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Air Attache, Australia

IR-203-53

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From: Flight Lieutenant W.J. SADLEY (022070) Area Intelligence Officer and Squadron Leader M.C. MURRAY (011320) A.P.M.

To: Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters, Eastern Area.

Date: 8th May, 1952.

Ref.: 5/1/27.

REPORT ON UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS ON 3RD MAY, 1952.

1. It is desired to advise that on 4th May, 1952, Wing Commander I. L. CAMPBELL requested that the Staff Officer Intelligence and the Assistant Provost Marshal jointly investigate newspaper reports on unusual sightings on 3rd May, 1952.
2. Kenneth John SHIPLEY, P.M.G. employee, of No. 37 Victoria Street, ERMWOOD, was interviewed and he said "At about 6-10 A.M. on 3rd May, I was sitting in a P.M.G. truck outside the Enfield Post Office with Reg. EDWARDS (P.M.G. driver) and William ANDERSON (P.M.G. employee) when EDWARDS drew my attention to a bright light moving across the sky. We all watched it for a few seconds from the truck, then we all scrambled out of the truck and stood in the street. Once while we were watching it, it disappeared behind clouds but I saw it again and pointed it out to the others. Finally it disappeared behind a cloud and we did not see it again.
3. When asked to describe the object SHIPLEY said "It looked like a number (he thought six or seven) of circular lights in a straight line. The colour of the lights was similar to street lighting, there was no noise, no apparent shape. The height seemed to be similar to the height of aircraft I have seen flying around SYDNEY but the speed was definitely faster although I don't think it was twice as fast. The truck was facing south and the lights seemed to pass in front of the truck, moving eastward. The lights followed a straight path and did not climb or descend and I did not see any trail or vapour behind the lights". When asked how he knew the time SHIPLEY said "Reg. EDWARDS said "what is the time?". "I was the only one with a watch which I looked at said ten past six".
4. Reginald EDWARDS, P.M.G. transport driver, of Hawthorne Parade, HAERFIELD, was interviewed and said "On Saturday, 3rd May I was sitting in a P.M.G. truck in Emu Street, outside the Enfield Post Office with Ken. SHIPLEY and Bill. ANDERSON, who are also P.M.G. employees. I leaned forward in the cabin to press the starter button and saw some bright lights moving across the sky. I said to the others "Look at this," and we all watched for a few seconds, then got out of the truck and stood in the street for a few more seconds watching. The lights went behind a cloud and we lost them. SHIPLEY saw them re-appear and we watched them until they went behind a cloud and we did not see them again. The lights reminded me of a ship at sea at night with just the lights visible but no superstructure. They travelled in a straight line, did not rise or fall and seemed to be moving from east to west. I thought the speed may have been about 500 miles per hour. I later rang the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD and told them my story. When asked how large the lights were, in comparison with the street lights which were on at the time of the interview, EDWARDS pointed out an overhead street light about 300 yards away and said the lights he had seen were approximately the same size and colour. The light indicated by EDWARDS was the normal yellow street lighting.
5. Mr. Bruce MCKENZIE, an ex-R.A.A.F. Officer who is now an aircraft captain

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