

## NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES COPIES FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC

File Number: AIR 39/3/3 Volume 4

File Title: Reports of UFO's

File Timespan: Opened: 1981 - Closed 1984

File Declassified: September 2010

Location of Original File: Held at Archives New Zealand

Access to Original File: Restricted until 2054

File Contains: Various UFO sightings from members of the public and reports on sightings at Christchurch International Airport and Temuka in 1982. Correspondence from the Office of the Ombudsman relating to public access to UFO information. Correspondence from / to UFO research groups in NZ and requests for UFO information from overseas researchers. Various Press clippings throughout.

# **NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE**

## **PUBLIC RELEASE OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES**

These copied and redacted files of correspondence on **Unidentified Flying Objects** dating from 1952 to 2009 have been Declassified and released to the public by the New Zealand Defence Force under the Official Information Act.

Access to the original files held by Archives New Zealand is restricted up until the year 2080 for Personal Privacy reasons. These copied files have had the personal details of members of the public making UFO reports removed to preserve their privacy. Personal details of service personnel and civilians employed by the New Zealand Defence Force and other Government Departments and Agencies have not been removed. No other information has been removed or omitted from these files.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FILES**

Correspondence on Flying Saucers began in New Zealand Defence Force files in 1952 and continued under different names, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) and Unidentified Aerial Sightings (UAS) until the present. The files contain reports of sightings by private individuals and military personnel, investigations by Defence and other Government Departments and agencies into these reports, newspaper clippings on UFOs and letters from individuals who claim to be in touch with alien beings and craft.

While the files are in general date order from 1952 until the present some file periods overlap with one another and the documents within each file are not necessarily in strict date order. There can be duplicate documents within each file and copies of the same documents (particularly media releases and reports) can appear in different files.

### **ACCESS TO UFO FILES**

These redacted files are available in hard copy from the Defence Library c/o Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force Aitken St Wellington. They are not available in electronic format.

SERIES: REPORTS

SUB-SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF U.F.O.'S

File Opened: JAN. 1981

File Closed: April 1984

Previous File: YOL 3

Subsequent File:

OTHER RELEVANT FILES

Subject:

now use  
1630/2

DISPOSAL CATEGORY:

**DECLASSIFIED**

On 27 JAN 2010  
Reference: [Signature]  
Appointment: Review Panel

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS FILE IS RESTRICTED UNTIL 2054 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIVACY PROVISIONS OF SECTION 9 OF THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982.

SIGNED [Signature]

TRANSIT DIRECTIONS

DATED 2 Sep 2010

Folio	Referred to	Date	Actioned by		Folio	Referred to	Date	Actioned by		Folio	Referred to	Date	Actioned by	
			Initials	Date				Initials	Date				Initials	Date
	WIO IC ASAC	25/6/81	[Signature]		PO Pol (D)	27/7	[Signature]		DRX (F)	8/9/82	[Signature]	9/4		
20	PRO (AIR)	29/6/81	[Signature]		D OSD	24/8	[Signature]		OPS 4A	3/1/79	[Signature]	13/11		
	Registrar	1/7/81	GR		PRO AIR	20/8/83	[Signature]		RDC		[Signature]			
22	PRO (AIR)	4/8/81	[Signature]		25 PRO AIR	1/2/83	[Signature]		OPS 4A	3/2/79	[Signature]	4/12		
23	OPS 2	7/8	[Signature]	10/8	25 D OPS AIR	12/2	[Signature]	25/2	RDO	4/2/79	[Signature]			
25	PRO (AIR)	28/8/81	[Signature]	28/8	25 PRO AIR	25/2	[Signature]	21/3	OPS 3 (E)	23/1/79	[Signature]			
	D OPS	1/9/81	[Signature]	3/9	OPS 1	19/4/83	[Signature]	11/7	RDC	28/1/79	[Signature]			
	D OSD (E)	9/9	[Signature]	21/8	PRO AIR	19/1/83	[Signature]	5/8	CIK (F) Reg	20/6/79	[Signature]	7/9/4		
	D OPS	9/9	[Signature]	10/9	OPS 1	8/5/83	[Signature]	9/8	RDO	2/3/79	[Signature]			
	OPS 2	1/9	[Signature]	12/10	46 SASO	12/8/83	[Signature]	12/8/83	OPS 4	13/3/83	[Signature]	13/5		
	OPS 2	25/10	[Signature]		PRO AIR	22/3/82	[Signature]	21/3	PLANS 1		[Signature]	11/3/0		
12	D OSD (F)	15/10/81	[Signature]	16/10	SASO	11/4/84	[Signature]	11/4/84	PLANS 2		[Signature]	21/1/0		
12	D OPS	24/10	[Signature]	24/10	AAOPol	9/8/84	[Signature]	9/9						
11	OPS 2		[Signature]	4/12	SASO	14/8/82	[Signature]	15/8/82						
12	PRO (AIR)	8/12/81	[Signature]	9/12	SASO	11/7/82	[Signature]	2/11						

# VETTING RECORD SHEET

PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE PAGE PER RECORD

NZDF STORAGE NO \_\_\_\_\_

\*~~HQ NZDF/ARMY/NAVY/AIR FORCE/ISO~~ FILE \*Delete as appropriate

FILE NO 39/3/3

LOCATION FRB NZ ARCHIVES

PART NO 4

TYPE   NEM

(File or Non File Material)

Series REPORTS

Sub-Series MISCELLANEOUS

Subject REPORTS OF UFO'S

Date of first document  / /

Date of last document 15/5/1984

*Please Tick the Appropriate Boxes:*

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No NZ Documents on File</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>No Classified Documents on File</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>NZ Documents Cleared for Access</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No Classified NZ Documents on File</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No NZ Documents on File	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Classified Documents on File	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NZ Documents Cleared for Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Classified NZ Documents on File	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>No Foreign Source Documents on File</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Some Foreign or Special-Source Documents placed on restricted Parallel File</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Some NZ (Non-NZDF) Documents placed on Restricted Parallel File</td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Some <input type="checkbox"/> All Foreign Source Documents or Cleared for Access</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Foreign Source Documents on File	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some Foreign or Special-Source Documents placed on restricted Parallel File	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some NZ (Non-NZDF) Documents placed on Restricted Parallel File	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some <input type="checkbox"/> All Foreign Source Documents or Cleared for Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	No NZ Documents on File																
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Some NZ (Non-NZDF) Documents placed on Restricted Parallel File																
<input type="checkbox"/>	Some <input type="checkbox"/> All Foreign Source Documents or Cleared for Access																

OR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Release on 1 January in the Year	<u>2054</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review again before the Year	<u>2054</u>

VETTING COMMENTS IF NECESSARY

*File contains information of a personal nature -  
subject to privacy / confidentiality provisions  
Restricted access until 2054*

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

DATED \_\_\_\_\_

Vetting commenced 2/19/10 Vetting Completed 2/19/10  
STAMP (place relevant NZDF decision STAMP here, sign and date)

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS FILE IS RESTRICTED UNTIL 2054 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIVACY PROVISIONS OF SECTION 9 OF THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982.



Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga

ARCHIVES

NEW ZEALAND

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File Number... 39/3/3 ..... Vol No... 4 .....

**FILE RELEASE STATEMENT**

**VETTING COMPLETED AND:**

No classified documents on file. ✓

NZDF documents have been declassified ✓

~~Other NZ Govt Dept documents have been cleared for access~~

~~Foreign Source documents have been cleared for access~~

~~Some foreign source documents have been placed on a restricted parallel file (see separation sheets herewith recording transfer).~~

Other comments:

- File contains information of a personal nature, subject to confidentiality provisions.
- To be released only subject to privacy consent
- Restricted access until 2054

Signed...  ..... Date... 27/1/2010  
For Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force

**NB: Classified documents of other New Zealand Departments where there is some concern about declassifying them should be referred to the relevant department.**

### TRANSIT FORM

This form is to be filled in and forwarded to Registry in all cases where the file has not been passed through Registry for transit action.

To: ~~\*Personal Registry~~  
~~\*General Registry~~  
~~\*Classified Registry~~

From ..... (Designation) ..... (Branch) ..... (Extn. No.)

Please note that file No. \*

~~P/T~~ ..... (Name and Service No.) ..... has been

passed by hand to ..... (Designation) ..... (Branch) ..... (Recipients signature classified material only)

Date: .....

\*Delete as applicable.

cleared with SRSO

15 MAY 1984

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	RTK
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to <del>DFD</del>
3	SER SIGNATURE	by Sec De [unclear]
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to AOC [unclear]
5	DISPATCH	Date 15-5-84 Initials P.G.
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to [unclear]
7	WRE UP	on [unclear] to [unclear]
		Date [unclear] Initials [unclear]

Air 35/3/3  
for Confidential classification before dispatch  
P/W  
PA/Sec 14/5

SRSO

2. FILE air

**DOWNGRADED**  
 To 39/3/3 UNCLASSIFIED-  
 On 27/1/2010  
 Reference D-150  
 Appointment [unclear]

correct only  
this morning  
3  
[unclear]

Chief Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10157  
The Terrace  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Laking

Please refer to your letter of 6 April 1984, requesting a report under the provisions of the Official Information Act concerning information on UFOs sought by Mr Harold J. Knapman.

I should say first that I regret our omission in failing to draw Mr Knapman's attention to his rights under the Act. This was simply an oversight, due in part to initial unfamiliarity with the Act during the first few weeks after it came into force, and in part because Mr Knapman is one of a number of "old friends" whose position on his favourite subject is thoroughly well known to us. In this case, familiarity perhaps led to an unintended breach of the new legislation.

Copies of some previous correspondence with Mr Knapman are enclosed. Of the four requests for information now at issue, the first two cannot be satisfied. As Mr Knapman has already been told, we do not hold any movie films taken by civilians in 1954 nor do we have any record of ever having received such films. The records of this Ministry and the Air Staff have been searched thoroughly. I am not familiar with the works of Michael Hervey, and have no way of establishing his credentials nor the basis for the passage Mr Knapman quotes from his book. And there is no record of a report by a senior NCO on UFO sightings at Whenuapai in August 1954.

Turning to the then Mrs Moreland's account of her alleged encounter with a UFO and its occupants in 1959, Mr Knapman again has been advised that the undertaking given her not to release this material without her consent is still in force. Copies of correspondence between this lady (now Mrs McCallum) and the Ministry in 1979 are enclosed, and these speak for themselves. In respect of Mr Knapman's claim that the assurance was made 25 years ago and that it now somehow lacks validity, the commitment was reaffirmed

policy?

at her behest only five years ago. In deciding that that undertaking should be honoured, the provisions of the Official Information Act Sections 9(2)(a) and (b) were seen to apply.

As requested, copies of statements made by Mrs Moreland in 1959 and records of interviews with her are also enclosed for your information. It is easy to understand her wish to avoid further publicity. Mr Knapman claims to require the information for research purposes only, but the Ministry has no confidence that resurrection of the matter would not result in what Mrs McCallum would consider to be harassment. It was this possibility that was borne in mind rather than the confidentiality of her name for its own sake. After all, if we gave Mr Knapman the information he could well consider his undertaking to us to be no more binding than ours to her had been - and he says he knows Mrs Moreland's new name and address.

Mr Knapman has finally asked variously for a copy of the RNZAF report into the alleged UFO sightings at Kaikoura in late 1978 and for a report on a specific reconnaissance flight conducted on 2 January 1979. The main report was summarized in a press release at the time, containing all of the salient findings of the enquiry. The reconnaissance flight of 2 January yielded no further positive information. It was therefore believed that in passing a copy of the press release to Mr Knapman the Ministry had satisfied the requirements under the Official Information Act Section 16(e). Copies of the main report and of the press release are enclosed for your information. I should add that until now, the main report has not been released to any agency or person outside the Ministry of Defence.

Naturally, the RNZAF has an underlying responsibility for the security of New Zealand airspace. Its attitude to UFOs however is not dissimilar from that of the United States Air Force which since about 1970, I am told, has worked to the policy that "reports of unidentified objects entering United States airspace are of interest to the military as a regular part of defense surveillance. Beyond that, the US Air Force no longer investigates reports of UFO sightings". It may be pertinent to note too that in 1977 in a statement attributed to NASA it was concluded: "... what exists is a baffling collection of intriguing anecdotal evidence for mysterious phenomena, usually referred to as UFOs". There is no evidence I know of that establishes UFOs as a fact.

The RNZAF is not and has never been required as a matter of course either to investigate UFO sightings, nor to collate reports forwarded to it. This of course is a question of policy for the Government to decide, but the Ministry's advice would be that proposals such as the one made by Mr Knapman should not be entertained. So far as I am aware, only in one case - that of the "Kaikoura Incident" of 1978-79 - has the Government directed that

the Air Force conduct an investigation. Nonetheless, in discharging its general responsibilities the RNZAF continues to receive reports from the public (as I believe do the Police and the Ministry of Transport), and these are sometimes "investigated" to the extent of determining whether the reported phenomena could reasonably be collated with a known physical event. These could include: a meteorological balloon reflecting a flash of sunlight from high altitude as it moves out of the Earth's shadow after dusk on the surface, or an unusually bright planet or star near the horizon, or anomalous propagation of bright lights on the surface, and the like. Generally, as with the Kaikoura report, only the results and not the details of the investigations have been made public.

Some reports of sightings come from those who are genuinely puzzled about something they have seen, and are made in good faith. Others are taken up by those for whom UFO's it seems will explain all the mysteries of the universe. Their diligence on the subject is not matched by any sense of balance or of the need for dispassionate enquiry. The Ministry should not in my view willingly get drawn into the pursuit of chisera and should avoid providing fuel for fevered imaginations.

Even with the more balanced observer, great difficulties arise. An investigation almost always reaches a point where it has at least to be implied that the observer had been fooled by some natural event. Challenging the reliability of his physical senses, which he has had no cause to doubt hitherto, can very easily turn an objective discussion into a subjective one. The main issue of whether or not there was a UFO tends to become lost as the observer perceives a need to defend a personal position, especially if, as is often the case, the matter has become public. In this kind of debate surrounding the reported experiences of others obsessions tend to be given free rein. Imaginative theories seem to blossom, including accusations of official conspiracy to cover up vital "facts", no matter how much information is released.

The case of Mrs Moreland illustrates the potential for misunderstandings. It might indeed seem in retrospect (with only the 25-year-old written word to go by) that in these matters even the investigators sometimes find it difficult to maintain their detachment. It is difficult not to conclude that the investigating officer most closely involved might have allowed his obvious interest to reflect and to strengthen Mrs Moreland's convictions (although in mitigation I seem to recall that "UFO scares" were rampant at the time). We shall never know. But I doubt that that officer - who went on to complete a successful career as an engineer in the RNZAF - would care to be reminded now of the episode, any more than does Mrs McCallum.

There seems to me to be an obvious need to protect the privacy of individuals in cases such as this one. They should not be exposed

to public ridicule, and a statutory power to protect them exists under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act. I should not think it reasonable to expose Mrs (Moreland) McCallum to the attentions of organisations such as Mr Knapman's (and it is her express wish that this not happen). This would I suggest be the consequence if we established a precedent which had the effect automatically of making UFO reports and perhaps their sources the property of third parties through the workings of the Official Information Act.

A second point also turns on the predilections of the eccentric hobbyist and the more extreme believers in visitations from outer space. It seems more than likely that any item of information, positive or negative, will be pored over with great enthusiasm. If they were given unrestricted access to Defence files - and I suspect that the effects on the Police and the Ministry of Transport would be similar - I can envisage a flood of demands for information that we do not have, and for explanations that we cannot give. This could also impinge upon staff and other resources, where allocations have to be made in the light of the reasonable and realistic security needs of the country. The 1983 Defence Review makes no provision for defence against extraterrestrial threats. The resources allocated to try to meet defence problems closer to home will as it is be stretched. It would in my view be contrary to the public interest to allow pointless diversion of the resources of a department of State: the provisions of Section 9(2)(b) would seem to apply.

In summary, the first two of Mr Knapman's requests cannot be met and the third request was declined in the light of Sections 9(2)(a) and (b) of the Official Information Act. As to the further request, I trust you will agree that for good reasons the Ministry has not seen fit to satisfy it in all respects; that the Defence files on the subject should not be opened up; and that the administration of the provisions of the Official Information Act as they affect this particular subject should be applied with a large measure of common sense as well as in the spirit of the law. I should add that I would certainly not envisage any change in the present practice of making freely available summaries of the findings where reports of UFOs are investigated.

Should you feel it to be necessary, I would be only too happy to have a member of your staff examine our files here in order to obtain more detailed background to the question of UFO reports and investigations.

D B G McLean  
Secretary of Defence



Ref: OI 34

101

Telephone: 739 533  
P.O. Box 10152  
The Terrace, Wellington



# Office of the Ombudsman

4th Floor, Chase NAA House  
163-165 The Terrace  
Wellington

9 May 1984

The Secretary of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Private Bag  
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr McLean,

I refer to my letter of 6 April concerning the request I have received from Mr H.J. Knapman, on behalf of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., to investigate and review the decision by Squadron Leader P.J. Lynch under the Official Information Act not to make available information he had requested. I should be grateful to receive your advice on when I may expect to receive your report.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Ombudsman

*phoned C'mon  
11/5 at administ  
reply will be sent  
next week  
AO (POL) D*

SEARCHED TO	11/5
rec. det.	
AS (POL) and DIPA	
File DAA	
10 (POL) D.	

11/5



REF 34

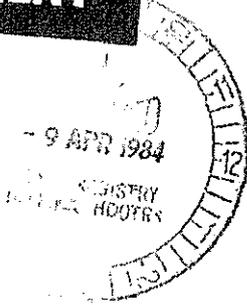
**URGENT**

101

Telephone: 739 533  
P.O. Box 10152  
The Terrace, Wellington

**Office of the Ombudsman**

4th Floor, Chase NBA House  
163-165 The Terrace  
Wellington



101 3915/3

6 April 1984

The Secretary of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Private Bag  
WELLINGTON

*Handwritten:*  
SFD  
Wala you are  
Lanka kin with  
his stuff (and officer  
similar advice).  
M 10. 4.

Dear Mr McLean,

I have received a request from Mr H.J. Knapman, on behalf of the Mutual UFO Network Inc, Box 22-638, High Street, Christchurch, to investigate and review the decision by Squadron Leader P.J. Lynch under the Official Information Act on 17 November 1983 not to make available information he had requested.

I understand the circumstances to be as follows. On 17 September 1983 Mr Knapman asked for the following information:-

1. A copy of the report on several movie films taken by civilians in April 1954 which were made available to the Air Force and, if possible, copies of these films.
2. A copy of a senior NCO's report on UFO sightings at Whenuapai on 18 August 1954.
3. The report on Mrs F. Moreland's sighting of a UFO on 13 July 1959.
4. The report by the Air Force on 2 January 1979 of a UFO sighting at Kaikoura.

On 17 November 1983 Squadron Leader P.J. Lynch replied that the Ministry of Defence had no record or copies of the 1954 movie films to which Mr Knapman had referred. Secondly, he said the Ministry did not have a report or any information on the sighting which Mr Knapman attributed to a senior NCO at the RNZAF base at Whenuapai in August 1954. He commented that the report on the sighting by "Mrs F. Moreland" in 1959 was confidential, and an assurance had been given to the witness by the Secretary of Defence that the results of the enquiry would not be released without her permission. He added that the witness had been contacted and she had requested that

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cc Def
rd
JCS
sp Sec Def

/.....

her privacy be respected. He said that the report would not be made available. He also provided a copy of a press release relating to the reported Kaikoura sightings between December 1978 and January 1979.

Mr Knapman has made the following comments. In respect of his first request, he says the Ministry were definitely given movie films in 1954. His source of information is Michael Hervey's book "UFOs over the southern hemisphere", first printed in 1975. At page 220 it states:-

"During April 1954 the N.Z. Air Force received several movie films taken by civilians showing strange, mysterious pinpoints of light moving across the sky. They were duly examined by experts who later admitted that they had been unable to trace their origin, or offer any explanation as to what could have caused the lights in the sky".

Mr Knapman accepts the Ministry's reply on the second item of information he requested. He is dissatisfied with the decision on his request for the report on Mrs Moreland's sighting in 1959. He says that although he knows Mrs Moreland's present address and new married name, he respects her privacy and will not contact her about her sighting directly. He says he gave the Ministry an assurance that he would never pass this information about her to anybody. He says that the release of this report would be of great value to him, as it would give him a guideline and comparison to the other hundreds of cases he has investigated. He does not consider it reasonable that the Ministry has refused to release the report to him on the grounds of a request made by Mrs Moreland more than 25 years ago to keep it confidential. He recognises this was necessary for her protection at the time when UFO witnesses were harassed by the public. He adds that he has no wish to make public any information he receives from the Ministry.

(SNC's alleged report.)

Mr Knapman says that the fourth item of information he requested has not been provided. He asked for the internal report about the findings of the Air Force, following the Orion flight on January 1979 east of Kaikoura.

Finally, Mr Knapman has made a general comment that he would like to see the Air Force collating any UFO information which it is willing to pass on to UFO research groups without the necessity for the groups to state names, dates, years etc. before any information is provided. He adds that he has provided the Ministry with hundreds of UFO reports on micro-film. In conclusion he asks whether any arrangements can be made for authentic UFO research groups like MUFON to receive information for scientific research purposes.

/...

I should therefore be grateful to receive your report on this matter. It should contain the detailed reasons for the decision of the Ministry not to make available the information Mr Knapman requested and include reference to the precise grounds on which it believes there exists good reason under the Official Information Act for withholding the information. I should also like to know what consideration the Ministry gave to ss.16 and 17 of the Act when considering Mr Knapman's request and whether you consider good reason exists under the Act for withholding all the information requested.

I should also like to see the information requested and withheld, the papers supporting your views and those that were considered by Squadron Leader Lynch when deciding not to make the information available. In the areas where no information could be found, I should be grateful for your advice on the steps which were taken to locate the information requested.

Finally, I should point out that the Ministry has not complied with its obligation under s.19(b) of the Official Information Act to advise an applicant for information of his/her right to seek under s.28(2) of the Official Information Act an investigation and review of the refusal by an Ombudsman.

If you are unable to provide your report within three weeks, I should like to be informed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. H. ...', written in a cursive style.

Chief Ombudsman

Memorandum from **FORCE**  
**DIRECTOR OF ~~RESEARCH~~ DEVELOPMENT**

For:

See Def  
+ the' AS (P&D)

This has been worked  
over at some length,  
but we would like you  
to see it in draft  
to ensure that you  
are happy with it.

1. Draft for your  
consideration.

2. Like de Sarnon on

the Mount - too preachy?

perhaps a little too  
judgmental. I have tried  
to soften a bit!

M 3.4.

27.8.84.

former Mrs Moreland should be honoured, the provisions of the Official Information Act Sections 9 (2) (a) and (b) were seen to apply.

*Q. #.* As requested, copies of statements made by Mrs Moreland in 1959 and records of interviews with her are ~~attached~~ <sup>enclosed for your information</sup>. ~~Refusal of these make~~ <sup>It is</sup> easy to understand her wish to avoid further publicity. Mr Knapman claims to require the information for research purposes only but the Ministry of Defence has no confidence that resurrection of this ~~issue~~ <sup>matter</sup> will not result in ~~the~~ renewed harassment of Mrs McCallum. <sup>After all, it is this possibility, not confidentiality of her name, that is at central issue here.</sup> ~~is to be given the~~ <sup>name</sup> information, ~~then~~ <sup>Further,</sup> he ~~may~~ <sup>could</sup> well consider his undertaking to us to be no more binding than was ours to Mrs McCallum.

*Q. #.* ~~Finally,~~ <sup>finally</sup> Mr Knapman has <sup>asked</sup> variously for a copy of the RNZAF report into the alleged UFO sightings at ~~Waikanae~~ <sup>Kaikoura</sup> in late 1978 and for a report on a specific reconnaissance flight conducted on 2 Jan 79. The main report was summarized in a press release at the time which contained all of the salient findings of the enquiry. The reconnaissance flight of 2 Jan 79 yielded no further <sup>positive</sup> information. It was therefore considered that in passing a copy of the press release to Mr Knapman the Ministry had satisfied the requirements of the Official Information Act Section 16 (e). Copies of the main report and of the press release are ~~attached~~ <sup>also enclosed for your information.</sup>

Mr Stubb Doubl (reinstated in Cyril Doubl letter)

DRAFT

considerable number of requests for information on UFO sightings

1. ~~Defence files contain a great deal of material from all sources ranging from genuine enquiries from the interested and responsible to those from the lunatic fringe. Copies of previous correspondence from Mr Knapman are attached from which the inference could reasonably be drawn that he may be classified as belonging to the latter end of the spectrum.~~

2. ✓ Of the four requests for information <sup>at issue,</sup> made by Mr Knapman, the first two cannot be satisfied. As Mr Knapman has already been told, no reports of movie films taken in 1950 nor any evidence of their existence are held in Defence files. Neither is there any record of a report by a senior NCO on UFO sightings

at Whenuapai in August 1954. <sup>I am not familiar with the work of Michael Harvey, and have no way of establishing his bona fides. I do not know whether his book is regarded as authoritative in UFO circles, but it is hardly to be taken as authoritative, particularly since authors of such works are seldom noted for their balance and objectivity.</sup> ~~Our only observation would be that an extract from an unknown book by an unknown author can be taken as authoritative, particularly since authors of such works are seldom noted for their balance and objectivity. Some sources to get a fair idea of the to avoid or mention of prejudicial material and their reasons for doing so. It is not possible to make their points. It is not a study of the matter.~~

3. ✓ Turning to the then Mrs Moreland's account of her encounter with a UFO and its occupants in 1959, Mr Knapman has again been advised that <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ undertaking ~~has been~~ given her that this material will not be released without her consent. <sup>is still in force.</sup> Copies of correspondence between her and the Ministry of Defence are <sup>enclosed</sup> ~~attached~~ and these speak for themselves. ~~It will be noted that,~~ Contrary to Mr Knapman's claim that this assurance was made 25 years ago and that ~~for this reason~~ <sup>relevant</sup> it somehow now lacks validity, the correspondence took place in 1979. In deciding that the undertaking to the

/ former Mrs Moreland

DRAFT

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	se	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	D.F.D. [Signature]
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	A. (Pol) [Signature]
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		6/2/84	M.P.
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	FUE
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

39/3/3

5 April 1984

Radio Hauraki  
P O Box 1480  
AUCKLAND

Dear Messrs Staufar and Wishart

I refer to your letter of 20 March 1984 in which you ask for information from Defence files "on extraterrestrial space craft and or occupants that have landed or have been sighted in New Zealand territory". I understand too that you have separately requested from the Defence Public Relations Office details of the sightings of UFOs since the reported incidents around Kaikoura in 1979.

