

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

SMC

1. DATE 3 April 1963		2. LOCATION Suva, Fiji Islands		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0300 GMT 02/1520Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2-3 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE falling	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Light, yellowish color which intensified as obj came closer until night was as bright as full moonlight approaching fm N. Crossed field of vision in 2-3 secs. Flared up & disintegrated while in horizontal flight. Pieces fell into sea. General direction fm NW to SE. Constant speed. Tear drop shape, larger than usual meteor w/tail 2/3 longer than body. Blue, light blue and yellow white at tail. Although obj appeared very close no sound heard. Also sighted by housewife & other local residents. Also rpt as green w/fiery orange tail				11. COMMENTS Short duration tends to rule out decay. Meteor sighting.	

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
AFM- Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO

policeman, & other local

ORIGIN ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

SP 16 FIJI

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ARA EUR FE

NEA CU INR

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A-196

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

FOR: NASA

Info: Ambassador WELLINGTON

FROM : Amconsulate SUVA

DATE: April 18, 1963

SUBJECT: Luminous Object Sighted Over Fiji at 1520 GMT, April 2, 1963

REF : 01-9986 S/SA

A number of responsible witnesses in the Fiji Islands reported the appearance of a luminous low flying object like "a classical example of a Hollywood spaceship", which passed over Fiji at 3:20 a.m. April 3, 1963 Suva time (1520 April 2, 1963 G.T.).

There is attached as Enclosure I a copy of a statement prepared by a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force base at Laucala Bay near Suva. The statement was prepared for the RMAF Intelligence Branch and gives full detail of that observer's report. There is also attached as Enclosure II, a copy of an article which appeared in the "Fiji Times" on April 4, 1963 reporting the statements of witnesses who saw the luminous object passing over Fiji, housewife who lives in Laucala, a suburb of Suva, three Fijian policemen at Ba on the Northwest coast of the island of Viti Levu, and officers of H.M.S. Cook, a survey vessel which was at the time anchored off Round Island in the Yasava Group, in northwest Fiji. Almost all witnesses agreed as to the time of the passage of the luminous object between 3:20 and 3:30 a.m., April 3 Fiji time.

Most observers agreed that the object was travelling from a northeast to a southeast direction across Suva. All agreed that it was very low, appeared to be glowing with a green, white and yellow light, and had an enormous fiery orange tail. Most observers agreed that the object was travelling at an even speed, that the glow of lights was steady, and that streamers were emitted as if portions of the object were disintegrating in space as the object travelled.

The report of the RMAF observer, attached as Enclosure I, is that the object did fall into the sea between Suva and the Islands of Bega and Laucala. All observers agreed that in spite of the intense light created by the object there was no noise associated with the flight.

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George C. [Signature] In ☐ Out

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FORM DS-323

Drafted by:

C. Gray:hl

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearance:

1003628

EXCERPT FROM "THE FIJI TIMES" DATED APRIL 4, 1963

MANY PEOPLE SAW FIERY 'SPACE SHIP' OVER FIJI

A Tamavua housewife woke about 3.30 a.m. yesterday morning and gazed straight through her window into what appeared to be a ball of fire in the sky over Beqa, moving towards Lucala Bay.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said it was a frightening experience. The sight was "almost horrible".

"I woke my husband, who got out of bed quickly but when he reached the window the object had disappeared", she said.

"He said I had been dreaming, but I insisted that I had seen the ball of light."

But about 10 min. earlier three Fijian policemen at Ba had reported seeing the object. The Ba report came to Fiji Times by telephone.

Members of the RNZAF also sighted the object about 3.30 a.m. They agreed that it was moving in a south-easterly direction.

A Lautoka message states that reports of strange objects "falling into the Fiji Group" had been confirmed by men in the Royal Navy survey ship HMS Cook yesterday. Men of HMS Cook told the Fiji Times at Lautoka that about 3.20 a.m. a large object fell from the sky into the sea when the ship was anchored in the northern Yasawa Group.

An officer said that at that time the sky was lit by a source which was like moonlight but on close observation appeared to be the brilliant light of a falling object.

HMS Cook was bound for Lautoka after duty observation along the Royal route on which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh travelled last week.

The ship was anchored off Round Island and duty members of the crew saw a bright object fall from the sky in a southerly direction. An officer on watch said it looked to him like "A classical example of a Hollywood space ship". He said it appeared to be glowing with a green-white light and had an enormous, long fiery orange tail. The object illuminated the sky with the brilliance of the full moon. It made no noise when it fell to the earth.

The object has been reported by several people at Lautoka.

