

RESTRICTED



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

580-1-1

B

TELEPHONE: PENRITH 2331

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND SYDNEY"

HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL COMMAND
RAAF
PENRITH 1W NSW

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/2/1/Air(6)

7 FEB 1966

Secretary
Department of Air
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT

DAFI.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - TULLY AREA

1. A report of investigations conducted by Headquarters RAAF Base TOWNSVILLE into the recent sighting of an unidentified flying object in the TULLY area is enclosed.
2. This headquarters believes that the depressions of the swamp grass were caused by small isolated waterspouts.
3. For information, Mr. R.C. RUSSELL who submitted the reports of the 13th and 21st January 1966, is a committee member of the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau.

Encls 20

T.D. Wright
(T.D. WRIGHT)
Flight Lieutenant
for Air Officer Commanding

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON AERIAL OBJECT OBSERVED



1. Name of Observer George Alfred PEDLEY, aged 28 years.....
2. Address of Observer Bruce Highway Tully.....
3. Occupation of Observer Banana grower.....
4. Date and Time of Observation (Time given in 24 hour clock zonal time)
19/1/66 at about 0900 hours.....
5. Period of observation (s) About 15 seconds.....
6. Manner of observation: (Give details of own position by map reference if possible, or by known landmarks, and describe any equipment used in the observation).
Travelling on a tractor about 1/2 mile from farm house of Albert PENNISI, Rockingham Road, Durango. Attention attracted by hissing noise clearly heard over noise of tractor-similar to air escaping from tyre; checked tyres and was looking about for source of noise when he saw object about 25 yards ahead. No optical instruments used in sighting.
.....
7. Where was object first observed, e.g. overhead, coming from behind a hill, over the horizon etc.
Object about 25 yars ahead at height of about 30 feet rising vertically.....
8. What first attracted observer's attention, e.g. light or noise.
Loud hissing noise.....
9. Did object appear, as a light or as a definite object.
Definite object no light visible.....
10. If there was more than one object, how many were there, and what was their formation.
One object.....
11. What was the colour of the light or object Light grey; dull-non-reflecting.....
12. What was its apparent shape Two saucers-face to face.....
13. Was any detail of structure observable Object about 25 feet long and 8' to 9' deep. No structural detail observed.....
14. Was any method of propulsion obvious No.....
15. Was there any sound Loud hissing noise which seemed to diminish as object rose.....
- * 16. Height, or angle of elevation First seen at treetop height 30'. Rose vertically to about twice that height; then departed, climbing at about 45 degrees.....
- * 17. Speed, or angular velocity Extremely fast; No estimate of speed, but much faster than an aeroplane.....
18. State any experience which enables observer to be reasonably certain about the answers given to 16 and 17.
See 16. It was near treetops and these gave observer a good basis for estimating height.....

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



Report on aerial object observed (Contd)

19. Direction of flight with reference to landmarks or points of the compass.

Rose vertically to about 60 feet and departed south west climbing at about 45 degrees; appeared to be rotating for full time observed.

20. Did the object remain on a straight path, deviate or manoeuvre at all.

Straight climbing path. (See 27.)

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

22. Where did object disappear e.g. in mid-air, behind a hill, over the horizon.

Mid air; receded into distance.

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

Clearly defined near circular depression in swamp grass at point from which object seen rising; about 32" long and 25" wide. Grass flattened to surface of 4" of water lying in ~~anti~~ clockwise curves

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

Clear sky. Hot sunshine.

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

Unknown but checked by R.A.A.F. Garbut.

26. Location of any meteorological stations in the general area ~~Cairns~~ and Innisfail Post Offices are weather reporting Stations. Cairns Airport would be nearest Station.

27. Any additional information Observed reported this matter to Tully Police at 7.30pm on 19/1/66 and at 7am, 20/1/66 went with me to the site of the depression in the swamp. His version then included the information that the object (see 20) rose vertically appeared to dip slightly and then went off in straight climbing path. He then said (see 23) and further that there was no smell of combustion and no scorching of grass or tress visible; that the flattened grass or rushes was quite green when he first saw the depression; on his return that afternoon the grass had turned brown.

