PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
3 Jan 54

2. LOCATION
Blackburn, Australia

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local 1555
GMT 03/0555Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☒ No

6. SOURCE
civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
1 minute

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
SE

12. CONCLUSIONS
☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon
☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft
☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical
☒ Other Reflection
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING
Witness heard sound of a/c and attempted to locate. Saw obj in vicinity of sun (42 deg elev). Object was silver and highly reflective. Appeared to be stationary, then moved in direct flight over the horizon to the SE in about 1 min. Oval possibly, no details, no tail. Had a whip motion, disappearance was behind trees on hill.

11. COMMENTS
Observer located object in vicinity of sun, then followed object to point behind trees on hill, description including circumstance of sighting in location near sun indicates that the witness probably saw reflection from the a/c that he was attempting to locate, however, could not distinquish features of this a/c due to the briefness of the sighting.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

[redacted]

COPY

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

5/6/AIR(11A)

Headquarters Training Command
R.A.A.F.
Albert Park Barracks
Melbourne S.C. 3.

19 Jan 1954

The Secretary,
Air Board,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne S.C.1.,
Victoria

(Attention D.A.F.I.)

SIGHTING OF UNUSUAL AERIAL OBJECT
Mr. J.M. COWDEN
BLACKBURN - 3rd January 1954

1. Herewith report of a sighting by Mr [redacted] of Blackburn of an usual aerial object 1555 hours 3rd January 1954.

2. Four other observers have reported to Department of Civil Aviation sighting similar objects at about the same time on 3rd January 1954 but it has not been possible to correlate these sightings as yet.

3. Mr. [redacted] report was made to the Air Operations Room AFHQ only immediately after the sighting. The writer visited Mr [redacted] after work on 8th January 1954 and obtained the attached report. Mrs. [redacted], who was beside her husband at the time of sighting, saw nothing. Mr [redacted] appeared quite genuine and had no previous interest in "flying saucers" or other aerial phenomena. In fact he objected to the term "flying saucer" as applied to his sighting and regrets having mentioned his sighting because of subsequent ridicule from his neighbours.

(sgd.) (L.L. JOHNSTON)
Squadron Leader
For Air Officer Commanding

Encl.
1

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

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T54-1444

[redacted]

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Air Attache, Australia IR-36-54 4 10

REPORT ON AERIAL OBJECT OBSERVED

(The numbers and questions follow same pattern as those in report beginning on page 2. Only answers are given below.)

1. Mr. [redacted]
2. [redacted] Blackburn
3. Silversmith
4. 3 Jan 54 at 1555 K hrs
5. 1 minute
6. Home (37°45' S 145°08' E) Ground to Air naked eye. No equipment used.
7. In the vicinity of the sun
8. Noise caused observer to look for an aircraft
9. Definite object
10. One
11. Highly reflective (silver)
12. No tail. Possibly oval.
13. No details.
14. No
15. No scund overhead but sound originally attracted attention.
16. Sun 1600 hr position - Elevation 42° Bearing 272' T.
17. Sun to SE horizon - 1 min. Originally appeared stationary.
18. No special knowledge.
19. From west to ESE horizon
20. Straight path with whip motion
21. No
22. Behind trees on hill
23. Nil
24. Fine, clear sky, good visibility, temperature 75°.
25. Light aircraft in vicinity at time stated, operating from MOORABBIN
26. Melbourne

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[redacted]