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NAA: B1497, V116/783/1047

Series number: B1497

Control symbol: V116/783/1047

Barcode: 10491375

Number of pages: 319

DSJ - Cape Otway to King Island 21 October 1978 - Aircraft Missing (Valentich)



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

B1497/T7

Box 6  
105

OPENED	CO	FILE NUMBER	PART
CLOSED			
		V46/783/1047	

DST

CAPE OTWAY-KING IS.

21-10-78

AIRCRAFT

MISSING

(VALENTILH)

Related Files  
Shown Inside

Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED Initials	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED Initials	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	CLEARED Initials
File	ASSU	14/10/78		104	ASSU	13/1/82					
File	ASSU	14/11/78		105	ASSU	13/1/82					
36-39	ASSU	14/11/78		105	DESP	3/2					
4	ASSU			File	PA	3/2					
42	ASSU			108	ASSU	12/5					
43	DESP	21/11		110	DESP	14/8/80					
65	ASSU	27/11		File	PA						
67	DESP	7/12		F	ASSU						
	ASSU	11/12		116	ASSU						
70	DESP	11/12		RS	ASSU (F)	5/1					
71	ASSU			RS	ASSU	13/4					
73	DIRECTOR	9/1		F	PA						
73	ASSU	16/1		File	DESP (ASSU)	5/7					
74	ASSU	10/1		RS	BISU (F)	8/9					
73/2	ASSU	26/2		F	PA						
76	AD(S)	1/3		SPECIAL - HOLDING							
File	ASSU			129	ASSU (DESP)	14/7					
76	SNAME	6/3/79		F	D (A+I)	9/1/80					
78	DIRECTOR	2/3		F	D BASI						
76	DESP	5/3		F	T. WILSON	27/7					
79	ASSU	5/3		R	R. MAYES	31/7					
80	DESP	22/3		146	T. WILSON	20/8					
82	ASSU			46	S. SPINKS	27/8					
92	ASSU	13/6		F	P.A. M.F.O	14/6/93					
103	DESP	20/10									
R/S	ASSU	21/10/82									

V46/783/1047



# Related Files

NUMBER	TITLE

## FILE DIVISION NOTICE

The large number of papers processed in relation to the subject of this file has necessitated a division of the original file at this point.

Earlier papers are held on the following parts.

Part No.	Date Opened	Folios

NB — AIRCRAFT COLOUR SCHEME WAS  
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24/4/12 J.S.  
ASSO

O.H.M.S.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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A.S. B.

VIC/TAS REGION





COPIES  
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4 to F109, 110, 111 & 112

1 to file F 108.1

1 to. Golden cabinet

1 to PRO Vic. 14/5 see F 113

7 as at 14/5/82 - 3 remaining





COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Reference No.

V116/783/1047

Publication of this report is authorised by the Secretary under the provisions of Air Navigation Regulations 283 (1)

## 1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Not known	Height a.m.s.l. -	Date 21.10.78	Time (Local) Not known	Zone EST
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## 2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Cessna 182L	Registration VH-DSJ	Certificate of Airworthiness Valid from 14 February 1968
Certificate of Registration issued to Cephus Day, 33 Reserve Road, Beaumaris, Victoria	Operator SAS Southern Air Services, Northern Avenue, Moorabbin Airport, Victoria	Degree of damage to aircraft Not known Other property damaged -
Defects discovered -		

## 3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Moorabbin	Time of departure 1819 hours	Next point of intended landing King Island	Purpose of flight Travel	Class of operation Private
---	---------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	-------------------------------

## 4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Frederick VALENTICH	Pilot	20	Private	Not known	150 (Approx.)	Presumed Fatal

## 5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS

The pilot obtained a Class Four instrument rating on 11 May 1978 and he was therefore authorised to operate at night in visual meteorological conditions (VMC). On the afternoon of 21 October 1978 he attended the Moorabbin Briefing Office, obtained a meteorological briefing and, at 1723 hours, submitted a flight plan for a night VMC flight from Moorabbin to King Island and return. The cruising altitude nominated in the flight plan was below 5000 feet, with estimated time intervals of 41 minutes to Cape Otway and 28 minutes from Cape Otway to King Island. The total fuel endurance was shown as 300 minutes. The pilot made no arrangements for aerodrome lighting to be illuminated for his arrival at King Island. He advised the briefing officer and the operator's representative that he was uplifting friends at King Island and took four life jackets in the aircraft with him.

The aircraft was refuelled to capacity at 1810 hours and departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours. After departure the pilot established two-way radio communications with Melbourne Flight Service Unit (FSU).

The pilot reported Cape Otway at 1900 hours and the next transmission received from the aircraft was at 1906:14 hours. The following communications between the aircraft and Melbourne FSU were recorded from this time: (Note: The word/words in brackets are open to other interpretations.)

TIME	FROM	TEXT
1906:14	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE this is DELTA SIERRA JULIET is there any known traffic below five thousand
:23	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET no known traffic
:26	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I am seems (to) be a large aircraft below five thousand



## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS (cont'd)

TIME	FROM	TEXT
:46	FSU	D D DELTA SIERRA JULIET what type of aircraft is it
:50	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I cannot affirm it is four bright it seems to me like landing lights
1907:04	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:32	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE this (is) DELTA SIERRA JULIET the aircraft has just passed over over me at least a thousand feet above
:43	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger and it it is a large aircraft confirm
:47	VH-DSJ	er unknown due to the speed it's travelling is there any airforce aircraft in the vicinity
:57	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET no known aircraft in the vicinity
1908:18	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE it's approaching now from due east towards me
:28	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:42		// open microphone for two seconds //
:49	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET it seems to me that he's playing some sort of game he's flying over me two three times at a time at speeds I could not identify
1909:02	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger what is your actual level
:06	VH-DSJ	my level is four and a half thousand four five zero zero
:11	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET and confirm you cannot identify the aircraft
:14	VH-DSJ	affirmative
:18	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger standby
:28	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET it's not an aircraft it is // open microphone for two seconds //
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1909:52	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET as it's flying past it's a long shape // open microphone for three seconds // (cannot) identify more than (that it has such speed) // open microphone for 3 seconds // before me right now Melbourne
1910:07	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger and how large would the er object be
:20	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE it seems like it's stationary what I'm doing right now is orbiting and the thing is just orbiting on top of me also it's got a green light and sort of metallic (like) it's all shiny (on) the outside
:43	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET

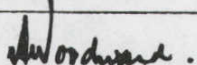


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TIME	FROM	TEXT
:48	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET // open microphone for 5 seconds // it's just vanished
:57	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
1911:03	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE would you know what kind of aircraft I've got is it (a type) military aircraft
:08	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET confirm the er aircraft just vanished
:14	VH-DSJ	SAY AGAIN
:17	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET is the aircraft still with you
:23	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET (it's ah nor) // open microphone 2 seconds // (now) approaching from the southwest
:37	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:52	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET the engine is is rough idling I've got it set at twenty three twenty four and the thing is (coughing)
1912:04	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger what are your intentions
:09	VH-DSJ	my intentions are ah to go to King Island ah Melbourne that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again // two seconds open microphone // it is hovering and it's not an aircraft
:22	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:28	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE // 17 seconds open microphone //
:49	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE
There is no record of any further transmissions from the aircraft.		
The weather in the Cape Otway area was clear with a trace of stratocumulus cloud at 5000 to 7000 feet, scattered cirrus cloud at 30000 feet, excellent visibility and light winds. The end of daylight at Cape Otway was at 1918 hours.		
The Alert Phase of SAR procedures was declared at 1912 hours and, at 1933 hours when the aircraft did not arrive at King Island, the Distress Phase was declared and search action was commenced. An intensive air, sea and land search was continued until 25 October 1978, but no trace of the aircraft was found.		

## 7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined.

Approved for publication		(A.R. Woodward) Delegate of the Secretary	Date 27.4.1982
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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

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Defects discovered		Other property damaged -

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The aircraft was refuelled to capacity at 1810 hours and departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours. After departure the pilot established two-way radio communications with Melbourne Flight Service Unit (FSU).

The pilot reported Cape Otway at 1900 hours and the next transmission received from the aircraft was at 1906:14 hours. The following communications between the aircraft and Melbourne FSU were recorded from this time: (Note: The word/words in brackets are open to other interpretations.)

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:06	VH-DSJ	my level is four and a half thousand four five zero zero
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:43	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET



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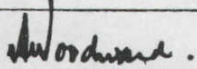
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The weather in the Cape Otway area was clear with a trace of stratocumulus cloud at 5000 to 7000 feet, scattered cirrus cloud at 30000 feet, excellent visibility and light winds. The end of daylight at Cape Otway was at 1918 hours.

The Alert Phase of SAR procedures was declared at 1912 hours and, at 1933 hours when the aircraft did not arrive at King Island, the Distress Phase was declared and search action was commenced. An intensive air, sea and land search was continued until 25 October 1978, but no trace of the aircraft was found.

## 7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined.

Approved for publication		(A.R. Woodward) Delegate of the Secretary	Date 27.4.1982
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[10F1]

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BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION  
MELBOURNE FIELD OFFICE

137

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108 Lonsdale St  
Melbourne VIC

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24 Hour: (03) 6637015  
or 008 011 034  
Fax: (03) 6621952  
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A'Beckett Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

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PLEASE DELIVER THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE TO:

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DESIGNATION : \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION : SOUTHDOWN PRESS (AUST POST)

ADDRESS : \_\_\_\_\_

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FAX No.: T (03) 662 1952

NAME : ANDREW WATSON

DESIGNATION : SNR CLERK

BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION  
MELBOURNE FIELD OFFICE

DATE : 27 / 09 / 89

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(30,226)FAX.LTR

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DATE 27.9.89

TO MR ANDREW WATSON

Fax No. 6621952

COMPANY BUREAU OF MR SAFETY INVESTIGATION

DEPT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

FROM DENISE DALGLISH AUSTRALASIAN POST

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER 2

MESSAGE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

NFF

Bm.B communicated with Ian McCallum, A/BCO,  
re Public Release Document. Verbal approval to  
release Folio 108, AAI Summary Report.  
Faxed to requestor.

Bm.B

Ms Dalglisch asked me "off the record" 27/9/89  
what the sensitive nature of material on  
file is that caused me to indicate an  
FoI request would be necessary to  
obtain information. I advised her off  
the record there was speculation that  
personal problems might have caused  
Valentich to stage his disappearance or commit suicide but this

A Division of Nationwide News Pty Limited.  
(Incorporated in A.C.T.)

could not be  
substantiated.

Bm.B  
27/9/89



# POST

32 Walsh Street, West Melbourne. Phone: (03) 320 7000. Fax: (03) 320 7410. GPO Box 501H, Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

27.9.89.

Dear Andrew,

I am writing a story for Australasian Post magazine on the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich over Bass Strait on the night of October 21, 1978.

I wish to request a public release document containing details of the flight, subsequent investigations and the conclusions reached by the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation.

I would appreciate this document being forwarded to me at the above address as soon as possible.

Thanking you for your help,

sincerely

Denise Dalgliesh.  
Denise Dalgliesh.



## MINUTE

Note

Received a call from Mr Guido Valutich (TG472379) that a Mr Ray Martin of a TV station had pressed him to release the recorded tape of his son talking to Melbourne ABC. Mr Valutich wanted to know if the undertaking he had given at the time of issue of the tape to him, by the then ASIB chief, not to further release the tape, still stood. I advised him I considered it did, as I was aware of the grounds on which it was given, and that I could see no reason for the situation to change.

He seemed to accept that advice & I gathered from his tone he will honor the earlier commitment.

He also asked if a copy of the draft Accident Summary Report had been passed to his solicitor, a Mr Demarchi. I undertook to check this.

I advised Mr Valutich no copy of the AASR had been passed, but as it was a public document his copy could be photographed & pass to any interested parties.

J. Henderson  
AMSC 24/10/88





26/10/83 09 BHO



BASI

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including "no other than the number 12" and "no other than the number 12".

THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY  
FOR AIR AND SPACE  
(1983)

Handwritten signature.

THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY  
FOR AIR AND SPACE  
1983

THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY  
FOR AIR AND SPACE  
1983

THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY  
FOR AIR AND SPACE  
1983



Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "no other than the number 12" and "no other than the number 12".



125

V116/783/1047

DR I.S.F. JONES  
R.A.N. RESEARCH LABORATORY  
P.O. BOX 706  
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

- 6 JUL 1983

AS  
BASC.  
dm

DRIFT OF MARINE WRECKAGE

Recently a piece of an aircraft was found washed ashore on the west coast of Flinders Island (Tas). It was found on the beach at Parry's Bay, opposite the northern end of Flinders Island Aerodrome. The date of finding was 15 May 1983, and there is reason to believe the piece had not been on the beach more than a few days.

The part has been identified as having come from a Cessna 182 aircraft between a certain range of serial numbers. The part is an engine cowl flap, for the control of airflow over the engine. It is 300mm long by 210mm wide, and 40mm at its deepest point. It had two side panels when first found. The piece was once white (acrylic paint), and is made of aluminium composition, now greatly eroded. The operating bolt, of steel, while heavily corroded, appears to have failed on impact or in flight (i.e. not by corrosion).

A Cessna 182 aircraft on a flight from Moorabbin to King Island last reported position at Cape Otway, Victoria, at 1900 hours EST on 21 October 1978. The serial number of this aircraft falls within the range of serial numbers applicable to the part found.

From previous knowledge of aircraft parts "walking" across the floor of tidal lakes and rivers, it is wondered if such a piece as described could travel from an area between Cape Otway and the northern tip of King Island, or from a position near the described area, under the influence of ocean currents.

While it is not unknown for the cowl flap to separate from the aircraft in flight, to our knowledge there have been no recent cases in the Victoria/Tasmania area, and no wreckage of aircraft have been dumped at sea to our knowledge, nor are other Cessna aircraft missing in the waters of Bass Strait.

Any information you could pass concerning the likelihood of this particular item being able to "travel", over a period of close to 5 years, would be a step toward solving the mystery of the disappearance of this aircraft and its sole occupant, and aid to its location.

Please do not hesitate to call to discuss the matter. Attached please find a map showing the area of finding and two photographs of the item.

  
J. G. SANDERCOCK  
SUPERINTENDENT





125-1

FURNEAUX

BABEL IS  
Trig. No. 339 & 645

60

FLINDERS

ISLAND

Trig. No. 838

BAY

Whitemark

PARRYS BAY

Ranga

Lady Barron

ADELAIDE IS.

GREAT DOG IS

VANSITTAR  
Trig. No. 353

FRANKLIN

ANDERSON ISLANDS

DEEP BAY

BARREN

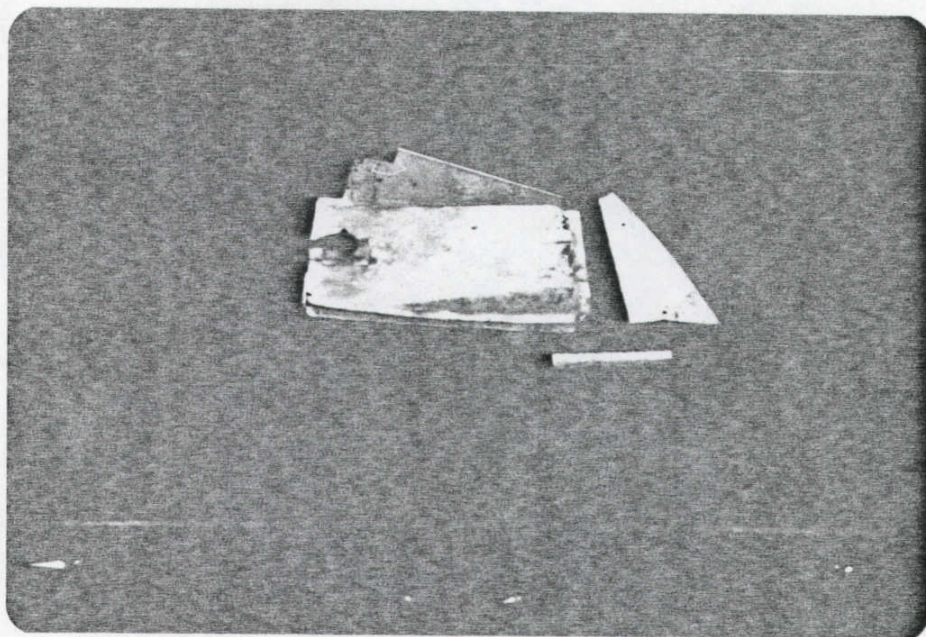
60



125.2

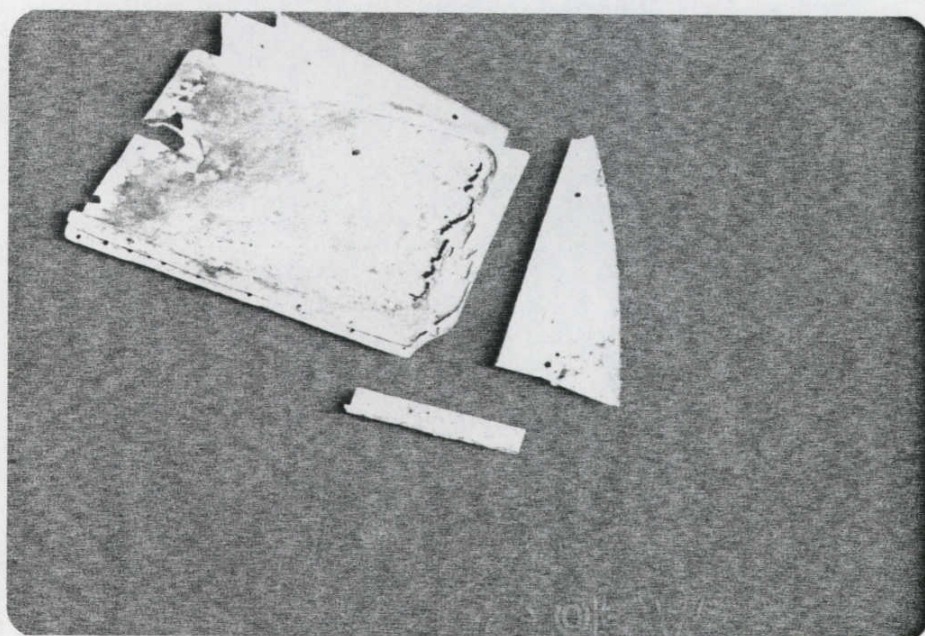
BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION REPORT

REFERENCE / /



Caption (above):

Caption (below):







MINUTE

124

DEPT. of AVIATION  
FLINDERS ISLAND  
16-5-83

MR. J. SANDERCOCK  
ASSU.

ENCLOSED IS WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE  
PART off C182, FOUND ON SUNDAY  
16 MAY 1983 BY ROBERT WITHERS +  
MYSELF ON BEACH ON FLINDERS ISLAND  
NEAR AIRPORT, + AS DISCUSSED WITH  
YOU ON 'PHONE THIS MORNING.

*G. J. Whitfield*  
O.I.C.

Note - confirmed C182, Martie Reesman M.O.A. 1/6/83. Cf interest, but no great help. all  
DSJ. P.T.O. BSW 1/6/83



Mr Thomas achess. 1/6/83

C182 1962- 1972.

Serial no. range <sup>182</sup>/53599 to 182/61425

Acrylic paint (white)

a/c never has been repainted or stripped

completely repainted with acrylic paint

DST Serial no 58,572 <sup>81</sup>  
1/6/83 1 BIAU

Check  
with  
Do-Cellar  
Pay.  
see F100-1







## Bureau of Air Safety Investigation

Victoria / Tasmania

## MINUTE

Note

27/1/83 -

Mr Guido Valentich telephoned re article 11/1/83

- advised him I had cancelled meeting with  
Lanson on this day, because of media interest.V. advised he tried to contact Lanson 27/1  
but phone not answering.V. insists it to be kept secret that he has  
several photos of OSS (in part) & that I  
am the only two persons he knows who are aware of  
this.Advised him I would await  
"calming down" period before  
further contact with LansonJ. Anderson  
-  
14880



# Bureau of Air Safety Investigation

Victoria/Tasmania

108 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, Victoria  
G.P.O. Box 1733P  
Melbourne, 3001  
Telephone 667 2365  
662 2455  
Telex 30260

In reply quote:

Re folio 120. and each day to 14/1  
- not answering on 14/1  
Telephoned Mr Guido Valutich at his  
Place of work. - On holidays until 27/1/83  
(X 3181523)  
Telephoned him at home 0910-1000  
hours 11/1/83 - phone not answered.  
Query was whether Lamer had instigated to  
see report, or whether he had, and if anything  
further was known of the "goings on".

Mr. McWilliams PRO will endeavour to  
ascertain re the above point from the Chief  
of Staff at the Sen in a visit he intends  
making there today.

Note 12/1/83. Bridge followed up a Herald article  
24/1/83 about Lamer - trying to  
get "photos" to his "story".

Sandhu  
14580



# Bureau of Air Safety Investigation

~~Victoria/Tasmania~~

108 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, Victoria  
G.P.O. Box 1733P  
Melbourne, 3001  
Telephone 667 2365  
662 2455  
Telex 30260

In reply quote:

Reference folio 119.

See also F120. The article appeared on the morning of the day of the appointment with Mr Lonsdale.

I telephoned Lonsdale and advised him that in view of the publicity at this time, and unknown follow-up action by TV or press, that our discussions would not be appropriate "in the glare of publicity".

He accepted an invitation to attend my office for discussions where we would not be disturbed, next time he was in town. with a prior telephone call to advise.

J. J. Sandcock  
AS50

11/1/83



## Axe girl report 'wrong'

CANBERRA — Reports of an Australian woman found hacked to death in the South Indian coastal resort of Goa are wrong, a Foreign Affairs Department spokesman says.

The spokesman said yesterday the woman, whose name was given as Rouden Pillian, carried an Armenian passport.

He said Australian consular officials in Bombay had spoken to police in Goa who had confirmed the woman was not Australian.

The woman, reported to have been a yoga teacher, was found dead at the hippy commune in the north of the former Portuguese enclave.

Her dismembered body was found with those of a Frenchman and an Indian.

A report out of New Delhi said police were wanting to interview a French national about the deaths.



MR VALENTICH

## Cain backs MP on dam

THE Premier, Mr. Cain, yesterday backed the Victorian Labor MLA who was arrested at the Franklin River blockade at the weekend.

He said Mr David Gray was expressing the views of "a very large number of Australians of all political persuasions."

Mr Gray, 26, (Labor, Sydnal), is on bail and is expected to appear in court today.

Mr Cain said politicians had to decide the extent to which they sought to express their views by direct action and the extent

## 'UFO plane photos' upset father

By JOHN BEVERIDGE

single-engine Cessna in Bass Strait. A radio message from the man soon before he disappeared mentioned strange metallic objects hovering and following him. It sparked an as-yet-unsolved UFO mystery.

Mr Valentich said yesterday: "It is disappointing that these people try to sell such things when they haven't got the dignity or the courtesy to come along and show them to me."

"It indicates they are so cold-hearted that they don't care about people's feelings."

Mr Ron Cameron, an independent film producer who intends to salvage

the plane and make a documentary on the mystery, confirmed that two men — both divers — had offered to sell him the photos and the plane's position.

He said they wanted "a large sum" for the photos, which had yet to be authenticated.

Mr Cameron said the photos were clear and showed an empty cockpit.

"The plane was a little bit twisted, but it's still in one piece," he said. "Once we get a line down to it we will be able to bring it to the surface in half a day."

Mr Cameron, like the Valentich family, believes a UFO was involved in Frederick Valentich's disappearance.

## Winning a fabulous instant prize is a snap.

It's the Kodak Double Chance Summer Sweepstakes. Simply insist your snaps are processed by Kodak Labs. With your prints will be a sealed ticket with 2 chances to win one of over 7,000 instant and major prizes.

Details are on your Kodak Double Chance Summer Sweepstakes tickets. Closes 5/3/83.

See Reader and Buyer Terms Board Terms 82/83, issued 8/11/82. N.S.W. Permit No. 1088/1991 issued under the Lotteries and Art Union.

10-69-838

# \$491 THE LOT!

## BUY DIRECT FROM FACTORY OUTLETS

## Camping toll 'out'

SUMMER visitors to the Mornington Peninsula will not pay a toll to the local council, the acting Local Government Minister, Mr Roper, has said.



**BEACH BABY QUEST**

Present coupon today at

**BARWON HEADS**

**PRIZE LIST**  
GRAND WINNER: \$2000 in prizes consisting of \$300 cash and \$1700 worth of Steeplechase Nursery Furniture.  
5 WEEKLY WINNERS — EACH: \$120 value, consisting of...



119

# Bureau of Air Safety Investigation

~~Victoria/Tasmania~~

108 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne, Victoria  
G.P.O. Box 1733P  
Melbourne, 3001  
Telephone 667 2365  
662 2455  
Telex 30260

In reply quote:

Note of action

(telephone)  
Introduced myself to Mr. Ronald Lanson  
- re/pt's 113 & 114. mentioning telephone call from  
Mr. Guido Valentich a article in Herald,  
suggesting we meet to discuss the matter  
of the purported raising of aircraft. Details  
stuffed at the point.

Agreed time / date was 1100 on Tue 11/1/83  
at his address.

gal. Sandroch  
14550

7 / 1 / 83



## BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION

## MINUTE

118

Note.

Bill Lavanagh / Engineers Laboratories  
Wentley Sydney advised that the "machine"  
(UH-DSI) had not been abandoned, &  
was not being considered for abandonment &  
the owner on instructions. I advised I  
would keep him advised of any info with.  
Mr. Laneau

J. Sandrock

14550

24/12/82

See folios. 117; 116 to 115..



## BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION

## MINUTE

117.

State.

see also 118.

Fellows folio 114.

Mr. S. Valerich telephoned to advise that Mr. Lanson had called him last night to advise that he had seen some photos (3) of OSS, and that he had been asked \$10,000 for the photographs.

Apparently he had declined <sup>initially</sup> but in making an approach to the "anonymous people" they had not shown up at the proposed meeting.

Mr. S. V. advised he had a lead on an original photograph of the aircraft OST taken from a Doctor who once flew to Alaska.

Mr. S. was upset by the event, as James approached. I advised him we had adapted a want to see approach, on 1st of January, 1948.

17/12/48

DSS &amp; Hendrick



A 554

Bill Kelly rang to make general inquiries reference the Valentich report, i.e. Herald article, etc. He indicated a coroners representative would want to be present at the time the wreck is raised.

I told Bill you intended contesting the salvage person on our requirements, i.e. Wreckage in Secretary's custody until released. Whether you would be making verbal or written contest, or both, not yet decided.

Possibility discussed that we and coroners court might work in with salvage person. This would be on basis that if it was identified as VH-DST, both would be there when wreckage raised. Also told Bill it was quite possible body thrown out of A/C on water impact.

Bill was not pressing for immediate answers. I told him you would let him know in the next few days just what action you planned.

16/12/82

Col Goughy  
ASIG

N.B. Herald article suggests salvage early in new year.



See F114

Herald 15/12/82 115



Frederick Valentich  
vanished.



FREDERICK VALENTICH's father, Guido... so far, a fruitless search of Bass Strait for his son.

# Film man: I'll find riddle plane

By BILL HITCHINGS

A group of Melbourne businessmen say they are only weeks away from finding the wreckage of the mysterious Valentich plane.

They say it is among four light planes lying in a boomerang pattern on the ocean bed just off Cape Otway.

"Remarkably, they are all within a relatively short distance of each other," the group's spokesman, Mr. Ron Cameron, said today.

"A strong swimmer could swim over the spots where all four of them are sunk."

Mr Cameron, an independent film producer, of Springvale, and the others plan a salvage operation early next year.

The raising of the planes — particularly the one they believe belonged to pilot Frederick Valentich — will form part of a documentary film.

A Japanese television company is interested in financing at least part of the operation and the film.

"It will be costly, but we are convinced it will be worthwhile and very revealing," Mr Cameron said.

He said the other members of the group wanted to remain anonymous for the time being.

And, he said, he would not reveal the exact whereabouts of the wrecks until the salvage operation was underway. "We believe what is there is extremely valuable," he said.

## MONEY

"We have to raise money for the job, and we don't want anyone else getting to it before us."

Mr Cameron said the Department of Transport had been told of their plans.

Discussions also had been held with Frederick Valentich's father, Guido.

Mr Valentich has travelled from his Avondale Heights home to Cape Otway every year since his 20-year-old son disappeared on October 21, 1978.

Mr Valentich and his family believe Frederick was attacked and captured by alien beings in a UFO.

Between 7.06 p.m. and 7.12 p.m. young Frederick Valentich sparked one of

## Melbourne misses water target

Melbourne has missed its target for water consumption.

A Board of Works spokesman said today that Melbourne used 1126 megalitres yesterday — 26 above the target.

The Board booked 143 water cheats.

This brings the total number of people being investigated for alleged breaches of restrictions to 1404.

A Board spokesman said people were still being caught for using hoses outside the permitted hours and some were being nabbed for hosing buildings, driveways and footpaths during permitted hours.

Under the restrictions introduced on December 1 private gardens may be watered only with a hand-held hose between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Buckets and watering cans may be used any time.

Commercial premises are allowed to use hand held hoses from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Melbourne had early morning thunderstorms and scattered showers today but the Board spokesman said this was unlikely to make any difference.

## Sinclair 'too ill for Thai court'

William Charles Sinclair, 69, was "too old and too sick" to return to Thailand and to hear the outcome of an appeal against him, a relative said today.

Thailand's Supreme Court last night issued a warrant for the arrest of Sinclair after he failed to appear before the court to face the appeal decision.

The court also ordered that his \$42,000 bail be forfeited.

Sinclair, a former Sydney businessman, was arrested in Bangkok in October, 1978 with two fellow Australians, Paul Hayward and Warren Bellows, and charged with being in possession of

They were convicted in 1981. Sinclair and Bellows were sentenced to years' jail and Hayward cars.

Sinclair, who also protested his innocence, was later found not guilty on appeal and released from the Thai prison in May.

The prosecution appealed. A relative said Mr Sinclair's condition was

The guy's 70, next day, he's had a heart attack and a stroke. All in the past five years, he's deaf and he's just four years in a Thai prison," he said.

## FAILED

After Mr Sinclair failed to appear at the appeal hearing, the judge said a

## Rainiers' 'prison life'



Princess Stephanie

MONTE CARLO, Tues., AAP. — Princess Grace's family ended official mourning today "like prisoners" in their castle, hounded by photographers.

"They can't even go for a walk," spokeswoman Nadia Lacoste said angrily.

There are paparazzi after them everywhere. What is happening to

no physical complications, Mrs Lacoste said. By January she is expected to be able to remove a neck brace she has worn since the accident.

Mrs Lacoste said the princess was feeling fine

## Hit-man guilty



FREDERICK VALENTICH's father, Guido... so far, a fruitless search of Bass Strait for his son.

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they were convicted in 1981. Sinclair and his wife were sentenced to two years' jail and Hayward to 18 months.

Sinclair, who also protested his innocence, was later found not guilty on appeal and released from the Thai prison in May.

The prosecution appealed the decision. A relative said Mr. Sinclair's condition was "very bad." The 70-year-old man, who had a heart attack and a stroke all in the past five years, is deaf and he's just four years in a Thai prison, he said.

### FAILED

After Mr. Sinclair failed to appear at the appeal, the judge said a warrant would be sent to the Thai Embassy in Perth for appropriate action to be taken in Australia.

The judge said he was ruling the arrest because Sinclair "has the reputation of fleeing" from justice.

The relative, who said today to be named, said Sinclair was not told about the threat of extradition.

Legal procedures seem to rule out ever being extradited, he said.

Meanwhile a book written by Sinclair, "Kingdom of Illusions," was released.

He claims he was a victim of corrupt officials and overbearing Australian law enforcement officers on the island. He was certain was "determined" witch-

claims he was in a "web of lies and corruption, with no escape."

## STED

in the British-ruled side and on the British mainland.

On both sides of the strait, the Irish Republic police hunted a man they believe is masquerading as an INLA operative.

Reports and ports were watched in a bid to find any new bombing assassination camps in British cities.

Cameron, said today.

"A strong swimmer could swim over the spots where all four of them are sunk."

Mr. Cameron, an independent film producer, of Springvale, and the others plan a salvage operation early next year.

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Mr. Valentich has travelled from his Avondale Heights home, to Cape Otway every year since his 20-year-old son disappeared on October 21, 1978.

Mr. Valentich and his family believe Frederick was attacked and captured by alien beings in a UFO.

Between 7.06 p.m. and 7.12 p.m. young Frederick Valentich sparked one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries with a short radio message just before he vanished.

He told of strange metallic objects hovering over him, orbiting and following him.

Outside official Government investigators, Mr. Valentich is the only person to have been allowed to listen to that message.

### PILOT

The Department of Transport and NASA officials have investigated the disappearance.

The report says the young pilot's blue and white single-engine Cessna crashed and sank somewhere in Bass Strait.

Mr. Cameron said detailed charts were now being drawn up by a local seaman who said he had seen the planes.

The seaman would navigate the boat to be used for the salvage operation.

"We don't know yet exactly how deep the planes are in the water, but I understand we will have to use a diving bell," Mr. Cameron said.

He said he also had seen photographs said to have been taken of the planes.

They were now in America.

One, according to the man said to have taken them, had the same markings and color of the Valentich Cessna.

The doors were said to be closed, and no body could be seen inside the cockpit.

## misses water target

Melbourne has missed its target for water consumption.

A Board of Works spokesman said today that Melbourne used 1126 megalitres yesterday — 26 above the target.

The Board booked 143 water chests. This brings the total number of people being investigated for alleged breaches of restrictions to 1404.

A Board spokesman said people were still being caught for using hoses outside the permitted hours and some were being nabbed for hosing buildings, driveways and footpaths during permitted hours.

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Melbourne had early morning thunderstorms and scattered showers today but the Board spokesman said this was unlikely to make any difference.

## Hit-man guilty of judge murder

From BOB MacDONALD

NEW YORK, Wed. — Convicted hit-man Charles Harrelson was found guilty today of the murder of "Maximum John."

"Maximum John" was Texan Judge John Wood, who earned the nickname for his record of tough sentences in drug cases.

A jury agreed that Harrelson took \$250,000 to shoot the judge for gambler Jimmy Chagra, who was facing trial before Judge Wood on drug charges.

Harrelson, 44, who allegedly boasted that he "never killed a person who was undeserving of it," showed no emotion at the verdict which could carry two life sentences.

He plans to appeal and told reporters: "This is just a necessary step in the progression of things."

### WIFE

His wife, Jo Ann Starr, 41, and Chagra's wife, Elizabeth, 28, were found guilty of conspiracy.

Chagra, 39, already serving 30 years for drug offences faces a separate trial for the murder.

His brother, Joseph, 39, a lawyer who mostly represented defendants in big drug cases, had previously pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy and testified for the Government against Harrelson.

The shooting of Judge Wood on May 29, 1979, was the first murder of a

shopping at



# BUREAU OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION

MELBOURNE FIELD OFFICE

## MINUTE

114

V116/823/1047

### NOTE FOR FILE

Mr Guido Valentich (GMH, Tel. 647 2343) telephoned 0900 15/12/82 to advise that a Mr Ronald Cameron a freelance cameramen, of 7 Roulston Court, Noble Park telephone 795 0538, had spoken to him.

2 The subject was the identification and raising of C182 VH-DSJ, in which Mr Valentich's son went missing in October 1978. The cameraman claimed to Mr Valentich "they" had pinpointed three aircraft wrecks "in the area" - presumably between Cape Otway and King Island - about 5 miles apart. "They" intended to identify which aircraft was DSJ and to raise it, having obtained a salvage licence, as all the aircraft were a "certain distance away from the coast".

3 Apparently a story will appear in the Herald tonight or tomorrow night containing speculation that the aircraft had \$300,000 on board. Possibly the idea of the article was to obtain sponsorship for the lifting project.

4 Mr Valentich was concerned that the stories might be too distorted and cause him concern.

5 He claimed he wanted to know the true cause of the accident.

6 I advised Mr Valentich I would "think" on the matter and call him in a day or so. - Done PM hours 18/12/82.

7 Central Office, (Woodward) and R.D. advised of reports.

*J. C. Sandercok*  
J. C. SANDERCOCK  
ASSU  
15.12.82



JCS:JDV  
12/5/82

112

V116/783/1047

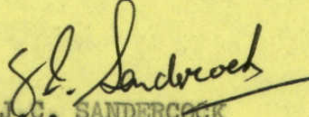
<b>DESPATCHED</b>
DATE DESPATCHED 1 4 MAY 1982
PROCEDURE <i>Om</i>

Dear Sir,

Attached please find an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report covering the disappearance of Cessna 182 L aircraft VH-DSJ, which was being operated by your company on the night of the disappearance.

As per normal procedure, a copy of the report has been given to the owner of the aircraft, the Coroner, and to the next of kin of the pilot.

Yours faithfully,

  
J.C. SANDERCOCK  
for DIRECTOR

THE MANAGER  
SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES  
NORTHERN AVENUE  
MOORABBIN AIRPORT VIC 3192





## MINUTE

113

### File Note

Discussed release of A AIR (Valentel) with  
A/MS451 (Woodward) on a need to know basis  
Heagreed - no further release to be made by PRO  
Vic/Tas to anybody

14/5/82

gll  
AS30



111

V116/783/1047

<b>DESPATCHED</b>
DATE DESPATCHED 14 MAY 1982
PROCEDURE DM

Dear Sir,

Please find attached an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report covering the disappearance of Cessna 182 L aircraft VH-DSJ, when piloted by Mr Frederick Valentich, on the night of 21 October 1976.

As per normal procedure, a copy of the report has been given to the aircraft owner, and operator, and to the father of the missing pilot.

Yours faithfully,

*J.C. Sandercok*  
J.C. SANDERCOCK  
for DIRECTOR

THE CORONER  
CORONER'S COURT  
FLINDERS LANE EXTENSION  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

*Checked receipt. - Yes.  
30/11/82.  
[Signature]*



110.

V116/783/1047

RECEIVED
DATE DESPATCHED 14 MAY 1982
PROCEDURE OM

Dear Dr Day,

Please find attached an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report, touching on the disappearance of Cessna 182 L aircraft VH-DSJ, of which you were the registered owner at the time of the disappearance.

Copies of the report are being made available to the operator, the Coroner, and the father of the pilot, as per normal procedure.

Yours faithfully,

*J. C. Sandercock*  
J. C. SANDERCOCK  
for DIRECTOR

DR C. DAY  
33 RESERVE ROAD  
BEAUMARIS VIC 3193



109

V116/783/1047

Delivered by hand  
to Mrs Valentich  
12/5/82

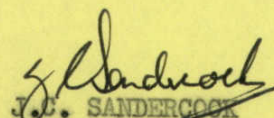
A. Stewart.  
AdSC.

Dear Mr Valentich,

Please find attached an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report, covering the disappearance of Cessna 182 L aircraft, VH-DSJ which your son was piloting at the time.

Copies of the report are being made available to the operator, the owner of the aircraft, and to the Coroner, as per normal procedure.

Yours faithfully,

  
J.C. SANDERCOCK  
for DIRECTOR

MR G. VALENTICH  
18 ARVERN AVENUE  
AVONDALE HEIGHTS VIC 3034





# MINUTE

1067  
-ASSU  
108

RECEIVED
11 MAY 1982
ASIB V/T

10 MAY 1982

Ref M116/783/1047

Director, Vic-Tas Region

## ACCIDENT INVOLVING MISSING AIRCRAFT VH-DSJ ON 21 OCTOBER 1978

Arising from the investigation of this occurrence, an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report has been produced and approved for release. Copies of the Summary Report are attached and should be provided to the aircraft owner, the operator, the father of the missing pilot and the Coroner.

*John Hopkins*

(J.C. Hopkins)  
for Assistant Secretary  
(Air Safety Investigation)

ASCA

File top sheet please.

copies of report in envelope at front of file.

Pass to me please

*JH*  
ASSU

11/5/82

ASSU

10 copies in front envelope as requested.

D.O.T. 1983

RE ASCA 12/5





COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Reference No.

V116/783/1047

Publication of this report is authorised by the Secretary under the provisions of Air Navigation Regulations 283 (1)

## 1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Not known	Height a.m.s.l. -	Date 21.10.78	Time (Local) Not known	Zone EST
-----------	----------------------	------------------	---------------------------	-------------

## 2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Cessna 182L	Registration VH-DSJ	Certificate of Airworthiness Valid from 14 February 1968
Certificate of Registration issued to Cephus Day, 33 Reserve Road, Beaumaris, Victoria	Operator SAS Southern Air Services, Northern Avenue, Moorabbin Airport, Victoria	Degree of damage to aircraft Not known Other property damaged -
Defects discovered -		

## 3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Moorabbin	Time of departure 1819 hours	Next point of intended landing King Island	Purpose of flight Travel	Class of operation Private
---	---------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	-------------------------------

## 4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Frederick VALENTICH	Pilot	20	Private	Not known	150 (Approx.)	Presumed Fatal

## 5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS

The pilot obtained a Class Four instrument rating on 11 May 1978 and he was therefore authorised to operate at night in visual meteorological conditions (VMC). On the afternoon of 21 October 1978 he attended the Moorabbin Briefing Office, obtained a meteorological briefing and, at 1723 hours, submitted a flight plan for a night VMC flight from Moorabbin to King Island and return. The cruising altitude nominated in the flight plan was below 5000 feet, with estimated time intervals of 41 minutes to Cape Otway and 28 minutes from Cape Otway to King Island. The total fuel endurance was shown as 300 minutes. The pilot made no arrangements for aerodrome lighting to be illuminated for his arrival at King Island. He advised the briefing officer and the operator's representative that he was uplifting friends at King Island and took four life jackets in the aircraft with him.

The aircraft was refuelled to capacity at 1810 hours and departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours. After departure the pilot established two-way radio communications with Melbourne Flight Service Unit (FSU).

The pilot reported Cape Otway at 1900 hours and the next transmission received from the aircraft was at 1906:14 hours. The following communications between the aircraft and Melbourne FSU were recorded from this time: (Note: The word/words in brackets are open to other interpretations.)

TIME	FROM	TEXT
1906:14	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE this is DELTA SIERRA JULIET is there any known traffic below five thousand
:23	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET no known traffic
:26	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I am seems (to) be a large aircraft below five thousand



## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS (cont'd)

105B

TIME	FROM	TEXT
:46	FSU	D D DELTA SIERRA JULIET what type of aircraft is it
:50	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I cannot affirm it is four bright it seems to me like landing lights
1907:04	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:32	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE this (is) DELTA SIERRA JULIET the aircraft has just passed over over me at least a thousand feet above
:43	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger and it it is a large aircraft confirm
:47	VH-DSJ	er unknown due to the speed it's travelling is there any airforce aircraft in the vicinity
:57	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET no known aircraft in the vicinity
1908:18	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE it's approaching now from due east towards me
:28	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:42		// open microphone for two seconds //
:49	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET it seems to me that he's playing some sort of game he's flying over me two three times at a time at speeds I could not identify
1909:02	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger what is your actual level
:06	VH-DSJ	my level is four and a half thousand four five zero zero
:11	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET and confirm you cannot identify the aircraft
:14	VH-DSJ	affirmative
:18	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger standby
:28	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET it's not an aircraft it is // open microphone for two seconds //
:46	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE can you describe the er aircraft
1909:52	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET as it's flying past it's a long shape // open microphone for three seconds // (cannot) identify more than (that it has such speed) // open microphone for 3 seconds // before me right now Melbourne
1910:07	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger and how large would the er object be
:20	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE it seems like it's stationary what I'm doing right now is orbiting and the thing is just orbiting on top of me also it's got a green light and sort of metallic (like) it's all shiny (on) the outside
:43	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET



## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS (cont'd)

108C

TIME	FROM	TEXT
:48	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET // open microphone for 5 seconds // it's just vanished
:57	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
1911:03	VH-DSJ	MELBOURNE would you know what kind of aircraft I've got is it (a type) military aircraft
:08	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET confirm the er aircraft just vanished
:14	VH-DSJ	SAY AGAIN
:17	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET is the aircraft still with you
:23	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET (it's ah nor) // open microphone 2 seconds // (now) approaching from the southwest
:37	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:52	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET the engine is is rough idling I've got it set at twenty three twenty four and the thing is (coughing)
1912:04	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET roger what are your intentions
:09	VH-DSJ	my intentions are ah to go to King Island ah Melbourne that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again // two seconds open microphone // it is hovering and it's not an aircraft
:22	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:28	VH-DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE // 17 seconds open microphone //
:49	FSU	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE

There is no record of any further transmissions from the aircraft.

The weather in the Cape Otway area was clear with a trace of stratocumulus cloud at 5000 to 7000 feet, scattered cirrus cloud at 30000 feet, excellent visibility and light winds. The end of daylight at Cape Otway was at 1918 hours.

The Alert Phase of SAR procedures was declared at 1912 hours and, at 1933 hours when the aircraft did not arrive at King Island, the Distress Phase was declared and search action was commenced. An intensive air, sea and land search was continued until 25 October 1978, but no trace of the aircraft was found.

## 7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The reason for the disappearance of the aircraft has not been determined.

Approved for  
publication

*A. R. Woodward*

(A. R. Woodward)  
Delegate of the Secretary

Date

27.4.1982





## MINUTE PAPER

107.

Note

Following the sent of folio 106 I discussed the matter of a coroner's inquest with Sgt Bill Kelly of the coroner's court.

## 2. Headvised:

- He believed the Police at Ofallo Bay would have made out a missing person report
- The coroner is not interested in holding an inquest w/o a body
- The coroner has not received a request for an inquest without a body, which can be done Section 10
- He would not hold an inquest unless the Departmental report indicated some substantial fact indicating a crash and the body was probably dead.
- a missing person situation existed at this time.
- The coroner would appreciate a report from DOT, for their holding, in the event the Valerich might ask for an inquest.

3. Passed the above advice to Mr Woodward A/AS(1)

J. Woodward  
ASSU

18/3/82





# MINUTE

106

Note

On 18/3/82 I had a telephone call from Mr. Guid Valentich, father of pilot Frederick, pilot of DSS: Cape Gateway - King Island 21-10-78. He had called the previous afternoon when I was in conference.

He advised he was appearing on the Don Lane show tonight and he wanted to check with DOT, "to say the right thing", and that he had been advised (by unnamed persons) that DOT should have finished the investigation by now.

I advised him that "in the very near future - possibly a week or two, the Department hoped to release a report". He had some difficulty understanding ~~what~~ to whom the report would be released so I advised him of DOT policy - also names, covers, relatives of deceased etc. He understood this and that the report would not appear in the Christian Safety Digest.

I touched on the tape recording and the personal vision which the tape had been made available to him, and that it was a departure from the normal procedure. I suggested that on that basis, it was not available for public hearing. He stated he understood this and that it would not be made available to the public.

I asked had his son ever been reported as a missing person. He said he believed he had been reported by the Police who come to see him after the report of the aircraft not arriving, but he was not sure. He had no paperwork this point.

Taking the conversation a little further I raised the matter of losses inquiry. Had it ever been discussed. He advised it had not and it was not in his interest to do so, as he preferred to wait a little longer, rather than have his son declared dead. He stressed his discussion with a bank holding his sons savings account.

I also advised him that with regard to the finding of the aircraft or any part of it, the investigation would be reopened and an attempt made to determine the cause, based on any new available evidence.



105

V116/783/1047

MR. J. WEST PH.D  
93 WARRY STREET  
FORT VALLEY QLD. 4006

RECEIVED
DATE RECEIVED
3 - FEB 1982
PROCEDURE O/m

Dear Mr. West,

I refer to your letter of 25 December 1981 concerning the accident to Cessna 182 aircraft VH-DSJ, on 21 October 1978.

It is confirmed that this Department is conducting an investigation into the accident under the provisions of the Air Navigation Regulations. The fundamental objective of our accident investigation activity is the prevention of accidents in the future. It is not the purpose of this activity to determine or apportion blame or liability, nor are the investigations conducted with a view to the needs of potential litigants or other parties having interests outside the accident prevention objective. It is considered that the interests of parties concerned with matters other than accident prevention can be adequately served by their normal ability to obtain access to witnesses and by consultation with expert opinion available outside the Department.

Nevertheless, it is our practice, at the conclusion of the investigation of a significant accident or where an investigation brings to light information considered to have safety education value, to produce an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report and make copies available to relevant parties. The decision as to whether or not a summary report will be produced cannot be made until the investigation is completed but, at this stage, the known circumstances of the accident to VH-DSJ suggest that production of such a report, and release of copies to parties having direct concern with the accident, is likely.


Because it is necessary to ensure that the technical investigation is in sufficient depth to satisfy the accident prevention objective, and because of the competing demands of subsequent investigations which cannot wait upon completion of work already in hand, it is not unusual for our investigations to be extended over what may appear to be a considerable period of time. The investigation into the accident to VH-DSJ has not yet been completed and, at this stage, it is not possible to estimate a completion date with any degree of certainty.



However, please be advised that it is not Departmental policy to release transcripts of communications between aircraft and ground stations.

Please also note there is no unofficial explanation of what happened to the aircraft. The known facts will be included in the report if the decision is made to release one.

Yours sincerely,

  
J.C. SANDERCOCK  
for DIRECTOR



The Flight Control Officer,  
Tullamarine Airport,  
Victoria.