UNCLASSIFIED

A-196

SUVA

Page 1
Enclosure 1

MINUTE

To: Commanding Officer (Thru' Station Adjutant) RMAF Base, Laucala Bay
(Group Captain J. J. McDowell)

REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. OBSERVER: Warrant Officer J.A. Pickford (70437).
2. NARRATIVE: At 3 a.m. on the morning of 3 April 1963 the Observer was lying in bed, awake, when he noticed through his bedroom window that the western sky was becoming light with a yellowish light which intensified from the north until the night sky was as bright as full moonlight on a clear night. The object was then observed to cross his field of vision horizontally in a time of 2 or 3 seconds. The Observer got out of bed and went into his lounge and watched the object through his lounge window, from where he saw it flare up slightly and disintegrate whilst still in horizontal flight, the pieces appearing to fall toward the sea between KANDAVU and MBENINGA Islands.
3. TIME: The Observer sets his wristwatch from the B.B.C. broadcast time pips, relayed by the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation. The bedroom alarm clock is set from his wristwatch time. The time of the observation by alarm clock was 0320 on Wednesday 3 April (1520 on 2 April G.M.T.) and is accurate to within one minute. The time to pass across his field of vision from the bedroom window was estimated to be between 2 and 3 seconds. The Observer established by test afterwards that it took approximately eight seconds to move from his bedroom to the lounge window.
4. POSITION: The Observers home is at Suva Point (1310 South, 17327 East), on the eastern side of Suva Harbour and commands a view to the west and south west.
5. DIRECTION: The Observer is not sufficiently familiar with the night sky to establish bearings accurately, but the setting sun generally is normal to his bedroom window. The object was judged to have moved across the sky in a general direction from North West to South East.
6. SPEED: The Observer estimated the speed as being similar to a low level run seen from half a mile away of a Canberra Bomber (B57). The speed appeared constant.
7. HEIGHT: The object appeared to maintain level flight, and gave the impression of being about 800 feet over Suva Harbour, although there is no background to which height can be related.

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Page 2
Enclosure 1

8. APPEARANCE: The object was of tear-drop shape, massive compared to the usual meteor, and comparable in size to a "Landrover", with a tail approximately two thirds longer than the body. Against the background of the yellow sky the nose was of a deep brilliant blue colour, this colour gradually turning along the length of the body through light blue to straw and ending up yellow white at the tail. The luminosity was such that the tops of clouds were lit up and the Observer did not need to use artificial light.

9. WEATHER: The only weather reporting station in the area is at Lauthala Bay. Its 3 a.m. observation was:

$\frac{1}{8}$ Cumulus, base 2000 feet.
Wind calm.
Visibility 40 miles.

10. DISINTEGRATION: The object disintegrated in level flight. At this stage it was going away from the Observer and appeared to flare up over a period of 2 seconds by approximately half of its original brightness then scatter pieces over an apparent trail length of 150 feet, those pieces gradually losing their brilliance and appearing to fall into the sea. Although the object appeared very close, no sounds were heard.

11. CORROBORATION: There were no other witnesses with the Observer.

(Sgd) F. Rowe

(F.E.A. ROWE)
Flt Lt
Air Intelligence Officer

9 APR 63

Fiji.....Apr 3, 1963
A number of newspapers reported that on April 3 a spectacular UFO was seen over Fiji. The East Anglian Times in its Apr 4 issue described the event as follows:

"A huge fiery object like a space-ship was reported over the Fiji Islands yesterday by men of the Royal Navy, the Royal New Zealand AF, policemen and civilians. An officer on the survey ship HMS Cook said it looked 'like a classical example of a Hollywood space ship.' It glowed with a green-white light and had a long, fiery orange tail."

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No Case (Information Only)

3 April 1963
Fiji, Island

3 APRIL 1963

FIJI

Fiji spaceship

A number of newspapers reported that on April 3 a spectacular UFO was seen over Fiji. The *East Anglian Times* (Ipswich) in its April 4 issue described the event as follows: "A huge, fiery object like a spaceship was reported over the Fiji Islands yesterday by men of the Royal Navy, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, policemen and civilians. An officer on the survey ship *H.M.S. Cook* said it looked 'like a classical example of a Hollywood space ship.' It glowed with a green-white light, and had a long, fiery orange tail."

Information Only

Source: AFB Bulletin, November 1963

Fiji Has A Fireball

On the 3rd of April 1963 Mrs. A. E. Kennard, a Tamavna housewife, woke about 3:30 a.m. and gazed through her window at what appeared to be a ball of fire in the sky over Beqa. It appeared to be moving toward Laucala Bay. She said it was "horrifying."

Ten minutes earlier three Fijian policemen at Ba had reported seeing a similar object and at 3:30 a.m., members of the Royal New Zealand Air Force also saw the object. Men on HMS ship Cook had reported seeing strange objects "falling into the Fiji Islands group" at about 3:20 a.m. the same morning. They said they watched a huge fireball fall into the sea while they were anchored in the northern Yarawa group. An officer reported that at the time the area was bathed in a light as bright as moonlight which seemed to be coming from a falling object. Another officer said the falling object looked to him "like the classic example of a Hollywood spaceship." It was glowing with a bright greenish-white light and had an enormous, long fiery orange tail.

The same or a similar object was reported by several people at Lakota.