It is not possible to meet the terms of reference as you have phrased them in your letter. The Ministry of Defence holds no information whatsoever to suggest that aliens have landed in New Zealand, or that they or their spacecraft have been sighted here. I can assure you categorically that New Zealand Government agencies have not "dealt" in any way with extra-terrestrial spacecraft or their occupants. Neither has material suggesting that others have done so been provided to us by other Governments - I have not seen, for example, the declassified papers of United States Government origin that you mention.

By definition a UFO is an unidentified flying object. I know that some people claim to have identified these things and even to have consorted with aliens. I have seen nothing to suggest that those claims can be substantiated.

Distinct from claims of close encounters with sentient aliens, there remains the puzzle of sightings of odd lights and shapes. In this regard the New Zealand position is similar to that which I understand now pertains in the United States. It was NASA, I believe, that put it succinctly in 1977 by saying "...what exists is a baffling collection of intriguing anecdotal evidence for mysterious phenomena, usually referred to as UFO's". Also, I am told that "reports of unidentified objects entering United States air space are of interest to the military as a regular part of defense surveillance. Beyond that, the US Air Force no longer investigates reports of UFO sightings." In this country, however, the Royal New Zealand Air Force has never been required to investigate UFO sightings as a matter of course. (The Kaikoura case was a special one in which the Government asked the RNZAF to investigate, and

which was fully reported upon at the time.) Nor is the RNZAF or any other part of the Ministry of Defence required to act as a co-ordinating body for recording such sightings. I understand that reports from the public are received from time to time separately by the Police, by the Civil Aviation Division and the Meteorological Service of the Ministry of Transport, and by the DSIR. Some reports are cross-checked among these agencies primarily to determine whether there may be a physical reason for the phenomenon as it was observed - such as a large aircraft or a meteorological balloon catching the sunlight at high altitude after dusk or before dawn.

Turning now to your telephoned request, I can provide the following summaries of incidents which have been reported to the Air Staff.

On April 20, 1979, a single orange light was seen passing over Palmerston North. The light, when studied through binoculars, appeared to be an unflickering naked flame with characteristics similar to the flame of a kerosene Hurricane lamp. The light was first sighted at 1859hr at a height of about 2000ft travelling from Aokautere towards Hokoahitu. The light source was circular and large enough to present itself as a disc. To either side and above the disc was a small area of red light. The impression gained by the observer was of an oncoming aerially mounted 6 volt car headlight, shining alongside a red painted surface. The light gradually grew dimmer as it climbed higher travelling towards Pahiatua. It was lost from sight shortly after 1900hr.

Based on the description and behaviour of the light, RNZAF enquiries found that it had the characteristics of a radar balloon carrying a lamp attached to the radar reflector. That conclusion was supported by the Superintendent of Physical Meteorology and although a radar balloon had not been launched from Ohakea air base at the time it was not uncommon for these balloons to be found in the hands of others outside the Meteorological Service.

On April 26, 1979, several residents of Palmerston North saw orange lights traversing the city. A single light was sighted shortly after 2205hr over Palmerston North by the observer reporting the April 20 sighting. It was described as having a disc shape of yellow light surrounded by a thin corona of red light. It was estimated to be 8km distant and tracking along the watershed of the northern Tararua Ranges. It was visible until 2307hr. At 2230hr on April 26 a further sighting was made of an orange ball moving rapidly over Palmerston North. It gave the appearance of burning and pulsed from very pale to darker orange. As it moved away it showered sparks and appeared to dip and move from side to side. It was in sight for about five to seven minutes. Shortly after, three similar objects were sighted by

the witness in a shallow V formation in approximately the same position as the first sighting. The formation travelled from north to south over Palmerston North.

The characteristics of these lights were similar to the April 20 sighting with the light emanating from radar balloons.

For a week in December 1980 between 0510hr and 0600hr a bright object was seen in the east from Te Pohue and climbed slowly. It was only seen when the air was clear.

RNZAF enquiries into the sighting found that in all probability it was the planet Venus.

On August 13, 1980, air traffic radar at Ohakea reported an unidentified object 22 miles south of Napier.

Meteorological conditions at the time of the report indicated that the sighting was a radar return on a cloud formation.

On January 26, 1981, a lighted object was sighted approaching Christchurch airport from the south-east at 0449hr. The object travelled fast to the airport, manoeuvred and hovered overhead before departing to the south-east. The object, lit with a bright white light with an orange tinge at its periphery, was in sight for 14 minutes.

An illuminated meteorological balloon had been released at 0450hr and had moved after release to the west, south-west, south, south-east and then east in the first ten minutes. The balloon was a possible explanation.

On July 3, 1981, the Christchurch Flight Information Office of the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport was advised of the sightings of an object near Cass at 2190hr that day. The object was described to be like a Newmans bus with bright lights of red/blue shades and was sighted manoeuvring below hilltops before moving off to the north-east. The weather was clear except for cloud patches around the peaks, and visibility was good.

No RNZAF or known civil aircraft were in the area at the time.

In February, 1982, a white light was viewed through a skyhawk window for a fraction of a second in Lower Butt. It appeared to flare out and gave no appearance of falling or leaving a trail of light.

Air Staff enquiries found that the light could have been emitted from any one of a number of sources - a momentary reflection of a car light, a bright meteorite or even a portion of space junk.

I trust that the above information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

D Law  
for Secretary of Defence

MINUTE SHEET

Department: DEFENCE

Subject: OFFICIAL INFO REQUEST

- UFO's

Section: D I D P  
AIR 244/101

File No. 39/3/1A

Date: 27 MAR 84

96665E - pads/3/83MK

To-

D I D P

REF: Radio Hauraki letter of 20 Mar 84.

1. In 1973 a "Christchurch UFO investigator" sought access to all Air Force files dealing with UFO's. The Minister of Defence advised him that "such information as is held is classified and so may not be made available other than to defence personnel who are entitled to receive it."

2. Since the passage into legislation of the OIA 1982, Radio Hauraki's request for similar information will require a much fuller response than that of 1973. Not all the info we hold is classified, nor is "classification" an adequate reason to withhold info. To peruse the files in detail to establish whether or not items of info can be released will take some time.

3. Suggest we respond initially to Radio Hauraki with a quote for the research time involved.  
Stephen Ludanyi AO (RSLA)

4. S/L Cole (ProAir) has had a phone request for similar info from one of the journalists. My feeling is (and S/L Cole is happy) that we should respond to his similar request as well.

27-1-1



# Radio Hauraki



20 March 1984

Secretary of Defence  
Private Bag  
Wellington

Dear Sir,

We are applying under the Official Information Act 1983 for all information that you have on extraterrestrial space craft and or occupants that have landed or have been sighted in New Zealand territory.

Our inquiries along these lines follow the declassification and publication of official American Government Documents admitting the capture and study of aliens and their space craft.

We think its likely that New Zealand agencies have dealt in a similar way with U.F.O.'s and their occupants.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

*Mark A. Stauffer*      *I. Wishart*

MARK STAUFER  
IAN WISHART

NEWS JOURNALISTS

REFERRED TO	
Apolo "A"	

file

Air 29/3/3

11

16 January 1984

MOUNT COOK

Dear

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December, I am sorry for the delay in responding but I have been away for a month.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> the Ministry of Defence, does not investigate UFO sightings unless asked to do so by the Government.

Any reports on UFO sightings should be made to your local Police station.

I hope this answers your inquiry, and again I regret the time delay in replying to your letter.

Yours faithfully

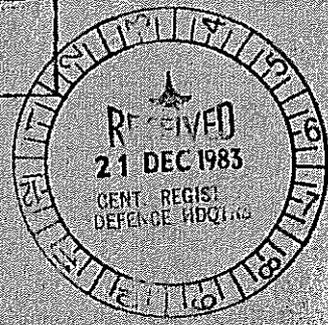
(P.W. MAITLAND)  
Sergeant  
for RNZAF Public  
Relations Officer

1350/5/1

FILE  
3  
A/c 129/3/3  
DATE: DM

Mount Cook  
19.12.83.

Ministry of Defence  
Private Bag  
Wellington



Dear Sir,

Re U.F.O's.

Does the department maintain a file on sightings of U.F.O's.

If so, would the department be interested in a statement from my husband about the strange phenomenon he encountered when returning home from fishing, along the lake of Rukaki last night.

REFERRED TO	
DK	

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

47

Air 39/3/3

17 November 1983

Mr H.J. Knapman  
P.O. Box 22638  
High St  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Mr Knapman,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September in which you sought details of various UFO sightings, under the Official Information Act.

Firstly, quite an amount of research and investigation has been done on your behalf but unfortunately we have no record or copies of the 1954 movie films to which you refer. Neither do we have a report or any information on the sighting that you attribute to a SNCO at RNZAF Whenuapai in August 1954. We have also checked records held by the National Archives but have been unable to find any information which may be of help to you.

With regard to the 1959 sighting by 'Mrs F. Moreland' I can advise that the report is confidential and an assurance was given to the witness by the Secretary of Defence, that the Ministry of Defence would do nothing to release the results of the enquiry conducted by the RNZAF without her permission. The witness has been contacted and she has requested that her privacy be respected and consequently the report will not be made available.

The RNZAF issued a Press Release regarding the reported Kaikoura sightings in Dec 78/Jan 79 and a copy of this is enclosed although I feel sure that you will have a copy of your own already.

Quite obviously I have been unable to give you any substantial new information so although considerable time and effort has been spent in researching the background

/material

material to give you a reply no charges will be made as would normally be the case for Official Information Act requests.

Yours faithfully



(P.J. LYNCH)  
Squadron Leader  
for Chief of Air Staff

Enclosure: 1. RNZAF UFO Sighting Report

AIR 39/3/3

V

57 Dillon Street, 46  
Blenheim,  
14th November, 1983.

Squadron Leader Lynch,  
Air Staff,  
Defence Headquarters,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington.

Dear Mr Lynch,

Thank you for <sup>your</sup> letter dated 28th October, 1983.  
I was disappointed with your attitude regarding events  
of '78-'79 in central New Zealand.

I notice that the sightings are now  
'unidentified phenomena'. That makes a change from  
data contained in the "Press Release" which was put  
out by the Air Force. Do not lie, there is  
evidence that what were seen were objects. It is  
just that the Air Force was too lazy to collect it.  
One such sighting being the Waikawa Bay event.

Regarding the principal witnesses. According  
to the Rt. Hon. David Thomson, all the witnesses  
on board the Argosy were interviewed including  
the cameraman and the reporter. This is a lie,  
they were never even approached. If you both  
wished to lie, you have come to some arrange-  
ment, so that you both told the same lie.

So apparently the Civil Aviation Division of the  
Ministry of Transport refused to tell the investigating  
officer about the Waikawa Bay sighting even though  
they knew it was by far more impressive than  
the 'Argosy' sightings. This behaviour left a lot  
to be desired.

I have stated CORRECTLY that the  
Waikawa Bay sighting lasted approx. one hour,  
from around 11-50pm till 1 am. on the 17th

of December, 1978. I agree that Mr. F.D. MacDonald states in his letter to "The Marlborough Express" on the 20th December, 1978 that the sighting lasted 10 minutes. He has also told me to my face that it lasted a good hour when combining the times that other witnesses observed this event. So quite logically I am doing what you suggested in your letter; I am quoting Mr. MacDonald. Thus, I can assure you that 'other sources' witnessed the sighting, you are only quoting one witness, I am quoting around 15 witnesses to this event.

No doubt you are scared to investigate the Waikawa Bay area as you do not wish to find out which hills the domed, circular craft, with soundings on, came close to crashing into. Mr. MacDonald would most like tell you if you wrote to him.

HANDLED PROPERLY AND CORRECTLY.

You must be joking.

- 1/ The Woodbourne Air Traffic control adopted a "better of them off the phone attitude."
  - 2/ The Wellington Air Traffic Control said "It's probably a DC8" coming into land at Wellington Airport. "It is flying away from Airport; What the hell, that explanation will do." "Let's tit-pull the Air Force about it."
  - 3/ Air Staff thinks it's best to be involved in a tit nipper of a tit-pulling exercise and make no attempt to get their facts straight.
- Thank you for confirming that this how

Government Departments conduct properly and correctly a most impressive sightings investigation.

No doubt you would have difficulty according how long principal witnesses were interviewed, as it appears all of them were not interviewed.

I have taken this matter up <sup>with</sup> my M.P. Mr. Doug Kidd. He does not find the attitude of Government Departments very funny regarding the events of '78-'79.

I have been studying the UFO phenomena in Marlborough for nearly 12 years, and I can assure you I will not be cooperating with any Government Departments on UFOs.

It seems strange that the Air Force wants to spin all the hell it can <sup>about</sup> the Waikawa Bay event, when for a brief letter to

you could get your facts straight. I will not be satisfied until this is done. Thus if you fail to do this we will most likely still be corresponding in another five years.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Thompson.

MR. J. C. THOMPSON



MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

103 Oldtowne Rd  
Seguin Texas  
78155 USA

17/9/83



Mutual UFO Network  
Sectional S I Director  
Harold J Knapman  
PO Box 22638 High St  
Christchurch NZ  
Phone 527953

To:- Cheif of Air Staff,  
Defence Headquarters,  
Wellington,

Air 39/3/3 ✓

Dear Sir,

Aug 27

Thankyou for your reply to my ~~Sept-14~~ 1983.

letter. In reply to your letter 14 Sept,I request the following information if possible through the information act. ✓

In April 1954 several movie films were taken by civilians & turned over to the Airforce for examination & report,if possible a copye of that report & Or some frame copies of the film.

On Aug 18,1954,a Snr NCO stationed at Whenuapai A.F.Stn saw a cigar shaped object & reported it, an investigation was done,if possible a copy of this report.

July 13.1959 Mrs F.Moreland Blenheim Disc shaped objectseen,Investigated by the Airfores. A copy of the report please,

The RNZAF report of the Reconnaissance Flight Jan 2nd 1979 Kaikoura ufos.

I have no objections to paying for this material,as I said in previouese letters to you any information received from the Airforce is for my files only,for research.The wittnessess will not hear from me or my colleagues in any form about their sightings,I do respect ther privacy,I do hope you will grant my request for research,hope to hear from you soon.

REFERRED TO	
PBE	✓
So NAV	✓
SDI	✓

*Harold J Knapman*

Kindest regards,  
Harold J Knapman,  
Director for MUFON N.Z.

44

Air 39/3/3

28 October 1983

Mr J.C. Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLenheim

Dear Mr Thompson,

Thank you for your letters of 25 August and 3 October regarding sightings of unidentified phenomena in the Kaikoura area in December 1978. You will notice that I refer to 'unidentified phenomena' because that is precisely what I think these sightings should be termed. They are certainly unidentified and there is absolutely no evidence that what were seen were objects of any kind - only lights or light sources.

To answer your questions.

The RNZAF did carry out a thorough investigation of the alleged sightings. In fact the scope of the investigation was greater than any previous efforts made by the RNZAF to establish an explanation for sightings of this nature. The news service statement by the PRO(Air) stated that all the principal witnesses had been interviewed. That is precisely correct. All of the principal witnesses had been interviewed and any other witnesses, in the view of the investigating officer, would not have contributed in any substantial way to the investigation.

The investigating officer consulted with the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport on a number of occasions while compiling his report. No reference was made to the alleged Waikawa Bay sighting because that was not in his terms of reference. If any comments were made by Woodbourne and Wellington Air Traffic Control about the Waikawa Bay sighting it was obviously not considered relevant to the Kaikoura investigation.

You have on a number of occasions stated that the Waikawa Bay sightings lasted for upwards of 55 minutes and yet Mr F.D. Macdonald who reported the sighting states in his letter to 'The Marlborough Express' on 20th December 1978 that the sighting lasted 10 minutes. Quite logically anyone making a comment on this aspect of that 'sighting' is going to quote

/the principal

the principal witness (in this case Mr Macdonald) rather than any other source, especially if that source did not actually witness the sighting.

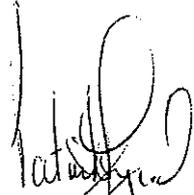
You can be absolutely sure that the RNZAF will not be investigating the Waikawa Bay sighting and will certainly not be re-opening the investigation into the Kaikoura sightings. All of the Departments involved in this matter are satisfied that it has been handled properly and correctly. The final paragraph of the Defence press release clearly defines the Ministry of Defence's stand on so-called UFOs. That is clearly Defence policy and unless absolute proof of anything to the contrary becomes evident then, despite the convictions or beliefs of anybody else, that stand will not change.

You have asked for a copy of the Kaikoura sightings report and a list of the ten principal witnesses and the time each spent in interview. Firstly the report is a restricted document and will not be released because to do so would compromise the confidentiality of the witnesses' statements, and in the same way providing details of each of the witnesses could see them being the recipients of unsolicited mail about a subject which they may wish to have nothing more to say. The times that each witness spent in interview was not recorded.

Reference in a previous letter to you by Mr D. Law, to a fee for work undertaken to give you this reply would normally apply, however as I am unable to give you any new information no charges have been made although considerable time has been spent in researching the background material.

I would like to point out that there is little purpose to be served by persuing this matter through the Ministry of Defence any further as we have no further tangible information which we can give you.

Yours faithfully,



(P.J. LYNCH)  
Squadron Leader  
for Chief of Air Staff

AIR 39/2/3. 1/ 57 Dillon Street,  
Aberdeen, 43.  
3rd October, '83.

Squadron Leader Lynch,  
Air Staff Information Contact Officer,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Wellington.

Dear Mr. Lynch,

You are currently researching files so you can supply answers to all my questions regarding the '78-'79 UFO sightings. This is to let you know that you will not be answering a large proportion of them.

I have received a letter from the Right Honourable J. Gair, making it plain that he does not wish to have anything to do with the misleading DC8 explanation that was forwarded to the Secretary of Defence, D.B.G. McLean. This DC8 explanation was apparently

2/

concocted by the Wellington Air Traffic Control, possibly so this department would take the bait; which it did. Mr. Gair could offer no explanation why this misleading data was released. I can assure you that the whole DCS explanation is a farce, contrary to what Mr. Gair may say. If this is where you received your data; I can assure you that the Wellington Air Traffic Control were out to have this department on.

Referring to the letter dated 9th August to Mr. Nelson; you may now drop the following questions from your list to be answered:-

Questions:- 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15.

Mr. Gair can offer no explanation

3/  
as to why the Wellington Air  
Traffic Control behaved like  
they did, and does not wish  
to have anything to do with  
the wild DC8 statement.

Thanking you,  
yours faithfully,

J. C. Thompson.

MR. J. C. THOMPSON.

P.S. No doubt you will now  
have to supply me <sup>with</sup> a 'new'  
explanation for the Waikawa  
Bay sighting, now that the DC8  
joke is beyond the capabilities  
of Mr. Gair.

AIR. 39/3/3

57 Dillon Street,  
Blenheim, 42  
25th August, 1983.

Squadron Leader Lynch,  
Air Staff Information Contact Officer,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Wellington,

Dear Mr. Lynch,

Thank you for the letter dated 22nd August, 1983 from Mr. D. Law.

Actually, Defence Headquarters should now have three letters dated 9th August, 1983, regarding the '78-'79 UFO sightings. i.e. one addressed to each of the following; 1, the Public Relations Officer (AIR); 2, the Secretary of Defence; 3, the Minister of Defence.

No doubt you will go further than just 'research your files'. In Mr. Law's letter, it is mentioned that material that is available will be examined; no doubt this means that you be obtaining extensive data from witnesses to the events of the 17th December 1978. This data is readily available. You may be able to contact Mr. M. A. Collins from the P.E. Lab. DSIR, Lower Hutt regarding this event. I can assure you that the Wellington Air Traffic Control had the Defence Dept. on. Hence, the Minister of Transport, the Right Honourable G. Sair is also working on questions from me. (He received 26 questions from me.)

Thank you for your efforts,

Yours faithfully,

G. C. Thompson

MR. G. C. THOMPSON

# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

41

All correspondence should be addressed to:  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE,  
PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON, N.Z.  
Telephone 726 499



In reply please quote:

Air 39/3/3

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS  
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

22 August 1983

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your letter of 9 August seeking information under the Official Information Act, on UFO sightings in the Kaikoura region in 1978.

Air Staff, Defence Headquarters Wellington now have your letter and are currently researching their files so that they can reply to all your questions. I am sure you will appreciate that the task of preparing a reply once the information is at hand may take a little while, and that under the terms of the Official Information Act, the Ministry of Defence is obliged to levy a fee for the work undertaken. Accordingly, an officer from Air Staff will contact you once they have completed their examination of any material that is available and inform you of the costs involved in preparing a comprehensive response to your enquiries.

If you have any further queries you should contact Squadron Leader Lynch, the Air Staff Information Contact Officer, Ministry of Defence Wellington - 726-499 extension 8344.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Law'.

D Law  
for Secretary of Defence

1	REGISTRATOR'S INITIALS		AS
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	—
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	AS [Signature]
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		22 8 83	[Signature]
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	[Signature] (Air Staff should keep us informed)
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

Air 39/3/3

22 August 1983

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLenheim

1. SASO  
2.

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your letter of 9 August seeking information under the Official Information Act, on UFO sightings in the Kaikoura region in 1978.

Air Staff, Defence Headquarters Wellington now have your letter and are currently researching their files so that they can reply to all your questions. I am sure you will appreciate that the task of preparing a reply once the information is at hand may take a little while, and that under the terms of the Official Information Act, the Ministry of Defence is obliged to levy a fee for the work undertaken. Accordingly, an officer from Air Staff will contact you once they have completed their examination of any material that is available and inform you of the costs involved in preparing a comprehensive response to your enquiries.

If you have any further queries you should contact Squadron Leader Lynch, the Air Staff Information Contact Officer, Ministry of Defence Wellington - 726-499 extension 6344.

Yours sincerely

D Law  
for Secretary of Defence

Memorandum from

**SENIOR AIR STAFF OFFICER**

For:

AO (PAC) 3

1. We discussed this today.
2. I think it will take one man/day to extract, reproduce and comment upon the Air Staff report - once we have found it (now found)
3. Suggest you write to Mr Thompson and ascertain whether he is prepared to put his money where his mouth is. I don't think you should make any firm commitment, until we have seen the report ourselves we won't know whether it should be released.

19 Aug 83

P. Adamson GPCAFF.

SASO/DOPS

MINUTE

To DOS (F)

The attached letters are self-explanatory - some of the questions we can't answer but some we can, or should.

MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION <sup>have</sup> Please do what you can as a first response & note the "charge" aspect if it gets to be a big deal

1. Attached is an enquiry from the Minister's Office.
2. It would be appreciated if a draft reply could be prepared within your branch/staff and forwarded to Policy Branch which will be responsible for preparation of the letter in its final form for the Minister's signature. If it is judged that the Minister should have background information to the issue before signing the letter, a draft covering letter to the Minister from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary should also be prepared.
3. In view of the urgency which must be given to Ministerial enquiries, the draft should be forwarded to Policy Branch, attention AO(Pol)D by 18/8/83. If for some reason this is not possible the officer dealing with the matter is to have an interim reply to the correspondent, for the Minister's signature, with Policy Branch within the prescribed seven-day deadline. In addition the staff involved are to provide a written explanation, addressed to Dep Sec Def, through DPD, explaining why it is not possible to provide the draft reply within the given time.

\* I have arranged that Sec Def will answer both letters in a single reply.

Pat J. Withi

for Sec Def

Please note that this request is made under the O.I.A. Accordingly we are allowed to charge for time spent researching the reply as set out in the Defence Manual.

Please also note Sec Def's suggestion about releasing the Air Staff Report. We may wish to include this in a preliminary reply. AO(Pol)D x 8264

OFFICIAL INFORMATION : ACTION/RECORD SHEET

1. File Reference for working papers: Air 39-3-3
2. Name of applicant: Mr J.C. THOMPSON
3. Address: 57 DILLON ST, BLENHEIM
4. Telephone:
5. Date request received: 11.8.83
6. Specific nature of request: QUESTIONS ON UFOs 78/79
7. General nature of request:
- |                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Access to official information  | (S12) |
| Access to personal information  | S24   |
| Access to internal rules        | S22   |
| Access to reasons for decisions | S23   |
| Correction of information       | S26   |
8. Delay likely? If so date advice sent:
9. Staff to action request: AIR STAFF / AO (POL) D
10. Position: DOSD (P)
11. Forwarded On: 11.8.83
12. Returned On:
13. Decision made (delete those not applicable) Date action completed
- Release approved/not approved
  - Release approved with alteration/deletions
  - Release approved subject to conditions
  - Request transferred
  - Personal information amended
  - Notation placed on personal record
14. Charges raised: YES / NO (calculation form on reverse side)
15. Charges paid: Date: SRR No.:
16. Applicant advised on:
17. Information supplied on:
18. Form of Access:
19. Grounds for decision in 13 a - f:
20. Authority: (name) Appointment:  
Date:

37

Writer: Mr J C Thompson, 57 Dillon St, Blenheim

# MINISTERIAL

No. 1983/319

10.8.83

Subject: ..... Date of letter: 9 August 1983

Wishes questions to be answered

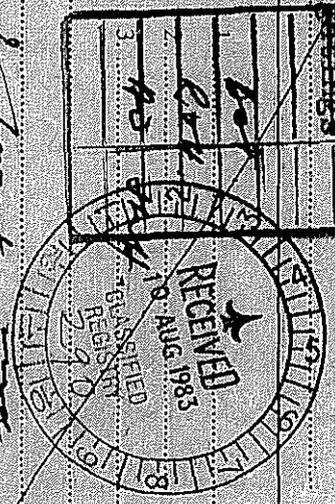
Part of the Information Act re UFO sightings Date Acknowledged: .....