In this matter I formed the opinion that the depressed area in the swamp grass had been caused by a small helicopter and that the observer, in the early morning bright sunlight shining on the rotor may have mistaken the shape. His description of the takeoff lent some strength to my opinion. However there was cleared land to the east for about 200 yards where such an aircraft could have more safely landed instead of the position indicated by the observer, close to trees. Later I was informed by Wallace Evans of 68 Bryant Street, Tully, an electrician that he has seen similar markings in a swamp at Kurrumine Beach and is quite certain that it was caused by a whirlwind, sucking up water into a waterspout, uprooting the grass and laying it out in a similar pattern. At 3.30pm, 21/1/66 I took a sample of the grass at the site and have forwarded it under separate cover on even date.

A.V. MCILAN. Sgt. 1/c 3433.

Questions 25, 26 and 27 to be answered by interrogator. 26/1/66

"Saucer" Nests Grass Died Of Natural Causes

BRISBANE, Jan. 26.—The reeds in North Queensland's flying saucer nests had died of natural causes, according to Queensland University's Botany Department.

The reader in Botany (Dr. R. F. Langdon) tonight said a series of examinations by the department had shown that the reeds appeared to have died from submersion in swamp water.

"It appears these reeds were in a low-lying section which had been flooded during the recent rains," he said. "This immersion caused the reeds to die."

The examinations revealed no evidence of parasitic infestation, nor any evidence of burning.

Dr. Langdon said the findings could not be conclusive because more information would be required for a complete answer.

"I would want to know details of winds, currents in the swamps, information about local topography and other information before I could give a really accurate answer," he added.

The reeds were examined following a report by a Tully farmer that he saw a mysterious object take off from a swamp in the Tully area last Thursday.

Tests Of "Saucer Nests"

BRISBANE, January 23.—Specimens from the North Queensland flying saucer "nests" will be flown to the Queensland University Physics Department to-morrow for radio activity tests.

Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau committeeman (Mr. E. Russell) announced this to-night.

Three "nests" were reported found in the Tully district last week. They are circular clearings of dry reeds surrounded by green reeds, and many people who have seen them believe they were made by flying saucers.

The first was found in a swamp by banana grower Mr. George Pedley, who said he saw a vapour-like saucer take off from the spot last Wednesday.

The second and third were first sighted by cane farmer Mr. Tom Warren and school teacher Mr. Hank Penning when walking around Horseshoe Lagoon. The lagoon is on the property of cane farmer Mr. Albert Pennisi, at Euramo.

SAMPLES

To-day, Mr. Pennisi, clambered into the five feet deep swamp to retrieve some of the grass said to have been touched by a flying saucer.

Mr. Pennisi said to-night "I had no trouble getting samples of the grass roots and mud which normally lie on the bottom of the lagoon. They were floating on top of the water, which is most unusual. They must have been sucked up by something."

A constant stream of cars has poured through Mr. Pennisi's property since the sightings last week.

"We used to be sceptical about this sort of thing, but there seems to be no other explanation for the strange marks on our lagoon," Mr. Pennisi said.

UFO 'nests' are probed

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'Most unusual'

The lagoon is on the property of cane farmer Mr. Albert Pennisi, at Euramo.

Yesterday, Mr. Pennisi clambered into the five-foot-deep swamp to re-

trieve some of the grass which is said to have been touched by a flying saucer.

He said afterwards: "I had no trouble getting samples of the grass roots and mud which normally lie on the bottom of the lagoon. They were floating on top."

"It is most unusual. They must have been sucked up by something."

Mr. Russell said the radioactivity tests made on the samples of mud, grass, and roots from the "nest" in the lagoon would be one way of "finding out the facts."

Sightseers

He said that if the specimens proved radioactive it would be in keeping with similar discoveries in Europe.

Meanwhile, the Pennisis have reported that a constant stream of cars have poured through their property since the reports last week.

"We used to be sceptical about this sort of thing, but there seems to be no other explanation for the strange marks on our lagoon," Mrs. Pennisi said.

