

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE Winter 1951		2. LOCATION New Zealand		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>Lenticular Cloud</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>11AM</u> GMT _____		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE East	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Witness observed cloud approximately 500 yds long, 500 yds wide, 60 yds high to east of his location. From cloud at the north end only a piece of cloud suddenly detached itself. Cloud gave appearance of whirl wind and travel north for a short distance. Then at right angle in easterly direction. The main bulk of the cloud remain motionless and was not immediately disturbed by action of the wind. The small cloud was not immediately spherical, but form so during travel to the N and E. Dissappeared over the sea, 4 miles to the East.				11. COMMENTS Photograph shows lenticular cloud.	

14011

In reply refer to
AFOIN-ATIAE-5

CAH/jos/73147

20 APR 1954

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Kalapoi, New Zealand

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your letter of 2 March 1954, together with photographs, has been received by the Air Technical Intelligence Center for analysis.

A study of the photographs indicates that the object shown is a lenticular altocumulus cloud. This type of formation often results from the atmospheric conditions which you described.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center would like to obtain the use of your negatives, if you still have them on hand, for the purpose of making enlargement prints. The negatives would be promptly returned to you.

Your interest in the unidentified flying object program and your desire to be of service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

cc: Lt Col Smith, AFOIN-X

COORDINATION:

ATIAE-5 C. A. Hardin DATE 19 Apr 54
CAPT HARDIN

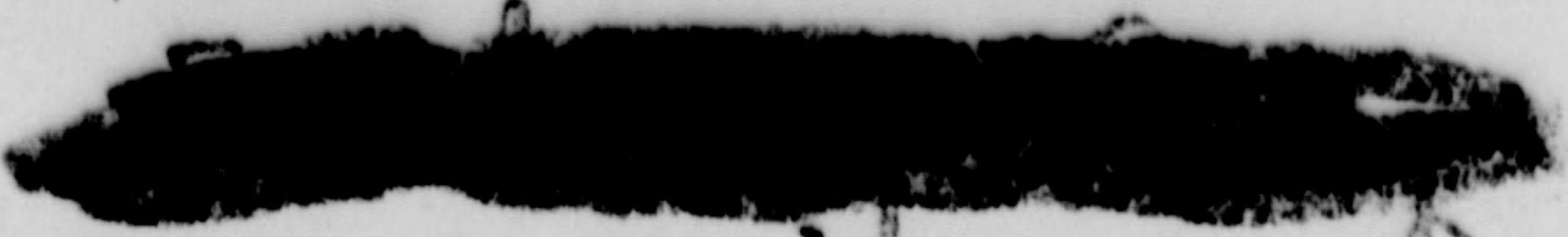
ATIAE H. B. Johnston DATE 19 Apr 54
LT COL JOHNSTON

ATIA Col O'Hern DATE 19 APR 54
COL O'HERN

Vfor

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
10073
ELECTRONICS BRANCH
Office of Record

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

1.

Karapiro

New Zealand.

2nd March 1954

To the

Commanding Officer

Headquarters.

American Army Air Force.

America.

Dear Sir,

During the winter 1951 I was on roof of a building on my section at Karapiro. The time was approximately 11 a.m. New Zealand time, most of the north and east sky was cloudless but one cloud of approximately 500 yds long and 100 yds wide and 60 yds high. (approximate estimates only) was above the township in an easterly direction from my position.

Out of this cloud came, at the north end only, and suddenly, detached piece of cloud that you see in photograph. I watched this ~~whirlwind~~ whirl wind of cloud travel north for a short distance, then at right angles

in an easterly direction on an even keel. as in photograph, but when whirl wind was in the making, the cloud that formed the sphere was only a small part of the north end of cloud. The main bulk of the cloud remained almost motionless and was not immediately disturbed by the action of whirl wind.

The main bulk of cloud disappeared about one hour later upwards just as a cloud of steam disappears from a railway engine.

