

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 13 January 65 13/0845Z	2. LOCATION 41S 167E (Between New Zealand, Australia)
3. SOURCE Civilian Airlines	10. CONCLUSION CONTRAILS
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 7 Contrails	Not a UFO report. Report of contrails apparently made by A/C in formation.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	Single vapor trail in NW moving East observed from Civilian Airliner. This single contrail became 7 distinct contrails apparently a/c in formation. Speed estimated as in excess of mach 1. Altitude 30 deg elevation. Altitude of formation estimated at 35,45,000 ft. Trails disappeared from rear.
7. COURSE East	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

Mystery Vapor Trails

The Melbourne, Australia Herald of 15 January 1965 carried an article about seven unexplained vapor trails observed 250 miles off the New Zealand Coast over the Tasman Sea at 6:45 p.m. on the 13th (Wednesday) of January. "The RAAF has failed to identify flying objects reported over the Tasman Sea on Wednesday night", the lead sentence read.

Captain D. Shannon and the crew of his Electra which was at 20,000 ft. altitude reported seeing the trails at 35,000 feet, going west to east. The trails "seemed to split", into seven directions, indicating a flight formation, Shannon reported.

An RAAF spokesman in Canberra said no aircraft cleared officially from Australia was in the area at the time. Inquiry had shown that no aircraft authorized to operate over or out of Australia could have been in the area at the time. The Australian radar station at Brookvale had turned in no reports of unidentified objects.

The initial story was sadly lacking in detail but it is indeed strange that an experienced pilot would turn in a report on such a mundane item as contrails when one would expect a pilot to expect to see contrails.

Regardless, on the same day the Sydney Sun carried an explanation, to wit: "The RAAF now believes that vapor

trails seen by Qantas pilots (apparently others besides Shannon observed them—Ed.) in the sky over Tasman were a natural phenomenon . . . a Qantas official said that "the Electra crew sighted what appeared to be contrails from high-flying planes."

Let us hope our Australian colleagues were treated to a more detailed explanation——the planes should have been identified.

Additional information reaching this office indicates a radar confirmation of the sighting but the location of the radar was not made explicit—it could have been radar contact by Shannon's plane. The clippings which divulged this information did not specify.

News sources also said the report had been officially explained as "ice crystals" although two top-ranking RAAF officers said the evidence indicated a formation of military aircraft capable of high speeds and long-range performance.

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

26T

3/0124C

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
INFO			X	AF		

FROM:

FTD, W P AFB, OHIO

TO:

CINCPACAF HICKAM

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

CLASSIFIED/CITE TDEW(UFO) 13540 MAR 65.

REFERENCE SECRET MSG FM USAIRA CANBERRA, CITE C-6 JAN 65.

SUBJECT MSG REQUESTED POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF U.S. FORCES

OPERATING IN SIGHTING AREA. FTD WAS INFO ON THIS MSG. A NEGATIVE

REPLY FROM THE ACTION ADDRESS WAS DESIRED IF NO U.S. FORCES IN

AREA. IT IS REQUESTED THAT WE BE FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING

A REPLY TO YOUR MSG. CP-4.

Classification Cancelled

Auth. [Signature]

By [Signature]

Date 15 Mar 68

AK 265-17612-17(4)
3 Jan 68

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

DATE	TIME
30	2058Z
MONTH	YEAR
MAR	65

SYMBOL		SIGNATURE	
TDEW (UFO)		[Signature]	
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)		TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	
MAI H. QUINTANILLA/ehs		ERIC T de JONCKHEERE	
PHONE 69216/66378	PAGE NR. 1	Colonel, USAF	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		Deputy for Technology & Subsystems	
UNCLASSIFIED			

DD FORM 173

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1

WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

OFFICIAL FILE COPY / TDEW(UFO)

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

WPA 278SQW226 HQA933

RR RUCDSQ

DE RUEAHQ 185 14/2 008Z

R 142226Z

FM CSAF

INFO FTD

P 140632Z

FM USAIRA CANEERRA

TO CINCPACAF HICKAM

CINCPACFLT

1-50 EW
6 A

CSAF

DIA

USAIRA WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

ET

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~ ITE C-6.

