

Commonwealth of Australia



COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

'FLYING SAUCERS'

R/R

RDA 964-1.1

1952/57

ICR/GM



BY AIRMAIL

17th October, 1957

B.A. McCarthy, Esq.,
Box 8, P.O.,
ESPERANCE. Western Australia

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

Thank you for your letter of 8th October, in which you tell me of the object which you and others saw in the sky on 16th August. I am afraid I can offer no explanation of this object, nor can I suggest any action which could be taken at this stage to throw light on it.

I shall, however, refer your letter to others more competent in this field than I am, and am grateful to you for having brought the matter to my notice.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

CHAIRMAN

Records: File to Dr. White, please

Box 8
Esperance
8/10/57

D. Clarence Ross,
C.S. & P.O.
Melbourne.

Dear Doctor,

In the light of subsequent events I feel it is my duty to acquaint you with the following, which is self explanatory, & in accordance with the copy of my letter to the "Kalgoorlie Miner", which was never published or even acknowledged.

On the 16th Aug. at 8-15 P.M. a strange object was seen by a score or more people here, in the sky. I have seen planes at high altitudes & even "Doodle Bugs" in other parts of the world, but this was entirely different & so impressed me that I rang the local P. Office and left a message for the "Weather Man" to check if there was any phenomena.

On subsequent enquiry nothing was known of anything. Hence my letter to the news-paper, which was against my better judgement, but as there is no "Security" man here, though the place is full of Comrades & get rich quick boohies, it seemed all any citizen could do.

As nothing transpired, a fortnight later I informed a visiting representative of the A.B.C. He said that he

14 OCT 1957

would have to check with the Metrological people first. I said naturally that was what was intended.

Nothing was said again, & if it had not been for the fact that there were so many witnesses, I would have been ridiculed unmercifully. Not that, that worries me. I come of pioneering stock, like yourself, but it really is a bit ridiculous for a citizen of a growing nation in a shrinking world, being unable to report some out-standing event, to the right quarter at the right time, instead of having to write to news-papers.

What was seen here may have been Russia's first or forty-first "unsuccessful" satellite, or it may have been a "what we have", but it is still the same kettle of fish.

If the present pace of events keeps up, you will have no alternative but to appoint Agents.

This letter is written with the deepest sincerity, and not with any flippancy as may be detected in my letter to the Press.

Yours sincerely

Bernard A. McCanthy.

12/10/51 P.S.

After observing the present satellite or part thereof, it appeared to me to be nearly as bright as a star & similar thereto. Whereas what I reported was more of a planetary or spheroid, not particularly bright, but larger. Speed approx the same. All witnesses agree on this. Doneb.

(ENCL)

Copy

111
Esplanade
20/8/51

The Editor,
Kalgoorlie Miner
Kalgoorlie

Sir,

Reports on flying saucers from various parts of the world, are now common, but still never the less interesting. At Belfield Watching Station, Sydney's volunteer astronomers sit by telescopes at night waiting for the first earth satellite to appear. That is also interesting, but what would be a lot more interesting to me, & a score of other people who saw it, is if someone could tell us, what the dickens the luminous egg shaped object was, seen travelling East at high speed from the South West & after, to some observers, appearing to stop & reverse, then changed course to S.S. East & finally disappearing from sight at an angle of about 20 degrees.

This occurred last Friday at 8-15 PM. but I have yet to see a report or explanation in the press about it.

Yours faithfully

Bam Barth



MI

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SECRETARY
CABLES AND TELEGRAMS: CORESEARCH, MELBOURNE
TELEPHONE: JA 8611

314 ALBERT STREET,
EAST MELBOURNE, C.2.

22nd. March, 1954.

**Director-General
Department of Civil Aviation
499 Little Collins St.,
MELBOURNE, Victoria.**

Dear Sir:

"FLYING SAUCERS"

H'th/

We are enclosing a letter dated 16th. February, 1954.
received from **J.N. Stein, 109 So San Marino Av. Pasadena 10 Calif.**
since we feel that the information required would be more
appropriately supplied by you than by this Organization.

It would be appreciated if you would reply to the
enquirer direct. The letter has been acknowledged.

Guy B. Gresford.

Guy B. Gresford,
Secretary,
(Industrial & Physical Sciences.)



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TELEPHONE: JA 6611

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EAST MELBOURNE, C.2.

22nd. March, 1954.