The small piece of cloud that formed whirlwind was not immediately spherical in shape but formed so, during its short distance north then east with tremendous velocity as wisps of cloud were whirled around at amazing speed and to almost 95° then shifted to horizontal with change to easterly direction and disappearance at that elevation. Out to sea. a distance of approximately four miles.

I formed the opinion that no aircraft encountering such a whirl wind of cloud would survive to tell the tale as the vicious velocity



To the
Commanding Officer
Headquarters SAFIS
American Army Air Force
United States of America

of the whirl wind's tremendous power as proved by the way wisps of cloud were streaked around during the formation as seen in photographs.

For some years I thought that I had only witnessed a whirl wind.

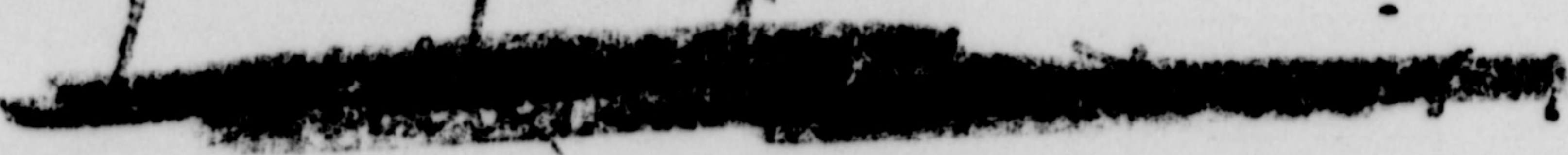
I am now certain that the remainder of the cloud remained almost motionless before disappearing upwards some time afterwards as steam does. The cloud was just an ordinary atmospherical cloud.

However I forward you the snaps hoping that although over two years and one half have passed that they will be of interest.

Perhaps some naval, merchant seaman, or pilot may have witnessed a similar sight, and you may compare notes.

I would appreciate your opinion of the photographs.

yours faithfully.



MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS,
CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1 NAME OR TITLE Captain Hardin	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION ATIC	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

I would like to suggest a letter from the Center on this one. This is the type we want the public to react on.

FROM NAME OR TITLE

Lt Col W K Smith

ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION

AFOTN-X

DATE

16 Mar 54

TELEPHONE

71092

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95

Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

16-48487-4 GPO

AFOIN-X/Lt Col Smith b/tjc/71092
Wrtm 16 Mar 54

Muir
16 March 1954

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Halopoi, New Zealand

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your recent letter of 2 March 1954 addressed to the United States Air Force has been read with interest.

You may be assured that if the information you submitted proves significant you will be informed of the analysis. However, as you can probably imagine, there are so many sightings and pictures received by the USAF that we are unable to comment on all sightings that are reported to us.

Many thanks again for keeping us in mind.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
[REDACTED]
Lt Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Intelligence

AFOIN-X

Lt Col Smith

THIS COPY FOR ATIC (ATTN: CAPT HARDIN)

7-3712-40

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Kaiapoi

New Zealand

12th June 1954.

To the

Commander.

Air Technical Intelligence Center.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio.

Dear Sir

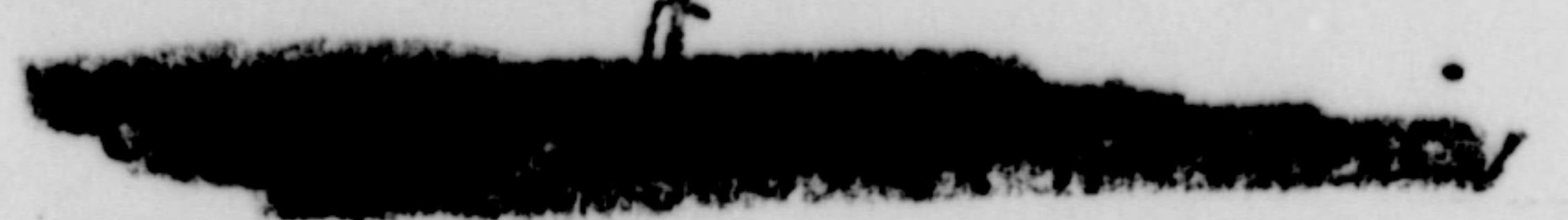
Today I received your letter dated
20th April 1954. I have pleasure in
immediate forwarding of negatives
which I have always had at my home at
Kaiapoi.