COURIER-MAIL 24 JAN 1966

THE TOWNVILLE DAILY BULLETIN 24 JAN 66

No Radiation In Saucer "Nests"

BRISBANE, January 25.—Radiation tests run on grass from Tully's "flying saucer nests" proved negative to-day.

Queensland University botanists are now investigating the specimens sent to them.

The Flying Saucer Research Bureau president (Mr. S. Seers) said to-day that the grass sent down from Tully had shown virtually no radiation.

Mr. Seers, who is also a laboratory assistant at the University's Physics Department, said: "So far we have proved nothing and disproved nothing."

The specimens were tested for Alpha, Beta and Gamma rays, but gave less than one hundredth of the radiation given by a luminous-dial watch, he said.

Mr. Seers said botanists had said that at first glance they did not expect to gain much information from the samples.

"The grass was six days old by the time we got it," he said. "If we could only get earlier reports it would give us a head-start."

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BRISBANE COURIER MAIL
24 JAN 66

"Flying Saucer" Seen Near Tully



A Tully farmer has reported seeing a "flying saucer" while driving a tractor from one farm to another near Tully. Soon after he found a big area of flattened grass, about 30 feet by 20 feet, in a swamp.

Mr. George Pedley told Tully police of his experience on Wednesday night.

He said that at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning he was driving a tractor from Tully to a banana plantation, about eight miles south of Tully. When approaching Mr. Albert Pennisi's farm, he heard a loud hissing noise, louder than the noise of the tractor.

HISSING NOISE

At first he thought the tractor was giving trouble. But, as the hissing noise grew still louder, he realised it was something else.

Gazing around, Mr. Pedley told police, he saw a circular object above some trees about 40 yards away. The object seemed to dip a little, then took off at high speed and soon disappeared.

As he continued to drive the tractor, he saw the big depression in the tall green grass in the swamp-land.

The swamp contained about five feet of water with long green grass and bull rushes growing through it. The grass had been pushed flat in an area about 30 feet by 20 feet.

On Thursday, the officer in charge of Tully police (Sergeant First Class A. V. Moylan) went to the area and inspected the depression in the swampy grass.

He said the grass in the depression was still lying flat and had browned off, although it did not appear to have been burned. Mr. Pedley had said that the previous day, when he saw the huge mark, the grass was quite green.

Sergeant Moylan said there was no sign of any marks having been made by cattle or other animals. There were no tracks leading in or out of the depression, and the grass had been flattened smoothly.

"I do not believe in flying saucers — not yet," said Sergeant Moylan. "I have to see one first."

INEXPLICABLE

"But the peculiar mark in the swamp grass seems quite inexplicable."

"It occurred to me that it may possibly have been made by a helicopter, but to the best of my knowledge there has been no such aircraft in the area."

Sergeant Moylan said that smaller type helicopters commonly put down when their fuel supply was nearly exhausted and refuelled themselves from drums carried on the craft.

But against the helicopter theory, he said, was the fact that the depression in the swamp grass was in very close proximity to trees, and a helicopter pilot could have found a much better landing spot in a clear area about 100 or 200 yards further out.

On Thursday night, Mr. Pedley told a "Towns-ville Bulletin" reporter that when he first saw the

object he did not know what he was looking at.

He said that he "could not believe his eyes at first," but after seeing its shape and size, the speed with which it flew away and the impressions made in the grass afterwards, he took it to be a "flying saucer".

Mr. Pedley, who is 28, said that the object looked like two saucers joined together with a small cabin at its top and another small projection underneath.

He said it was about 24 or 25 feet long, nine feet deep, and was greyish-blue in colour.

The object had hovered about 30 feet from the ground for at least a minute before rising straight up and flying off towards the south-west.

Tully police later contacted the R.A.A.F. base at

Garbutt about the sighting, and the matter is now being investigated by R.A.A.F. personnel.

Pictured above is the scene which confronted Mr. Pedley after he had seen, what he believed was a "flying saucer". The picture clearly shows a large area of grass which was flattened by the object.

