



DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

86/871

OPENED	17.7.82	19:1	FILE NUMBER			PART
CLOSED						

AERIAL PHENOMENA : GENERAL.

Related Files Shown Inside

Folio No.	Referred		Cleared Initials	Folio No.	Referred		Cleared Initials	Folio No.	Referred		Cleared Initials
	To	Date			To	Date			To	Date	
9	FILE EXAMINE	21/7	RD								
	file WEAA	30/11	JH								
	file Mac from EWS	21/3	De								
29	FILE EXAMINE	22/3	/								

FILE NO. _____ PART _____

ARCHIVAL ACTION

Review 1 / 1

ADS 14-13-3.2

Retain Permanently

Destroy(date)



86/871



Australian Government



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40(5) OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983- INCLUDING DECISION ON ACCESS

Record Series: K95/42	Control symbol: 1986/871
Title: Aerial Phenomena: General	Total number of folios (i.e. equivalent separate pages) on the record: 9

1. Decision

After examining this record I have decided to partially exempt it from public access.

2. Basis for decision

I have taken into account:

- the content of the record requested
- the relevant provisions of the Archives Act 1983 (the Act)
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records

3. Material withheld

Category of material withheld	Number of total folios per category
Partially exempted folios (certain parts of the text have been expunged)	3
Wholly exempted folios	0
Folios not within the open access period as defined in s3 (7) of the Act	2

4. Findings of fact and reasons for decision

A. Findings of fact

In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided a summary of my findings of fact where I have invoked specific provisions under s 33 of the Act. By invoking these provisions, I have relied on material listed in part 2 above in order to arrive at my decision.

B. Reasons for decision

In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided the reasons for my decision for each folio exempted and those reasons are derived from the findings of fact.

5. Appeal rights

The National Archives undertakes careful examination of a record before making a decision to exempt any part of a record. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with my decision to exempt information under a provision of s 33 of the Act, you can contact a reference officer in National Archives and seek a further explanation.

If you are still not happy with the decision and within 28 days of receiving it, you can formally appeal by:

- 1) first applying to Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
- 2) if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12- *What to do if we refuse you access.*** You can also lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to the decision.

Decision maker	Gary Billingham
Designation	APS 4 - Reference officer
Date	4 February 2013

Annexure 1

Table A: Material exempted by folio number and grouped by the application of exemption provisions

Relevant legislative provision invoked under s33 of the Act	Folio numbers	Finding of facts	Reasons for decision
<p>S 33(1) (g) - information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person (including a deceased person).</p>		<p>These folios are wholly or partially exempt as they contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information concerning the personal affairs of a named person. 	<p>The information withheld is of a nature such that its disclosure would be an unreasonable intrusion on the personal affairs of a person named in the record and could cause distress to the subject.</p> <p>There is no evidence available that the subject expected the information to be made publicly known in the intervening years.</p> <p>It is not likely that, if given the opportunity, the subject would consent to the release of such personal information about themselves.</p> <p>The information is of a kind that most members of the community would not want disclosed about themselves if placed in a similar position</p> <p>If publicly disclosed, the information could reasonably be expected to cause distress or embarrassment to the person concerned and to family members</p>



DO NOT OPEN

This acid-free mask contains ²..... folios
with the date range ¹⁹⁸⁶⁻⁸⁶.....

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.

Date mask applied: 4/2/13

Series no:

Item no:

NAS 1061 (SEPT 1999)



RAAF gives up chase for UFOs

CANBERRA: The RAAF in future will bother with UFOs only if they appear to be dangerous to national security.

The investigation of every sighting—the RAAF prefers to call them Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS)—has proved too expensive for Australia's aerial defence force.

The Defence Minister, Mr Scholes, said yesterday that the RAAF would now investigate fully only those UAS which suggested "a defence or national security implication."

While the RAAF would continue to be the first point of contact, UAS reports considered not to have defence or security implications would not be investigated further.

Instead, they would be recorded and the observer of the UAS

would be given the address of civilian research organisations.