**J.H. Stein, Esq.,
109 So San Marino Ave.,
PASADENA 10,
CALIFORNIA.**

Dear **Sir:****"FLYING SAUCERS"**

We have to acknowledge your letter **16th. February, 1954.**
The subject on which you require information is, however, one on
which this Organization has no special knowledge arising from
its own investigations.

Since it is probable that the information you need can
be supplied by **Director-General, Department of Civil Aviation,
499 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.**

we have taken the liberty of passing your letter on, with a
request that a reply be sent direct to you.

Yours faithfully,

Guy B. Grestford,
Secretary,

(Industrial & Physical Sciences.)



M1

MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION.
~~CANBERRA, A.C.T.~~

Commonwealth Offices,
Treasury Place,
MELBOURNE, C.2.

22nd February, 1954.

My dear Clunies Ross -

I sent Dr. Bowen copy of the letter I wrote to the papers about meteoric stream dates and flying saucers. In reply he says - "I was extremely interested in your letter of January 28th suggesting that sightings of flying saucers might be related to meteor showers. This is the first time such a relation has been suggested and it might well be the complete answer".

I thought you might be
As see his reaction

Dr. White

McCully

Dr. I. Clunies Ross, C.M.G.,
Chairman,
C. S. I. R. O.,
314 Albert Street,
EAST MELBOURNE. C.2.

23 FEB 1954

F.
17.



MI

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Dr. I. Clunies Ross, C.M.G.

~~*[Handwritten signature]*~~

With

Mr. R. G. Casey's

Compliments. 5 FEB 1954

*You mentioned that
you had seen the
letter I wrote to
him on Success. Here
is copy for Courier-
Mail - Brisbane*

COMMONWEALTH OFFICES,
TREASURY GARDENS,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

[Signature]
4/2/1954.

Theory suggested by Minister "SAUCERS" MAY COME FROM METEOR STREAM

TO THE EDITOR

FROM time to time people report having seen unexplained objects in the sky which have come to be called "flying saucers."

There have been many explanations of them—the sun shining on high-flying aircraft, meteorological balloons, imaginations, etc.

There is another possibility that may account for some of them, which has not been suggested, so far as I know.

On known dates in each year the earth passes through meteoric streams. These are the remains of comets that have disintegrated in outer space, but which continue their orbital paths round the sun in the form of streams of solid particles and meteoric dust.

Paths cross

The fact that the earth moves round the sun in a fixed path, and that these debris of meteors also move round the sun in fixed paths, means that the paths of the earth and of some of these meteoric streams intersect each other on a series of dates which are the same each year.

The earth sometimes takes a number of days to pass through the more important of these meteoric streams.

Dates of maximum meteoric activity are January 2, April 21, May 4, June 2, June 20, July 23, August 10-12, October 19, October 30-31, November 3-10, November 14, November 16, December 11-13.

I have lists of the dates over the last several years on which people have reported having seen "flying saucers" in Australia, and have compared them with the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteoric streams.

Dates related

There appears to be a noticeable relationship between these two sets of dates. By this I mean that there tends to be a grouping of flying saucer sightings round about the meteoric-stream dates that it is hard to believe is by chance.

And, again, there is a relative absence of "flying saucer" reports during the principal gaps between meteoric-stream dates. For instance, the minimum meteoric activity of the year is between January and April. These are also the months in which least "flying saucers" have been reported in Australia.

Not complete

I do not suggest that this evidence is by any means complete, or that it is, at best, more than a partial explanation of "flying saucer" phenomena. All that I suggest is that there is some evidence that people seem to report unexplained objects in the sky round about the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteoric streams and there seems to be a lull in the reporting of flying saucers in between these dates.

I do not suggest any more than that what I have said may be an explanation of at least a proportion of the "flying saucer" reports.
G. Ewing, Minister for

ICR/GM



18th September, 1952

F.B. Hubbard, Esq.,
26 Evelyn Street,
Grange,
BRISBANE. Q'land.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th September, in which you bring to my notice the world-wide survey being carried out by the Chicago "Daily News" Foreign Service of opinions on the supposed occurrence of "flying saucers".

I am afraid it is not possible for this Organization to make any useful contribution to the survey, since we know of few, if any, reports of the observation of "flying saucers" in this country and certainly of none which deserve serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,

CHAIRMAN

26 Evelyn St., Grange,
Brisbane, Queensland

September 9, 1952

Dr. I. Clunies-Ross,
Chairman, CSIRO
Canberra, A.C.T.



