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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

File Number

AF 529

1

4

AIR

Part

5

FORCE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
REFERENCE (AIR FORCE OFFICE)
100

ARCHIVAL ACTION

FILE TITLE :

UFO's - ENQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
AND CIVILIAN RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ACTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY (INITIALS)	REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ACTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY (INITIALS)
FLO	10	7 AUG 84	MB				
TSIS	FILE	21/8/85					
DAFIS	25/26/27	13 JUN 86					
DAFIS	31	6 MAR 87					
DISP	31	6 MAR					
DAFIS	36	27 APR 87					
DAFIS	39	6 MAY 88					
DISP	39	7 May					
FLO	61	4/8/81	MB				
DISPATCH	61	4/8/81	MB				
FLO	FILE						
DISPATCH	75	27 OCT 92					
DISPATCH	76	5 NOV 92					
DISPATCH	79	29 MAR 93					
DISPATCH	79	29 MAR 93					
DISPATCH	80/83	2 APR 93					
DISPATCH	80/83						

FILE PUT AWAY/CLOSED

FOR FURTHER PAPERS SEE FILE NUMBER

PART No

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22

22

04 NOV

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NOTE:
FOLIO 5 has a list of UFO
organisations in Australia

OTHER FILES BEARING ON THIS SUBJECT

FILE NUMBER	TITLE
AB 529/1/4/AIR P4	UFO'S - ENQUIRIES FROM PUBLIC & ORGANIZATIONS

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NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
OF AUSTRALIA

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MASK
1

This acid free mask contains 2cm folios
with the date range 1984 - 1989

The contents of the mask are:

☐ Exempt from public access under paragraph(s)
..... of the *Archives Act 1983*.

You have a statutory right to seek a review of
the exemption.

☒ Not in the open period as defined by the
Archives Act 1983.

☐ Withheld pending agency advice

Date mask applied..... 26 JUNE 2012

Signature..... 

Series no: A9755 Control symbol: 22 Parent barcode: 3533575



Australian Government



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DO NOT OPEN

This acid free mask contains 2cm folios
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MASK
2.

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Archives Act 1983.

☐ Withheld pending agency advice

Date mask applied... 26 June 2012

Signature.....

Series no:

A9755

Control symbol:

22

Parent barcode:

3533575



Australian Government



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DO NOT OPEN

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Series no:

119155

Control symbol:

22

Parent barcode: 3533 575



Australian Government



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MASK
1

This acid free mask contains 2cm folios
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The contents of the mask are:

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You have a statutory right to seek a review of
the exemption.

☒ Not in the open period as defined by the
Archives Act 1983.

☐ Withheld pending agency advice

Date mask applied 26 JUNE 2012

Signature [Signature]

Series no: A9755

Control symbol: 22

Parent barcode: 3533575

Attention:

Sgt. Ldr. Mike Colvert
DAFI - 110

STUDY OF
OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN
THE UFO CONTROVERSY
- A PROGRESS REPORT

By Bill Chalker

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During 1982, I was able to:

- (a) Examine the majority of the extant UFO files held by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- (b) Examine the entirety of the extant UFO files held by the Department of Aviation.
- (c) Initiate discussions with a defence scientist privy to the official files and the inner workings of governmental policies and approaches to the UFO subject.
- (d) Initiate enquiries with other Australian agencies and individuals re UFO file holdings.
- (e) Undertake enquiries with overseas government departments re UFO file holdings (in particular, the Ministries of Defence in the U.K. and New Zealand, and the USAF re Project Blue Book, the latter, in relation to Australian cases).
- (f) Undertake discussions with the Department of Aviation/Bureau of Air Safety Investigation on the Valentich affair, and
- (g) publish some of the results of my enquiries.

THE RAAF FILES

The RAAF files held by the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) were examined over four separate visits to the Department of Defence Russell Offices in Canberra during 1982 - namely, January 11-14, May 7, June 4 and October 8.