Mr Scholes said that in the past the RAAF's investigations of all reports of UAS had often proved "time-consuming, unproductive and had led to many man-hours of follow-up action by the RAAF and other agencies such as the Aviation Department and the Bureau of Meteorology."

In the past decade, there have been between 110 and 150 sightings reported to the RAAF each year.

A Defence Department spokesman said last night that of these all except about three per cent had been explained.

*OATO. R. Blyth
is interested in UFOs
18-2-80*

18 MAR 1983

WFD:EP 82/1822

Mr _____
PO Box 32
WATHEROO WA 6513

Dear Mr _____

I refer to your letter of 28 February 1983
in which you reported details of the sighting
of a UFO on 25 February 1983.

I wish to advise that your letter has been
forwarded on to the Officer Commanding,
RAAF Base, Pearce for information and
necessary action.

Yours sincerely,



R.A. KIRK
for Regional Director



5

18 MAR 1983

82/1822

WFD:EP

Officer Commanding
RAAF Base
PEARCE WA 6085

UFO Sighting on 25 February 1983

The attached letter refers to a UFO sighting on the evening of 25 February 1983 and is forwarded for information and necessary action.

W.F. Dunne
W.F. DUNNE
for Regional Director

DEPT. OF AVIATION
DESPATCHED
18 MAR 1983
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

inminute

Western Australia Region



OPSC

F3 + attachment.

Please

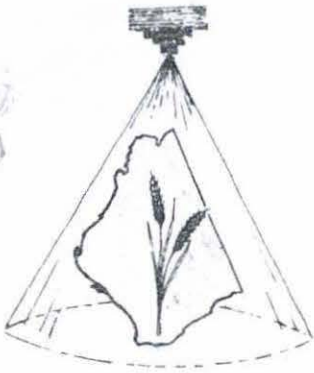
- ① Photo copy + retain a file
- ② send originals to OC RAAF Base Pearce - referred for information + necessary action.
- ③ Acknowledge to Mr Burnett
my sig -

[Handwritten Signature] A/ARSO 15/3/83

Crop Protection Consultants

P.O. Box 32 Watheroo, West Australia 6513
30 Albert Rd., Lesmurdie, West Australia 6076

Phone (095) 417 062
Phone (09) 291 6880



28/2/83

Regional Director
Dept of Aviation
PERTH 6000

Dear Sir,

RE: UFO SIGHTING 25th February, 1983

This is confirmation of my phoned report to the Flight Service Officer at Perth Briefing at 2030 on 25th February.

The attached sketch contains most of the details as I recall them.

The initial sighting was made by my passenger Mr [redacted] a Senior Technical Officer with [redacted] Ltd. Simultaneous to his exclamation to look I picked up a fast moving set of 3 intense silver gold lights about 20-30° above the horizon at what I felt was about 2 miles distance. These traversed an arc about 60° at an estimated speed of in excess of 350kts, with a 10-20° downward trajectory, moving from N → S. It disappeared whilst still above the horizon (a ridge), but the impression was one of turning and/or acceleration at this point.

We both felt or heard absolutely nothing. We both made notes of location of sun, SEC wires, houses, other cars etc but could see no possibility of reflections from the sun—which had set behind us. We could find no wind-screen flaws.

Other points of note are on my sketch.

The phenomena did not appear to be a fast moving military jet. (No noise, no after burner glow, no smoke). Neither Mr [redacted] nor my self could identify any source of light or reflected light which was evidently causing this effect.

I might add that we were both of sound and sober mind and that both of us would be highly embarrassed should there be any release of this report.

I've been a CPL for 18 years and 3500 hours experience in Australia and New Guinea. My eyesight is still 20/20, so you can be assured that I really did see the effect as described (attached).