JAN 65. FOLL MSG RECD FROM DEPT OF AIR RAAF THIS DATE:

"CONCERNING SIGHTING OF UFOS BY QUANTAS CREW FLIGHT 363 CAPTAIN SHANNON ON 13 JAN. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT POINTS AIRCRAFT POSITION 41 SOUTH 167 EAST COURSE 275 M HEIGHT 20000 FEET TIME 13 2845Z SHORTLY AFTER SUNSET. OBJECTS: SINGLE VAPOUR TRAIL APPEARED TO NORTH WEST TRAVELLING EAST AT APPROX MACH 1 PLUS BECOMING 7 DISTINCT CONTRAILS APPARENTLY MADE BY LARGE AIRCRAFT IN LOOSE FORMATION. ALTITUDE ANGLE FROM OBSERVERS APPROX 32 DEG. HEIGHT EST 35-45000 FEET. TRAIL DISSIPATED FROM REAR. OBSERVERS: ALL CREW MEMBERS

Classification Cancelled

(~~SECRET~~)

Auth *[Signature]*

By *[Signature]*

Date 157 May 69

[Signature] 20-4 Jan 2-17(6)

PAGE 2 RUEALQ 196 ~~SECRET~~

OBSERVED TRAILS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF AIRCRAFT AND AGREE WITH LITTLE VARIATION ON ABOVE. SOURCE CONSIDERED RELIABLE. OTHER INFORMATION. SECOND PILOT ALSO RECALLS THAT AT APPROX LONGITUDE 166 EAST THIS MORNING ON THE SYDNEY-WELLINGTON FLIGHT HE NOTICED WHAT HE CONSIDERED AS 11 SHIPS IN GROUP ON HIS RADAR SCREEN. RNZAF ADVISE SURVEILLANCE RADARS AT WELLINGTON AND OHAKEA RECORDING NOTHING AT HEIGHT WITHIN 15-200 MLS EXCEPT 10 ANGELS SOUTH OF WELLINGTON SPEED APPROX 1000 LTS. NZ PRESS ARE AWARE THAT A SIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED AND RNZAF HAS SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT WEATHER PHENOMENON IS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, AT THIS STAGE."

DEPT OF AIR, GOA REQUESTS INFORMATION IF ANY U S FORCES WERE OPERATING SITING AREA AT SITING TIMES. NEGATIVE REPLY FROM ACTION

ADDRESSEES DESIRED IF NO U S FORCES IN SITING AREA.

GP-4

ET

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DUE 520019

NNNN

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

PTTS JAW RUEBHQA0296 0152057-SSSS--RUCIFDA.

Received Via Autodin

ZNY SSSSS

P 152049Z

FM OSAF

TO TDEW HQ FTO WPAFB OHIO

BT

SAF-DIPB 77411 JAN 65

FOR MAJ QUINTANILLA, PROJECT BLUE BOOK OFFICE. FOLLOWING

MSG IS FWD FOR YOUR INFO AND ACTION. QUOTE. JAN 65.

FOLL MSG RECD FROM DEPT OF AIR RAAF THIS DATE: "CON-

CERNING SIGHTING OF UFOS BY QANTAS CREW FLIGHT 363

CAPTAIN SHANNON ON 13 JAN. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT

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HEIGHT 20000 FEET FIVE 130845Z SHORTLY AFTER SUNSET.

OBJECTS: SINGLE VAPOUR TRAIL APPEARED TO NORTHWEST

TRAVELLING EAST AT APPROX MACH 1 PLUS BECOMING 7 DISTINCT

PAGE 2 RUEBHQA0296

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FORMATION. ALTITUDE ANGLE FROM OBSERVERS APPROX 30 DEG.

HEIGHT EST 35-45000 FEET. TRAIL DISSIPATED FROM REAR.

OBSERVERS: ALL CREW MEMBERS OBSERVED TRAILS FROM

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LONGITUDE 166 EAST THIS MORNING ON THE SYDNEY-WELLINGTON

FLIGHT HE NOTICED WHAT HE CONSIDERED AS 11 SHIPS IN GROUP

ON HIS RADAR SCREEN. RNZAF ADVISE SURVEILLANCE RADARS

1965 JAN 15 22 55

1-3 EW

(19)

A/194

TELEPHONE CONFORMATION COPY

PHONED TO Mr. Payton
DATE & TIME 15/2307
PHONED BY Mr. B. J. J.