A total of 56 files were examined. They fell into three categories:

- (1) "Unidentified Flying Objects - Reports of Sightings" - 47 files covering the period 1955 - 1982. Three files covering the period around 1973/74 have yet to be examined.
- (2) "UFOs - Enquiries from Members of the Public and Flying Saucer Organisations" - 7 files covering the period 1966 - 1981, and
- (3) "Investigation of Flying Saucers - Policy" - 2 files covering the period 1953 - 1969. The current "policy" file has not yet been made available.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION FILES

The DOA files held by the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation were examined on November 19, 1982, during a visit to their Melbourne office.

Four files were examined and their contents included:

- (1) Previously "secret" papers related to the famous Drury film affair. (1)
- (2) Details about early reports from 1952 - 1968.
- (3) Early RAAF documents and reports (copies) no longer available in the RAAF files, due to the original files, ostensibly, being destroyed during the Department of Air (now Department of Defence (Air Force)) move from Melbourne to Canberra in the early sixties.
- (4) Papers relating to the controversial Bougainville Reef event of 1965, which appear to confirm that the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) had no knowledge of it, at least at the level of DCA-Director-General in Melbourne. (11)

DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENCE SCIENTIST

Detailed discussions have been undertaken with a retired scientist who has worked in the Defence Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) section of the Joint Intelligence Bureau (JIB, now Joint Intelligence Organisation - JIO).

The scientist, in a civilian capacity, had access to the RAAF/DAFI UFO files in 1954 and later, as JIB "liaison" to DAFI, had access to the DAFI files during the late sixties. He was in a unique position to examine the files and observe the policies and approaches of government agencies (DAFI, JIB etc.) to the UFO question.

Further to my discussions with him by phone and letter, I was able to meet him personally during May 1983. I have found his information extremely informative and it has served to compliment and supplement data I have amassed from other sources. A detailed picture of the history of official involvement in the UFO controversy, in Australia, can at last be discerned.

OTHER AUSTRALIAN AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Upon my request, on July 13, 1982, the Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI) declassified documents relating to the famous radar-visual Sea Fury incident of August 31, 1954. These included written statements by the Sea Fury pilot and the Nowra Naval Air Station radar operator and a previously "confidential" memorandum from DNI to DAFI. (111)

In correspondence with R.H. Mathams, former Director of Scientific Intelligence (JIB/JIO) and author of the book: "Sub Rosa - Memoirs of an Australian Intelligence Analyst", he indicated to me that, "DSTI had only a marginal interest in UFOs; our analytical resources were limited and I had to take the position that we could not afford to become too involved in investigation of UFO sightings until we had reasonable grounds for believing that they were of foreign - as opposed to alien - origin. We relied on DAFI to make the initial investigations and, at times, assisted in the interpretation of the resulting data". Mr Mathams is not the defence scientist mentioned earlier.

Other agencies and individuals have either been contacted, replied, or are in the process of being contacted. I do not, at this stage, propose to possibly jeopardise results, with premature disclosures of current and future lines of enquiries.

OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES

Enquiries with some overseas government departments have borne fruit.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD), Defence Secretariat, Division 8, of the United Kingdom, indicated:

"a. MOD's records on UFOs go back to 1962. Most of the material is reports of

individual sightings by members of the public, passed on to us via ATC centres, police, RAF stations, etc. As an indication of the size of our holdings, we received 2250 sighting reports between 1978 and 1981.

- "b. MOD investigates UFO sightings solely to determine whether they indicate anything of defence interest. No attempt is made to find a positive identification for every object seen. We have, therefore, no category of 'unexplained' sightings..."

A reply from New Zealand authorities confirmed that there appears to be little organised effort to investigate UFOs there. No comprehensive records are maintained.

From the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., where the USAF Project Bluebook files are held, I have received copies of documentation held on some Australian cases. (IV) I also have on order microfilm copies of a comprehensive Bluebook Index and all photographic holdings.*

I have also been in contact with a number of overseas civilian researchers who have been assisting me in my enquiries.

THE VALENTICH AFFAIR

On May 26, 1982, the Department of Transport (now Aviation) released to me their Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report on the disappearance of VH-DSJ and its pilot, Frederick Valentich. It would appear that this document was made available only to parties having a bonafide interest in the incident. It would appear that, via my correspondence with the Department, they were satisfied that my interest, despite it being from a "ufological" point of view, was never-the-less bonafide. I am aware that the same report has been denied to other parties, whom on the face of it, appeared to have had a bonafide interest. (V)

During my November 19, 1982, visit to the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation, I had the opportunity to discuss the Valentich Affair with Mr A.R. Woodward, A/Director of the Bureau. He referred to the files on the case, he had in front of him, to answer some of my questions, however, access to these files was denied to me, on the basis that all "air accident" investigation files were privileged information. It was evident that they were only treating the affair as an "accident/incident" pertaining to air safety investigation.