Dear Sir:

The Chicago Daily News Foreign Service, which I represent in Australia, is preparing for its 60 American and Canadian client newspapers what is intended to be the most comprehensive newspaper examination yet made of the "flying saucer" situation.

It is being prepared on a world-wide basis, and I am hoping that you will find it possible to give me whatever assistance you can in evaluating the "saucer" reports in this country.

In trying to determine how many of these "saucers" are explainable objects, therefore, I would greatly appreciate if you could give me any information that would embody replies to such questions as these:

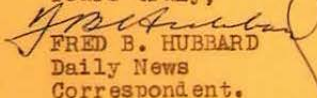
1. Do you know of any evidence in Australia tending to prove or disprove "flying saucers" as mysterious aircraft?
2. Do you know of any cases which defy scientific explanation of the phenomena Australians have reported seeing in their skies?
3. Have you made any discoveries or formed any theories about these phenomena?

I should like to make the point here that the Daily News' examination is a completely open-minded one aimed solely at obtaining all the available evidence.

It is not being made on any prior assumptions that "saucers" are inter-planetary aircraft, hallucinations, or optical illusions.

Whatever assistance your organization can give, therefore, will be greatly appreciated and given full credit by the News.

Yours truly,


FRED B. HUBBARD
Daily News
Correspondent.

12 SEP 1952

JFW:MS



MI.

10th September, 1952.

Mr. E. R. May,
59 Rose Street,
GRENFELL. N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of August 26th addressed to the Director, C.S.I.R., Canberra, has been forwarded to this Office. It is difficult, on the basis of the information you have given, for us to make any attempt at a detailed explanation of your observations. One point worth noting, however, is that in certain circumstances light such as that from search-lights can illuminate clouds without the beams of the lights being at all readily visible from the ground. Light spots produced on clouds in this way would probably look somewhat as you have described, changing in shape according to the angle of incidence of beam on the cloud surface.

Naturally, of course, it is impossible to say that this was the explanation of the occurrence but we have received no other reports of it and in the absence of further detail it seems unwise for us to speculate further.

Yours faithfully,

G. B. Gresford,
Secretary,
Industrial & Physical Sciences.

EMI
59 Rose Street,
Grenfell.
Aug. 26, 1952.

H. G. Gifford


The Director,
Council of Scientific &
Industrial Research,
CANBERRA.



Dear Sir,

At approximately 3.40 a.m. on the 22nd Aug. (inst.) my son awakened me to "come and see 'the flying saucer' which we had been watching for some time."

We went down to the junction of two streets near our home and waited in the shade of a tree. The sky was overcast, the clouds appearing to be very high, but street light glare would otherwise have interfered with our vision when looking skyward.

Presently he and a boy friend pointed out a misty phosphorescent phenomenon moving from the north-west, easterly and then north-easterly, to disappear after several minutes. We waited a few more minutes and the object re-appeared in the north-west. This time I had a good view of it with my binoculars. It was apparently of a vaporous nature consisting of luminous waves in vigorous agitation. Sometimes it appeared to travel at very high speed and at others it was comparatively stationary. When first seen by me it was shaped somewhat like this , later becoming fairly elliptical. After

passing practically overhead, it again disappeared in the north-east. We waited sometime; but it did not reappear and as several stars became visible through the clouds, thus minimising the possibility of further clear observation of the phenomenon, we retired. The last appearance was at about 4 a.m.

What we observed was certainly not mere ordinary cloud-rack upon which lights were shining. No search-lights are in this locality and even should such lights have been used the beams would have been visible. Moreover, the luminosity appeared to be of the phenomenon itself, surging in waves.

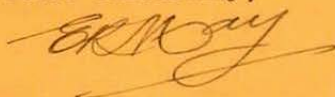
The boys told me that, while returning home from a Ball, they first became aware of the "flying saucer" at about 3 a.m. It appeared on a number of occasions travelling to and fro on approximately the same path. This too would discount the possibility of it being a small cloud. They said that while it was travelling at a very great speed it had the appearance of a comet with a very bright head, like a constellation of small bright stars, and that at other times it was somewhat saucerlike.

29 AUG 1952
Whilst the phenomenon was apparently at a great height, it was thought to be below the cloud. Had it been above it must have been very bright (for it must be remembered the stars were obscured): In this case it may have been possible for the structure of the high cloud to give the internal billowing, luminous wavelike effect.

It is understood that at least one other independent local person also witnessed the phenomenon.

I shall deem it a favour if you will endeavour to explain to me what the appearance may have been.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. M. Gray', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.