783/1047 104  
ASSU  
John West Ph.D  
93, Warry St,  
Fort Valley,  
Brisbane.Qld,  
4006.

RECEIVED

-8 JAN 1982

ASIB V/T

25.12.81

(07)52208

Re Frederick Valentich

RECEIVED

-7 JAN 1982

ASIB V/T

Dear Sir,

I am compiling a report on the above named pilot, who as you will be aware disappeared on a routine flight between Melbourne and King Island in Oct 1978.

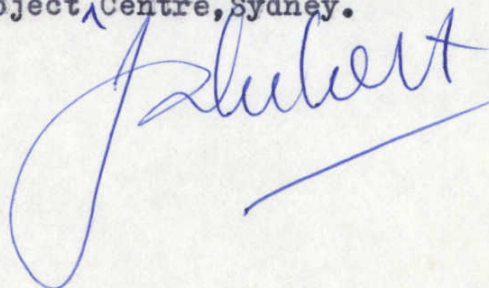
Your co-operation insofar as I would appreciate an official transcript copy of the conversation which occurred during that particular flight, between Melbourne flight control and Valentich.

I would also appreciate the official and perhaps un-official explanation of what did happen to Valentich on that particular flight, as was observed by flight controllers on that evening in question.

In anticipation of your co-operation I am respectfully,

Yours=Faithfully,

John West, Ex-Director Unidentified Flying  
Object <sup>INVESTIGATION</sup> Centre, Sydney.





## AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATION MINUTE

103

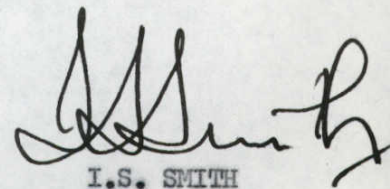
To AS(SI)	From D., V.T.R.	Regional reference V116/783/1047	Registry use only
Subject MISSING AIRCRAFT : CESSNA 182L, VH-DSJ, 21 OCTOBER 1978			Date of despatch 20 OCT 1981

Attached is the report on the investigation of this occurrence

2. Matters arising - The pilot's unusual description of events surrounding his flight was eagerly accepted by the local news media and inaccurate and grossly amplified reports were distributed by news outlets around the world. His immediate family were subjected to unhealthy pressures from the media and unscrupulous charlatans and it is most unlikely that the true state of the pilots environment and personal problems will ever be known.

3. The Region does not intend to take any further action in this matter unless positive factual evidence is obtained.

19 / 10 / 1981

  
I.S. SMITH  
for Director

NOTE: Matters arising should include Regional comments on at least the following - (a) action taken or intended by the Regional Office; (b) recommendations for consideration in Central Office; and (c) matters on which the parties involved have or will be informed.





Commonwealth of Australia  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

# AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Reference No. **1**  
**V116/783/1047**

## 1. LOCATION OF ACCIDENT

Not known	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) N/A	Date 21.10.78	Time (Local) 1912	Zone ESuT
-----------	-----------------------------	------------------	----------------------	--------------

## 2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model <b>Cessna 182L</b>	Registration <b>VH-DSJ</b>	Certificate of Airworthiness <b>14 February 1968</b>
Certificate of Registration issued to (name and address) <b>33 Reserve Road, BEAUMARIS. VIC. 3193</b>	Operator (name and address) <b>Southern Air Services, Northern Avenue, Moorabbin Airport, MENTONE.</b>	Degree of damage to aircraft <b>Missing</b>
		Other property damaged <b>Nil</b>
Defects discovered  <b>Aircraft not located.</b>		

## 3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point <b>Moorabbin Airport</b>	Time of departure <b>1819</b>	Next point of intended landing <b>King Island</b>	Purpose of flight <b>Travel</b>	Class of operation <b>Private</b>
--	----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

## 4. THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
<b>Frederick VALENTICH</b>	<b>Pilot</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>In excess of 150</b>	<b>Not Known (missing)</b>

## 5. OTHER PERSONS *(all passengers and persons injured on ground)*

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

## 6. RELEVANT EVENTS

At 1723 hours on 21 October 1978 the pilot of VH-DSJ lodged a flight plan at Moorabbin Briefing Office for a Private Night VMC flight, below 5000 feet, to King Island via Cape Otway and return Moorabbin. Aerodrome lighting at King Island was not requested. The aircraft was refuelled to capacity and departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours. At 1900:29 the pilot reported at Cape Otway to Melbourne Flight Service. At 1906:14 hours the pilot asked Melbourne Flight Service of known traffic. There was none. The pilot then described the manoeuvres of another aircraft or object in and about his immediate vicinity until 1912:28 hours when transmissions from VH-DSJ ceased. No further communications were received from the aircraft. The Distress Phase was declared at 1933 hours when VH-DSJ failed to arrive at King Island and an extensive air, sea and ground search was immediately initiated. The search action was terminated at 1900 hours on 25 October 1978, when all divers' efforts failed to locate any wreckage or information of the whereabouts of the aircraft and occupant.

## 7. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

Not determined - aircraft missing.



# 8. CHARTS, DIAGRAMS, OR SKETCHES

(Indicate appropriate title)

File Page 2

ACCIDENT LOCALITY	FLIGHT PATH	IMPACT MARKS	WRECKAGE DISTRIBUTION	WITNESS LOCATION	RUNWAY OR STRIP DATA	OTHER (Describe)
LEGEND						SCALE NORTH POINT






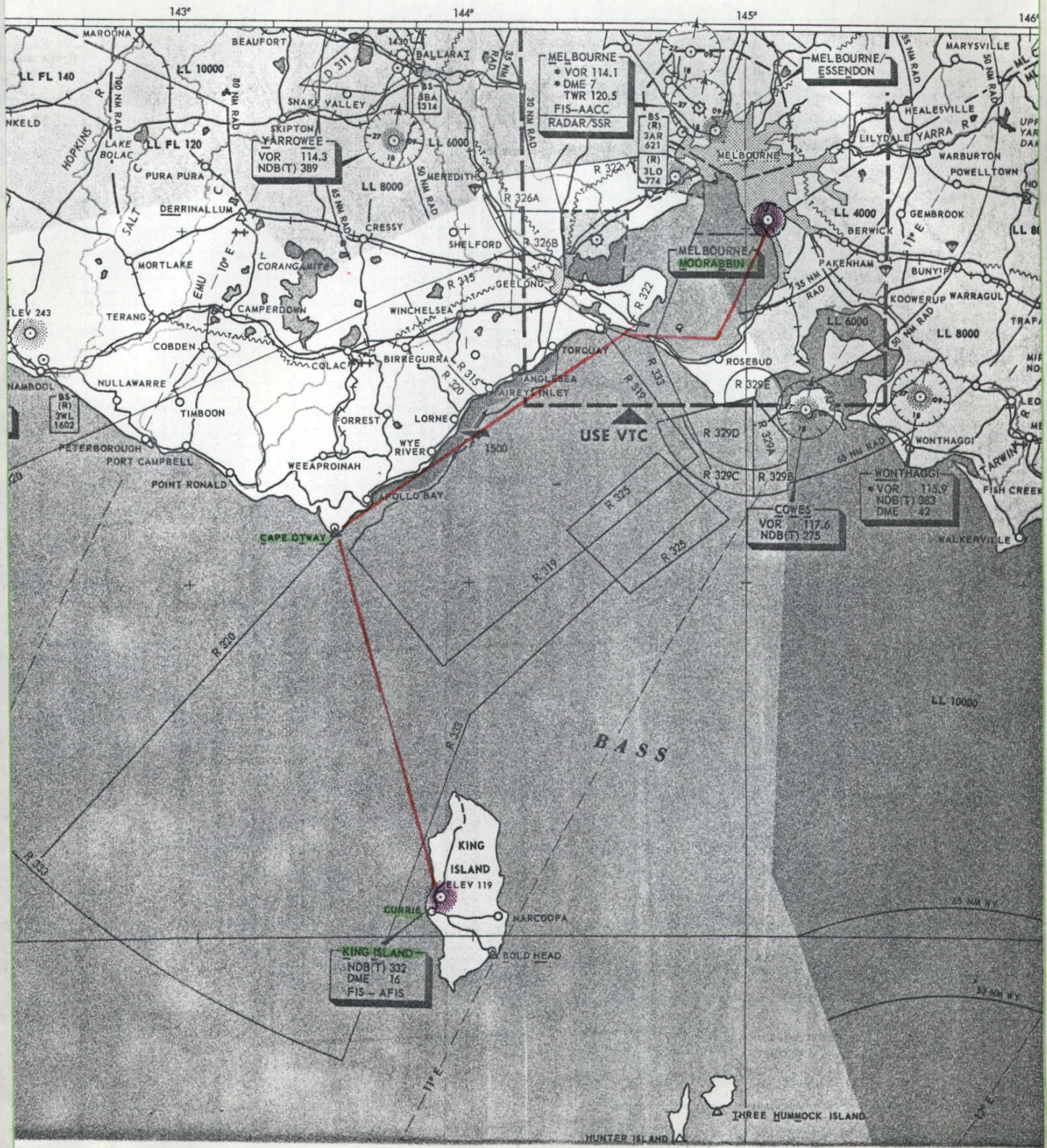
# 8. CHARTS, DIAGRAMS, OR SKETCHES

(Indicate appropriate title)

File \_\_\_\_\_ Page **3**

ACCIDENT LOCALITY	FLIGHT PATH	IMPACT MARKS	WRECKAGE DISTRIBUTION	WITNESS LOCATION	RUNWAY OR STRIP DATA	OTHER (Describe)
LEGEND						SCALE _____ NORTH POINT 

## VISUAL ENROUTE CHART






## 10. AIRCRAFT DATA

File  
V116/783/1047

Page 4

## AIRCRAFT HISTORY

Maint. Release Issued <b>20.10.78</b>	Current Until <b>19.10.79</b>	Was it Valid at time of Accident? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, State reason		
Engine Make and Model <b>Continental O-470R</b>		Propeller/Rotor Make and Model <b>McCauley C/S 2A34C66N</b>			
Defective Component	Operating Time (hrs)			Type of Inspection	Major Defect Report No.
	Total	Since Overhaul	Since Inspection		

AIRCRAFT DAMAGE — List the principal components which were damaged in or as a result of the accident : describe the mode of damage and indicate degree and cause of damage to each component by inserting I (impact) F (fire) or O (other) in appropriate R.H. Column. IF REPAIRABLE, WHAT IS ESTIMATE OF COST? 

Component	Mode of Damage	Destroyed	Substantial	Minor

## COLLISION ACCIDENT (other aircraft details)

Registration	Make and model	Damage to Aircraft
Owner		

## AIRCRAFT CONTROLS AND EQUIPMENT

Landing Gear	Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheels	<input type="checkbox"/> Floats	<input type="checkbox"/> Skids	<input type="checkbox"/> Amphibious	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)	
	Position	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Down	<input type="checkbox"/> Transit	Selector Position	Indicator Position
Wing Flaps		<input type="checkbox"/> Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Down	Amount	Symmetrical <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Selector Position	Indicator Position
Trim Tabs	Rudder	<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Left	<input type="checkbox"/> Right	Amount	Indicator Position
	Elevator	<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Down	Amount	Indicator Position
	Aileron	<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Up (P or S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Down (P or S)	Amount	Indicator Position
Fuel Selector Positions		Port Engine	Centre Engine	Starboard Engine	Recording Tachometer hours		
ANO 20.18 Equipment		Instruments			Electrical		
		<input type="checkbox"/> IFR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Night VMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> IFR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Night VMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> Limited IFR	<input type="checkbox"/> VFR		<input type="checkbox"/> Limited IFR	<input type="checkbox"/> VFR	
Other significant positions or recordings							



## 10. AIRCRAFT DATA (Cont'd)

File  
V116/783/1047

Page

5

## FORWARD FUSELAGE LONGITUDINAL DEFORMATION

NOTE: If fuselage is substantially intact however deformed, select the point on it now furthest forward, describe it and measure the distance along or parallel to the normal longitudinal axis of the aircraft from this point to the front of the pilot's seat when fully forward.

Description of Point (this may also be indicated in photographs at Section 10)

Distance

(mm)

Remarks

## 11. FLIGHT CREW DATA

PILOT-IN-COMMAND (Surname and initials) <b>VALENTICH, F.</b>	Nationality <b>Australian</b>		Licence No. and type <b>145103 PPL</b>		Date licence expires <b>31 January 1979</b>	
	Occupation <b>Shop Assistant</b>		Date of birth <b>9 June 1958</b>		Licence endorsed for this aircraft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
INSTRUMENT RATING	Aeroplane	1st Class	Class 1	Class 3	Class 5	None
	Rotorcraft	2nd Class	Class 2	Class 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown
INSTRUCTOR RATING	A	B	C		None	Unknown
AGRICULTURAL RATING	Class 1	Class 2			None	Unknown
PILOT EXPERIENCE (hours)	Total	Last two years	Last 90 days	SPECIAL EXPERIENCE (enter total hours or unknown against any significant items)		
Fixed Wing	<b>(in excess of 150 hours)</b>		<b>U/K</b>	Agricultural		Instrument
Rotary Wing				Instruction		Night flying
This type of aircraft	<b>U/K</b>	<b>U/K</b>	<b>U/K</b>	Gliding		Simulator
LAST PROFICIENCY CHECK Date <b>8 May 1978</b> Type <b>For issue Class 4 rating.</b>	LICENCE RESTRICTIONS (specify) <b>Nil.</b>			Testing		Command
				Demonstration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant				Was pilot wearing corrective spectacles at time of accident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
CONTROL SEAT OCCUPIED	Front	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rear	Left	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Right
						Unknown
DUAL CONTROLS AVAILABLE	Elevator		Aileron	Rudder	Throttle	Steering
						Brakes
OTHER PILOT (Surname and initials)	Nationality		Licence No. and type		Date licence expires	
	Occupation		Date of birth		Licence endorsed for this aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
INSTRUMENT RATING	Aeroplane	1st Class	Class 1	Class 3	Class 5	None
	Rotorcraft	2nd ATP	Class 2	Class 4		Unknown
INSTRUCTOR RATING	A	B	C		None	Unknown
AGRICULTURAL RATING	Class 1	Class 2			None	Unknown
PILOT EXPERIENCE (hours)	Total	Last two years	Last 90 days	SPECIAL EXPERIENCE (enter total hours or unknown against any significant items)		
Fixed Wing				Agricultural		Instrument
Rotary Wing				Instruction		Night flying
This type of aircraft				Gliding		Simulator
LAST PROFICIENCY CHECK Date Type	LICENCE RESTRICTIONS (specify)			Testing		Command
				Demonstration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Not relevant				Was pilot wearing corrective spectacles at time of accident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
CONTROL SEAT OCCUPIED	Front		Rear	Left		Right
						Unknown
DUAL CONTROLS AVAILABLE	Elevator		Aileron	Rudder	Throttle	Steering
						Brakes



<b>12. FLIGHT DATA</b>	File <b>V116/783/1047</b>	Page <b>6</b>
------------------------	------------------------------	------------------

**FLIGHT PLAN**

<input type="checkbox"/> None	Lodged at <b>Moorabbin</b>	Time (hrs) <b>1723</b>	Was approval required <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Was approval obtained <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
From <b>Moorabbin</b>	To <b>Moorabbin</b>	Via <b>Cape Otway and King Island</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> IFR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGT VMC <input type="checkbox"/> VFR
EET (Mins) <b>147</b>	Endurance (Mins) <b>300</b>	Cons. rate	Height (ft) <b>B050</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NOSAR
SARTIME (hrs) <b>1930</b>	To <b>Melbourne Flight Service</b>	Facility <b>Phone</b>		
Com. Frequencies <b>VHF NARCO COM11A. HF REXMTR-5D</b>			Radio-Nav. <b>ADF ARC 521A</b>	
Emergency equipment (describe) <b>Four life jackets</b>				

**13. METEOROLOGICAL DATA**

<b>METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFING</b> (attach copy of forecast if relevant)				
<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Route forecast	Other (describe)	Source of met. information <b>Moorabbin Briefing Office</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal forecast			
<input type="checkbox"/> By telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area forecast			
<b>METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AT ACCIDENT SITE</b> <b>Accident site not known.</b>				
Cloud amount/type	Base a.m.s.l.	Visibility kilometres <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> Night <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn <input type="checkbox"/> Dusk	Wind velocity	Temperature °C

**14. LOAD DATA**

AIRCRAFT WEIGHT (kg)			AIRCRAFT CENTRE OF GRAVITY		
LIMITS	Take off <b>1270</b>	Landing <b>1270</b>	Datum <b>Front face of firewall (Station 0.0)</b>		
	Weight (kg) <b>775</b>	How established <b>Flt. Manual</b>	LIMITS	Forward	Aft <b>47.4" aft of datum</b>
Aircraft basic weight (includes empty weight, oil and removable equipment)					
Flight crew (No. <b>Pilot</b> )	<b>54.5</b>	<b>Medical 1977</b>	Position at last take off	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Passengers (No. <b>-</b> )			Position at accident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Baggage (Pieces <b>Not known</b> )			AGRICULTURAL HOPPER LOAD		
Freight (Pieces <b>Not known</b> ) or Hopper contents			Contents (describe)		
Fuel (litres) <b>318</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>Flt. Manual</b>	Load at impact (kg) <input type="checkbox"/> Weighed <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated <input type="checkbox"/> Reported <input type="checkbox"/>		
Weight at last take off	<b>1052.1</b>	<b>Estimated</b>			
Fuel/Load deductions			Discharge valve position		
Weight at accident	<b>Not known</b>		Dump effected <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <span style="float: right;">If yes, amount (%)</span>		

**LOADING CONTROL** (describe briefly unsatisfactory features of loading control such as miscalculations, inadequate load security, improperly consigned dangerous goods etc.)

N/A



NARRATIVE (give a concise chronological account of the sequence of events)

At 1723 hours on 21 October 1978, Mr. Frederick Valentich lodged a flight plan at Moorabbin Briefing Office, for a Private Night VMC flight, in VH-DSJ, to King Island via Cape Otway and return to Moorabbin, at altitudes below 5000 feet. ETD Moorabbin was specified as 1745 hours with estimated time intervals of 41 minutes to Cape Otway and 28 minutes to King Island. Fuel endurance was shown at 300 minutes. He discussed the weather forecasts with the Moorabbin Briefing Officer, but he did not make any request for aerodrome lighting to be switched on for his arrival at King Island. It was established that King Island Flight Service Unit had closed, therefore it would be necessary to cancel SAR to Melbourne Flight Service by telephone on arrival. He told the Briefing Officer he was going to King Island to pick up passengers, he was not certain of how many, but would telephone Melbourne Flight Service with his ETD King Island and details of passengers and SAR watch before leaving King Island.

At 1810 hours the aircraft was refuelled to capacity. The pilot did not leave the aircraft during refuelling and the aircraft departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours. Two-way radio communications were then established with Melbourne Flight Service who were responsible for maintaining a communications and SAR watch on the aircraft during the course of its flight.

At 1900:29 hours the pilot of VH-DSJ reported position as Cape Otway and at 1906:14 hours the pilot asked Melbourne Flight Service for known traffic below 5000 feet. He was told there was no known traffic. The pilot then proceeded to describe in detail the various manoeuvres of apparently another aircraft or flying device operating in close vicinity to his aircraft. During the course of his description he stated his altitude to be 4500 feet and at 1911:52 hours he reported that the engine of VH-DSJ was running rough but he intended to continue to King Island. Melbourne Flight Service declared the Alert Phase and initiated action to recall a King Island Flight Service officer to duty and activate King Island Airport Emergency Procedures.

At 1912:28 hours communications from VH-DSJ ceased abruptly and no further communications were received. The Distress Phase was declared at 1933 hours when the aircraft failed to arrive at King Island and an extensive ground sea and air search was immediately initiated. The search action was terminated at 1900 hours on 25 October 1978, after divers and widespread search efforts failed to locate any wreckage or information of the whereabouts of the aircraft and its occupant.



JUSTIFICATION (state concisely the reasons underlying the opinions described in Section 7 of this report, and indicate why this opinion is preferred to the possible alternatives.)

The available evidence indicates that the pilot, Frederick Valentich was rapidly running out of time. He had told his family, girlfriend and associates, that he only had one subject left to pass to gain his Commercial Pilot licence and he was currently going to instructional classes twice a week to study that subject. His father was assisting him financially to obtain his commercial licence.

The names of the ground training organisations he was attending were not established.

On two occasions he sat for and failed all five CPL subjects and during July 1978, sat for three CPL subjects and failed them.

He had penetrated Sydney Control Zone during a flight in July 1978, and just prior to this flight he had received a counselling letter from the New South Wales Region.

Prior to this flight, Valentich had made known his intention to fly to King Island for some time and it was generally believed by his family, girlfriend and his immediate acquaintances that the purpose of the flight was to bring back crayfish.

However, he told the Operator and the Moorabbin Briefing Officer that the purpose of the flight was to bring back passengers. There was no evidence of any passengers at King Island waiting for him to pick up. Nor did he have any orders for crayfish other than one crayfish, from a member of the Air Training Corps. He did not order crayfish from King Island prior to the flight and as it happened at that time, no crayfish were available at King Island.

He told his girlfriend he would meet her at 1930 hours, ~~as time~~ he could not possibly keep. He told his father he would be home after return from King Island.

He did not request aerodrome lighting at King Island for his arrival, but he was aware that King Island Flight Service Unit had closed. It seems possible that he may not have had any intention of proceeding to King Island.

His girlfriend has stated that he perspired profusely and his voice changed in any unexpected or out of the ordinary situation.

It was particularly noticed while monitoring the recorded communications containing his detailed description of the other vehicles' manoeuvres that his voice remained 'matter of fact' and completely normal.

If it had been the pilot's intention to disappear, a number of directions of travel were open to him to maintain communications for the period he did while operating below 5000 feet. (See VHF Coverage Chart, Page ).

However, it is unlikely that such a document would have been available to him and his possible tracking directions would be limited to known coverage areas.

Had the flight proceeded as planned and the aircraft did crash into the sea it is most probable that wreckage would have been sighted. The aircraft disappeared without trace and no wreckage was located or information received concerning the whereabouts of the aircraft and its occupant. It therefore is not possible to determine the cause of the disappearance but it seems likely that the aircraft did not crash in the sea between Cape Otway and King Island.



## 19. ACCIDENT PREVENTION

File  
V116/783/1047

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(Describe the lessons to be learned from this accident.)

N/A

## 20. ATTACHMENT CHECK LIST

☒ Witness statement (No.....)☒ Flight plan☐ D.o.T. 461☒ Investigator's notes (No.....)☒ Meteorological reports☐ D.o.T. 462☒ Transcript of communications☒ D.o.T. 225☐ Autopsy report

Special report (describe)

Meteorological Analysis - R.K. Stibbs  
Water/Oil Sample Analysis - R.A. Cummins,  
Department of Defence

Other (describe)

Radar Aspects - M.J. Harwood  
Human Factors Aspects - Dr. B.J. Mahony,  
AMHF

## 21. PARTICIPATION IN THE INVESTIGATION

Name	Affiliation	Wreckage security provided by
P.G. Graham	Investigator in Charge Assisting Investigator in Charge as required.	N/A
S.G. Spinks		Name of first investigator to reach site
A.G. Harris		N/A
J.C. Sandercock		Date/time of arrival (local)
I.S. Smith		N/A

## 22. INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITY

Name of officer responsible	Signature	Designation	Date
I.S. SMITH		A.S.S.U.	12.10.81



INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047

Page  
10

Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT, VH-DSJ, 21 OCTOBER 1978

Darcy Hogan, Briefing Officer, Moorabbin

1. Hogan is in Air Training Corp so he knows Valentich.
2. Arrived briefing office at 5.15 approximately.
  - (a) weather enroute for N/VMC. He didn't know much about N/VMC requirements. He asked if scattered SC at 3000 was OK,
  - (b) no request for lights, and
  - (c) going to pick up passengers and he didn't know how many. He would ring ML with details of POB and SAR EX K.I.
3. Valentich appeared to be in normal frame of mind.
4. No EFD K.I. Would advise ML from K.I.
5. SAR to K.I. Hogan asked if K.I. was open. Since closed he told Valentich that SAR would be to ML by phone.
6. Did nothing about lights and didn't discuss lights with Valentich. Valentich did not mention lights.
7. After Valentich left, Hogan went for a drive around the tarmac and thinks he saw Valentich taxiing VH-WDD to Schutt's tarmac. He is not sure that it was Valentich.
8. Personally he considers Valentich would be an average pilot and of average maturity. Wasn't exceptional in any way.
9. Doesn't know what his drinking and smoking habits were. No close social contact.
10. No mention of UFOs.

P.R. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR

24.10.78



# INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047

Page  
11

Subject

## MOORABBIN REFUELLING

Rang Tysons 90-6709

VH-DSJ was refuelled on 21.10.78 at 18.10 by Ron Tyson.

247 litres of 80/87  
1 litre oil

Filled to brim. Young chap as pilot did not get out of aircraft. Left immediately - saw no more.

Jet fuel is kept in quarantine so it has to be unlocked. He used same tanker to refuel many other aircraft in previous three hours so no chance of incorrect fuel.

### S.A.S.

#### Log Book

After the pilot obtains his licence he cannot leave his log book at S.A.S.

#### Purpose of Flight

Told S.A.S. he was picking up three passengers but they believe he was getting crayfish.  
N.B. S.A.S. do not allow crayfish to be carried in their aircraft.

#### Return Flight

Not sure but thinks same night probably so that no one would see the crays.

#### Nav aids

ADF  
VHF  
HF.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047Page  
12

Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT, VH-DSJ : 21 OCTOBER 1978

Notes of a conversation with the O.I.C. King Island on 24.10.78 (Brian Jones).

He was on duty from 0800-1500 on Saturday.

At 1500 he put through a closing request to ML FS, stating lights out as no planned flights due and no request for lights.

He was pulled out of the golf club by the ML SOC about 19.15 after the aircraft had reported engine problems.

He put the airfield lights on at 19.35.

At the same time his assistant, Graeme Smyth had just arrived to also put the lights on for a departing Cessna 402 aircraft, VH-RCT which had been held up for passengers.

VH-RCT was then used for a quick search around the Island with Graeme Smyth as an observer from 20.00 to 20.25. Nothing sighted. Weather absolutely clear with unlimited visibility.

VH-PDN arrived at about 1800 hours with a band and was due to depart about 0300 the next morning. They have an agent who has a key for the lights.

VH-PDN was used for a quick search at 1000 feet at 20.00 hours to 20.55 hours with Brian Jones as an observer. Could see the Cape Otway lights flashing from the lighthouse as well as all the Island lights. Excellent visibility with a clear sky. No cloud and very starry. Many fishing boats around the Island had their lights on and could be seen for miles.

The normal system for lights is for either the pilot or for Flight Service to ring up beforehand and book them. There had been no request for lights.

Has spoken to the cray fishermen and none were ordered for that night. In fact they had sold out in the afternoon and did not have any left.

The pilot had not booked into the Motel.

They do not recognise the name of the pilot but the aircraft has been down to King Island before.

A.G. HARRIS  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

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V116/783/1047Page  
13

Subject

MR. C.P. DAY : KING ISLAND

Notes made following a phone discussion with Mr. Cliff P. Day, a cray fisherman/kelp farmer of King Island on 24.10.78 (004/62-1426).

- He is not cray fishing until next week.
- Last went cray fishing June '78.
- Cannot remember who he sells crays to and the name Valentich means nothing.
- No phone call from Valentich ordering crays and if he had rung there were no crays available from him.
- Unusual for one to expect crays at that time of night but if they had been ordered there would be no problem.

A.G. HARRIS  
INVESTIGATOR

24.10.78



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047Page  
14

Subject

MR. K. McCRAWLEY

Kevin McCrawley,  
Mess Officer,  
ATC HQ Mess 328-3704  
Home 458-1119

I spoke to Mr. K. McCrawley on 24.10.78 concerning the report from Mr. G. Valentich, (father of the missing pilot), that his son was going to King Island to pick up lobsters for the Mess. He told me that the Mess had not ordered any crays, however, members may have made private arrangements and he would check it out that night.

Mr. McCrawley phoned me today and stated that S/Ldr Grandy had ordered a cray if Frederick did go to King Island but there had not been any other firm orders.

I.S. SMITH  
INVESTIGATOR



Subject

## CONVERSATION WITH VINCE ALFONSO

Vince Alfonso flew VH-DSJ on Saturday 21.10.78. He works as LAME for Schutts (90-3033).

- Carried out a Daily Inspection before 6.00 a.m.
- Went on flight MB-French Is-MB at 6.10 a.m.
- Aircraft performed OK.
- There was a bit of a smell from heater but it disappeared after short time. Considered normal.
- On way back from French Island about 10 minutes from MB a passenger pointed out fuel venting from RHS.
- After landing the cap was out of the tank and hanging on the chain. He reported it to S.A.S. but didn't enter it on maintenance release. On Sunday he was at S.A.S. discussing the incident and found out that the cap had been repaired prior to Valentich departing.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR

25.10.78

NOTE Don Sowman is checking to find out if cap had been repaired prior to Valentich departing.



Subject

PETER BARNETT : SEARCH AND RESCUE (10.36 HOURS, MONDAY 23 OCTOBER)

Oil Slick Sample

- Fishing boat from Apollo Bay delayed.
- Will not be able to rendezvous with R.A.A.F. aircraft until after lunch.
- Will therefore not know if sample possible until later today.

A.G. HARRIS  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

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V116/783/1047Page  
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Subject

CAPTAIN E.R. BARNES : 25.10.78

- Edwin Rober Barnes, Captain on G159 with Associated Airlines.
- Also ATC RAAF and therefore the contact through Sqn Ldr. Grandy.
- Instructed Fred in Nav and Aircraft Performance and recently MET.
- Never flew with Fred.
- Didn't drink much.
- Has seen Fred angry when he came back from KI and supposedly approach the incorrect runway.
- Fred was quiet until he got to know you.
- Impression - Fred would have had a healthy approach to flying
  - no short cuts.
- UFO's - never mentioned.
- Fred had mentioned his helicopter ride at East Sale.
- Monday 30.10.78 he is available, home - 3546944, work - 3792908.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



149 Essex Street,  
Pascoe Vale 3044.  
30<sup>th</sup> October 1978.

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Mr. P. Graham,  
Air Safety Investigation Branch,  
Regional Headquarters,  
108 Lonsdale Street,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

In response to your request for a written report of my impression of Frederick Valentich, I have given the matter much thought and have attempted to set out the relevant facts, subsequent assessment and comments in a logical sequence.

I was first introduced to Fred about a year ago by SqnLdr R.F. Grandy who, like myself, is an Air Force Reservist attached to Squadron Headquarters, Air Training Corps. SqnLdr Grandy had known Fred when he was a Cadet in the Corps some years previously, and after he introduced Fred he asked me to read a reference that he had prepared for Fred. I recall him saying that he thought that Fred was worthy of any assistance or advice I may give him.

That evening I spent over an hour with Fred. He explained that he was not accepted for RAAF aircrew, and now wanted to pursue a civilian flying career.

After that first meeting he regularly attended Squadron Headquarters in a civilian capacity, working without pay or allowances until accepted into Squadron staff as an Airman. During that time he was working in my section, and he showed a lot of enthusiasm for the work given him.

He sat for all six CPL examinations early this year, and as he failed all of them he asked if I would tutor him. Although reluctant at first, because of my shortage of spare time, I agreed to assist him in navigation and aircraft performance. He became a regular Sunday afternoon visitor to my home, once bringing his young twin sisters and a couple of times his girl friend, Miss Rhonda Rushton.

On the basis of my involvement with Fred as briefly outlined above, my assessment of him is as follows;

- (i) He always demonstrated responsibility towards his study and other work given to him. I recall his careful supervision of his sisters in my home. He sometimes told me of his in-flight experiences which indicated a responsible attitude toward the command of an aircraft.
- (ii) He was always friendly, neatly dressed, and was of sober habits. Whilst in my company he rarely had more than one alcoholic drink in an evening. I never heard anyone comment adversely on his drinking habits.



- (iii) As indicated above, he appeared to be enthusiastic about his work both at Headquarters and in my home. He frequently spoke of getting an instrument rating and twin endorsement so that he could get a flying job as soon as he obtained his CPL. 19
- (iv) Knowing that he failed to gain selection for RAAF aircrew because he did not possess the required academic qualifications, I nevertheless thought that his academic standard was reasonable, spelling excepted; it was poor. When working through navigation problems I put his frequent mistakes down to impatience and the desire to get his exams over and done with.
- (v) He showed respect to those in authority, and only on one occasion can I recall his making a derogatory comment about any person. That was as a result of Air Traffic Control at Moorabbin raising an ASIR about the way in which he made an approach and landing at Moorabbin after a flight. He was quite annoyed, an adamant that he had operated in accordance with the current ATIS.
- (vi) Observing his personal discipline, and from what he told me about the way he conducted himself in the air, I believe that he was developing a healthy flight discipline. As both flight discipline and airmanship are pet subjects of mine, I took every opportunity to advise him in that regard.
- (vii) In summary, I would say that he was impressionable, a "butter", and that he had the determination and stability to achieve his goal of commercial pilot.

I must admit to extreme disappointment on hearing from you today that Fred did not pass the two exams he sat for in mid-year, not because he failed them, but because when I returned from holidays in mid September, he rang me to say that he had passed the exams. Having read my comments in the above paragraphs you will see that I must regard Fred's apparent dishonesty as being completely out of character.

I now wonder if he was ashamed for not having passed the exams, possibly realizing that he would never get his CPL. Because everyone had formed the same high opinion of him, was he a good actor? Did he have a split personality? Could he have really been unstable?

In view of this, together with his mysterious disappearance, is it in any way significant that on the Sunday following his exams he and Rhonda bought two bottles of wine to my home to share that day because he said that he thought he had passed both exams. I declined because I was on "reserve", and said that we would drink them when he was told that he had passed. That was his last visit to my home. Did he know then that he had failed? Was the wine payment to me for my efforts?

Giving Rhonda the friendship ring a week earlier than the "anniversary"; reportedly speaking calmly on the radio about a UFO then reporting engine trouble; no lights, passengers or co-pyrs organized at King Island; I am now asking myself if he has absconded with the aircraft, or if it was a suicide flight that he had carefully planned for some time.

I trust that the above information is acceptable and may in some way prove helpful to your investigation.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Barnes.



24 OCT 1978

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
 Station..... **ML FS** .....  
 No..... **173** .....  
 Reg. Off. No.....  
 Central Off. No.....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION **CAPE OTWAY-KING ISLAND** Date **21.10.78** **GRT** Time **0912**  
 AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking **G182 VH-DSJ** PILOT: Name and Initials **VALENTICH**  
 OWNER/OPERATOR **S.A.S.** FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) **VFR NV**  
 IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point **MOORABBIN** First point of intended landing **KING ISLAND** Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

IMPAIRED OPERATING EFFICIENCY.

AT 210819 VH DSJ DEPARTED MOORABBIN ON A PRIVATE TRAVEL FLIGHT TO KING ISLAND VIA CAPE OTWAY. AT 0900 HE REPORTED OVER CAPE OTWAY PROCEEDING TO KING ISLAND. AT 0906 HE INQUIRED IF THERE WASE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC B050. (PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED TRANSCRIPT FOR EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED.) AT 0912 THE PILOT REPORTED A ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. ALERT PHASE DECLARED. THE AIRCRAFT THEN MADE A FURTHER REPORT THAT THE U.P.O. WAS STILL IN THE VICINITY. CONTACT WAS THEN LOST WITH THE AIRCRAFT. AT 0913 THE FS3 OPERATOR DECLARED DISTRESS PHASE BUT OPERATIONS ADVISED PHASE WAS TO REMAIN AT ALERT UNTIL ETA KING ISLAND OF 0928. AT 0933 OPERATIONS UPGRADED PHASE TO DISTRESS.

Signed. P.C. Ring

Designation A/FS03

Date 21/10/78

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Region .....

Address .....

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

on / /

For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



143

FF-AMOCYS

SS AMMLYS

SS AMML YV AMK IYS

SS AMML YV AMK IYS AML TYV AMMOYC

211028 AMMLYU

211028 AMMLYU ~~XXXXXX~~ 1977  
DETRESFA ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. OVERDUE ON ETA AMKI  
211028 AMMLYU 0818 AMMB CTY AMKI

DETRESFA ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. OVERDUE ON ETA AMK1  
NGT VMC. VH DSJ. C182 PVT ATD 0819 AMMB CTY AMK1 EET 69 ENDCE 300

BC VR HN. POB ONE VALENTICH SAS LX. LR 0915 AMML FS 125.9

BC VR HN. POB ONE VALENTICH SAS EX. ER 0919 AMKI  
PX CTY 0900 0050 VISUAL. BLUE BODY WHITE STRIPE WHITE TAIL  
ETA AMKI 0928



31 OCT 1978

104739  
w. 22

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

 Folio No. ....  
 Station ML  
 No. 388  
 Reg. Off. No. ....  
 Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

 LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION CAPE OTWAY-KING I Date 21 OCT 1978 Local Time 1912

 AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking CESSNA 182 VH D S T PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH F

 OWNER/OPERATOR SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VER  
IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

 Regular Public Transport  
 Private

 Charter  
 Aircraft Test Flight

 Agriculture  
 Training Dual

 Aerial Work  
 Training Solo

 FLIGHT: Last departure point MOORABBIN First point of intended landing KING I Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable)

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

ENGINE MALFUNCTION - AIRCRAFT MISSING

① AT 210819 GMT, VH D S T DEPARTED MOORABBIN FOR KING ISLAND ON A VER/IVY FLIGHT TO KING ISLAND. DST REPORTED CAPE OTWAY AT 0900 WITH AN ETA KING ISLAND OF 0928

② AT 0906½ DST REQUESTED INFORMATION RE AN TRAFFIC IN AREA SINCE HE COULD SEE LIGHTS. THE PILOT CONTINUED TO REPORT LIGHTS NEAR HIM UNTIL 0911½ WHEN HE REPORTED AN ENGINE ROUGH RUNNING PROBLEM WITH THE INTENTION OF CONTINUING TO KING ISLAND. THE ALERT PHASE WAS DECLARED AND AERODROME EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ACTIVATED AT KING ISLAND. KING ISLAND FLIGHT SERVICE WAS RECALLED TO DUTY.

③ AT 0912½ RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH DST. SINCE THE AIRCRAFT HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CRUISING AT 4500 FT, APPROXIMATELY THE LOWEST LEVEL FOR CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION WITH MELBOURNE FLIGHT SERVICE IN THIS AREA, THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INDICATIVE OF LOSING ALTITUDE.

④ THE DISTRESS PHASE WAS DECLARED AT 0933 WITH THE

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /

Region

For Director



NON ARRIVAL OF DST AT KING ISLAND.

- ⑤ AN AIR/SEA/GROUND SEARCH WAS MOUNTED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE FIRST AIRCRAFT DEPARTING KING ISLAND FOR A LAND SEARCH AT 1001. THE SEARCH CONTINUED UNTIL 0900 ON THE 25 OCTOBER WITH NO WRECKAGE SIGHTED.

- ⑥ WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE AREA WERE REPORTED AS EXCELLENT WITH LITTLE OR NO CLOUD, LIGHT WINDS AND A CALM SEA. THE FIRST KING ISLAND SEARCH AIRCRAFT REPORTED SEEING THE CAPE OTWAY LIGHT WHEN STILL SOUTH OF CAPE WICKHAM, AT 3000FT, A VISIBILITY OF ABOUT 60 NM.

SUNSET AT CAPE OTWAY WAS AT 0850

LAST LIGHT AT CAPE OTWAY WAS AT 0921

THERE WAS NO MOON BUT VENUS SHOULD HAVE BEEN VISIBLE ON A BEARING OF 25CT AT AN ELEVATION OF 25° APPROXIMATELY.

- ⑦ TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE FOUND DURING COURSE

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

Any papers or documents which may assist in the investigation of your report should be submitted as attachments to this form. If you think your report can be supplemented by information from an Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit where possible please notify the circumstances of the incident, and the fact that a written report is being submitted, to the senior officer on duty at the unit concerned. On receipt of your notification, action will be taken to collect and retain the data relevant to your incident report.

Where it is necessary to urgently report any matter affecting the safety of aircraft you are requested to notify the circumstances of the incident by the quickest available means; i.e., radio, telephone, telegram, etc. This initial notification should be confirmed in writing on this form.





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
 Station .....  
 No. ....  
 Reg. Off. No. ....  
 Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION ..... Date ..... Local Time .....

AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking VH DJS PILOT: Name and Initials .....

OWNER/OPERATOR ..... FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR  
 IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport  
 Private

Charter  
 Aircraft Test Flight

Agriculture  
 Training Dual

Aerial Work  
 Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point ..... First point of intended landing ..... Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

⑦ CONT

②

OF THIS SEARCH

a) MUCH SEARCH TIME WAS LOST BY THE OPTIMUM AIRCRAFT, THE ORION, IN DIRECTING A SURFACE VESSEL TO THE POSITION OF POSSIBLE OIL SLICK AND DEBRIS FOR RETRIEVAL.

b) WHEN LIGHT AIRCRAFT, WITHOUT INTEGRAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, FOUND POSSIBLE DEBRIS WHEN OUT OF SIGHT OF LAND THEY HAD TO CLIMB TO FIX POSITION AND IN DOING SO LOST SIGHT OF DEBRIS.

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



24/10/78.

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Keith

as per your request, I enclose a plotting chart with the returns around that time according to memory.

Anomalous propagation was present to a certain extent resulting in strong and well defined Oway return (1). A rolling return had been present some time prior to 0900Z but had disappeared well before that time. It was the type of return I understood is associated with Surf (2). The return I considered possibly the Wx return was at the base of R325 and had been there for some time prior to 0900 it remained stationary and was still in that position at <sup>1100Z</sup> 0900Z when I went off shift (3). The only other return was K1 (4).

I had not had any light echo during the period I was controlling on Sec 3 and cannot give an indication of the extent to which they pointed. The four jets which left at the 150k gave strong primary returns throughout.

Martin Wright



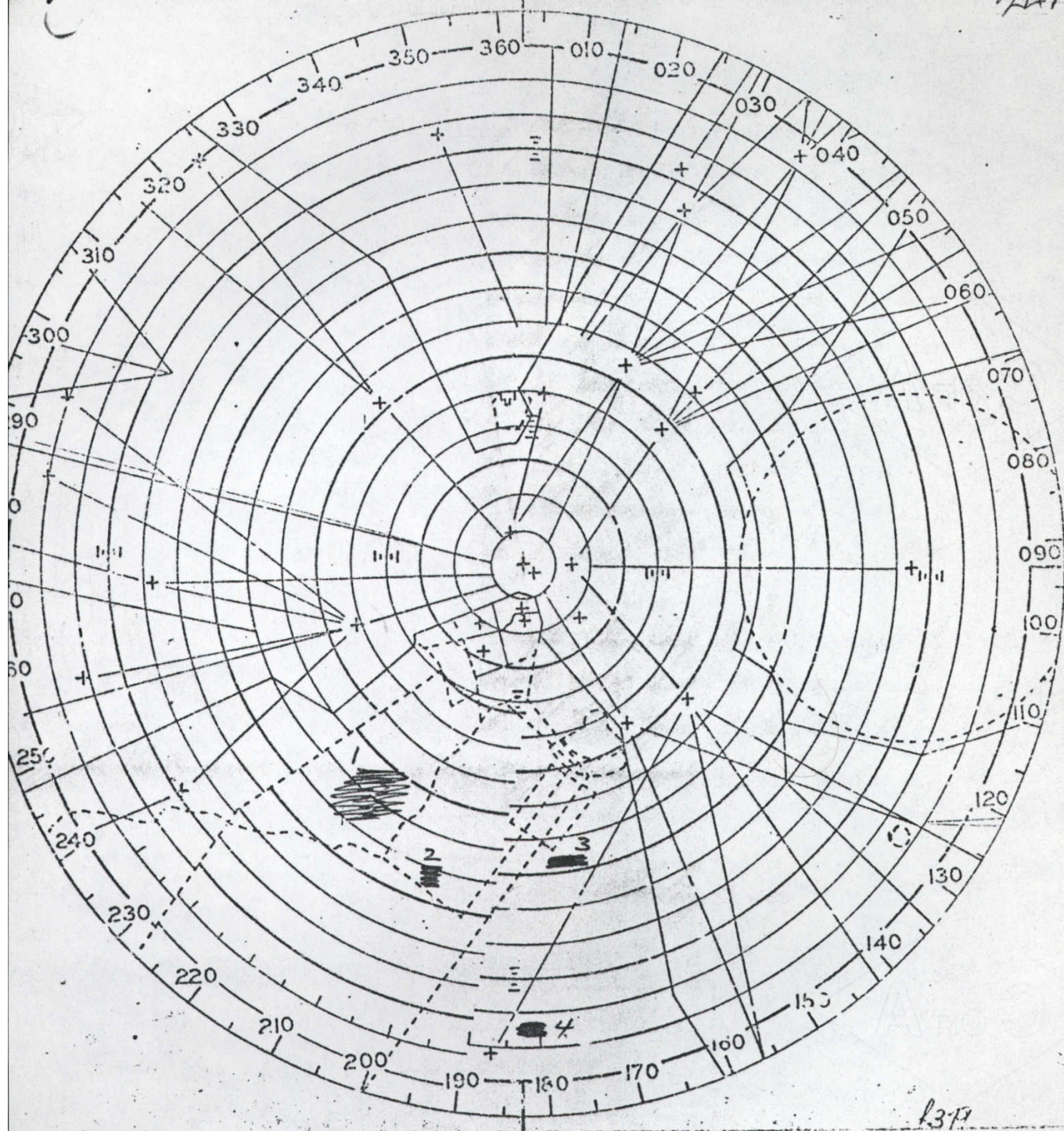
150 NM.

PLOTTERING CHART

1.74.

24A

26



CALL SIGN AND

TYPE

DSJ FRIGHT SERVICE

DATE

21/10/78

TIME

0908Z

WEATHER

REQUEST FOR RADAR ASSISTANCE

(APPROX)

REMARKS

RETURNS OBSERVED. 1. OTWAYS

2. A RETURN OBSERVED PRIOR TO 0700

(NOT SURE HOW LONG PRIOR) PAINT WAS ROLLING FROM NORTH EXTREMITY TO SOUTH THEN RETURNING TO NORTH - PROBABLY WAVE MOVEMENT ANNAPROP.

3. A STEADY RETURN PRESENT FROM PRIOR TO 0900Z UNTIL WENT OFF SHIFT 1100Z

4. KING ISLAND ANNAPROP.



FF Addresses		Originator		123	
FFN	Aircraft Ident.	IFR	Night VMC	VFR	Class of Operation
	DST	I	NV	V	PVT.
VHF V	HF H	1 ILS	2 ADF	2 VOR	200 MHz
		A	AA	BB	CC
				DM	D
					E
					H
					V
					W
					H

Departure Point	Landing Points		0745		ATD	
mb	FOR	KI - mb.				
Route Segments	LSALT	FL or ALT	TAS	TR MAG	Wind	HDG MAG
mb.	1500	8050	130		340/15	
CTY.	4000			225		232/135
KI.	1500			155		155/145
		8050.				
KI.	1500					
					340/15	
CTY.	4000			334		335/115
mb.	1500	8050		045		038/124
						92/44
						137

ALTN	Alternate	Landing Point	Level	Time Interval	Flight Proc.	Route	LSALT
ALTN		For		/		Via	
ALTN		For		/		Via	
ALTN		For		/		Via	

Remarks: FURTHER SAR T.B.A.