More recently, when I questioned him on the alleged discovery of the aircraft, VH-DSJ, off Cape Otway, by divers, Mr Woodward indicated that no action was planned by the Department of Aviation. In the event that VH-DSJ was actually salvaged, the Department would confiscate the aircraft in view of it being the subject of an aircraft accident investigation.

Dr Richard Haines has provided me with an advanced complimentary copy of his "Journal of UFO Studies" paper: "Results of Sound Spectrum Analysis of the Metallic Noises of a Tape-recorded Radio Transmission Between Cessna VH:DSJ and the Flight Service of Melbourne, Australia". (VI)

PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

I have been able to publish part of the results of my research into official Australian government involvement in the UFO controversy:

- (1-2) "UFOs and the Royal Australian Air Force - the Inside Story", in the UFO Research Australia Newsletter (UFORAN), Vol.3 Nos.2,3 and 4 (March-April,

**These have now been received and the index is being thoroughly examined to facilitate, eventually, a full record of all Australian cases held within Project Bluebook files.*

- B.C. 11/6/83.

May-June and July-August, 1982) and MUFON UFO Journal No.175 (Sept. 1982) and No.176 (Oct. 1982), the latter in a slightly edited form.

- (3-4) "UFOs: Australia's Secret Documents Revealed", in Omega - Science Digest, Sept.-Oct. 1982, and the APRO Bulletin, Vo.30, No.10 (Oct. 1982) and Vol.30 No.11 (Dec. 1982) as "Australian A.F. UFO Report Files".
- (5) "The RAAF UFO Files", The Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, Vo.3, No.3 May/June, 1982.
- (6) "The RAAF Files", UFOFORAN, Vol.3, No.4, July-August, 1982.
- (7) "Valentich Disappearance - the Official Verdict", ACUFOS Bulletin, July 1982.
- (8) "UFOs - the Secret RAAF Files", by Ken Anderson, The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), May 22, 1982.
- (9) "Air Force Files Examined - UFO Sightings 'Still a Mystery'", by Tim Cribb, The (Sydney) Sun, December 8, 1982.

The British Flying Saucer Review (FSR), via Gordon Creighton, have indicated an interest in publishing some of this material. UFO Nyt, the Scandinavian publication, have also been given permission to publish material. The Orbis multiple part publication, "The Unexplained", may also be briefly referring to this research with an article by Jenny Randles in the near future.

I will continue to release the results of my research as time permits.

I have made limited copies of some documents available to those individuals with bonafide interests, e.g. Nebo area events of 1964 and 1965 (VII) and a possible "landing" near Mandurana in 1978 (VIII) to UFO Research (FNQ); 1957 radar visual event in Tasmania (IX) and 1960 USAF aircraft encounter near Cressy (X) to TUF01C; Groote Eylandt (1964) "EM" event (XI), radar-visual event at Kalamunda (1969) (XII) etc. to UFOFOR (WA), and various "aircraft/UFO encounters" to Dr Richard Haines, who is specialising in such cases.

In view of the fact that I have signed a DAFI document undertaking to preserve confidentiality, I have to maintain strict control of the RAAF documents released to me. As time permits documents will be released with confidential details (names etc.) deleted.

SPECIAL AREAS OF STUDY

During my reviews and research of official files several particular areas of study have received additional attention. These include:

(1) The case for and against official "cover-ups" of UFO DATA:

More than twenty individual accounts from civilian sources allegedly indicative of "cover-up" activities were and are being examined. I hope to report on my findings shortly.

(2) The Drury film affair:

Most of the original documentation is now secured. Frames from the film are in my possession, however, they are of poor quality. Mr Drury has been contacted and was most helpful with my enquiries. A report on my investigations will be made available when completed.

(3) Reports by military personnel:

Reports by service personnel have been collected together and a report will be made available when completed.