Classification Cancelled

(~~Secret~~)

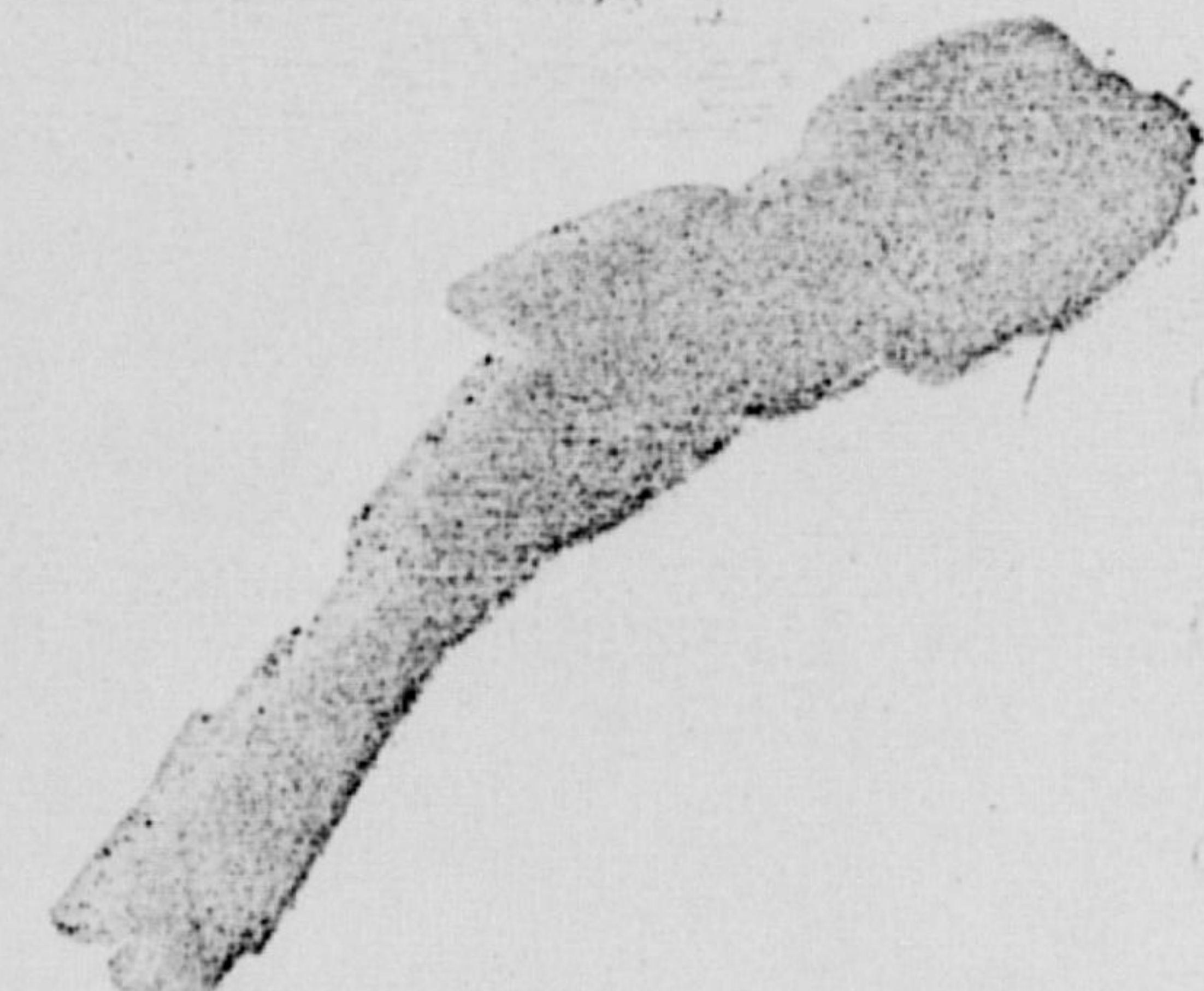
Auth. Director DP

By Quintanilla

Date 15 May 69

APR 205-1 Para 2-17(6)

3 Jan 68



UNCLASSIFIED