UFO sightings

Referred to

Reference: AIR 39-33

Comments:



*I would like to see a list of witnesses taken to me in a list name & address do the way way on the way they are in ship next minutes? Air*

Item 521

(Departmental use)

(Minister's Office use)

*See below produced report*

(Tumble)

MINISTER'S OFFICE

MEMO

*SEC-DEF.*

APPROVED
<del>SEEN</del>
I-CONCUR
DRAFT REPLY
REFERRED
<del>DIRECT REPLY</del>

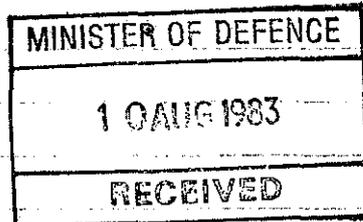
*Please*  
*by*  
*d*

*10-8-63.*

✓  
57 Dillon Street, 36  
Blenheim,

9th August, 1983,

Mr. D. S. Thomson,  
Minister of Defense,  
Parliament, Buildings,  
Wellington,  
Dear Mr. Thomson,



You will recall past correspondence from me regarding the '78-'79 UFO sightings in central New Zealand. Now that the Official Information Act is in force, I would like all the following questions answered.

1/ I would like to know why the RNZAF UFO REPORT has not been made public. I would like a copy of it please (See your letter to Mr. McKay dated 5th August, 1981).

2/ I would like to know why you lied to me in your letter dated 8th September 1981. The investigation was not detailed and thorough. All the principal witnesses were not interviewed as stated in the RNZAF Report.

3/ I would like you to list the ten principal witnesses that were aboard the Argosys on the night of the 20th & 21st December and the night of the 30th & 31st December 1978 i.e. pilots, co-pilots, cameraman, reporters etc. I would also like you to list beside each name, the approximate time in minutes (or hours) that the RNZAF investigating officer spent personally interviewing each witness.

2/

4/ I would like to know why you believed Wellington Air Traffic Control, when they never bothered to check out the events of the 17th December, 1978.

5/ I would like to know how it's possible for a DC8 to remain visible for an hour when making an approach to Wellington Airport.

That makes five questions I want answered.

I have reported your behaviour to an investigating officer from the Ombudsman Office.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

J. C. Thompson.

MR. J. C. THOMPSON

✓  
57 Dillon Street, 35  
Blenheim,  
9th August, 1983.

Mr. D. B. G. McLean,  
Secretary of Defence,  
Chief of Defence,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington,

Dear Mr. McLean,

You will recall previous correspondence from me regarding the '78-'79 UFO sightings. Now that the Official Information Act is in force; I would like to know the following. Let's start with your letter to me dated 28th September 1981.

✓ How was it possible, by the Air Staff, into the extensive Waikawa Bay sighting of December 17th 1978, when only a hairy fairy clipping from "The Marlborough Express" was used for the investigation?

X 2/ "You say in your letter "... there is nothing in Mr. MacDonald's letter to suggest that the object sighted from Waikawa Bay was other than a DC8 aircraft making its descent towards Wellington Airport..." If you thoroughly investigated Mr. MacDonald's letter he sent to "The Editor of "The Marlborough Express", you would have noticed the footnote the Editor put on end of the letter making it plain that extensive data was not published, (possibly due to space). I would like to know why you apparently used this as a way out, so <sup>you</sup> could explain

the sighting away as an aircraft.

- 3/ "...making its descent towards Wellington from the west." Why did you make that statement when the light was observed coming from the EAST?
- 4/ "The outline of events, which spanned no more than 10 minutes..." Why did you tell me this lie? If <sup>you</sup> had have investigated this sighting thoroughly you would have found the sighting lasted a good hour.
- 5/ How is it possible for a DC8 jet aircraft to remain visible for an hour when making an approach to Wellington Airport?
- 6/ "...desending over Nelson..." Observed from Waikawa Bay; the light spent <sup>the 1st</sup> 45 minutes (of the 10 minute sighting) coming from the direction of WELLINGTON. Why did you lie to me?
- 7/ "...usual inbound track to Wellington when making a southerly approach to the runway." What runway are you referring to? Obviously you are not referring to the runway at Wellington, perhaps you are referring to the grass airport at Waikawa Bay; as the light came back from Dumototo Bay, passed close to Allports Island, and then headed for Whatamanga Bay.
- 8/ "...most likely flightpath for its descent..." when taking the above into account; How did you <sup>reach</sup> this conclusion?
- 9/ "...Air Staff are sure that it was, in fact this aircraft that Mr. McDonald saw" How can

the Air Staff be sure? I will tell you the Air Traffic Control NEVER checked the events of the 17th December 1978, out. They just lied to you, straight out.

- 10/ I would like to know why the ATC lied to you, so you could lie to me.
- 11/ "...enabled you to gain a fuller appreciation of this Ministry's position on the matter." How can I appreciate anything in your letter? It is the biggest pack of lies I have ever come across.
- 12/ "Accordingly, I do not believe any useful purpose would be <sup>served</sup> by engaging in further speculation about an event..." You are the one that is speculating. Why are you speculating without checking any of the facts out?
- 13/ "...for which a perfectly rational explanation already exists." What rational explanation are you referring to? A DC8 flying away from the airport it is coming into land at.
- 14/ I would like to know if Air Staff will make some attempt to investigate the Waikawa Bay sighting and get their facts straight, seeing no attempt has been made so far in this respect.
- 15/ In a reply to your letter dated 28th September 1981, I said that I would bring the dangerously flying DC8 to the attention of the President of the Airline Pilots Association. (This was the letter you could not answer because you could not find it.) The President

4

of the A.P.A. failed to get the joke when I told him what was in your letter. He never even smiled. Would you be writing to him explaining the joke, as he is having quite some trouble getting it? Then maybe he will be able to have a big laugh like you have had. His address is:-

I have reported your behavior to an investigating officer from the Ombudsman's office; hence I would like all 15 questions answered.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

J. C. Thompson

MR J. C. THOMPSON

MINUTE SHEET

Department: *PR* 34

Subject: *Department train; Haircare* Section: *PR* 34

*also See King* File No. *39/3/3*

49918A-150

ads/7/80 MK

Date: *10 Aug 83*

To-

*SD :*

1. Please see attached.
2. The reference to " further info being obtained etc " is attached to the foot of our news release form on which the skin V page of the also report commentary also reference. Copy attached.
3. may I have your attention and guidance please

*at 1000*

*Shirley (air)*

Item 504

57 Dillon Street,  
Blenheim, 33  
9th August, 1983.

Public Relations Officer, (AIR)  
Defence Headquarters,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the '78-79 UFO sightings off the Hikouira Coast. Now that the Official Information Act is in force, I would like to know the following.

I have a summary of the RNZAF UFO REPORT which mentions on the bottom of the first page that further information can be obtained from you. 1/ I would like a copy of the full RNZAF UFO REPORT on these sightings.

2/ In the RNZAF summary it is mentioned that all the principal witnesses had been interviewed; apparently they were not. If this statement is incorrect, I would like to know why the RNZAF made it.

3/ I would like you to list the ten principal witnesses that were aboard the Argosys on the night of the 20th & 21st December and the night of the 30th & 31st December 1978 i.e. pilots, co-pilots, camera-men, reporters etc. I would like you also to list beside each name, the approximate time in minutes (or hours) that the RNZAF investigating officer spent personally interviewing each witness.

4/ I would like to know why the RNZAF summary mentions that the investigating officer worked closely with the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport. The Civil Aviation

9/

Division did not work closely with the investigating officer. The Woodbourne and Wellington Air Traffic Control were fully aware of the Waikawa Bay sighting of the 17th December 1978, but could not be bothered to tell the investigating officer about it. Also both Air Traffic Controls never checked the sighting out. Why did the investigating officer make this misleading statement?

I would like know how the Defense spokesman was able to totally discount the possibility of flying machines visiting New Zealand, particularly the Waikawa Coast.

That makes five questions I want answered. I have brought the contents of this letter to the attention of the Ombudsman's investigating officer.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

J. C. Thompson.

MR. J. C. THOMPSON

32

Air 39/3/3

14 September 1983

Mr Harold B Knapman  
PO Box 22638  
High Street  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 27 August concerning the release of information on Unidentified Flying Objects under the Official Information Act.

Your letter does not specify what information you seek on UFOs.

Under the Act any request for information must be for a specific subject. Once that request is received it will be reviewed and the decision reached on whether or not that information can be released.

Of course charges are involved. These are 10c reproduction fees for each copy in excess of 50 and \$10 per half hour for research after the first hour.

Yours faithfully,



(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

FILE.  
1 / 19

 Initials

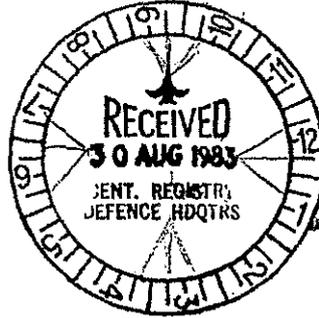


MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

31

103 Oldtowne Rd  
Seguin Texas  
78155 USA

27/8/83



Mutual UFO Network  
Sectional S I Director  
Harold J Knapman  
PO Box 22638 High St  
Christchurch NZ  
Phone 527953

To:- Squadron Leader C.D.Cole,  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer,  
c/- Chief of Air Staff,  
Defence Headquarters,  
Private Bag, Wellington.

Air 39/3/3 PR.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter 5 August 1983. on the request of the retrieval of information of UFO's. I may have misquoted in asking for information of UFO's, I request that it should of been through the or under the Official Information Act, If I handnt at the time Im sorry, I wish to at this time request any information leading to the release of UFO data or Films, photos, etc, Under the Official Information Act. I will look forwards to your reply soon.

Kindest regards,  
Harold J Knapman,  
S.I. Sectional Director for,  
MUFON - N.Z.

Harold J Knapman

FILE.

1/109

 Inkfile



to certify our  
of the law

of the law  
of the law  
of the law

20-8

Handwritten signature in a circle.

Review 4  
Series 4

5 August 1983

Mr Harold J Knapman  
Director MUFON NZ  
PO Box 22638 High Street  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter requesting information on Unidentified Flying Objects and to work with the RNZAF to investigate information and exchange information.

The RNZAF, as I explained in my letter to you of 15 October 1981, does not undertake investigations into the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects.

When a sighting is reported to the RNZAF it consults with other Government agencies such as the Civil Aviation, the Meteorological Service and the DSIR in an effort to eliminate obvious causes.

Your interest in assisting the RNZAF in this matter is appreciated but as I have said the RNZAF is not involved in UFO investigations.

Yours faithfully,

  
(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

MINUTE SHEET

Subject: HAROLDS LETTER

Department: ... AIR

Section: ... SO NAV

File No. ... 39/3/3

Date: ... 19 Jan 83

(29)

49918A-150

Yads/7/80 MK

To-

Ro (AIR)

1. Looking back through the file I see that you are pretty good at answering these letters! I also note that several 'experts' living in ~~ambassador~~ enjoy testing their spelling attributes out on defence. Just in case there's a chop talk to each item I guess a letter signed by you would be the ideal way to go.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
(R. Boon)

Synodon leads  
SO NAV



# MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

103 Oldtowne Rd  
Seguin Texas  
78155 USA

Mutual UFO Network  
Sectional S 1 Director  
Harold J Knapman  
PO Box 22638 High St  
Christchurch NZ  
Phone 527953

To:- Director Operations,  
Air Staff Headquarters,  
Wellington, N.Z.



Dear Sir,

I am writing this request for any information the Airforce has regarding UFOs. Any information I receive will be guaranteed confidential & will remain thus. The information is to be used for research purposes only, on our computers etc. I have been in contact with Squadron Leader Bunn at Wigram Airforce Base at CHCH & I have passed on to him copies of my files on Micro Film, plus a set of our Questionnaires which I no doubt he has sent to your Headquarters. I would like if its possible to work in with the Airforce to investigate & to exchange information on UFOs. I have investigated hundreds of sightings with the help of a very excellent team of Professional people. I will be bringing my files up to date on the micro films very shortly & will send to Squadron Leader Bunn the up to date set of Films. I could quote if you like the case of Mrs Moreland 13 July, 1959. I do know her address at this moment, plus her new married name, but I respect her request for confidentiality of her name etc. Our research team is the only present one in N.Z. that is investigating UFO sightings in a scientific manner & we hope your Dept may help us in the future. We also have all available data on the Kaikoura sighting 1978 - 79. films, ATC tapes etc, except the Airforce report. Thank you for your Attention, hope to hear from you soon.

REFERRED TO	
ops	1

kindest Regards,  
Harold J Knapman,  
Director MUFON N.Z.  
*Harold J Knapman*

MINUTE SHEET

Department: .....

26

Subject:

MR. THORNBURN

Section: .....

File No. A116 39/3/3

49918A-150 Pads/7/80 MK

Date: 25 FEB 83

To-

MRD (AK)

Ref: NZAP 47 Part 1 Chap 3 para 9h.

1. IAW ref, you may advise Mr Thornburn that we were not flying that night, but that does not mean people should laugh at him.

*[Signature]*  
AK

K- ind 1  
Air 39/3/3 PR

21 March 1983

LOWER HUTT

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter seeking an explanation to the light you saw. Please accept my apologies in replying.

Unfortunately the information you gave in your letter was not sufficient to positively identify the light. The date of the sighting would have been useful.

From my inquiries the light could have been emitted by any one of a number of sources - a momentary reflection of a car head lamp, a bright meteorite, or even a portion of space 'junk'. It was not an aircraft.

I am sorry that I cannot offer a positive explanation.

Yours faithfully,



(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

25A/1

Air 39/3/3 PR

22 February 1983

Mr B. Chalker  
PO Box 6  
Lana Cove NSW 2066  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January to Wing Commander G.T. Clarke requesting information to finalize your studies into official investigations of UFO sightings.

The RNZAF does not undertake investigations into the sightings of UFOs. It does, however, on receipt of a report of a sighting consult with other Government agencies such as the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport, the Meteorological Service and the DSIR in an effort to eliminate obvious causes.

Consequently the RNZAF does not maintain records of all sightings and therefore cannot respond with any accuracy to the questions you seek answers to.

There are a number of UFO organizations in New Zealand who may be able to assist you with your research.

Yours faithfully,



(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer



*PRO (his)*

*Your name & address!*  
*[Signature]*

B. Chalker,  
P.O. Box 6,  
LANE COVE, NSW, 2066  
AUSTRALIA

January 23rd, 1983

Wing Commander G.P. Clarke,  
Director of Public Relations,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Defence Headquarters,  
Private Bag, Wellington,  
NEW ZEALAND

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - UFOs

Dear Sir,

I have been advised that I should direct my enquiries to you.

Since January, 1982, as a civilian researcher, I have been permitted the first civilian direct review of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) files on UFOs at the Russell Offices of the Australian Department of Defence in Canberra. I have examined their extant files which cover the period from 1950 to 1982. This file review can be confirmed with the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) Liaison Officer, Sqd. Ldr. Ian Frame, with whom I have dealt directly.

The purpose of this letter is two fold:

(1) To finalise my study of official investigations of UFOs, I wish to understand the involvement of other countries in the same matter:

(a) I would like to be advised of the extent and nature of the New Zealand Ministry of Defence UFO file holdings and that of any other agencies that may also conduct investigations in New Zealand.

(b) Do you have a yearly (or otherwise) summary or breakdown of reports recieved along with an indication of the possible explanations and whether a sighting is "unexplained"? If so, could I be sent copies of these documents?

(c) Should you have "unexplained" or "unknown" cases could you advise me what would constitute such a report?

(d) Do you approach UFO reports and their investigation from the point of view to evaluate whether a security threat is apparent, for public relation purposes, or perhaps to determine whether any body of "unexplained" reports constitute patterned data suggestive of unidentified and/or superior technology?

(e) Would it be possible to recieve copies of examples of the range of reports you recieve that you class as "unexplained" or some other similiar categorisation? I would only be interested in a few reports to compare with the type of reports evaluated as "unknown" by the RAAF. I appreciate that such reports would need to have the names and addresses of witnesses deleted.

(2) In particular I would like to obtain any documentation you may have on the following 2 events:

(i) Blenheim, July 13, 1959 - witness: Mrs. Moreland

(ii) Ngatea, September, 1969 - ground marks found on the property of a Mr. B.G. O'Neil.

Could you also advise me whether any other agency (eg. DSIR) conducted investigations into either of the above events? If so, would you be so kind as to pass on my enquiry re above.

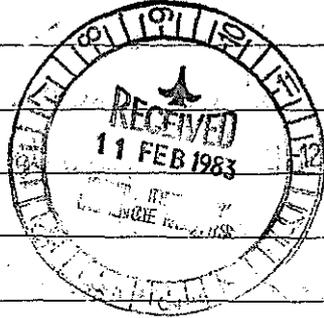
*see over* →

I do hope that you will give my requests serious consideration and I therefore take this opportunity to thank you for your most valuable time,

Yours faithfully,

  
Bill Chalker

(1)



LOWER HUTT

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1983.

Dear Sir,

I realise that you must get hundreds of reports of unusual sightings in the night sky, and as seems to happen, my friends are laughing at me regarding my experience! So I am writing to you for my own satisfaction.

Having considerable interest in the progress of the remaining portion of the Russian Satellite, I was lying in bed listening to the reports

~~FRD AM~~

on the radio, when it was<sup>②</sup> due to re-enter the atmosphere. I was looking out of a small skylight window and saw a white light, for approx  $\frac{1}{4}$  second? It appeared to "flare out" very slightly from a central point; and gave no appearance of "falling" or leaving a trail of light as I am familiar with in the case of meteorites - (though I realise this is probably what I saw.) I know that I saw this prior to 1 AM, and I think it was after 12:30 AM, but I cannot be exact as to the time.

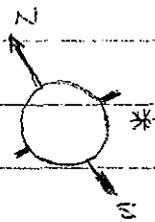
When I heard that the remaining portion of the satellite had re-entered elsewhere, I did not pursue the question of what I had

③

seen. But since I have heard that there was a possible sighting from Christchurch, I feel it worth writing to you anyway.

I realise that whatever I saw, it was only seen for a fraction of a second, and I think ~~that~~ the only reason that I noticed it, was because the window (skylight) I was looking up through, was so small.

I haven't got a compass, so I've roughly worked out the direction on my street directory!



AS PER \*

It was fairly high up in the sky, very roughly,  $45^\circ$  to the horizon.

I trust that you don't mind my writing to you, as I am a responsible person, in a responsible job - But I am getting a little annoyed with people who think I was "seeing things!"

Thanks for your time,

Yours Sincerely,





The Minister of Defence  
The Beehive  
Wellington

Sender: M Cunningham  
65 Ridgeway  
Stoke  
Nelson

20

3

1 February 1983

Mr Mark Cunningham  
65 Ridgeway  
Stoke  
NELSON

Dear Sir,

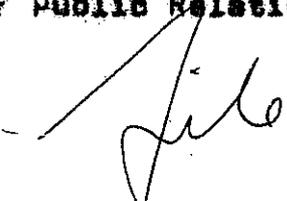
Thank you for your letter of 20 January in which you sought information on the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects.

The RNZAF does not undertake investigations into the sightings of UFO's. It does, however, on receipt of a report of a sighting consult with other Government agencies such as Civil Aviation, the Meteorological Service and the DSIR in an effort to eliminate obvious causes.

Consequently, the RNZAF does not maintain records of sightings and it is suggested that you contact local UFO organisations such as the Mutual UFO Network, P.O. Box 22638, Christchurch for this information.

Yours faithfully,

  
(C.O. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer



AIR 39/3/3



18 January 1983

The Minister of Defence  
The Beehive  
Wellington

Dear Sir

I am to write a book on the phenomenon of UFOs. Could you possibly send me information on the areas where they have been sighted, and descriptions of these encounters (what people have seen and what happened to them).

This book will not be an outright reprinting of your information to produce a "New Zealand's UFO encounters dictionary", as I wish to look at the psychological aspects of UFO sightings.

Would you be willing to give a quotation on the validity of UFOs, that could be used in my book?

Yours faithfully

*Mark Cunningham*

FORWARDED TO	
PRO.	(Air)

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	<i>ASPA</i>	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	<i>ASPA</i>
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	<i>ASPA</i>
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		<i>30.8.82</i>	<i>ASPA</i>
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	<i>ASPA</i>
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

Min No: 272  
 Ref No:  
 Typed: 27 Aug 82

Mr H E Wright  
 PO Box 1276  
 CHRISTCHURCH 1

Dear Mr Wright

Please refer to your letter of 19 August 1982 asking if I could direct the Blenheim Police to provide details of persons who reported sightings of UFOs in the Marlborough region early in August.

It is not possible for me to release the names and addresses of persons reporting any matters to the police, as it is not within my province as Minister of Defence. Also, I note in the newspaper clippings you enclose that the people concerned wished to have their identity kept private.

I am not aware of any intergovernmental act or agreement in respect of UFOs to which New Zealand is a party. In an earlier letter to you on 24 February 1982, I remarked that the RNZAF does not usually investigate UFO sightings although any material on these matters is passed to them for information.

Yours sincerely

*David Thomson*

David Thomson  
 Minister of Defence

*ASPA*

*File all on file 39/3/3*  
*see [signature]*  
*3 Sep*

MINUTE

To

*DO (POL) D*

MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION

1. Attached is an enquiry from the Minister's Office.
2. It would be appreciated if a draft reply could be prepared within your branch/staff and forwarded to Policy Branch which will be responsible for preparation of the letter in its final form for the Minister's signature. If it is judged that the Minister should have background information to the issue before signing the letter, a draft covering letter to the Minister from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary should also be prepared.
3. In view of the urgency which must be given to Ministerial enquiries, the draft should be forwarded to Policy Branch, attention AO(POL)D by *30 / 8 / 82*. If for some reason this is not possible the officer dealing with the matter is to have an interim reply to the correspondent, for the Minister's signature, with Policy Branch within the prescribed seven-day deadline. In addition the staff involved are to provide a written explanation, addressed to Dep Sec Def, through DPD, explaining why it is not possible to provide the draft reply within the given time.

*Penscript text*

*Pat With*

for Sec Def

*Mr Wright has written before, previous correspondence on ~~33~~ AIR 39/3/3.*

*I think it will be sufficient to note his claim and refuse to assist with provision of names or grounds of respect for privacy.*

*AO(POL)D*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

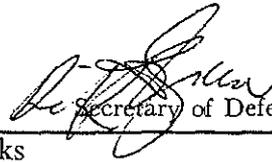
THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE,

For approval and signature please.

For information.

Date:

27/8



Secretary of Defence.

Remarks

Min No: 272  
Ref No:  
Typed: 27 Aug 82

31 AUG 1982



Mr H E Wright  
PO Box 1276  
CHRISTCHURCH 1

Dear Mr Wright

Please refer to your letter of 19 August 1982 asking if I could direct the Blenheim Police to provide details of persons who reported sightings of UFOs in the Marlborough region early in August.

It is not possible for me to release the names and addresses of persons reporting any matters to the police, as it is not within my province as Minister of Defence. Also, I note in the newspaper clippings you enclose that the people concerned wished to have their identity kept private.

I am not aware of any intergovernmental act or agreement in respect of UFOs to which New Zealand is a party. In an earlier letter to you on 24 February 1982, I remarked that the RNZAF does not usually investigate UFO sightings although any material on these matters is passed to them for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Thomson".

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

Handwritten initials, possibly "DTC", in a stylized cursive script.

Writer: MR H E WRIGHT, P O BOX 1276, CHRISTCHURCH 1

# MINISTERIAL

No. 1982/272

23.8.82

(Minister's Office use)

Subject: RE MYSTERY OBJECTS BETWEEN  
KAIKOURA AND BLENHEIM

Date of letter: 19 8 82

OFFICE Date Acknowledged  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
31 AUG 1982  
PATCHED



Referred to

1. *JPO*
- 2.
- 3.

Reference: *PAR 244/10/1 39/3/3*

(Departmental use)

Comments:

*for action by special flying search squad*

P.O, Box 1276,  
Christchurch 1.  
19/8/82.

Mr D, Thomson, M.P.  
Minister of Defence,  
Office Of the Minister of Defence ,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir;

Would You or the Prime Minister contact the Blenheim Police  
for the Names and Addresses of those People who witnessed Mystery Objects  
between Kaikoura and Blenheim.

UNDER THE PROVICENCE OF THE SPECIAL U,F,O, ACT SIGNED BY ALL GOVERNMENTS  
ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO. I beleive that this ACT CONTAIN PROVINCENCE FOR U,F,O,  
PEOPLE WHO INVESTAGATE THIS FIELD OF WORK.

As there is evry Evidence of U,F,O, Activity in the Hapuka Area Earlier  
this Month it is IMPORTANT THAT THE NAMES & ADDRESSES OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE  
SENT TO ME, So that I can see Them and get a U,F,O, Statement from Them.