●) Reports from aircraft:

Such cases have been isolated and are to be added to an expanded catalogue in conjunction with Keith Basterfield's revision of his existing document on this theme. (XIII)

(5) Official policies to UFOs:

A number of official documents relating to policy have been secured. The evaluation of official policy re UFOs in Australia from 1950 through to 1983 is fairly clear. I will be reporting on this in due course.

(6) Summarising and indexing official file holdings:

Preliminary general indexes are already being worked on which will cover the period 1950 to 1983.

(7) Search for missing files:

While it appears that I have been able to examine the majority of RAAF/DAFI file holdings, a few individual file parts remain to be located and examined. These include:

- * (i) Three sighting file parts covering reports during about 1973 and 1974. Major cases known to be in them have already been secured (e.g. UFO over North West Cape (XIV) and a physical trave event near Nebo (XV)).
ie. AF 529/1/3 Parts 1, 2 & 3 - I would like to examine these.
- * (ii) The "current policy" file.
ie. AF 554/1/30 Part 3 - obviously not missing but, as per my letter, I would like to examine it.
- (iii) The original DAFI files prior to 1955. There is official evidence that these may have been destroyed during the move of Defence from Melbourne to Canberra in the early 1960s. Fortunately, a previously secret report written in 1954, and made available to me, summarises much of the DAFI files of the period 1950-1954. As already mentioned, early DCA UFO files I examined also hold copies of a number of reports and documents from these missing DAFI files of the early 1950s.

Other files are being searched for, however, it is thought that, in some cases, the "missing" files may have been "recovered" as new file series (or the earlier parts of more recent file series). Following the erratic history of official UFO files has sometimes been daunting. I am confident that I have established a fairly thorough understanding of the DAFI UFO files, so much so that the DAFI intelligence liaison officer I have worked with during 1982 was once moved to tell me that I knew the DAFI UFO files better than he did, in fact, better than anyone in the Department of Defence. This can in part be seen as a reflection of the significance DAFI/RAAF may now appear to give to UFO reports.

CONCLUSION

As someone who has taken a special interest in the degree of official involvement in UFO investigation in Australia, for more than a decade now, I have personally been amazed at the extent of the material I have been allowed to become privy to in just on short year - namely 1982.

We have gone from a confused and vague picture of clandestine official involvement to a detailed understanding based on direct officially sanctioned file reviews by a civilian researcher.

In closing I will say that I will be working very hard at making available to each and all the full extent of what I have learnt during this study and the benefit of a much closer relationship with the RAAF.

Thurs: Mrs
C. Peary
Fennell.

References and Notes:

The Drury film affair refers to an incident during 1953 wherein Mr T. Drury, Deputy Director of DCA in Papua, took a movie film of a daylight object which exited a "cloud" at high speed, climbing at about 45 degrees, and disappeared. The film was examined by RAAF and USAF, however, it appears the film itself subsequently "disappeared". The affair has now been one mainstay of the claim made by many civilian researchers that there is an official "cover-up".