CLIAS	80	IAS	/	Mach		Survival Beacon	LT	Pilot Status	L	Captain	VALENTICH	Company	SAS.
STAGE	mb. mb.										Operational Approval		
12	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb			
Climb	10												
Cruise													
Altn													
SUB-TOTAL													
Variable Reserve													
Fixed Reserve	45												
Holding (if req'd)													
Taxi													
Fuel Required Margin (Cruise rate)	193												
TOTAL ENDCE	300												

GENERAL	IF NOT ON FULL REPORTING	Sartime	0930.	For arrival at	KI.	To (A.O. Unit)	1 L	By (method)	11 NE
AVIATION	SURVIVAL GEAR CARRIED	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life jackets	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency rations	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	Other (specify)			
AIRCRAFT	PHONE NUMBERS AT LANDING POINTS	POB				End of Daylight			



TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN  
CESSNA 182L AIRCRAFT VH-DSJ AND MELBOURNE  
FLIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN 0853 HOURS AND 0913  
HOURS GMT ON 21 OCTOBER 1978

LEGEND

DSJ

Cessna 182L aircraft VH-DSJ

FS

Melbourne Flight Service Unit

( )

Word/s open to other interpretations

// //

Explanatory note or editorial  
insertion



TITLE	FROM	TO	TEXT
0853:30	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET DO YOU WISH TO EXTEND YOUR SARTIME FOR YOUR ARRIVAL AT KING ISLAND
:38	DSJ	FS	// open microphone 2 seconds // DELTA SIERRA JULIET SAY AGAIN
:42	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET YOU'RE HOLDING A SARTIME OF ZERO NINE THREE ZERO FOR YOUR ARRIVAL AT KING ISLAND ON TIME INTERVAL YOUR ESTIMATE IS ZERO NINE TWO EIGHT DYOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXTEND YOUR SARTIME
:54	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AFFIRMATIVE
:58	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER MAKE IT ONE ZERO ZERO ZERO
0854:03	DSJ	FS	AFFIRMATIVE
:05	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0900:29	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET CAPE OTWAY (DESCENDING FOR) KING ISLAND
:38	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0906:14	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
:23	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN TRAFFIC
:26	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I AM SEEMS (TO) BE A LARGE AIRCRAFT BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
:46	FS	DSJ	D D DELTA SIERRA JULIET WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS IT
:50	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I CANNOT AFFIRM IT IS FOUR BRIGHT IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE LANDING LIGHTS
0907:04	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:32	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS (IS) DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED OVER OVER ME AT LEAST A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE
:43	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRM
:47	DSJ	FS	ER UNKNOWN DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY
:57	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY

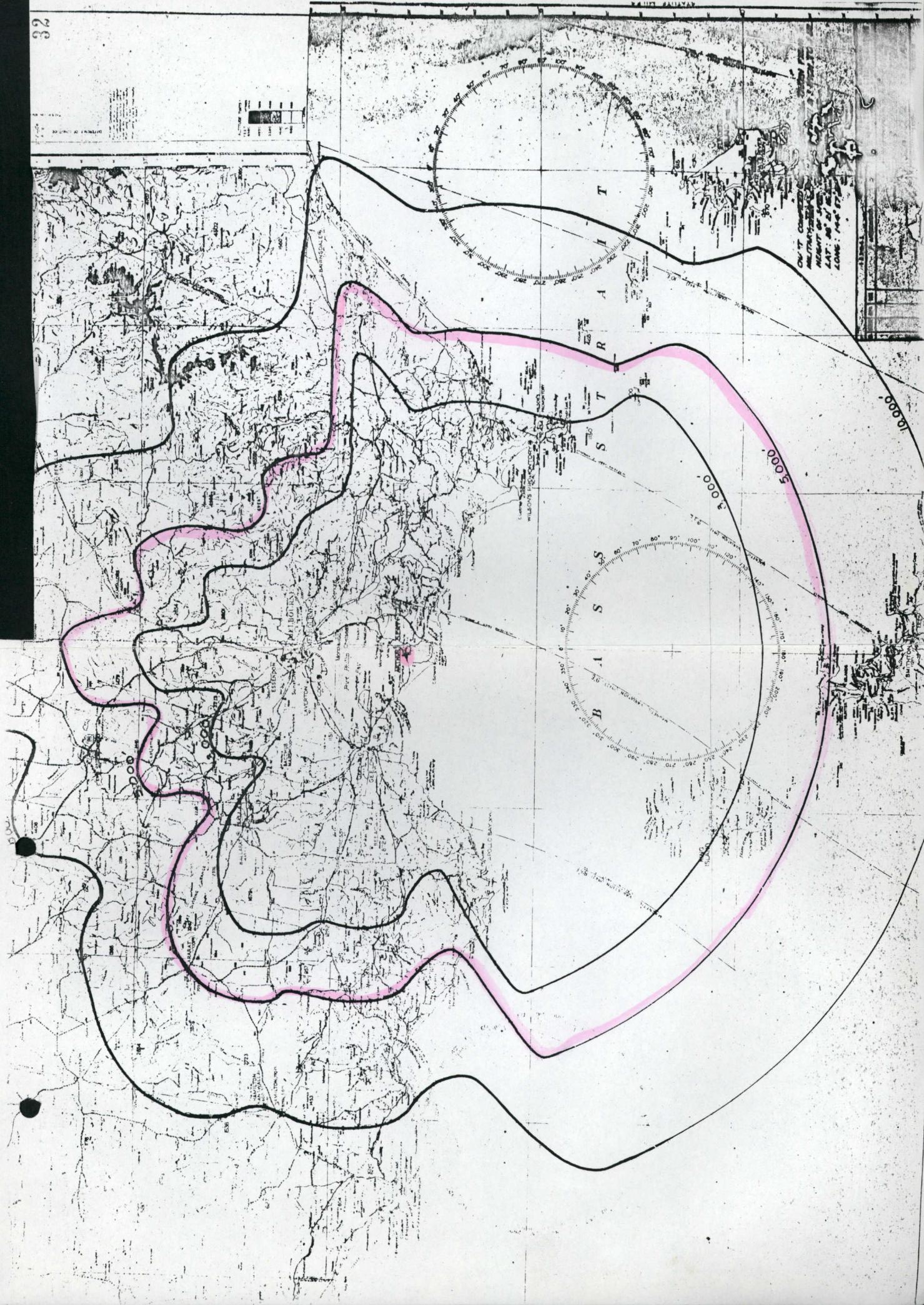


TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
0908:18	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME
:28	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:42			// open microphone for two seconds //
:49	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HES PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME HES FLYING OVER ME TWO THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT IDENTIFY
0909:02	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL
:06	DSJ	FS	MY LEVEL IS FOUR AND A HALF THOUSAND FOUR FIVE ZERO ZERO
:11	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AND CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT
:14	DSJ	FS	AFFIRMATIVE
:18	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER STANDBY
:28	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT IT IS // open microphone for two seconds //
:46	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE ER AIRCRAFT
:52	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AS ITS FLYING PAST ITS A LONG SHAPE // open microphone for three seconds // (CANNOT) IDENTIFY MORE THAN (THAT IT HAS SUCH SPEED) // open microphone for 3 seconds // BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW MELBOURNE
0910:07	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND HOW LARGE WOULD THE ER OBJECT BE
:20	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE IT SEEMS LIKE ITS STATIONARY WHAT IM DOING RIGHT NOW IS ORBITING AND THE THING IS JUST ORBITING ON TOP OF ME ALSO ITS GOT A GREEN LIGHT AND SORT OF METALLIC (LIKE) ITS ALL SHINY (ON) THE OUTSIDE
:43	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:48	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET // open microphone for 5 seconds // ITS JUST VANISHED
:57	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0911:03	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT IVE GOT IS IT (A TYPE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT



TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
:08	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET CONFIRM THE ER AIRCRAFT JUST VANISHED
:14	DSJ	FS	SAY AGAIN
:17	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THE AIRCRAFT STILL WITH YOU
:23	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET (ITS AH NOR) // open microphone 2 seconds // (NOW) APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHWEST
:37	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:52	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE ENGINE IS IS ROUGH IDLING IVE GOT IT SET AT TWENTY THREE TWENTY FOUR AND THE THING IS (COUGHING)
0912:04	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS
:09	DSJ	FS	MY INTENTIONS ARE AH TO GO TO KING ISLAND AH MELBOURNE THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING ON TOP OF ME AGAIN // two second open microphone // IT IS HOVERING AND ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT
:22	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:28	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE // 17 seconds open microphone //
:49	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE







## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

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Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT : VH-DSJ : 21 OCTOBER 1978

Notes made during a preliminary conversation with Mr. Guido Valentich.

Mr. Guido Valentich is the father of Mr. Frederick Valentich. He visited this office on 25.10.78 for the purpose of hearing the tape recording concerning the missing aircraft VH-DSJ in order to identify his son's voice. The following notes were made during general conversation with Mr. Valentich.

- Frederick worked for an Army Disposals firm at Moonee Ponds.
- He was attending lectures for Commercial Pilot Meteorology. These lectures were conducted at Essendon Airport on Tuesday nights and from 1300-1700 hours EST on Saturday afternoons at Moorabbin. He did not know the organisation or lecturer.
- On Friday night 20.10.78 Frederick had retired about 2230 hours EST on Saturday morning 21.10.78. He had eaten a light breakfast of orange juice, cereal and coffee prior to going to work at Moonee Ponds. He would have finished work at 1200 hours EST and driven to Moorabbin to attend the lectures at 1300 hours probably without having eaten any lunch. The lectures were to finish at 1700 hours and he considers that Frederick would have eaten some take away food from a McDonalds hamburger shop near Moorabbin as this is his normal practice. He recalled that Frederick was in normal good spirits on Saturday morning.
- Frederick was a blood donor and gave blood at the City Bank on Tuesday, 17.10.78.
- Frederick's personal doctor was Dr. Pasha of Avondale Heights. He was undergoing treatment for a skin complaint and was taking pills for the complaint.
- Recent employment:

Army Disposals	:	3 weeks
GWH Foundary	:	3.5 months
Commercial Licence Course	:	5.6 months
R.N.I.T.	:	6 months
- Financially, Fred had no problems. As far as known he owed nothing. He was generous to the family on anniversaries, etc. His father assisted Frederick financially with his flying.
- There were no problems at home. Frederick did his share of the home duties.
- Frederick was in the Air Training Corp as a cadet and then as an instructor. He applied for a position as Radio Tech. in the RAAF about 1976 but was not successful.
- He wanted a career in aviation and since he missed out on the RAAF, decided to finish his Commercial Licence and eventually get into Airlines. He wanted to show everyone, including the RAAF, that he could do it.
- Frederick always had the idea that some people wanted to stop him succeeding so he didn't discuss his flying or intentions with anyone. He just wanted to get through and surprise everyone by showing them that he could actually do it.



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- Frederick was a firm believer in UFOs. He had saved articles and information on UFOs, read "Chariot of the Gods" and other books and went to see movies on the subject. This interest started when he was at school about six years ago. His belief had been strengthened recently when he was allowed to see the RAAF's confidential files on UFOs at East Sale and at Laverton. He wouldn't discuss these details with his family as they were confidential.
- His mother saw a UFO one night. She called Fred and he saw it too. It was a large light, ten times larger than a star, was stationary for a while and then moved off at a great speed. This happened about eight months ago.
- His father eventually became convinced that UFOs existed.
- Frederick worried about attack from UFOs and what they could do. His father had told him there was nothing they could do and so no point in worrying.
- His father is unsure about what Rhonda Rushton (Frederick's girlfriend) had said about them going out on Saturday night (21.10.78). He knows Fred was going to be home and thinks something about her statement is fishy but doesn't know what.
- Fred's memory was good for important matters but he sometimes overlooked unimportant things.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT, VH-DSJ : 21 OCTOBER 1978

Discussion with Miss R. Rushton on 24 October 1978

Miss Rhonda Rushton of 3 Bradford Avenue, Preston (telephone 411-2479) was a close friend of the pilot of C182L, VH-DSJ which became missing on 21 October, 1978. She visited the Regional Office and agreed to assist in the investigation concerning the aircraft and the possible actions taken by the pilot.

Miss Rushton stated she was "just 17" years of age, and that she worked at the Night-Owl Pharmacy of 743A Gilbert Road, Reservoir.

She advised she last saw Fred Valentich on Friday night, 20 October 1978, at about 9.00 p.m. EST, after he had finished work at the Army Disposals, 139 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds. In their conversation it became evident to her that he had forgotten he said he would take her out on Saturday night. The forthcoming flight to King Island was discussed, and together they evolved the schedule of departure Moorabbin 1600, land King Island 1730, pick up crayfish, leave 1800, land Moorabbin 1930. As it was a 20 minute drive from the airport to Preston she suggested Valentich put his good clothes in which to take her out, in his car when he left home early on Saturday.

Since the aircraft went missing, she had seen the car at Moorabbin, and was aware that no clothes were in it. From her experience, Valentich was probably wearing a tri-coloured brown and white jumper and brown slacks, his usual flying clothing and she believed he would have carried with him a blue, short raincoat, very similar to those worn by RAAF personnel, as this was his "good luck coat" (his words).

Discussing possible movements of Valentich during the day she believed he would have left home, without having breakfast, gone to work, not eaten luncheon, then gone to the tutorial classes for his Commercial Pilot Licence, at Moorabbin, and stayed there (as she was now aware) until about 1700 EST. Most probably the pilot then went to MacDonald's take away food store near Southland, on the Nepean Highway to purchase food. She believed he would have ordered "two Big Macs, two cheeseburgers, a fillet of fish and some chips", and most probably would have drank a carton of Coca-Cola.

Miss Rushton said Valentich was a "big eater" and that he always ate slowly, and she believed he would have driven to the beach and sat in his car facing the sea while eating.

Asked concerning Valentich drinking habit, she stated he never had more than two alcoholic drinks, usually beer, and after these he remained on soft drink. She then volunteered the information that Valentich "wasn't himself Friday night". That usually he is cheerful, and outwardly very happy, but underneath on Friday he was not quite in the spirit of things.

To her knowledge his health was good, he didn't have a cold or other minor physical ailments, and so far as he was aware he was not taking any self medication for such complaints. The only thing she could offer was that he was taking Comycin capsules for a facial rash, and that he was not to partake of dairy products.



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Concerning the flight of 21 October 1978, Valentich had not discussed it with her to any degree but she was now aware he had discussed it with her mother, apparently while waiting for her at some previous time. The gist of the conversation had been that he had earlier intended to take his father on the flight; that he was "scared of the water" (her words) and that the "plane is an old one" (his words). Miss Rushton was aware her boyfriend had made the flight Moorabbin to King Island before but she was uncertain if he had flown the route at night.

One strange thing had occurred a week earlier, they were in the habit of celebrating the monthly anniversary of their meeting and for the fifth anniversary Valentich had decided to give her a friendship ring. Although he was well aware of the date of the anniversary (20 October), despite her protestations he had insisted giving it to her on 13 October. He apparently had told his friends of his intent to give her the ring. She had no explanation for his action.

Asked had she flown with Valentich before, she said she had many times, but never at night. One notable flight had been in a Cessna aircraft to Newcastle about 8-10 weeks ago. Originally four other passengers were to have been at Moorabbin at 0400 hours, but they had not shown up by 0600 hours and Valentich had gone without them. The flight to Newcastle, (Aeropelican airstrip) had been uneventful but they had had to fly over solid cloud for about a half hour. They had found a hole and descended through it.

She considered that as a flight plan had to be submitted at Bankstown for the return flight to Moorabbin, Valentich had flown to Bankstown, and entered the "Sydney Restricted Zone, as told to do so by Sydney". Valentich had experienced difficulty landing the aircraft and had to make several attempts. The reason was that the "control column was locked". Valentich had sweated profusely in this situation, such that she had used his handkerchief to mop his brow to prevent the sweat blurring his vision. She stated that he always sweated when something unexpected or a little out of the ordinary occurred and she was aware of the change in her boyfriend's voice when these situations arose.

Other flights she had made with Valentich were from Moorabbin to Essendon, and back by various routes, sight-seeing the city's prominent features. She said she was impressed by what Valentich knew of aircraft, and that she considered him to be "a very good pilot".

However, she was aware of some unusual habits he had while flying. These concerned the use of the radio. She was aware he usually "clicked" the microphone button after transmitting, and that he never put it back in the rack, but left the microphone on his lap where, because of his leg actions, it was sometimes activated. He also had the habit of polishing or rubbing the microphone on his jumper sleeve before using it.

She stated Valentich had long legs and that after a period of time it was his habit to release the seat and to push it rearward, which again sometimes operated the microphone on his lap. She was of the opinion the "metallic noise" mentioned in the newspaper could have been the seat sliding rearward, with the microphone transmitting.

Miss Rushton had no knowledge of how Valentich used the engine to fly, when asked. She then said she considered he was "usually overcautious", that he likes to think things well ahead and believed that he would have entered the aircraft wearing the life jacket. She said Valentich always had a plan to cover possible emergencies, she had frequently been told when flying that "if anything goes wrong, look for a straight road or a long paddock without fences" (Valentich's



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words). She said Valentich always thought before he acted, albeit rapidly, he never acted instinctively.

The matter of unidentified flying objects, then the subject of such media coverage, was raised. She advised that when out driving in the Dandenong Ranges on Sunday 15 October 1978, Valentich had said to her, "if a UFO landed in front of me now, I would go in it, but never without you". Other subjects had been discussed during the drive, mainly of social interest, but Valentich had commented to some length on the subject of "everybody is out to grab money - there is not enough left for everybody - people would have to starve".

Miss Rushton was aware Valentich had clippings on UFO's but she didn't consider him an avid collector, but just with an average interest on the subject.

The reference to a landing UFO, on 15 October was his only reference to the subject on that day, and on other occasions such references have been very short and never in any depth.

Asked concerning his personality, Miss Rushton said Valentich held problems "in the back of his mind", and that he "held them as a list", and when he had worked out a solution, he mentally crossed it off.

He had lied to her very soon after their first meeting, that he had passed his meteorology subject for his commercial licence, and after four months he had admitted to his lie, and that he was repeating the subject. She said he had "no-one to talk his problems out with", but she was aware he had long talks with a Robert Barns, about flying and flying problems.

Miss Rushton was thanked for her assistance.

J.C. SANDERCOCK  
INVESTIGATOR



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## INVESTIGATOR'S ASSESSMENT OF MISS RUSHTON

Miss Rushton was considered by the investigator to be an honest and dependable witness. Although young she was seen to be a stable person for her years. She obviously cared greatly for Valentich and in the time of her acquaintance was proud to be associated with him, as a pilot and because of his physique and his association with the Victorian Squadron of the Air Training Corps. To some extent this shows a measure of her being impressionable, but not outside her years.

The investigator gained the impression that Valentich had chosen Miss Rushton carefully, as someone to discuss his problems with, she being receptive, perhaps more so than a girl of 18-20 years, who might have rejected his problems and ideas and pushed him aside.

The impression was gained that Miss Rushton was becoming aware that Valentich was "different" from her other male acquaintances and that she was being used as a "prop", based on the phrase used and the tone of some of her comments.

J.C. SANDERCOCK  
INVESTIGATOR



Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT, VH-DSJ : 21 OCTOBER 1978

Discussion with Mr. Gregory Reaburn

Mr. Reaburn is a personal friend of Mr. Fred Valentich. They have been friends for seven or eight years. Mr. Reaburn visited Regional Office for the purpose of giving background information on Mr. Valentich. During an informal discussion he gave the following information.

- They had been in the Air Training Corps, together for some years and both were very interested in weapons.
- The two saw each other on average twice a week. This was on Tuesdays and Fridays when they attended the Air Training Corps.
- Valentich told him that he had applied to join the RAAF as aircrew but that he had not been accepted because of inadequate educational qualifications. After further education he had tried again but was still not accepted. The two were in camp together in August 1978 at RAAF East Sale when Valentich confided he had been knocked back by the RAAF for the second time.
- Valentich was disappointed about not getting into the RAAF and it had made him quite determined to get his Commercial Pilot's licence and fly for the airlines just to show the RAAF he could do it.
- Valentich had been going with his girlfriend for five months and they were very close. He had recently given her a friendship ring.
- Mr. Reaburn thought it would be quite out of the question that Valentich would commit suicide or purposely fly the aircraft to a remote location to get away from society. Valentich was far too close to his family, girlfriend and friends to contemplate such actions.
- Concerning Valentich's family situation, Mr. Reaburn said he knew Valentich's father was helping out financially with his son's flying and he also knew that there had been a family argument recently. He did not know what the argument was about. Valentich was living at home and in general Reaburn thought the family was very close.
- Concerning health, to his knowledge Valentich was not on any form of self medication. He had never known him to suffer from fits or turns, to pass out or have hallucinations. Valentich did suffer from a skin complaint and had been told by his doctor not to drink too much milk because of this complaint.
- Valentich was very strict regarding alcohol/flying. He never took much alcohol at all and would never take any after 2000-2100 hours of an evening prior to flying the next day. He was most definitely not part of the drug scene. Reaburn considered that Valentich was the sort of person who would go straight to the police if he knew of anyone who was on drugs.



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- Reaburn was aware that Valentich had planned to fly to King Island but he did not know on what particular day. He knew that Valentich was going to bring back a crayfish for the OIC of the Air Training Corps (Squadron Grandy) but he had only found this out since the aircraft disappeared.
- He had only ever flown with Valentich on one occasion and that was in a helicopter during their camp at East Sale in August 1978. Some of the pilots from Longford are involved with the Air Training Corps at East Sale and one of these pilots had taken them up in a helicopter. Valentich had flown the helicopter and according to Reaburn, the pilot said Valentich flew it well.
- Reaburn said he was aware that Valentich had flown to Newcastle and back since they had been in camp at East Sale, during August. Reaburn had been asked to go but he could not afford his share of the cost.
- His general impression of Valentich's character was that he is not prone to hasty decisions or panic. He always stops and thinks about the situation before taking any action. They had once been lost in the bush together whilst on an Air Training Corps camp and Valentich had not been the slightest bit perturbed about it.
- Both he and Valentich believed in UFOs but not to any fanatical extent. They had discussed UFOs and their beliefs were on the basis that if people on earth are capable of sending space vehicles to Mars and the moon then why would inhabitants of another planet not be capable of the same thing.
- Reaburn was sure that Valentich would have been wearing his life jacket on the trip to King Island. Valentich was not keen about flying over water and if ever he had any choice in the matter he would fly over land. This was because Valentich was not a good swimmer and would probably just give up if he had to come down in the water.
- Reaburn thought that some of the circumstances were a little strange. Valentich had arranged to pick up his girlfriend at 7.30 p.m. to take her out but he had also told his father that he would be home from flying at 10.00 p.m. Such a dual arrangement was very uncharacteristic of Valentich, yet there was absolutely no way he could pick up his girlfriend at 7.30 p.m. If ever he was going to be late for an appointment he would advise those concerned by way of a phone call. Reaburn was also wondering what Valentich did with the time between finishing his lecture at Moorabbin 1700 hours and taking off 1820 hours. He thought that Valentich may have gone to McDonalds for some take-away food which he did on occasions.
- Valentich did not gamble at all, nor was he in any financial bother, to Reaburn's knowledge. He had no police record or any problems that would be causing him any deep concern. He was studying hard for his meteorology exam and was worried as to whether he could pass it.
- Valentich joined the Air Training Corp some three years later than Reaburn and did not get promoted beyond Cadet LAC. Reaburn did not consider this significant; nor did he think it bothered Valentich in any way.
- Valentich had never spoken to Reaburn about being disorientated in an aircraft either during his training or since he had obtained his licence.

S.G. SPINKS  
INVESTIGATOR



FREDERICK VALENTICH - HISTORY

1958

- 9 June date of birth

1971

- Keilor Heights High School

1974

- Left school at end of Form 4  
Results at end of Form 4
  - "Excellent" - Physical Education
  - "Above Average" -
  - "Average" - Italian, History, Metal Work
  - "Below Average" - Geography, English, Science, Graphics
  - "Fail" - Maths A, Maths B

1975

- (Believed to have been studying for leaving Certificate)

1976

- (Believed to have been studying for Leaving Certificate)
- Applied to RAAF  
Test Results - "very low scores, indicative low I.Q. fit for unskilled work only".

1977

- Enrolled RMIT - electronics, maths physics
- Withdrew from RMIT in July
- Student Pilot Licence issued 24.2.77
- Solo June
- Theory Exam result passed "Basic Aeronautical Knowledge" at third attempt 11.8.77
- Flight Test result passed "Restricted Private Pilot" at second attempt September
- Restricted PPL issued 23.9.77 with 57 flying hours
- PPL Theory Exam results
  - 'Nav' passed at second attempt



'Met' passed at first attempt  
'Aircraft Performance and Operation' passed at fifth attempt.  
'Air Legislation' passed at third attempt.

- CPL Theory Exam results - October 1977 - sat for and failed all five exams.

#### 1978

- Passed PPL Navigation test flight at second attempt 19.1.78
- PPL Area Restriction lifted 27.1.78 at 89 hours
- CPL Theory Exam results April 1978 - sat for and failed all five exams
- Class 4 Instrument Rating issued 11.5.78 at 147 hours
- CPL Theory exam results July 1978 - Sat for and failed three exams - did not sit others
- July 1978 involved in two incidents at 160 hours
  - 1) Penetration of SY Control Zone due poor navigation. Warning letter sent to him.
  - 2) On two occasions deliberately flew into cloud. Prosecution was being considered.
- Aircraft VH-DSJ and pilot disappeared on 21.10.78

#### Other Points

- Pilot log book not found.
- At time of disappearance he was working as a shop assistant but devoting most of his energy to flying.
- As a boy he had been an Air Training Corps cadet.
- In 1977 after he had started flying he returned to the Corps as an unpaid civilian helper.
- He later was taken on with the rank of Airman.
- He was well thought of by friends and acquaintances.
- He was determined to succeed as a pilot.
- He told everybody he had passed some CPL theory exams.



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Subject

EDUCATION : F. VALENTICH : 26.10.78

Enrolment and study R.M.I.T. 1977

Subjects:   Circuit Theory           1 hour  
              Electronics           1 hour  
              Electronic Circuits   1 hour  
              Mathematics           1 hour  
              Physics               1 hour  
              Communications and Report Writing

On 12.7.77 he withdrew from Electronics and Electronic Circuits.

On 22.7.77 he withdrew completely. Reason given as commencing Commercial and Senior Commercial Pilot Course.

Keilor Heights High School

From Deputy Principal

Form 4 in 1974 (Intermediate Standard)  
Left school at Form 4 level in 1974.

Results Form 4:	Physical Education	"A"	
	Italian	"C"	
	Geography	"D"	
	English	"D"	
	Maths A	"Fail"	} difficulty in comprehension
	Maths B	"Fail"	
	Metalwork	"C"	
	Science	"D"	lacks understanding
	History	"C"	difficulty with expression
	Graphics	"D"	

A - Excellent  
B - Above Average  
C - Average  
D - Below Average  
Fail - Unacceptable Level

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



Subject

R.A.A.F. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Re F. Valentich.

- Applied for RAAF in 1976.
- At time was repeating leaving.
- Was Aptitude and Psych. tested 24.5.76.
- Was only interested in being trained as a Radio Tech.
- Scores on tests were very low - indicative of a low I.Q. (failed all tests).
- Considered fit for unskilled work only.
- Dossiers kept for two years - his has been destroyed.
- A computer printout on him is held by RAAF - they would supply us with what info they have on formal request.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



Subject

COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE EXAMINATION : F. VALENTICH

History of examination enrolments and results of Frederick Valentich.

Exam 1 of March 1978

Enrolled for all five Commercial subjects and Senior Commercial Met.

Results - Failed all subjects.

Exam 2 of July 1978

Enrolled for Nav, Performance and Engines.

Results - failed all subjects.

Exam 3 of November 1978

Enrolled Com. Met, Principles of Flt and Senior Com. Met.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



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Subject

MISSING AIRCRAFT : VH-DSV : 21 OCTOBER 1978

Conversation with Don SowmanLog Book: Not at S.A.S.Standard:

- Failed him first time Unrestricted.
- Average only.
- OK on instruments.
- No mention of UFOs.
- Not a drinker that he knows.
- Financially - ran up a \$500 bill but he paid it out before this trip.
- No mention of problems or disturbances.
- Seemed vague at times.
- Didn't know him well.

VH-DSJ:

- 100 hourly on Friday 20.10.78.
- Flown by V. Alfonso on Saturday 21.10.78 who works at Schutts (Brents).
- No autopilot.
- Single ADF.
- No strobe.
- One rotation beacon on tail.

Payment of Bill:

- S.A.S. asked him about account when it was \$360. He said his passengers to SY had given him a little money prior to flight but not all and he would have to chase it up.

Note: Only Valentich and girlfriend went. No passengers.P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

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Subject

VH-DSJ : RADIO EQUIPMENT

Spoke to Ken Novity and Instructor, Mr. Day of Southern Air Re VH-DSJ communication equipment at 1445 EST on 23.10.78.

- DSJ has VHF HF and is equipped with a speaker and hand held microphone.
- Valentich was not carrying a headset when he went out to the aircraft prior to departure on this trip and did not have a bag that would carry one.
- Passed to SIGS(B) at 1500 EST.

P. GRAHAM  
INVESTIGATOR

23.10.78



Subject

## CONVERSATIONS WITH SAS INSTRUCTORS AND PILOTS

Warren Dunlop

- Valentich was sensible pilot.
- Didn't drink.
- No mention of drugs.
- No mention of UFOs.

Martin Dalton

- Quiet, sincere, sensible.
- Interested in joining RAAF as pilot.
- Had interviews, tests, etc.
- No drink, smoke.
- Got on well with all.
- Never spoken of UFOs.
- No mention of drugs.

Ross Carrington

- Did Commercial Pilot Course with him about April.
- He seemed quite happy about his future.
- Full of enthusiasm, never depressed.
- Attempting to join RAAF aircrew. Still doing his Commercial Licence so he would have one or the other.
- He is quiet on first contact but was quite natural after that.
- Got on well with people.
- Only had Com. MET to do.
- Didn't drink or smoke.
- No mention of drugs or UFOs.

Bob Hope (Instructor)

- Flew with Valentich on Tuesday afternoon to check him on type VH-DSJ C182.
- Average pilot.
- Relative quiet chap.
- VH-DSJ has a hand-held microphone.
- Wasn't carrying a headset.
- Wanted to join RAAF aircrew.
- As far as he knows he doesn't drink, smoke or take drugs.
- Saw him just prior to departure and he seemed perfectly sober and in good



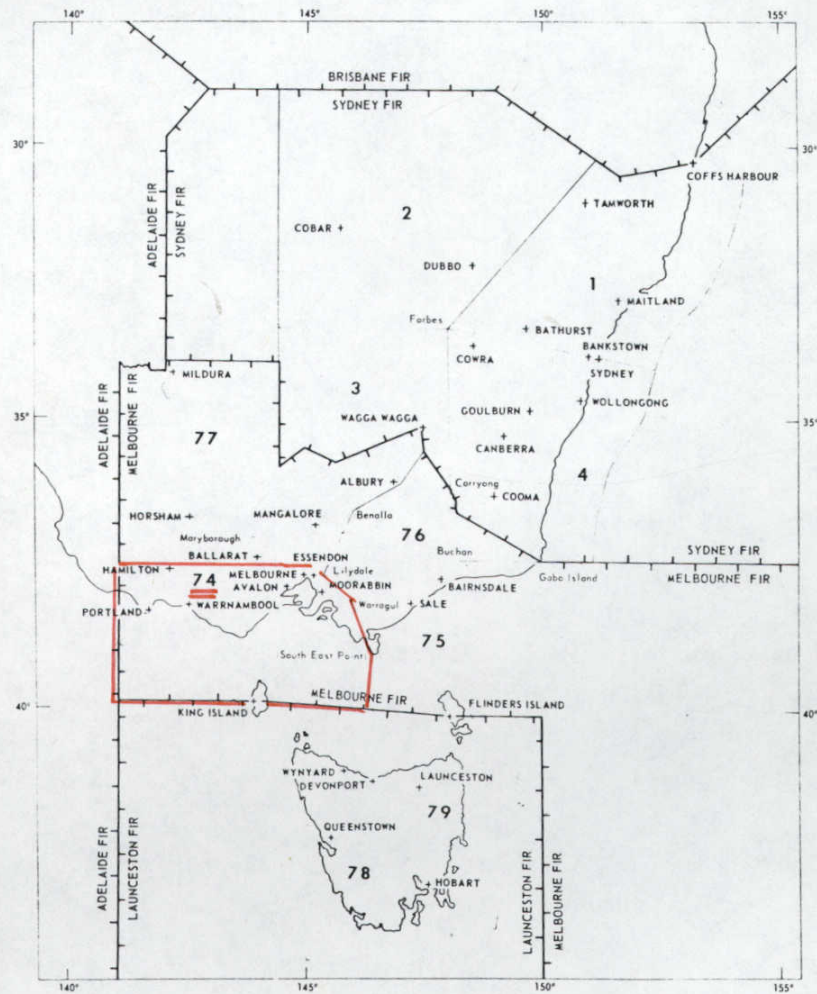
CONTINUATION SHEET	Section No.	Title INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE	File V116/783/1047	Page 2 49
SUBJECT				
<p>frame of mind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Took four life jackets. He was picking up friends at King Island.</li><li>- He had originally intended going on Tuesday, 17.10.78, but cancelled due WX.</li></ul>				
<p>P. GRAHAM INVESTIGATOR</p>				



WEATHER SERVICES

89

AREA FORECASTS  
SOUTHEASTERN AUSTRALIA



+ AERODROME FORECASTS ARE ISSUED ROUTINELY FOR THESE LOCATIONS



14A

JSG C182 P	MB	CTY 41			KI 28	Q	210930 211000 A0912 MVB 00913	51
	0745	0900			0928			
MB/KI ①	0819.5	005				V8	LX	

DSJ C182 P ②	KI	CTY 34			MB.44	TBA.
	5					
KI/MB						AVG LX

ZCZC MFB536 210734

GG AMMLYS  
GG AMZZMB  
210734 AMMLYP  
TAFBUL 210730 PART TWO  
AMKI 0820 30015 9999 4SC030 13 11 11 10 1022 1021 1020 1019  
AMAY 0820 35005 CAVOK 20 17 14 11 1023 1023 1022 1022  
AMMN 0820 35005 CAVOK 20 15 11 09 1023 1023 1022 1022  
SALE 0820 15010 CAVOK GRADU 1014 35007 17 14 11 08  
1023 1023 1022 1022  
BNS 0820 15010 CAVOK GRADU 1014 35007 17 14 11 08  
1023 1023 1022 1022

ARFOR 0500 TO 1700 AREA 74  
WIND 2000 34015 5000 34015 7000 34018 10000 34020 PS2 14000 33020  
MS7 18500 33020 MS16  
CLD SCT SC 2000/4000FT S MAR  
VIS 40KM  
FZL 10000FT  
TURB MOD BLW 7000FT TIL 08Z

MFB 404

NNNNZCZC MFB453 210420  
JJ AMMLYS AMMLYF AMMLYJ AMLTYS  
AMKIYS  
RQ CLOSE 0435 REOPEN 220030 RECALL 004621451  
NAVAIDS OK. LIGHTS OFF.  
TRAFFIC RCT AMKI FOR AMMB ETD 0700  
GOODAY MEN,



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

52

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1636M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 70/33

FOLIO

RCD 30 OCT 1979

29 October 1979

FILE 116 793 1047

Director,  
Vic/Tas Region,  
Department of Transport,  
GPO Box 1733P,  
MELBOURNE 3001

MISSING AIRCRAFT - VHDSJ - BASS STRAIT 21.10.78

On the evening of 21/10/78 a broad ridge of weak gradient extended westward from eastern Bass Strait through southwest Victoria to Adelaide. Conditions were perfect for night flying over Victoria with no more than 2/8 SC 5000/7000 ft and scattered cirrus about 30,000 ft. Visibility was excellent at about 30 km and more. Temperatures at 0800Z ranged from 25/27C north of the ranges to 21 south of ranges to 17C at Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory and 15C/13C at King and Flinders Is. The lower seaboard temperatures indicate a shallow surface inversion below 1000 ft. This probably accounted for some haziness about Cape Otway. Surface winds were very light being less than 10 knots throughout Victoria with slight sea breezes about the coastal fringe. State of sea reported from Cape Otway and Wilson's Prom. was smooth seas with low swell from the southwest. The oil platform at Kingfish A. reported a calm to rippled sea with a 3 ft south-westerly swell. QWH readings ranged from 1022 mb at King S., 1023 mbs at Flinders Is. and Melbourne, 1024 mb at Gabo Is. and Wagga to 1021 mb at Mildura and 1022 at Mt Gambier.

The probable winds along the intended route were:

AMMB/CTY	1000 ft	VRB 05
	2000 ft	020/10
	5000 ft	350/10
	7000 ft	310/15
	10000 ft	270/20
CTY/AMK1	1000	340/10
	2000	330/15
	5000	320/15
	7000	310/20
	10000	290/25

The winds elsewhere were:

North of Adelaide/Wagga/Nowra up to Lat 30S:

2000	030/15
5000	050/15 to 10 NSW coast
1000	050/20 to 10 NSW coast



Western Victoria and SE South Australia:

53

2000	VRB 10
5000	010/15
7000	330/15
10000	300/20

Eastern Victoria:

2000	030/10
5000	340/10
7000	300/15
10000	270/15

Gippsland coast and east Bass Strait:

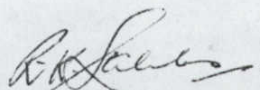
1000/2000 VRB05 becoming 320/15 toward Flinders Island.

5000	290/15
7000	280/20
1000	270/25

South of Lat.40S - freshening westerlies:

2000	270/20 to 30 over Tasmania
5000	270/25 to 30 over Tasmania
10000	270/30 to 40 over Hobart

The cloud conditions apart from Tasmanian west coast was relatively free from low cloud. Some cirrus persisted in most areas and thickened over northwest and mid-north of NSW where scattered to broken AcAs developed with base about 12,000 ft.



(R.K. STIBBS)  
for Regional Director, Vic



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

54

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1636M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

5/11/79

Director,  
Vic/Tas Regions  
Dept of Transport.  
G.P.O. Box 1733 P.  
MELBURN VIC. 3001.

Missing Aircraft - Bass Strait. 21-10-78  
Yam 1116/783/1047 - Our 70/33 29/10/79.

I enclose a copy of slightly more detailed  
report on weather conditions about 0900 GMT 21/10/78.  
I omitted to include it with my letter of 28/10/79

Yours faithfully

R.K. Little  
for L.D. Vic.



71A  
55  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1636M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, MOORABBIN - CAPE OTWAY - KING ISLAND  
0830/0930 GMT 21/10/1978

1. At 0800 GMT 21/10/78 a broad ridge of weak gradient extended westward from eastern Bass Strait through southwest Victoria toward Adelaide.

- The pressure range was; Melbourne 1023.5 mb, Cape Otway 1023.2 mb and King Is. 1022.6 mb
- Surface isotherms;
  - 21°C Melbourne - Warrnambool
  - 17°C Wilsons Prom - Point Lonsdale - Cape Otway
  - 13°C Lat 40° S Long 146½°E - Lat 39¼° S Long 144½°E -  
Lat 40¼° S Long 144°E - Lat 39½° S Long 143½°E

2. Conditions were perfect for night flying. Although a trace of stratocumulus at 5000/7000 ft and scattered cirrus at 30000ft were reported, no cloud was detectable between the Victorian Ranges and the northern Tasmania coast on the infra-red satellite pictures at 0600 and 0900 GMT. There was no turbulence and visibility was excellent. An airborne aircraft over King Is. at 1000 GMT could clearly see the light from Cape Otway Lighthouse.

3. At 0800 GMT all reported surface winds were less than 10 knots. Cape Otway reported calm. Since light sea-breezes occurred along the coast during the afternoon, it is likely that shallow inversions of about 2°C below 500 ft still existed in some areas at 0900 GMT. With the onset of nocturnal cooling it is likely that shallow surface inversions of up to 3°C developed below 200 ft over the land and coastal fringe by 0900 GMT. It is considered that there were surface inversions over the sea but rather very stable, possibly isothermal layers below 1000 ft.

4. Laverton radiosonde at 1100 GMT indicated a subsidence inversion of 3°C between 7000 ft and 8000 ft. This inversion probably extended south to Cape Otway but further south toward King Island, the inversion would be less defined and possibly just an isothermal layer.



5. Winds and temperatures along the route were probably:

Moorabbin/Cape Otway. The Dew Points are estimates only.

1000 ft	Variable 5 knots	Temp + 16	Dew Point + 11
2000 "	020/10	" + 14	" + 6
5000 "	350/10	" + 7	" Zero
7000 "	310/15	" + 1	" - 3
10000 "	270/20	" zero	" dry

Cape Otway/King Island

1000	340/10	Temp + 13	Dew Point + 10
2000	330/15	" + 11	" + 7
5000	320/15	" + 7	" + 2
7000	310/20	" + 4	" Zero
10000	290/25	" zero	" dry

6. Meteorological balloon flights were carried out at Mt Gambier and Laverton at 3 pm. Both balloons had burst by 0630 GMT. The next balloon flights were not carried out until 1100 GMT.

*R.K. Stibbs*

(R.K. STIBBS)  
for Regional Director, Vic





DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

MATERIALS RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
CORDITE AVENUE, MARIBYRNONG, VICTORIA

P.O. BOX 50, ASCOT VALE, VIC., 3032  
TELEGRAMS: MARELABS MELBOURNE

30 NOV 1978

V116-783-1047  
FILE  
ASIN

57

Telephone 31 7222, Ext.

Our Reference:

Date:

29 NOV 1978

Director,  
Department of Transport,  
Transport House,  
108 Lonsdale Street,  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000

(Attention: Mr. I.S. Smith)

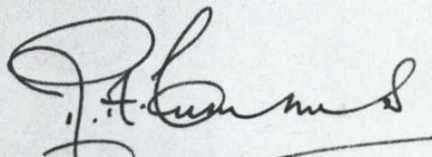
Your Reference: V116/783/1047

Water Samples ex Bass Strait

The samples were solvent extracted to remove any hydrocarbon-based material. The extracts were then examined by both Gas Chromatography and a combination of this with Mass Spectrometry.

Both samples yielded very small quantities of hydrocarbon oil, however the analyses indicated that these were more consistent with bunkering fuel oil than with either gasoline or lubricating oil. The peaks observed fell into a range somewhat between these two materials and hence could not be attributed to either.

The difficulty of sampling an oil slick of this nature which heralds its presence with little more than a coloured pattern on the surface is well known. It is an area of activity where undoubtedly some development work would be of value. The only advice that I can offer is a personal belief that a large thin flat sponge floated on the surface of the slick would be better than any scoop arrangement. The sponge or sponges could then be placed immediately into plastic bags for carriage and storage. In this context the sponge could well be a sheet of synthetic material such as is sold by the Clark Rubber Company.

  
(R.A. CUMMINS)  
for Chief Superintendent





# MINUTE

58

VICTORIA/TASMANIA REGION

V116.783.1047

ASSU

Theoretically microwave radiation travels in straight lines, but in practice, due to the effects of the atmosphere, refraction occurs causing the rays to be bent downwards so that they follow more closely the surface of the earth. The degree of refraction depends on the density of the atmosphere at various levels. The vital level is reached when the curve of the ray equals the curvature of the earth so forming what is known as a "radio duct". Below this level, the ray is bent towards the earth, strikes the earth and then is trapped within the duct causing certain radars to see beyond the geometrical horizon. This is known as anomalous propagation or super-refraction. This occurs when the upper air is unusually warm and dry compared to the earth's surface so favouring the formation of radio ducts. This condition is likely to exist in fine, clear, settled weather conditions.

Another phenomenon associated with anomalous propagation is "second time round returns" which are radar returns received on the second rotation of the aerial head from the first transmission and are of distant objects normally out of radar range.

The notes of the radar controller show typical returns associated with the above phenomena. His remarks in regard to sea returns cannot be substantiated, little is known of effect of sea returns on equipment used by airways operations. It is possible that the return noted as a weather return could be a "second time round return" from a geographical feature of Tasmania.

*M. J. Harwood*  
M.J. HARWOOD  
OATS  
17.9.1981



SPECIALIST REPORT		File	Page 59
<b>Title</b> Missing Cessna 182L VH-DEJ Bass Strait 21 October 1978 Human Factors Aspects		<b>List of appended documents</b>	
<b>Author</b> AMHF			
<b>Designation</b> Dr. B.J. Mahony			
<p>Frederick VALENTICH (pilot) satisfied the medical requirements for initial issue of SPL on 8.2.77 when his weight was recorded as 120 lbs. He claimed no aeronautical experience at that date. There was no medical history of significance and no licence limitations were imposed.</p> <p>2 On 21.10.78 Valentich was engaged in a night VMC flight from Moorabbin to King Island when he reported that a large craft with numerous lights was hovering above him. Transmissions ceased shortly afterwards and subsequent calls from Melbourne FSU were not answered. Despite an extensive search neither aircraft or wreckage has been found.</p> <p>3 In addition to having access to the air safety investigator's findings, the writer also interviewed the father and girl friend of Valentich and studied a copy of the tape of the final transmissions from VH-DSJ in an attempt to build up a human factors background to this occurrence.</p> <p>4 Frederick was born in Australia of Italian parents from Trieste. Father speaks "fractured" but understandable English but mother and two younger children speak no English. The language of choice in the home is Italian but Frederick was not fluent and father always corrected Frederick's spoken Italian which Frederick resented. Frederick was a below average scholar and obtained a poor result in his Leaving Certificate.</p> <p>5 Catholicism is the religion of the family but they are not regular churchgoers. Father expressed his disappointment that Frederick only attended church at Christmas, Easter and on "special occasions" and he tried to persuade Frederick to attend more often. Frederick's girl friend is a Methodist.</p> <p>6 Frederick was a very keen member of the Air Training Corps. He devoted a great deal of time to these activities which he enjoyed and he was proud to wear the uniform. He had ambitions to become an Air Force pilot but his educational qualifications precluded this.</p> <p>7 He was at pains to be accepted and respected by his superiors (in the ATC) and by his peers. Although always appearing to be above reproach, he had lied to to his father, to his ATC officers and to his girl friend about having passed subjects for his CPL when he had, in fact, failed. He had also told the owner of the aircraft that, on this last flight, he had arranged to collect a consignment of crayfish from King Island and to bring back passengers who were waiting for him; neither of which was true.</p> <p>8 Father was convinced, and remains so according to subsequent media publicity, that his son was "captured" by a U.F.O and that he would be returned when "they" had finished investigating him. Frederick showed a great interest in UFOs and had a collection of books, articles and clippings on the subject but father did not think that his son was as convinced of their existence as he himself was.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.../2.</p>			



CONTINUATION SHEET	Section No.	Title	File	Page 60
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## SUBJECT

9 Frederick's girl friend seemed to enjoy the publicity limelight surrounding the disappearance. She did not appear to be unduly concerned and gave the impression that she expected to see him again. She claimed that there was a permanency to her relationship with Frederick and that they had plans for becoming engaged, but father dismissed the relationships as being of no consequence.

10 In the absence of any further concrete evidence, one can only suggest a number of hypothesis to explain this disappearance :

- (a) UFO intervention - no further comment apart from the observation that there were no sighting reports of a brightly illuminated craft large enough to take on board a Cessna 182.
- (b) Disorientation - at the place and time of the occurrence, this is a distinct possibility and even probability. On the other hand, it would have resulted in uncontrolled impact with the sea and one would have expected wreckage to result.
- (c) Controlled landing on the sea with the intention of escaping from the aircraft before it sank. This could have been successful or not successful. In either case no wreckage would be found and, in the latter event, the body could still be in the aircraft.
- (d) Successful landing elsewhere. Perhaps Valentich was not where he said he was and he landed in a remote location.
- (e) Crash elsewhere when attempting (d) and the wreckage has not yet been discovered.

*B. J. Mahony*  
(B.J. Mahony)  
AMHF

24.8.81



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047

Page

61

Subject

GLIDER TOW

Phone call from Inspector Fox, D24 (13.30) 23.10.78.

A Senior Constable Campbell of Forrest (052/36-6372) had a report from some children of an aircraft towing a glider in the Barwon Downs (Apollo Bay) area at about 5.30-6.00 p.m. on Saturday 21 October.

The Report was made because it was unusual for a glider to be in that part of the State.

A.G. HARRIS  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047

Page

62

Subject

REPORT FROM MR. J. SNOW

A John Snow rang re UFO - 23.10.78.

He was driving his car on Saturday night (21.10.78) at about 11.45 in the Barwon Heads area when his eleven year old son saw a greenish/white of some length flash quite fast across the sky to the south.

Not observed by any other member of the family in the car as it apparently had moved too fast.

A.G. HARRIS  
INVESTIGATOR



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

File  
V116/783/1047

Page

63

Subject

REPORT FROM MR. P. FARR

At approximately 1800 hours on 22 October 1978, I received a telephone call at my home from:

Mr. P. Farr,  
29 Adrian Street,  
Burwood.

Telephone after 1400 hours 2941003.

Mr. Farr stated that he was a responsible person, an officer in RAAF reserve and he did not wish to create the opinion that he was a nut.

At about 1855 hours on Saturday 21 October 1978 he was travelling from Mt. Waverley in a southerly direction along Huntingdale Road. He observed a shower of very bright metallic 'scintillations' to the south, high in the sky at an angle of about  $45^{\circ}$  from the horizontal  $1.5^{\circ}$  of arc in vertical plane and  $1^{\circ}$  of arc in the lateral plane. About 30 bright centres. Followed by a dark con trail moving from south to north. At first he thought it to be a meteor shower.

I.S. SMITH  
INVESTIGATOR



MINUTE

VICTORIA/TASMANIA REGION

V116.783.1047

ASSU

Theoretically microwave radiation travels in straight lines, but in practice, due to the effects of the atmosphere, refraction occurs causing the rays to be bent downwards so that they follow more closely the surface of the earth. The degree of refraction depends on the density of the atmosphere at various levels. The vital level is reached when the curve of the ray equals the curvature of the earth so forming what is known as a "radio duct". Below this level, the ray is bent towards the earth, strikes the earth and then is trapped within the duct causing certain radars to see beyond the geometrical horizon. This is known as anomalous propagation or super-refraction. This occurs when the upper air is unusually warm and dry compared to the earth's surface so favouring the formation of radio ducts. This condition is likely to exist in fine, clear, settled weather conditions.

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*M. J. Harwood*  
M.J. HARWOOD  
OATS  
17.9.1981





## MINUTE

AD(o)

I am in the process of completing the investigation report of the circumstances of the "accident" involving VH-DSJ on 21 October 1978. - "The Valentich disappearance".

The radar operator at Melbourne Airport at the time provided a report of the radar conditions.

Would you please arrange for a brief specialist analysis of this report. I enclose a copy of the report and, copies of the Bureau of Meteorology's analysis of the weather conditions at the time

Folio 24

ASSU

16. 9. 81.

D.O.T. 1962

Folios 71A  
& 90.