(Tully Studio photo)

MINUTE PAPER

(Write on this side only)

5/40/A1r()

(21)

SUBJECT: UFO REPORTS - CAIRNS AND TULLY AREA

ASO

1. UFO Reports received from CAIRNS and TULLY area on 17JAN66 and 20JAN66.

2. First report concerns UFO sighted in MACHANS BEACH area south of CAIRNS reported by Mr E.C. Russell of Box 151 Post Office BASINDA who was holidaying in the area at the time. This letter was acknowledged on 17JAN66 - copy of which is attached.

3. Second report was received from Sgt A.W. Moylan of TULLY Police by telephone on the morning of 20JAN66. This report concerned an UFO sighting approximately 12 miles South East of TULLY by Mr G. Tedley of TULLY. Preliminary investigation was made by Sgt Moylan before contacting this headquarters.

4. I advised Sgt Moylan that we would be forwarding proforma questionnaire for completion by Mr Tedley. This was also forwarded in the case of the first sighting to the Officer in Charge of Police Station BASINDA for completion by Mr E.C. Russell.

5. On Friday 21JAN66 I confirmed with Sgt Moylan that I was forwarding two copies of the proforma by mail that day and requested him to obtain a sample of the grass from the scorched area.

6. The sighting near TULLY was reported in the Townsville Daily Bulletin on Friday 21JAN66. Subsequent press reports were made on the sightings on 21 and 22JAN66, cuttings of which will be forwarded to HQOPCOM.

7. On Monday 24JAN66 I received a second letter from Mr E.C. Russell of BASINDA enclosing newspaper cuttings from the Local Newspaper. This will be acknowledged in due course.

8. In both cases it was confirmed that there were no Service or Civil aircraft operating in the areas at the time of the sighting. Photostat copies of all correspondence will be forwarded together with the completed proforma to HQOPCOM.

9. I will keep you informed of further developments.

Flt Lt
B(I)SO

26

Innisfail District,
Tully Station.
26/1/66.

Relative to UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED NEAR TULLY, 0900Hrs.
19/1/66. Ref. 5/40/Air(18) of 21st. January, 1966.

Sir/,

I have to report receipt of your communication of the above reference on 25/1/66 and return herewith completed questionnaire forwarded by you under that cover.

On 21/1/66 at 3.30pm., in response to a request by P. L. Wallace I took a sample of the grass from the depression in the swamp grass at the site and I am forwarding that under separate cover, with a copy of this communication even date.

Please feel free to request any further information required.

Officer Commanding,
Headquarters,
RAAF Base,
Townsville.

[Signature]
A. V. MOYLAN. Sgt. 1/c 3433.

RECEIVED	DATE	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY UNIT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	26/1/66	Reply Direct Signed for OC
<input type="checkbox"/> Unacknowledged		Submit reply for Signature by OC
<input type="checkbox"/> Base Unit		Reply to HQ via Base
<input type="checkbox"/> HQ or AIC		Special instructions
<input type="checkbox"/> HQ Forward		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to OC		

①

C. RAAF Townsville

Box 151
BARRINBOR
21-1-66

Dear Sir

Thanks For your acknowledgement-message
understood -

I am now convinced there is room For Security,
investigation - Which no doubt would be your course of
action - Following RIR Traffic investigations showing a blank
Being well versed - and summing up the activity I
had concluded the case looked to me - as one which
should be sent without causing notice otherwise - to
assure if action was necessary - and warning given
This therefore explains my letter to you.

Now Sir subsequent events, which dove tailed and
serve to prompt me to write you Further

my report a good deal of this
is based on supposition - and not Factual
observation - However you will appreciate it is
worth consideration

Having been curious - I was later to become interested
in the Theory - The object sighted could have had
a Land Connection - or Contact - its action served
to give me the opinion - That it was a Spotter
and most likely of a Copter Type - its allmost
steady position in the sky - its Great height and
its Time There - indicated it was NOT the ordinary
Aircraft - also it departed with (no indication of)
having circled for a Copter Flight -

I made it my business to watch the following

2 Nights at the same time - But did not see anything definite - on 14th Cloud Formation cut off Further observation of what I picked up as possible - Therefore this cannot be classed as Factual

However whilst I was watching I had an unexpected visitor - a man in a wheelchair - he is I have learned since a local identity - However his questions and his sudden appearance gave me and indication he did not come along casually.