With the Evidence at hand from the Newspaper, Press, which is VERY  
STRONG EVIDENCE, THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT OF A CHIMMERING SILVER FIGURE,  
THESE FIGURES HAVE APPEARED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD FROM U,F,O'S.

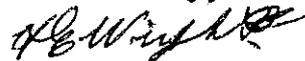
I will Strongly State that ALL U,F,O'S ARE NOT DETECTED BY RADAR.

The URGENTY OF the Names ,Addresses are required from the Blenheim  
Police.

Copies of the News Report and a Letter to the Blenheim Police is Enclosed

Please Advice if this is been done.

Yours Sincerely;



Mr H, E, Wright,

*Sec - Def.*

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEEN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCERN
<input type="checkbox"/> DRAFT REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED
<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY

*plans*  
*sy*

RECEIVED
20 AUG 1982
OFFICE OF MINISTER OF DEF

P.O. BOX 1276,  
CHRISTCHURCH, 1.  
11/8/82.

Officer-In- Charge,  
Police Department,  
Blenheim,  
P.O. Box, 342

RE - CONFIDENTIAL MYSTERY OBJECTS.

Dear Sir,

Would you please send a Report of the Names of the Persons who have Reported the Mystery Objects, ( U,FO's, Un-Identified Flying Objects.) As I Investagate these Objects it is Important to Interview these People. There is a lot more to the U,F,O, Problem than a lot of People Peleaze. I have come to releaze Myself, ( and is Known All Over the World ) that these U,F,O's, have Affected, and Killed People.

( All My U,F,O, Reports when Completed are Directed Only to the Minister For Defence. )

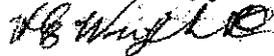
Please find enclosed a Pamplet of Hard Core U,F,O'S. This will be Your Copy to show People who have seen these Objects and to Identfy Them.

The Important thing is for those People to Identify the Objects as there is so many of Them on the Pamplet.

Could you please Direct any Persons that have been confronted or seen these Objects to Contact Me by Phoning 382-773 on Their return to Christchurch or near Christchurch.

Hoping to hear from you very soon.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr H, E, Wright.

# Mystery objects sighted at night

Blenheim reporter

Marlborough has once again become the favourite "stamping ground" for unidentified and mysterious objects visible only at night.

On this occasion, however, one in human shape has been seen on State highway 1, the other object seen airborne in the general area of the Vernon Lagoons near Blenheim.

The first sighting on State highway 1 was made between 12.30 a.m. and 1 a.m. on August 3, by the driver and two passengers in a car travelling from Christchurch to Blenheim. They saw an object about two metres high and with a general outline of a window dresser's model, standing just to the right of the centre line of the road, about half a kilometre south of the Hapuku bridge.

In describing the object later that morning to the Blenheim police they said that it had no distinguishable features, and glowed with a fluorescent light. They said that they drove right up to the object and passed within a few feet. When they looked

back it had vanished.

Senior-Sergeant J. O. Ireland said that the three persons who reported the incident were responsible adults. One of them, a woman, was still visibly disturbed by the incident when it was reported to the police at 3.30 a.m.

The second incident occurred at 12.15 a.m. on August 4 when a man travelling from Blenheim to his home in Amberley sighted an arc-shaped pattern of lights in the direction of the Vernon Lagoons while passing the Riverlands Montana winery.

He saw four flashing red lights in an arc, with two more red lights above it. No shape was visible to the observer, but as the lights moved across the sky at a height of about 24 metres, the top lights changed from red to white.

The motorist told the Blenheim police that he at first thought the lights were from an aircraft, but became more interested in them when he realised there was no engine noise.

At the same time there was considerable radio interference which sounded as if several stallions were coming in at the same time.

The Blenheim police got in touch with the Woodbourne control tower which reported that an Argosy had taken off about the time of the sighting, but had flown north and could not have given rise to the report.

A radar check was made over the lagoons area, but no object was detected.

The Blenheim police have not released the names of those who reported the sightings.

Another rumoured sighting early on the morning of August 3, also in the Hapuku bridge area, and also by northbound motorists, was of an object "like a big crash helmet," more than two metres high, hovering just above the road.

It was said that the occupants of the car had reported the "sighting" to Woodbourne air base, but a spokesman for the base said that no such report had been received.

THE PRESS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1982.

## Motorist shaken after seeing 'silver figure'

Blenheim reporter  
A Christchurch motorist who sighted a shimmering silver figure on State highway 1 near the Hapuku bridge on August 3 would not return to that spot on the roadway, day or night, for "ten thousand quid."

The man, who did not wish his name disclosed, said yesterday that the figure had no distinguishable features or limbs. The lower part of the shape was either black, or the figure itself was hovering above the road surface.

He said he was sure the incident was not the result of a prank. There was a strong wind blowing at the time and nobody could have held a fluorescent object so high.

"I was terrified. I just don't want to see what I saw

again. I wouldn't stop near that place at night, or in daylight for that matter. It's no for me. I wouldn't take the chance," he said.

"It wasn't a flying saucer. It was a figure I saw. I just felt fear. I locked the car doors and just took off. Nothing could have caught me."

The motorist said the first thing he did on arriving at Blenheim was to telephone the Woodbourne R.N.Z.A.F. base. He had no coins for the call box and was put straight through to the security gate, by the exchange operator.

He said he was told by the person on duty that he should report the incident to the Blenheim police, which he did.

39/3/3 file 57 Dillon Street,  
Blenheim,  
27th March, 1982

Mr. D G McLean,  
Secretary of Defence,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington.

To D G S.  
How interesting  
you!  
Dun

Dear Mr. McLean.

Thank you for your letter  
of 22nd March 1982.

I was very disappointed with  
your reply to my previous  
letter. I thought you would have  
taken more interest in the  
Waikawa Bay sighting seeing I  
pointed out some more interesting  
points regarding this sighting; instead  
you were quite keen to brush  
the matter aside. I did not find  
this at all funny. Also, I am  
not speculating on <sup>the</sup> Waikawa  
sighting; you are (a 'DC8').

yours faithfully,  
J. C. Thompson  
MR. J. C. THOMPSON

39/3/3

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	A.P.D.	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	See above
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		22.3.82	APD
	AFTER DISPATCH	to	A.P.D.
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

22 March 1982

Mr J C Thompson  
87 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your further letter of 1 March concerning the 1978-79 UFO sightings which occurred in the Blenheim region.

I have read with interest your further observations concerning the alleged UFO sightings in 1978 and have passed your letter to the appropriate authorities within the Ministry of Defence for their information. As I stated however, in my letter to you of 28 September I do not believe any useful purpose would be served by engaging in further speculation on the nature of the Kaikoura phenomena.

Yours sincerely

DBG McLean  
Secretary of Defence

MINUTE SHEET

Department: PAID

Subject: MSO's

File No: 39/3/3 (19)

Date: 8/3/82

To—

Sam the ~~dog~~

PRO (A.)

Bunny  
Street

Ab Pol (D)

I know you would be pleased to furnish a  
reply for Sec. Dir's signature to Mr Thompson's  
latest epistle.

John Green  
Ab Pol (D)

① Draft reply below.

② From the Bureau of in letters  
particularly the below E16

I think we should only acknowledge  
the letter without giving info  
or advice.

SGC  
Sheets

Item 504

GYLES 93341

D R A F T

Air 39/3/3

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLLENHEIM

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March concerning  
the UFO sightings at Waikawa Bay.

Your comments are noted.

Yours faithfully,

(D B G McLean)  
Secretary of Defence

39/3/3

1/

57 Dillon Street,  
Blenheim,

(18)

1st March 1982.

The Secretary of Defence,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington,

Dear Mr. Moran,

'78-'79 UFOs

Thank you for your letter dated 24th February 1982. Unfortunately, you answered the wrong letter I had already had a reply to that one. I was hoping you would answer the letter that I posted to you in the first week in October, 1981. I fail to see how my letter to you could have gone astray, as I usually put a return address on the back of the envelope. I wrote to you regarding your letter of 28th September 1981. There are a few points that need clearing up.

It is correct that Mr. MacDonald forwarded facts to "the Marlborough Express" regarding the Waikawa sighting. The "Marlborough Express" severely slashed this information from say 1/2 page right down to something approx. 100 millimetres small, and Air Staff based its investigation on a very severely slashed newspaper clipping. This is most interesting. Your letter mentions that the events spanned no more than 10 minutes; this is incorrect; the sighting lasted for approx. 1 hour, i.e. 12 mid-night to 1 am. 45 minutes of this time, it was coming from the direction of Wellington not Nelson. Also, when the light was coming back in

2/

a southerly direction it was still over  
the Marlborough Sounds. Hence the pilot was  
allowing the WIDTH OF COOK STRAIT for side-drift.  
Trusting this shows why I was most  
dissatisfied with your reply.

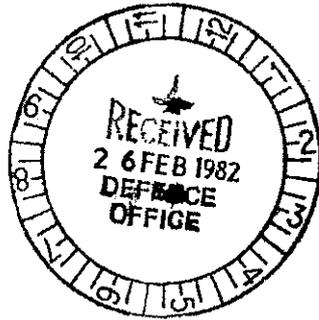
yours faithfully,  
J. C. Thompson  
Mr. J. C. Thompson

SAO POW(D)

Sec Def has requested that you  
provide a reply to this letter  
for his signature p se.

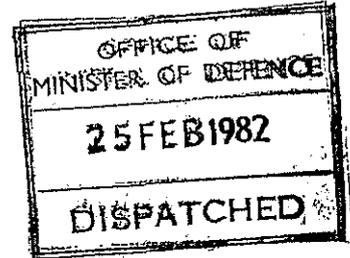
alwhite  
8/3/82. Pa/SecDef.

Min No: 24  
File No: Air 39/3/3  
Typed : 24 Feb 82



25 FEB 1982

Mr H E Wright  
PO Box 1276  
CHRISTCHURCH 1



Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your letter of 14 February containing reports on the investigations that you have carried out into the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects at Christchurch International Airport in January and at Temuka last August.

Although the Ministry of Defence and in particular, the RNZAF, does not undertake investigations into UFO sightings, I have passed your reports to the Secretary of Defence so that the RNZAF may be informed of your work.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) D. S. THOMSON

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

*[Handwritten signature]*

PRO (air) ←

*[Handwritten number 6 and other markings]*

Writer: Mr H E WRIGHT, PO Box 1276, Christchurch 1

# MINISTERIAL

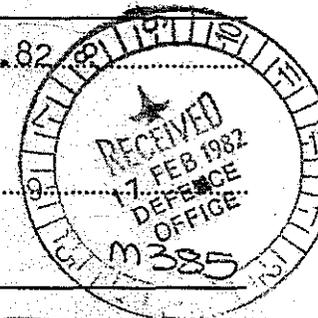
No. 1982/24

16.2.82

Subject: UFO Sightings

Date of letter: 14.2.82

Date Acknowledged: 9



(Minister's Office use)

Referred to

1.

*JPD*

2.

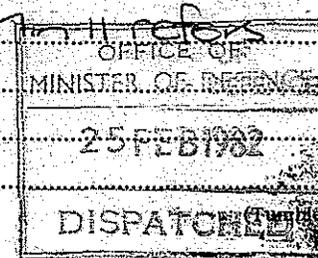
Reference: *AIR 244/1011*

3.

Comments:

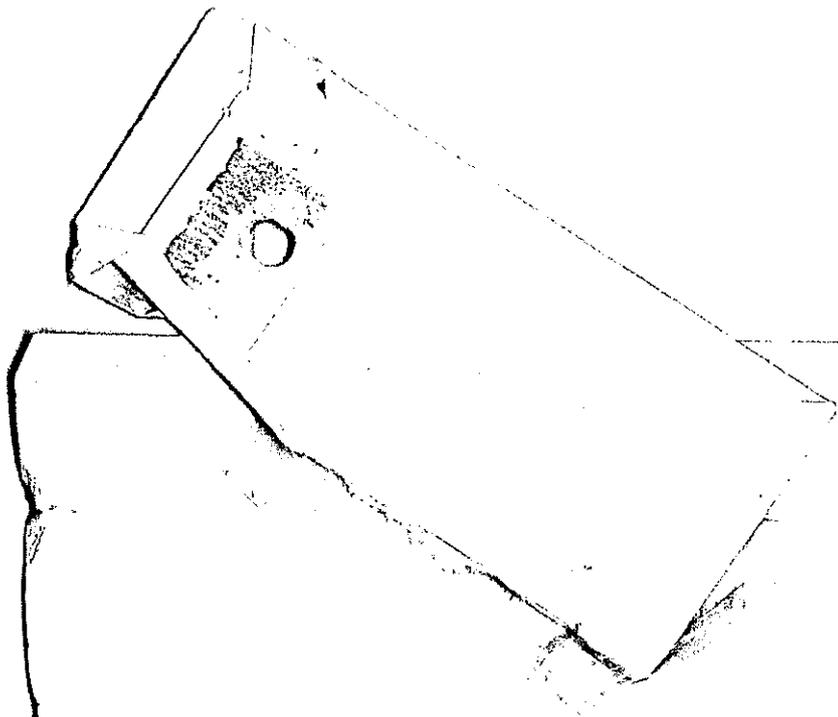
*AIR 29/3/3 possibly.*

(Departmental use)

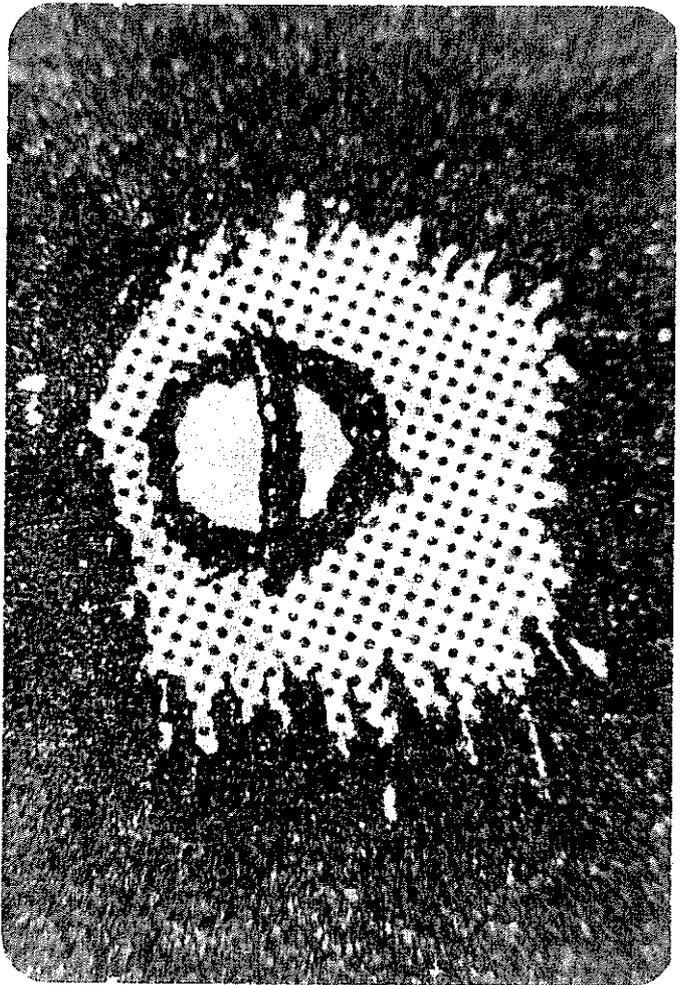


Item 521

33726B-600 pads/7/79 M



U, F, O, ENLARGEMENT ENCLOSED.

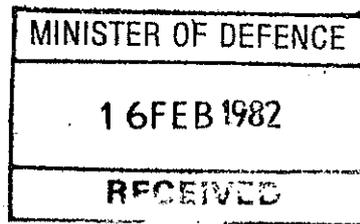


ENLARGEMENT TAKEN FROM THE ARTIST'S  
IMPRESSION OF THE U, F, O, OVER THE CHRIST -  
CHURCH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ON TUESDAY,  
JANUARY, 27 - 1982.

055-11-1-1-1

P.O. Box 1276,  
Christchurch, 1.  
14/2/82.

The RT Hon, David Thomson,  
Minister of Defence,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.



Dear Sir;

Your letter received dated 4 February, 1982, There are several Photo Copies Enclose as below;

Temuka Family sees a UFO;

Spotlight Theory on UFO Sighting. and UFO at Airport. ( Same Page.)

Newspaper Report with; NO Light shed on U,F,O,Light in Sky with a Sketch Impression of the U,F,O, above the Freighter Aircraft. The Object above the Aircraft had been Enlarged and the Enlarged Photo of this is Enclosed, with a Typed sticker attached to the back of the Photo.

Photo Copy of the Area and Position s which a marked from the South- East towards the Airport and North- West of Airport then turning and Returning. As the UFO came from the South- East and Returning Via South- East between East, I would suggest that there could have been a Mother- Ship in the Direction of South-East and Easterly Direction. Every Indecation if this Cannot be Ruled Out.

Questionairs were made out by Myself for the Two Boys to Answer.

Yours Faithfully;

H.E. Wright.

*Sec - DEF*

APPROVED
SEEN
I CONCUR
DRAFT REPLY <i>Place</i>
REFERRED
DIRECT REPLY <i>2</i>

*16-2-82*

FURTHER REPORT ON U,F,O, INCIDENT.

It has now become necessary to include a report of the Temuka U,F,O, Incident on the discovery of the Type of UFO as seen at the Christchurch International Airport on the Morning of Tuesday, January, 26th, - 1982.

The Temuki UFO seen July, 12th - 1981, by the Thew Family while Driving Home from Pleasant Point, was Described as a Football Shaped UFO, as well as the Christchurch Airport UFO, seen by Four Cargo Loaders on the Morning of January 26th, - 1982.

At the time of the Temuki UFO the Street, Temuki, but have since shifted to; A further visit to Temuki on Wednesday, February, 3rd, - 1982, confirmed a Football Shaped U,F,O, by

There is No Doubt that Both UFO Sightings were of a Football Shaped U,F,O, of the same Type of U,F,O, This could possibly be the case in the Kaikoura U,F,O, Sightings, But further Investigations in this Type of UFO would be Warranted as there are so many Types of U,F,O's that have been Recorded throughout the World. Photos of U,F,O's in the future could Indicate the Type of UFO seen so to establish any One Type.

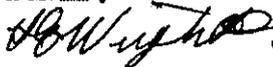
At the time of the UFO Sighting Two Teenage Boys were Camping behind the Christchurch International Airport near the Waimakariri River. A Questionnaire was drafted out for these Boys, and complete with Their Camping Location.

The Two Boys Only had the Experience of the Light from the Unseen Object which was Behind Trees. It is Possible that the Object could have been in the Vicinity between 1 AM, and 2 AM, on that Morning, looked at His watch at ( 4 - 49 AM ) just about 2 or 3 Hours 49 Minutes Earlier. ( It is well Known that UFO's do spend time in Hovering in Areas.) for some time.

DATED:

14/2/82.

SIGNED:



H,E, Wright.

## Temuka family sees a UFO

A Temuka man says he was tracked by an unidentified flying object as he drove home with his family from Pleasant Point on July 12.

Mr Ken Thew, a mechanic, said they told friends but did not report it earlier in case of being labelled an "idiot."

All the family must have sighted the glowing football shaped object at the same time but the first to exclaim was their 6-year-old daughter, he said.

"It had been raining earlier and I thought it was reflected light but it was clear at that stage. We wound down the window and it was quite obvious it wasn't a light but a solid object," Mr Thew said.

"It came up to within 120m of us. My wife panicked and put her foot down and we took off."

"I wanted her to stop but she wouldn't," he said.

He estimated the object

was about 10m long and 5m high with an iridescent green top half and a red dish-gold tinged lower section.

A row of what looked like square windows emitted a strong light and something like a figure eight could be seen at one window.

"It tracked us for 12km and had the ability to move very slowly and very low."

"As soon as we got home I wrote a fairly detailed report."

"I asked the children to draw what they saw and we all came up with the same thing."

Soon after, Mr Thew decided to go back down the road and spotted the object over the sea.

When he returned home, the object passed over the house at about 300m and went east over the Milford Huts.

Last Tuesday about 7.30pm his wife and friends observed two similar objects over Temuka.

# THE STAR

CHRISTCHURCH, Phone 797-100, Classified 791-100. 36 pages. 20c WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1982.

PURE VIRGIN  
wool  
ties  
BY *Parisian*  
FINEST MADE IN N.Z.

HOME

## No light shed on UFO light in sky

Sightings of a bright, pulsating, orange and white light in the sky have prompted UFO fever at Christchurch Airport.

Four Air New Zealand cargo loaders -- all experienced with night sightings of aircraft -- are still scratching their heads over yesterday's UFO incident at the airport.

They saw a fast-moving orange light approach the airport from the south-east then continue to move around directly overhead for about 14 minutes.

No aircraft was known to have been operating at that time and the object, or light, made no sound.

There was a cloud cover and a slight breeze at the time, but the four men were convinced they were not seeing a reflected or refracted light source.

Lindsay Squire, Gerald Coward, Bob Mulholland and Stuart McConnell had started work at 4am and were loading a Bristol Freighter bound for Dunedin when the incident occurred.

Mr Mulholland had just looked at his watch at 4.49am as he drove a forklift out of the cargo shed towards the aircraft waiting on the tarmac.

Seeing the bright light approaching at speed from the south east he signalled to his colleagues to stop, and lights and engines were switched off.

"Then it was overhead," Mr Squire told "The Star."  
"But it wasn't stationary, it was hovering and moving around."

The light was circular with a white centre, a pulsating orange ring enclosing it.

"It went back to the south-east, then westwards, then back above us again."

At that stage Mr Squire went back into the cargo terminal intending to ring the control tower. He was unable to reach the tower and returned to the tarmac.

While Mr Squire was inside, Mr Coward and his two companions watched the object disappear to the east over the Cashmere Hills.

Mr Coward recalled the white light growing in intensity as the object hovered above.

After 14 years working with aircraft Mr Coward said he had seen all sorts of lights in the night sky, including falling stars, but "this was different altogether. It's a mystery to me."

Said Mr Squire: "I didn't feel scared. All I could think was 'Oh my God, what is it? I was just engrossed.'"

Mr Squire admitted to having read a few books on UFOs, but said he is not "into it."

"Because of the way it moved, and knowing aircraft, I'm convinced it was a UFO."

The duty air traffic controller saw nothing from the control tower and police have only received one report of the incident -- from the airline staff.

"We just hope somebody else in Christchurch might have seen something," Mr Squire said.

The Meteorological Service has been unable to offer any explanation for the incident.

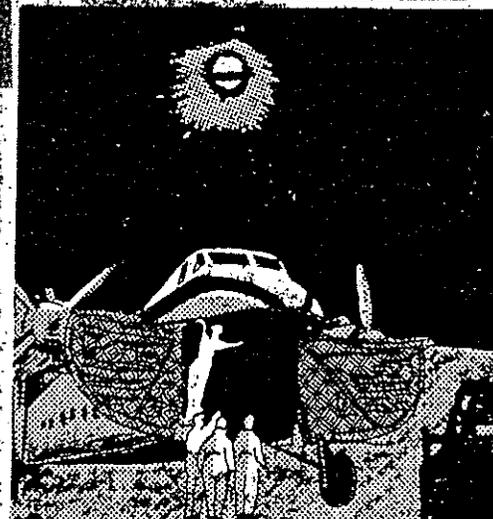
A weather balloon was released at the airport at 4.56am, but that was after the object was first seen and it would not have been approaching at speed from the south-east.

The Air Force, which received a report of the incident, was also unable to explain it.

Yesterday's was the country's first reported UFO sighting since a Temuka family said it was tracked by a bright object in the sky as it drove home from Pleasant Point on July 12, last year.

Mr Ken Thew and his family said they saw a glowing football shaped object. It appeared to a solid object, 10m high and 5m long with an iridescent green top half and a reddish-gold tinged lower section.

The family reported seeing what looked like a row of windows, emitting a strong light. At one stage the object came within 120m of the family.



An artist's impression of yesterday's UFO incident, with the Bristol Freighter aircraft illuminated by the object above.

over Mt Erebus, turned and returned safely," says Mr Chippindale

ees to bring the with the rest of 1 Meat grading

ns on CER will be cials' talks in February, pved by a meeting of Prime Ministers. scheduled for April.

110 page 3

is a separate task from said. meat inspection which is a

The executive director of works they were for trespassing

# Spotlight theory on UFO sighting

Spotlight hunters could be responsible for Tuesday's reported UFO sighting at Christchurch Airport. Gunshots were heard near the Waimakariri River to the north of the airport in the early hours of Tuesday and spotlights can be reflected by cloud.

The vice-president of the Canterbury Astronomical Society (Mr C. H. Rowe) said the object described by Air New Zealand employees could well have been a

reflected spotlight.

The effect, known as back-scatter, could produce an orange halo when seen through hazy cloud, Mr Rowe said today.

Mr Rowe admits that in cases of reported UFO sightings he tries for the mundane explanations first.

But two more witnesses to the incident have strengthened Mr Rowe's theory.

Mark Ley and Rodney Jones, both 14, were camp-

ing out near the Waimakariri riverbed at the time.

Mark said today how the pair were woken by a bright light - orange coloured - which shone from above on to their tent and surrounding trees.

They were terrified by the incident, he said.

Rodney had noted the time at 1.10am when he woke - more than three hours earlier than the reported sighting by airline

ground staff.

"We opened the tent and poked our heads out," Mark said.

The pair at first thought there was a fire, though they could not hear crackling but a "faint hum."

The source of the light was to the south of the tent and could not be seen over the treetops.

According to Mark the area was lit up for three or four minutes.

"We thought at first it

might have been a car or a spotlight, which is still a possibility, but the light never stayed in one spot.