F. Valentich

77.48

2.35 64.55  
4.10 6.45  
6.45 71.40

SPL 24.2.77

R/DPH 23.9.77

Restriction A 27.1.78

	D	S	TOTAL
Experience	64.55	23.55	88.50
OF WHICH		23.	
X/CTY	19.05	6.50	88.50

100

Issue	PIC	D	TOTAL
Class 4. 11.5.78	69.00	77.48	146.48

146.48 hours

NOTE

Total hours shown at

Issue of Class 4 Rating 11.5.78

Aft missing MB KI 21.10.78

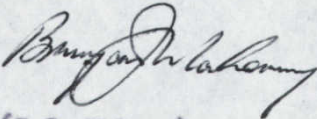
Pilot Log book has not been found.

During July 78 pilot took a C210 MB Aeropelican MB but no other evidence of extent of flying available. It can only ~~be~~ be said with certainty that the pilot had in excess of 150 hours experience.



SPECIALIST REPORT		File	Page
<p>Title</p> <p>Missing Cessna 182L VH-DSJ Bass Strait 21 October 1978 Human Factors Aspects</p>		<p>List of appended documents</p>	
<p>Author</p> <p>AMHF</p>			
<p>Designation</p> <p>Dr. B.J. Mahony</p>			
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CONTINUATION SHEET	Section No.	Title	File	Page
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<div style="text-align: right;">             (B.J. Mahony)            AMHF         </div> <div style="text-align: left;">           24.8.81         </div>				





# The Advocate

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Commonwealth Press U  
Audit Bureau of Circula

## Photo of U.F.O.?

A 16-year-old Penguin girl has taken a photograph of what she believes to be an unidentified flying object over her parents' home.

The girl, Michelle Dick (16), of Browns Lane, took the photograph at about 2 p.m. on Sunday last month.

The coloured photograph shows an oval-shaped object high in the sky above the Dick's home.

A ring of light encircles the object.

Michelle said yesterday she watched the object for about five minutes before taking the photograph.

"It came from Riana way and mov-

ed out towards sea," she said.

"It was travelling very slowly and in a straight line."

Michelle described the object as oval-shaped, grey-silver in colour and surrounded by a glow.

She did not see it go out of sight.

"The phone rang and when I came back it was gone."

Michelle's parents were not home at the time and none of the Dick's

neighbours reported seeing anything strange in the sky.

She said people who had seen the photograph believed it could be a U.F.O.

"Others think it's just a blob on the camera but I wouldn't take a photograph of our clothes line and the top of the house."

Michelle said she was sure the object was not a plane.

November 10,

Mr Peter Gra  
c/- Departme  
G. P. O. Box 1733 P,  
Melbourne.

Dear Mr Graham,

The cutting of the story regarding the U. F. O. reported by the Penguin girl is enclosed.

Michelle Dick lives at 6 Browns Lane, Penguin, 7316. The telephone number is (004) 37 2542.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours sincerely,  
THE ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER PTY. LTD.

H. M. Catchpole.  
News Editor.

Encl.

HMC/hb

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Regional Dailies of Australia Ltd.  
Commonwealth Press Union  
Audit Bureau of Circulations

November 10, 1978.

Mr Peter Graham,  
c/- Department of Transport,  
G. P. O. Box 1733 P,  
Melbourne.

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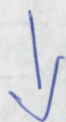
Newspaper Publishers - Rotary Offset Printers - Commercial Artists - Photographers



3/9/80

93

Guido, Valentin - trace at M3 type a/radio a  
DSJ - believe my log,



647. 2343 work - until 1715.

⇒ Aircraft File ⇒

VH - DSJ

VHF NARCO COM 11A.

HF REX HTR 5D.

18 ARVERN AVE

Arundale Heights 3034

Copy of Flight Plan.

Copy sent 10.9.80





MINUTE

Our Ref: M116/783/1047



10 JUN 1980

Director, Vic/Tas Region

MISSING AIRCRAFT VH-DSJ  
BASS STRAIT, 21 OCTOBER 1978

Attached is a copy of a letter received at this office in connection with the issue of a report concerning this occurrence.

Also attached is a copy of our reply.

(A.E. McKenzie)  
for Assistant Secretary  
(Air Safety Investigation)



13/5/80

Dear Sir,

15 MAY 1980

Peter G.Keane  
55 Greville Ave  
Flinders Park 5025  
S.A.

36  
92A

This is by way of an enquiry as to obtaining the Department of Transports Report on their investigation into the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich on October 21st, 1978 over the Bass Strait.

I believe that the accident report has already been released to the public in the usual booklet form which deals with these events, however the local Govt. Publications Seller does not yet have it, so you will appreciate that I am writing to you directly for assistance in this matter.

Please notify me as to the costs required to obtain one copy of the Dept.'s report.

In thanking you for your time, I am, sincerely,



Peter G.Keane.





## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

AVIATION HOUSE  
188 QUEEN STREET  
MELBOURNE

Telephone: 62 0131 (Area Code 03)  
Telegrams: AVIAT, MELBOURNE  
Telex: 30499 and 30276  
Postal Address: Box 1839Q, G.P.O.  
MELBOURNE 3001

In reply quote M116/783/1047

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated 15 May 1980 requesting a copy of a report of the investigation of the disappearance of Mr. Frederick Valentich on 21 October 1978 over Bass Strait, has been received.

The investigation has not yet been completed. In the normal course of events a decision as to whether a report will be released will not be made until the investigation has been concluded. Release depends on whether the information emerging is of significance to the accident prevention objective of the Department. The information available to date suggests that the release of an Aircraft Accident Investigation Summary Report would be unlikely in this case.

Nevertheless, your request has been forwarded to the Director Department of Transport, Victoria/Tasmania Region G.P.O. Box 1733P, Melbourne 3001, who has the responsibility for the investigation. Should action be taken to issue a report, he will be in touch with you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.E. McKenzie".

(A.E. McKenzie)  
for Assistant Secretary  
(Air Safety Investigation)

Mr. Peter. C. Keane,  
55 Greville Avenue,  
FLINDERS PARK S.A. 5025



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1636M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

5/11/79

Director,  
Vic/Tas Regions  
Dept of Transport.  
P.O. Box 1733 P.  
Melbourne VIC. 3001.

Missing Aircraft - Bass Strait. 21-10-78  
Gow V116/783/1047 - Our 70/33 29/10/79.

Herewith copy of slightly more detailed  
report on weather conditions about 0900 GMT 21/10/78.  
I omitted to include it with my letter of 28/10/79

Yours faithfully  
R.K. Little  
for R.D. Vic.



91A  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1638M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, MOORABBIN - CAPE OTWAY - KING ISLAND  
0830/0930 GMT 21/10/1978

1. At 0800 GMT 21/10/78 a broad ridge of weak gradient extended westward from eastern Bass Strait through southwest Victoria toward Adelaide.

- The pressure range was; Melbourne 1023.5 mb, Cape Otway 1023.2 mb and King Is. 1022.6 mb

- Surface isotherms;

21°C Melbourne - Warrnambool

17°C Wilsons Prom - Point Lonsdale - Cape Otway

13°C Lat ~~40~~<sup>37 1/2</sup> S Long 146 1/2°E - Lat ~~39 1/2~~<sup>39 1/2</sup> S Long 144 1/2°E -  
Lat 40 1/4 S Long 144°E - Lat 39 1/4 S Long 143 1/2°E

2. Conditions were perfect for night flying. Although a trace of stratocumulus at 5000/7000 ft and scattered cirrus at 3000 ft were reported, no cloud was detectable between the Victorian Ranges and the northern Tasmania coast on the infra-red satellite pictures at 0600 and 0900 GMT. There was no turbulence and visibility was excellent. An airborne aircraft over King Is. at 1000 GMT could clearly see the light from Cape Otway Lighthouse.

3. At 0800 GMT all reported surface winds were less than 10 knots. Cape Otway reported calm. Since light sea-breezes occurred along the coast during the afternoon, it is likely that shallow inversions of about 2°C below 500 ft still existed in some areas at 0900 GMT. With the onset of nocturnal cooling it is likely that shallow surface inversions of up to 3°C developed below 200 ft over the land and coastal fringe by 0900 GMT. It is considered that there were surface inversions over the sea but rather very stable, possibly isothermal layers below 1000 ft.

4. Laverton radiosonde at 1100 GMT indicated a subsidence inversion of 3°C between 7000 ft and 8000 ft. This inversion probably extended south to Cape Otway but further south toward King Island, the inversion would be less defined and possibly just an isothermal layer.



5.

Winds and temperatures along the route were probably:

Moorabbin/Cape Otway. The Dew Points are estimates only.

1000 ft	Variable 5 knots	Temp + 16	Dew Point + 11
2000 "	020/10	" + 14	" + 6
5000 "	350/10	" + 7	" Zero
7000 "	310/15	" + 1	" - 3
10000 "	270/20	" zero	" dry

Cape Otway/King Island

1000	340/10	Temp + 13	Dew Point + 10
2000	330/15	" + 11	" + 7
5000	320/15	" + 7	" + 2
7000	310/20	" + 4	" Zero
10000	290/25	" zero	" dry

6. Meteorological balloon flights were carried out at Mt Gambier and Laverton at 3 pm. Both balloons had burst by 0630 GMT. The next balloon flights were not carried out until 1100 GMT.

*R.K. Stibbs*

(R.K. STIBBS)  
for Regional Director, Vic



-783/1047 90

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Regional Office Vic. Cnr Spring & La Trobe Sts Melbourne

Telephone: 662 2555 Area Code: 03 Telegrams: WHR Melbourne Telex: AA30544

POSTAL ADDRESS: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, P.O. BOX 1636M, MELB. VIC. 3001

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 70/33

FOLIO

RCD 30 OCT 1979

29 October 1979

FILE VUB 793/1047

Director,  
Vic/Tas Region,  
Department of Transport,  
GPO Box 1733P,  
MELBOURNE 3001

MISSING AIRCRAFT - VHDSJ - BASS STRAIT 21.10.78

On the evening of 21/10/78 a broad ridge of weak gradient extended westward from eastern Bass Strait through southwest Victoria to Adelaide. Conditions were perfect for night flying over Victoria with no more than 2/8 SC 5000/7000 ft and scattered cirrus about 30,000 ft. Visibility was excellent at about 30 km and more. Temperatures at 0800Z ranged from 25/27C north of the ranges to 21 south of ranges to 17C at Cape Otway and Wilson's Promontory and 15C/13C at King and Flinders Is. The lower seaboard temperatures indicate a shallow surface inversion below 1000 ft. This probably accounted for some haziness about Cape Otway. Surface winds were very light being less than 10 knots throughout Victoria with slight sea breezes about the coastal fringe. State of sea reported from Cape Otway and Wilson's Prom. was smooth seas with low swell from the southwest. The oil platform at Kingfish A. reported a calm to rippled sea with a 3 ft south-westerly swell. QWH readings ranged from 1022 mb at King S., 1023 mbs at Flinders Is. and Melbourne, 1024 mb at Gabo Is. and Wagga to 1021 mb at Mildura and 1022 at Mt Gambier.

The probable winds along the intended route were:

AMMB/CTY	1000 ft	VRB 05
	2000 ft	020/10
	5000 ft	350/10
	7000 ft	310/15
	10000 ft	270/20
CTY/AMK1	1000	340/10
	2000	330/15
	5000	320/15
	7000	310/20
	10000	290/25

The winds elsewhere were:

North of Adelaide/Wagga/Nowra up to Lat 30S:

2000	030/15
5000	050/15 to 10 NSW coast
1000	050/20 to 10 NSW coast



90A

Western Victoria and SE South Australia:

2000	VRB 10
5000	010/15
7000	330/15
10000	300/20

Eastern Victoria:

2000	030/10
5000	340/10
7000	300/15
10000	270/15

Gippsland coast and east Bass Strait:

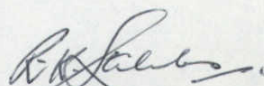
1000/2000 VRB05 becoming 320/15 toward Flinders Island.

5000	290/15
7000	280/20
1000	270/25

South of Lat.40S - freshening westerlies:

2000	270/20 to 30 over Tasmania
5000	270/25 to 30 over Tasmania
10000	270/30 to 40 over Hobart

The cloud conditions apart from Tasmania west coast was relatively free from low cloud. Some cirrus persisted in most areas and thickened over northwest and mid-north of NSW where scattered to broken AcAs developed with base about 12,000 ft.



(R.K. STIBBS)  
for Regional Director, Vic



startling exclusive:

89

# UFO COLLIDES WITH PLANE IN AUSTRALIA

Was it an accident or did the  
"four-pointed star" deliberately  
ram pilot Frederick Valentich's  
Cessna and reduce it to ashes?

By Michael Fields

The gloom in the darkened sky thickened about him. Outside the cockpit of his trim, 120-mile-an-hour Cessna the wind shripped and faint streaks of lightning brightened the far-off horizon. He touched his controls and the Cessna rose obediently from sooty clouds. The night sky was clear and Frederick Valentich, a cheerful, seasoned pilot, made two observations: he had reached 5,000 feet; visibility was unlimited. All was well. It would be a routine flight.

Then he made his third observation.

A fiery cylinder shot across the nose of his plane. It moved with such incredible speed that Valentich could not determine if it was an aircraft or a meteor. Was it a trick of vision? He keyed his microphone for a call signal to the air tower in Melbourne; but decided otherwise. He simply couldn't describe what his mind told him. He saw not only a gleaming metal cylinder (or did he?) but rows of windows and a

34 UFO

Ideal's UFO Magazine No. 7

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# Pilot Reports UFO and Vanishes

MELBOURNE (UPI) — "It isn't an aircraft, It's . . ." Moments after pilot Frederick Valentich told an Australian control tower an unidentified flying object with four green lights was chasing him, radio transmission was cut off, and nothing more was heard from the 28-year-old pilot or his single engine Cessna 182.

A full scale search by the Australian air force resumed yesterday for

plume of greenish vapor. Who at Melbourne would believe that?

Like all skilled pilots, Valentich weighed his situation. It was 7:03 P.M. October 21, 1978. Calmly, he ticked off the facts: He was flying on course over Bass Strait, which separated Tasmania from mainland Australia, making good time since leaving Melbourne's Moorabbin Airport at 6:19 P.M.

Straight ahead was his destination, King Island, just off the coast. He listened to background noises on his two-way radio, strangely comforted by the crackling of voices, assured by distant pilots giving their position and calling in commonplace sightings like ships or far-off planes.

There it was again. Nothing commonplace about the incredible shape of the "thing" or its terrifying velocity and metallic glow. Weeks later a tape of his graphic recital would testify to his perception and skill with

words. It was not an ordinary report. Indeed, UFO sighters of the past would be hard-pressed to match the flawless account:

"It looks like a silver battle plane without wings. Yet a tailless aircraft smooth and polished. Cylinder shape. Rows of windows. A large longitudinal fissure running through two-thirds of its length. Surface covered in scattered areas with a whitish material. Unable to clock ultimate speed. I cannot keep up with its forward thrust of 10 to 12,000 miles per hour. Green vapor. Has fantastic upward impulse and it orbits around me so quickly that I'm blinded."

At first, Valentich played his cards with discretion. After his encounter with the mysterious craft, he decided to make a call to the air tower:

"Alert, please. Is there traffic below five thousand?"

"No traffic."

"Traffic above me at five

thousand?"

"None. And none — repeat none — near your position and altitude."

"Tower, you must re-check. Above. Now below me a terrible brightness."

Nothing, we tell you. Nothing. Give again your altitude and speed."

"Exactly five thousand. Speed one hundred five. Good God, here it comes."

"What comes, please? No other in your vicinity."

"Tower, listen to me! Right now I am in orbit. No good. This damned unidentified. This craft like no other. This thing orbits around my Cessna faster than I can orbit. Two times. . . three times they orbit with such speed!"

"They?"

"It, maybe. Windows. Must be they. Large craft with personnel."

"No commercial air carrier near you. No Air Force transport within

*(continued on page 36)*



Continued from page 35

hundreds of miles. Flight 229, please state nature of this craft. Only you change position and altitude. Are you okay as to your right position and altitude?"

"Tower, it's gone, vanished."

"In what direction is unidentified craft moving away?"

"Tower, it did not move away. It no longer exists."

"Please check this observation 229. Unknown craft must move away in some, repeat some, direction."

"Green vapor directly overhead, tower. Now that's gone."

"Now you are all clear, 229? And there is no strange craft, right? Could be miscalculation. But did you hear a vibratory?"

"Tower, heard nothing but my own sound"

Electrical phenomena, 229, perhaps. Ball lightning can do strange things. Mirage not uncommon with storm flare."

"Storm flare far off to east, tower. Not vapor trail, either. Holy...here it comes from southwest! All shiny and metallic. My God, she comes at me. Electrical stuff doesn't have portholes, Tower. And it's making sharp turn downward at me. Wait...let me — "

Silence.

"229, come in. 229, answer please."

Silence.

"229, what are your intentions?"

Intentions? Very early in his flight training Valentich had learned that rendering a sober judgment of a flight observation also offered evidence of a pilot's reliability and visual sophistication. Although only 21, Valentich had been airborne for two years and was respected by air control men and air traffic experts. Valentich had built up a "good log" in towers from Victoria to Tasmania; within 10,000 square miles he was known as a meticulous spotter. In fact, a spokesman for the Australian Transport Department paid Valentich the following homage a few weeks after he literally vanished from this earth:

"He was far more than a qualified pilot. He was a dedicated and vigilant observer. His log was not one littered with 'there's a funny balloon out to the east' or 'a flaming something' without trying to describe what a something is. He put objects in flight under careful surveillance; one could venture that Valentich was almost scholarly in his visual thinking."

"We recall conversations with him in a flight room where, after hearing a yarn about a ridiculous sighting, he espoused a policy of being a 'master of the possible.' I remember his phrase. By that he meant a possible object in the sky could turn out to be probable if given assessment from all human resources."

"He emphasized he also didn't believe putting anything one doesn't understand in the crackpot file. It was his belief that sure as hell he didn't buy the idea of interplanetary vehicles, but it doesn't mean proof is lacking. In flight Valentich was committed to a total estimate of the situation. That's why his recordings of October 21, 1978 deserve thorough evaluation."

At 7:07 P.M. Valentich had indeed given the situation a total estimation. Throttling down the Cessna, he maintained his course but dropped to 3,000 feet. In a flat, expressionless tone, he began his log on the Melbourne tape.

"Tower, it is not an aircraft."

Repeat, not aircraft known to us. Unidentified vehicle has a green light at terminus of upper cylinder. Outer projection appears to be aluminum or some other light metal. The windows are unmistakable and I see four other lights from the interior. No windows, some other observation area. Tower, it is playing a game. Able to become stationary while at height of unmeasurable high velocity. Now it's flying past at my fuselage on the right and no more than 400 feet from my position — "

"229, are you on collision course?"

"No, it is still at my side. It can, can hang motionless...orbit over and under me. Let me log — "

"Proceed, 229."

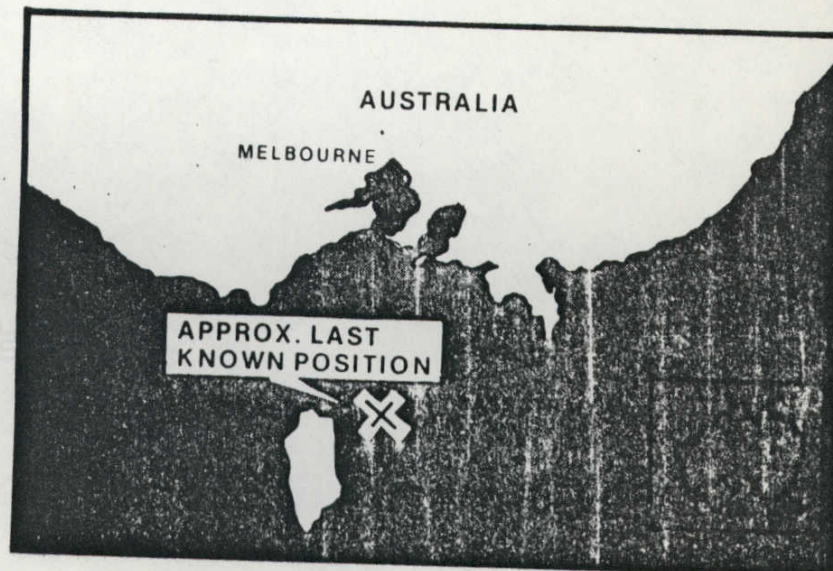
"Wingless tube she is. Maybe 100 feet long, with a green blast, sometimes green vapor. This a torpedo-type shape but so distended it appears to have outline of immense four-pointed star. Repeat again nearest to likeness of a massive cylinder and approximately twice the size of a standard 707, or a B-52."

"229, you logged 100 feet in length."

"Tower, I log 100 feet length approximate in one sighting. But it dilates, it expands to huge size as I look at it."

"Keep logging. But are you in danger?"

"Not thinking that way. Too much unbelievable to look at."



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"Are you in danger, 229? Shall we send pursuit?"

"Here he comes from southwest! Passing within 200 feet overhead. Good god, my engine is — (thunderous roar drowns out his words).

"Is this Mayday, 229?"

"No, he's gone eastward. But engine stalled when he made last pass...engine now resumed okay...and he's coming right at me again. Please check your traffic scan. You must have a craft in vicinity."

"Nothing since your first 703 alert. Nothing now. Will order pursuit...full scramble to 8 miles over Bass at 3,000 altitude, correct, 229? You are sure? There's zero pick-up of another craft anywhere in your area. But there was a noise —"

"Unknown craft coming straight at me! He's hovering...it's crazy. There he goes, but I can't lean on his bearing...Why, he's vanished."

"There is no craft, 229. Shall we order for scramble?"

"Gone, I log...no sighting...I'm alone at three thousand."

"What's your intention now, 229?"

"My intentions, ah, keep on course to King Island. Do you believe my log?"

"Sure do, we know it's Valentich."

"Thank you, tower. Am proceeding at speed of 110 at same course moving up to four

thousand. Wait...wait...engine faltering...I've got rough idling, she may conk. What the hell? Oh (deleted) Oh (deleted) she's coming up from the rear at a tremendous burst...his green light is all over here...she...he...it...it's not aircraft...going up to five thousand...six thousand...long wingless metallic tube spouting flame...I feel scorching...I feel —"

"229, we hear something tearing...229? 229, please reply —"

In the tower at Moorabbin Airport there was only silence. For a moment the air traffic controllers waited, stunned. It seemed unearthly. On their receivers they heard a loud CRUNCH! followed by a second detonating impact. It was the unmistakable screech of metal in collision with metal.

"Come in, 229? Come in!" they repeated, hearing only their own breathing. The radar screen seemed to mock them. The blip that had been Valentich's plane simply vanished. The normal order of radar evidence — blip striking another blip to indicate a two-plane catastrophe — did not appear on the screen.

"And he didn't go down!" cried the chief controller.

"That smashing," said the No. 2 man. "Not impact with water, what?"

Later Australian Transport spokesman Ken Williams summed it up in a terse report:

"The Cessna was totally alone over that sea area. We knew precisely where Valentich had been. It was a clear night. Very little wind and no rain or fog. Visual coverage for Valentich was clear for a hundred miles in all directions. Assume the highly unlikely situation the radar failed to pick up a second craft...how could Valentich fail to perceive that craft in perfect weather conditions?"

Even as search planes roared into the night sky armed with exact data as to Valentich's last known position, Moorabbin Airport technicians pored over recent information they had been inclined to disregard. From

October 18 to October 21 (only five hours before the Cessna disappeared) there had been 11 UFO sightings. The Royal Australian Air Force confirmed the burst of UFO activity. "Those unexplained sightings occurred over land and off-shore. We call them **reports of sightings**," the cautious statement said.

Valentich's last cry of "engine faltering!" was less of an enigma to Australian air control than his disappearance. They no longer disregard reports of "sputterings" or "temporary failure" of planes in the vicinity of UFO sightings — even though pilots of these planes do not report a UFO encounter.

A Civil Aviation spokesman states: "UFOs over our territory have been seen in conjunction with electromagnetic interference, radio blackouts, motor stallings, air ionization and other odd effects."

"Validity, some at least, could be given to the likelihood of UFOs. **Something** is hovering at low altitudes or making vertical ascents, descents, or orbiting at tremendous speed. It is possible that a UFO requires extra power at such times, increasing the electromagnetic interference."

"We reviewed hundreds of cases — not aircraft related — and there were automobile engines stopping for no apparent cause; radio and TV aeriels crippled; electric lights have dimmed or gone out in cities, towns and villages. But here's the mystery: the radio on pilot Valentich's Cessna functioned during close encounter. Indeed, he radioed the object was as near as 400 feet. Why then did his radio perform up to that last second of 'I feel scorching!' before he was gone from the radar screen?"

"And here we have the biggest mystery: if his radio performed, why was there a powerful magnetic force to banish his tormentor from the screen?"

"Are there UFOs with propulsion devices wiping out evidence as it so pleases them? Valentich radioed 'It is playing a  
*(continued on page 80)*





# AUSTRALIA

*(continued from page 37)*

game,' and who can dismiss it as hysteria? His words may show us that there may be little or nothing for science to measure — no material object to be picked up by human instrumentation. Nothing can be repeated for study because nothing existed but a force we cannot explain...and the pilot's compliance with the duties of his job. **He saw it."**

For four days 18 military and private planes roamed over 15,000 square miles of open sea. The distance between Moorabbin Airport and King Island is 130 miles. Three of the search craft followed the exact course of the vanished Cessna, circling and re-circling over a small region where Valentich would have come down if he crashed. Again, the lost pilot's meticulous skill contributed to the precision of the three-plane search, criss-crossing back and forth, dipping to 150 feet, looking for wreckage, anything. Ironically, Valentich's reportage on his final location was so dependable that searchers were able to focus on the exact few thousand feet of sea.

Not a trace.

On October 23rd — two days later — a search plane spotted an oil slick. It was a small patch, slightly more than 50-by-50-foot. A scoopful was picked up by a gadget lowered to the sea from a helicopter. A few hours later a Melbourne laboratory positively identified the fluid as tar discharged by a freighter or some other sea going vessel. No airborne craft could have used it.

Shortly after 10 A.M. on October 24, the telephone rang in the main office of the Melbourne Police Department. On the line was bank executive Colin Morgan, 59, of Melbourne. His story fascinated the officer who was

fielding dozens of calls from people who believed they had spotted the UFO. "A tube without wings I saw up there," announced Morgan. "My wife, Isabel, saw it, too. Metallic and bright, a green light, perhaps green smoke, or vapor."

That did it. No exact description of Valentich's sighting had been published in the Melbourne press, nor had it been broadcast over TV or radio. Furthermore, Colin Morgan was a particularly credible witness: a distinguished member of the community, assuredly levelheaded, the vice president of a bank. "Making a mistake is not my business," Morgan said later.

Morgan was right. When air control sat down with him to compare its confidential taping of Valentich with the banker's superb recital, they looked at him admiringly. "It was like holding a mirror up to what the pilot logged," said a radio man at Moorabbin Airport.

Of all 11 UFO sightings from October 18 to October 21 — three made by professional pilots — none was as accurate as the description given by Morgan. Others had chronicled a "pulsating box" or still more vaguely a "celestial craft" or a "traveling illumination" or a "greenish ferris wheel." These hazy recollections within 50 to 100 miles of Valentich's actual encounter tended to support convictions that there had been "unexplained sightings," as the Royal Air Force put it. And these reports had drifted in before the news was flashed that Valentich had disappeared.

Morgan's deposition dramatically confirmed what Valentich logged at Moorabbin Airport. It was uncanny.

"What amazed me was the timing," Morgan told interviewers.



"When I read that the pilot's sighting was at 7:03 I couldn't believe it. At the very moment Valentich was reporting his encounter with a UFO, Isabel and I had synchronized our watches, precisely at 7 P.M. It was low and traveling at unbelievable speed, cylinder shape, no wings, rows of windows and a greenish plume. Yes, it looked like a four-pointed star with green vapor streaming from one of its points." Shortly thereafter, Morgan sketched what he and his wife had seen. It fused perfectly with the word picture Valentich had logged on the airport tape.

A keen-eyed citizen and his wife had unerringly viewed what Valentich had logged. But what of the terrifying "I feel a scorching!" and the sickening CRUNCH! as he vanished from the radar screen? What was Valentich's fate?

A scorching or burning trauma is not an unfamiliar experience for those who have had contact, directly or indirectly, with UFOs. UFO buffs are knowledgeable about existing data, much of it carefully documented, which gives a full account of domestic animals (horses, cows, sheep) found burned to death after strange flying craft visited the vicinity.

Still unsolved, for example, is the 1967 case of the saddle pony at the Harry King Ranch, San Luis Valley, California, which was literally incinerated (the skeleton had been burned pink) shortly after dozens of witnesses saw a UFO traveling eastward over a mountain while extending antennae toward a pasture. Later, the U.S. Forest Service reported "high radioactivity" sweeping outward some two city blocks from the animals corpse. Similar incidents have been reported elsewhere.

In Miami, Florida, State and local police still have no answer to the bizarre "scorches" on the skin of businessman Filiberto Cardenas, 45, who vanished from his car on January 9 this year and was later found, bleeding and seared on a road four miles from where he had been abducted. Three witnesses saw him plucked

upwards by a "huge purple UFO." Cardenas reported that the hands reaching down for him from the UFO were "hot as a furnace."

There are countless other stories from people burned by a UFO encounter. Valentich's "scorching" experience is taken seriously by investigators, among them Cornell University scientists. They are still probing the truth, or untruth, of unexplainable "radar emissions from presumably unknown flying craft." Their link with human flesh mutilations defies analysis.

In Chile, where UFO sightings are numerous, a Santiago team of physicists offered this 1974 observation:

"A strong heating effect from a UFO encounter could be explained as a radar-type emission. In part of the evidence studied there is a possibility that a UFO 'heat effect' is also associated with a 'UFO sound.' A certain proportion of reports include testimony of individuals of 'hearing' the approach of a UFO before it is seen. This 'sound' has been described as a peculiar buzzing **inside** the head. We should not discount the stories of individuals, furthermore, who say they felt the extreme heat as some unknown object descended on them. Natural emissions with extraordinary heat from a UFO bear some similarity to radar signals.

"Many radar beams consist of a series of electromagnetic pulses transmitted intermittently. They have a high power of concentration in one direction — with heat acceleration. When there are strange interactions (a burn or heat laceration not seen previously) the individual who suffers them should be listened to carefully.

"A UFO burn **could** be a reality...reality leading to a confirmation of a true encounter. And that high-heat encounter could destroy its target."

Was the searing fire that enveloped Frederick Valentich's plane so volatile that it ignited the Cessna's metal structure? Could he have vanished as a puff of ash in the wind over the sea? The answer remains to be found. —



Melbourne Truth

Page 21

Date 20-10-79

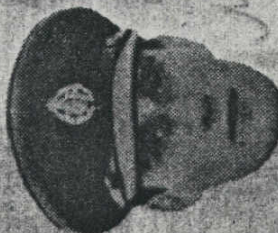
# THE OUTER LIMITS

With JOHN PINKNEY  
Australia's leading UFO and supernatural investigator

AN AMERICAN magazine claims it holds a top-secret Australian government tape concerning a UFO.

In the alleged transcript, published this week by Ideal UFO Quarterly, missing pilot Frederick Valentich radios that there are people aboard the huge, silver craft which buzzed him over Bass Strait.

By telephone, I talked



\* FREDERICK VALENTICH  
... censored clasp.

## Pilot 'censored'

to the magazine's New York executives. They said they held evidence that Australia's Department of Transport had censored more than five minutes of Valentich's report.

Sample passages ... This craft is like no

other. It orbits around me ... has windows. It's a large craft with personnel. "Outer projection appears to be aluminium. It can hang motionless looks like a green tube with vapor ... but so distended, it seems

to have the outline of an immense, four-pointed star. "Now it dilates. It expands to a huge size as I watch it." And then, as the UFO closed in for the last time: "It's a long, win-

now, spouting flame. I feel scorching ... I feel

The last sound on the tape is the screech of metal on metal.

One week after Valentich vanished, too, was handed evidence that the Department of Transport had censored the tape, on grounds of national security.

Some of the pilot's comments in the American magazine report tally with notes I was given last October.



Truth

# Weekend Magazine

5

## THE OUTER LIMITS

With **JOHN PINKNEY**  
Australia's leading UFO and supernatural investigator

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★ **FREDERICK VALENTICH**  
censored claim.



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Sample passages . . .  
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"Outer projection appears to be aluminium. It can hang motionless . . . looks like a green tube with vapor . . . but so distended, it seems

to have the outline of an immense, four-pointed star.

"Now it dilates. It expands to a huge size as I watch it." And then, as the UFO closed in for the last time: "It's a long, win-

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One week after Valentich vanished, I, too, was handed evidence that the Department of Transport had censored the tape, on grounds of national security.

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## HAVE YOU...

...SEEN or heard a ghost?



Information phased  
to Mr Valentich 23/10/78 (1978) C.A. 1171

87

Mr Guido VALENTICH

father of pilot of missing  
aircraft VH-DSJ. Cape Otway  
area 21 Oct 1978.

Phone 647 2343

Reference your query for  
information of other a/c  
in area at the time.

Extensive research of our  
documents & discussions  
with ATC & the FS officer  
who was on duty at that time  
and who was communicating  
with VH-DSJ has ~~not~~ revealed  
shown that there were no other  
known aircraft in the area  
at that time.



There was one aircraft on the ground at King Island.

He had not heard anything and was not listening on his radio. He knew nothing of the occurrence until asked by ATC to take off for a track crawl search K1 to Cape Wickham and back to K1.

There was possibly one aircraft in the circuit at MB but our records do not go back to then and it is expected the pilot would have reported any unusual occurrence. He would have been on MB frequency & not that used by VH-DSJ.



21/10/78. VH-DSJ

86

Guido Valentich. - like to ask could give some indication  
pilot in area. Sa 21 OCT.  
- somebody - Tallonmerie  
- 647 2343

Before search took place.

Tuned radio 7:12

1 minute after - call with airtank  
✓ DST.

below 1000 feet - talk  
couldn't get a tone  
no registration  
didn't get it from talk  
Traffic controller

~~not~~ air party to give out pilot names.

But has message.



# 11 hurt as rodeo stand collapses

ELEVEN people were taken to hospital and a baby narrowly escaped death yesterday when a stand full of people watching a rodeo collapsed in Ullmarra, on the NSW north coast.

More than 60 people were on the eight-tiered timber stand.

Last night four people - two with broken bones - were still in Grafton Hospital. The others were discharged after treatment for shock and bruises.

Police said a year-old girl escaped death because she was moved from her pram seconds before it was crushed by the stand.

property and examination revealed needle punctures near their jugular veins.

At least one trainer received death threats over his refusal to rig races, the report says.

It also says a federal Liberal politician and a State Labor MP accompanied two well-known criminals on a flight from Britain to Australia on July 25, 1976.

The criminals had travelled to Britain eight days earlier to buy gambling equipment for illegal casinos in the Sydney area.

One had 10 convictions for SP betting.

The independent MP for South Coast, Mr John Hatton, described the report yesterday as "frightening."

He said he would call on Mr Wran to order the NSW Police Commissioner, Mr Wood, to appear before Parliament to answer questions relating to organised crime.

"Either the Police Commissioner has not kept his minister informed of the crime intelligence unit's findings or Mr Wran lied to Parliament when he said he didn't know the report existed," Mr Hatton said.

by a representative of a major international stamp dealer. He intended to sell the stamps in Australia.

About \$470,000 worth of stamps were in the main body of the briefcase. A zippered outer compartment, without a lock, contained an album full of rare Australian issues.

Special seals were placed over the two locks for the main body of the briefcase, but the zipper was not sealed.

Customs officials in Perth told the courier if he did not pay \$45,000 duty on the stamps they would not be allowed into the country.

The representative told Customs officials he could not pay the duty and the briefcase was kept at the airport.

With the suitcase inside an airline safe, the representative contacted his superiors in London, who told him to make arrange-

was safe but no longer had a physical body. He is claimed to have said: "I am in light. I can move to wherever I need to be."

Valentich reportedly said there were people who had come to do certain work and they needed his skill. They were not from earth but from a place in the galaxy he could not locate. Asked if there were others with him he replied: "Yes. Many people with technical skills have been chosen to help, and these people are my colleagues. They come from the planet earth."

Mr Guido Valentich said yesterday he still believed his son was alive but was sceptical about Mr Amery's claims. Mr Valentich said it was just possible Mr Amery might be trying to publicise his book, New Atlantis, which predicts severe upheavals and great changes to the earth in about a year.

The man in charge of the investigation, Mr Bert Walters, said it was possible the stamps were removed from the briefcase even before they were taken aboard the plane in London bound for Australia.

Or they might have disappeared on either leg of their round trip, or at stops in between.

"It's all rather baffling. The adjusters in Perth are offering a \$3000 reward for a full recovery of the stamps," he said.

## Seance 'reaches' UFO kidnap pilot

A CLAIRVOYANT claims he has made contact with a pilot who disappeared in October after reporting the presence of an unidentified flying object.

He said the missing pilot, 20-year-old Frederick Valentich, reported being taken by a community in space and that the reason his aircraft has not been found is that it "disappeared from any physical existence."

The clairvoyant, New Zealand author and lecturer Colin Amery, held a special seance at his Dunedin home on Saturday night, exactly six months after Valentich's disappearance over Bass Strait.

The case made world headlines because of a radio message between Valentich and air traffic control in which the pilot de-

scribed a bright object flying close to his Cessna. The conversation ended with a metallic thud. Since then no trace of pilot or plane has been found.

The missing pilot's father, Mr Guido Valentich, knew of the seance and planned to be in his son's bedroom at the time to assist with deep concentration. But a mix-up over the time change between Australia and New Zealand put Mr Valentich in his son's bedroom two hours early.

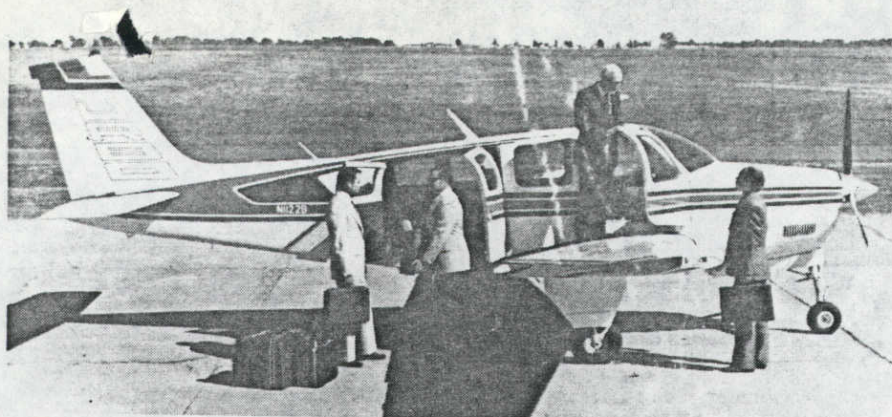
During a short "conversation" through Mr Amery, Valentich is said to have told the seance that 60 seconds of the radio transcript was suppressed and edited out before it was released. The allegation is in line with highly-publicised claims by friends and family after its release.

Valentich is supposed to have said he

By DAVID ELIAS

Australian 23/4/79





## Turbocharged 1979 Bonanza

A NEW turbocharged Bonanza, designated the A36TC, is included in the Beechcraft line for next year. Certification is expected this month, and deliveries will begin next year. Engine is the 300 h.p. Continental TSIO-520-UB, raising maximum certificated altitude to 25,000ft, and gross weight from the A36's 3,600lb to 3,650lb. The diameter of the standard three-bladed propeller is an inch smaller for reduced tip speed and noise, and for greater ground clearance. The need for cowl flaps is eliminated by a series of louvres and gills, and the heater has been redesigned and repositioned to cope with the lower temperatures at high altitudes.

Standard features on the A36TC, as well as the A36, include a new extended rear compartment for up to 70lb baggage, and a new 15° approach flap setting common to all Bonanzas, identical with that of the Baron models and allowing a maximum extension speed of 152kt. Also offered on all 1979 Bonanzas is increased oxygen capacity, with the choice of either a 49ft³ or 76ft³ system. The A36, now in its 11th year, is currently top-selling Bonanza, although the V-tailed V35 has now been going for 32 years and passed the 10,000 mark in 1977.

Next year will see the Skipper, Beech's T-tailed two-seater, entering



service in the Beech Aero Club training package system, alongside the Sundowner 180, retractable Sierra 200 and Duchess twin. The first production prototype Skipper flew in September, and it has since been joined by another for flying towards certification, expected in January. Skipper production has begun at Beech's Liberal-based division, alongside Sundowner, Sierra and Duchess assembly lines.

Sixty Duchesses had been delivered up to September 30, with production next year expected to exceed 200. Three have gone to Canada and in September one was flown 18,000 miles to New Zealand. Beech has developed a multi-engine course to complement Duchess introduction at its 100 Aero Clubs. The course covers complete training for the private and commercial pilot certificates and instrument rating.

## Cessna downed by UFO?

A FULL-SCALE air and sea search was mounted from Melbourne last week for a Cessna 182 which disappeared after its pilot said he had been buzzed by an unidentified object. Flying instructor Frederick Valentich was flying alone over the Bass Strait when he told Melbourne air traffic that he saw an object with "four bright lights." It initially passed about 1,000ft above him, he said, at a speed he could not estimate. Valentich was at 4,500ft, and no other aircraft were reported in the vicinity.

He later said he was orbiting, and that the object, with "a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside," was orbiting above him. Shortly afterwards he reported his engine was rough-running, and said he was proceeding to King Island with the unknown aircraft still hovering over him. After what was described as a metallic noise on his transmission, radio contact was lost. An oil slick was later reported in the area, but was thought to be too widespread to have come from a light aircraft.



Left Besides turbocharging, the A36TC also has a new extended rear compartment for up to 70lb baggage. Below left Deliveries of the Skipper should begin early next year

## Prizegiving night at the Royal Aero Club

THIS YEAR'S presentation of Royal Aero Club medals by president HRH the Prince of Wales takes place on November 28 at the Royal Automobile Club. Awards to be presented include the Britannia Trophy, Silver and Bronze medals, the Prince of Wales Cup, Breguet Trophy, FAI Group Diploma, Tissandier and Montgolfier Diplomas and Nile Gold Medal. The presentation will be at the RAC's Mountbatten Suite, Pall Mall, London SW1. Tickets, at £6.50, are available from the Royal Aero Club Social Secretary, John Morgan, at 47 Curzon Street, London W1.

## Development plans under consideration for Kent airfield

KENT County Council may develop West Malling airfield to cater for air-taxi and other types of business and private flying. Leader of the County Council, John Grugeon, stresses that this is only one of the options being considered. Others include housing, industrial and recreational schemes.

The Council is still a long way from making any firm decisions, and is keeping in close touch with the local district councils. An aviation consultancy has prepared a full report on the airfield. The Council emphasises that recreational flying, especially training circuits, and scheduled air services are not included in its plans.

## Chipmunk Club's second year

THE British-based DHC-1 Chipmunk Club has just celebrated its first birthday, and already has some 100 members in Australia, Iceland, Nigeria, North America and Europe. Several joined after reading about the club in *Flight*, and secretary Ralph Steiner writes to welcome other readers who may be Chipmunk owners, pilots or simply enthusiasts. Contact him at Soller, Barnet Road, Arkley, Herts.



Minister,

26 APR 1979

ASSU. 2/4  
AD(0)

Scribe No. 0904/007H

GVH:LA:ASIB

23 April 1979

83

Suggested reply herewith.

*G.V. Hughes*  
( G.V. Hughes )  
Assistant Secretary  
(Air Safety Investigation)

c.c. Secretary  
Dep Sec (AO)  
FAS(AO)  
Director Vic/Tas  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Private Secretary  
MLS

Dear Dr Cass,

I refer to your personal representations on behalf of Mr Guido Valentich of 18 Arven Avenue, Avondale Heights, whose son disappeared whilst piloting an aircraft across Bass Strait on 21 October 1978.

My Department was, of course, responsible for the search action which took place when it became known that the aircraft was missing. Additionally, the Air Safety Investigation Branch of my Department commenced an investigation at that time into the circumstances which led to the disappearance of the aircraft. This investigation has not yet been completed but, in the absence of any trace of the aircraft or the pilot, it seems unlikely that it will be possible to determine the reason for the disappearance. Responsibility for investigation of reports concerning "Unidentified Flying Objects" is that of the Royal Australian Air Force and my Department has liaised with the RAAF concerning those aspects of the occurrence.

Mr Valentich had contact with the Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) at Melbourne Airport on each day of the search for the missing aircraft and was given details of the search action completed and intended. A few days after the search was abandoned, he visited the RCC and was given an extensive briefing of the complete search operation. At about this time he also visited the Regional Office of my Department to assist the investigation and the responsible air safety investigation officer advised him of the progress of the investigation at that time. Subsequently, he made two further visits and several telephone calls to the Regional Office for discussions with air safety investigation officers and on each occasion was advised of the progress of the investigation. It is understood that he has also had contact with the RAAF concerning the U.F.O. aspects of the occurrence.

It is believed that Mr Valentich has been informed of all relevant information known to my Department in respect of this unfortunate occurrence and, of course, if any trace of his son or the missing aircraft is discovered in the future, he will be informed accordingly. In the meantime, if there is any specific aspect of the occurrence in respect of which Mr Valentich requires further information, any request made by him to my Department will again be treated very sympathetically.

Yours sincerely,

( P.J. Nixon )

The Hon. M.H. Cass, M.P.  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600



82

ASIW

Please prepare a report  
of the investigation in  
accordance with ASIC 3/1975

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Smith".

ASSU

19. 4. 79



NOTE FOR FILE

VH-DSJ missing on a flight from MB to K1 on 21.10.1978  
Pilot Frederick Valentich

22/10/78 1040 hours GMT father Guido Valentich  
was informed of the situation to that  
time by the ML RCC.

23/10/78 0430 & 0930 GMT father updated  
by RCC

24/10/78 1128 hours GMT father updated by RCC

25/10/78 0815 hours GMT father updated by RCC

0900 hours GMT. Search terminated  
DISTRESS phase cancelled.

31/10/78. Keith Eddy  
Interview with Guido Valentich & Miss  
Rhonda Rushton girlfriend of missing  
Frederick Valentich. Several hours  
spent in giving them a complete  
rundown on the SAR operation  
from start to finish



80

DESPATCHED WITHOUT FILE
DATE DESPATCHED. 22 MAR 1979
PROCEDURE. O.M.
ACTION REQUIRED. <del>ASA</del> A Register
ACTION OFFICER(S)
FILE NUMBER (THIS COPY)
LOCATION OF FILE

V116/783/1047

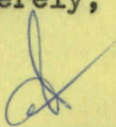
Dear Mr Keane,

In your letter of 12 January you asked several questions about the Cape Otway Light and the Cape Wickham Light. The attached sheet tabulates the answers to those questions.

Your 10 January letter asks about public access to the file on the missing aircraft, VH-DSJ. The Air Safety Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport is charged with the investigation of occurrences which affect, or could affect, air safety. The purpose of these investigations is to help us all to prevent or avoid air accidents in the future. The material gathered in the course of our investigations is freely given to us on the understanding that we will treat it as confidential and use it solely for the purposes of accident prevention.

With regard to your other question, please be advised that the investigation into this occurrence is continuing and the Department has not released a report of the investigation.

Yours sincerely,

  
(I.S. Smith)  
for Director

Mr Peter G. Keane,  
55 Greville Avenue,  
FLINDERS PARK, S.A. 5025.

Att



		<u>Otway</u>	<u>Wickham</u>	<u>Units</u>
A.	<u>INTENSITY</u> - White	1,000,000	550,000	Candela
	- Red	250,000	-	"
B.	<u>RANGE</u> - Nominal - white	26	24	Naut. Miles
	Nominal - red	22	-	-
	Geographical - red/ white	24	23	-
C. <u>CHARACTERISTICS</u>				
	on	0.1	0.1	Seconds
	off	2.6	2.9	"
	on	0.1	0.1	"
	off	2.6	6.9	"
	on	0.1	-	"
	off	12.5	-	"
	Total Cycle	18.0	10.0	"
D.	<u>POSITION</u> - Lat.	38°	39°	South
		51.5'	35.7'	
	Long.	143°	143°	East
		30.8'	56.9'	
	<u>ELEVATION</u>	91	85	Metres
	<u>HEIGHT OF TOWER</u>	19	48	"
	<u>SHAPE, COLOUR, MATERIAL</u> - Both are round, white, stone towers.			
	<u>GLAZED SECTION</u> - Diameter	3.7	3.7	Metres
	Height	3.0	3.0	"
E.	<u>ON</u>	Manually 15 mins before sunset	Photoelectric	
	<u>OFF</u>	Manually at sunset <i>Rise</i>	"	



A.S.S.U.

Ref: folio 76

Cape Otway

A/ Intensity:

1,000,000 Candela - white  
 250,000 Candela - red

B/ Range:

26 nautical mile - nominal - white  
 22 nautical mile - nominal - red  
 24 nautical mile - geographical - white/red

Nominal range is the distance that a light can be seen if "standard" atmospheric conditions prevail. In this case the range is when meteorological visibility is 10 nautical mile. In practice standard conditions seldom if ever exist.

Geographical range is the maximum distance at which a light can theoretically reach an observer as limited only by the curvature of the earth and the refraction of the atmosphere, and by the elevation of the light and the height of the eye of the observer. In this case height of eye of observer is assumed to be 5 metres above sea level.

