,
Naval Intelligence Division,
Navy Office,
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

FLYING SAUCER REPORT.

A report has been received from Mr. E.G. Walker, Postmaster Denmark, W.A., a member of the Coastwatchers, that an object was recently seen in the sky near Denmark by Mr. E.R. Tonkinson, postal clerk, and his wife. Details are as follows :-

Time :- 8.15p.m. Wednesday 9th June, 1954.

Place :- W.S.W. of Denmark Townsite W.A.

Description : The object was reported to be slightly larger than a Star and was seen low in the sky, just clear of a hill. It moved backwards and forwards without changing altitude and changed colour from Green to Blue, Red and White. After five minutes it disappeared rapidly below the horizon.

2. No local R.A.A.F. aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. The matter has been reported to the R.A.A.F. Intelligence Officer who intends forwarding a questionnaire to Mr. Tonkinson.

7 June

NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE.
WEST AUSTRALIAN AREA.

CONFIDENTIAL