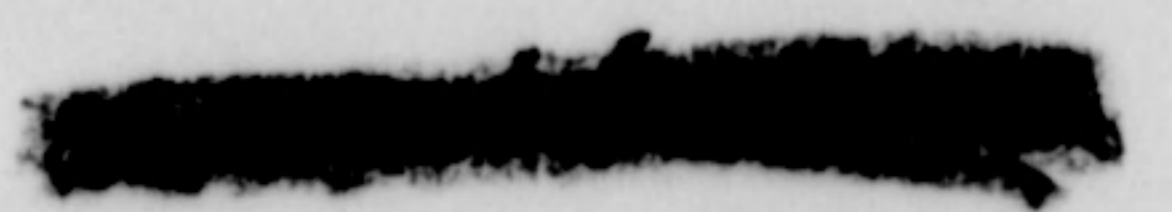
I am a single man and live alone.
Prior to World War II I had spent the whole
of my working life out on the land in the
mountains and flat country in both North and
South Islands of New Zealand, I have not
seen a similar whirlwind before or since.

I now work as a press operator in an
engineering and implement factory in Christchurch.

and am now only out in the open spaces
only at week ends where I cultivate and
grow potatoes and wheat with my tractor
and implements

I also enclose newspaper photographs
of Christchurch and Kaiapoi districts
giving you an indication of the
area which could not be affected by
sudden currents of air as would happen
in mountainous country.

yours sincerely


P.S. A few weeks ago some aerial
top dressing pilots at New Plymouth N.Z.
reported a formation of circular spheres
travelling as they were proceeding out to
operate at topdressing. I will endeavour
to get "press" clippings and forward.


NOTE

I enclose these letters to prove to you that my attention at the time was not on whirlwinds or flying saucers. I did not even submit the photographs to the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the prints and negatives remained in my possession all the time. Although in 1954 when I received the reprints from the photographic supplies shop I showed them to workmen at the engineering works where I work, 98% of them decided that it was a flying saucer or something like that. I was the only person other than the photographic dealer to have the prints and negatives in 1951.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Please return letters at your convenience

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LTS RECD 21 DEC 54

To the
Commanding Officer

Headquarters

American Army Air Force

America

10073
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ELECTRONICS BRANCH
Office of Record

ATIAE5/AD/rc/69216

23 NOV 1954

Mr. [REDACTED]

Kalapoi, New Zealand

Dear [REDACTED]:

Please find inclosed the negatives you submitted for examination on 2 March 1954.

We are sorry for the delay in returning them to you and trust we haven't inconvenienced you in any way.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center would like to thank you again for the opportunity to obtain prints from your negatives as well as the cooperation and interest you have displayed in our program.

Sincerely,

1 Incl
Negatives

R. C. SCHUM
CWO, USAF
Asst. Adj.

COORDINATION:

ATIAE5 *1/30/54* DATE 17 Nov 54
for : Capt. C. A. Hardin
ATIAE *H. C. Johnston* DATE 18 Nov 54
Lt. Col. H. C. Johnston
ATIA *R. W. McDuffee* DATE 18 Nov
Col. R. W. McDuffee
pr

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

VIC-001

53 NOV 1954 03 21

This case includes one (1) 8" x 10" photograph, one (1) 8" x 10" negative, two (2) 4" x 5" photographs, one (1) 2½" x 4¼" photograph, one (1) negative 2½" x 3¾".