C/ White true bearing from seaward  $257^{\circ}-109^{\circ}$  ( $212^{\circ}$ )  
 Red  $109^{\circ}$  - shore

Characteristic Group Flash 3 every 18.0 seconds

Flash 0.1 sec  
 Short eclipse 2.6 sec  
 Long eclipse 12.5 sec

i.e.  $0.1/2.6/0.1/2.6/0.1/12.5 = 18.0 \text{ sec.}$

D/ Position  $38^{\circ} 51.5'$  S  
 $143^{\circ} 30.8'$  E

Elevation 91 metre  
 Ht. of tower 19 metre - white round stone tower

Lantern approx. 3.7 metre dia x 3 metre high  
 (glazed section)

E/ Lightkeepers - "light-up" 15 minutes before sunset  
 and "put-out" at sunrise

Cape Wickham

over page



Cape Wickham

A/ Intensity 550 000 Candela  
B/ Range 24 nautical mile - Nominal  
23 nautical mile - Geographical  
C/ Color of light - white

Characteristics:

Group flash 2 every 10.0 sec

$0.1/2.9/0.1/6.9 = 10.0 \text{ sec}$

D/ Position  $39^{\circ} 35.7' \text{ S}$   
 $143^{\circ} 56.9' \text{ E}$

Elevation 85 metre  
Height of tower 48 metre - white round tower

Lantern approx 3.7 m dia x 3 m high  
(glazed area)

E/ Photo-electric cell control

Hope this info is of use to Mr Keane

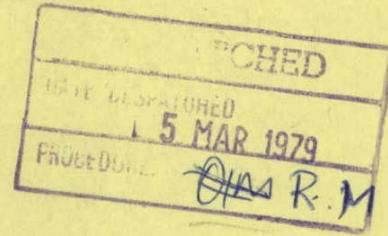
Colin Turnbull  
A/SNAE

6/3/79



Registered MAIL

V116/783/1047



Dear Mr Valentich,

In your letter of 8 January 1979 you asked me if I could provide you with a copy of the radio transmissions made by your son during the flight which terminated in his disappearance on 21 October 1978.

It is the normal policy of this Department to treat all recorded radio communications as confidential. However, in this case, I am very happy to give you a taped copy of your son's voice to have as a keepsake.

I would ask you, however, in view of the Department's firm policy of confidentiality, to confine the hearing of the tape to your family for the specific purpose stated in your letter.

Please accept my sincere wishes that the disappearance of your son will be resolved without further distress to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

  
(G.V. Hughes)  
A/g Director

Mr G. Valentich,  
18 Arvern Avenue,  
AVONDALE HEIGHTS, VIC. 3034.



RESEARCHED WITHOUT FILE
DATE RESEARCHED 27 FEB 1979
PROCESSED O/m
ACTION TAKEN
ACTION OFFICER(S)
FILE NUMBER (THIS COPY)
LOCATION OF FILE

ISS:CC: 26/2/79

116/783/1047

Dear Mr Keane,

Your letters of the 10th and 12 of January have been received and the matters you raised are receiving our attention.

I apologise for the delay in acknowledging your correspondence and thank you for your courtesy in enclosing stamped addressed envelopes. However, please be advised that these are not necessary when corresponding with an Australian Government department.

Yours faithfully,



(I.S. Smith)  
for Director

Peter G. Keane,  
55 Grenville Ave,  
FLINDERS PARK, S.A. 5025

\* 2 Stamped, addressed envelopes enclosed.





MINUTE

76

V116/783/1047

AD(S)

Please see folio 75.

2 This Branch is not really competent to answer Mr Keane's questions and we would appreciate you providing the required information where possible.

I.S. SMITH

ASSU

23 February 79

SNKE

Height of aircraft 4500ft  
visibility good.  
at sea near only

OK<sub>3</sub>



Jan. 12th, 1979

- 1047  
- GRAHAM

16 JAN 1979

Peter G. Keane  
55 Greville Ave  
Flinders Park 5025  
Adelaide S.A.

75

Dear Sir,

This is by way of an enquiry into the mainlight at Cape Otway light-house.

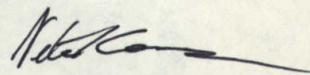
The purpose of this letter is to obtain any information on the following that you care to release for an investigation into the alleged "UFO" related incident involving the disappearance of the Cessna 182 on Oct. 21st:

- A) What is the exact power output of the Cape Otway light?
- B) Exactly how far can this light be seen?
- C) What are, the colours of the light and the exact duration of its revolutions?
- D) What is the position of the lighthouse/height/width/no. of windows/colouring/etc.?
- E) When does the light begin operation each day?
- F) Do you have the same information on the above 5 queries on the Cape Wickham lighthouse, King Island, and if so could you please supply it?
- G) Any information that you may deem relevant to my study.

Any information that you supply is greatly appreciated and will benefit my study.

The lighthouse keepers at Cape Otway and Cape Wickham have both provided helpful information but I seek more detailed data on the above queries.

In hoping that you will assist, I am sincerely,



Peter G. Keane.



SAE returned

T. D. Keane  
436395



Jan. 10th

15 JAN 1979 15 JAN 1979

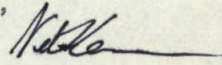
Peter G. Keane 74  
55 Greville Ave  
Flinders Park 5025  
Adelaide S.A.

Dear Mr Smith,

Your assistance in earlier enquiries has been very helpful  
but I must make one final query; is the file on the Valen-  
tich disappearance available to the public or has any inv-  
estigation by the Dept. of Transport or analogous organis-  
ations been released, that I may obtain.

I will be glad to pay any postage fees/reproduction fees  
and whatever else remittance is necessary upon notification  
as to these needs.

In hoping that you will assist, I am sincerely,

  
Peter G. Keane.

*SAE returned*



ASSW  
SM 9/1  
THE DIRECTOR OF  
VICTORIA & TASMANIA  
REGION  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
108 LONSDALE ST. MELB.

FOLIO (73)  
RCD - 9 JAN 1979  
JAN. 8 1979  
GUIDO VALENTICH  
18 ARVERN AVE.  
AVONDALE HEIGHTS  
3034 VIC.

Dear Sir  
I'm the father of missing pilot  
FREDERICK VALENTICH, who mysteriously  
disappear over BASS STRAIT on October  
21<sup>st</sup> 1978.  
Frederick left allot of things behind  
which we keep very dear on his memory,  
but he left no sound.  
Therefore, I would like to ask you kindly,  
as the Director of the Department, whether  
would be possible to obtain a copy of  
Frederick's last radio communication, which  
we all in the family with very much  
to keep close to our heart.

Yours faithfully  
Guido Valentich

Acknowledged receipt  
during subsequent telephone  
contact with Mr Valentich

Cleared  
Director  
RS (SI)  
W 9/1

John Hoskins to  
prepare tape copy



Director  
RSH  
Collect Incident File  
From Air Safety for Director




RRC:CS 13/12/78

V116/783/1047

Dear Madam,

Your letter dated 5 December 1978 re accident to VH-DSJ has been received and you can expect a reply shortly.

Yours faithfully,

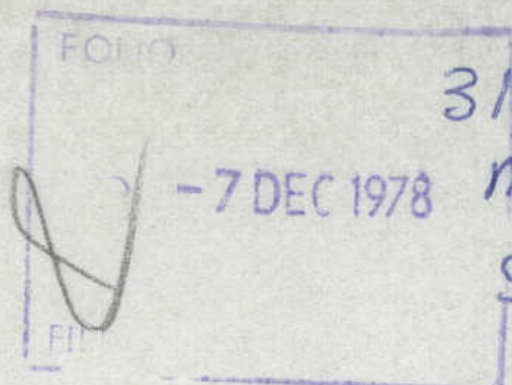
  
I.S. Smith  
for Director

Ms J. Brooks,  
31 Avenue Street,  
MILLSWOOD. S.A. 5034

72/

RESPATCHED WITHOUT FILE
DATE DESPATCHED 14 DEC 1978
PROCEEDURE. olm.
ACTION REASON.
ACTION OFFICER(S)
FILE NUMBER (THIS COPY)
EDITION OF FILE.





-7 DEC 1978

31 Avenue St  
Millswood

SA. 5034

5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1978.

Dear Sir,

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the report concerning the disappearance of Frederick Valentich and his plane last October. Could you let me know the cost, and I will post the money to you in advance so that you could send a report as soon as the investigations are complete.

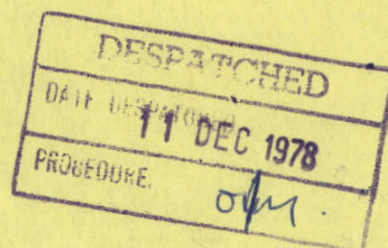
I have been told by a member of staff of the Department of Transport in Adelaide that information concerning aircraft accidents is not always released to the public, but hopefully that will not apply to this unusual and intriguing case!

Thanking you in advance,  
Jane Brooks

V116/733/1047



V116/783/1047



Dear Mr. Keane,

The purpose of our analysis of the oil slick sample taken from Bass Strait during the search for missing Cessna 182 aircraft, VH-DSJ, was to determine:

- 1 if the sample was of an aviation type fuel or lubricant and
- 2 if it was, then was it from the missing aircraft.

Results of the analysis by the Materials Research Laboratories indicated that the sample was consistent with bunkering fuel oil and not gasoline or lubricating oil. This result negated any requirement for further analysis as a "scoop" method was used to recover of the sample, it contained a very limited amount of the hydrocarbon base material and there is no residue for other analysis.

When the sample was taken from the oil slick it was located at 39°19' South Latitude 144°01' East Longitude. To date no wreckage of this aircraft has been sighted or recovered.

Yours sincerely,

(I.S. Smith)  
for Director

Mr. Peter G. Keane,  
55 Greville Avenue,  
Flinders Park,  
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5025



28/II/78

Peter G.Keane  
55 Greville Ave  
Flinders Park 5025  
Adelaide S.A.

69

5 NOV 1978

Dear Mr Smith,

I have received your letter dated the 27th(refer.VII6/783/IO47)  
regarding an earlier enquiry into the oil sample obtained from  
the Bass Strait.

The information you supplied,while appreciated,is not sufficient  
for my purpose which is to obtain detailed information on various  
aspects of the missing pilot incident including the findings on  
all wreckage and material thought to have come from the missing  
plane.

I wish to obtain a chemical analysis of the sample taken;is this  
available?

Similarly,is information on the exact whereabouts of the oil-  
slick found,available?

In hoping that you will assist my enquiries,I thank you.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter G.Keane*  
Peter G.Keane.

Stamped addressed  
envelope returned.





DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

MATERIALS RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
CORDITE AVENUE, MARIBYRNONG, VICTORIA  
P.O. BOX 50, ASCOT VALE, VIC., 3032  
TELEGRAMS: MARELABS MELBOURNE

30 NOV 1978

V116-783-1047  
FILE  
A514

Telephone 31 7222, Ext.

Our Reference:

Date:

29 NOV 1978

Director,  
Department of Transport,  
Transport House,  
108 Lonsdale Street,  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000

(Attention: Mr. I.S. Smith)

Your Reference: V116/783/1047

Water Samples ex Bass Strait

The samples were solvent extracted to remove any hydrocarbon-based material. The extracts were then examined by both Gas Chromatography and a combination of this with Mass Spectrometry.

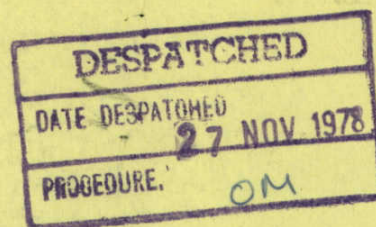
Both samples yielded very small quantities of hydrocarbon oil, however the analyses indicated that these were more consistent with bunkering fuel oil than with either gasoline or lubricating oil. The peaks observed fell into a range somewhat between these two materials and hence could not be attributed to either.

The difficulty of sampling an oil slick of this nature which heralds its presence with little more than a coloured pattern on the surface is well known. It is an area of activity where undoubtedly some development work would be of value. The only advice that I can offer is a personal belief that a large thin flat sponge floated on the surface of the slick would be better than any scoop arrangement. The sponge or sponges could then be placed immediately into plastic bags for carriage and storage. In this context the sponge could well be a sheet of synthetic material such as is sold by the Clark Rubber Company.

(R.A. CUMMINS)  
for Chief Superintendent



V116/783/1047



Dear Mr. Keane,

The Materials Research Laboratories analysed a water/oil sample obtained from Bass Strait at the request of The Department of Transport and they have referred your letter to this office.

It was determined that the oil contained in the water sample was fuel oil and not of the type used in the missing aircraft.

Yours faithfully,

I.S. Smith  
for Director

Peter G. Keane,  
55 Greville Avenue,  
Flinders Park,  
Adelaide. S.A. 5025





DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

MATERIALS RESEARCH LABORATORIES

CORDITE AVENUE, MARIBYRNONG, VICTORIA

P.O. BOX 50, ASCOT VALE, VIC., 3032

TELEGRAMS: MARELABS MELBOURNE

Telephone 31 7222, Ext.

Our Reference: 7/3/1

66  
Date: 14 NOV 1978

Mr I. Smith  
Superintendent, Air Safety Investigation  
Department of Transport  
108 Lonsdale Street  
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000.

Dear Mr Smith,

I have received correspondence from a Mr Keane of Flinders Park, Adelaide concerning enquiries into the disappearance of the Cessna 182 on October 21. Since these Laboratories are not in a position to release the results of an investigation undertaken for your Department, I enclose Mr Keane's letter for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

(P. DUNN)  
Acting Chief Superintendent



3/II/78

*13/11*

Dear Sir,

Peter G. Keane

55 Greville Ave

Flinders Park 5025

Adelaide S.A.

7-3-1

This is by way of an enquiry into the findings on the oil slick recently found off Cape Wickham in relation to the disappearance of the Cessna 182 on Oct. 21st.

The subject matter that I wish to obtain is detailed information on the type of oil found. For example was it the type of oil from an aircraft or from a ship, was the slick itself too large to have come from a downed aircraft and have authorities discovered any traces of oil, petrol, etc that could have come from the Cessna? Any information that you supply is greatly appreciated and will assist personal investigation into this case for the purpose of discussing the incident in a forthcoming article in "Scientific Australian" magazine.

In anticipation of your reply I thank you for your time and energy.

*In Reply,*

*Please discuss with Mr Cummins and refer this enquiry to Dept of Transport.*

*13/11*

Sincerely yours,

*Peter G. Keane*

Peter G. Keane.





*Handwritten notes in the right margin:*  
1. *Handwritten signature/initials*  
2. *Handwritten text, possibly a date or reference number*  
3. *Handwritten text, possibly a name or title*



65

DESPATCHED
DATE DESPATCHED NOV 1978
PROCEDURE. OM

V116/783/1047

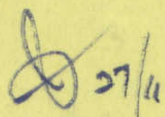
COMMAND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND  
RAAF  
VICTORIA BARRACKS  
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3004

(Attention: Sqn Ldr T. Filing)

MISSING AIRCRAFT : CESSNA 182 VH-DSJ ON 21.10.78

A recent letter to you (V116/783/1047 of 23.11.78) refers), concerning missing aircraft VH-DSJ and other matters, was despatched without the mentioned attachments.

These attachments are included with this letter for your attention.

  
I.S. SMITH  
for DIRECTOR

ATT.





# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

*With the Compliments of*

COMMAND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND  
RAAF  
VICTORIA BARRACKS  
MELBOURNE VIC. 3004

21 NOV 1978

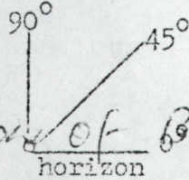
(T.J. FILING)

Squadron Leader



# REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

## Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of Observer Mr B HARDIMAN Age 36  
 Address 8 CASTLETON RD  
VIEW BANK State VIC Post Code 3084  
 Occupation TEACHER  
 Telephone No. (home) 959 2031 (Business) 354 1166
2. a. Exact location of observer ON THE GREAT OCEAN  
ROAD  
 b. Observer's familiarity with the location POOR
3. Start of observation: Date 21-10-78 Time AFTER 7.00 am/pm  
 End of observation: Date 21-10-78 Time BEFORE 7.10 am/pm
4. Accuracy of date ✓ Time ✓
5. General weather conditions of time of observation, referring to cloud, wind, visibility etc. CLEAR, STILL, JUST AFTER  
SUNSET, SOME PATCHES OF SEA MIST
6. a. In what direction was the sighting first observed? \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. At what angle to the horizon? 

AS THE ROAD WAS FULL OF BENDS I CAN ONLY GIVE THE DIRECTION OF BOTH FIRST & FINAL SIGHTINGS AS OUT TO SEA.
- a. In what direction was the sighting last observed? \_\_\_\_\_  

WE HAD NO CLEAR VIEW OF THE HORIZON DUE TO THE APPROACHING NIGHT. HOWEVER THE LIGHT ROSE FROM CLOSE TO THE SEA. AT FIRST SIGHTING & AT LAST SIGHTING WAS AT A CONSTANT HEIGHT BUT AT A LOWER ANGLE THAN YOU WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT AN AEROPLANE TO BE SIGHTED
8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. How were the answers to questions 6, 7 and 8 assessed, and were aids or equipment used during the sighting? BY EYESIGHT  
WITH NO EQUIPMENT OR AIDS.

/ 10. Describe



644A

10. Describe the object(s)/light(s) as follows :

- a. number ONE
- b. colour MY WIFE SAW A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT WITH COLOURED RAYS  
I SAW A BRIGHT LIGHT WHICH SEEMED TO BE GREEN-RED.
- c. size ABOUT THE SIZE OF VENUS.
- d. shape ROUND
- e. brightness (relative to full moon/star) FULL MOON.
- f. movement/direction of travel NOT PARALLEL TO COAST  
COULD NOT TELL IF MOVING TOWARDS OR AWAY FROM COAST.
- g. sound NONE.
- h. speed UNKNOWN
- i. method of propulsion UNKNOWN
- j. manner of disappearance WE STOPPED WATCHING.

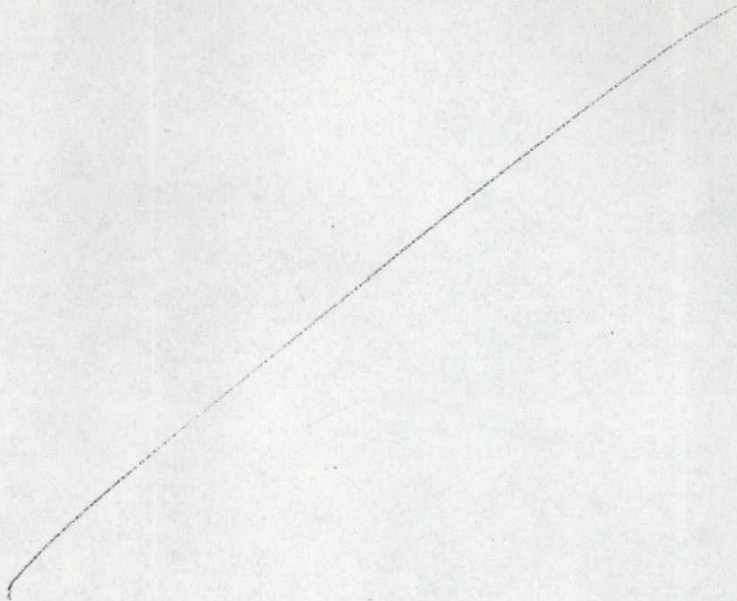
11. a. Narrative description of the sighting and any unusual features or additional comments

I WAS DRIVING ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN  
RD BETWEEN WYE RIVER & LORNE. WE  
LEFT WYE RIVER ABOUT 6.55 PM & ARRIVED  
AT LORNE AFTER 7.10 PM. MY WIFE BROUGHT  
TO MY ATTENTION A LIGHT OUT TO SEA  
WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS A FLARE BECAUSE  
IT SEEMED TO RISE & THEN DIP TOWARDS THE SEA BUT LATER  
IT THEN ROSE AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE  
ROAD I WAS UNABLE TO LOOK FOR  
30 SECS TO ONE MINUTE AT THAT TIME THE  
LIGHT SEEMED TO BE STEADY IN THE SKY  
AND I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS AN AIRCRAFT  
& WE STOPPED WATCHING. AT THE TIME THIS  
EXPLANATION DID NOT COMPLETELY SATISFY  
US. BUT WE SAID WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE.

b. Diagram



b. Diagram or sketch of sighting (if possible)



12. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? \_\_\_\_\_

NO

13. How many other witnesses were there to the sighting?  
(Please provide names and addresses if possible)

MRS B. HARDIMAN

8 CASTLETON RD

VIEW BANK 3084

14. Have you previously made any reports to official authorities or UFO organizations regarding unusual aerial sightings? If so, give brief details of dates and circumstances. \_\_\_\_\_

NO

Date 2-11-78

Signature B. Hardiman



149 Essex Street,  
Pascoe Vale 3044.  
30<sup>th</sup> October 1978.

Mr. P. Graham,  
Air Safety Investigation Branch,  
Regional Headquarters,  
108 Lonsdale Street,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

In response to your request for a written report of my impression of Frederick Valentich, I have given the matter much thought and have attempted to set out the relevant facts, subsequent assessment and comments in a logical sequence.

I was first introduced to Fred about a year ago by SQNLDR R.F. Grandy who, like myself, is an Air Force Reservist attached to Squadron Headquarters, Air Training Corps. SQNLDR Grandy had known Fred when he was a Cadet in the Corps some years previously, and after he introduced Fred he asked me to read a reference that he had prepared for Fred. I recall him saying that he thought that Fred was worthy of any assistance or advice I may give him.

That evening I spent over an hour with Fred. He explained that he was not accepted for RAAF aircrew, and now wanted to pursue a civilian flying career.

After that first meeting he regularly attended Squadron Headquarters in a civilian capacity, working without pay or allowances until accepted into Squadron staff as an Airman. During that time he was working in my section, and he showed a lot of enthusiasm for the work given him.

He sat for all six CPL examinations early this year, and as he failed all of them he asked if I would tutor him. Although reluctant at first, because of my shortage of spare time, I agreed to assist him in navigation and aircraft performance. He became a regular Sunday afternoon visitor to my home, once bringing his young twin sisters and a couple of times his girl friend, Miss Rhonda Rushton.

On the basis of my involvement with Fred as briefly outlined above, my assessment of him is as follows;

- (i) He always demonstrated responsibility towards his study and other work given to him. I recall his careful supervision of his sisters in my home. He sometimes told me of his in-flight experiences which indicated a responsible attitude toward the command of an aircraft.
- (ii) He was always friendly, neatly dressed, and was of sober habits. Whilst in my company he rarely had more than one alcoholic drink in an evening. I never heard anyone comment adversely on his drinking habits.



- (iii) As indicated above, he appeared to be enthusiastic about his work both at Headquarters and in my home. He frequently spoke of getting an instrument rating and twin endorsement so that he could get a flying job as soon as he obtained his CPL.
- (iv) Knowing that he failed to gain selection for RAAF aircrew because he did not possess the required academic qualifications, I nevertheless thought that his academic standard was reasonable, spelling excepted; it was poor. When working through navigation problems I put his frequent mistakes down to impatience and the desire to get his exams over and done with.
- (v) He showed respect to those in authority, and only on one occasion can I recall his making a derogatory comment about any person. That was as a result of Air Traffic Control at Moorabbin raising an ASIR about the way in which he made an approach and landing at Moorabbin after a flight. He was quite annoyed, adamant that he had operated in accordance with the current ATIS.
- (vi) Observing his personal discipline, and from what he told me about the way he conducted himself in the air, I believe that he was developing a healthy flight discipline. As both flight discipline and airmanship are pet subjects of mine, I took every opportunity to advise him in that regard.
- (vii) In summary, I would say that he was impressionable, a "battler", and that he had the determination and stability to achieve his goal of commercial pilot.

I must admit to extreme disappointment on hearing from you today that Fred did not pass the two exams he sat for in mid-year, not because he failed them, but because when I returned from holidays in mid September, he rang me to say that he had passed the exams. Having read my comments in the above paragraphs you will see that I must regard Fred's apparent dishonesty as being completely out of character.

I now wonder if he was ashamed for not having passed the exams, possibly realizing that he would never get his CPL. Because everyone had formed the same high opinion of him, was he a good actor? Did he have a split personality? Could he have really been unstable?

In view of this, together with his mysterious disappearance, is it in any way significant that on the Sunday following his exams he and Rhonda bought two bottles of wine to my home to share that day because he said that he thought he had passed both exams. I declined because I was on "reserve", and said that we would drink them when he was told that he had passed. That was his last visit to my home. Did he know then that he had failed? Was the wine payment to me for my efforts?

Giving Rhonda the friendship ring a week earlier than the "anniversary"; reportedly speaking calmly on the radio about a UFO then reporting engine trouble; no lights, passengers or crews organized at King Island; I am now asking myself if he has absconded with the aircraft, or if it was a suicide flight that he had carefully planned for some time.

I trust that the above information is acceptable and may in some way prove helpful to your investigation.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Barnes.

← Captain 6159  
Associated Airliner



G. Dodkinve

21/11/78

1530

VH-EHY

C337

K1 0131 Z

Saw drift in water

at 39°18.5' S  
144°36' E

at about 48 DME K1.

Flew orbit but  
didn't resight

Water 30 fathoms

Gale was using current

- From SOL on 22-11-78
- KING IS - JACKA TRACK
- SAW SHAPE OF FUSELAGE
- ORBITED BUT COULDN'T SEE IT AGAIN
- WATER ROUGH (WHITE CAPS)
- PILOT DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING UNTIL HE WAS BACK AT K.I. IF IT HAD BEEN IMPORTANT SUGGESTS HE WOULD HAVE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY.
- REFERRED TO M.O.C + REGION (JOHN DOWNIE)
- WATER 180 - 190' DEEP
- BRIEFED OTHER A/C TO MAINTAIN LOOKOUT.
- WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR CALM WATER TO SEE A/C AT THAT DEPTH.
- SIGHTING AT 0131 GMT
- ADVICE RECEIVED AT 0230Z M.I. F30.

## 'Plane wreck' seen

A PILOT yesterday reported he had seen wreckage of a plane in Bass Strait near where Melbourne pilot Frederick Valentich vanished.

The transport department said the pilot, flying a Cessna 337 from Melbourne to King Island, circled

over the area at 12.31 p.m., but could not see wreckage a second time.

The department said any wreckage at the spot, 48 miles north of King Island, would be in 30 fathoms (60 metres).

Seas were rough and a gale warning was out.

The department said planes and ships using the area had been alerted, but no search was planned yet.

Valentich, 20, in a single-engine Cessna 182, vanished on a flight from Melbourne to King Island on October 21.

Minutes before his radio went silent, Valentich told air controllers that a large object was hovering above him, and it was "not an aircraft."

THE SUN

22-11-78





## MINUTE

Ref 1976 Radio Tech.

Dave Gohman.

469189

Eliz. Allen.

○ ———— ○  
Secs Sec.



TRANS AA30260  
TRANS AA30276

24/10/78

FROM HUGHES AS(SI)

TO MINISTER

C.C. SECRETARY,  
DEP. SEC. (A.O.)  
FAS(AO)  
FAS(FW)  
DIRECTOR VIC/TAS  
DPR  
ADPR  
AS(PC)

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORT

DAILY NOTE

MISSING CESSNA 182 VH-DSJ - BASS STRAIT

- . FOLLOWING INTENDED TO ASSIST IN ANSWERING ANY POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MY INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF 23 OCTOBER.
- . DETAILS OF RELEVANT SECTION OF PRELIMINARY TRANSCRIPT FROM MELBOURNE FLIGHT SERVICE RECORDING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
0906:14	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN TRAFFIC
	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I AM, SEEMS (TO) BE A LARGE AIRCRAFT, BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
0906:44	FS	DSJ	D D DELTA SIERRA JULIET WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS IT?
	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I CANNOT AFFIRM IT IS FOUR BRIGHT, IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE LANDING LIGHTS
0907	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0907:31	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS (IS) DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED OVER ME AT LEAST A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRMED?
	DSJ	FS	ER UNKNOWN, DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY?
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY
0908:18	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0908:41	-	-	(OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)



## THOUSAND FEET ABOVE

FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRMED?  
 DSJ FS ER UNKNOWN, DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY?  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY  
 0908:18 DSJ FS MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0908:41 - - (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)  
 0908:48 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE'S FLYING OVER ME TWO THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT IDENTIFY  
 0909 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL  
 DSJ FS MY LEVEL IS FOUR AND A HALF THOUSAND FOUR FIVE ZERO ZERO  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET AND YOU CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT  
 DSJ FS AFFIRMATIVE  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER STANDBY  
 0909:27 DSJ FS MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT IT IS (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)  
 0909:42 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE ER AIRCRAFT?  
 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET AS ITS FLYING PAST ITS A LONG SHAPE (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR THREE SECONDS) (CANNOT) IDENTIFY MORE THAN (THAT IT HAS SUCH SPEED) (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR THREE SECONDS) BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW MELBOURNE.  
 0910 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND HOW LARGE WOULD THE ER OBJECT BE  
 0910:19 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE IT SEEMS LIKE ITS STATIONARY WHAT IM DOING RIGHT NOW IS ORBITING AND THE THING IS JUST ORBITING ON TOP OF ME ALSO, ITS GOT A GREEN LIGHT AND SORT OF METALLIC (LIKE) ITS ALL SHINY (ON) THE OUTSIDE.  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0910:46 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR FIVE SECONDS) ITS JUST VANISHED  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0911 DSJ FS MELBOURNE WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT IVE GOT IS IT (A TYPE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT?  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET CONFIRM THE ER AIRCRAFT JUST VANISHED  
 DSJ FS SAY AGAIN  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THE AIRCRAFT STILL WITH YOU  
 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET (ITS AH NOR) (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS) NOW APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHWEST  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0911:50 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE ENGINE IS IS ROUGH IDLING IVE GOT IT SET AT TWENTY THREE TWENTY FOUR AND THE THING IS (COUGHING)  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS  
 DSJ FS MY INTENTIONS ARE AH TO GO TO KING ISLAND AH MELBOURNE THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING ON TOP OF ME AGAIN (IT (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR



DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET (ITS AH NOR) (OPEN  
MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS) NOW APPROACHING  
FROM THE SOUTHWEST

FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET

0911:50 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE ENGINE IS IS ROUGH  
IDLING IVE GOT IT SET AT TWENTY THREE TWENTY  
FOUR AND THE THING IS (COUGHING)

FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT ARE YOUR  
INTENTIONS

DSJ FS MY INTENTIONS ARE AH TO GO TO KING ISLAND AH  
MELBOURNE THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING  
ON TOP OF ME AGAIN (IT (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR  
TWO SECONDS) IS HOVERING AND ITS NOT AN  
AIRCRAFT

FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET

0912:28 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE (OPEN  
MICROPHONE FOR SEVENTEEN SECONDS)

THERE HAS BEEN A REPORT OF SIGHTING OF AN OIL SLICK IN THE  
GENERAL AREA

- ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN HAND WHICH SHOULD ALLOW POSITIVE  
IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THIS OIL COULD HAVE COME  
FROM AN AIRCRAFT.

NUMEROUS AVENUES OF INVESTIGATION ARE BEING FOLLOWED,  
INCLUDING

- DETAILED STUDY OF THE FLIGHT SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS TAPES
- HUMAN FACTORS ASPECTS INCLUDING
- : NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS INDICATE POSSIBILITY  
OF PILOT PRE-DISPOSITION TOWARDS UNIDENTIFIED FLYING  
OBJECTS
- : IT IS REPORTED THAT HE BELIEVED IN SUCH PHENOMENA
- THE METEOROLOGICAL ASTRONOMICAL AND ATMOSPHERIC ASPECTS
- : RECOGNISING ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY LAST LIGHT
- THE SERVICEABILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT
- : AIRCRAFT HAD UNDERGONE 100 HOURLY INSPECTION LAST FRIDAY  
(20 OCTOBER)
- : THIS WAS FIRST FLIGHT APART FROM A 25 MINUTE TEST FLIGHT
- FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE PLANNING OF THE FLIGHT
- HISTORY OF THE PILOT
- : INCLUDING REFERENCE TO INSTRUCTORS
- : WITH OBJECT OF DETERMINING TYPE OF PERSON CONCERNED
- : KNOWN TO HOLD UNRESTRICTED PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE WITH  
CLASS 4 INSTRUMENT RATING (NIGHT VMC) TOTAL EXPERIENCE  
APPROXIMATELY 150-200 HOURS
- SHIP REPORTS DETERMINE LIKLIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT VESSELS  
BEING IN THE AREA IN QUESTION.

IT IS RELEVANT THAT INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED  
FLYING OBJECTS RESTS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUE THE MINISTER FOR  
DEFENCE

- YOU MAY CARE TO GIVE HIM A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE
- APPROPRIATE OFFICERS AT THE WORKING LEVEL OF THE RAAF HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN INFORMED.

NNNSENT:- 241306) - A E S T \*  
TRANS AA30260  
TRANS AA30276

560-2296



TRANS AA30260  
TRANS AA30276

78 OCT 24 PM 12 57

60

24/10/78

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORT

FROM HUGHES AS(SI)

A.S.S.V.

TO MINISTER  
C.C. SECRETARY,  
DEP. SEC. (A.O.)  
FAS(AO)  
FAS(FW)  
DIRECTOR VIC/TAS  
DPR  
ADPR  
AS(PC)

DAILY NOTE

MISSING CESSNA 182 VH-DSJ - BASS STRAIT

FOLLOWING INTENDED TO ASSIST IN ANSWERING ANY POSSIBLE  
QUESTIONS AND IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MY INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF  
23 OCTOBER.

DETAILS OF RELEVANT SECTION OF PRELIMINARY TRANSCRIPT FROM  
MELBOURNE FLIGHT SERVICE RECORDING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
0906:14	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN TRAFFIC
	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I AM, SEEMS (TO) BE A LARGE AIRCRAFT, BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
0906:44	FS	DSJ	O D DELTA SIERRA JULIET WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS IT?
	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I CANNOT AFFIRM IT IS FOUR BRIGHT, IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE LANDING LIGHTS
0907	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0907:31	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS (IS) DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED OVER ME AT LEAST A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRMED?
	DSJ	FS	ER UNKNOWN, DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY?
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY
0908:18	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0908:41	-	-	(OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)
0908:48	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE'S FLYING OVER ME TWO THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT IDENTIFY
0909	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL
	DSJ	FS	MY LEVEL IS FOUR AND A HALF THOUSAND FOUR FIVE ZERO ZERO
	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AND YOU CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT



FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRMED?  
 DSJ FS ER UNKNOWN, DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY?  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY  
 0908:18 DSJ FS MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0908:41 - - (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)  
 0908:48 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE'S FLYING OVER ME TWO THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT IDENTIFY  
 0909 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL  
 DSJ FS MY LEVEL IS FOUR AND A HALF THOUSAND FOUR FIVE ZERO ZERO  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET AND YOU CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT  
 DSJ FS AFFIRMATIVE  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER STANDBY  
 0909:27 DSJ FS MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT IT IS (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS)  
 0909:42 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE ER AIRCRAFT?  
 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET AS ITS FLYING PAST ITS A LONG SHAPE (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR THREE SECONDS) (CANNOT) IDENTIFY MORE THAN (THAT IT HAS SUCH SPEED) (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR THREE SECONDS) BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW MELBOURNE.  
 0910 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND HOW LARGE WOULD THE ER OBJECT BE  
 0910:19 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE IT SEEMS LIKE ITS STATIONARY WHAT IM DOING RIGHT NOW IS ORBITING AND THE THING IS JUST ORBITING ON TOP OF ME ALSO, ITS GOT A GREEN LIGHT AND SORT OF METALLIC (LIKE) ITS ALL SHINY (ON) THE OUTSIDE.  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0910:46 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR FIVE SECONDS) ITS JUST VANISHED  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET  
 0911 DSJ FS MELBOURNE WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT IVE GOT IS IT (A TYPE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT?  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET CONFIRM THE ER AIRCRAFT JUST VANISHED  
 DSJ FS SAY AGAIN  
 FS DSJ DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THE AIRCRAFT STILL WITH YOU  
 DSJ FS DELTA SIERRA JULIET (ITS AH NOR) (OPEN MICROPHONE FOR TWO SECONDS) NOW APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHWEST  
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- HUMAN FACTORS ASPECTS INCLUDING  
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: RECOGNISING ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT APPROXIMATELY LAST LIGHT  
- THE SERVICEABILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT  
: AIRCRAFT HAD UNDERGONE 100 HOURLY INSPECTION LAST FRIDAY  
(20 OCTOBER)  
: THIS WAS FIRST FLIGHT APART FROM A 25 MINUTE TEST FLIGHT  
- FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE PLANNING OF THE FLIGHT  
- HISTORY OF THE PILOT  
: INCLUDING REFERENCE TO INSTRUCTORS  
: WITH OBJECT OF DETERMINING TYPE OF PERSON CONCERNED  
: KNOWN TO HOLD UNRESTRICTED PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE WITH  
CLASS 4 INSTRUMENT RATING (NIGHT VMC) TOTAL EXPERIENCE  
APPROXIMATELY 150-200 HOURS  
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ALREADY BEEN INFORMED.

NNNNSENT:- 241306) - A E S T \*  
TRANS AA30260  
TRANS AA30276



59

V116/783/1047

THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY  
P.O. BOX 1636M  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

DESPATCHED WITHOUT FILE
DATE DESPATCHED. 30 OCT 1978
PROCEDURE. O/M.
ACTION BRANCH.
ACTION OFFICER(S)
FILE NUMBER (THIS COPY)
LOCATION OF FILE.

## MISSING AIRCRAFT VH-DSJ OVER BASS STRAIT ON 21.10.78

This aircraft is reported missing on a flight from Moorabbin to King Island at 1912 hours EST on 21.10.78. The aircraft departed Moorabbin at 1819 hours EST and reported Cape Otway at 1900 hours EST.

2 At approximately 2000 hours EST a Cessna 402 aircraft departed King Island to conduct a local search of the area and reported visibility in the area as excellent, (he could see Cape Otway light while still at King Island) and no cloud in the area. Other reports from persons on the mainland near Cape Otway reported no low cloud, a higher layer and good visibility although hazy to sea.

3 Request a full appreciation of the weather conditions existing at the time of this flight over the proposed route. Although the aircraft reported at 4500 feet and passing Cape Otway, winds to 10,000 feet within a 600 nautical mile radius of Melbourne would be appreciated.

I.S. SMITH  
for DIRECTOR





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
Station. .... ML  
No. .... 388  
Reg. Off. No. ....  
Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION Cape Otway- King Is. Date 21/10/1978 Local Time 1912

AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking Cessna 182 VH-DSJ PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH. F.

OWNER/OPERATOR Southern Air Services FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR  
IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point Moorabbin First point of intended landing King Is. Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

ENGINE MALFUNCTION - AIRCRAFT MISSING.

1. At 210819 GMT, VH-DSJ departed Moorabbin for King Island on a VFR/NV flight to King Island. DSJ reported Cape Otway at 0900 with an ETA King Island of 0928.
2. At 0906½ DSJ requested information of any traffic in area since he could see lights. The pilot continued to report lights near him until 0911½ when he reported an engine rough running problem with the intention of continuing to King Island. The Alert Phase was declared and Aerodrome Emergency Procedures activated at King Island. King Island Flight Service was recalled to duty.
3. At 0912½ radio contact was lost with DSJ. Since the aircraft had previously reported cruising at 4500 ft., approximately the lowest level for continuous communication with Melbourne Flight Service in the area, this might have been indicative of losing altitude.
4. The Distress Phase was declared at 0933 with the non arrival of DSJ at King Island.
5. An Air/Sea/Ground search was mounted immediately with the first aircraft departing King Island for a land search at 1001. The search continued until 0900 on the 25th October with no wreckage sighted.
6. Weather conditions in the area were reported as excellent with little or no cloud, light winds and a calm sea. ~~Thunderstorm/light~~

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

.....on / /  
For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



The first King Island search aircraft reported seeing the Cape Otway light when still south of Cape Wickham, at 3000 ft, a visibility of about 60 nm.

Sunset at Cape Otway was at 0850.

Last light at Cape Otway was at 0921.

There was no moon but venus should have been visible on a bearing of 255T at an ~~elevation~~ of 25° approximately.

7. Two major problems were found during course of the search.

(a) much search time was lost by the optimum aircraft, the Orion, in directing a surface vessel to the position of possible oil slick and debris for retrieval.

(b) When light aircraft, without integral navigation systems, found possible debris when out of sight of land they had to climb to fix position and in doing so lost sight of debris.

SIGNED P. BARNETT

DESIGNATION SOC/SMC

DATE: 26/ 10 1978

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

Any papers or documents which may assist in the investigation of your report should be submitted as attachments to this form. If you think your report can be supplemented by information from an Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit where possible please notify the circumstances of the incident, and the fact that a written report is being submitted, to the senior officer on duty at the unit concerned. On receipt of your notification, action will be taken to collect and retain the data relevant to your incident report.

Where it is necessary to urgently report any matter affecting the safety of aircraft you are requested to notify the circumstances of the incident by the quickest available means: i.e., radio, telephone, telegram, etc. This initial notification should be confirmed in writing on this form.



NNNNZCZC MOB649 210915  
 FF AMMLYU  
 210915 AMMLYS  
 FLW REC  
 210728 AMMBYO  
 PLN DSJ NV PVT C102 VRHN/BC/H  
 AMMB FOR AMKI AMMB 0745  
 CTY B050/41 AMKI 28  
 CTY 34 AMMB 44  
 CLIAS 80 LX 300  
 SARTIME 210930 AMKI AMML PHONE  
 FURTHER SAR TBA

58A

NNNNZCZC MOB699 211057  
 FF AMMLYU  
 211031 AMMBYO  
 PLN DSJ NV PVT C182 VRHN/BC/H  
 AMMB FOR AMKI AMMB 0745  
 ROUTE LSALT ALT TAS TR WIND HDG CS DIST ETI  
 SEGMENT MAG MAG

CHECKED OK ✓

ROUTE SEGMENT	LSALT	ALT	TAS	TR MAG	WIND	HDG MAG	CS	DIST	ETI
CTY	4000	B050	130	225	340/15	232	135	92	41
AMKI	1500			155		155	145	64	28
CTY	4000	B050		334	340/15	335	115	64	34
AMMB	1500	B050		045		039	124	92	44

RMKS FURTHER SAR TBA  
 CLIAS 80 LX CAPTAIN VALENTICH COMPANY SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES  
 300 SARTIME 210930 AMKI AMML PHONE  
 SURVIVAL GEAR 1LIFE JACKET  
 POB 1

DE? 0819.

NNNNZCZC MOB671 210954  
 SS AMMLYU AMMLZR AMKIYS  
 210952 AMMLYS  
 ALERTFA IMPAIRED OPERATING EFFICIENCY  
 VFR DSJ C182 PVT  
 ATD 0819 AMMB FOR AMKI VIA CTY EET 69( E E E 69 VFR HFN  
 POB 1 LR 0912 AMML 125.9 PX CTY 0900 B050 AMKI 0928  
 TPD 0912 RMKS PRIOR TO ROUNT E E E TO ROUGH RUNNING  
 MOTOR AND LOSS OF CONTACT WITH ACFT PILOT REPORTED  
 U F O IN HIS VICINITY

NNNNZCZC MOB688 211028 VVV  
 SS AMMLYV AMITYV  
 SS AMMLYV AMKIYS AMITYV AMMOYC  
 211028 AMMLYU  
 DETRESFA ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. OVERDUE ON ETA AMKI  
 NGT VMC. VH DSJ. C182 PVT ATD 0819 AMMB CTY AMKI EET 69 ENDCE 300  
 BC VR HN. POB ONE VALENTICH SAS LX. LR 0915 AMML FS 125.9  
 PX CTY 0900 B050 VISUAL. BLUE BODY WHITE STRIPE WHITE TAIL  
 ETA AMKI 0928



2020 MOB438 210243  
GG AMKIYOWW AMMBZT AMMLZG AMQQAB AMQQWX AMQQWY AMHFYM AMNBDM AMHBYV  
GG AMZZMP AMZZMQ  
210243 AMMLYM 588  
ARFOR 0500 TO 1700 AREA 74  
WIND 2000 34015 5000 34015 7000 34018 10000 34020 PS2 14000 33020  
MS7 18500 33020 MS16  
CLD SCT SC 2000/4000FT S MAR  
VIS 40KM  
FZL 10000FT  
TURB MOD BLW 7000FT TIL 08Z

NNNNZCZC MOB747 211240 VVV  
GG AMLTYU  
GG AMZZUK  
211238 AMHFYM  
TAF AMKI 1402 34020 9999 3SC030 RAPID 2224 24015 10 10 10 11 1021  
1019 1018 1016

21.0940

Originator Indic

CTY — AMKI

SFC. VRB 5-8 KTS

2 SC 4-6000

VIS 10+

21.1100

Originator Indicaf

SEA STATE N OF AMKI

SMOOTH SLIGHT

LONG LOW SW SWELL





## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

57

Folio No. ....  
Station ..... ML  
No. .... 388  
Reg. Off. No. ....  
Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION Cape Otway- King Is. Date 21/10/1978 Local Time 1912

AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking Cessna 182 VH-DSJ PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH. F.

OWNER/OPERATOR Southern Air Services FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR  
IFR

## TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport	Charter	Agriculture	Aerial Work
<u>Private</u>	Aircraft Test Flight	Training Dual	Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point Moorabbin First point of intended landing King Is. Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

## DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

ENGINE MALFUNCTION - AIRCRAFT MISSING.

1. At 210819 GMT, VH-DSJ departed Moorabbin for King Island on a VFR/NV flight to King Island. DSJ reported Cape Otway at 0900 with an ETA King Island of 0928.
2. At 0906½ DSJ requested information of any traffic in area since he could see lights. The pilot continued to report lights near him until 0911½ when he reported an engine rough running problem with the intention of continuing to King Island. The Alert Phase was declared and Aerodrome Emergency Procedures activated at King Island. King Island Flight Service was recalled to duty.
3. At 0912½ radio contact was lost with DSJ. Since the aircraft had previously reported cruising at 4500 ft., approximately the lowest level for continuous communication with Melbourne Flight Service in the area, this might have been indicative of losing altitude.
4. The Distress Phase was declared at 0933 with the non arrival of DSJ at King Island.
5. An Air/Sea/Ground search was mounted immediately with the first aircraft departing King Island for a land search at 1001. The search continued until 0900 on the 25th October with no wreckage sighted.
6. Weather conditions in the area were reported as excellent with little or no cloud, light winds and a calm sea. ~~The Cape Otway light~~

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam, ..... Region

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

..... on / /  
For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /



The first King Island search aircraft reported seeing the Cape Otway light when still south of Cape Wickham, at 3000 ft, a visibility of about 60 nm.

Sunset at Cape Otway was at 0850.

Dast light at Cape Otway was at 0921.

There was no moon but venus should have been visible on a bearing of 255T at an ~~altitude~~ <sup>elevation</sup> of 25° approximately.

7. Two major problems were found during course of the search.

(a) much search time was lost by the optimum aircraft, the Orion, in directing a surface vessel to the position of possible oil slick and debris for retrieval.

(b) When light aircraft, without integral navigation systems, found possible debris when out of sight of land they had to climb to fix position and in doing so lost sight of debris.

SIGNED P. BARNETT

DESIGNATION SOC/SMC

DATE: 26/ 10/ 1978

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE: / /

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
Station .....  
No. .... SY 271  
Reg. Off. No. .... SI/782/3410.  
Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION SYDNEY CONTROL ZONE Date 10.7.78 Local Time 092203

AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking C210 SRJ; HEL TMR PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH

OWNER/OPERATOR M.R.R.E. PTY.LTD., TOORAK; SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES. FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR  
IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point PELICAN First point of intended landing BANKSTOWN Flt. No.

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable)

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

UNAUTHORISED ENTRY INTO SYDNEY CONTROL ZONE AND BREAKDOWN OF  
STANDARD SEPARATION.

2203 Unidentified aircraft observed on radar entering Sydney control zone, 12 n.m. north of Sydney. The aircraft overflew TMR, a helicopter on traffic survey in the vicinity of Ryde Bridge at 1000 feet. TMR sighted the aircraft, a C210 and estimated its height as 1500'.

The aircraft was subsequently identified as SRJ at 1500'.

2207 SRJ clear of Sydney control zone.

RECORDER : APP/NORTH

WEATHER : CAVOK

ATTACHMENTS : RADAR PLOT

A.S.I. ADVISED : A. GREEN

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name

Address

Dear Sir/Madam,

Region

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning

on / /

For future reference it has been allocated No.

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



56A

SIGNED A.J. LAWRENCE DESIGNATION STAC DATE: 10/7/78

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

UNAUTHORISED ENTRY INTO SYDNEY CONTROL ZONE. The pilot had no previous experience of navigating south bound in the Sydney L.A.L. The pilot failed to navigate his aircraft accurately.

SIGNED I.W. STACY DESIGNATION ASIS DATE: 13/9/78

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

Referred to Flying Operations Section. Transcript of Communications and radar plot attached. No further Air Safety Investigation Branch action is intended.

SIGNED I.W. STACY DESIGNATION ASIS DATE: 13/9/78

Any papers or documents which may assist in the investigation of your report should be submitted as attachments to this form. If you think your report can be supplemented by information from an Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit where possible please notify the circumstances of the incident, and the fact that a written report is being submitted, to the senior officer on duty at the unit concerned. On receipt of your notification, action will be taken to collect and retain the data relevant to your incident report.