"We just sat there for a while, then there were a few gunshots from behind us (to the north)."

"We were lying there terrified really - my friend said it could be a UFO," Mark said.

The pair managed to get back to sleep about two hours later, then woke early and cycled home.

ny trade-on could not ng reached with the FOL and CSU. That threat is only likely to be a last resort.

## UFO at airport

An unidentified flying object was seen at Christchurch Airport early today by Air New Zealand staff.

The object, which approached at high speed from the south-east and hovered overhead for between 5 and 10min, was described by a witness as a bright white light with an orange perimeter, according to an air force spokesman.

The sighting was in darkness at 4.50am.

No aircraft was known to be operating in the area, the spokesman said.

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	ASDAB	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	See Def. M. U.
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		25/2/82	AS
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	ASDAB
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

39/3/3

PRO (our)

24 February 1982

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLenheim

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your recent enquiry of 22 February asking why you had not received a reply to your letter concerning the 1978-79 UFO sightings which occurred near Blenheim.

I must say I was somewhat surprised to receive your latest letter. A search of our records shows that the Minister of Defence himself wrote to you in August and again in September, of last year. Our records also show that a third letter from yourself to the Minister was replied to by me on 28 September 1981. This letter clearly stated the Ministry's position regarding the alleged UFO sightings by Mr McDonald in 1978. In case my reply to you has somehow gone astray in the mail, I enclose a copy for your information.

Yours sincerely

*ML*

D B G McLean  
Secretary of Defence

Enc:

*[Handwritten signature and stamp]*

AIR 39/3/3

57 Dillon St,  
Blenheim,  
22nd February '82

Dear Sir,

It is bad manners not  
to answer mail in connection  
with the '78-'79 UFO sightings.  
HOW DISGRACEFUL!!!!

Let us see if you are too  
scared to answer this letter.  
I bet you will be; and  
while you are about answer  
my last ones.

yours faithfully,

J. C. Thompson

MR J. C. THOMPSON

AO pac (D) tk! tk!

MU 24.2.82

28 September 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your recent letter which has been referred to me by the Minister of Defence for reply.

I have had Air Staff reconsider the matter in the light of the facts presented by Mr McDonald in his letter to the Marlborough Express of 20 December 1978. Air Staff believe, however, that there is nothing in Mr McDonald's letter to suggest that the object sighted from Waikawa Bay was other than a DC8 aircraft making its descent towards Wellington Airport from the west. The outline of events, which spanned no more than 10 minutes, is entirely consistent with sighting a large aircraft approaching from a distance. It is estimated that on a clear night the landing lights of a DC8 aircraft descending over Nelson would be visible for at least six minutes before the aircraft passed away to the north of Waikawa Bay on its usual inbound track to Wellington when making a southerly approach to the runway. Knowing that there was a DC8 aircraft inbound to Wellington at that particular time and taking into account the most likely flight path for its descent, Air Staff are sure that it was, in fact, this aircraft that Mr McDonald saw.

I trust my comments have enabled you to gain a fuller appreciation of this Ministry's position on the matter. Accordingly, I do not believe any useful purpose would be served by engaging in further speculation about an event for which a perfectly rational explanation already exists.

Yours sincerely

D. B. G. McLean  
Secretary of Defence

Writer: MR H E WRIGHT, P O BOX 1276, Christchurch 1

# MINISTERIAL

No. 1982/11

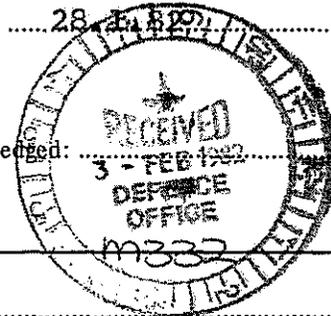
(Minister's Office use)

2.2.82

Subject: UFO sighting by Date of letter: 28 Feb 1982

Air N Z Cargo loaders

Date Acknowledged:



(Departmental use)

Referred to 1. bps.

2. Reference: AIR 244/10/1

3.

Comments: ~~not done!~~

~~Cancelled~~

P.O. BOX, 1276,  
CHRISTCHURCH 1.  
28/1/82.

Minister For Defence.  
Beehive,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir;

There is no question that a U,F,O, sighting was made by 4 Air New Zealand Cargo Loaders on the Morning of Tuesday, 26th, of January, 1982 over the Christchurch International Airport at about 4-49 AM.

As I have seen Mr Coward, He and another Colleague have have selected from a Hard Copy of U,F,O's Pamplet, a selection of Two U,F,O's were made. These Two are Numbers 9 and 11. All these U,F,O's have been Numbered to Correspond with each UFO.

It is hoped that from the Artist's Impression of the U,F,O, that I will be able to Identify the Type of U,F,O, that Flew over on that Tuesday Morning.

According to the Information the U,F,O, Flew Back about the same way as it Flew in. In My appion this UFO could have been returning back to Its Mother Ship which was South - East over Cashmere Hills, the same way the UFO came in.

However it will be sometime before I complete a full Investigation, as I will be seeking further Information Overseas.

Please find enclosed the present Information as at present.

Yours Sincerely.



(Mr) H, E, Wright,

*Sec Def*  
*Fwd draft reply*

*By 1.2.82*

NO LIGHT SHED ON U.F.O. LIGHT IN SKY.

Sightings of a Bright, Pulsating Orange and White Light in the Sky have prompted U.F.O. Fever at Christchurch Airport. Four Air New Zealand Cargo Loaders - All Experienced with Night Sightings of Aircraft - are still Scratching Their Heads over Yesterdays U.F.O. Incident at the Air - port.

They saw a Fast Moving Orange Light Approach the Airport from the South - East then Continue to move around directly Overhead for about 14 Minutes.

No Aircraft was Known to have been Operating at that time and the Object or Light made NO Sound. There was a Cloud cover and a Slight Breeze at the time, but the Four Men were Convinced They were Not seeing a Reflected Light Source.

LINDSAY SQUIRE, GERALD COWARD, BOB MULHOLLAND, & STUART Mc CONNELL.

had Started Work at 4 AM, and were Loading a Bristol Freighter bound for Dunedin when the Incident Occurred. Mr Mulholland had just looked at His Watch at 4-49 AM, as He drove a Forklift out of the Cargo Shed towards the Aircraft waiting on the Tarmac. Seeing the Bright Light Approaching at Speed from the South - East He Signalled to His Colleagues to Stop, and Lights and Engines were Switched Off. " Then it was Overhead" Mr Squire told; "The Star". " But it wasn't Stationary, It was Hovering and Moving Around." The Light was Circular with a White Centre, a Pulsating Orange Ring Enclosing it. " It went back to the South-East, then Back above Us Again." At that stage Mr Squire went back into the Cargo Terminal Intending to Ring the Control Tower, He was Unable to reach the Tower and Returned to the Tarmac.

While Mr Squire was Inside, Mr Coward and His Two Companions watched the Object Disappear to the East Over the Cashmere Hills. Mr Coward Recalled the White Light Growing in Intensity as the Object Hovered Above.

After 14 Years Working with Aircraft Mr Coward said He had seen All Sorts of Lights in the Night Sky, Including Falling Stars, but " This was Different altogether. " It's a Mystery To Me". Said Mr Squire; " I Didn't feel Scared. All I could think was; " Oh My God, What is It ?. I was just Engrossed". Mr Squire Admitted to having read a few Books on U.F.O's, but said He is Not " Into It". Because of the way It Moved, and Knowing Aircraft, I'm Convinced It was a U.F.O."

The Duty Air Traffic Contoler saw Nothing from the Control Tower and POLICE have Only Received One Report of the Incident - From the Airline Staff. " We just Hope Somebody also in Christchurch might have seen Something," Mr Squire said.

The Meteorological Service has been unable to offer Any Explanation for the Incident. A Weather Balloon was Released at the Airport at 4-56 AM, But that was after the Object was First Seen and it would Not have been Approaching at Speed from the South- East.

The Airforce, which Received a Report of the Incident, was Unable to Explain It.

Christchurch Star, Wednesday, January, 27th - 1982.

U.F.O. AT AIRPORT.

FIRST REPORT:

AN Un-Identified Flying Object was seen at Christchurch International Airport Early Today by Air New Zealand Staff. The OBJECT, which Approached at HIGH SPEED from the South-East and Hovered Overhead for between 5 and 10 Minutes, was Described by a Witness as a Bright White Light with an Orange Perimeter, according to an Airforce Spokesman.

The Sighting was in Darkness at 4-50 AM.

NO AIRCRAFT was Known to be Operating in the Area, the Spokesman said.

CHCH Star, Tuesday, January, 26th - 1982.

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# THE STAR

CHRISTCHURCH, Phone 797-100, Classified 791-100. 36 pages. 20c WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1982.



HOME

## No light shed on UFO light in sky

Sightings of a bright, pulsating, orange and white light in the sky have prompted UFO fever at Christchurch Airport.

Four Air New Zealand cargo loaders — all experienced with night sightings of aircraft — are still scratching their heads over yesterday's UFO incident at the airport.

They saw a fast-moving orange light approach the airport from the south-east then continue to move around directly overhead for about 14 minutes.

No aircraft was known to have been operating at that time and the object, or light, made no sound.

There was a cloud cover and a slight breeze at the time, but the four men were convinced they were not seeing a reflected or refracted light source.

Lindsay Squire, Gerald Coward, Bob Mulholland and Stuart McConnell had started work at 4am and were loading a Bristol Freighter bound for Dunedin when the incident occurred.

Mr Mulholland had just looked at his watch at 4.49am as he drove a forklift out of the cargo shed toward the aircraft waiting on the tarmac.

Seeing the bright light approaching at speed from the south-east he signalled to his colleagues to stop, and lights and engines were switched off.

"Then it was overhead," Mr Squire told "The Star."

"But it wasn't stationary, it was hovering and moving around."

The light was circular with a white centre, a pulsating orange ring enclosing it.

"It went back to the south-east, then westwards, then back above us again."

At that stage Mr Squire went back into the cargo terminal intending to ring the control tower. He was unable to reach the tower and returned to the tarmac.

While Mr Squire was inside, Mr Coward and his two companions watched the object disappear to the east over the Cashmere Hills.

Mr Coward recalled the white light growing in intensity as the object hovered above.

After 14 years working with aircraft Mr Coward said he had seen all sorts of lights in the night sky, including falling stars, but "this was different altogether. It's a mystery to me."

Said Mr Squire: "I didn't feel scared. All I could think was 'Oh my God, what is it?' I was just engrossed."

Mr Squire admitted to having read a few books on UFOs, but said he is not "into it."

"Because of the way it moved, and knowing aircraft, I'm convinced it was a UFO."

The duty air traffic controller saw nothing from the control tower and police have only received one report of the incident — from the airline staff.

"We just hope somebody else in Christchurch might have seen something," Mr Squire said.

The Meteorological Service has been unable to offer any explanation for the incident.

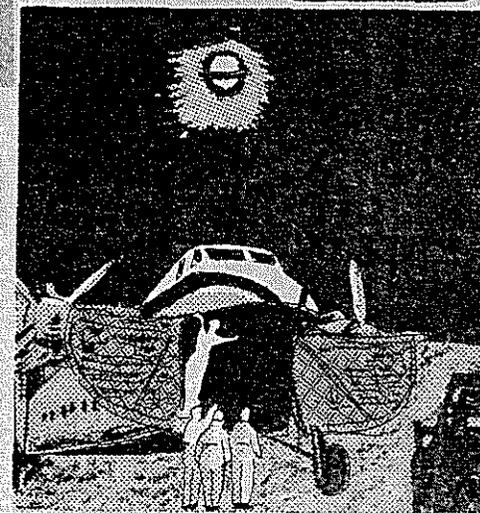
A weather balloon was released at the airport at 4.56am, but that was after the object was first seen and it would not have been approaching at speed from the south-east.

The Air Force, which received a report of the incident, was also unable to explain it.

Yesterday's was the country's first reported UFO sighting since a Temuka family said it was tracked by a bright object in the sky as it drove home from Pleasant Point on July 12, last year.

Mr Ken Thew and his family said they saw a glowing football shaped object. It appeared to a solid object, 10m high and 5m long with an iridescent green top half and a reddish-gold tinged lower section.

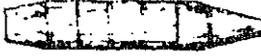
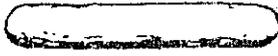
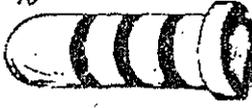
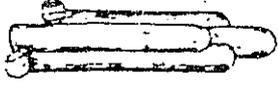
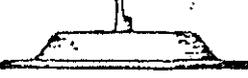
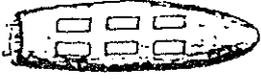
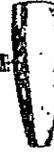
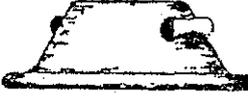
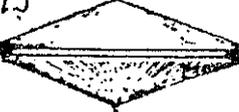
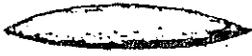
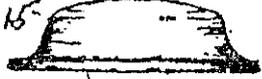
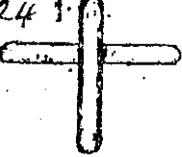
The family reported seeing what looked like a row of windows, emitting a strong light. At one stage the object came within 120m of the family.



An artist's impression of yesterday's UFO incident, with the Bristol Freighter aircraft illuminated by the object above.

# Hard-core UFOs

THE PRESS, SATURDAY, JANUARY, 20th - 1979.

1	 'Adamski-type' 10m. diameter	 Large saucer-type 50m. diameter	 Mothership 300-3000m. length	 Cylinder shape various lengths	
2	 'Old' saucer type	 'Saturn'-shaped UFO	 Seen over Africa 70m. length	 Photographed over California 1957	26
3	 Photographed 1950 and 1954	 'Trinidad-saucer' Brazil 1958	 Object with fiery tail 1948	 Rocket shape recorded in Italy	27
4	 Type seen in 1947 diameter 7m.	 'New-type' photographed in Brazil	 Oval shape length 25m. 1952	 Seen in USA and Italy	28
5	 Dome-shaped 'common' type	 Photographed California and Oregon	 Cigar with jet exhaust 1952	 Globe-shaped 20cm.-20m. diameter	29
6	 Average dome-shaped	 Photographed New Mexico 1963	 Cigar-shaped mothership	 Cone or 'top'-shaped object	30
7	 Saucer-type 1965	 Photographed California 1965	 Winged cigar-shape 1952	 Angular shape USA 1961	31
8	 Photographed in Korea	 Disc-shaped 1950	 Winged cylinder-shaped	<p>The objects are not drawn to scale</p> <p>delete H "K"</p> <p>Drawn by: Knut Aasheim March 1967</p>	

The variety of U.F.O. shapes has been described as a "testament to human imagination." This drawing of "hard-core U.F.O.s"—some of the shapes recorded in the last 30 years—comes from "The World Atlas of Mysteries," by Francis Hitching (Collins, 241 pp., maps, illustrations, bibliography, and index, \$18.85). The book's section on flying saucers is not especially encouraging for those determined to believe in them. "The trouble with U.F.O.s is that there are too many of them," remarks the author. However, the book as a whole is a splendid collection of scientific puzzles and unexplained phenomena from theories of continental drift, to the impression on the Turin shroud, to a careful map of the losses of ships and aircraft in the notorious Bermuda Triangle.

MINUTE SHEET

Department: ..... *PR* .....

Section: ..... *PR* .....

File No. .... *39/3/3* .....

Date: *22 Feb 82*

Subject: *also investigation;*

*Drax munition reply;*

49918A-15. jpad/s/7/80 MK

To:-

*Drax M*

1. Attached is a *Drax* reply to *Mr Wright's* letter.

2. Previous correspondence is also attached for filing with the latest info on *Drax 39/3/3*.

3. The transfer of papers from *Drax 214/10/1* to *39/3/3* has been recorded.

*[Signature]*

*San Lee  
PR/10/1*

MINUTE

To: ~~DOSB(5)~~ *M*

MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION

1. Attached is an enquiry from the Minister's Office.
2. It would be appreciated if a draft reply, could be prepared within your branch/staff and forwarded to Policy Branch which will be responsible for preparation of the letter in its final form for the Minister's signature. If it is judged that the Minister should have background information to the issue before signing the letter, a draft covering letter to the Minister from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary should also be prepared.
3. In view of the urgency which must be given to Ministerial enquiries, the draft should be forwarded to Policy Branch, attention AO(Pol)D by *12th February*. If for some reason this is not possible the officer dealing with the matter is to have an interim reply to the correspondent, for the Minister's signature, with Policy Branch within the prescribed 7-day deadline. In addition the staff involved are to provide a written explanation, addressed to Dep Sec Def, through DPD, explaining why it is not possible to provide the draft reply within the given time.

*I wasn't aware that Mr Wright had written in this year as I have no record of Min 11 coming in from the Min's Office.*

**SASO**

**FEAR SEC DEF**

*Perhaps Deps pro tem can file this. I believe someone on his staff is the UFO signing coordinator of replies.*

1812

*M*

*By Plo (ai)*

*In order to maintain an accurate record, request the relevant records, request the P.L. recorded on the 30/3/5*

QUESTIONAIR.

NAME OF PERSON.

..... AGE: 13 YR:

ADDRESS:

.....  
PHONE NUMBER:

DATED: 1/12/82

1; When You First awake How would you Describe the Intensity of the Light.?

ANSWER: It was very bright because it lit up the whole tent and bush around.

2; The Colour of the Light ?

ANSWER: white mixed with orange more white

3; What was the time of Your Watch? ANSWER: between One and 1 am

4; Was the Second Hand Still in Motion ?

ANSWER: Did not notice

5; When You first went outside. How long was it before You heard the Gun Shoots ?

ANSWER: 2 or 2 1/2 hours later

6; Can You recall how many Shots were fired ?.

ANSWER: 3 or 4 maybe

7; Was the Faint Humming associated with the Gun Shots or from another Source ?.

ANSWER: from another source

8; How much of the Area was Lit Up ?.

ANSWER: Most of the bush in front of us but then moved to the side

9; Describe the Weather during that Time ?.

ANSWER: Very hot and no cloud except in the far distance

10; ( IMPORTANT.) TRY AND GIVE THE DISTANCE AND Location of where the Shots were Fired from ?.

ANSWER: behind us to the right of the stop bank I think. Not quite a mile

11; Please state when You arrived at the Site to Camp, Date , Time;

ANSWER: 7 / TIME: 2 pm HRS. — Minutes;

12; Had You observed any other Person or Persons near Your Camp Site during the Period before the Sighting.?

ANSWER: Two men on motorbike on stop bank. lady and man on stop band in car. Car far way to the right of the stop bank.

13; If so Pleasstry and give Discriptions of these Persons or Person.?

ANSWER: Two men

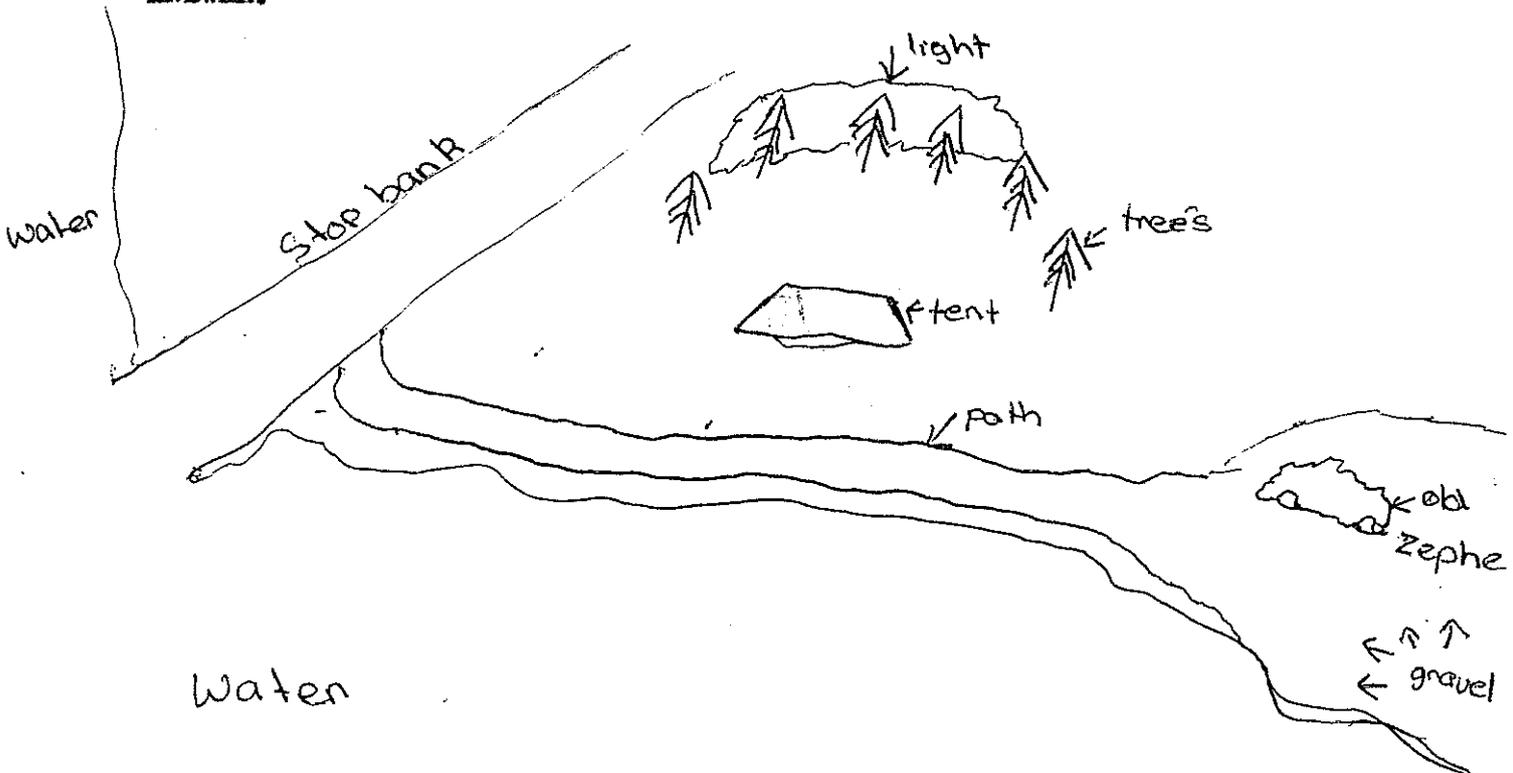
both slim one had reel hair the other brown hair with mow

14; Had You seen any person with any Type of Fire - Arm during Daylight Hours ?.

ANSWER: not that I can record

15; Make a Sketch of the Trees and Your Camp Site, giving the Location.

ANSWER:



PLEASE    TAKE    NOTE.

IT IS KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH U.F.O. ACTIVITY THAT THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS HAVE BEEN PROVEN FATAL. EFFECTS FROM HOVERING U.F.O OR U.F.O'S, AND LANDING SITES WHERE UFO OR UFO'S HAVE LANDED ON EARTH.

RADIATION    SICKNESS.

DUE TO ABSORPTION OF EXCESS RADIATION, MARKED BY FATIGUE, INTERNAL HEMORRHAGE, VOMITING, PROGRESSIVE TISSUE BREAKDOWN.

HEADACHES.

DIZZY SPELLS, NAUSEA, NECK PAINS, HEADACHES:

16; DID YOU HAVE ANY ILL EFFECTS AFTER THE U.F.O. INCIDENT ? AND IF SO DID YOU SEE A DOCTOR ?

ANSWERS.

no

QUESTIONNAIRE.

NAME OF PERSON. .....

AGE: 14 1/2 YRS.

ADDRESS: .....

PHONE NUMBER: .....

DATED: 1 / 2 / 82

1; When You First awoke how would you Describe the Intensity of the Light.?

ANSWER: Not too bright but bright enough to awake you.

2; The Colour of the Light ?

ANSWER: Clear white or

3; What was the time of Your Watch? ANSWER:

Not sure of exact time but ~~bet~~ between 1 and 2 am.

4; Was the Second Hand Still in Motion ?

ANSWER: Yes

5; When You first went outside. How long was it before You heard the Gun Shoots ?

ANSWER: A couple of hours.

6; Can You recall how many Shots were fired ?.

ANSWER: 4, Four

7; Was the Faint Humming associated with the Gun Shots or from another Source ?.

ANSWER: Another source

8; How much of the Area was Lit Up ?.

ANSWER: A fair ~~bit~~ bit, but it also moved around a lot and fast.

9; Describe the Weather during that Time ?.

ANSWER: Clear sky, no cloud, windy before and after but not during the incident

10; ( IMPORTANT.) TRY AND GIVE THE DISTANCE AND Location of where the Shots were Fired from ?.

ANSWER: The back of the tent to the right of the stopbank, ~~the~~ ~~right~~ ~~of~~ the waimakori side (The location) maybe half a mile (Distance)

11; Please state when You arrived at the Site to Camp, Date , Time;

ANSWER: 26 ~~1~~ / 82 TIME: 2pm HRS, ~~under~~ <sup>under</sup> 30 MINutes;

Tuesday

12; Had You observed any other Person or Persons near Your Camp Site during the Period before the Sighting.?

ANSWER:

<sup>YES</sup>  
Two men on motorbikes, one had ginger hair no moustache and no beard, The other had dark brown hair and a moustache.  
There were also ~~to~~ two people in a white car one blonde woman and a dark haired man.

13; If so Pleasetry and give Discriptions of those Persons or Person.?