- (II) The Bouganville Reef event involved the alleged photographing of a UFO by a pilot of a DC6 aircraft. It has been alleged that evidence about the case, including the film, has been confiscated by DCA officials and subsequently covered up. The classified papers I examined consisted largely of internal communications between the Queensland Regional Director of DCA and the Director General of DCA, which appears to confirm a lack of knowledge about the event, at least at the level of Directors of DCA.
- (III) The Sea Fury incident involved a naval pilot flying over the Goulburn area of New South Wales, encountering two unidentified lights, the presence of which were confirmed by ground radar.
- (IV) In particular the classic Drury affair of 1953 (see (I) above) and the Willow Grove close encounter of 1963, wherein farmer Charles Brew had a very explicit sighting of a UFO on his property. The incident featured animal reactions and apparently related headaches for Mr Brew.
- (V) See ACUFOS Bulletin, July 1982. The "Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report" makes no definite conclusion as to cause but indicated "the reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined".
- (VI) See also, for example, "Valentich - Bass Strait (Australia) Affair", in R.D. Story's, "The Encyclopedia of UFOs", Doubleday, 1980, and New English Library, 1980, and "The Devils Meridian" by Kevin Killey and Gary Lester (Lester-Townsend, 1980).
- (VII) These events refer to an unusual ground mark and an apparently unrelated UFO sighting at the same location.
- (VIII) An extraordinary phenomenon ostensibly had landed in a cane field east of Mandurana, Queensland. It was witnessed by four people for three hours!
- (IX) This event occurred on August 27, 1957, and involved radar tracking of a fast moving object by Met Radar at Hobart, after being alerted via a visual sighting at Launceston ATC.
- (X) On November 15, 1960, a USAF JV57 aircraft operating out of East Sale RAAF base encountered a UFO at a closing rate in excess of 800 knots.
- (XI) In this case a light source approached a ship off Groote Eylandt on January 23, 1964. It came within 6 ft. of the ship, underwater, and was described as "a ghostly white light, in the centre was a shadow which rotated in a clockwise direction causing the light to pulsate". The ship - a barge - was approached by the light at high speed. In total six patches of light were observed, varying in size from a mile across down to quite small. All were the same colour and all pulsated at 12 pulsations for 9 seconds, then irregular, then back to 12 for 9 seconds again. "The compass swung out of control, but became worse as the light approached".
- (XII) ATC radar operator at Kalamunda, 1835 hours on May 23, 1969, received a strong, stationary "paint", 300 degrees, 9N miles from the airport. He had first observed the return whilst talking on the phone to a woman reporting an object "like a big streetlight" over Cloverdale at that time. The "paint" was of 36 seconds duration on the screen. An aircraft was about 4N miles SE of the UFO, but no visual sighting was made. The woman reported the object had departed to the north at tremendous speed and had disappeared from sight.
- (XIII) "A Report on Observations of UFOs from Aircraft Crew Members in Australia".

Enclosure Two

Page 1 of 2

(Reports for which I am seeking DAFI permission
to follow up with witness's permission.)

- 7/12/56 - Tambar Springs, NSW - folio 32A, 580/1/1 Part 1
- 27/9/57 - The Tasmania Sighting by Hobart Met Radar &
ATC Launceston - folio 34A & 36A, 580/1/1 Part 1
- 8/1/59 - Risdon, Hobart - folio 1A & 4A, 580/1/1 Part 2
- 14/7/58 - Wulkuraka, Qld - folio 3A, 580/1/1 Part 2.
- 7/7/59 - Burren Junction, NSW - folio 11A, 580/1/1 Part 2.
- 24/9/59 & 25/9/59 - nr. Mandorah, NT, folio 21A, 580/1/1 Part 2
- 23/1/64 - nr. Groote Eylandt, folio 41, 580/1/1 Part 4
- 17/6/67 - Burrenjack Dam, 580/1/1 Part 7
- 3/6/70 - Mildura, 580/1/1 Part 13, folio 40.
- June/July 1971 - Portland, Victoria, 580/1/1 Part 15, folio 20.
- Sept. 1972 - Rosedale, Vict, 580/1/1 Part 19, folio 16.
- 22/3/75 - Dingo Mt. Flora Rd, nr. Nebo, Qld.
- 13/1/75 - Aspley, Brisbane, AFS 29/1/3 Part 4
- 27/11/75 - Mooroolbool, Qld.
- 6/10/76 - Maclean, NSW
- 11/11/77 - Barossa Valley, NSW
- 24/3/77 - Dubbo, NSW
- 26/6/77 - Kingsthorpe, Qld
- 11/4/78 - HMAS Adroit sighting off Darwin, NT

- 2/10/78 - between Narrabri / Wee Waa, NSW
- 22/10/78 - North of Goulburn, NSW
- 29/10/78 - off Heathcote Rd, Sydney, NSW
- 2/12/78 - nr Bathurst / Blaney, NSW
- 21/12/78 - Elwood, Vict.
- 7/1/79 - Redhead, Newcastle, NSW
- 18/6/79 - 'Staffordshire Reef', Vict., witness from
Black Hill Flat, Ballarat East.
- 18/1/80 - Budgewoi, NSW.

Letter - D GOR

JNOP

~~Pt Desmond~~
~~2889~~

JPS-A

COSC

DEC 82

Single Service Manpower
Helicopter people. 77-78

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