Where it is necessary to urgently report any matter affecting the safety of aircraft you are requested to notify the circumstances of the incident by the quickest available means: i.e., radio, telephone, telegram, etc. This initial notification should be confirmed in writing on this form.



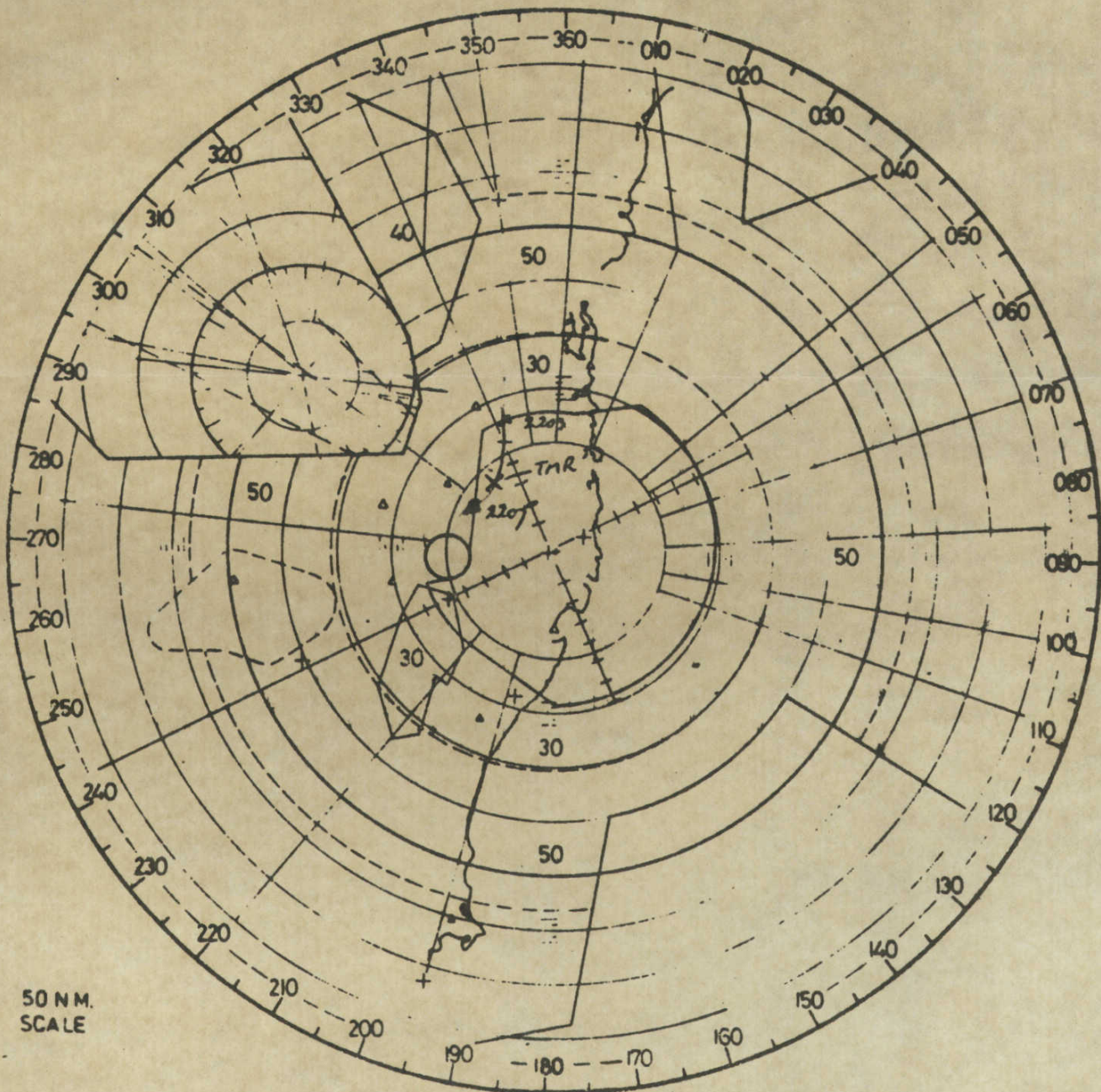
AIRCRAFT RADAR PLOT

SECTOR: SYDNEY CONTROL ZONE DATE: 10-7-78

AIRCRAFT REGN: SRJ TIME: 09/2203

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_



— SRJ  
X TMR



SI.782.3410

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING  
CESSNA 210 AIRCRAFT VH-SRJ DURING THE PERIOD  
BETWEEN 2144 HOURS AND 2208 HOURS GREENWICH MEAN  
TIME ON 09 JULY 1978 (GREENWICH DATE)

LEGEND.

SRJ      Cessna 210 Aircraft Registered VH-SRJ  
FIS.4    Sydney Flight Service - Area Four  
APP(N)   Sydney Approach Control - Radar, North  
ADC      Bankstown Tower (Aerodrome Control)  
//    //   Editorial Insertion



TRANSCRIPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Page ..... ONE ..... of ..... TWO ..... pages.

Date : 10th July, 1978 (L)

TIME (GMT)	FROM	TO	TEXT
09/2144.40	SRJ	FIS.4	Good morning Sydney, this is SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Departed Aero Pelican for Bankstown -
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, Sydney. Stand by.
2145.11	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, Sydney. Go ahead departure time now.
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Departed four-five, Bankstown zero-zero.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Could you check that out ? You have a time interval of two-five minutes, that would make it one-zero.
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, one-zero.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Area QNH one-zero-zero-five, station time four-five.
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2147.42	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, Sydney. Confirm you're tracking Pelican direct Bankstown, or down the coast ?
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Tracking to the light aircraft lane to Bankstown.
	FIS.4	SRJ	Roger. Are you tracking coastal initially or directly across to Hornsby ?
	SRJ	FIS.4	Directly to Hornsby.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2153.38	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, Sydney. Request your actual cruising altitude.
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, two thousand.
	FIS.4	SRJ	Confirm two thousand ?
	SRJ	FIS.4	Affirmative.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2158.30	SRJ	FIS.4	Sydney, SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, Brooklyn Bridge, two thousand.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2204.38	FIS.4	APP(N)	Go ahead.
	APP(N)	FIS.4	We've got an aircraft one-two miles north, ah, tracking to the Canterbury area. Its possibly one of the ones that should be up near Hornsby at the moment -
2204.45	SRJ	FIS.4	This is SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Approaching Parramatta, changing frequency to Bankstown.
	FIS.4	APP(N)	Stand by.
	FIS.4	CNS	Ah, CHARLIE NOVEMBER SIERRA. Confirm you're changing to Bankstown now and say again your present position.
	SRJ	FIS.4	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Parramatta, changing to Bankstown.
	FIS.4	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
			//Sydney Approach advises FIS.4 that there are two radar returns in the Hornsby-West Pymble area - one is inside the zone and the other is outside. FIS.4 checks position of VH-CNS and the instructor (?) reports position as 1½ miles southeast of South Dural Tanks - quite sure of position. Approach advised that SRJ with Bankstown //



TRANSCRIPT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Page .....TWO..... of .....TWO.....pages

Date : 10th July, 1978 (L)

TIME (GMT)	FROM	TO	TEXT
2205.23	SRJ	ADC	Bankstown, this is SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. At Parramatta, two thousand, with Bravo.
	ADC	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2206.50	ADC	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, report altitude.
	SRJ	ADC	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET, one-five-zero-zero.
	ADC	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.
2207.40	ADC	SRJ	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET. Sydney radar advises that you have penetrated the Sydney Control Zone. They suggest you turn right heading two-seven-zero to vacate the zone.
	SRJ	ADC	SIERRA ROMEO JULIET.



UNAUTHORISED ENTRY INTO CONTROLLED AIRSPACE OR RESTRICTED AREA

(Reference Air Safety Investigation Circular 1/69)


- (1) Date of occurrence: 10. 7.78.
- (2) Flight from: Pelican to: Bankstown
- (3) Airspace penetrated: Sydney Control Zone  
Position of penetration: A/Pennant Hills.  
Altitude: 2000 Time: 0803 EST
- (4) Aircraft type and registration: C.210 VH-SRJ
- (5) Class of operation: Private
- (6) Flight category: ~~XXXX~~/VFR
- (7) Pilot in command: Fred VALENTICH.
- (8) Type of pilot licence: Private Number: 145103
- (9) Type of instructor and/or instrument rating held by pilot: N/VMC
- (10) Total aeronautical experience: 160 hours.
- (11) Extent of local experience: First time inbound to Bankstown from the North. All experience in the Melbourne Area.
- (12) Other pilot(s) on board: --
- (13) Method of navigation: Visual Reference.
- (14) Maps and charts available in aircraft: WAC, VEC, VTC Series.
- (15) Map or chart being used at time of occurrence: Sydney VTC.
- (16) Was boundary of area penetrated marked on chart being used? Yes.
- (17) Was briefing received? Yes.
- (18) By who was briefing given? Phone briefing by Bankstown Briefing Office.
- (19) To what extent was briefing given in relation to airspace?  
The pilot was briefed on the L.A.L. and advised to proceed BBG-PRT-BK.
- (20) Was use made of self briefing material? Yes.
- (21) Was a clearance requested? No
- (22) Was a clearance received? No
- (23) What action did the pilot understand was required of him from the wording of any clearance issued?  
N/A
- (24) Radio frequency being used: 125.8 (Sydney Flight Service)



566

- (25) Was there any communication difficulty? No Describe: -
- (26) Were correct communication failure procedures followed? N/A
- (27) Was there any language difficulty? No
- (28) Was weather a factor? No
- (29) Type of forecast obtained, if any: Area Forecast.
- (30) Forecast weather conditions: CAVOK
- (31) Actual weather conditions: CAVOK
- (32) What navigation aids were fitted to the aircraft? ADF, VOR.
- (33) What navigation aids were being used or monitored? ADF was used for the Pelican to Calga leg only.
- (34) To what ground stations were they tuned? Calga.
- (35) Was there any unserviceability? No Describe: -
- (36) Was there any unusual pilot distracting factor? No Describe: -
- (37) When did the pilot first become aware of the penetration? He became concerned when he saw the helicopter & then had the penetration confirmed by Bankstown Briefing Office.
- (38) How was the penetration detected? By Sydney Radar.
- (39) Was there a breakdown in controlled airspace separation standards? No.
- (40) Was ATC/FSU action satisfactory? Yes.
- (41) How could the penetration have been avoided?  
By the pilot proceeding via Parramatta rather than via Hornsby.
- (42) Conclusions:
- i) The aircraft was correctly identified as VH-SRJ.
  - ii) The pilot's lack of familiarity with the area contributed to the incident.
- (43) Attachments:

13. 9.78.

  
I.W. Stacy,  
ASIS



DWT/AC  
16/10/78

564

31/782/3410

7331

17 OCT 1978

Mr. . Valentich  
c/- Southern Air Services  
PO BOX 1000 VIC 3189

Dear Mr. Valentich,

I refer to an Air Safety Incident involving yourself as pilot in command of VH-BMJ on 19 July 1978.

The investigation has now been concluded and it has been established that your aircraft entered the Sydney Control Zone without clearance whilst on a flight from Aeropelican to Bankstown.

It is appreciated that entering the Light Aircraft Lane from the north is a difficult task when one is not familiar with the area. However, it is still the absolute responsibility of the pilot to navigate his aircraft so as to remain clear of controlled airspace. The fact that you were unfamiliar with the area should have alerted you to obtain the fullest briefing possible from experienced pilots at Aeropelican and then to use the Sydney Visual Terminal Chart with extreme care in order to remain in the Light Aircraft Lane.

This Department looks to you to exert the maximum care in avoiding such incidents in future.

Yours faithfully,



(D. Wyford)  
for Director



Barnes (Las) Advocate

004 312222

News Editor -

Re Valentich's statement of photo of UFO.

The news Editor will send a copy of their news story and the address of the person who took the photo submitted to them.

The photo was not used in their article.

It was a photo showing only a pin point of light and not considered of any consequence.



Last light Cape Otway 21.10.78

$38^{\circ}52' S$  ,  $143^{\circ}31' E$ .

1852 LMT

1918 EST.

---

Last Light King Island.

$39^{\circ}53' S$  ,  $143^{\circ}53' E$ .

1854 LMT

1918 EST



Pat Gould CFI Shutt.

- has property near Cape Otway
- at time of VH-DST's disappearance there was a plague of very large moths in area.
- Next morning there were mounds of dead moths along the sea shore washed up by the waves.
- If it is possible for them to be at altitude then they could have created the illusions reported & could have affected the engine air intake.



- Relationship with Rhonda - thickening on a mutual basis.
- Letter to D.O.T. re examination.
- Sam Cdr Grandy is accountant for Bassan so could get as many crayfish as required for mess functions.



Gilda Valentich.

- \$1500. in bank.
- Didn't gamble
- Interested in motorcycles.
- Has 3 CPL subjects.
- Braeburn College 2 years
- There was a "Bradshaw" 406 Lansdale St FL
- Survival exercises at Broadford (RAAF)
- Letter came after Fred disappeared.
- 180-190 hours approx
- 170 on trip to Echuca (night)
- Life jackets - possibly someone would like a lift
- Superstitious - not in normal things ladders -
- Dr Pasha 3 times - not regular visitor.
- Didn't intend to get serious with Rhonda
- Catholic - goes sometimes.

Coaching Colleges are no longer required to register with Ed. Dept.  
This one is not in phone book.



GMH. Thursday

Didn't talk of financial problems

<sup>friendship</sup>

Ring - had it + it was burning a hole in his pocket.

Friday . quiet + a bit down. Bad day at work  
 . job not quite what he expected.  
 . stood taking.  
 . expected to be trained for manager but had to clean the shop.  
 . 1st week had nothing to do. Studied.

Saturday . Thinks Fred wanted either Rhonda or his father to go. \*

- . He wouldn't ask Greg. Greg says he is Fred's best mate but he isn't. Fred + Rhonda doesn't want to hurt Greg's feelings.
- . George Macnavich is his best friend.

Speaks Italian at home. Mother liked to speak Italian.

Bragged about his ability + knowledge of survival.

Not superstitious

Gold cross - never takes it off - good luck charm

Catholic - only went to mass on special occasions.  
 Xmas Birthday Easter  
 Parents the same



Rhonda is Methodist - Did go to church  
 - doesn't now.  
 - prefers sport.

They were serious - had discussed marriage - they left that to the future

• never quarrelled

• no interest in flying before meeting Fred. After flying has flown quite often with Fred. Newcastle + local flls  
 • Hasn't been to K.I. Wanted to go to TAS he has been there before.  
 • nowhere else

• CPL He was going well with exams.  
 Passed 2 of 3. They were the important ones.

• other interests - only discos + flying  
 - they entered a competition

• Fred didn't ask Rhonda to go. She suggested the possibility

• people coming back from K.I.

• Is very fit, not a fanatic, can swim but not well

• Didn't.



## AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATION SHEET

Date	A/C Registration	A/C Serial Number	A/C Type	Job Number
20/10/70	D5J	58572	C182L	7434

Aircraft maintenance carried out in accordance with: App 4 of AWO 102 15.1

## PERIODIC/MAJOR INSPECTION

\* A signature in the appropriate space constitutes a certification pursuant to Air Navigation Regulation 39 and certifies that the work has been properly and completely performed and that it is in accordance with the requirements of Air Navigation Regulations and the Orders issued under those Regulations.

PORT	<u>1A</u>	<u>M Hodges</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>V7832</u>
		*(Signature)	
ENGINE GROUPS	STBD.	<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>[Signature]</u>
		*(Signature)	
AIRFRAME GROUP	<u>1A</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>7342</u>
		*(Signature)	
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION GROUP	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>V7224</u>
		*(Signature)	
INSTRUMENT INSTALLATION GROUP	<u>2A</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>V7224</u>
		*(Signature)	
RADIO GROUP V.F.R./I.F.R.		<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>[Signature]</u>
		*(Signature)	
GENERAL		<u>[Signature]</u>	L.A.M.E. No. <u>[Signature]</u>
		*(Signature)	

I hereby certify that the whole inspection and all maintenance required has been performed and properly certified.

M Hodges L.A.M.E. No. V7832

CO-ORDINATOR — For and on behalf of  
R. J. TINKER & CO.



48A

## SURVEY AND WORKSHEET

Form T300

Date 26/10/78	Order No.	A/C Registration DSJ	A/C Serial No.	A/C Type C182	Job No. 7434
CUSTOMER.		S.A.S.			

Phone

WORK REQUIRED.

100 hourly insp

Authorised by

Item	Details of Work Completed and components fitted	* L.A.M.E.
19	Fit one new stud to upper cowl	M Hedges V7832
20	Fit new rubber mould to RH cowl flap door	
21	Procure + fit piece of 1/2" al. tubing to strainer outlet	
22	Tighten induction rubber clamps	
23	Fit new piece of seat hose and one clamp to cabby heat system	
24	Fit 3 new spacers to spinner bulkhead	
25	Refit both magnetos after elect 210 inspection	
26	Fit new clamps to exhaust stacks cyls 3 and 4	
27	Airbox removed, repaired + refitted by P.O.	
28	Fit new engine mount to LH front position	
TYPICAL PRESSURE CHECK AT 80		
	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
	70 72 78 70 72 71	

AM1(100.5) \* A signature in the appropriate space constitutes a certification pursuant to Air Navigation Reg. 39.

AM2(100.4) I certify that the work detailed above has been properly and completely performed.

NOMINATED PERSON

For and on Behalf of R. J. TINKER and CO.



## SURVEY AND WORKSHEET

48B

Form T300

Date	Order No.	A/C Registration	A/C Serial No.	A/C Type	Job No.
20/10/78		DSJ		C182	7434

CUSTOMER.

S.A.S

Phone

WORK REQUIRED.

100 hourly insp

Authorised by

\* L.A.M.E.

Item	Details of Work Completed and components fitted	
19	Fil one new stud to upper conl	} Hedges V7832
20	Fil new rubber mount to R.H. conl flap door	
21	Procure + fil piece of al. tubing to strainer outlet	
22	Tighten induction rubber clamps	
23	Fil new piece of seat hose and one clamp to carb heat system	
24	Fil 3 new spacers to pointer bulkhead	
25	Refil both magnetos after elect 210 inspection	
26	Fil new clamps to exhaust stacks cyls 3 and 4	
27	Huber removed, repaired + refilled by P.O.	
28	Fil new engine mount to L.H. front position	
	80	
	70 72 78 74 72 71	

AMI(100.5) \* A signature in the appropriate space constitutes a certification pursuant to Air Navigation Reg.39.

AM2(100.4) I certify that the work detailed above has been properly and completely performed.

NOMINATED PERSON

For and on Behalf of R. J. TINKER and CO.



48C

## SURVEY AND WORKSHEET

Form T300

Date	Order No.	A/C Registration	A/C Serial No.	A/C Type	Job No.
20/10/0	✓	D5J.	50572	C102L	7434

CUSTOMER.

S.A.S.

Phone

WORK REQUIRED.

100 hrs

Authorised by

Item	Details of Work Completed and components fitted	* L.A.M.E.
1.	D5J/F54/15 Wobble arm + Engine	M. Holden
2.	" C100/4 Engine Mount hump.	M. Holden
3.	" 15L Rear Spar Weld	M. Holden
4.	" 19B Brake Master Cyl.	M. Holden
5.	" 27 D. Flap actuator.	M. Holden
6.	" 20A Air Mass Bal weight attached	M. Holden
7.	" 31B. Aft Tail cone assembly	M. Holden
8.	D5J/C 100/51. Fuel Cell inspection (VH tank only).	KT M. Holden
9.	ADF drops out of panel.	fixed
10.	Rotating beacon. No fault found	M. Holden
11.	Check pilot Seat adjustment - Repair SEAT CATCH.	M. Holden
12.	Both magnetos removed & DCA/Stroke etc carried out	M. Holden
	Both points con's replaced	M. Holden
13.	1st air filter replaced.	M. Holden
14.	Battery terminals disconnected & coated in silica grease	M. Holden
15.	Reborex 4mm and Fire Extinguisher BRACKET ON SIDE WING	M. Holden
16.	All wheels serviced with air	M. Holden
17.	All wheel bearings serviced	M. Holden
18.	R/H Brake linings replaced because worn beyond serviceable limits	M. Holden

AM1(100.5) \* A signature in the appropriate space constitutes a certification pursuant to Air Navigation Reg. 39.

AM2(100.4) I certify that the work detailed above has been properly and completely performed.

NOMINATED PERSON

For and on Behalf of R. J. TINKER and CO.



No.

INVOICE No.

48D

[illegible]



## MAINTENANCE RELEASE

Aircraft Type

No 23933

VH-

This maintenance release has been issued by virtue of Regulation 48 (6) (a) of the Air Navigation Regulations for the class of operation shown and, except where it ceases to be in force by virtue of Regulation 49c of the Air Navigation Regulations, shall remain in force until:

19.10.79

or

4210.30

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total aircraft time in service

whichever is the earlier

## CLASS OF OPERATION

- Private
- Aerial Work
- Charter
- ~~Agricultural~~
- R.P.T. under Reg. 203 exemption

●delete as necessary

Issued by

Time

1800

Signed

A.M.E. Licence/authority  
No. 4602

Date \_\_\_\_\_

201.0/78

Place

Miss Abbi

**MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**—At the time of issue of this maintenance release, the following maintenance, in addition to daily inspections, is required to be carried out on the aircraft during the period for which the maintenance release is expressed to remain in force, in order to comply with requirements or conditions imposed under the Air Navigation Regulations.

[illegible]



# MAINTENANCE RELEASE

Part 3

Date	Daily inspection certification	Aircraft Time in Service				Total No. of Landings	
		Since last entry	Progressive total				
			Hrs	Mins			
	4009.92						
	BROUGHT FORWARD						
23-12-77	Phuc				-	-	
24-12-77	F. Haydon					30	
25-12-77	Phuc				12	-	
26-12-77	Phuc						
27-12-77	Phuc						
28-12-77	Phuc						
29-12-77	Phuc						
30-12-77	Phuc						
31-12-77	Phuc						
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THIS IS A REPORT OF A U.F.O. SIGHTING BY MY WIFE AND SELF AT  
7.40 pm. ON SATURDAY THE 21st. OF OCT. 1978 AT VALLEY VIEW  
S.A. IN THE S.S.E. SKY AT A 35 DEGREE ANGLE.

Original to  
RAAF 22-11-78  
FROM. MR. DON COX  
OF 22 RUTHERGLEN AVE.  
VALLEY VIEW 5093 S.A.

On the above mentioned evening I stepped outside to call our cat who my wife was concerned about as it had shunned her due to the fact that we had strange kittens in the house. After no response from the cat I pondered and gazed in the sky, when I saw what I took to be a large plane approaching from an S.S.E. direction. The plane appeared to be quite near with what I took to be it's landing lights on and coloured lights at both sides. I thought this an unusual direction for such an approaching heavy plane as if it continued it meant that it would have to cross the flight path of the major air liners heading for the ADELAIDE AIRPORT. My curiosity aroused I decide to wait and view this plane which I estimated would be directly over head in approximately three minutes or there abouts. To my amazement this did not occur as it came no closer after having waited a period of some seven minutes or more.

My wife came to see what I was doing outside so long and said to me, "What on earth are you looking at in the sky", to which I replied "Well look at that and tell me what you think it is". Her reply was "It's not a star for it is too big." I then asked "Well what do you think it could be," to which she replied "It's a rocket (MEANING THE FIREWORK TYPE) as you can see the coloured lights coming from it. I then said to her "If that is the case how could it stay in the sky so long," for I have been watching it for between seven to ten minutes. She then said "No your right it can't be," as the two of stood gazing in amazement at this large white yellow light and by now an assortment of colours flashing at the two sides.

Having got my binoculars from within the house I focused this object, but found my hands unsteady, so I rested them on a small statuette on the patio, when I was able to finely focus absolutely clear onto this unexplainable object. What I saw was a large triangular yellow white light (AS SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED DIAGRAM) laying on it's side with one side of the triangle in a vertical position. Within this triangle flashing from points A,B,C, and D, (AS ILLUSTRATED IN DIAGRAM) were iridescent lights. I can only positively remember three of the colours which where blue, blue green, and orange, but feel sure there were also others. My wife watched it for near enough ten minutes, and myself for a total of roughly forty five minutes before losing sight of it behind a large gum tree two gardens away. During the last stages of viewing this assortment of colours it transformed into a V shape still on it's side with the top half appearing to be the reflection of the lower portion, as one might view a boat sitting on the surface of the water.

I reported this matter to EDINBURGH AIRPORT at 5.45pm. Monday the 23rd. of October, and was told by a girl that this information would be passed onto the U.F.O. INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER in the morning. By now I was aware that I had seen word for word exactly as the missing Melbourne pilot had described. I rang again EDINBURGH AIRPORT the following day October 24th. and spoke to an officer who told me he would try either to see me at my place of work or at my home in the evening. As by the following day October 25th. he had not made the effort to interview me, I again phoned and told him of my concern pleading for him to heed this information which I felt so vital in the case of the missing pilot. After confirming my statement with my wife over the phone, this officer subsequently visited my home and took a signed statement from me along with a diagram of the three stages that this moving light had taken.

I have no doubt in my mind that whatsoever I witnessed was exactly as the young pilot described who has gone missing, and was said to be flying upside down at the time on the 21st. of October.

I am prepared to swear on oath or submit myself to any lie detector test to substantiate this my statement.

*[Handwritten signature]*



STAGE III  
 STAGE III VIEWED  
 WITH BINOCULARS  
 WITH

APPEARED INSIDE  
 LIKE A SHADOWY LIGHT  
 WITH NO COLOURS

APPEARED  
 SIDE  
 LIKE A  
 SHADOWY  
 LIGHT  
 NO COLOURS

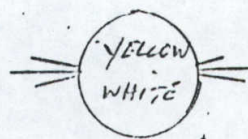
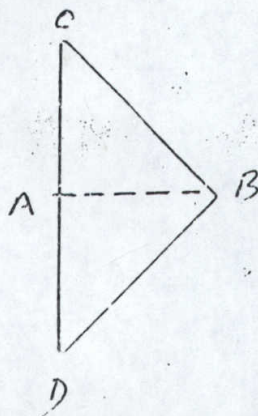
EAST

AST

PATH OF TRAVEL

STAGE II VIEWED  
 WITH BINOCULARS

STAGE I VIEWED  
 WITH NAKED EYE



BLUE - BLUE GREEN  
 AT SIDES

Sketch: Please sketch the object including shape and colour of any features.

STAGE II

A TO B - BLUE FLASH

C TO B - GREEN BLUE FLASH

B TO D - UNSURE

B GLOWED ORANGE ON AND OFF  
 WHEN MET BY BLUE FLASH FROM A



● Mr Guido Valentich,

Dear Sir,

original to  
RAAF 22.11.78

Westernport Rd 46  
Ripplebrook 3818  
Via Drouin  
Victoria

Sunday 29.10.78

I have noticed in the news papers much Speculation + rumour about what happened to your Son. Possibly we will never know the real truth. And professional Government Properganda can destroy the real truth. (For example the money sent to Darwin after Cyclone Tracey never got there, dissappeared, missing, ) Land deals, UFOs etc covered up professionally.

Late Saturday afternoon 21.10.78 I called at Les Parkers, Westernport Ripplebrook + Allan Parker + I went shooting near our own residences till dark. We decided to go home have quick tea + go spotlighting. Allan Parker arrived while I was eating my tea + I reckon it must have been between 8 + 9 o'clock (PM) 21.10.78 that I was down our shed assembling spotlights etc.

My Wife was up the track in the headlights + we yelled out to her what the hell are you doing. She had a bright light in the sky beyond + south of the Crib Point Gas flame. Allan went on up the track + watched it while I fiddled about + pumped 10 or 12 gallons of fuel into the car + then I drove up the track for a look. Allan claimed it had moved slightly so I guess I watched it for about 10 minutes + by taking a bearing on lights on the ground it did move slightly south + did loose altitude again very slowly. It was a clear night + every Star could be seen it was not a star possibly it could have been a Helicopter Hovering at great distance the light was orange to red (like a distant car tail light) + I am certain If I had been on Mt Baw Baw it would of been bright enough to see it from there. We saw only a light. It was south of Crib Point flame, low over the horizon + would of in my opinion been in line with Lang Lang Jetty or the bottom end (south end) of French Island. It appeared to be well out <sup>over</sup> the sea + many miles further out than the land.

We watched it for a while + Allan was impressed as until then I don't believe he believed in lights in the sky etc  
We moved off the property situated 6 miles south of Drouin on



• e corner of Westernport Rd + Costers road + went down Costers Rd to Modella. Allan ~~watched out~~ <sup>we went away shooting</sup> the car window to see if he could still see it ~~it~~ told him about the lights I had seen. About the Royal Australian Airforce UFO man who falkes to you to find out what you know then point blank in a indirect fashion says you are an idiot., I told him about being invited to Bill Frews of Meerlieu for supper after tea + seeing lights in the sky + we went looking for it at Hollands Landing (20 miles South of Bairnsdale) + got back so late we didn't go to Frews. When we told Bill next day he didn't laugh. He said most folks round there believed in them. Since then I have spoken to many people some had ignition failure with Gasoline engines, when a light hovered above + buzzed them. The sweat ran out on their necks + their foot hard down on the accelerator did nothing. One guy at Bairnsdale Airport saw a solid object as large as a big plane hovering above a (foot ball ground) or local reserve (from Memory). He told me it had no wings made a slight low pick whistling or hissing noise + when it started to move it vanished without noise to just a speck in the sky. It hovered there a while + then vanished. He new of peole who had had a noiseless something shine a hollow beamed searchlight down on them while they were in their car with the ignition dead + these people feel that the unknown silent thing did a computer read out on their brain impulses (or stole records from their memory). Another Guy was led through s bends at up to 115 mph in his car by an unknown light hovering above the car. The s bends were done with out sensation of inertia (or Syntifical forse) + latter, days later he went back to try it all over again in the same car 75 mph was his maximum. People here in Ripplebrook their must be about 50% Belivers. At Meerlieu not far from the RAAF Base I believe the persentage may be higher. Not many people bother to talk about percular things that they have seen because of publicity ridicule. In the case of your Son if they wanted him they would take him. (In my opinion) + I have seen more of these lights than I am talking of here, who ever controls them is as advanced in technology as we are advanced over a dog.



Without going to any trouble we have talked to people in the Outback in Over-  
 Countries etc + its UFOs are real. Especially in Country areas it is more <sup>likely</sup> that the sky is more <sup>likely</sup> to attract  
 + with no man made noises lights + silent things gliding around the sky <sup>in my opinion too</sup> attract  
 attention. Aircraft with simulated noises in day time are true in gravity + reverse the pull of the poles.

People like to argue ( + even my own brother doesn't believe in these things ) that we have no proof that UFOs exist + no one has one in a museum etc.

I guess penguins + seals have never captured a ocean liner or a Concord Plane + taken it to their museum either but thousands of tons of ships + 100s of tons of planes fly.

Imagine how smart we will be when we can reverse gravity + reverse the pull of the poles.

Imagine 100 yrs ago some one talking about takeing a picture, converting it to a radio signal, sending it at the speed of light, + reconstructing it into the visible mode again in a TV set. The man who talked like that 100yrs ago would of been ridiculed.

One day they will be able to break us down to particles + beam us to another planet + reconstruct us.

I shone a 500000 Candle power searchlight at one of these lights in the sky at Meertien ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Miler east of the School) + we saw it land near Hollands landing. We got there and found nothing except 3 fellows in a Caravan we asked them if they saw anything + 2 of them said we had been drinking. The third was desperate to talk to us, he had had the light above his truck cold sweat both feet on the accelerator ignition failure etc all this while his mates stood by + ridiculed him. He told us

Going back to beaming particles + reconstructing them.

This 500000 searchlight shows a pencil beam covering approx 4" at 30 ft. By takeing a magnifying glass + walking 75 or 80 feet down the beam holding the magnifying glass in the beam it collects the rays of light + will burn wood where the pin point reflected beam focuses. Possibly your son is <sup>on</sup> some other Planet + may be alive + well.

Yours Truly

(Please do not give this information to the press) Clive Downie Clive Downie



Apartment 14,  
2451 First Avenue,  
San Diego, California, 92101,  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1978.

45

Airport and Government Officials,  
Melbourne, Australia Airport,  
Airport Control Tower,  
Melbourne, Australia.

Original to  
RAAF 22.11.78

Dear Officials:

With frightening interest, I  
read a few days ago the U.P.C. news ac-  
count of the small plane which was  
unmistakenably destroyed near King  
Island by a (so-called) U.F.O.

I especially noted in the news  
account that radio communication between  
the Melbourne Control Tower and the pilot of  
the light plane was intermittently inter-  
rupted by the presence of the (so-called)  
U.F.O. and that the light plane's engine began  
to choke (and stop) according to the final  
words of the pilot to the control tower  
just before radio communication totally  
ceased and the plane forever disappeared —  
(into the ocean).

I know from first hand  
knowledge that a very similar occurrence  
took place in Western Canada in the late 1960's



in which radio telephone communication was 45A  
interrupted by a hovering (so-called) U.F.O. and  
in which an automobile motor was stopped  
by a similar device that crossed the highway in  
front of it.

False accounts that have been published  
over the years about outer-space vehicles & peculiar  
beings were purposely published to camouflage  
the actual truth (and for no other reason) by a  
secret group of people involved in this insidious  
activity.

Sometime ago, I came across the following  
information: Near the close of W.W.II. some intelligence  
group stole from the Germans highly developed blue-  
prints on how to manufacture & operate aerial vehicles  
by "ion propulsion" which means it can take from  
the atmosphere of earth the electrical charges (electrons,  
protons, neutrons) and convert these electrical charges into  
power to propel the various shaped aerial vehicles through  
the air and it, also, now operates in conjunction with  
the lethal laser beam because it can provide instan-  
taneous ~~instantaneous~~ unlimited electrical power to activate the  
attached laser beam parts thus giving it the power  
to destroy anyone or anything - planes, tanks, etc.,  
etc. The (so-called) UFO can operate anywhere  
on earth by remote control with excellent maximum -



45B

ability at fantastic speeds from point zero. Also, I think it can operate underwater + hide under water.

A personal friend of mine was destroyed by one of these damnable things in (late 1960s) Western Canada on an isolated country road one late afternoon when his truck was set afire + he was burned - (trapped-) in the cab - chained so you could not recognize him. The (so-called) U.F.O. evidently set his truck <sup>afire</sup> with the laser beam igniting his gas tank that was near the truck cab. He did not turn over by accident.

A direct source of information recently provided me with the fact that the U.S.A. is + has been for some time working on a greatly secret project called the "Snake Project" that is somehow connected with the (so-called) U.F.O. = Ion propulsion - laser beam aerial vehicle. It is my understanding that an international group is involved with this Snake Project. Gert.

Please excuse my rapid writing. Sincerely,

Everett E. Hinch, Apt. 14,  
2451 First Avenue  
San Diego, California, 92101.  
U.S.A.



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# CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

P.O. BOX 11 - NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093

J. ALLEN HYNEK  
DIRECTOR

October 23, 1978

Director  
Flight Service Control  
Melbourne Airport  
Melbourne, Australia

*original to  
RAAF 22-11-78*

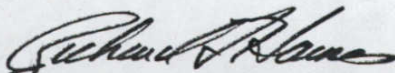
Dear sir:

As a scientific consultant to the Center for UFO Studies in the United States, I am investigating sightings of anomalous aerial phenomena by pilots. Recently I read a news article of such a sighting by a Mr. Frederick Valentich flying a Cessna 182. According to the UPI dispatch he reported seeing something very abnormal and then was lost contact with by ground radio. I am writing to you for your kind assistance in this matter. Would you be so kind as to try to complete the enclosed report form or pass it on to someone who is in a position to complete the details? Your assistance is very much appreciated by those of us who are only concerned with trying to discover the true nature of the phenomenon involved. You will receive no publicity since all our records are kept confidential.

I would be particularly interested in the weather in the region within about a 150 mile radius of Melbourne on October 21, 1978 up to an altitude of 7,500 feet. Were any voice tapes maintained? If so could a copy be forwarded for research purposes only? Finally, I would very much like to correspond with Mr. Valentich Sr. Could you provide me with his address?

On behalf of the Center for UFO Studies let me thank you in advance for any assistance you may provide. I will be pleased to send you a copy of any report that may be prepared on this case.

Very sincerely,



Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.  
Research Consultant

Please use the following address in any correspondence to save time:

325 Langton Avenue  
Los Altos, California 94022  
U.S.A.

Encl. Pilot report form  
cc: files



44A

# AERIAL SIGHTING REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

ALL NAMES AND PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNLESS YOU GIVE SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE IT. THIS INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

LEAVE BLANK

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. Obs.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Altitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comm. Prvt. Military  
           USA   Foreign

When completed please return this form to:  
 Dr. Richard F. Haines   325 Langton Avenue  
                                   Los Altos, Calif. 94022

## Part I. DETAILS OF THE ANOMALOUS PHENOMENON:

1. Please describe what you witnessed. Be as complete as possible (use opposite side of page if necessary).

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2. Now draw a sketch of what you saw. If you were able to see it from two or more different angles simply draw what you saw and label each sketch (A), (B), etc. to indicate the order in which you saw it. Also, draw an arrow pointing gravitationally upward and aircraft windshield struts (frames, etc.).

If the Earth's horizon was visible draw it in also.

Finally, draw magnetic compass heading tick marks across the bottom of the box and label several-according to your heading-related to your sketch.

### SKETCH OF OBJECT OR PHENOMENON

3. Did the object (phenomenon) appear to move relative to your aircraft's window frame(s) during your sighting? (check one)

☐ No    ☐ Unsure    ☐ Yes

If "yes" please use a dashed line to indicate this apparent motion in the box to the right. Mark an "a" at the location object was first seen, a "b", "c", etc. for subsequent locations. Be sure to include aircraft window frame(s) if present to allow angular estimates to be made. For uneven, jerky motion try to place the "a", "b", etc. at one-second intervals.

### SKETCH OF OBJECT'S APPARENT MOTION

4. Did the object (phenomenon) appear to move relative to any stable background detail during your sighting? (check one)

☐ No    ☐ Unsure    ☐ Yes





(Continue narrative here)

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- 4.1 If the object appeared to move please estimate its apparent angular velocity. Deg/ Sec.            Motion seen in relation to:
- 4.2 Did the object move behind in front of (circle) anything? ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐ Yes
- 4.3 Did the object (phenomenon) appear (check) ☐ Solid ☐ Transparent ☐ Couldn't tell
- 4.4 Did you observe the object through (check) ☐ Binoculars  
☐ Telescope  
☐ Camera viewfinder  
☐ Other:
- 4.5 About how large did the object appear as compared with one of the following items held at arm's length? [Note: The equivalent visual angles are based upon an average arm-reach distance of 26"]. Equiv. Visual Angle
- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head of pin              | [0° 4.1'] (Assume .031")   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pea                      | [0° 8.2'] (Assume .062")   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dime                     | [1° 31']                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nickle                   | [1° 47']                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quarter                  | [2° 3.9']                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half-dollar              | [2° 37']                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball                 | [6° 17']                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grapefruit               | [10° 53'] (Assume 5" diam) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball               | [20° 10']                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>          </u> |                            |
- (If object changed size during the sighting just place a "1", "2", "3", etc. in the boxes to represent the order in which the size change occurred).
- 4.6 How certain are you of your answer to question 4.5? (check one) ☐ Very sure  
☐ Fairly certain  
☐ Not very sure  
☐ Uncertain (only a guess)
- 4.7 Did the object (phenomenon)? (check all that are appropriate)
- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Change shape                     | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (b) Flicker, throb, pulse            | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (c) Break up into parts or explode   | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (d) Suddenly accelerate              | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (e) Give off smoke, vapor, trail     | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (f) Appear to stand still whole time | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (g) Change color(s)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| (h) Appear on your aircraft's radar  | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If "yes" elaborate)                                 |
| (i) Appear on any ground radar       | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If "yes" please elaborate here: <u>          </u> ) |
- 4.8 Did you experience any buffetting which you think was caused by the encounter? ☐ No ☐ Possibly ☐ Yes (If "yes" elaborate)



5. How did the object first become noticed?  
(check all appropriate boxes)

- ☐ It was already present and I happened to look at it.  
☐ Someone else saw it first: [ Give name: \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ It suddenly appeared at or near where I was looking.  
☐ It gradually faded into sight where I was looking.  
☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

6. How did the object disappear? (check all appropriate boxes)

- ☐ I looked away and when I looked back it was gone.  
☐ It suddenly disappeared from sight for no reason, i. e., it didn't pass behind a cloud, etc.  
☐ It gradually faded from sight without changing size.  
☐ It faded from sight by becoming smaller and smaller.  
☐ It faded from sight (apparently) by travelling away.  
☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

7. What distinguishable detail(s) did you see on or nearby the object? (check all appropriate boxes)

- ☐ None  
☐ Sharply defined edge(s)  
☐ Fuzzy edge(s)  
☐ Darker porthole-like areas: [ Shape was \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Lighter intensity portholes: [ Shape was \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Seam(s), rivets, etc.  
☐ Markings  
☐ Atmospheric effect(s): [ Describe \_\_\_\_\_ ]

8. Did you notice anything unusual happen in the cockpit just before, during, or just after the sighting? (check one)

☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐ Yes

If "yes" describe as fully as you can.

9. What do you think made the object visible? (check all appropriate boxes)

- ☐ It reflected ambient light (sun; moon) (circle)  
☐ It emitted its own light (If checked elaborate on colors, brightnesses, etc. seen) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where was the Sun Moon (circle) during the sighting?

- ☐ At \_\_\_\_\_ degrees elevation above horizon, and at \_\_\_\_\_ degrees bearing relative to aircraft heading to Right Left (circle one).

11. If you experienced any physiological sensations during the sighting check all appropriate boxes to the right.

- ☐ Eye strain due to very high brightness  
☐ Eye strain for any other reasons: [ Explain \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Tingling sensation(s): [ Body location \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Mild pain: [ Body location \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Intense, acute pain: [ Body location \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Heat  
☐ Odor(s): [ Describe \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Tastes: [ Describe \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Sounds: [ Describe \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
☐ Other [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

If you experienced any non-normal sensations within 24 hrs after the sighting please place an X at the right of the appropriate line(s) provided.

12. What do you think the object (phenomenon) was? Be as precise as possible including whatever supporting facts you desire.

13. Have you ever seen anything while flying or on the ground that you thought was an unidentified flying object prior to this?

☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐ Yes (If "yes" please give details: \_\_\_\_\_)





Part II. AIRCRAFT FLIGHT DETAILS: (Spatial)

14. Where did you take off from? Airport Name (Initials): \_\_\_\_\_  
Lat. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N S; Long. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" E W (if known)

15. What was your intended final destination? \_\_\_\_\_  
Lat. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N S; Long. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" E W (if known)

16. Sighting location. Where were you when you first sighted the object? Be as precise as possible. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(If appropriate, specify)

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N S;  
Long. \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" E W

From \_\_\_\_\_ VOR \_\_\_\_\_ RADIAL \_\_\_\_\_ DME

Elaborate if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Check box to indicate where you were during the sighting. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Taxi to takeoff
- ☐ During takeoff
- ☐ Climb to cruise altitude at [ \_\_\_\_\_ ft/min]
- ☐ At cruise altitude of [ \_\_\_\_\_ ft]
- ☐ Descending for approach to land at [ \_\_\_\_\_ ft/min]
- ☐ Final approach (i. e., within outer marker)
- ☐ Landing or rollout
- ☐ Other: [Specify \_\_\_\_\_]

18. Check all appropriate boxes to indicate what you did as a direct response of sighting the object (phenomenon). \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Nothing that was not already planned
- ☐ Changed heading by turning right left (circle)
- ☐ Changed altitude by climbing descending (circle)
- ☐ Took immediate evasive action [Describe \_\_\_\_\_]

(Please elaborate on all items on the opposite side if necessary)

- ☐ Turned my landing lights on off (circle)
- ☐ Used my radio to contact: [Specify whom \_\_\_\_\_]

- ☐ Changed my power setting
- ☐ Pointed it out to [Specify name(s) \_\_\_\_\_]

- ☐ Attempted to follow chase (circle) it for the following reason(s): [ \_\_\_\_\_]

- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Please use this space to add any other details/observations/facts that are related to the geographic/spatial location of your sighting.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Part III. AIRCRAFT FLIGHT DETAILS: (Temporal)

20. When did you takeoff? \_\_\_\_\_  
AM PM (local) [GMT \_\_\_\_\_ Z]  
Time zone ☐ Daylight savings  
☐ Standard time

21. When did you plan to land (scheduled)? \_\_\_\_\_  
AM PM (local) [GMT \_\_\_\_\_ Z]  
Time zone (if different from above)

22. When did you first see the object (phenomenon)? \_\_\_\_\_  
AM PM (local) [GMT \_\_\_\_\_ Z]



SIGHTING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

44E

23. When did you last see the object (phenomenon)?

AM

PM (local) [GMT \_\_\_\_\_ Z]

(Calculated total sighting duration)

[ \_\_\_\_\_ sec. ] Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

24. What did you look at (or do) to determine the above times?

- ☐ Looked at my wristwatch: [Est. accuracy to \_\_\_\_\_]  
☐ Looked at cockpit clock: [Est. accuracy to \_\_\_\_\_]  
☐ Radioed to crewmember for time  
☐ Radioed to ground for time: [Info. rec'd. from \_\_\_\_\_]

- ☐ I did not determine initial final (circle) time(s)  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

25. Did you have any indication (real or imaginary) of a loss of time, i.e., a period for which you cannot account?

- ☐ Possibly yes  
☐ Definitely yes: [Elaborate \_\_\_\_\_]

- ☐ Unsure but probably no  
☐ Definitely no

26. Did you land at your pre-planned or scheduled time?

- ☐ Yes (within normal tolerance limits)  
☐ No: [Please explain why \_\_\_\_\_]

27. Use this space to add any other details/ observations/facts that are related to the timing of your sighting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Part IV. SIGHTING AIRCRAFT DETAILS:

28. Type of aircraft (check)

- ☐ Single engine  
☐ Multi engine [no. \_\_\_\_\_]  
☐ Propeller  
☐ Jet  
☐ Rocket  
☐ Glider  
☐ Balloon

29. Model name/number/airframe mfr.

\_\_\_\_\_

30. Aircraft registration number.

\_\_\_\_\_

31. Airline name (if appropriate).

\_\_\_\_\_

32. Scheduled flight number.

\_\_\_\_\_

33. Object (phenomenon) was seen through the following window(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

34. Describe as precisely as you can the apparent clarity/scratches/etc. of these windows.

\_\_\_\_\_

35. About how familiar were you with this particular aircraft and its "peculiarities" of flight control?

- ☐ Very familiar: [I had about \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. flt. time]  
☐ Reasonably familiar: [Comments \_\_\_\_\_]

36. Use this space to add any other pertinent details about the aircraft in which you were located during this sighting.

\_\_\_\_\_

37. What was your indicated airspeed?

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ mph ☐ knots (check one)

38. What was your ground speed (if known)?

\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ mph ☐ knots (check one)





44F

Part V. WEATHER DETAILS:

39. I obtained the following weather information from: \_\_\_\_\_  
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Flight service station  
☐ Terminal forecast  
☐ SIGMET or AIRMET  
☐ FD (winds-temp. aloft)  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

40. Visibility and clouds: (check) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Clear (visibility greater than 15 miles)  
☐ Clear (visibility from 3 to 15 miles)  
☐ Broken clouds - sky cover in tenths was \_\_\_\_\_  
Cloud type(s): ☐ Cumulus  
☐ Stratus  
☐ Cirrus  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Heavy overcast below above (circle) my aircraft  
☐ Flying in clouds at the time  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

41. Did you file a flight plan? (check one)

☐ No ☐ Yes

42. Were you flying: (check one)

☐ IFR ☐ VFR

43. Sky condition was: (check one) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Bright daylight  
☐ Dull daylight (slight overcast, smog)  
☐ Twilight  
☐ Trace of daylight  
☐ Dark - no Moonlight  
☐ Dark - Moonlight present from: ☐ Full  
☐ 3/4 visible  
☐ 1/2 visible  
☐ Crescent  
☐ A few stars visible  
☐ All stars visible (very clear)  
☐ Don't remember

44. Outside air temperature was: \_\_\_\_\_

45. What was the wind direction and velocity? \_\_\_\_\_

46. Use this space to add any other details about the weather at the time and location of the sighting.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TAT = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Part VI. EYEWITNESS DETAILS:

[Note: This information will be kept confidential unless you indicate in the space below that it may be disclosed publically.]

47. Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

48. Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

First Middle Last

Street City/Town State/Province zip

49. Your age at time of sighting: \_\_\_\_\_ yrs

50. Your sex: (check) ☐ Male ☐ Female

51. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

52. Marital status: (check one) ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced/widowed

53. Telephone: area code [\_\_\_\_\_] number [\_\_\_\_\_]

54. Highest education level: \_\_\_\_\_

55. Describe military aviation experience (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

56. During the sighting were you wearing: (check)

- ☐ Prescription eyeglasses (no tint)  
☐ Prescription eyeglasses with tint  
☐ Contact lenses  
☐ Polarizing sunglasses only  
☐ Non-polarizing sunglasses  
☐ No eye-glasses of any kind

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

[Sign one of the two statements that expresses your wishes.]