Yours sincerely,
[redacted]

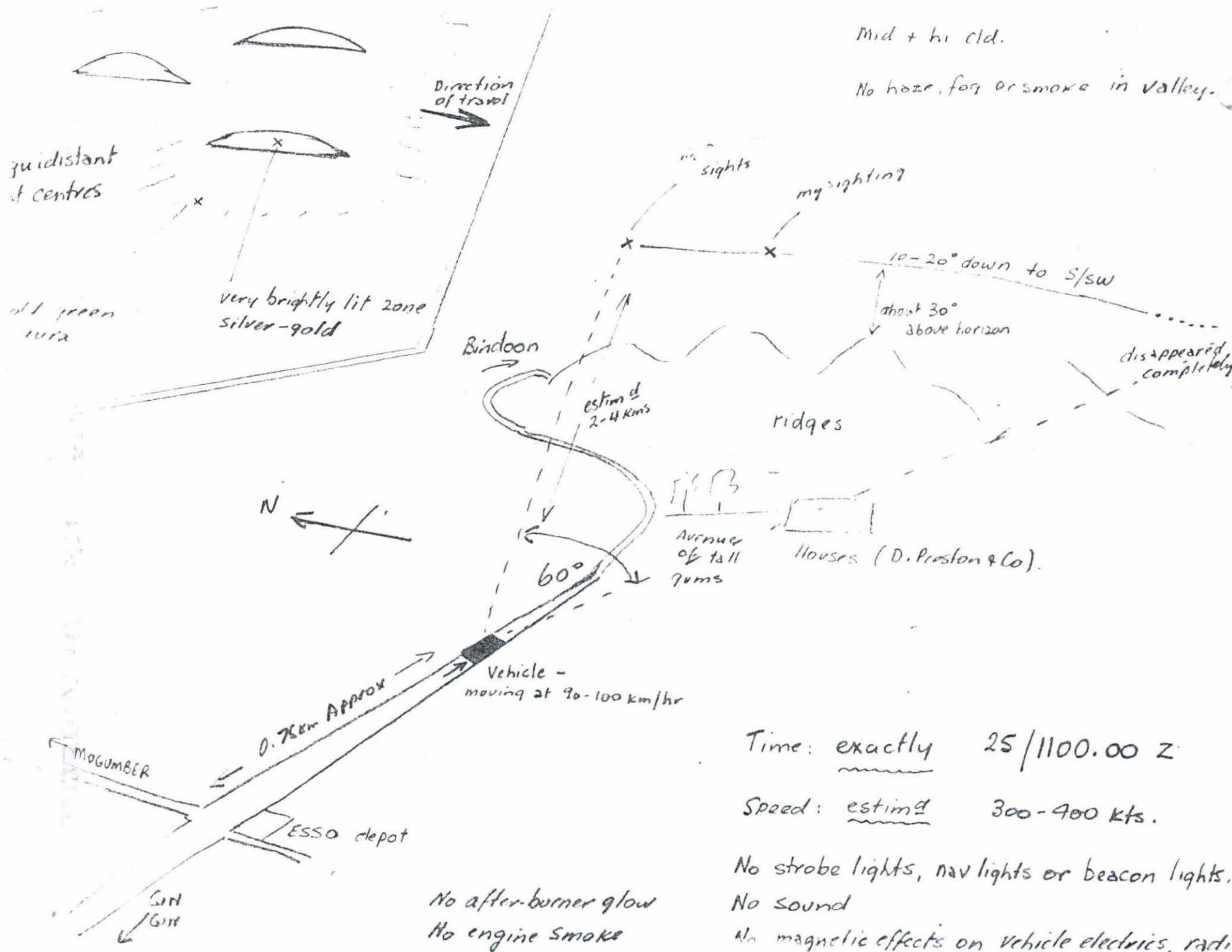
- ▲ Technical Advisory Service – Farm and Business.
- ▲ Chemical Research and Development – Contract and Independent.
- ▲ Application Technique and Equipment Research.
- ▲ Newsletter for Farmers.

REC. - 4 MAR 1983

FILE 82/1822

PA

RPD



Mid + hi cld.
 No haze, fog or smoke in valley.