I noted all he said and quietly checked up on him -- As far as he is concerned I don't think he could have any connection - But I think an associate may have - and used him to gain my presence. (This is purely supposition however). But the course taken by the object and the report (clicking hem with) indicates further. A number of the Questions suggested someone wanted to know - what I knew about Mission Beach. You will note these give rise for further conjecture. It could be connected -

- (1) The Police officers statement - The water - etc all serves - A rising long Blade copter at close range also does look as the sighter describes at times.

Now Sir provided no answer from your investigations results - These observations are worth considerable thought.

You will know of the volume of Air Traffic.

on Nights of 6th and 7th into Cairns drove at
~~Guaranteeing~~ ^{Guaranteeing} Times of my sighting on 13th
 These on regular course, had been observed by me
 and rejected from other than - No business of mine -
 But putting 2 & 2 together
 I viewed the object reported with concern - And
 gave it what experience told me should be done

Personally I think it has some connection with
 Air movements in and out of Cairns dome. But
 Not belonging to us -

2nd I have ~~must~~ to assume it had LAND
 assistance - AND its approx 15 min. Hovering was
 for purpose of receiving only -

3rd Now The Further report coincides with direction
 of departure - and also the approach from Seaward
 of Pontoon ^{Tide}craft possible.

4th the questions by the caller Name Kelly (Cripple)
 about Mission Beach may have some bearing
 However This as I said is supposition - I leave it
 To your good self - who can build or reject
 From records available to you

You can rely on my confidential treatment
 and my understanding - I do not expect
 any explanations - The results of my theory
 is correct depends largely on silence - Trusting this
 may be valuable in respect

Yours Sincerely
 R. H. Russell

"Flying Saucer" Near Tully

Reported Landing in Lagoon

A mysterious object, gray in color and emitting a loud hissing noise, was seen "taking off" from Hershey Lagoon, about 16 miles south of Tully, on Wednesday morning.

The object, it was reported, was shaped like two saucers joined together and headed in a south-western direction at a fast speed.

Mr. G. Pedley was driving a tractor through Mr. A. Pannell's farm at 9 a.m. when he heard a hissing sound which grew steadily louder.

He was about 30 yards from the lagoon when he saw the object rise and start to spin. He estimated the dimensions at 25 feet by nine feet.

Mr. Pedley reported the incident to the police that evening and Sergeant A. V. Morlan and Constable D. Burns investigated the area of the "landing".

They found no marks or burns on the reeds which grow 18 inches above the water level, but the reeds were flattened in a definite pattern in an oval shape about 32 feet by 25 feet. Outside this oval marking, the reeds were standing straight.

Sergeant Morlan, who said he did not believe in "flying saucers", thought that the reeds could have been flattened by a helicopter with rotors. However, a Civil Aviation Department spokesman said in Cairns yesterday that no helicopters had been in the area on that day.

Mr. Pedley said that he had hesitated to report the sighting as he doubted that people would believe him. However, since he reported the incident, almost the whole population of Tully and surrounding districts has visited the lagoon to see the "evidence".

The general consensus is that something heavy had landed and flattened the reeds, but opinions were divided on the question of a flying saucer.

Another mysterious flying object was reported from the Tully district about two weeks ago. Residents on the rifle range said they had seen an object, resembling a saucer, flying over a nearby mountain top.

5/40/Air(18)

WHW:IMS

18
Headquarters
RAAF Base
TOWNSVILLE QLD

21st January 1966

Sgt A.V. Maylan
Police Station
TULLY QLD

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED NEAR TULLY
19TH JANUARY 1966

1. With reference to the telephone conversation between yourself and Flight Lieutenant WALLACE on 20th January 1966 concerning the above sighting, we have enclosed two copies of a pro-forma to assist in obtaining the desired information.
2. It is respectfully requested that after obtaining the required information, your Department retain one copy for record purposes and forward the other copy to the above address.
3. Would you enclose a sample of the grass from the scorched area.
4. Your ready co-operation in this matter is most appreciated.