"I hereby permit my name to be publically associated with the information I have freely given on this 6 page form"

"I do not permit my name to be publically associated with the information I have freely given on this 6 page form"



DESPATCHED	
DATE DESPATCHED	21 NOV 1978
PROCEDURE	OM

43

V116/783/1047

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT  
MATERIALS RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
P.O. BOX 50  
MARIBYRNONG. VIC. 3032

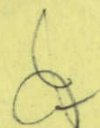
(Attention: Mr. Davidson)

ANALYSIS OF OIL SAMPLES RECOVERED FROM BASS STRAIT

During the search for the missing C182 aircraft, VH-DSJ, a search aircraft sighted an oil slick in the waters of Bass Strait within the prime probability area. Two water samples were obtained from this slick and forwarded to your Laboratory together with a sample of the type of oil used in the engine of the missing aircraft.

Please accept this memorandum as a formal request for an analysis of the water samples to determine if the oil content is the same as that used in the aircraft.

It is understood that the samples obtained from the oil slick were of poor quality. Any advice you may care to offer on obtaining better quality samples will be welcomed by our Search and Rescue organisation for the briefing of future searches.



I.S. SMITH  
for DIRECTOR





42

# AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT - INTERIM REPORT

## 1. THE ACCIDENT

Location	Between Cape Otway and King Island	Date	21.10.78	Time (Local)	1912	Zone	EST
Aircraft Type	Cessna 182L	Registration	VH-DSJ	Owner	C. Day, 33 Reserve Road, Beaumaris. Vic.		
Operator	Southern Air Services, Moorabbin Airport. Mentone.	Flight From	Moorabbin	To	King Island	Purpose	Travel
						Class of Operation	Private
Damage to Aircraft	Unknown						

## 2. PERSONS INVOLVED

Name	Role	Description of Injuries	Probable Cornell No.	D.o.T. 462 Forwarded to
Frederick VALENTICH	Pilot	Unknown		

## 3. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

At 1723 hours EST on 21 October 1978 a flight plan for VH-DSJ (Moorabbin to King Island and return, ETD 1745 hours EST, time interval to King Island 69 minutes), was submitted at Moorabbin Briefing Office. The aircraft was refuelled to capacity at 1810 hours EST and subsequently departed Moorabbin for King Island at 1819 hours EST. The pilot reported Cape Otway at 1900 hours EST and at 1906 hours EST asked if there was any traffic below five thousand. After being advised there was no known traffic, he reported what seemed to be a large aircraft below five thousand. He could not identify the type but described it as having a green light, being metallic like and all shiny on the outside. After describing the movements of the aircraft, its disappearance and reappearance, the pilot stated that it was hovering on top of him and that it was not an aircraft. He also reported at approximately 1912 hours EST that the engine was "rough idling" and declared that he was continuing to King Island. The final transmission from the pilot of the aircraft's call-sign followed by 17 seconds open microphone was made at 1912:28 hours EST. Last light King Island was 1918 hours EST but the pilot had not requested aerodrome lighting. Flight Service King Island was notified and lighting was arranged but the aircraft failed to arrive there.

A search was initiated but no trace of the pilot or aircraft was found. The pilot was the only known person on board.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING

Details of what the pilot reported seeing prior to his disappearance have been referred to the RAAF for investigation.

Signed	P.R. GRAHAM	Designation	A.S.I.W.	Date	14.11.78	Regional Reference	V116/783/1047

D.o.T. 1573 (Rev. 3/77)

Desp 20 14/11 M



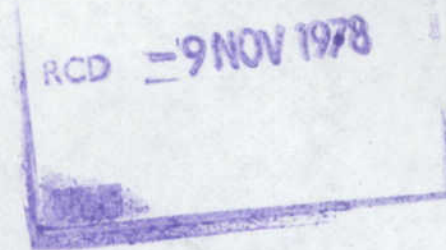


MINUTE

283/1047  
8 NOV 1978  
ASIW.

Ref : M116/783/1047

Director  
Vic/Tas Region



41/

The attached letter was received  
in this office and relates to the accident to  
VH-DSJ on 21 October 1978.

2            It has not been acknowledged and  
is forwarded for such action as you consider  
necessary.

(P.E. Choquenot)  
for AS(SI)

Att:



Mr. J.S. Mill,  
40 Woodlands Gve.,  
FRANKSTON, 3199

41A

26th October, 1978.

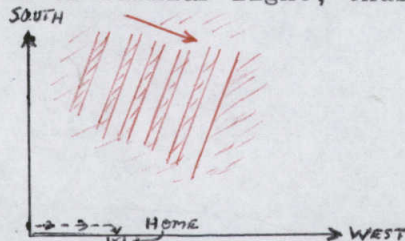
783-4706

The Secretary,  
Department of Transport,  
188 Queen St.,  
MELBOURNE, 3000

Dear Sir,

re The UFO/Valentich Incident.

Reference the attached article (The Age, 24/10/'78), the following information may be of interest. When coming home about 7.30 P.M. after work on either Thursday or Friday of last week, I watched an 'Aurora Australis' display in the south-western sky for about a minute or so. It consisted mainly of successive near-vertical parallel columns of soft pinkish-red light moving quickly from left to right and disappearing into a stationary section of similar light, thus:-



Early this morning I remembered this incident and it occurred to me that 2 elements of this display - namely, 'rapidly moving light' and 'stationary or hovering light' - were present in the subsequent UFO/Valentich incident as reported.

Being a young person, it seems certain that Mr. F. Valentich would not have had much direct observational experience of 'Aurora Australia' in its many and varied 'display' forms which occur frequently over the years. If confronted by a similar 'display' as above, it seems equally certain that the technically trained mind of Mr. Valentich would have rapidly searched everything known, except 'Aurora Australis', for a rational explanation of his observations.

Yours faithfully,

enc/

*John Mills*

as(s)





RECEIVED 27 OCT 1978  
LEA. MENT OF  
T A SPORT  
MELBOURNE

RECEIVED 27 OCT 1978  
LEA. MENT OF  
T A SPORT  
MELBOURNE

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RECEIVED 27 OCT 1978  
LEA. MENT OF  
T A SPORT  
MELBOURNE





day, October 24, 1978 250 Spencer St., Melbourne

60 0421 (Classified 60 0611)

46 Pages { Incl. 9 pages Truck & Bus Suppl. }

14c\*

It's exactly 100 years since the Kelly gang shot dead three policemen.

Today we reprint a contemporary account of the killings — Page 9.

Tomorrow Professor John Molony of the ANU discusses the Kelly legend.



## Epicure

Stephen Downes finds a restaurant where his meal was a delight from start to finish!

Read about it in *Epicure* — 18-22

## education age

Pest control  
by genetics 38



# I'd rather it was UFO than plane crash, says missing pilot's father

By CHRISTINE MORRIS  
and DAMIEN MURPHY

The father of missing pilot Frederick Valentich said yesterday he hoped an unidentified flying object had been involved in his son's disappearance.

"I would rather that than them finding wreckage of the plane," he said. The second day of the land and sea search failed to find any trace of the 182 Cessna yesterday.

Mr. Guido Valentich said he was forced to believe that something unusual had happened to his son.

"The fact that they have found no trace of him really verifies the fact

that UFOs could have been there," he said.

He said his belief in UFOs had been reinforced and that he still held hope for his son.

"I never believed in UFOs as strongly as my son. Frederick used to study them as a hobby using information he received from the air force," he said.

"He was not the type of person who would make up stories, everything had to be very correct and positive for him."

Mr. Valentich said his son had often flown a Cessna and had made three previous visits to King Island.

A Department of Transport spokesman said a search of Bass Strait by an RAAF Orion had failed to find any sign of the plane's wreckage.

The spokesman said the possibility of UFOs would later be investigated by the Air Safety Investigation Branch.

"Our first consideration is to find the missing pilot and plane," he said.

Oil taken from a slick near the possible "ditching point" of the plane will be brought to Melbourne today to be tested.

A maritime version of a Nomad will continue the search around the north end of King Island.

Hundreds of sightings of UFOs were reported yesterday from Geelong, Frankston, Cape Otway and Brighton.

Some people described the object as brilliantly lit, oblong in shape and moving very quickly across the sky.

Other said they saw unusual flashes

of light, which remained in the sky for several seconds.

An RAAF spokesman said they had received 11 reports of sightings in the past four days, but would investigate recent reports at a later stage.

Residents of King Island have also reported sightings of strange bright and trailing lights in the past six weeks.

Meanwhile, at Queenscliff, on Victoria's southern tip, a woman motorist said she saw what appeared to be a ferris wheel spinning in the sky less than two hours after the plane disappeared on Saturday night.

Mrs. Barbara Bishop, of Learmonth Street, Queenscliff, said she saw "something unusual" in the western sky

What is going on in the sky — 11.





MINUTE

783/1047  
ASIN  
E8 NOV 1978

FOLIO	40
RCD	9 NOV 1978
FILE	

Ref : M116/785/1047

Director  
Vic/Tas Region

Attached are three copies of  
the transcript of communications prepared for  
use in the investigation of the accident to VH-DSJ  
on 21 October 1978.

(P.E. Choquenot)  
for AS(SI)

Att:3



TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN  
CESSNA 182L AIRCRAFT VH-DSJ AND MELBOURNE  
FLIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN 0853 HOURS AND 0913  
HOURS GMT ON 21 OCTOBER 1978

LEGEND

DSJ

Cessna 182L aircraft VH-DSJ

FS

Melbourne Flight Service Unit

( )

Word/s open to other interpretations

// //

Explanatory note or editorial  
insertion



TITLE	FROM	TO	TEXT
0853:30	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET DO YOU WISH TO EXTEND YOUR SARTIME FOR YOUR ARRIVAL AT KING ISLAND
:38	DSJ	FS	// open microphone 2 seconds // DELTA SIERRA JULIET SAY AGAIN
:42	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET YOU'RE HOLDING A SARTIME OF ZERO NINE THREE ZERO FOR YOUR ARRIVAL AT KING ISLAND ON TIME INTERVAL YOUR ESTIMATE IS ZERO NINE TWO EIGHT DYOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXTEND YOUR SARTIME
:54	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AFFIRMATIVE
:58	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER MAKE IT ONE ZERO ZERO ZERO
0854:03	DSJ	FS	AFFIRMATIVE
:05	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0900:29	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET CAPE OTWAY (DESCENDING FOR) KING ISLAND
:38	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0906:14	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
:23	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN TRAFFIC
:26	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I AM SEEMS (TO) BE A LARGE AIRCRAFT BELOW FIVE THOUSAND
:46	FS	DSJ	D D DELTA SIERRA JULIET WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS IT
:50	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET I CANNOT AFFIRM IT IS FOUR BRIGHT IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE LANDING LIGHTS
0907:04	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:32	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE THIS (IS) DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED OVER OVER ME AT LEAST A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE
:43	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND IT IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRM
:47	DSJ	FS	ER UNKNOWN DUE TO THE SPEED ITS TRAVELLING IS THERE ANY AIRFORCE AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY
:57	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY



TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
0908:18	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST TOWARDS ME
:28	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:42			// open microphone for two seconds //
:49	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HES PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME HES FLYING OVER ME TWO THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT IDENTIFY
0909:02	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL
:06	DSJ	FS	MY LEVEL IS FOUR AND A HALF THOUSAND FOUR FIVE ZERO ZERO
:11	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AND CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT
:14	DSJ	FS	AFFIRMATIVE
:18	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER STANDBY
:28	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE DELTA SIERRA JULIET ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT IT IS // open microphone for two seconds //
:46	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE ER AIRCRAFT
:52	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET AS ITS FLYING PAST ITS A LONG SHAPE // open microphone for three seconds // (CANNOT) IDENTIFY MORE THAN (THAT IT HAS SUCH SPEED) // open microphone for 3 seconds // BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW MELBOURNE
0910:07	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER AND HOW LARGE WOULD THE ER OBJECT BE
:20	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE IT SEEMS LIKE ITS STATIONARY WHAT IM DOING RIGHT NOW IS ORBITING AND THE THING IS JUST ORBITING ON TOP OF ME ALSO ITS GOT A GREEN LIGHT AND SORT OF METALLIC (LIKE) ITS ALL SHINY (ON) THE OUTSIDE
:43	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:48	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET // open microphone for 5 seconds // ITS JUST VANISHED
:57	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
0911:03	DSJ	FS	MELBOURNE WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT IVE GOT IS IT (A TYPE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT



TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
:08	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET CONFIRM THE ER AIRCRAFT JUST VANISHED
:14	DSJ	FS	SAY AGAIN
:17	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET IS THE AIRCRAFT STILL WITH YOU
:23	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET (ITS AH NOR) // open microphone 2 seconds // (NOW) APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHWEST
:37	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:52	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET THE ENGINE IS IS ROUGH IDLING IVE GOT IT SET AT TWENTY THREE TWENTY FOUR AND THE THING IS (COUGHING)
0912:04	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET ROGER WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS
:09	DSJ	FS	MY INTENTIONS ARE AH TO GO TO KING ISLAND AH MELBOURNE THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING ON TOP OF ME AGAIN // two second open microphone // IT IS HOVERING AND ITS NOT AN AIRCRAFT
:22	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET
:28	DSJ	FS	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE // 17 seconds open microphone //
:49	FS	DSJ	DELTA SIERRA JULIET MELBOURNE



31 OCT 1978

104739  
w. ✓

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

 Folio No. ....  
 Station ML  
 No. 388  
 Reg. Off. No. ....  
 Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

 LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION CAPE OTWAY-KING I Date 21 OCT 1978 Local Time 1912

 AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking CESSNA 182 VH DST PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH F

 OWNER/OPERATOR SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VER  
 IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

 FLIGHT: Last departure point MOORABBIN First point of intended landing KING I Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) ....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

ENGINE MALFUNCTION - AIRCRAFT MISSING

- ① AT 210819 GMT, VH DST DEPARTED MOORABBIN FOR KING ISLAND ON A VER/IV FLIGHT TO KING ISLAND. DST REPORTED CAPE OTWAY AT 0900 WITH AN ETA KING ISLAND OF 0928.
- ② AT 0906½ DST REQUESTED INFORMATION OF AN TRAFFIC IN AREA SINCE HE COULD SEE LIGHTS. THE PILOT CONTINUED TO REPORT LIGHTS NEAR HIM UNTIL 0911½ WHEN HE REPORTED AN ENGINE ROUGH RUNNING PROBLEM WITH THE INTENTION OF CONTINUING TO KING ISLAND. THE ~~ALERT~~ ALERT PHASE WAS DECLARED AND AERODROME EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ACTIVATED AT KING ISLAND. KING ISLAND FLIGHT SERVICE WAS RECALLED TO DUTY.
- ③ AT 0912½ RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH DST. SINCE THE AIRCRAFT HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CRUISING AT 4500 FT, APPROXIMATELY THE LOWEST LEVEL FOR CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION WITH MELBOURNE FLIGHT SERVICE IN THIS AREA, THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INDICATIVE OF LOSING ALTITUDE.
- ④ THE DISTRESS PHASE WAS DECLARED AT 0933 WITH THE

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

 Name .....  
 Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam, ..... Region

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

For future reference it has been allocated No. .... on / /

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



NON ARRIVAL OF DSJ AT KING ISLAND.

- ⑤ AN AIR/SEA/GROUND SEARCH WAS MOUNTED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE FIRST AIRCRAFT DEPARTING KING ISLAND FOR A LAND SEARCH AT 1001. THE SEARCH CONTINUED UNTIL 0900 ON THE 25 OCTOBER WITH NO WRECKAGE SIGHTED.

- ⑥ WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE AREA WERE REPORTED AS EXCELLENT WITH LITTLE OR NO CLOUD, LIGHT WINDS AND A CALM SEA. THE FIRST KING ISLAND SEARCH AIRCRAFT REPORTED SEEING THE CAPE OTWAY LIGHT WHEN STILL SOUTH OF CAPE WICKHAM, AT 3000 FT, A VISIBILITY OF ABOUT 60 NM.

SUNSET AT CAPE OTWAY WAS AT 0850

LAST LIGHT AT CAPE OTWAY WAS AT 0921

THERE WAS NO MOON BUT VENUS SHOULD HAVE BEEN VISIBLE ON A BEARING OF 25CT AT AN ELEVATION OF 25° APPROXIMATELY.

- ⑦ TWO MAJOR ~~PROBLEMS~~ PROBLEMS WERE FOUND DURING COURSE

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DESIGNATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: / / .

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DESIGNATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: / / .

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DESIGNATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: / / .

Any papers or documents which may assist in the investigation of your report should be submitted as attachments to this form. If you think your report can be supplemented by information from an Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit where possible please notify the circumstances of the incident, and the fact that a written report is being submitted, to the senior officer on duty at the unit concerned. On receipt of your notification, action will be taken to collect and retain the data relevant to your incident report.

Where it is necessary to urgently report any matter affecting the safety of aircraft you are requested to notify the circumstances of the incident by the quickest available means; i.e., radio, telephone, telegram, etc. This initial notification should be confirmed in writing on this form.





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
Station .....  
No. ....  
Reg. Off. No. ....  
Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION ..... Date ..... Local Time .....

AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking VH DSJ ..... PILOT: Name and Initials .....

OWNER/OPERATOR ..... FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR  
IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point ..... First point of intended landing ..... Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

⑦ CONT.

②

OF THIS SEARCH

a) MUCH SEARCH TIME WAS LOST BY THE OPTIMUM AIRCRAFT, THE ORION, IN DIRECTING A SURFACE VESSEL TO THE POSITION OF POSSIBLE OIL SLICK AND DEBRIS FOR RETRIEVAL.

b) WHEN LIGHT AIRCRAFT, WITHOUT INTEGRAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, FOUND POSSIBLE DEBRIS WHEN OUT OF SIGHT OF LAND THEY HAD TO CLIMB TO FIX POSITION AND IN DOING SO LOST SIGHT OF DEBRIS.

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....

Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam, ..... Region

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

.....on / / .  
For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /

For Director



SIGNED

*[Signature]*

DESIGNATION

*ser/jmc*

DATE

*26/10/78*

Please note instructions at foot of this page.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE

/ / .

ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:

SIGNED

DESIGNATION

DATE

/ / .

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ZCZC MOB436 210243

055.

37

GG AMKIYOWW AMMBZT AMMLZG AMQQAB AMQQWX AMQQWY AMHFYM AMHBYM AMHBYV  
GG AMZZMP AMZZMQ  
210243 AMMLYM  
FOR 0500 TO 1700 AREA 74  
WIND 2000 34015 5000 34015 7000 34018 10000 34020 PS2 14000 33020  
MS7 18500 33020 MS16  
CLD SCT SC 2000/4000FT S MAR  
VIS 40KM  
FZL 10000FT  
TURB MOD BLW 7000FT TIL 08Z

NNNNZCZC MOB747 211240

VVV

GG AMLTYU

GG AMZZUK

211238 AMHFYM

TAF AMKI 1402 34020 9999 3SC030 RAPID 2224 24015 10 10 10 11 1021  
1019 1018 1016

21.0940

Originator Indicator

CITY — AMKI

SFC. VRB 5-8 KTS.

2 SC 4-6000

VIS 10+

21.1100

Originator Indicator

SEA STATE N OF AMKI

SMOOTH SLIGHT

LONG LOW SW SWELL



NNNNZCZC MOB649 210915  
 FF AMMLYU  
 210915 AMMLYS  
 PLW REC  
 210728 AMMBYO  
 PLN DSJ NV PVT C182 VRHN/BC/H  
 AMMB FOR AMKI AMMB 0745  
 CTY B050/41 AMKI 28  
 CTY 34 AMMB 44  
 CLIAS 80 LX 300  
 SARTIME 210930 AMKI AMML PHONE  
 FURTHER SAR TBA

36/

NNNNZCZC MOB699 211057  
 FF AMMLYU  
 211031 AMMBYO  
 PLN DSJ NV PVT C182 VRHN/BC/H  
 AMMB FOR AMKI AMMB 0745  
 ROUTE LSALT ALT TAS TR WIND HDG GS DIST ETI  
 SEGMENT MAG MAG

CHECKED OK ✓

ROUTE	LSALT	ALT	TAS	TR MAG	WIND	HDG MAG	GS	DIST	ETI
CTY	4000	B050	130	225	340/15	232	135	92	41
AMKI	1500			155		155	145	64	28
CTY	4000	B050		334	340/15	335	115	64	34
AMMB	1500	B050		045		039	124	92	44

RMKS FURTHER SAR TBA  
 CLIAS 80 LX CAPTAIN VALENTICH COMPANY SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES  
 300 SARTIME 210930 AMKI AMML PHONE  
 SURVIVAL GEAR 1LIFE JACKET  
 POB 1

DE? 0819.

NNNNZCZC MOB671 210954  
 SS AMMLYU AMMLZR AMKIYS  
 210952 AMMLYS  
 ALERTFA IMPAIRED OPERATING EFFICIENCY  
 VFR DSJ C182 PVT  
 ATD 0819 AMMB FOR AMKI VIA CTY EET 69( E E E 69 VHFR HFN  
 POB 1 LR 0912 AMML 125.9 PX CTY 0900 B050 AMKI 0928  
 TPD 0912 RMKS PRIOR TO ROUNT E E E TO ROUGH RUNNING  
 MOTOR AND LOSS OF CONTACT WITH ACFT PILOT REPORTED  
 U F O IN HIS VICINITY

NNNNZCZC MOB688 211028 VVV  
 SS AMMLYV AMLTYV  
 SS AMMLYV AMKIYS AMLTYV AMMOYC  
 211028 AMMLYU ~~22222~~ \*\*\*\*\*  
 DETRESFA ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. OVERDUE ON ETA AMKI  
 NGT VMC. VH DSJ. C182 PVT ATD 0819 AMMB CTY AMKI EET 69 ENDCE 300  
 BC VR HN. POB ONE VALENTICH SAS LX. LR 0915 AMML FS 125.9  
 PX CTY 0900 B050 VISUAL. BLUE BODY WHITE STRIPE WHITE TAIL  
 ETA AMKI 0928



Rhonda Rushton - B

(35)

- Call from a French lady who is psychic
- Has given her powers
- Got a queer feeling on day of disappearance
- She thinks he is in Tanzania
- She said the word hunt was coming into her mind - thought Hunter Island 2487/88
- Woman said about Hunter Island & follow the coast to Zuluhan & Shachan.
- Does not know the person - the only rings them & will only give them his first name. Does not want her name known but wants to help.
- Pilot has flown in Tanzania a lot.
- Note Fred asked Rhonda on Friday to get him a cashdown card and on Monday & he would pay her Tuesday.

Rang R. Rushton 1030 AM 30.10.78

Coming in at 1530

Dr B. Mahony attending 31.10.78



## MENT AND WORK RECORD

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Airports \_\_\_\_\_

\* Airways Station: \_\_\_\_\_

Y PERFORMED			TRANSPORT ALLOWANCE				TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE					
		Truck or Tractor Driving Yes or No	Type of Vehicle _____ No. of Cylinders _____				Time ordinarily spent in travelling from residence to headstation Hours ..... Minutes .....					
			Day				Departed Residence	Arrived City Terminal or Drome	Depart City Terminal or Drome	Arrived Resid- ence	Total time spent in travell- ing work and meals	Whether Dept. quarters occupied Yes or No
			Thur.									
			Fri.									
			Sat.									
			Sun.									
			Mon.									
			Tues.									
			Wed.									
			Thur.									
			Fri.									
			Sat.									
			Sun.									
			Mon.									
			Tues.									
			Wed.									

at the hours claimed are correct, the work has been done by direction and/or is covered by proper authority and  
 tails given in support of transport allowance or other allowances claimed are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Supervising Officer / Officer-in-Charge

ntly at the close of each allowance period.



NOTE FOR FILE

Mr Peter Artis  
Phone 758 8517

contacted Col Geroaghty C.O  
and stated that he was

Flying as a passenger in  
VH-DSJ a couple of months  
ago. The aircraft seemed  
to be a rough aircraft generally  
and had an oil leak in the  
governor which resulted in  
a light film of oil on the  
windscreen. The sun shining  
on this film produced some  
very strange visual effects.



30.10.78



- . Greg Rayburn works for GAF.
- . He told the GAF. Doctor that he was supposed to go on the flight with Valentich.
- . Also ~~said~~ Valentich's girlfriend was supposed to go according to newspaper report.



30.10.78.



Education - F. VALENTICH.

26.10.78

Checked  
AS

Enrolment + study RASIT. 1977.

Subjects . Circuit Theory 1 H.

. Electronics 1 H.

. Electronic Circuits 1 H.

. Mathematics 1 H.

. Physics 1 H.

. Communications + Report Writing

On 12.7.77 he withdrew from Electronics + Elect. Circuits.

On 22.7.77 he withdrew completely. Reason given  
as commencing Commercial + Gen. Com. Pilot CourseKelton Heights High School

From Deputy Principal.

Term 4 in 1974 (Intermediate standard)

Left school at Term 4 level in 1974.

Results Term 4.

Physical Education

"A"

Italian

"C"

Geography

"D"

English

"D"

Maths A

fail

" B

fail

Metalwork

"C"

Science

"D"

History

"C"

Graphics

"D"

A. Excellent  
 B. above average  
 C. average  
 D. below average  
 fail unacceptable level

} difficulties  
 in  
 comprehension

} lacks understanding

} difficulties with  
 expression



27 OCT 1978

AS(SI)

MISSING AIRCRAFT : VH-DSJ, BASS STRAIT ON 21.10.78


Preliminary investigation of this occurrence indicates that human factors may have played a significant role in the disappearance of the aircraft.

2 It appears that Frederick Valentich's flying activities and his association with the RAAF Air Training Corp commanded most of his interest. He created a facade of his ability, achievement and future in these aspects of his life not only for his close friends and acquaintances but also to a lesser degree for his family. In fact he has a poor academic history, was assessed by the RAAF as having a low IQ and has failed all his Commercial Pilot theory examinations.

3 In assessing the psychological stability of this pilot at the time of this flight, expert guidance is required. It is therefore requested that Aviation Medicine be asked to participate in the investigation. The attached documentation is provided in support of this request.

*original signed by I.S. Smith*

I.S. SMITH  
for DIRECTOR  
VIC/TAS REGION



ATT.



Joseph RAAF

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

30  
checked

Re F. Valentich.

- applied for RAAF in 1976
- at time was repeating leaving.
- Was aptitude + Psych tested 24.5.76
- Was only interested in being trained as a Radio Tech.
- Scores on tests were very low -  
indicative of a low I.Q. (failed all tests).
- Considered fit for unskilled work only.
- Dossier kept for 2 years - has been destroyed.
- a computer printout on him is held by RAAF - they  
would supply us with what info they have  
on formal request.

P. G.



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

VII 6/783/1047.

Page 18

29  
checked

Subject

Mr K. McCrawley.

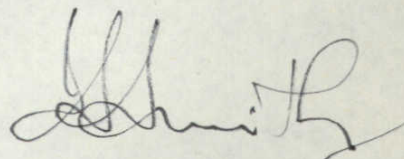
Kevan McCrawley  
Mess Officer

ATC HQ Mess 328 3704

Home 458 1119

I spoke to Mr K. McCrawley on 24/10/78 concerning the report from Mr G. Volentich, (father of the missing pilot) that his son was going to King Island to pick up lobsters for the Mess. He told me that the Mess had not ordered any crabs however members may have made private arrangements and he would check it out that night.

Mr Crawley phoned me today and stated that S/Ldr Grandy had ordered a crab if Frederick did go to King Island but there had not been any other firm orders.



ASSU



NNNNZCZC MPD106 240213  
JJ AMMLYJ

DD AMMLYX  
240213 AMMLYA  
FOR HQSCU.

ATTENTION SOINTEL FROM AMMLYA ASIB.  
CONFIRMING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF 23 OCT 1978 NOTIFYING DETAILS  
OF C182 VH-DSJ MISSING ON FLIGHT MOORABBIN TO KING ISLAND ON 21 OCT  
1978.

RECORD OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH AIRCRAFT CONFIRM PILOT REPORTED IN  
CLOSE PROXIMITY TO UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT OVER BASS STRAIT.  
NO OTHER KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN AREA.  
DURING SIX MINUTE PERIOD PILOT IN VISUAL CONTACT WITH UNKNOWN  
AIRCRAFT HE MADE TWO REFERENCES WHICH INFERRED THE OBJECT WAS NOT  
AN AIRCRAFT.

REQUEST ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAY ASSIST INVESTIGATION OF  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING AIRCRAFT.

I.A. SMITH ASSU 24100145.

NNNN



Commercial Pilot Licence Examinations F. VALENTICH.

History of examination enrolments and results  
of Friedrich Valentich.

Exam 1 of March 1978

Enrolled for all Commercial Subjects and  
Senior Commercial Met.

Results - Failed all subjects.

Exam 2 of <sup>JUL</sup>~~March~~ 1978

Enrolled for Nav., Performance and Engines

Results - failed all subjects

Exam 3 of November 1978

Enrolled Com. MET, Principles of Flt. + ~~etc.~~  
& Senior Com. MET.



Margery Tully  
Angeles.

Saw light aircraft 1850 E  
on 21/10/78 following coast  
going towards sea  
Sky clear  
no cloud  
nothing abnormal.

Call received by G Dodkins  
1100 hours 26/10/78

*[Signature]*



Investigator's Note

Captain ~~for~~ E. R. Barnes.

W16/782/1947-25

Edwin Robert Barnes.

25.10.78.

Checked  
AJ

Captain on G159 with Associated Airlines.

- Also ATC RAAF and therefore the contact through Sgt. Ldn. Grandy.

- Instructed Fred in Nav & Aircraft performance and recently MET.  
Never flew with Fred.

- Didn't drink much.

- Has seen Fred angry when he came back from KI and supposedly approach the incorrect runway.

- Fred was quiet until he got to know you.

- Impression - Fred would have had a healthy  
approach to flying  
- no shortcuts.

- UFOs. never mentioned.

- Fred had mentioned his helicopter note at E. Sale.

- Monday. 30.10.78 he is available.

Home 354 6944

WORK  
379 2908.



Report from ML AACC  
radar operator of the  
conditions existing in  
the Cape Otway area  
on 21 October 1978.

Received RHQ  
25/10/78

  
ASSU



24/10/78.

24

Keith

as per your request, I enclose a plotting chart with the returns around that time according to memory.

Anomalous propagation was present to a certain extent resulting in strong and well defined Oway return (1).

A rolling return had been present some time prior to 0900Z but had disappeared well before that time. It was the type of return I understand is associated with Surf (2). The return I considered possibly the Wx return was at the base of R325 and had been there for some time prior to 0900 it remained stationary and was still in that position at <sup>1100Z</sup> ~~0900Z~~ when I went off shift (3). The only other return was R1 (4).

I had not had any light acft during the period I was controlling on Sec 3 and cannot give an indication of the extent to which they pointed. The four jets which dep't on the 150K gave strong rumory returns throughout.

Martin Wright

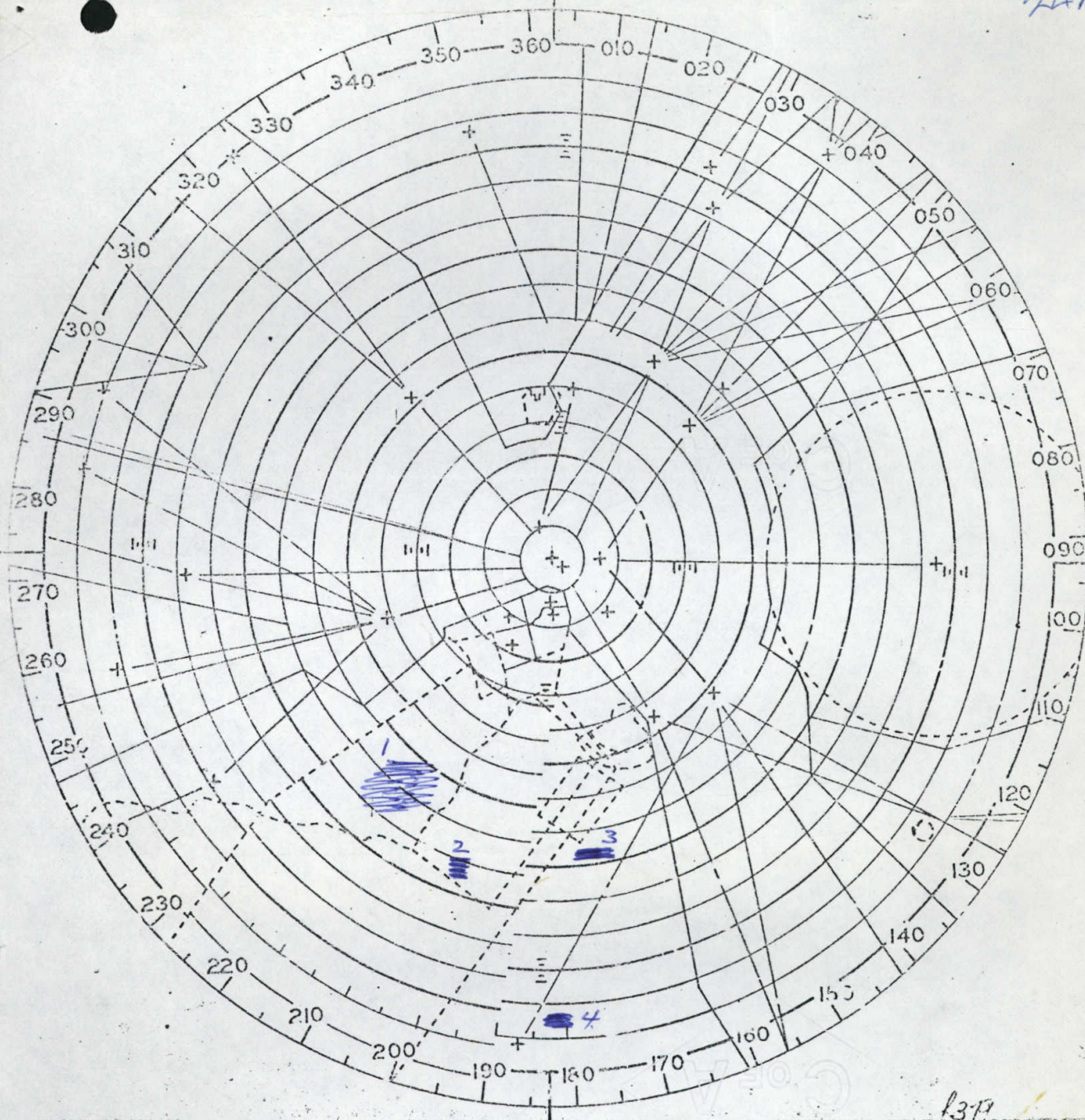


160 NM.

## PLOTING CHART

9.1.74.

24A

CALL SIGN AND TYPE DSJ FRIGHT SERVICEDATE 21/10/78 TIME 0908Z

WEATHER

REQUEST FOR RADAR ASSISTANCE

(APPROX)

REMARKS RETURNS OBSERVED. 1. OTWAYS2. A RETURN OBSERVED PRIOR TO 0700(NOT SURE HOW LONG PRIOR) PAINT WAS ROWING FROM NORTH EXTREMITY TO SOUTH THEN  
RETURNING TO NORTH - PROBABLY WAVE MOVEMENT ANNAPROP.3. A STEADY RETURN PRESENT FROM PRIOR TO 0900Z  
UNTIL WENT OFF SHOT ~~4:00~~ 1100Z4. KING ISLAND ANNAPROP.



RECEIVED  
VICTORIA REGION

\*  
TRANS AA30260  
TRANS AA30499

'78 OCT 23 PM 1 22

23/10/67

DEPARTMENT OF

NOTIFICATION TO MANAGEMENT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT TRANSPORT  
(PRELIMINARY - DETAILS YET TO BE CONFIRMED)

FROM HUGHES (AS(SI) FOR

MINISTERS OFFICE  
SECRETARY  
DPR  
DEPUTY SECRETARY (AIR OPERATIONS)  
FAS(FW)  
FAS(AO)  
FAS(GF)  
AS(GA)  
AS(OS)  
ADPR MELBOURNE  
DAM

*g* *ASSU.*



DIRECTOR VIC/TAS REGION  
OTHER COPIES SENT SAS(AW)

AIRCRAFT TYPE	CESSNA 182L	VH-DSJ
OPERATION	PRIVATE	
OWNER OPERATOR	SOUTHERN AIR SERVICES	
PILOT	P. VALENTICH	
PERSONS ON BOARD	ONE	
DATE/TIME	21 OCTOBER 1978	1914 HOURS EST
LOCATION	BASS STRAIT	NEAR KING ISLAND

- THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED MOORABBIN AT 1819 HOURS FOR A FLIGHT TO KING ISLAND
  - ESTIMATING ARRIVAL AT 1928 HOURS
  - OPERATING NIGHT VMC.
- AT 1900 HOURS THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE WAS AT CAPE OTWAY
  - THE NORMAL REPORTING POSITION FOR SINGLE ENGINED AIRCRAFT BEGINNING THE OVERWATER CROSSING TO KING ISLAND.
- SHORTLY AFTER 1906 HOURS THE PILOT REPORTED
  - THAT THERE WAS A LARGE AIRCRAFT IN HIS VICINITY
  - WAS ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NO KNOWN TRAFFIC IN THE AREA
  - CONTINUED OVER SEVERAL MINUTES TO DESCRIBE THE MANOEUVRING OF THE OBJECT NEAR HIS AIRCRAFT
  - : DESCRIBED IT AS A LONG SHAPE
  - VARIOUSLY HAVING FOUR BRIGHT LIGHTS A GREEN LIGHT AND A METALLIC LIGHT.

AT 1910 HOURS HE ADVISED MELBOURNE FSU THAT THE OBJECT HAD VANISHED.

HE REPORTED AT 1912 HOURS THAT HIS ENGINE WAS RUNNING ROUGHLY AND COUGHING.



MELBOURNE FSU ASKED HIS INTENTIONS

HE REPLIED THAT HE INTENDED TO GO TO KING ISLAND

: ADDED THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING ON TOP  
OF ME AGAIN.- IT IS HOVERING AND IT IS NOT AN AIRCRAFT'.

THE NEXT CALL FROM THE AIRCRAFT WAS ITS CALL SIGN ONLY

THERE WAS NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THE AIRCRAFT

: WHICH DID NOT ANSWER SUBSEQUENT CALLS.

A SEARCH OF THE BASS STRAIT AREAS IS IN PROGRESS.

NNNNSENT:231330 A E S T\*

TRANS AA30260

TRANS AA33259



AMMXYX

FOR HQSCU

ATTENTION SOINTEL

FROM AMMLYL<sup>A</sup> ASIB

TEXT.

CONFIRMING TELEPHONE ~~NOTE~~ CONVERSATION  
OF 23 OCT 1978 NOTIFYING DETAILS OF  
C182 VH-DSJ MISSING ON FLIGHT MB  
TO KI ON 21 OCT 1978 ①

RECORD OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH  
AIRCRAFT CONFIRM<sup>M</sup> PILOT REPORTED IN  
CLOSE ~~VICINITY~~ <sup>PROXIMITY</sup> TO ~~WITH~~ UNIDENTIFIED  
AIRCRAFT OVER BASS STRAIT ① NO  
OTHER KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN AREA ①  
DURING SIX MINUTE PERIOD PILOT  
IN VISUAL CONTACT WITH UNKNOWN  
AIRCRAFT HE MADE TWO REFERENCES  
WHICH INFERRED THE OBJECT WAS  
NOT AN AIRCRAFT ①

REQUEST ANY INFORMATION  
WHICH MAY ASSIST INVESTIGATION OF  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING AIRCRAFT ①

Phoned to ML Anisc for onward relay 020520  
Copy of message from satellite network will be  
forwarded to ASSU for info. office  
mail

*[Signature]*  
OKS.

24/10

*[Signature]*  
ASSU

24100145



Subject: Missing Aircraft, VH-DSJ, 21 October 1978

21

Darcy Hogan Bridging Officer Moorabbin.

1. Hogan is in Air Training Corp so knows Valentich.
2. Arrived B.O. at 5.15 approx.
  - (a) weather enroute for N/VMS. He didn't know much about N/VMS requirements he asked if scattered 5c at 3000 was OK.
  - (b) no request for lights.
  - (c) going to pick up passengers, he didn't know how many. He would ring ML with details of POB + SAR Ex K.I.
3. Valentich appeared to be in normal frame of mind.
4. No ETD K.I. would advise ML from K.I.
5. SAR to K.I. Hogan asked if K.I. was open. Since closed he told Valentich that SAR would be to ML by phone.
6. Did nothing about lights and didn't discuss lights with Valentich. Valentich did not mention light.
7. After Valentich left Hogan went for a drive round the tarmac & thinks he saw Valentich taxiing VH-WDD to Shutt's tarmac. He is not sure that it was Valentich.
8. Personally he considers Valentich would be an average pilot and of average maturity. Wasn't exceptional in any way.
9. Doesn't know what his drinking and smoking habits were. No close social contact.
10. No mention of UFOs.

R. Graham

24.10.78.



Mr C P Day King Island.

Notes made following a phone discussion with  
Mr CLIFF P. Day a cray fisherman / kelp farmer  
of King Island on 24/10/78 (004/621426)

- He is not cray fishing until next week
- Last went cray fishing June 78
- Cannot remember who he sells crays to and  
the name Valentich means nothing
- No phone call from Valentich ordering crays  
and if he had rung there were no crays available  
from him
- Unusual for one to expect crays at that time  
of night but if they had been ordered there  
would be no problem.

24.10.78.

O'Harris.



19

NFF

Subject - Missing Aircraft, VH-DSJ, on 21 October 1978  
Conversation with Don Seaman 906566.

Log Book - Not at SAS.

Standard - Tailed him first time Unrestricted.  
- ~~Standard~~ Average only.  
- OK on instruments.  
- no mention of UFOs.  
- Not a drinker that he knows.  
- Financially - ran up a \$500 bill but he paid it out before this trip.  
- no mention of problems or disturbances.  
- seemed vague at times.  
- Didn't know him well.

VH-DSJ - 100 hourly on Friday 20.10.78.  
- flown by ~~W~~ V. Alfonso on Sat. 21.10.78  
works at Shuttles (Brents)  
- no autopilot.  
- single ADF.  
- no strobe  
- 1 rotating beacon on tail.

### Payment of Bill

SAS asked him about account when it was \$360 about.  
he said his passengers to SA had given him a little  
money prior to flight but not all, he ~~25.10.78~~  
would chase it up N.B. only Valentich & girlfriend went  
no TAX.



VII 6/783/1047

18

NFF

Checked  
AB

Conversation with Vince Alfonso

(flew VH-DSJ on Sat. 21.10.78).

(Works as LAME for Shuttles).

903033

Carried out a Daily inspection before 6 AM.

Went on flight MB - French Is - MB.

at 6.10 AM ~~sta~~.

Aircraft performed OK.

There was a bit of a smell from heater but it disappeared after short time. Considered normal.

On way back from French Is about 10 minutes from MB a passenger pointed out fuel venting from RHS.

After landing the cap was out of the tank & hanging on the chain. He reported it to S.A.S. but didn't enter it on maintenance release. On Sunday he was at S.A.S. discussing the incident & found out that the cap had been repaired prior to Valentich departing.

25.10.78.

NFF

Don Dowman is checking to find out if cap had been repaired prior to Valentich departing.



Subject - Missing Aircraft, VH-DSJ, on 21 October 1978  
Notes made during a preliminary conversation  
with Mr. Guido Valentich.

---

Mr Guido Valentich is the father of  
Mr Frederick Valentich. He <sup>visited</sup> this  
office on 25.10.78 for the purpose of hearing  
the tape recording concerning the missing  
aircraft VH-DSJ in order to identify his  
son's voice. The following <sup>notes</sup> were made  
during general conversation with Mr Valentich.

- Frederick worked for an Army Disposals firm  
at Moonie Ponds.
- He was attending lectures for Commercial  
Pilot Meteorology. These lectures were  
conducted at Essendon Airport on Tuesday  
nights and from 1300 - 1700 hours EST  
on Saturday afternoons at Moorabbin. He  
did not know the organisation or lecturer.
- On Friday night 20.10.78 Frederick had  
retired about 2230 hours EST. On Saturday  
morning 21.10.78 he had eaten a light  
breakfast of orange juice, cereal and coffee  
prior to going to work at Moonie Ponds.  
He would have finished work at 1200 hours  
EST and driven to Moorabbin to attend the  
lectures at 1300 hours probably without  
having eaten any lunch. The lectures were  
to finish at 1700 hours and he considers  
that Frederick would have eaten some take  
away food from a Mc Donalds hamburger  
shop near Moorabbin as this is his normal  
practice. He recalled that Frederick was in  
normal good spirits on Saturday morning.



- Frederick was a Blood Donor and gave blood at the City Bank on Tuesday 17.10.78.
- Frederick's personal doctor was Dr Pasha of Avondale Heights. He was <sup>undergoing</sup> treatment for a <sup>skin</sup> <sup>complaint</sup> and was taking pills for the complaint.
- Recent Employment: Army Disposals - 3 weeks  
 GMH Foundary - 3.5 months  
 Commercial Licence Course - 5.6 months  
 RMIT - 6 months.
- Financially, Fred had no problems. As far as known he owed nothing. He was generous to the family on anniversaries etc. His father assisted Frederick financially with his flying.
- There were no <sup>problems</sup> at home. Frederick did his <sup>share</sup> of the home duties.
- Frederick was in the Air Training Corp as a cadet and then <sup>as an</sup> instructor. He applied for a position as Radio Tech in the RAAF about 1976 but was not successful.
- He wanted a <sup>career</sup> in aviation and since he missed out on the RAAF, decided to finish his Commercial Licence and eventually get into Airlines. He wanted to show everyone, including the RAAF, that he could do it.
- Frederick always had the idea that some people wanted to stop him succeeding so he didn't discuss his flying or intentions with anyone. He just wanted to get through and surprise everyone by showing them that he could actually do it.



- Frederick was a firm believer in UFOs. He had saved articles and information on UFOs, read "Chariot of the Gods" and other books and went to see movies on the subject. This interest started when he was at School about six years ago. His belief had been strengthened recently when he was allowed to see the RAAF's confidential files on UFOs at East Sale and at Laverton. He wouldn't discuss these details with his family as they were confidential.
- His mother saw a UFO one night. She called Fred and he saw it <sup>too</sup>. It was a large light, 10 times larger than a star, was stationary for a while and then moved off at great speed. This happened about 8 months ago.
- His father eventually became convinced that UFOs existed.
- Frederick worried about <sup>attack</sup> from UFOs and what they could do. His father had told him there was nothing they could do and so no point in <sup>worrying</sup> worrying.
- His father is unsure about what Rhonda Rushton (Frederick's girlfriend) had said about them going out on Saturday night 21.10.78. He knows Fred was going to be home and thinks something about her statement is fishy but doesn't know what.
- Fred's memory was good for important matters but he sometimes overlooked unimportant things.

P. R. GERRARD  
INVESTIGATOR.



## Investigator's Note

#116-783.10

Subject - Missing Aircraft, VH-DSJ, on 21 October 1978  
Discussion with Mr Gregory Reaburn

Mr Reaburn is a personal <sup>friend</sup> of Mr Fred Valentich. They have been friends for seven or eight years. Mr Reaburn visited Legation Office for the purpose of going background information <sup>of</sup> Mr Valentich. During an informal discussion he gave the following information:

- They had been in the Air Training <sup>Corps</sup> together for some years and both were very interested in weapons.
- The two saw each other on average twice a week. This was on Tuesdays and Fridays when they attended the Air Training Corps.
- Valentich told him that ~~that~~ he had <sup>applied</sup> to join the RAAF as an crew but that he had not been accepted because of inadequate educational qualifications. <sup>after</sup> ~~after~~ obtaining <sup>he</sup> further education he had <sup>tried</sup> again but was still not accepted. The two were in camp together <sup>in August 1978</sup> at RAAF East Sale when Valentich confided he had been knocked back by the RAAF for the second time.
- Valentich was disappointed about not getting into the RAAF and it had made him quite determined to get his commercial pilot's license and fly for



The airlines just to show the K&AT he could do it.

- Valentich had been going with his girlfriend <sup>for</sup> five months and they were very close. He had recently given <sup>her</sup> a friendship ring.
- Mr Keaburn thought it would be quite out of the question that Valentich ~~had~~ would commit suicide <sup>or purposely</sup> fly the aircraft to a remote location to get away from <sup>society</sup>. Valentich was far too close to his family, girlfriend and friends to contemplate such actions.
- Concerning Valentich's family situation, Mr Keaburn said he knew Valentich's father was helping out <sup>financially</sup> with his son's flying and he also knew that there had been a family argument recently. He did not know what the argument was about. Valentich was living at home and in general Keaburn thought the family was very close. <sup>to his knowledge</sup>
- Concerning health, ~~he was not aware of~~ Valentich was not on any form of self medication. He had never known him to <sup>suffer</sup> from fits or ~~fits~~ to pass out or have hallucinations. Valentich did suffer from a skin complaint and had been told by his doctor not to drink too much milk because of this complaint.
- Valentich was very strict regarding alcohol/flying. He never took much alcohol at all and would never take any after 2000-2100 hours of an evening prior to



flying the next day. He was most definitely not part of the drug scene. Keaburn considered that Valentich was the sort of person who would go straight to the police if anyone he knew of anyone who was on drugs.