ANSWER:

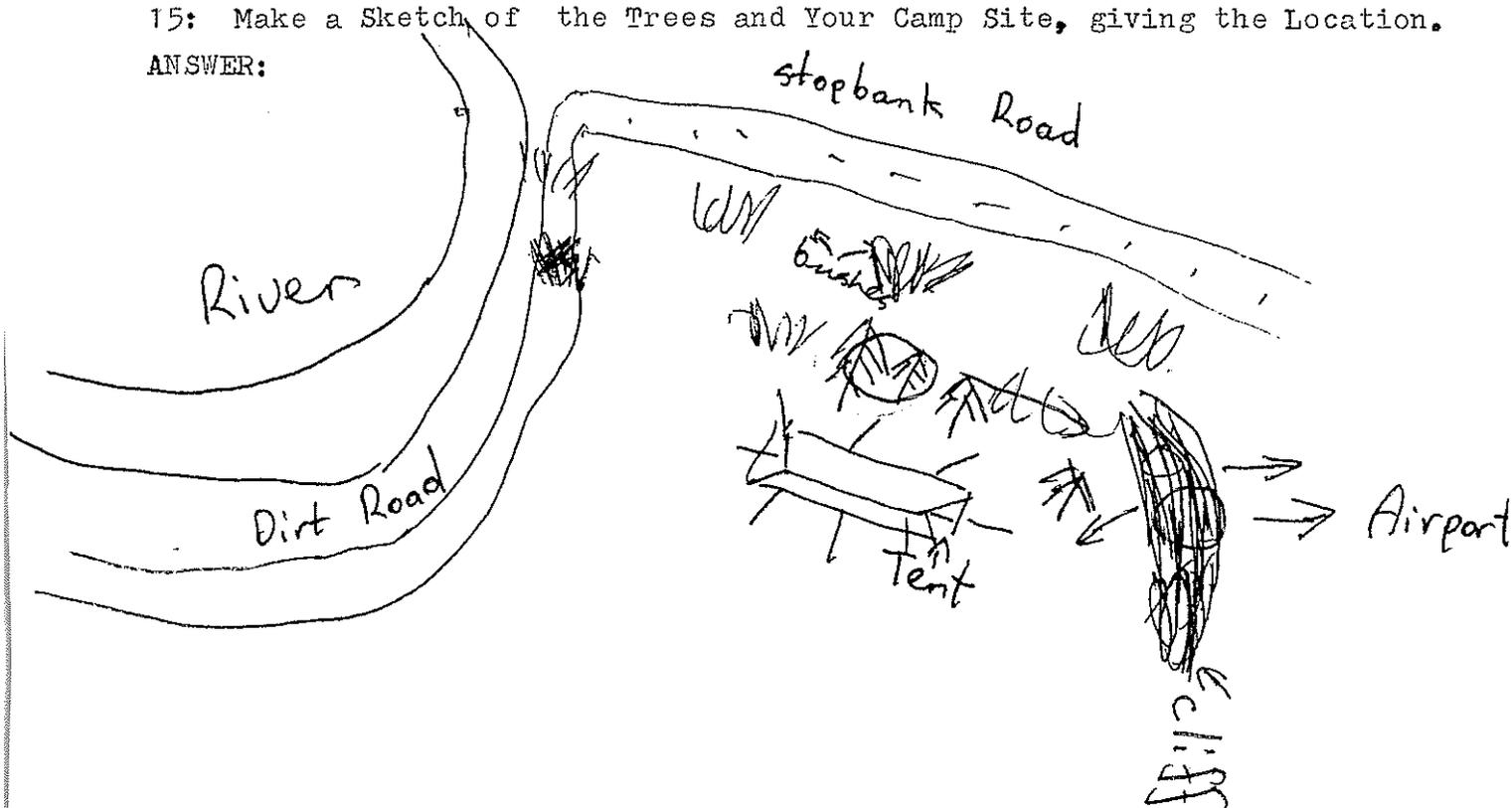


14; Had You seen any person with any Type of Fire - Arm during Daylight Hours ?.

ANSWER: No

15: Make a Sketch of the Trees and Your Camp Site, giving the Location.

ANSWER:



PLEASE      TAKE      NOTE.

IT IS KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH U,F,O, ACTIVITY THAT THE FOLLOWING SYMTOMS HAVE BEEN PROVEN FATAL. EFFECTS FROM HOVERING U,F,O OR U,F,O'S, AND LANDING SITES WHERE UFO OR UFO'S HAVE LANDED ON EARTH.

RADIATION      SICKNESS.

DUE TO ABSORPTION OF EXCESS RADIATION, MARKED BY FATIGUE, INTERNAL HEMORRHAGE, VOMITING, PROGRESSIVE TISSUE BREAKDOWN.

HEADACHES.

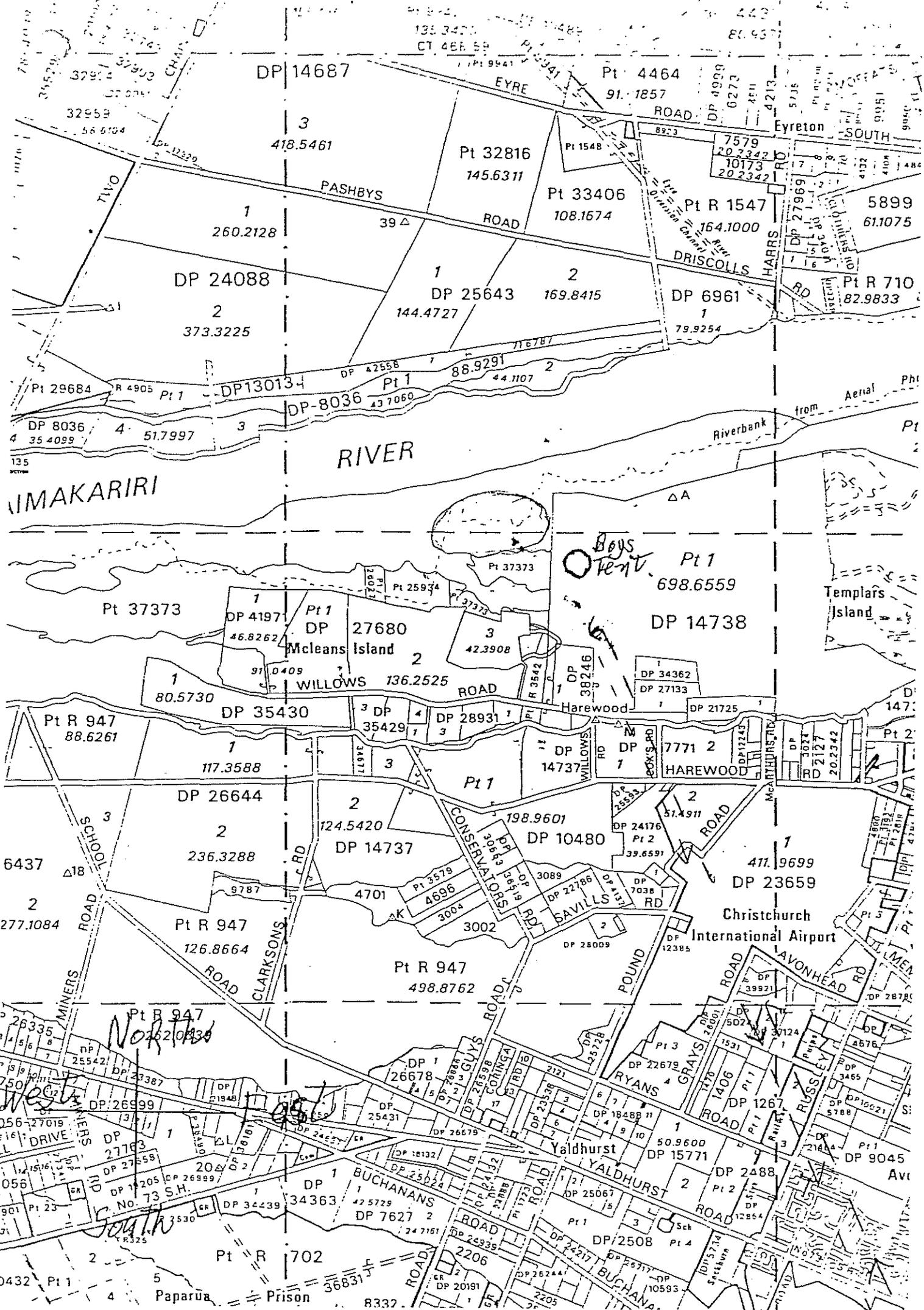
DIZZY SPELLS, NAUSEA, NECK PAINS, HEADACHES:

16; DID YOU HAVE ANY ILL EFFECTS AFTER THE U,F,O, INCIDENT ? AND IF SO DID YOU SEE A DOCTOR ?

ANSWERS.

On the end of ~~Monday~~ <sup>Saturday</sup> and all Sunday I felt slight sharp head pains and neck pains and on the evening on Sunday I felt rather dizzy with neck pains

{ Not From Lights of UFO }  
{ Normal Symptoms. (HE Wrote) }



138 3400  
CT 468 59

DP 14687

Pt 4464  
91.1857

3  
418.5461

Pt 32816  
145.6311

Pt 33406  
108.1674

7579  
20 2342  
10173  
20 2342

DP 24088

1  
260.2128

1  
DP 25643  
144.4727

2  
169.8415

Pt R 1547  
164.1000

DP 6961  
1  
79.9254

5899  
61.075

Pt R 710  
82.9833

RIVER

IMAKARIRI

Boys Tent

Pt 37373

Pt 1  
698.6559

DP 14738

Mcleans Island

Templars Island

80.5730

DP 35430

WILLOWS ROAD

Harewood

DP 34362  
DP 27133

Pt R 947  
88.6261

1  
117.3588

3 DP 35429

DP 28931

DP 14737

DP 7771 2  
HAREWOOD

DP 26644

2  
124.5420

DP 10480

DP 24176  
Pt 2  
39.6591

6437

2  
236.3288

4701

DP 22786

DP 7038

277.1084

Pt R 947  
126.8664

3006

SAVILLS ROAD

DP 28009

Pt R 947  
498.8762

Christchurch International Airport

DP 23659

North

DP 26678

RYANS

DP 1267

West

DP 26999

DP 25431

BUCHANANS

YALDHURST

DP 2488

DP 27763

DP 27558

DP 34363

DP 7627 2

DP 2508

DP 2508

DP 1205

DP 26989

DP 34239

DP 2206

DP 2508

DP 2508

DP 056

DP 1205

DP 34239

DP 2206

DP 2508

DP 2508

0432

Pt R 702

Paparua

Prison

8332

8332

*Wright*  
*W. 39/5/3*

4 February 1982

Mr H E Wright  
PO Box 1276  
CHRISTCHURCH 1

Dear Mr Wright

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28 January to the Rt Hon David Thomson, Minister of Defence, concerning the UFO sighting on 26 January over the Christchurch International Airport.

The Minister has noted your letter and has referred it to the Secretary of Defence, pending receipt of your promised further letter.

Yours sincerely

J M P MacCormac  
Private Secretary

SECRETARY OF DEFENCE

Referred.

*J M P MacCormac*

Private Secretary

~~DPD~~  
*file*

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	ASD	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	ASD
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	Dep Sec Def
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date	Initials
		25.2.82	cdw/s
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	ASD
7	BRING UP	(3)	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

Min No: 24  
File No: Air 39/3/3  
Typed : 24 Feb 82

A/117

Mr H E Wright  
PO Box 1276  
CHRISTCHURCH 1

Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your letter of 14 February containing reports on the investigations that you have carried out into the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects at Christchurch International Airport in January and at Temuka last August.

Although the Ministry of Defence and in particular, the RNZAF, does not undertake investigations into UFO sightings, I have passed your reports to the Secretary of Defence so that the RNZAF may be informed of your work.

Yours sincerely

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

NO LIGHT SHED ON U,F,O, LIGHT IN SKY.

Sightings of a Bright , Pulsating Orange and White Light in the Sky have prompted U,F,O, Fever at Christchurch Airport. Four Air New Zealand Cargo Loaders - All Experienced with Night Sightings of Aircraft - are still Scratching Their Heads over Yesterdays U,F,O, Incident at the Air - port.

They saw a Fast Moving Orange Light Approach the Airport from the South - East then Continue to move around directly Overhead for about 14 Minutes.

No Aircraft was Known to have been Operating at that time and the Object or Light made No Sound. There was a Cloud cover and a Slight Breeze at the time, but the Four Men were Convinced They were Not seeing a Reflected Light Source.

LINDSAY SQUIRE, GERALD COWARD, BOB MULHOLLAND, & STUART Mc CONNELL.

had Started Work at 4 AM, and were Loading a Bristol Freighter bound for Dunedin when the Incident Occurred. Mr Mulholland had just looked at His Watch at 4-49 AM, as He drove a Forklift out of the Cargo Shed towards the Aircraft waiting in the Tarmac. Seeing the Bright Light Approaching at Speed from the South - East He Signalled to His Colleagues to Stop, and Lights and Engines were Switched Off. " Then it was Overhead", Mr Squire told; "The Star". " But it wasn't Stationary, It was Hovering and Moving Around," . The Light was Circular with a White Centre, a Pulsating Orange Ring Enclosing it. " It went back to the South-East, then Back above Us Again." At that stage Mr Squire went back into the Cargo Terminal Intending to Ring the Control Tower, He was Unable to reach the Tower and Returned to the Tarmac.

While Mr Squire was Inside, Mr Coward and His Two Companions watched the Object Disappear to the East Over the Cashmere Hills. Mr Coward Recalled the White Light Growing in Intensity as the Object Hovered Above.

After 14 Years Working with Aircraft Mr Coward said He had seen All Sorts of Lights in the Night Sky, Including Falling Stars, but " This was Differ - ent altogether. " It's a Mystery To Me". Said Mr Squire; " I Didn't feel Scared. All I could think was; " Oh My God, What is It ?. I was just Engrossed". Mr Squire Admitted to having read a few Books on U,F,O's, but said He is Not " Into It". Because of the way It Moved, and Knowing Aircraft, I'm Convinced It was a U,F,O."

The Duty Air Traffic Controller saw Nothing from the Control Tower and POLICE have Only Received One Report of the Incident - From the Airline Staff. " We just Hope Somebody else in Christchurch might have seen Some- thing," Mr Squire said.

The Meteorological Service has been unable to offer Any Explanation for the Incident. A Weather Balloon was Released at the Airport at 4-56 AM, But that was after the Object was First Seen and it would Not have been Approaching at Speed from the South- East.

The Airforce, which Received a Report of the Incident, was Unable to Explain It.

Christchurch Star, Wednesday, January, 27th - 1982.

U,F,O, AT AIRPORT.

FIRST REPORT:

AN Un-Identified Flying Object was seen at Christchurch International Airport Early Today by Air New Zealand Staff. The OBJECT, which Approached at HIGH SPEED from the South-East and Hovered Overhead for between 5 and 10 Minutes, was Described by a Witness as a Bright White Light with an Orange Perimeter, according to an Airforce Spokesman.

The Sighting was in Darkness at 4-50 AM.

NO AIRCRAFT was Known to be Operating in the Area, the Spokesman said.

CHCH Star, Tuesday, January, 26th - 1982.

-----

SPOTLIGHT THEORY ON U,F,O, SIGHTING.

Spotlight Hunters could be responsible for Tuesday's Reported UFO Sighting at Christchurch Airport. Gunshots were Heard near the Waimakariri River to the North of the Airport in the Early Hours of Tuesday and Spotlights can be reflected by Cloud.

The Vice- President of the Canterbury Astronomical Society ( Mr C,H, Rowe ) said the Object Described by Air New Zealand Employees could well have been a Reflected Spotlight. The effect, known as Back-scatter, could produce an Orange, Halo when seen through Hazy Cloud Mr Rowe said today. Mr Rowe admits that in Cases of Reported U,F,O, Sightings He tries for the mundane explanations first.

But Two more Witnesses to the Incident have strengthened Mr Rowe's theory.

Mark Ley, and Rodney Jones, 14, were camping out near the Waimakariri riverbed at the time. Mark said today how the pair were woken by a bright light - Orange coloured - which shone from above on to their Tent and surrounding trees. They were terrified by the Incident, He said. Rodney had noted the time at 1-10AM, when He woke - more than Three Hours Earlier than the reported Sighting by Airline Ground Staff. "We opened the tent and poked Our Heads out," Mark said. The pair at first thought there was a Fire, though They could not hear Crackling but a " Faint Hum".

The source of the Light was to the South of the Tent and could not be seen over the Treetops. According to Mark the Area was Lit Up for Three or Four Minutes. " We thought at first it might have been a car or a Spotlight, which is still a possibility, BUT the Light Never Stayed in one spot. " We just sat there for a while, then there were a few Gun - shots from behind Us ( to the North".)

" We were Lying there Terrified really - My Friend said it could be a U,F,O," Mark said. The pair managed to get back to sleep about Two Hours Later, then woke early and Cycled Home.

CHCH STAR, THURSDAY, JANUARY, 28th - 1982.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

8 February 1982

Mr Harold J. Knapman  
Mutual UFO Network  
PO Box 22638  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter of 6 January. I have been absent from the office.

On receipt of your letter dated 20 September 1981, a thorough search was made of our records but no reference to a film or an RNZAF investigation could be found of a sighting in July 1959.

It is regretted that the RNZAF is unable to assist you in your study.

Yours faithfully,



(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
for Chief of Air Staff





MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

Old Towne Rd  
Cognin Texas  
78155 USA

Mutual UFO Network  
Sectional S I Director  
Harold J Knapman  
P O Box 22638 High St  
Christchurch NZ  
Phone 527 953

6/January 1982.

(C. D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader,  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer.

Air 39/3/3.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reply to my letter 20th September.

I have enclosed a copy of a couple of pages out of a book I thought you might be interested in, concerning Mrs Frederick Moreland's UFO sighting of 13th July 1959. I have read several books which refers the N.Z.

Air forces investigations to this sighting. It might interest you to know that as far as I know I'm the only person that has a copy of the ATC Tapes of the Kaikoura sighting of 1978 - 79. released by the Govt.

I have been studying UFO's for 18 years & I do realise there's a lot of red tape. I also know where Mrs Moreland now lives, now remarried.

I do respect her privacy and as far as I'm concerned I do not wish to break that privacy & I won't. That is why I'm asking you for a copy of that report as it's among thirteen other CE3K (Close encounters of the third kind.) that has happened in N.Z. I assure you on two points

(1) I do thoroughly investigate the sightings.

(2) I do not make my findings public.

All my reports go to the USA to MUFON head quarters in Texas, where the reports go into a computer, even I do not hear any more of the results.

So could you please reconsider for the sake of science, I would be eternally grateful.

Kindest Regards

Harold J Knapman

S. I. S. Director

For MUFON.

*Harold J Knapman*

## 11.

*Helmeted Aliens Over New Zealand*

At 5:30 A.M. on July 13, 1959, Mrs. Frederick Moreland was crossing the barn yard on her way to milk the cows. The Morelands enjoy country living and the nine-acre farm which they maintain on Old Renwick Road in Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand, suits them just fine. Mr. Moreland is a civilian employee at the Woodbourne Station of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and on weekends, Mrs. Moreland is a nurse's aid at the Lister Hospital.

Mrs. Moreland was sleepily going about her early morning chores when she noticed a green glow in the clouds. As she told local police and a reporter for the *Nelson Evening Mail*: ". . . there was no moon so I wondered what it was. When I was half way across the paddock, two large green things, like eyes or big lamps, appeared above me and dropped towards the ground.

"I noticed that I was bathed in a green light and that the paddock was green, too. It was a horrid sort of color. My first thought was, 'I shouldn't be here,' and made a dive for the trees (a stand of pine on the other side of the paddock). There I stood watching.

"A saucer-shaped glow with two indented green lights in the bottom descended. The air became very warm. Two rows of jets around the middle shot out orange-colored flames. They appeared to revolve in opposite directions. The thing was about 20 to 30 feet in diameter. It hovered at about roof height.

"The jets stopped and a light was switched on in what appeared to be a . . . glass roof or dome, which glowed.

The bottom appeared to be of a grayish metal color. There was a faint hum in the air as it hovered."

Mrs. Moreland's early morning marvels had not yet ceased as she noted next that "there were two men in it, dressed in fairly close fitting suits of shiny material. The only thing I can think of to describe it is aluminum foil. Opaque helmets rose from their shoulders. I could not see their faces.

"One of the men stood up and put two hands in front of him as if leaning to look downwards. He then sat down, and after a minute or two, the jets started off again and, tilting slightly at first, the thing shot up vertically at great speed and disappeared into the clouds. When it did this, it made a soft but high-pitched sound."

Understandingly, Mrs. Moreland admitted to local authorities that her experience had left her "dumbfounded for a moment." As she stood in the trees to regain her mental equilibrium, she noticed the "smell of something which resembled pepper in the air."

With feminine logic, Mrs. Moreland continued about her chores and finished milking the cows before she went into the house to awaken her husband, who had worked a late shift at the Air Force Station the previous night. At his insistence, she phoned the local constable and the local press. Within a week, she was re-telling her story to an investigating officer of the New Zealand Air Force.

UFO investigators have often puzzled over the fact that so many sightings occur in Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and the Antarctic, and that so many of these same sightings include prolonged visual contact with the alien beings that pilot the UFO's. The aliens may relax their security when they are "down-under" because they are aware of the communications lag between that area and the rest of the world. Never have aliens remained in view longer than the four-hour period recorded by Father Gill and his mission at Papua, New Guinea. Imagine the horror such an incident would cause if it were to occur over New York City, London, or Moscow. Air-raid sirens and blare and rocket-armed jets would be sent in pur-

14

DISTRIBUTION	
DEF	AIR
39/3/3	
ACTION: OPS 2	
[Handwritten signature]	

W LKA937RFA509 UU  
 RR RZYXCE  
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 ZNR UUUUU  
 R 262135Z JAN 82  
 FM SGHQ RNZAF  
 TO RZYXCE/NZDEF AIR  
 INFO ZEN/RNZAF WIGRAM  
 BT

OPS 2 11  
 OPS 3 11



UNCLAS  
 DIG KSY/KSZ  
 032 SUBJECT UFO REPORT PD  
 ONE PD FOLLOWING REPORT RECEIVED FROM MR LINDSAY SQUIRES CNM AIR  
 NZ LOADING FORMAN AT CHCH AIRPORT PD  
 TWO PD MR SQUIRES AND THREE OTHERS SIGHTED A LIGHTED OBJECT  
 APPROACHING CHCH AIRPORT FROM SE AT 0449 HRS 26 JAN 81 PD OBJECT  
 TRAVELLED QUOTE FAST UNQUOTE TO THE AIRPORT AND MANOEUVRED/HOVERED  
 IN OVERHEAD BEFORE DEPARTING TO SE PD DURATION OF SIGHTING WAS  
 14 MINS PD OBJECT WAS LIT WITH BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT WITH ORANGE TINGE  
 AT PERIPHERY PD OBJECT NOT SIGHTED BY ATC CNM RADAR WAS NOT OPERAT-  
 ING PD NO A/C WERE REPORTED AIRBORNE PD  
 THREE PD CHCH WX AT 0500  
 A PD 080/07  
 B PD 30 KMS  
 C PD LT RAIN  
 D PD 1/8 1500 CNM 8/8 10000  
 C-NA AT PERIPHERY

PAGE 2 RZYYUT 8009 UNCLAS  
 FOUR PD CHCH MET BALLOON (LIGHTED) RELEASED AT APPROX 0450 MOVED  
 W-SW-S-SE-E IN FIRST 10 MINS AND IS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION PD  
 BT

NNNN

15 October 1981

Mr Harold J Knapman  
Mutual UFO Network  
PO Box 22638  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September, seeking information regarding a film of a UFO sighting in April, 1954, and the report of a sighting by a Mrs Frederick Moreland on 13 July, 1959.

A search of our records cannot locate any reference to a film that was passed to the RNZAF for examination nor is there any reference to the sighting by Mrs Moreland.

With the exception of the Kaikoura sightings, the RNZAF does not undertake investigations into the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects. It does, however, on receipt of a report of a sighting consult with other Government agencies such as the Civil Aviation Division, Meteorological Service and the DSIR in an effort to eliminate obvious causes. In many cases a logical explanation is found.

Yours faithfully,



(C.D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

FILE

1/14



Initials

MINUTE SHEET

Department: .....

Subject

Section: .....

UFO INVESTIGATIONS

File No. AR 39/3/3

Date: .....

To-

PRO (Air)  
Hro Ops 2  
rjs

1. Suggest we resort to our standard response. I do not know whether the file record goes back as far as April 54 or July 59. D/I (Air) may even have had responsibility for UFO's at that time. We should perhaps deny or rather protest the suggestion of the RNZAF "covering up" its findings and noting that in many cases satisfactory explanations are, in fact, made.

*[Signature]*

Wg Cdr

Dops

23 Sep 81

Dops

I believe one  
of your staff is the  
liaison officer with  
alien beings and  
Wellington coordinates  
of UFO visitations.  
Perhaps he could  
respond

22/9

*M*

**MUFON** MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

103 Old Towne Rd  
901 N. Texas  
78155 USA

Mutual UFO Network  
Sectional S I Director  
Harold J Knapman  
PO Box 22638 High St  
Christchurch NZ  
Phone 527 953

20/9/81,

~~Mr D.B.G. McLean,  
Secretary of Defence, H.Q.  
Private Bag,  
Wellington.~~

*Dps - Lcp!*

*du 22.9.*

Dear Sir,

Im writing to ask you about two incidents that happened in the 1950s, the first one happened in April 1954 it is believed that a movie was taken by a civilian & given to the N.Z.A.F. for examination, it was of a UFO. The second incident happened on July 13 1959, it was a sighting in Blenheim of a Mrs Frederick Moreland. Both of these sightings are of interest to me as a investigator and in the scientific view. The film interests me as I would like to compare it against the 1978 Kaikoura sighting. The other Airforce report on the Blenheim sighting of 1959 because of the close encounter factor. I am only interested in these two cases in a scientific way. I can promise you now that any information given me by the Airforce will be kept confidential at all times. There is one other thing I'd like to ask is there any possibility that an investigator like myself can or could work in collaboration on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. I do believe a thing of this kind got off the ground it could & possibly would knock the veil of the Airforces cover up of which people believe in. I will be looking forward to your reply soon.