Time: exactly 25/1100.00 Z
 Speed: est. 300-400 kts.

No strobe lights, nav lights or beacon lights.
 No sound
 No magnetic effects on vehicle electronics, radios,
 reflections inside car. (checked sun position = down)

No after-burner glow
 No engine smoke



DO NOT OPEN

This acid-free mask contains³..... folios
with the date range¹⁹⁸³⁻⁸³.....

The contents of the mask are:

Exempt from public access under
paragraph(s)^{23(1)g}..... 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.

Date mask applied:^{4/2/13}.....

Series no:

Item no:

NAS 1061 (SEPT 1999)



30 JUL 1982

~~5~~ 2

W78/1756
DGB:PAH

Mr D Ferguson
5 Stallard Court
Australind 6232

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 21 July 1982 in which you seek certain information.

The only civil radar for Air Traffic Control purposes is located at Kalamunda and has a range of 160 nautical miles.

In respect to reports of odd aerial phenomena these matters are referred to the RAAF Base at Pearce.

As to the matter you referred to on the 11.3.82 our initial understanding was advice given by the Observatory that the light was caused by Jupiter rising.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours faithfully,



(D.G. Brown)
for REGIONAL DIRECTOR



5 Stallard Court Australind WA 6232
17.7.82

Dept of Transport
Aerial Divison

ENG.....	153
REC. 21 JUL 1982	
FILE	78/1756

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask for your assistance. I am involved in the research of odd aerial phenomena. To this end I would like some information on the following items.

- a) The extent of radar coverage of WA airspace in general. ie How many radar stations are located in WA and hours of use Civil and military, Is all state under cover from one of two locales etc.
- b) What happens to any reports of odd phenomena that are made to your office. Do you look into them or are they sent to others ie RAAF.
- c) Following from above

On March 11 82 (11.3.82) at Wagin Wa an odd event is reported I made enquiries and from the witnesses learnt that you had been contacted.

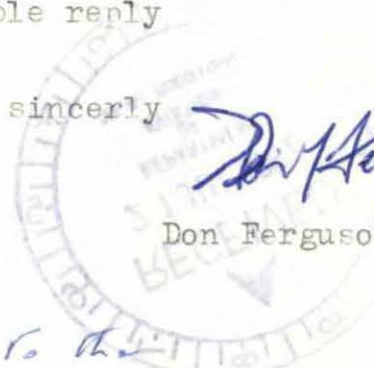
The event involved a Nocturnal light that interfered with a car radio and apparentl nearly ran car off road at about 0400hrs local. The witnesses contacted a police officer who also sighted object. He contacted you.

I therefore hope you can enlighten me with any results of this events investigation.

I await for a favourable reply

sincerely

Don Ferguson
Don Ferguson



OA 75

*1/2 attention pls.
I would refer them to the
military for military info.*

ADD

Low 20.2/1

400



This is a copy of the original document which was received by the Department of Aviation on 21 July 1962. The original document was received from the Department of Transport and is a copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 17 July 1962. The LHM was received from the Department of Transport and is a copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 17 July 1962. The LHM was received from the Department of Transport and is a copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 17 July 1962.

FILE
2000	21 JUL 1962
FILE

1. This is a copy of the original document which was received by the Department of Aviation on 21 July 1962.

Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED
			Initials				Initials				Initials
2	FILE EXAMINED	30/7	MLL								
3	ARDO	4/2/77	RPK								
4	OPSC	18/3	WFO								
5/6	DESP.	18/3	WFO								
6	FILE EXAMINED	18/3									
7	FILE EXAMINED	18/3									
8	C. TAYLOR (PAP)	4/5/18/77									
7	FILE EXAMINED	18/5									
8	ADMO	16/7									
8	WOAO	18/7	WFO								
9	DESP	18/7	Pmc								
9	FILE EXAMINED	21/7									

ARCHIVAL ACTION	FILE NO.	PART
	Review / /	
Retain Permanently		
Destroy(date)		