- Keaburn was aware that Valentich had planned to fly to King Island but he did not know on what particular day. He knew that Valentich was going to bring back a crayfish for the PIC of the Air Training Corps (Squadron Grandy) but he had only found this out since the aircraft disappeared.
- He had only ever flown with Valentich on one occasion and that was in a helicopter during their camp at Fort Sale in August 1978. Some of the pilots from Longford are involved with the Air Training Corps at Fort Sale and one of these pilots had taken them up in a helicopter. Valentich had flown the helicopter and according to Keaburn, the pilot said Valentich flew it well.
- Keaburn said he was aware that Valentich had flown to Newcastle and back since they had been in camp at Fort Sale during August. Keaburn had been asked to go but he could not afford ~~it~~ the cost his share of the cost.
- His general impression of Valentich's character was that he is not prone to hasty decisions or panic. He always stops and thinks about a situation before taking any action. They had



once been lost in the bush together whilst on an Air Training Corps camp and Valentich had not been the slightest bit perturbed about it.

- Both he and Valentich believed in UFOs but not to any fanatical extent. They had discussed UFOs and their beliefs were on the basis that if people on earth are capable of sending space vehicles to Mars and the Moon then why would inhabitants of another planet not be capable of the same thing.
- Reaburn was sure that Valentich would have been wearing his life jacket on the trip to King Island. Valentich was not keen about flying over water and if ever he had any choice in the matter he would fly over land. This was because Valentich was not a good swimmer and would probably just give up if he had to come down in the water.
- Reaburn thought that some of the circumstances were a little strange. Valentich had arranged to pick up his girlfriend at 7.30 PM to take her out but he had also told his father that he would be home from flying at 10.00 PM. Such a dual arrangement was very uncharacteristic of Valentich, yet there was absolutely no way he could pick up his girlfriend at 7.30 PM. If ever he was going to be late for an appointment he would advise those concerned by way of a phone call. Reaburn was also wondering what Valentich did with the time between finishing his lecture &



Meals 1700 hours & taking off 1820 hours. He thought that Valentich may have gone to McDonalds for some take-away food which he did on occasions.

- Valentich did not gamble at all, nor was he in any financial bother, to Reaburn's knowledge. He had no police record or any problems that would be causing him any deep concern. He was studying hard for his meteorology exam and was worried as to whether he could pass it.
- Valentich joined the Air Training Corp some three years later than Reaburn and did not get promoted beyond Cadet LAC. Reaburn did not consider this significant; nor did he think it bothered Valentich in any way.
- Valentich had never spoken to Reaburn about being disoriented in an aircraft either during his training or since he had obtained his licence.

(S. G. SPARKS)

Investigator



Greg Reaburn

16E

18 Windsor St  
STRATHMORE

P - 379 2069

B. - 640 661 x 831

Direct dialling 6473831



Investigator's Note.

~~VIII-783-1047~~

15

Missing Aircraft, VH-DSJ on 21 October 1978  
Subject: Discussion with Miss R Rushton, on 24 October 1978

Miss Rhonda Rushton, of No 3 Bradford Avenue  
Preston (VT 412479) was a close friend of the pilot of  
C182 L VH-DSJ which became missing on 21 October 1978.  
She visited the Regional office and agreed to assist in  
the investigation concerning the aircraft and the possible actions  
taken by the pilot.

Miss Rushton stated she was "just 17" years of age, and  
that she worked at the Night-Owl Pharmacy, of 743 M  
Gilbert Road, Reservoir.

She advised she last saw Fred Valutich on Friday  
night 20 October 1978, at about 9 pm EST, after he  
has finished work at the drug Disposals, 139 ~~Puckle~~  
Puckle Street, Moore Park. In their conversation  
it became evident to her that he had forgotten he said he  
would take her out on Saturday night. The forthcoming  
flight to King Island was discussed, and together they  
evolved the schedule of: departure Moorebank 1600, land  
King Island 1730, pick up crayfish, leave 1800, land Moorebank  
1930. As it was a 20 minute drive from the airport to  
Preston she suggested Valutich put his good clothes in  
which to take her out, in his car when he left home early on  
Saturday.

Since the aircraft went missing, she had seen the car at  
Moorebank, and was aware that no clothes were in it. From  
her <sup>experience</sup> reference, Valutich was probably wearing a tri-coloured  
brown and white <sup>jeans</sup> and brown slacks, his <sup>usual</sup> flying  
clothing and she believed he would have carried with him  
a blue, ~~rain~~ short raincoat, very similar to those worn by



15A

RAAF  
Kidd's personnel, as this was his "good luck coat" (his words.)

Discussing possible <sup>movements</sup> of Valerich during the day she believed he would have left home, without having breakfast, <sup>gone</sup> to work, ~~had~~ not eaten luncheon, then <sup>gone</sup> to the tutorial classes for his Commercial Pilot licence, at Moorabbin, and stayed there, as she was now aware, until about 1700 EST. Most probably the pilot <sup>then</sup> went to McDonald's take away food store, near Southlands, on the Murrumbidgee Highway to purchase food. She believed he would have ordered "2 big macs, 2 cheese burgers, a fillet of fish and some chips," and most probably would have <sup>drank</sup> a carton of Coca-Cola.

Miss Rushton said Valerich was "a big eater" and that he always ate slowly, and she believed he would have driven to the beach and sat in his car facing the sea while eating.

Asked concerning Valerich's <sup>drinking</sup> habits, she stated he never had more than 2 alcoholic drinks, usually beer, and after these he remained on soft drink. She also volunteered the information that Valerich "wasn't himself Friday night", that usually he is cheerful, and outwardly very happy, but underneath on Friday "he was not quite in the spirit of things."

To her knowledge his <sup>health</sup> was good, he didn't have a cold or other minor physical ailments, and so far as she was aware he was not taking any self-medication <sup>for</sup> <sup>personal</sup> <sup>complaints</sup>. The only thing she could <sup>she</sup> <sup>offer</sup> was that he was taking <sup>long</sup> <sup>acting</sup> capsules for a facial rash, and that he was not to partake of dairy products.

partake of



Concerning the ~~flight~~ flight of 21 October 1978, Valentich had not discussed it with her to any degree but she was now aware he had discussed it with her mother, apparently while waiting for her at some previous time. The gist of the conversation had been that he had earlier intended to take his father <sup>father on the</sup> a flight, that he was "scared of the water" (her words) and that the "plane" is an old one" (his words). Miss Rushton was aware her boyfriend had made the flight in November to King Island before ~~but~~ she was uncertain if he had flown the route at night.

One strange ~~aspect~~ thing had occurred a week earlier. They were in the habit of celebrating their ~~anniversary~~ <sup>monthly</sup> anniversary of their meeting and for the fifth anniversary Valentich had decided to give her a friendship ring. Although he was well aware of the date of the anniversary (20 October) despite her <sup>protestations</sup> he had insisted on giving it to her on 13 October. He apparently had told his friends of his intention to give her the ring. She had no explanation for his action.

Asked had she flown with Valentich before, she said she had many <sup>times</sup> but never at night. One notable flight had been in a Learna aircraft to Newcastle about ~~2-3~~ 8-10 weeks ago. Originally four <sup>other</sup> other passengers were to have been at Melbourne at 0600 hours, but they had not shown up <sup>by</sup> 0600 hours and Valentich had gone without them. The flight to Newcastle (Warkentin airstrip) had been <sup>uneventful</sup> uneventful but they had had to fly over solid cloud for about a half hour. They had found a hole and descended straight.

She advised that as a flight plan had to be submitted at Bankstown for the return flight to Melbourne, Valentich had flown to Bankstown, and entered the "Sydney restricted zone" <sup>submitted</sup>



as told to do so <sup>box</sup> of Sydney. Valutich had experienced difficulty landing <sup>aircraft</sup> the aircraft and had ~~made~~ make several attempts. The reason was that the <sup>control</sup> "control column" was locked. Valutich had sweated profusely in this <sup>situation</sup> situation, such that he had used his handkerchief to <sup>prevent</sup> mop his brow to prevent the sweat blurring his vision. He stated that he always sweated when something unexpected or a little out of the ordinary occurred and he was aware of the change in his boyfriend's voice when ~~talking to control~~ these situations arose.

<sup>Other</sup> Other flights she had made with Valutich were from Moorabbin to Essendon and back by various routes, <sup>sight</sup> seeing the city from <sup>relatively</sup> ~~various~~ <sup>altitudes</sup> altitudes. He <sup>said she</sup> was impressed by what Valutich knew of aircraft, and that she considered him to be "a very good pilot".

However she was aware of some unusual habits he had <sup>while</sup> while flying. These concerned the use of the radio. He was aware he usually "clicked" the microphone button after transmitting, and that he never put it back in the rack, but left the microphone on his lap where because of his leg action it was sometimes activated. He also had the habit of polishing or <sup>OR</sup> rubbing the microphone in his <sup>jumper sleeve</sup> jumper sleeve before using it.

She stated Valutich had long legs and that after a period of time it was his habit to release the seat and to push it rearward, which again sometimes <sup>operated</sup> operated the microphone on his lap. He was of the <sup>opinion</sup> opinion the "metallic noise" mentioned in the <sup>newspaper</sup> newspaper could have been the seat sliding rearward, with the microphone transmitting.



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Miss Rushton had no knowledge of how Valutich used the engine to fly, ~~he~~ when asked. She then said she considered he was "usually cautious", that he likes to think things well ahead "and believed that he would have entered the aircraft wearing the life jacket. She said Valutich always had a plan to cover possible emergencies, she had frequently been told while flying that "if anything goes wrong, look for a straight road and a long paddock without fences" (Valutich words). She said Valutich always thought before he acted, albeit rapidly, he never acted instinctively.

The matter of <sup>unidentified</sup> Flying Objects, the <sup>coverage</sup> subject of much media coverage was raised. She advised that while out driving in the Dandenong Ranges on Sunday 15 October 1978 Valutich had said to her "I saw a UFO landed in front of me. I would go in it but never without you." ~~this was~~ <sup>other</sup> other subjects had been discussed during the drive, many of social interest but Valutich had commented to some length on the subject of "everybody is out to grab money - there is not enough left for everybody - people would have to starve."

Miss Rushton was aware Valutich had <sup>starve</sup> clippings on UFOs but she didn't consider him an avid collector, but just ~~was~~ with an average interest on the subject.

His reference to a landing UFO, on 15 October was his only reference to the subject on that day, <sup>and on other</sup> and on other occasions, such references have been very short and never in any depth.

Asked concerning his personality, Miss Rushton said



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Valentich <sup>held</sup> held problems "in the back of his mind" and that he "held them as a list" and when he had worked out a solution, he mentally crossed it off.

He had tried to be very soon after their first meeting, that he had <sup>passed</sup> passed his meteorology subject for his commercial licence, and after four months he had admitted his lie, and that he was repeating the subject. He said he had "no one to talk his problems out with," but she was aware he had long talks with a Robert Borne, about flying and flying problems.

Miss Rushta was thanked for her assistance  
 26/10/78. Hedbrook  
Investigator

(See also T N - Assessment of Miss Rushta)



## Investigator Note

### Investigator's impression of Miss Rushta.

Miss Rushta was considered by the investigator to be an honest and dependable witness. Although young she was seen to be a steady stable person for her years. She obviously cared greatly for Valutich and in the time of her acquaintance was found to be associated with him, as a flat, and because of his physique and his association with the Victoria Squadron of the Air Training Corps. To some extent this shows a measure of <sup>her being</sup> impressionable, but not outside her years.

The investigator gained the impression that Valutich had chosen Miss Rushta carefully, as someone to discuss his problems with, she being <sup>perhaps</sup> <sup>perhaps</sup> more so than a girl of 18-20 years, who might have rejected his problems & ideas and pushed him aside.

The impression was gained that Miss Rushta was becoming aware that Valutich was "different" from her other male acquaintances and that she was being used as a "prop", forced into odd phrases used as the <sup>tone</sup> of some of her <sup>comments</sup> conversations.

J. L. Jackson

Investigator

26-10-78





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

24 OCT 1978

14

## AIR SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT

Folio No. ....  
Station ML PS  
No. 173  
Reg. Off. No. ....  
Central Off. No. ....

Normally this report should be mailed to the Director of the Region in which the incident occurred. If more convenient it may be lodged with the OIC of any Air Traffic Control or Flight Service Unit.

LOCATION OR ROUTE SECTION CAPE OTWAY-KING ISLAND Date 21.10.78 GMT Time 0912  
AIRCRAFT: Type and Marking C182 VH-DSJ PILOT: Name and Initials VALENTICH  
OWNER/OPERATOR S.A.S. FLIGHT CATEGORY: (underline) VFR NV  
IFR

TYPE OF OPERATION (underline applicable type):

Regular Public Transport

Charter

Agriculture

Aerial Work

Private

Aircraft Test Flight

Training Dual

Training Solo

FLIGHT: Last departure point MOORABBIN First point of intended landing KING ISLAND Flt. No. ....

When this report is submitted by a Departmental officer, enter Fault Report No. (if applicable) .....

DESCRIBE INCIDENT AND RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES, with comment and suggestions:

IMPAIRED OPERATING EFFICIENCY.

AT 210819 VH DSJ DEPARTED MOORABBIN ON A PRIVATE TRAVEL FLIGHT TO KING ISLAND VIA CAPE OTWAY. AT 0900 HE REPORTED OVER CAPE OTWAY PROCEEDING TO KING ISLAND. AT 0906 HE INQUIRED IF THERE ~~WAS~~ ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC 8050. (PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED TRANSCRIPT FOR EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED.) AT 0912 THE PILOT REPORTED A ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. ALERT PHASE DECLARED. THE AIRCRAFT THEN MADE A FURTHER REPORT THAT THE U.F.O. WAS STILL IN THE VICINITY. CONTACT WAS THEN LOST WITH THE AIRCRAFT. AT 0913 THE FS3 OPERATOR DECLARED DISTRESS PHASE BUT OPERATIONS ADVISED PHASE WAS TO REMAIN AT ALERT UNTIL ETA KING ISLAND OF 0928. AT 0933 OPERATIONS UPGRADED PHASE TO DISTRESS.

Signed. P.C. Ring Designation A/FS03 Date 21/10/78

NOTE—If you desire an acknowledgement of this report, please place your name and address hereunder. If these details are not given, no acknowledgement of receipt will necessarily be made.

Name .....  
Address .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Region .....

Thank you for your Air Safety Incident Report concerning .....

on / /

For future reference it has been allocated No. ....

Yours faithfully

Date / /



**Please note instructions at foot of this page.**

**COMMENTS BY REGIONAL OFFICERS:**

**ACTION BY REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR:**

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_ **DESIGNATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:**    /    /    .

Where it is necessary to urgently report any matter affecting the safety of aircraft you are requested to notify the circumstances of the incident by the quickest available means; i.e., radio, telephone, telegram, etc. This initial notification should be confirmed in writing on this form.



14A

DSJ MB/KI ①	MB	CTY 41			KI 28	Q	210930 211000 A0912 HVB 00913
	0745	0900			0928		
0819	5	00	5			V8	LX

DSJ KI/MB ②	KI	CTY 34			MB 44	TBA.
	5					
						Avd LX

ZCZC MFB536 210734

GG AMMLYS

GG AMZZMB

210734 AMMLYP

TAFBUL 210730 PART TWO.

AMKI 0820 30015 9999 4SC030 13 11 11 10 1022 1021 1020 1019

AMAY 0820 35005 CAVOK 20 17 14 11 1023 1023 1022 1022

AMMN 0820 35005 CAVOK 20 15 11 09 1023 1023 1022 1022

SALE 0820 15010 CAVOK GRADU 1014 35007 17 14 11 08

1023 1023 1022 1022

BNS 0820 15010 CAVOK GRADU 1014 35007 17 14 11 08

1023 1023 1022 1022

ARFOR 0500 TO 1700 AREA 74

WIND 2000 34015 5000 34015 7000 34018 10000 34020 PS2 14000 33020

MS7 18500 33020 MS16

CLD SCT SC 2000/4000FT S MAR

VIS 40KM

FZL 10000FT

TURB MOD BLW 7000FT TIL 08Z

MFB 404

NNNNZCZC MFB453 210420

JJ AMMLYS AMMLYF AMMLYJ AMLTYS

AMKIYS

RQ CLOSE 0435 REOPEN 220030 RECALL 004621451

NAVAIDS OK. LIGHTS OFF.

TRAFFIC RCT AMKI FOR AMMB ETD 0700

GOODAY MEN,



NNNNZCZC MFB535 210732 VVV  
FF AMKIYS  
FF AMZZRE  
210728 AMMBYO  
PLN DSJ NV PVT C182 VRHN/BC/H  
AMMB FOR AMKI AMMB 0745  
CTY BO50/41 AMKI 28  
CTY 34 AMMB 44  
CLIAS 80 LX 300  
SARTIME 210930 AMKI AMML PHONE  
FURTHER SAR TBA

14B

NNNNZCZC MFA370 210851  
FF AMOCYS  
210850 AMMBYO  
DEP DSJ AMMB FOR AMKI 0819

NNNNZCZC MFB588 210957  
SS AMMLYS  
SS AMMLYU AMMLZR AMKIYS  
210952 AMMLYS  
ALERTFA IMPAIRED OPERATING EFFICIENCY  
VFR DSJ C182 PVT  
ATD 0819 AMMB FOR AMKI VIA CTY EET 69( E E E 69 VFR HFN  
POB 1 LR 0912 AMML 125.9 PX CTY 0900 BO50 AMKI 0928  
TPD 0912 RMKS PRIOR TO ROUNT E E E TO ROUGH RUNNING  
MOTOR AND LOSS OF CONTACT WITH ACFT PILOT REPORTED  
U F O IN HIS VICINITY

NNNNZCZC MFB612 211028 VVV  
SS AMMLYV AMKIYS  
SS AMMLYV AMKIYS AMLTYV AMMOYC  
211028 AMMLYU''''  
DETRESFA ROUGH RUNNING MOTOR. OVERDUE ON ETA AMKI  
NGT VMC. VH DSJ. C182 PVT ATD 0819 AMMB CTY AMKI EET 69 ENDCE 300  
BC VR HN. POB ONE VALENTICH SAS LX. LR 0915 AMML FS 125.9  
PX CTY 0900 BO50 VISUAL. BLUE BODY WHITE STRIPE WHITE TAIL  
ETA AMKI 0928



0900

DST CTY proceeding ki  
ML DST

0906.31

DST IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BO50.

ML NO KNOWN TRAFFIC.

DST I AM SEEMS TO BE A LARGE AIRCRAFT  
BO50.

ML WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IS IT.

DST I CANNOT AFFIRM IS 4 BRIGHT SEEMS  
TO BE LIKE LANDING LIGHTS.

DST THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED OVER ME  
ABOUT 1000' ABOVE.

ML DST R IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT CONFIRM.

DST UNKNOWN IS IT A SPEED THAT ITS TRAVELLING  
ARE THERE ANY AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT IN VICINITY

0908

ML DST NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN VICINITY.

ML ITS APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST  
TOWARDS ME.

DST.

DST IT SEEMS TO ME IT IS BE PLAYING SOME  
SORT OF GAME ITS FLYING OVER ME TWO TO  
THREE TIMES AT A TIME AT SPEEDS I COULD  
NOT IDENTIFY.

ML DST WHAT IS YOUR ACTUAL LEVEL

0909

DST FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED 4500.

ML DST AND CONFIRM YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY  
THE AIRCRAFT.

DST AFFIRMATIVE.

ML DST R STAND BY.

0930

DST IT IS NOT AN AIRCRAFT IT IS.

0945

ML DST CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE AIRCRAFT.

DST AS IT IS FLYING PAST IT IS A LONG SHAPE  
CANNOT IDENTIFY ~~BY~~ MORE THAN THAT - ITS AT  
SUCH SPEED (?) FOR ME RIGHT NOW MELBOURNE



DSJ R AND HOW LARGE WOULD THE OBJECT BE.  
 DSJ ML IT SEEMS LIKE ITS STATIONARY WHAT  
 I'M DOING RIGHT NOW IS ORBITING AND THE  
 THING IS JUST ORBITING ON TOP OF ME ALSO

0910.30 ITS GOT A GREEN LIGHT & SORT OF METALLIC  
 LIGHT ALL SHINY ON THE OUTSIDE.

DSJ.

DSJ ----- UNREADABLE ----- ITS JUST VANISHED

ML DSJ CONFIRM THE ACFT ITS JUST VANISHED  
 DSJ.

MELBOURNE WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF  
 AIRCRAFT I'VE GOT IS THERE SOME MILITARY  
 AIRCRAFT.

DSJ CONFIRM THE AIRCRAFT JUST VANISHED.  
 SAY AGAIN

DSJ IS THE AIRCRAFT STILL WITH YOU.

DSJ AH NOR? SOUTH APPROACHING FROM  
 THE SW.

0911.40 DSJ.

DSJ THE ENGINE IS ROUGH IDLING I'VE GOT  
 IT SET AT 23 24 AND THE THING IS  
 COUGHING.

0912 DSJ R WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS.

MY INTENTIONS ARE TO GO TO KI AN

ML THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS HOVERING ON.

0912.17 TOP OF ME AGAIN. IT IS HOVERING IT IS  
 NOT AN AIRCRAFT.

0912.23 DSJ

0912.20 DSJ ML (LONG METALLIC CLANGING NOISE) 0912.47

.55 DSJ ML.



## DOMESTIC FLIGHT PLAN

Filing Time

Originator

FF Addresses		13											
Aircraft Ident. <b>DST</b>		IFR <b>I</b>		Night VMC <b>NV</b>		VFR <b>V</b>		Class of Operation <b>PVT.</b>		ANR 203		Aircraft Type <b>C 182</b>	
VHF <b>R.</b>	HF <b>N.</b>	1 ILS <b>A</b>		2 ADF <b>AA</b>		2 VOR <b>B</b>		200 MHz <b>C</b>		DME <b>D</b>		1,000 MHz <b>E</b>	
Departure Point <b>MB</b>		FOR <b>MB</b>		Landing Points <b>MB</b>		ETA <b>0745</b>		ATD					
Route Segments	LSALT	FL or ALT	TAS	TR MAG	Wind	HDG MAG	GS	Dist.	ETI	PLN ETA	ATA	GS	ETA next Pos'n
<b>MB.</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>B050</b>	<b>130</b>		<b>340/15</b>								
<b>CTY.</b>	<b>4000</b>			<b>225</b>		<b>232</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>41</b>				
<b>KI.</b>	<b>1500</b>			<b>155</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28</b>				
		<b>B050.</b>											
<b>KI.</b>	<b>1500</b>				<b>340/15</b>								
<b>CTY.</b>	<b>4000</b>			<b>334</b>		<b>335</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>34</b>				
<b>MB.</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>B050</b>		<b>045</b>		<b>039</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>44</b>				
									<b>137</b>				
ALTN	Alternate	Landing Point	Level		Time Interval	Flight Proc.	Route	LSALT					
ALTN	For	For				Via							
ALTN	For	For				Via							
ALTN	For	For				Via							
Remarks <b>FURTHER SAR TBA</b>													
CLIAS <b>80</b>	IAS	Mach	Survival Beacon	<b>LT</b>	Pilot Status	<b>L</b>	Captain <b>VALENTICH</b>	Company <b>SAS.</b>					
STAGE	<b>MB-MB.</b>										Operational Approval		
<b>12</b>	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	Min	Gal/lb	
Climb	<b>10</b>												
Cruise													
Altn													
SUB-TOTAL													
Variable Reserve													
Fixed Reserve	<b>45</b>												
Holding (if req'd)													
Taxi													
Fuel Required Margin (Cruise rate)	<b>193</b>												
TOTAL ENDCE	<b>300</b>												
Air Traffic Controller													
GENERAL	IF NOT ON FULL REPORTING		Sartime <b>0930.</b>		For arrival at <b>KI.</b>		To (A.O. Unit)		By (method) <b>PHONE</b>				
AVIATION	SURVIVAL GEAR CARRIED		<input type="checkbox"/> First aid		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life jackets		<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency rations		<input type="checkbox"/> Water		Other (specify)		
AIRCRAFT	PHONE NUMBERS AT LANDING POINTS						POB <b>/</b>		End of Daylight				



## NAUTICAL MILES

1. Green shaded boxes are for completion by ATC or FS units.
  2. When submitting flight plan by telephone or radio, include in the order shown the items in the red shaded boxes appropriate to the flight category and class of operation; the items ROUTE SEGMENTS, FL/ALT and ETI should be given only in respect of reporting points, and ETI's totalled to indicate times between these points.
  3. Flight category: Delete the categories which are not applicable.
  4. Class of Operation: Insert as appropriate:
    - (a) for regular public transport operations flight number or SPC and number if appropriate.

NOTE: If operating under ANR 203 place X in the box provided.
    - (b) Charter—CHTR.
    - (c) Aerial work—AWK.
    - (d) Private—PVT.
    - (e) Military—MIL.
  5. Communications Frequencies: VHF and HF to be indicated separately. If all appropriate route frequencies are available, insert R after letters 'V' and 'H'. If some route frequencies are available they should be specified. Where no route frequencies are available insert 'N' after 'V' or 'H' as applicable. If 'N' list those frequencies, if any, which will be used during the flight.
  6. Radio navigation aids—delete those which are not carried, are not serviceable or which the pilot is not qualified to use.
  7. Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR)—insert one only of the following letters to indicate the SSR equipment carried:
    - N no transponder carried, transponder unserviceable or will not be used.
    - E transponder—no coding.
    - F transponder—64 codes—mode A.
    - G transponder—64 codes—modes A and B.
    - H transponder—4,096 codes—mode A.
    - I transponder—4,096 codes—modes A and B.
  8. In the 'ROUTE SEGMENTS' column insert abbreviations for turning and reporting points, etc., and mark with an asterisk those at which position reports are required, or will be made.
  9. In 'LSALT' column insert lowest safe altitudes for each route segment to be flown IFR or LIM IFR flight procedure.
  10. IFR and GNT VMC category operations should insert lowest safe altitudes in the 'LSALT' column for each route segment irrespective of flight procedure.
  11. In 'FL or ALT' column insert flight levels or altitudes, or B050 if a VFR flight outside controlled airspace will be conducted below 5,000 feet.
  12. In 'FLT PROC' column insert flight procedure (LIM/IFR, GNT VMC or VFR) for the particular route sections if the flight category has been quoted as 'IFR'. Insert 'OCTA' if the intention is to stay outside CTA and this is not clear from other details for the route segment. Where position reports do not fully describe the route to be flown insert 'VIA . . . . . ' in this column.
  13. Remarks Section—
    - (i) If area flight (e.g. survey) intending to operate on scheduled reports, insert 'SKEDS/' and ensure that boundaries of the area of operation are fully described in the 'ROUTE SEGMENTS' column.
    - (ii) Insert any other significant operational information for transmission.
    - (iii) Pilots of aircraft not normally subject to, but desiring, ATC operational control service in accordance with AIP RAC/OPS, insert 'RQ OPC'.
- OTHER INFORMATION**
- In 'SURVIVAL BEACON' box insert V if carrying VSB on 121.5 MHz; X if carrying VSB on 243 MHz; VX if carrying VSB on 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.
- In 'PILOT STATUS' box insert SP when operating single pilot IFR and/or LI when pilot rated limited IFR only.
- Insert climbing indicated airspeed/mach number for flights departing from a control zone.
14. The fuel calculation box is designed to facilitate calculation of the fuel required for each flight stage. The endurance figure must be shown for initial departure and for those flight stages subject to DCA's Operational Control and following refuelling. Any subsequent amendment should be notified in the relevant departure report. Insert 'TBA' for those stages for which a final fuel figure is not yet available.
15. Pilots not on full position reporting, if a SARTIME is nominated, include the subsequent details on that line. If NOSAR (Note that NOSAR flights are only permitted within 50 miles of the departure aerodrome) cross out the word 'SARTIME' and insert 'NOSAR'.
16. Pilots of general aviation aircraft should complete the last two lines, particularly on flights over sparsely populated country, so that quick and effective SA



PAGE ..... OF .....

TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
0906:14	DSJ	FS6	Melbourne this is Delta Sierra Juliet
			is there any known traffic below
			five thousand
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet no known traffic
	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet I <sup>have</sup> am seems to
			be a large aircraft below five
			thousand
:44	FS6	DSJ	Delt Delta Sierra Juliet Melbourne
			what type of aircraft is it
	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet I cannot affirm
			it is four bright seems to be
			like landing lights
0907	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
:31	DSJ	FS6	Melbourne this is Delta Sierra Juliet
			the aircraft has just passed over
			over me at least a thousand
			feet above
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet roger and it
			is a large aircraft confirm
	DSJ	FS6	Ah unknown due to the speed
			its travelling is there any airforce
			aircraft in the vicinity
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet no known aircraft
			in the vicinity
0908:18	DSJ	FS6	Melbourne its approaching now from
			due east towards me
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
:48	DSJ	FS6	<del>Melbourne</del> Delta Sierra Juliet it seems to
			me that he's playing some sort



TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
			of game he's flying over me two three — at a time at speeds I could not identify
0909	FSG	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet roger what is your actual level
	DSJ	FSG	My level is four and a half thousand four five zero zero
	FSG	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet and confirm you cannot identify the aircraft
	DSJ	FSG	Affirmative
	FSG	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet roger standby
:27	DSJ	FSG	Melbourne Delta Sierra Juliet it's not an aircraft it is
:42	FSG	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet Melbourne can you describe the aircraft
	DSJ	FSG	Delta Sierra Juliet as its flying past its a long shape um I can't identify more than that its that big its before me right now Melbourne
0910	FSG	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet roger and how large — would the <sup>com</sup> object be
:19	DSJ	FSG	Delta Sierra Juliet Melbourne its seems like its stationery what I'm doing right now is orbiting and the thing is just orbiting on top of me also its got a green light and sort of metallic light its all shiny on the outside



PAGE ..... OF .....

TIME	FROM	TO	TEXT
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
:46	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet its just vanished
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
0911	DSJ	FS6	Melbourne would you know what kind of aircraft I've got is it — military aircraft
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet confirm the um aircraft just vanished
	DSJ	FS6	Say again
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet is the aircraft still with you
<del>0911</del>	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet from the north the south approaching from the south west
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
:50	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet the engine is is rough idling I've got it set at twenty three twenty four and the thing is coughing
0912	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet roger what are your intentions
	DSJ	FS6	My intentions are <sup>are</sup> to go to King Island oh Melbourne that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again it is hovering and its not an aircraft
	FS6	DSJ	Delta Sierra Juliet
:28	DSJ	FS6	Delta Sierra Juliet Melbourne clear metallic like clanging noise then no further transmissions recorded from the aircraft



11

Notes of a conversation with the OIC King Island  
on 24.10.78 (Brian Jones)

At 1500 he put through a closing request to MLFS stating lights out as no planned flights due and no request for lights

He was pulled out of the golf club by the ML soc at about 19.15 after the aircraft had reported engine problems.

He put the airfield lights on at 19.35

At the same time his assistant Graeme Smyth had just arrived to also put the lights on for a departing ~~aircraft~~ ~~air~~. Quesen 402 aircraft VH-RCT which had been held up for passengers.

VH-RET was then used for a quick search around the island with ~~Graham~~ Smythe as an observer from 20.00 to 20.25. Nothing sighted. Weather absolutely clear with unlimited visibility.

VH-PDN arrived at about 1800 hrs with a band and was due to depart about 0300 the next morning. They have an agent who has a key for the lights

at 1000 feet  
UH-1D was used for a quick search Lah 20.00 hrs  
to 20.55 hrs with Brian Jones as an observer  
\* Actual WX. } Could see the Cape Henry lights flashing from the  
light house as well as all the Island lights.  
Excellent visibility with a clear sky - No cloud  
and very steady. Many fishing boats around the  
Islands had their lights on and could be seen for miles.



The normal system for lights is for either the pilot or for flight service to ring up beforehand and book them. There had been no request for lights

Has spoken to the <sup>CRAY</sup> Gray fishermen and none were  
\* No orders for that night in fact they had  
\* CRAYS sold out in the afternoon and did not have any left.

The pilot had not booked into the Hotel

They do not recognise the name of the pilot but the aircraft has been down to KI before

A. G. HARRIS



NFF

80  
10

Mr Peter Dean rang  
24.10.78 0950

(903395)

Has two strips at farm OTWAY House  
4 miles due south of Otway lighthouse

Pilots aware of the strips.

Strips long enough for a Beech Baron

Pilot may have landed and overran strip

Passed to RCC

10.25 ✓



• Sgt Woodward. K1 P/O  
004 621211

No pax

No fish arranged

No lights arranged.



Fuel.

~~ADF~~  
Moorabbin Refuelling  
Rang Tysons 906709

8  
Checked  
AS

VH-DST was refuelled on 21.10.78 at 1810  
247 litres of 80/87  
1 " oil. by Ron Tyson.

~~Ron Tyson refuelled it at 1810.~~

Filled to Brim. Young chap as pilot did not get out of aircraft. Left immediately - saw no more.

\* Jet fuel is kept in quarantine so it has to be unboxed. He used same tanker to refuel many other aircraft in previous 3 hours so no chance of incorrect fuel.

S.A.S. Log Book. after the pilot obtains his licence he cannot leave his log book at S.A.S.

Purpose of Flt Told SAS he was picking up 3 passengers but they believe he was getting crayfish.

NB. SAS do not allow crayfish to be carried in their aircraft.

Return Flight Not sure but thinks same night probably so that no one would see the crabs.

Nav aids  
ADF.  
VHF.  
HF.



Checked  
AS

Conversations with SAS Instructors + Pilots.

Warren Dunlop . Valentich was sensible pilot  
 . Didn't drink  
 . No mention of drugs  
 . " " UFOs.

Martin Dalton . Quiet sincere sensible.  
 . Interested in joining RAAF as pilot.  
 . Had interviews, tests etc.  
 . No drink, smoke.  
 . Got on well with all  
 . Never spoken of UFOs  
 . No mention of Drugs.

Ross Carrington . Did Commercial Pilot Course with him  
 about April.  
 . He seemed quite happy about his future.  
 . Full of enthusiasm never depressed.  
 . Attempting to join RAAF aircrew. Still  
 doing his Commercial Licence so he would  
 have one or the other.  
 . He is quiet on first contact but was  
 quite natural after that.  
 . Got on well with people.  
 . Only had Com. MET to do.  
 . Didn't drink or smoke  
 . No mention of drugs or UFOs.

Bob Hope (Instructor)

. Flew with Valentich on ~~Wed~~ Tuesday afternoon  
 to check him on type VH-DSJ C182.  
 . Average pilot  
 . Relative ~~quite~~ quiet chap.



CONT.

7A

NOTE

- VH-DSJ has a hand held microphone
- Wasn't carrying a headset.
- Wanted to join RAAF aircrew.
- As far as he knows he doesn't drink smoke or take drugs.
- Saw him just prior to departure & he seemed perfectly sober & in good frame of mind.
- Took four life jackets. He was picking up friends at Ling Is.
- He had originally intended going on ~~Wed 18.10.78~~ but cancelled due WX.  
Tuesday 17.10.78

---

P. Graham.



~~1116~~ VII 6 / 783 / 1047.

6  
Checked  
H

1445 EST

23.10.78

VH-DSJ Radio Equipment.

Spoke to Ken Novitz + Instructor M. Day of Southern Air re VH-DSJ communication equipment.

- DSI has VHF HF and is equipped with a speaker + hand held microphone
- Valentich was not carrying a headset when he went out to the aircraft prior to departure on this trip and did not have a bag that would carry one.
- Passed to 5165(B) at 1500 EST.

*[Signature]*

23.10.78.



NFF

NFF

V116/783/1047.77

Glider Tow

5  
checked

Phone call from Inspector Fox D24 (13:30) 23/10

A SNR CONSTABLE CAMPBELL OF ~~FORREST~~ 052/366372  
had a report from some children of an  
aircraft towing a glider in the BARROW Downs  
(Appollo Bay area) at about 5.30 - 6.0 pm on Sat  
21 Oct.

The report was made because it was unusual for  
a glider to be in that part of the State.

CPH  
ASCH



~~NFF~~

~~NFF~~  
NFF

V116/83/10478

4  
Checked  
\*

REPORT FROM Mr J. SNOW

A John Snow rang re UFO - 23/10

He was driving his car on Saturday <sup>21/10</sup> night at about 11.45 in the Barrow Heads area when his 11 year old son saw a greenish/white of some length flash quite fast across the sky to the south.

Not observed by any other member of the family in the car as it apparently had moved too fast.

*Officer*



~~NFF~~

~~NFF~~ Phone call.

743  
checked  
AS

Peter Bennett - Seavel & Roseve (10-36 hon Mon 23 Oct)

On Snick Sorrow

- fishing boat from Apollo Bay delayed
- will not be able to rendezvous with RAAF aircraft until after lunch.
- will therefore not know if sample possible until later today.

Charles  
ASLH



## INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

v116/183/1047

Page

Checked  
AS

Subject

Report from Mr P. FARR

At approximately 1800 hours on 22 October 1978  
I received a telephone call at my home from  
Mr P. FARR  
29 Adrian St Telephone after 1400 hours  
Burwood 291 003

Mr Farr stated that ~~at about 6.55 pm on Saturday evening~~ he was a responsible person, an officer in RAAF reserve and he did not wish to create the opinion that he was a nut.

At about ~~0655~~ 1855 hours on Saturday 21 Oct 1978 he was travelling from Mt Waverley in southerly direction along Huntingdale Road. He observed a shower of very bright metallic 'scintillations' to the south high in the sky at an angle of about  $45^\circ$  from the horizontal  $1.5^\circ$  of arc in vertical plane and  $1^\circ$  of arc in the lateral plane. About 30 bright centres. Followed by a dark <sup>con</sup> trail moving from south to north. At first he thought it to be a meteor shower.



①

1

INITIAL ADVICE OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/MISHAP/INCIDENT

From : Person Peter Bonelt Place Soe Date/Time (Local) 1950

(a) Aircraft Type & Registration : C182L VH-DST  
 (b) Owner and/or Operator : C. DAY /Southern Air Services  
 (c) CREW : Pilot Fredrick Valantich Other Crew : — SOLO  
 Passengers : —

(d) Date and time of accident/incident (GMT) : 2110 0912  
 (e) Flight : From MB to KI via Lake Gtway  
 Nature of Operation : Private VFR / NMAC

(f) Location of accident/incident : Point between Lake Gtway & KI  
Pilot reported rough running engine 0912 - idbrfa  
 (g) Injuries to persons : Not known

(h) Nature and cause (as far as is known) : Def MB 0819 Reported Gtway 0900  
(with ETA KI 0928) - 0912 Engine malfunction, then loss of  
communication on VHF circa 0914, Distress 0933. KI  
appropriate emergency procedures implemented - no sighting.  
Search Moe/CB 2 ships Lake Gtway - KI area - auto  
alarm A/c had VSR + 1 lifejacket.  
Long boats to north of KI.  
Search 40 RTK - KI A/D Lake Wickham  
no sighting - to back

(i) Damage to aircraft : Track route KI - Gtway - on return MB,  
Abolts A/c - KI - MB via Gtway.

A/c Endurance - 300 minutes - no HF or flight plan  
A/c just out of 100 hours Friday or there

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION

Pilot and/or Operator Telephone Contact : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wreckage guarding : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Departure time : \_\_\_\_\_ ETA : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Endurance : \_\_\_\_\_  
 SARPHASE declared : \_\_\_\_\_ Cancelled : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notified to : PRO 1005 Williams 1120 Time : \_\_\_\_\_  
CO 1010 Granghy 1105 Time : \_\_\_\_\_  
1015 R.D. — Time : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed : G. Seabrook Designation : MSIS d/T



Soc. (Peter Bonnell) replaying tape, re UFO.  
Rough t/s

0910, A/c to FS - <sup>below 5000</sup> any traffic in area? 4 bright  
 Large aircraft below me - landing  
 - vanished after forming 1000ft above lights -  
 A/c still with you - confirm large A/c  
 FS ✓ A/c  
 A/c - FS - approaching from ~~SW~~ east toward me  
 it is flying some sort of game  
 - is it Red 7 aircraft.

FS ✓ A/c Height  
 A/c - F/s 4500

0911 A/c to FS It is not an A/c it is ~~little~~

0911:45 ✓ - it is a large shape - cannot  
 identify more than that.  
 F/s to A/c How large  
 A/c to F/s. seems it is stationary

I am orbiting - it is orbiting  
 on top of me - it has a green  
 light and a metallic light  
 outside

0912 A/c to FS It has just vanished

FS to A/c A/c still with you

A/c to F/s Approaching from SW -  
 the engine is running rough, I  
 have it set at 23 24 - the thing  
 is coughing.

F/s to A/c

A/c to F/s

What are your intentions  
 My intention is to go to KT - it is  
 hovering on top, it is not an A/c

0912:24 F/s

0914

(Heard - a long metallic clanging  
 noise  
 Failed to answer calls



Weather

TAF KI AMD 20/08 330/20 Vis 10hmt 2/8 Stc  
 2500 9RADU 01/03 330/25 Temp 11 13 15 15  
 1022. 1023 1022 1020

Actual Meteor KI 0930 Light NW wind. Vis  
 "Excellent" (10hmt) CAUOK to north with patches  
 of ground fog to south (of A/D) - nothing near A/D.

Area 74 05/17 Wind 2000 340/15K 5000  
 340/15 Scattered ST Cu 2-4000 in  
 the South and Maritime Vis 40hmt  
 Freezing level 10000 Turbulence -  
 moderate below 7000 until 0800 GMT.

Last light 0916  
 Moon late rising.

Briefing Officer

Darcy Hogan. MB B.O.

Heur Valentinich in Air Training Corps.  
 Pyty plan in about 0723 GMT.  
 appeared in good health - sober  
 spent a fair bit of time on flight plan. 1/4 hour.  
 neatly done  
 Discussed requirements for KVMC weather  
 didn't seem too sure about requirements  
 weather suitable KVMC

Plan was SAR Time as KI FSU closed.  
 - to phone Metls on arrival & before departure  
 - also - no names mentioned to meet at KI  
 Pilot has good attitude to flying.



## Discussion with Parent

Mr. Valenti advised, son's name Frederick - has with  
 parents at 18 down avenue, Ardable Heights  
 VT 3181523. Aged 20 years.

- has private license & class 4 rating
- undertaking flying training/instruction for CPL.

Ben flying 1½ years.

Began night flying Feb-  
 March this year.

Has made MB-K1 flight twice before - in daylight - to  
 pick up labster - 200B for air training loops  
 Has not flown this route at night before.

Recent NIF flying - to remain current MB to Echuca MB  
 2 weeks ago - hadn't flown at  
 night for about 4 months before  
 Passenger? Not known.

Did a day trip to Newcastle - lesson 210 or 310 - problem  
 with cloud - in cloud - flew low around hills  
 Has flown to Edie Springs & return

Health - happy with flying - willing to fly - not over-  
 confident.

Sat - at work at 0830 - shop assistant at  
 disford store - until  
 midday - then attended CPL course on meteorology  
 at MB -

Parent knew he would then arrange for the plane to K1  
 - was supposed to phone home from MB, but didn't  
 Fri - early to bed - 1000 EST (PM)

As instructor in Vic Ign of air training loops.



Sea state - AM low Sndg.

- light wind from NW.

- smooth, with slight long low<sup>SW</sup> swell.

Contacts.

Sqn. Ldr. Grundy

④ 354 2778

⑧ 347-6022 - Grundy & Co. - Carlton  
accountants

HQ Vic SQN ATC 328 3704 (0900-1100  
Monday)

Can make ATCorp. training/personnel details avail.

Rel47 Liaison Officer is Sqn Ldr. Kirk, Vic Bonrocks.  
697 3782. (S.O. Long)

Robert Barnes - friend in Vic Sqn AT corps  
captain with associated car license.  
- has assisted Fred Valerich with  
flying & ground subjects.  
- have flown to gether



6  
from RCC coordinator:

Report to ASIS from RCC. - 1600 hours. Sunday 22.

Report of oil slick - seems to be light quality oil

ben i area 20N of KI for 5 hours - has not moved.  
- being fed from underneath?  
- depth 50 fathoms

R247 has dropped a marker buoy.

Sea state forecast to be smooth, wind shifts  
for 24 hours.

NB

Discussed value of sample of oil being picked  
& tested, - say boat - Mella-test - first a/c.  
- to be followed up early AM. Monday

Is this still on? No action taken to resolve  
responsibility/action etc. Believe we should  
and can assist.

JH.

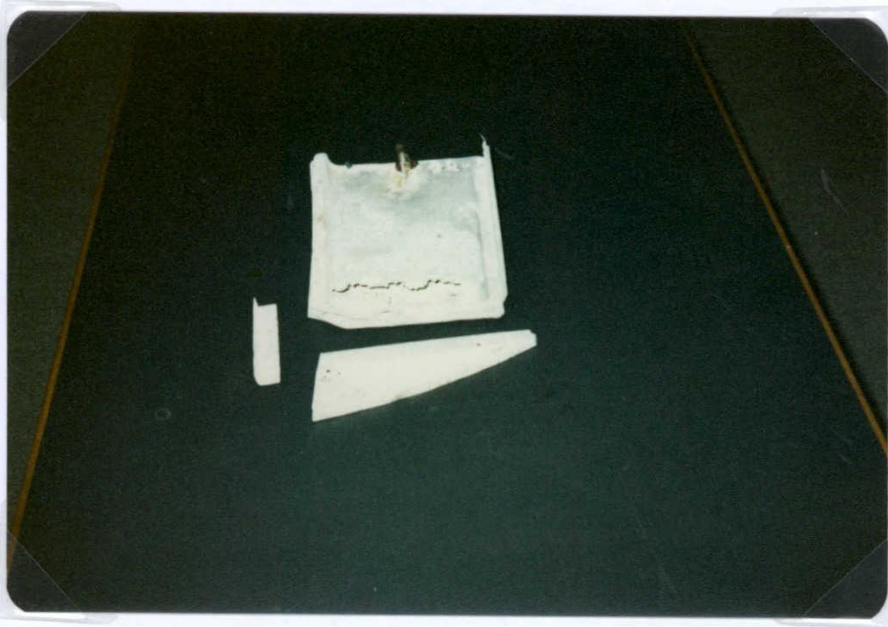














A B C D M V W

T/

0745	✓	0Δ	N	C182 PVT	0812	0819	CTY	KI
			DSJ					



copy of article.

ANR 275(1)

Map

How accurate is the article?

Point for Point

Salvage operation early 1983.

Documentary Film.

Dept of Transport told a/fflans.

(Victorian State Dept)

Dept of Aviation.

✓ ✓ Transport.

Detailed charts by local seaman.  
- see a/c.

Photographs. a/fflans

Doors closed

no body seen.

The Dept of Transport search terminated.

25/10/78

ANR 275(1) - a/c in custody

Purpose of investigation = determination/records of crash  
Missing person situation exists - future accident prevention.

no evidence of crash or body presumed dead.

- search failed to locate any wreckage.

Aircraft located - Victoria Police involved

- Missing Person Bureau

- Losses Agent representative

Loss assessment = flying - a/c not abandoned by CO. or owner.  
- not being considered for abandonment  
- claim right in the matter.



Finding a missing aircraft in scrub  
usually reported to authorities. responsible.  
Police, Deptal situation.

- not done in this case. - believe a/c  
- disappointed.

(1) Wealth ratio - boundaries/ Vcc/Tos.



Lease Submerged Land Act. 1973

148-30 - 140-30 - west limit of boundary of  
San State of Tennessee

---

Proclamation dated 12 Dec 1825-  
sh Va Rivers land for NS & r

39-12'

---

attach to letter dated. Deptal Lease Survey

---



- 647 2348 64H

Guida Valentich

Home 3181523

Aek 74/75

minute  $\pm D(s)$



## Aircraft not located

Aim : arrive at conclusions to following

1. Owner, operator & hirer of A/C ✓ A/C file etc.
2. Details of Registration ✓ " "
3. Pilot name, qualification, experience. ✓ Plt file, log B.
4. Number of passengers. (NO PAX) ? ask Bob Hope SAS
5. Service & maint. History of A/C. ✓ details coming.
6. Loading full fuel (Tysons) ?
7. Flt planning WX + Briefing (Darcy Hogan) ?
8. Actual WX. LI FSO report ?
9. Progress of the flight as far as known ?
10. Cause of disappearance ?
11. Deficiencies Dept facts, services affecting flt. Lights ?
12. Operation of Search & rescue service & brief details of total search effort. ? request from RCC obtain all SAR logs etc



ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION - ACTION ARISING  
(Form to be kept on inside of front file cover)

Acc No. \_\_\_\_\_ A/c Type and Reg. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot \_\_\_\_\_

Item                      Desp/Req/Obtained (ENCL) Date                      Completed Returned (ENCL) Date

Pilot Rpt

Pass. Rpt

Other Rpt

INTERIM RPT

Pilot Log Book

Pilot File

Aircraft File

Operations Manual

MAINTENANCE

Airframe Log Book

Engine/Prop Log Book

Maintenance Release

Flight Record Card

RETURN OF WRECKAGE ..... RELEASED TO .....

SPECIALIST REPORTS

Engine

Airframe

Instru/Elec

Weather

Loading

Other

MEDICAL - AUTOPSY/OTHER

Outside Enquiries

Final Report

Investigation Responsibility

(At completion of investigation place on inside of rear file cover)

NOTE: A/C LOG BOOKS, PILOT FILE, A/C FILE  
PRESS CUTTINGS STORED IN ENVELOPE  
MARKED - 1047, IN FILE REGISTRY JCS  
12/9/79 ASIS