Kindest regards,

*H J Knapman*

Harold J Knapman,  
S.I.S. Director  
M.U.F.O.N.

57 Dillon Street, 12  
Blenheim  
5th October 1981.

Mr. D B G McLean  
Secretary of Defence,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Private Bag,  
Wellington.

~~DSIR~~  
~~DSIR~~  
AIR 39/3/81  
DoD (AIR)  
Dosew  
Filing  
PRO (AIR) 1/81  
Surely, this does not justify any acknowledgment.  
No further action

Dear Mr McLean,  
Thank you for your letter dated 28th September 1981.

I note in your letter that <sup>you</sup> have had Air Staff reconsider the Waikawa Bay sighting. I was not aware that your staff had looked at this sighting before. Admittedly, Mr. Macdonald sent a lot of information into "The Marlborough Express" regarding the Waikawa Bay sighting. Unfortunately it was chopped up and a lot of the important details were deleted. I find it incredible that you drew all your conclusions from his very much shortened account that appeared in our local paper. This is the same as me reading the back of the enclosed wrapper and saying, "I see that the DSIR now has another sighting they cannot explain; how about a 3rd Official UFO Report?" You are correct, Mr. Macdonald observed the light for no more than 10 minutes. But I can assure <sup>you</sup> the light came from the direction of Wellington. It took 45mins to reach its position 'above' the ridge separating Pictou and Waikawa.

??

??  
Substantiate

It was at this stage that Mr. Macdonald saw this light. Hence, the description in "The Marlborough Express" goes from there. Therefore, I was not aware that any DC8's were on a joy-ride from Wellington and back to Wellington. I see in your letter that the 'DC8' went north and then south. In general, this is correct. It should be pointed out that <sup>the</sup> 'DC8,' when heading back south for the landing at Wellington Airport, it was coming from Kumototo Bay, back just east of Allports Island and out possibly through Whatamanga Bay. Hence, if it was a 'DC8' coming into Wellington, the pilot was allowing 'a-hell-of-a-lot' for 'side-drift,' in fact THE WIDTH OF COOK STRAIT.

Thank you

I see by your last sentence in your letter that what was observed was definitely a 'DC8' aircraft. Under the circumstances I do not see any reason why this DC8 pilot should not be reprimanded for dangerous flying. I will point out that the President of the Airline Pilots Association is well aware of this event. But he may not have heard that it was a DC8 performing dangerously. I consider I should tell him, as we should not have commercial pilots flying like that.

Cap STARTUP  
one the  
presumes?

Thank you once again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,  
J.C. Thompson.  
MR. J. C. THOMPSON.



## Reported UFO Sighting!

Early January 19  
N.Z. television ca  
filmed a bright,  
glowing object in  
sky over the  
Kaikouras. The  
cameramen desc  
the object as an  
illuminated ping  
ball with a tinge  
in the centre. It  
about three time  
brightness of the  
average star. The  
DSIR who viewe  
film had no idea  
the object was.

UFO

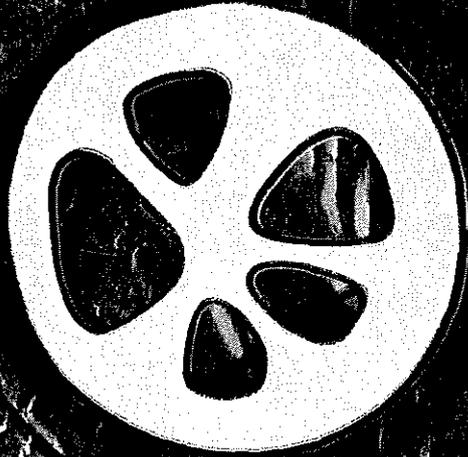
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# WFOOS



WFOOS LTD  
NEW ZEALAND

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

All correspondence should be addressed:  
Chief of Defence Staff,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Private Bag 11, Wellington, N.Z.  
Telephone: 729-499.



In reply please quote:  
Air 39/3/3

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS  
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

28 September 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your recent letter which has been referred to me by the Minister of Defence for reply.

I have had Air Staff reconsider the matter in the light of the facts presented by Mr McDonald in his letter to the Marlborough Express of 20 December 1978. Air Staff believe, however, that there is nothing in Mr McDonald's letter to suggest that the object sighted from Waikawa Bay was other than a DC8 aircraft making its descent towards Wellington Airport from the west. The outline of events, which spanned no more than 10 minutes, is entirely consistent with sighting a large aircraft approaching from a distance. It is estimated that on a clear night the landing lights of a DC8 aircraft descending over Nelson would be visible for at least six minutes before the aircraft passed away to the north of Waikawa Bay on its usual inbound track to Wellington when making a southerly approach to the runway. Knowing that there was a DC8 aircraft inbound to Wellington at that particular time and taking into account the most likely flight path for its descent, Air Staff are sure that it was, in fact, this aircraft that Mr McDonald saw.

I trust my comments have enabled you to gain a fuller appreciation of this Ministry's position on the matter. Accordingly, I do not believe any useful purpose would be served by engaging in further speculation about an event for which a perfectly rational explanation already exists.

Yours sincerely

D B G McLean  
Secretary of Defence

*N.E.F. a sighting report of an object over Marlborough Sounds on the night of 9 December 1978 from a report in my 39/3/3 Vol 2.*  
*102/100 (2)*

BRING UP 20/1019 & 1  
② Initials. 1F/10 1981



OPS 2 28356

A-R STAFF

Air 39/3/3

MINUTE

Air Staff

AO Pol(D)

WAIKAWA BAY SIGHTING

1. I suggest that Mr J.C. Thompson be thanked for his letter enclosing the cutting taken from the Marlborough Express dated 20 Dec 78.

2. Having carefully considered the facts presented by Mr F.D. McDonald in his letter to the Editor, we have no reason to alter our view that the object sighted from Waikawa Bay in the early hours of Sunday morning 17 Dec 78 was, indeed, a DC8 aircraft making its descent towards Wellington Airport from the west. The outline of events spanning no more than 10 minutes, and certainly not 55 minutes as Mr Thompson suggests, is entirely consistent with sighting a large aircraft approaching from a distance. On a clear night we estimate that the landing lights of a DC8 aircraft descending over Nelson would be visible for at least six minutes before the aircraft passed away to the north of Waikawa Bay on its usual inbound track to Wellington when making a southerly approach to the runway. Knowing that there was a DC8 aircraft inbound to Wellington at that particular time and taking into account the most likely flight path for its descent, we are sure that it was, in fact, this aircraft that Mr McDonald saw.

3. Accordingly, I suggest that there is no point in entertaining further speculation from Mr Thompson, who after all is only a third party to the sighting, when I believe we have given a perfectly satisfactory explanation for what was actually seen on that particular evening.

(G. WALLINGFORD)  
Wg Cdr  
DOps

28 Sep 81

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIAL	A.P.S. (A)	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	L	
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by Sec Def	
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	
5	DISPATCH	Date 29-9-81	Initials C.V.N.
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to A.P.S. (A)	
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

Air 39/3/3

This is the third letter received by the Minister from Mr Thompson on the same subject  
1. DOPS (A) (A) (A)

28 September 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your recent letter which has been referred to me by the Minister of Defence for reply.

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I trust my comments have enabled you to gain a fuller appreciation of this Ministry's position on the matter. Accordingly, I do not believe any useful purpose would be served by engaging in further speculation about an event for which a perfectly rational explanation already exists.

Yours sincerely



D B G McLean  
Secretary of Defence

*[Handwritten signature]*  
DOPS (A) (A) (A)  
File

MINUTE

To: ~~DOSD (4)~~

MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION

1. Attached is an enquiry from the Minister's office.
2. It would be appreciated if a draft reply, could be prepared within your branch/staff and forwarded to Policy Branch which will be responsible for preparation of the letter in its final form for the Minister's signature. Additionally, should it be necessary for extra information to be prepared giving background with which the Minister should be acquainted prior to him signing the letter, this should be prepared in the form of a draft letter to the Minister from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary as appropriate.
3. In view of the urgency which is required to be given to ministerial enquiries, the draft should be forwarded to Policy Branch (attention AD Pol(D)) by                     . If for some reason it is not possible to meet this date, the officer dealing with the matter should contact the Director of Policy Development and arrange a new submission date.

*DOs*

*FYA - kindly note*

*final para of m*

*Thompson's letter !!*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*John Creery*

Secretary of Defence.

*SAO Pol(D)*

Attached is the basis for a "letter" and final reply to Mr J.C. Thompson! Please file on Air 39/3/3. We could come on priority to a map but I do not                      think Mr Thompson would want to believe it.?

*my col*  
*DOs*

28 Sep 81

Air 39/3/3

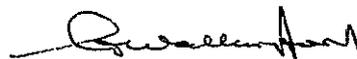
MINUTE

Air Staff

AO Pol(D)

WAIKAWA BAY SIGHTING

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3. Accordingly, I suggest that there is no point in entertaining further speculation from Mr Thompson, who after all is only a third party to the sighting, when I believe we have given a perfectly satisfactory explanation for what was actually seen on that particular evening.



(G. WALLINGFORD)

Wg Cdr

D0ps

28 Sep 81

MINUTE SHEET

Subject: .....

UFOs

Department: .....

Section: .....

File No. ....

39/3/3

Date: .....

24 SEP

4991 1-9 000pads/7/80 MK

To-

~~D O P S~~

1 I believe this UFO sighting is consistent with a DSR inbound from Australia, entering over Nelson to Wellington.

2 An aircraft approaching from the west would appear to be moving very slowly until it was close to where the observer, then it would appear to accelerate rapidly, and disappear as the landing lights pointed away.

3 She would need for an approach to the southerly runway at Wellington.

Section: .....

File No. ....

Date: .....

4991 1000pads/7/80 MK

To-

would be due east passing about four miles to the north of Waikawa Bay.

4. On a clear night, I would estimate the landing lights of a DC8, having crossed Nelson at 8000 ft, would be visible for at least six minutes before it passed to the north of Waikawa Bay.

5. I believe, that knowing there was a DC8 inbound to Wellington at that time, and taking into account the above, I am sure

Item 504

MINUTE SHEET

Department: .....

Subject: .....

Section: .....

File No. ....

4991 1000pads/7/80 MK

Date: .....

To-

that it was the aircraft Mr  
MacDonald saw

SAOCC  
etc

Item 504

MEMO for

SAD

*Sec Def*

*For direct reply*



*DJ*

*16.9.81*

Office of the Minister of Defence

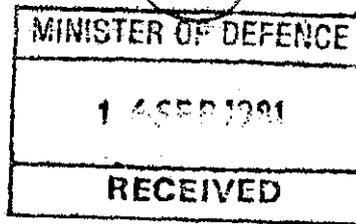
44663H—100 pads/3/80 P

*Min 251  
refers.*

✓

57 Dillon Str.,  
Blenheim,  
15th December '81

Mr. David Thomson,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Wellington.



Dear Mr. Thomson,

Thank you for your letter dated 8th September 1981.

Regarding the Waikawa Bay sighting. The duration of the sighting was 55 mins. to one hour in length; admittedly Mr. Macdonald only observed the events of this sighting for no more than 10 minutes.

Not  
Sub-  
stantiated

Agree

I find enclosed a photo-copy of a letter Mr. F. D. Macdonald forwarded to The Marlborough Express. It concerns the very slow 'DC8' over the Waikawa Bay area. The letter was published on the 20th December

2/

1978. If the pilot of the DC8 was flying as described, perhaps he should be reprimanded for flying so dangerously.

I am wondering why the D.N.Z.A.F and the D.S.I.R. did not make the effort to contact UFO groups etc. The govt. depts. seemed content to just huddle on. Perhaps they may have found out something they did not want to know about.

Why isn't the public allowed to know about UFOs?

Is this Dept. hoping for a 'DANGER 18' situation?

I hope your next reply will be better than the last one.

Thanking you,

yours sincerely,

J. C. Thompson.

MR. J. C. THOMPSON

## ODD THINGS IN THE NIGHT AT WAIKAWA

To the Editor

Sir, — While my wife was in our sitting room she noticed a brilliant light through the window. So bright was this light that she called me from bed to view it. The time was approximately 0.50 Sunday.

The light was suspended over the ridge west of Waikawa known as the Snout. It seemed to hover for a good minute and then moved on northwards, following the contour of the hill almost to the Snout and then hovered again for about half a minute, and then moved off towards the east very slowly and with an up and down motion.

For a time it hovered beyond Allports Islands (for about two minutes) and the brilliance dimmed down almost to a mere pinhead, then suddenly it flared up over 10 times brighter than any star. At this stage we could see the cloud-covered peak in the back of Kenepuru Sound beyond it.

After it flared up it rose suddenly and then fell in an up and down motion, travelling eastwards in an arc around the Sounds and headed towards Whatamango or Tory Channel; then it levelled off and moved at a terrific speed and disappeared behind the hills.

## LETTERS

We called our neighbours out to witness the sighting of the u.f.o. The time of viewing this was for almost 10 minutes.

There was brilliant moonlight at the time and no wind and no other clouds in the sky and a very starry night. We heard no noise in this very still night.

I phoned Woodbourne control tower and was advised that it was probably a parachute flare. They rang the Picton police, who later phoned me.

So long was this thing hovering that I was able to view it through binoculars. Six light beams were visible in colour to the naked eye. A quarter circle looked like it was painted dark red. It appeared to me to be a manned hot air balloon.

This is the third time in two years that we have seen this, whatever it is. During this last winter our sitting room became suddenly lit up quite noticeably against the electric light and seagulls down at the beach started screeching and then took flight.

Going outside to investigate we saw the water in the bay

lit up dull red and a brilliant light hovering for some moments and then flash off towards the east in less than a second.

I know that this was not a flare, was not a plane, but could have been a helicopter, but there was no noise and the lights were too bright.

F. D. MACDONALD  
Waikawa

Mr MacDonald forwarded a graph and a sketch. Unfortunately these were not suitable for reproduction. — The Editor.



Doc 11/1/1

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE,

WELLINGTON, N.Z.

8 September 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thomson

Thank you for your further letter of 21 August concerning the alleged UFO sightings in the Blenheim region.

My letter of 5 August 1981 sets out clearly the RNZAF position with regard to reports received of any unusual sightings in the skies. The press statement forwarded under cover of my letter also summarised the main conclusions reached by the RNZAF from its investigations, specifically, into the Kaikoura sightings. I can assure you that this investigation was detailed and thorough and not cursory as you suggest. I should reiterate that it is not the practice of the RNZAF to release reports of investigations to the public. Accordingly, I believe it will serve no useful purpose to enter into further debate on the nature of the Kaikoura phenomena.

As for the Waikawa Bay sighting, the RNZAF confirms that Woodbourne Air Traffic Control received a telephone call at 1 am on 17 December from a Mr Frank McDonald who reported an orange brilliantly coloured light which he had sighted at 0050 hours and observed for three minutes at an estimated height of 500 feet in a direction toward Tory Channel to Port Underwood. Contrary to any impression of indifference that may have been gained by the caller, the air traffic controller did, in fact, first inform the Blenheim Police and, then, Wellington Air Traffic Control who advised that a DC8 aircraft was carrying out its descent towards Wellington at the time in question. In the conditions prevailing at the time the lights of this aircraft would no doubt have been visible to an observer in the vicinity of Picton and provide an explanation for the source of the lights as seen by Mr McDonald. Hence, there was no reason to link this incident with the Kaikoura sightings.

Yours sincerely

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence



- 8 SEP 1981

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57 Dillon Street  
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Yours sincerely

*David Thomson*

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

*JAS*  
*DOAF*  
*DOAF*

*FK*

Min No: 251  
Ref No: Air 39/3/3  
Typed : 4.9.81

1	ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	<i>DMT</i>	
2	BEFORE SIGNATURE	to	
3	FOR SIGNATURE	by	<i>Base of</i>
4	BEFORE DISPATCH	to	<i>amended as requested</i>
5	DISPATCH	Date <i>8.9.81</i>	Initials <i>DMT</i>
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	<i>AMT</i>
7	BRING UP	on	to
8	FILE	Date	Initials

Mr J C Thomson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

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Yours sincerely

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

Min 251

Air 39/3/2

Air Staff

MINUTE

get extra copy typed  
give to Dops H

~~AO Pol(D)~~

Mr J.C. Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
Blenheim

MINISTERIAL NO 251  
SUGGESTED REPLY TO MR J.C. THOMPSON

Dear Mr Thompson UFO SIGHTINGS IN BLENHEIM AREA

2 Thank you for your <sup>letter</sup> letter of 21 August 1981. Concerning the  
alleged UFO sightings in the Blenheim region  
2 My letter of 5 August 1981 sets out clearly the

RNZAF position with regard to reports received of any unusual sightings in the skies. The press statement forwarded under cover of my letter also summarised the main conclusions reached by the RNZAF from its investigations, specifically, into the Kaikoura sightings. I can assure you that this investigation was detailed and thorough and not cursory as you suggest. I should reiterate that it is not the practice of the RNZAF to release reports of investigations to the public. Accordingly, I believe it will serve no useful purpose to enter into further debate on the nature of the Kaikoura phenomena.

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then, Wellington Air Traffic Control who advised that a DC8 aircraft was carrying out its descent towards Wellington at the time in question. <sup>In the conditions prevailing at the time</sup> The lights of this aircraft would <sup>no doubt</sup> have been visible to an observer in the vicinity of Picton and provided an explanation for the source of the lights as seen by Mr McDonald. Hence, there was no reason to link this incident with the Kaikoura sightings.

*Yours sincerely*

*David Thomson*  
*Min of Def*

3 Sep 81

*G. Wallingford*  
(G. WALLINGFORD)  
Wg Cdr  
D Ops

MINUTE

To: ~~DDSP(5)~~

MINISTERIAL ENQUIRY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION

1. Attached is an enquiry from the Minister's office.
2. It would be appreciated if a draft reply, could be prepared within your branch/staff and forwarded to Policy Branch which will be responsible for preparation of the letter in its final form for the Minister's signature. Additionally, should it be necessary for extra information to be prepared giving background with which the Minister should be acquainted prior to him signing the letter, this should be prepared in the form of a draft letter to the Minister from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary as appropriate.
3. In view of the urgency which is required to be given to ministerial enquiries, the draft should be forwarded to Policy Branch (attention AO Pol(D)) by *4 September*. If for some reason it is not possible to meet this date, the officer dealing with the matter should contact the Director of Policy Development and arrange a new submission date.

*J. Julie Greig*  
Secretary of Defence.

~~SASO~~ <sup>EW</sup>

*My comments would not be as polite as seen*

AO Pol (D)

*Attached is suggested reply to Mr JC Thompson*

*EW*  
DOPS

3 Sep 87

Writer: Mr. J. C. THOMSON, 57 Dillon Street, Blenheim

8

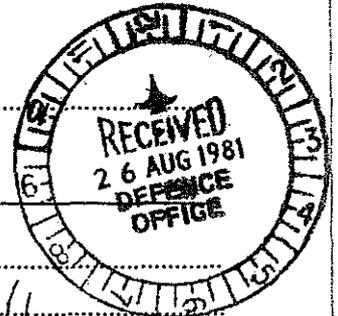
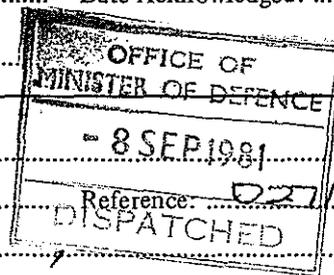
# MINISTERIAL

No. 251

(Minister's Office use)

Subject: Alleged UFO sightings Date of letter: 21.8.81  
in Blenheim region in 1978 and 1979

Date Acknowledged:



Referred to

1. *JPD*
- 2.
- 3.

Comments:

*ans! copies!*

*AO R/ID*

*Use file reference*

*Att 39/3/3.*

(Departmental use)

MINISTER'S OFFICE

MEMO for

SEC. DEF.

<del>APPROVED</del>
<del>SEEN</del>
<del>CONCUR</del>
DRAFT REPLY
<del>DEFERRED</del>
<del>DIRECT REPLY</del>

*please  
by*

25. 8. 81.

1/  
57 Dillon Street,  
Blenheim,  
21st August 1981.

Rt. Hon. D.S. Thomson,  
Minister of Defense,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Wellington.

RECEIVED
25 AUG 1981
OFFICE OF MINISTER OF STATE

Dear Mr. Thomson,

Thank you for your letter dated 5th August 1981. Unfortunately, your letter does not clear up anything. Actually, it only adds to a very confused situation.

The second paragraph of your letter says that the RNZAF consults with a number of Government agencies including the Ministry of Transport etc. I interpret this to mean the Air Traffic Control. A sighting was reported to the Woodbourne Air Traffic Control on December 17th 1978. The sighting took place at Picton and the A.T.C. could not explain that one. Therefore I am under the impression that the RNZAF very conveniently 'forgot' to discuss events with the Woodbourne Air Traffic Control, in connection with the Hāihōura 'UFO' sightings.

Also, I would be interested to know why the complete report has not been made public.

#### RNZAF UFO SIGHTING REPORT.

I was amazed to read in <sup>the</sup> first sentence of the RNZAF Report, that the sightings ARE the result of natural but unusual atmospheric phenomena. How incredible it is to jump to these conclusions a couple of weeks after the sightings took place.

"... just completed investigation? into the sightings.  
What investigation? I am under the impression  
 that there was not really anything that  
 could be called an investigation.

I see in the Report that "the investigating  
 officer interviewed all? the principle witnesses."  
 Apparently, he never; he couldn't be bothered  
 to. He very conveniently "forgot" to interview  
 the cameraman and the reporter AS WELL  
AS the pilot of the plane.

did meet the interviewing  
 officer but that is as far as he went.

Also, the Report says that the interviewing  
 officer worked closely with the Civil  
 Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport.  
 Apparently he never did this either. The  
 Woodbourne Air Traffic Control very  
 conveniently "forgot" to tell the interviewing  
 officer that they had an unknown on record.

I also read that "the Ministry was  
 completely satisfied that there were NO  
UNEXPLAINED physical objects in the skies at  
 the time of the sightings." With an investigation  
 as described, I fail to see how the RNZAF  
 were able to arrive at any conclusions at all.  
 Does the Ministry take an active interest or is  
 it a lot of rot?

On Page 3 (RNZAF) is an interesting statement.  
 How can the Ministry make such a statement?  
 Could we have a third OFFICIAL UFO REPORT?

Yours sincerely,  
 J. C. Thompson,

MR. J. C. THOMPSON



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

- 5 AUG 1981

Hon J K McLay  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Mr McLay

You will recall you sought my comments on the letter of 18 July you received from Mr J C Thompson of 57 Dillon Street, Blenheim, concerning the alleged UFO sightings in the Blenheim region in 1978 and 1979.

I am informed by the Secretary of Defence that the RNZAF does not undertake detailed investigations into reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. When a reported sighting is referred to the RNZAF however, it does consult with a number of Government agencies including the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, the Meteorological Service and the Carter Observatory to eliminate any obvious explanation of the phenomenon.

An exception to this policy was made with the investigation by the RNZAF into the 1979 Kaikoura sightings. On that occasion a report was prepared by the RNZAF Air Staff in Wellington and a summary of the findings of that report made public through the news media. The report itself has not been made public.

I enclose a copy of the RNZAF statement released to the media which you may care to pass on to Mr Thompson.

Yours sincerely

**(Sgd.) D. S. THOMSON**

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence



# RNZAF News Service

## RNZAF UFO SIGHTING REPORT

The unidentified radar and visual sightings reported by aircraft and the Air Traffic Control radars off the north east coast of the South Island recently, are the result of natural but unusual atmospheric phenomena.

This is the 'conclusion?' arrived at in the Air Force's just completed investigation into the sightings.

Before arriving at his conclusions, the investigating officer interviewed all the principle witnesses involved in the sightings on the nights of 20 and 30 December. He also worked closely with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Transport, and the Meteorological Service.

His report reveals that during the months of December and early January, atmospheric conditions over New Zealand were conducive to freak effects on radar and light waves. Also, the planet Venus was rising in the eastern sky early in the morning, and at this time of the year is unusually bright in appearance.

It was also revealed that for some time the Wellington Air Traffic Control radar has been giving spurious returns off the east coast of the South Island.

Over the period more than 50 Japanese squid boats sailed from Wellington to a position 120 miles off Banks Peninsula.

Not only would the squid boats give a good source of radar return whilst in transit to the squid fishing grounds, but they generate a very large amount of light when fishing at night. Each boat generates about 50 kilowatts of light to attract squid to its lures, and this light source cannot be discounted as a cause of some of the visual sightings.

The investigating officer also speculates that lights seen in the Clarence River mouth could have come from trains or vehicles travelling long the coast, and affected by unusual atmospheric reflections and refractions.

There is no evidence to connect the many radar and visual sightings in the Clarence River and the larger lights seen to the east.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the Ministry was completely satisfied there were no unexplained physical objects in the skies at the time of the sightings.

The lights were almost certainly from surface or planetary sources affected by atmospheric reflection, refraction and distortion.

Radar sets are known to be subject to spurious returns, and it was significant that on the occasions the large light was being filmed by a television team on board the Argosy freighter, neither Christchurch or Wellington radars reported any related visual sightings on their screens.

The spokesman said that the Ministry of Defence was not specifically charged with formal responsibility for investigating so-called unidentified flying objects in peacetime. However, the Ministry does take an active interest in all such reports and within the limitations of its resources, conducts investigations as necessary.

Commenting on some media speculation that the country was defenceless against air attack, the spokesman said that New Zealand did not have a complex air defence system, comprising sophisticated radar equipment and a force of missiles and interceptor aircraft.