[Signature]
(D.B. BURBIDGE)
Group Captain
Officer Commanding

Deposited 2 Jan 66
Encl:

5/40/Mr(19)
WHW:LM3

19
Headquarters
RAAF Base
TOWNSVILLE QLD

21st January 1966

Officer in Charge
Police Station
RABINHA QLD

Dear Sir,

1. We have received a report on an unidentified flying object sighted near Kookums Beach, CAIRNS, on the night of 13th January 1966.
2. The report was made by Mr R.C. RUSSELL, PO Box 151, RABINHA, who, at the time, was holidaying in the Cairns district but has since returned home.
3. We would be grateful if you would contact Mr RUSSELL and request him to complete the attached pro-forma.
4. On completion, please retain one copy for your department records, and kindly forward the other copy to the above Headquarters.
5. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by W.H. Wallace
(W.H. WALLACE)
Flight Lieutenant
For Officer Commanding

Dispatched 21 Jan 66
H
Encls

HQFVL 5/40/Air(13)

Headquarters
RAAF Base
TOWNSVILLE QLD

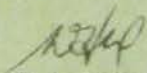
17th January 1966

Mr R.C. Russell,
P.O. Box 151
BABINDA QLD

Dear Sir,

1. Thank you for your letter concerning the sighting of an unidentified flying object at Machans Beach on 13th January 1966.
2. The matter is being investigated and the results will be forwarded to you on completion.

Yours faithfully,


(W.H. WALLACE)
Flight Lieutenant
For Officer Commanding

1410
B1(5)0. follow this matter
Dear Sir
RECEIVED
1 JAN 765
HEADQUARTERS
RAAF
TOWNSVILLE
Box 157
BARRINDIA
13-1-66
(12)

The above is my home address - I am Holidaying (Camped at
Machans Beach). I have just witness a strange and mysterious
movement of what I can positively identify. as AND AIRCRAFT
From my Beach position at MACHANS approx 15 miles North
OF CAIRNS Aerodrome

The CRAFT sighted and kept under observation from approx
7-48 to definite 8-5 PM. did not conform with ordinary
AIR movement.

IT did NOT leave CAIRNS OR Land at CAIRNS
My. AIF Service during World War ~~Service II~~
aroused interest by the great height. approx. 25-30
30000 FT. - estimated on. 2 1/2 to 3 Times greater
than civil. AIR LINES max heights.

I NOTICED this CRAFT move in From E.E.S OR From
Seaward. the approx Time being estimated
when I noted this CRAFT. did NOT proceed.

To come in. - AND Hovered in an almost still
position. - then. took the time. 7-51 pm

The strange point being. - The CRAFT remained
at the ^{one} point until exactly 8-5 pm. Then moved
OFF South at about normal aircraft speed.
I watched it until it disappeared on this course
behind the point. out 75M Cairns HARBOUR.

I would draw your attention to this, personally
rather than broadcast it - Being aware that
the best security method of observation

would be to report to the control H.Q. O.C.
 This may or not have significance. yet
 you will appreciate - could have a very
 definite cause for investigation

you would be aware of the movements of
 AIRCRAFT INTO CAIRNS at approx this hour
 on recent occasions - I having observed -
 thought it my duty to report this to
 you direct. For obvious reasons.

My service records - would reveal my service
 was highly considered -

I have drawn a rough sketch of the area
 showing the movement

you will note highly practical as an observation
 position. To note incoming craft to CAIRN Drome.
 Had this craft proceed to CAIRNS I would not
 have considered this report.

I Trust that should it prove valuable information
 in doing so - I could head to your assistance.

I have not drawn any other person's attention
 save my wife - And leave it to your knowledge
 and position. To act as required.

I can assure you the observations are 100%
 Factual.

