

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 30 Dec 52	2. LOCATION TERRIGAL, NEW SOUTH WALES	12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☒ Possibly Astronomical Meteor ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 30/1200 GMT 30/12003	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE RAAF Officer	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Extremely bright object moved slowly in a N direction for about a minute then appeared to turn E and depart at great speed.		11. COMMENTS 1. D/I is of opinion that object was a large meteor at a considerable distance. <i>[Signature]</i>

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 57)

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC DOCUMENT No. 109447 (A) 30 Dec 52 Australia

At approximately noon 30 Dec 52 a wing commander in the RAF sighted an unidentified object to the E at an estimated altitude of 2000', angle of elevation 7 1/2°. The object was observed to move very slowly in a general N direction for about a minute, during which time it traveled through an estimated angular distance of 8°. It then departed at "a great speed". This latter movement was accomplished in approximately 20 seconds. There were two other witnesses to this sighting, the wife of the observer and the child.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
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Australia

IR-61-53

FLYOB RPT

Australia

Air Attache, Australia

25 Feb 53

20 Feb 53

A-6

George A. Uhrich, Lt Col, USAF

RAAF Intelligence

The following report concerning an unidentified flying object was forwarded to this office by the RAAF Director of Intelligence, Group Captain Alexander, 24 Feb 53.

It is believed that the interrogation of Wing Commander Tomkins, which was personally conducted by Group Captain [REDACTED], was as comprehensive as possible, therefore, no additional interrogation or investigation was made by this office.

No electrical report was made due to elapsed time involved prior to the receipt of information by this office.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN
Colonel, USAF
Air Attache

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Rpt of Interview

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ATISDIB
11 MAR 53

Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: ATIAA-2c, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

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ENCLOSURE 1

Air Attache, Australia

IR-61-53

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UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT

The following report of an unidentified object is based on an interview with Wing Commander TOMKINS, R.A.A.F., at R.A.A.F. Head-Quarters on 28th January, 1953.

2. At approximately noon on the 30th December, 1952, Wing Commander TOMKINS was on the beach at Terrigal New South Wales (Lat. 33° 26'S, Long. 151° 27'E).
3. He observed to eastward over and beyond a low headland an extremely bright object which he then estimated to be at 2,000 feet at two miles and subsequently estimated to be at an angle of elevation of 7½°.
4. The object was observed to move "very slowly" in a general northerly direction for about a minute during which time it travelled through an estimated angular distance of 8°. It then appeared to turn eastward and depart at "great speed." This latter movement was accomplished in approximately twenty seconds.
5. Throughout these movements the object appeared to remain at a constant height, and at a constant speed on the northern course.
6. The brilliance of the object was described as comparable to that of a naked carbon arc at fairly close range.
7. Weather conditions at the time were clear blue sky with maximum visibility - strong wind, north east, probably 25 - 30 m.p.h.
8. Wing Commander TOMKINS had just come out of the surf and was drying his face on a towel when he observed the object. Being intrigued and puzzled by it he referred it to his wife and son who were with him. They agreed in his description of it except that his wife was happy to regard it as a meteorological balloon. This Wing Commander TOMKINS regarded as unlikely as the object remained at a steady height and moved up wind.
9. Wing Commander TOMKIN has been a member of the R.A.A.F. since 1936. He is a technical officer and well acquainted with aircraft and equipment both past and present.
10. Though Wing Commander TOMKINS is reluctant to agree, the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence is of the opinion that the object was a large meteor at considerable distance.
11. Wing Commander TOMKINS feels that the very definite change of course is not consistent with the customary curve of flight of a meteor, but the Directorate thinks it possible for a meteor following its customary parabolic curve to give the appearance of changing course.

In sight too long to be a meteor!

13.2.53.

Group Captain, D.A.F.I.

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