The recently announced Defence Review explains that over the next decade at least, a physical threat to New Zealand's security, by sea or from the air, is so remote that expenditure of funds on sophisticated air defence equipments could not be justified.

No costing of a comprehensive air defence system for New Zealand had been done, but the Defence spokesman said that the bill would be enormous and well beyond current resource levels.

The Defence spokesman concluded by saying that the Ministry totally discounts the possibility of visits to New Zealand, and particularly to the areas of the country where the recent reports have suggested, of alien aircraft or other flying machines. It also categorically discounts any suggestion that air activity of any kind has taken place which poses any threat to New Zealand's security. Defence does not share the view of those who believe we are visited from outer space, or covertly by the aircraft or machines of potentially unfriendly nations.

JAN 79

Department: Av Staff  
Section: DASO  
File No. 39/3/3  
Date: 14 Aug 81

Subject: UFO SIGHTING

To-  
Dots

1. At about 1855 last night the Defence Duty officer relayed to me the following UFO report:

- ORIGINATOR: Chubca Radar via WN Acc ✓
- LOCATION: 22 miles S Napier @ 1825
- Course/SPEED: NE at 65 kts
- LOST CONTACT: CAPE KIDNAPERS
- COMMENT: Above 9000' to show on radar.

2. I took no action apart from an advisory phone call to AirOps in OTHQ. The report had also gone to Police. ✓

3. Met ✓ reports that are relevant at <sup>13</sup>1800 M:

- NR Aero: Wind 240/10 6/8 @ 4000
- OH upper winds: 5000' - 270/25
- 18000' - 240/50

NOTE: This ties with radar turn on cloud mask !!?

4. Ideal conditions for wave activity.

SOMER  
PRO(Air)  
0. 7/9/81  
Noted  
6500 ft

into

I will be initiating action for Duty Air Staff Officers to write short (G.A. McCUMMOUTH) report on UFO sightings for command April 81 by DOPS + PRO Air (info.) + recording DASO to file

DOPS  
Av Staff

DOPS

Writer: HON J K McLAY for Mr J C Thompson, 57 Dillon St, Blenheim.

# MINISTERIAL

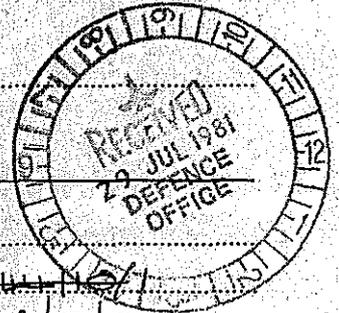
No. 223

(Minister's Office use)

Subject: UFO sightings

Date of letter: 24.7.81

Date Acknowledged:



(Departmental use)

Referred to

1. *SPD*
- 2.
- 3.

Reference: AIR 244/10/1

39/3/3

Comments:

*Went a bit of nonsense*

*SAD (Rol)*

*Use Pds reference Air 39/3/3*

OFFICE OF  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
- 5 AUG 1981  
DISPATCHED

*Raw  
DPS*

(Tumble)



- 5 AUG 1981

Min No: 223  
Ref: 39/3/3  
Typed: 4 August



file

Hon J K McLay  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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I enclose a copy of the RNZAF statement released to the media which you may care to pass on to Mr Thompson.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) D. S. THOMSON

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

~~JAS.~~  
~~DDSD(F)~~  
~~JAS~~  
Apr 2/  
PRQ(Air)



Office of the Minister of Justice

WELLINGTON 1

RECEIVED
28 JUL 1981
OFFICE OF MINISTER OF STATE

24 July 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 1981.

I have noted the details of the steps you have taken in relation to the claimed UFO sightings in the Blenheim region in 1978 and 1979.

From the material you supplied it is clear that the DSIR has carefully considered matters you have put to that Department and in the circumstances I propose to discuss your letter with my colleague the Rt Hon D S Thomson, Minister of Defence.

I will be replying further to you in due course.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. K. McLAY

J. K. McLay  
Minister of Justice  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Referred for your comments please.

J. K. McLay

SEC. DEF.

APPROVED
SEEN
I-CONCUR
DRAFT REPLY
REFERRED
DIRECT REPLY

*please*  
*dy*

28.7.81

57 Dillen Street,  
Blenheim

13th July, 1981

Mr Jim McLay,  
Minister of Justice,  
Parliament House,  
Wellington.

OFFICE OF THE  
HON. J. K. McLAY

21 JUL 1981

RECEIVED

1978-79 UFO SIGHTINGS

Dear Sir,

There is a matter I should have taken up with you when you visited Blenheim recently. I assume things would get out of hand if I had raised these points at the meeting on July 15th 1981.

I was very disappointed in both the RNZAF and DSIR Reports regarding the Waikawa UFO sightings. I wrote to the author of the DSIR report and asked him a number of questions about his report. Enclosed is a photo-copy of his letter dated 20th March 1980. I consider it was written in bad taste. You might not know it; but a sighting apparently took place near Waikawa Bay, Blenheim on the 17th December 1978. This sighting was in some ways more impressive than the 'argony' sighting. The principal witness phoned the Air Traffic Control at Woodbourne while the sighting was in progress. They could not give a stuff about it, and said it was probably a parachute plane. ie. a distress signal. This is most likely how Mr. Ingham jumped to his conclusions in his letter. I wrote and told him so. He refused to answer my letter. Instead Mr. M. C. Collins answered it.

See his letter dated 23rd May 1980.  
 He says in his letter that his deliberations do not  
 have the same importance as  
 other work he has done. He says  
 that it is being done in his letter he  
 says he is not prepared to further with  
 third parties for the information. This is  
 interesting because the author did not want  
 to have anything to do with anything, all the  
 best and the other knew about this thing  
 suggested to the principal witness that  
 the DSIR might want to hear from you as  
 they do not want to deal with me. He says  
 to the DSIR. The DSIR replied saying it was  
 too late to investigate that saying the DSIR  
 did not look at that within 18 months of  
 the writing taking place because it was  
 apparently too early to do so. The DSIR  
 says I should have the matter up with someone  
 else, why should I? It was his best, that just  
 out the reform.  
 I write back to the DSIR. See a photo-  
 copy of another letter from him dated 7th January  
 1981. Actually, the DSIR did just forward  
 an explanation for the Blackburn Engineering  
 it is in the DSIR's letter dated 20th  
 January 1980. The DSIR checked out the writing  
 6 months after it was too late to investigate  
 it. They realised they could not explain it.  
 He also says once again that I should try  
 and find an explanation for this writing,  
 why should I? It was his best, that just out

the UFO report.

I was withholding my tax return until I received a satisfactory answer from Mr. Collins.

I have since filed my tax return.

There have been two official UFO reports (The RANZAF one and DSIR white wash one). Both reports treated the sightings and the witnesses as a joke. I would like to see a serious report on these sightings as the government has failed to put out one.

I cannot show you Mr. Grebeval's 2nd letter as he has refused to assist. Also, Mr Collins has refused to write his 3rd letter to me.

Below is an extract from the DSIR Report

Extract from Page Twenty Three of Report 659

CONCLUSION

Of the twenty-seven or so sufficiently well documented sightings of nocturnal lights studied in this report, none has been found for which a simple explanation is not possible. The sources proposed were known to be present at the times of the observations, and must be discounted by the witnesses if the sightings are to remain unidentified.

In the most widely publicised "encounter" nothing unnatural, apart from the impressions of the witnesses, seems to have occurred. This UFO was almost certainly a brightly-lit squid fishing boat caught in the act. It is therefore considered that the acronym UFO should refer to UnFamiliar Observations, rather than to Unidentified Flying Objects.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr. DONN C. THOMPSON,  
D. C. Thompson.

P.S. I have written a brief letter to the Prime Minister on this subject. I assume my letter was intercepted. The letter was written 2 months ago to "Question" NZ Truth.

DSIR

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH



PHYSICS AND  
ENGINEERING  
LABORATORY

Private Bag,  
Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

Telephone: 636 919  
Cables and teletype: PHYSICAL  
Telex: PHYS:CS N.Z. 3814

Reference:

PEL 9/10

20 March 1980

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Sir

Thank you very much for your comments on my UFO Report. In answer to your question, it covers only those sightings between 20 December 1978 and 10 January 1979 because most of the widely reported sightings occurred during that period. I did not become aware of the 17 December 1978 sighting over Waikawa Bay until several months later. I believe the sighting was reported in the Picton newspaper at the time, but it was not brought to the attention of anyone in DSIR prior to being mentioned to me, and then only in passing. The person who told me about it was of the opinion that it was a parachute flare, and I have no reason to doubt his judgement.

Yours faithfully

(W Ireland)  
for Director



PHYSICS AND  
ENGINEERING  
LABORATORY

Private Bag,  
Lower Hut, New Zealand.

Telephone: 658 919  
Cables and telegrams: PHYSICAL  
Telex: PHYSICS N.Z. 3814

Reference: PEL 9/10/-

23 May 1980

Mr J.C. Thompson,  
57 Dillon Street,  
BLLENHEIM

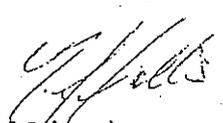
Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 19 May and the reference to your previous letter of 24 March 1980. I must apologise that your previous letter was not acknowledged as being received by the Department. However, you should appreciate that this laboratory's function is to encourage the development of industry in New Zealand, and it has no expertise or mandate to investigate UFO sightings.

One of our officers, Mr W. Ireland, has studied some specific sightings for which photographic record and other hard data was available. Additionally, Mr Ireland attempts to help members of the public when requested, where they have personally made unfamiliar sightings.

However, we are not prepared to go further than this where tangible data is unavailable, or with third parties to the observation. I understand Mr Ireland did indeed reply to your first letter informing you of the information he had received at that time. You are obviously at liberty to accept or reject such information as valid, but I see little merit in entering into extended speculative dialogue, particularly with a third party, in the absence of any hard data. Hence, from my laboratory's point of view, the matter must rest here. If you wish to pursue the matter further, I would suggest you do so with the body formulated for this purpose. I understand you are already in contact with Dr J.F. de Bock, of ECRA, which may be the appropriate body.

Yours faithfully,

  
(M.A. Collins)  
DIRECTOR



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH



PHYSICS AND  
ENGINEERING  
LABORATORY

Private Bag,  
Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

Telephone: 666 919  
Cables and telegrams: PHYSICAL  
Telex: PHYSICS N.Z. 3814

Reference:

MAC:PH

7 January 1981

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dylan Street  
BLLENHEIM

Dear Mr. Thompson

I have received your letter of 10 December concerning the Waikawa UFO sighting. In this letter, you refer to earlier correspondence with my laboratory and acknowledge the receipt of two letters from us - one from Mr W Ireland of 20 March, and one from myself of 23 May - which were intended as replies to your correspondence and to clarify our position for this particular sighting for you.

It appears that you are still in some doubt as to our position, and I will attempt to clarify this in answering the questions in your most recent letter.

In Mr Ireland's letter of 20 March, he pointed out to you that his investigation of sightings between 20 December 1978 and 10 January 1979 were selected because "... most of the widely-reported sightings occurred during that period." In this context, "widely-reported" indicates not only reported in New Zealand, but in the international media in addition. I believe this criteria represents a logical basis for selection.

We are fully aware that a parachute flare is a distress signal, and we are also aware that such flares are not uncommon in popular boating areas. However, I should make it clear to you that this was not our evaluation and that the Physics and Engineering Laboratory have not put forward an explanation for the Waikawa Bay UFO sighting, nor are we in a position to do so.

Your letter seems to imply that we have not discussed the Waikawa Bay sighting with the witnesses of that event. On the contrary, officers of my laboratory have discussed the sighting with the witnesses, who seem quite happy to accept that we are unable to offer an explanation for this particular event. Hence, I repeat that I see no merit in continuing dialogue with third parties to this sighting.

cont/.....

Mr J C Thompson

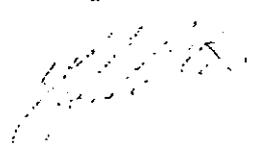
Page 2

7 January 1981

There are societies which have been specifically formed to investigate phenomena such as that to which you are referring. Perhaps you could contact one of these to see if they have made a study of the Waikawa Bay sighting, and are prepared to venture an explanation for you.

I note from your letter that you intend to refrain from returning your taxation for the year ending 31 March 1980. I am unable to comment on this since it is a matter between yourself and the Inland Revenue Department.

Yours faithfully

  
(M A Collins)  
Director

1	SEARCHED	INDEXED	FILED
2			
3	SEARCHED	INDEXED	FILED
4	BEFORE	to	
5	DISPATCH	DATE: 5.8.81	INITIALS: DMH
6	AFTER DISPATCH	to	
7	BRING UP	on	
8	FILE	Date	INITIALS

Min No: 223

Ref: 39/3/3

Typed: 4 August 1981

Hon J K McLay  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Mr McLay

You will recall you sought my comments on the letter of 18 July you received from Mr J C Thompson of 57 Dillon Street, Blenheim, concerning the alleged UFO sightings in the Blenheim region in 1978 and 1979.

I am informed by the Secretary of Defence that the RNZAF does not undertake detailed investigations into reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. When a reported sighting is referred to the RNZAF however, it does consult with a number of Government agencies including the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, the Meteorological Service and the Carter Observatory to eliminate any obvious explanation of the phenomenon.

An exception to this policy was made with the investigation by the RNZAF into the 1979 Kaikoura sightings. On that occasion a report was prepared by the RNZAF Air Staff in Wellington and a summary of the findings of that report made public through the news media. The report itself has not been made public.

I enclose a copy of the RNZAF statement released to the media which you may care to pass on to Mr Thompson.

Yours sincerely

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

Hon J K McKay  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Mr McKay

You will recall you sought my comments on the letter of 18 July you received from Mr J C Thompson of 57 Dillon Street, Blenheim, concerning the alleged UFO sightings in the Blenheim region in 1978 and 1979.

I am informed by the Secretary of Defence that the RNZAF does not undertake detailed investigations into reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. When a reported sighting is referred to the RNZAF however, it does consult with a number of Government agencies including the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, the Meteorological Service and the Carter Observatory to eliminate any obvious explanation of the phenomenon.

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~~The~~ The report itself has not been made public.

I enclose a copy of the RNZAF statement released to the media which you may care to pass onto Mr Thompson.

Yours sincerely

David Thomson  
Minister of Defence

MINUTE SHEET

Department: .....

Subject

Section: .....

File No. Am 39/3/3

UFO SIGHTINGS

Date: .....

To-

SAD R/D

1. Attached is a suggested reply for the Minister to Mr McKay, Minister of Justice. I believe the letter is self explanatory and outlines RNZAF policy on investigation of UFO reports

*[Signature]*

Wg Cdr

DAPS

31 July 1981

D R A F T

Mr J C Thompson  
57 Dillon Street  
BLENHEIM

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of 28 July, my colleague the Minister of Defence advises that the Royal New Zealand Air Force does not undertake detailed investigations into reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

However, when a reported sighting is referred to the RNZAF, it consults with a number of Government agencies including the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, the Meteorological Service and the Carter Observatory to eliminate any obvious explanation to the phenomenon.

An exception to the RNZAF's policy of not undertaking detailed investigations into UFO sightings was its investigation into the 1979 Kaikoura sightings. On that occasion a report was prepared by the RNZAF Air Staff in Wellington and a summary of the findings of that report made public through the media. The report itself has not been made public.

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the RNZAF statement that was released to the media.

Yours sincerely

J K McLay  
Minister of Justice

MINUTE SHEET

Department: .....

Subject:

LFO reports

Section: .....

File No. 30/3/3

Date: 31/7

9918/000pads/7/80 MK

To:

DOPS

1. I understand one of your staff looks after LFO's. Preparing a draft letter should be no trouble to him.

JLH

PRO Air

DSD

As discussed. Grateful if you would prepare for Policy Branch 2 Minister statement of our standard reply adding whatever is needed relating to Kaikoura (and Waitawa Bay?) sightings.

31 Jul 81

DOPS

e l o r r e n e A

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-5

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RR RANCE  
DE RZYYUT 2170 1862015  
ZNR UUUUU  
R 030200Z JUL 81  
FM SGHQ RNZAF  
TO NZDEF AIR  
BT  
UNCLAS  
DIG KSY/KSZ

39/313

C21  
66

DISTRIBUTION		
DEF	AIR	36/8/3
ACTION: <i>ops 2</i>		

634 SUBJECT UFO REPORT PD  
ONE PD FOLLOWING REPORT RECIEVED THROUGH CHRISTCHURCH FLIGHT  
INFORMATION OFFICE AT 031100M PD  
TWO PD HARI HARI CMN REPORTS  
SELF CMN WIFE CMN AND DAUGHTER SIGHTED OBJECT APPROX POSN CASS AT  
021900M JUL 81 PD OBJECT SAID TO BE LIKE A NEWMANS BUS WITH BRIGHT  
LIGHTS OF RED/BLUE SHADES AND SIGHTED MANOEUVRING BELOW HILLTOPS  
BEFORE MOVING OFF TO NE PD WX CLEAR EXCEPT FOR CLOUD PATCHES  
AROUND PEAKS AND VIS GOOD PD  
THREE PD NIL RNZAF OR KNOWN CIVIL TRAFFIC IN AREA  
BT

NNNN  
KSY 0  
ACTION OPS2 11  
INFO



KSZ 0  
ACTION OPS3 11  
INFO

UU *146RFA169* UU  
RR RZYXCE  
DE RZYYVT 2170 1862015  
ZNR UUUUU  
R 030200Z JUL 81  
FM SGHQ RNZAF  
TO NZDEF AIR  
BT

39/3/3

DISTRIBUTION		
DEF	AIR	<i>36/8/3</i>
ACTION: <i>[Signature]</i>		
DOPS		

*C21  
66*

UNCLAS  
DIG KSY/KSZ  
634 SUBJECT UFO REPORT PD  
ONE PD FOLLOWING REPORT RECEIVED THROUGH CHRISTCHURCH FLIGHT  
INFORMATION OFFICE AT 031100M PD  
TWO PD HARI HARI CNM REPORTS  
SELF CNM WIFE CNM AND DAUGHTER SIGHTED OBJECT APPROX POSN CASS AT  
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BEFORE MOVING OFF TO NE PD WX CLEAR EXCEPT FOR CLOUD PATCHES  
AROUND PEAKS AND VIS GOOD PD  
THREE PD NIL RNZAF OR KNOWN CIVIL TRAFFIC IN AREA  
BT

① Perhaps it was a Newman's bus?

② Noted and for file

*8 JUL 81*

*[Signature]  
Dops*

NNNN  
KSY 0  
ACTION OPS2 11  
INFO

KSZ 0  
ACTION OPS3 11  
INFO



XXXXX  
749-299

100  
4

<b>FILE</b> AIR 39/3/3 Initials: <i>[Signature]</i>
--

Air 39/3/3

15 April 1981

Mr Paul Sowiak-Rudej,  
P.O Box 1814,  
WOLLONGONG  
N.S.W 2500  
AUSTRALIA.

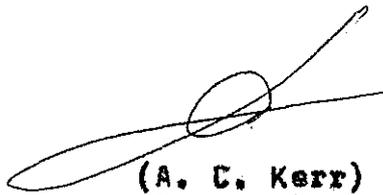
Dear Mr Sowiak - Rudej,

Thank you for your letter requesting information on  
RNZAF reports of UFO sightings.

I have enclosed a report made public by this office in  
January 1979 regarding the Kaikoura sightings.

I will point out though that the RNZAF do not normally  
undertake detailed investigations into UFO sightings and the  
above investigation was an isolated instance.

Yours faithfully,



(A. C. Kerr)  
Sergeant  
RNZAF Public Relations

Enclosure

# ILLAWARRA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

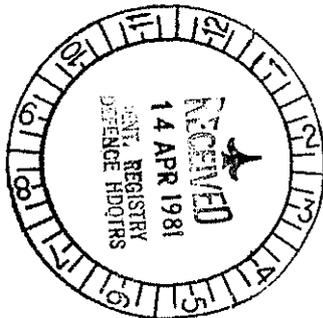
AFFILIATED TO THE W.E.A.

Paul Sowial-Rudej

Telephone:

BOX 1814, P.O.  
WOLLONGONG.  
N.S.W. 2500  
8/4/81

*PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE,  
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.*



DEAR SIR,

WE ARE VERY CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT WAS OBSERVED AT KAIKOURA, ON 30-31 DECEMBER 1978 WHICH THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE INVESTIGATED AND SURVEILLANCE BY ORION SQUADRON LONDON RAY CARRAN.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY OF THE PRESS RELEASES YOUR DEPARTMENT HAD MADE PUBLIC RELATING TO THE MATTER, ANY OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS AND THEIR REASONING, AND PERHAPS NOW YOUR AFTER THOUGHTS.

WE ARE MAINLY INTERESTED IN ASTROLOGY. HOWEVER WE WILL BE GIVING A TALK ON THE SUBJECT AND HOPE TO GIVE AN UNBIASED EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT WAS SEEN, BOTH VISUALLY (ON FILM) AND ON RADIO.

WOULD IT ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN COPIES OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING SUMMARIES SIMILAR TO WHAT THE DEPT. OF AIR IN AUSTRALIA PRODUCES.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,  
Paul Sowial-Rudej

xxxxxx  
749-299

100  
3  
Air 39/3/3 PR

23 March 1981

Mr Brian H. Mackrell  
16 Sutherland Crescent  
PALMERSTON NORTH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March in which you asked to purchase a full copy of the RNZAF report on the 1979 Clarence River Kaikoura UFO sightings.

The RNZAF report into those sightings was not made public. However a statement was issued to the media at the time of completion of the report and that statement contains the relevant points of the report. A copy of that media statement is enclosed. There is no charge.

We do not have files on UFO encounters.

I thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

*C D Cole*  
// (C D Cole)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

Encl.

FILE.  
/ 1/13  
*C* ———— Initials

xxxxxx  
749-299

Air 39/3/3 PR

23 March 1981

Mr Brian H. Mackrell  
16 Sutherland Crescent  
PALMERSTON NORTH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March in which you asked to purchase a full copy of the RNZAF report on the 1979 Clarence River Kaikoura UFO sightings.

The RNZAF report into those sightings was not made public. However a statement was issued to the media at the time of completion of the report and that statement contains the relevant points of the report. A copy of that media statement is enclosed. There is no charge.

We do not have files on UFO encounters.

I thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

*C D Cole*  
// (C D Cole)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

Encl.

FILE. *C*  
1/19  
Inllab

16 Sutherland Crescent  
Palmerston North  
10 March 1981

Chief of Air Staff  
(Public Relations)  
RNZAF

Dear Sir,

thank you for your letter of 4 February re my inquiry on UFO sighting of September, 1969.

Would it be possible for me to purchase a copy of the full RNZAF report on the 1979 Clarence River/Kaikoura UFO sightings? Has the RNZAF files on UFO encounters by its pilots and would this be made available to a serious researcher of the subject?

Yours sincerely,

*Brian H. Mackrell*

Brian H. Mackrell.

FILE.  
1/15  
*10* Initial

MINUTE SHEET

Department:

~~PRO~~ DODG

Subject:

Letter Requesting 6 1/2 hrs

File No:

34/9/3

Date: 5-13-44

To:

PRO (ARR)

Key attached letter & telegram PRO(ARR)

ADDG

Nothing adverse known about

Serial 4 markers

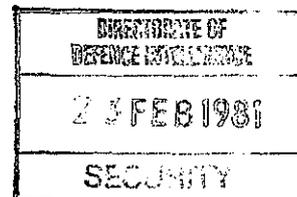
ADDG

ADDG

FILED

16 Sutherland Crescent  
Palmerston North  
13 January 1981

TO: The Director  
Service Intelligence  
Ministry of Defence  
Private Bag  
Wellington



1969 UFO RADAR-VISUAL REPORT

Dear Sir,

according to a NZPA report of September 23, 1969 a UFO was radar-tracked and sighted by two Straits Air Freight Express pilots (Captain R. Gullum & Officer N. Faircloth) in the Wellington-Cook Strait-Cape Campbell region on the evening of September 4, 1969. The report states: " Air Force authorities are now awaiting reports from both pilots."

I am interested in obtaining copies of any reports held by your department on the above. I will be pleased to pay any search/copy fees involved.

This 1969 incident is very similar to the 1978-79 Kaikoura UFO affair and I would like to make detailed comparisons of same in connection with a natural phenomenon UFO explanation postulated by Canadian scientists.

Yours faithfully,

*Brian H. Mackrell*

Brian H. Mackrell.

FILE  
1/14

*B*  
Inditax

MINUTE SHEET

Subject:

Department: .....

File No.: AIR 39/3/3

Date: .....

Re: attached letter.

I have discussed the subject of this letter with the Acting Director Operations Gen. MR Collins who advises that as far as he is aware RNZAF do not hold the reports suggested by the correspondents and obviously even if they did this information would not be released to a private individual.

REF ATTACHED LETTER - B.H. MACKREIM

You might like to reply to this along the lines suggested by your D ops conveyed in suitable moderate terms.

DSD Sy

FILE.

23/2/191

Infile

XXXXXX  
749-299

Air 39/3/3/PR

4 February 1981

Mr Brian H. Mackrell  
16 Sutherland Crescent  
PALMERSTON NORTH

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 13 January seeking copies of reports of a UFO sighted in September, 1969 by two Safe Air pilots.

The RNZAF, contrary to press reports, did not investigate that sighting.

The RNZAF does not normally undertake detailed investigations in UFO sightings. The 1979 investigation into the Clarence River/Kaikoura sightings was an isolated instance.

I regret that I cannot be of more assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

  
(C. D. COLE)  
Squadron Leader  
RNZAF Public Relations Officer

FILE.

1/10

Jattah