Yours Sincerely
 R & Russell

PS Should you want to contact me on the matter
 I will be here at Mackay Beach until Sunday morning
 thence at Gordonvale attending an electorate council meeting
 until evening. Thence to above address. Phone 110 Babinda
 R&R

Green 1/3
* after
Hue

CAME IN approx
AT 7-48 to 7-50

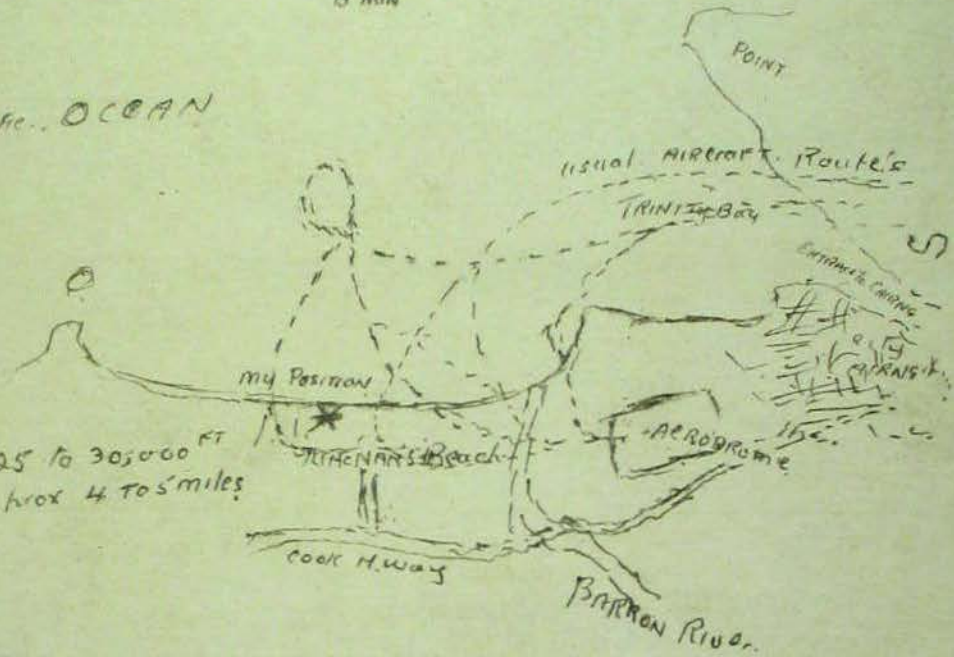
HAVER POINT
APPROX
15 MIN

Departed 8-5 PM

Pacific OCEAN

N

Estimated height 25 to 30,000 ft
offshore approx 4 to 5 miles



S

2/25/66
580/1/1

11 FEB '66

President
CAPIO
100 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC

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Dear Sir,

1. Reference your memo dated 2nd February 1966.
2. Investigations of the area surrounding the reported "Nests", testing of samples taken from around them and interrogation of persons involved in the report failed to reveal anything of significance.
3. However, during enquiries a number of local residents stated that the reported "nests" are fairly common during the onset of the "wet". Furthermore, the University of Queensland stated that there was nothing unnatural in the samples submitted and assessed that the "nests" could have been the result of severe turbulence, which normally accompany line squalls and thunderstorms prevalent in NORTH QUEENSLAND at that time of the year.
4. There is no explanation for the visible phenomena reported but it could have been associated with or the result of "down draughts", "willy willies" or "water spouts" that are known to occur in the area.
5. Enclosed for information and retention by your organization are a number of photographs taken in January of this year from an airfield in the tropics giving a fine example of the type and growth of a cloud formation occurring with a severe "down draught". This whirling mass of tropical air associated with thunderstorm activity, on reaching the earth's surface may dissipate and subside or persist giving rise to dust eddies, water spouts, etc, and leaving a telltale circular pattern on the ground. Should it occur over a swampy reed bed the effect would be to flatten the reeds with a circular pattern. Resultant photographs and investigations of the "nests" seem to fit in with this theory and is accepted as a possible cause of the phenomena.
6. This Department has no further information to add to the aforementioned details.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) A. B. McFARLANE

(A. B. McFarlane)
SECRETARY

Encls:

Note of Action

NEGATIVES Held by H/o HALL

Fig off C.R. Hall

Telex 2410

DATA/A12C

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