

1977: e. of KUNANURRA, NT, Australia

CE1: in air observation of small disk

KUNANURRA: At 5.30 p.m. on the 9 Dec 77 a Mr. Lindsay McKenzie-Smith and his wife Helen were flying in a light aircraft at a position approximately 100 KM east of Kunanurra, Northern Territory (some 370 KM SSW of Darwin). The plane was piloted by Mr. McKenzie-Smith who had 750 hours flying experience.

On that day they had already made several flights within the NT since starting at about 9.30 a.m. that morning, and were on their way from Legune to Victoria River Downs (VRD). The terrain in the area is extremely rugged and isolated and both people were feeling tired after commencing this last leg at about 4.30 p.m.

The aircraft, a Cessna 206, was cruising at 1675 metres, just after passing over the Pinkerton Ranges (300-340 m high), when Helen McKenzie-Smith told her husband that another aircraft was coming towards them. Helen estimated that she first noted the "object" when it was about 5 KM distant, flying at a lower altitude below the visible horizon. It was easily picked up against the green-brown background. Both of them logically expected the "object" to be a plane but realized it wasn't as it approached.

The object passed below them and behind the plane at an estimated 1370 m (making it about 300 m below them). In order to observe the object further the pilot banked the aircraft approximately 90 degrees, but upon turning, the object had apparently disappeared from sight. The plane then continued on its former course and within 5 minutes of the observation attempted to report its position as is normal practice at this stage of the flight. (They also planned to ask if there were any traffic in the area).

Mr. McKenzie-Smith tried several times but could not transmit on VHF or HF for the following 20-30 minutes. He eventually raised Darwin (VHF) before approaching and landing at VRD.

The object appears to have come no less than 300 m from the aircraft, and Lindsay says that "the object gave no depth perception, its size and height were hard to estimate" as he only saw it for some 30-40 seconds. It was an oval or lenticular shape, appearing metallic and at an estimated 300 m seemed to be 9 m long, by 2.75 to 3 m wide and probably 1 m thick. It had well defined edges and a dull or non-reflecting surface, similar to anodising (white-grey). Both viewers thought it peculiar that there was no shadow on it - the sun was setting behind them and should have reflected on the leading edge of the object but didn't. The object flew sideways just like an airplane wing.

The incident was not officially reported but came to the notice of UFO Research (FNQ) who interviewed the observers.

ACOS Bulletin, Oct. 1979.

(500 m Buxtonfield's Classics)

1977: Over Kunanurra, No. Territory
Australia

Close pass of elongated oval
Object.

9TH DECEMBER 1977

NEAR KUNANURRA NORTHERN TERRITORY

TWO PEOPLE IN AIRCRAFT SEE DAYLIGHT METALLIC OBJECT

directly from
Keith Batefield

AUSTRALIAN UFO REPORT FORM

U.F.O. RESEARCH LTD.,
Investigating body: P.O. BOX 1525,
CAIRNS QLD.

Reference no: QB79018

This form has been designed to assist us in the interpretation of the phenomenon observed by yourself. Your assistance in completing and returning it would be appreciated.

1. Full name. (Mr) Mrs, Miss, Master Lindsay McKenzie-Smith. Age 30's
2. Address..... 58 Morgan St. Yorkeys Knob! NTH-Queensland.
..... Postcode 4871 Phone.....
3. Date of sighting... 9.12.77 Day of week... Fri.....
Time of sighting... 5.30 PM (17.30 hrs)
4. Duration... 1 1/2 mins app. How did you establish time and duration...
..... Estimation.....
5. What was your exact position and location... App. 100 km EAST OF...
KUNANURRA N.T. (Just East of Pinkerton Ranges) IN AIRCRAFT...
6. Occupation... Pilot..... For how many years.....
7. Please relate your experience below in your own words. Print or type. If extra space is needed please use a separate sheet of paper

TEXT OF TAPED STATEMENT: MR. LINDSAY MCKENZIE-SMITH.

"We took off from Legune on heading to V.R.D. (Victoria River Downs). We left Legune app. 16.30 or 16.45 and climbed to 5,500ft altitude."

"Being a clear day ~~we~~ did not use the compass or A.D.F. and flew by line of sight."

"At app 5.30 p.m. (17.30) that afternoon I was to report our position at Auvergne to Kunanurra."

"My wife, Helen, spotted this object which we initially thought was another aircraft slightly below and approaching us from the right hand quarter."

"As it got closer Helen pointed it out, to get a better sight of this object I banked the aircraft over, so I looked over Helen's shoulder, looking downward at the object."

"My initial thought was that it was a bird, a closer look revealed a surf-board shaped, metallic object which after the brief glimpse I had, passed under the tail of plane. When I banked the airplane over to follow it we found it had disappeared."

"App. 5 minutes after this I decided to give my radio report of the position I was at, but found I was unable to speak to anyone, although I could hear other aircraft, and hear Kunanurra calling us."

"I didn't gain radio communication until some 20 - 30 mins later when I was able to raise Darwin and give my normal position report at V.R.D."

"Every time I tried to transmit on the radio (V.H.F. & H.F.) during the 20 mins, there was complete static - radio was fine after this period."

Please CIRCLE the appropriate answers to the questions below unless they have been covered in the narrative of question 7 or not. If two or more answers are applicable in any one question circle both/more.

8. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST OBSERVED UFO

Outdoors Indoors In a car In an aircraft Other.....

9. WERE YOU LOOKING THROUGH

Windscreen Glass Double Glass Curtains Spectacles Other... "K" PRASPEX

10. HOW WAS THE OBJECT OBSERVED

Naked eye Binoculars Telescope Radar Other.....

11. WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHEN YOU FIRST OBSERVED UFO

Lying down Sitting Standing Driving Other..... Flying

12. HOW DID THE UFO COME TO YOUR ATTENTION

Heard sound Saw a light Someone called it to your attention Saw object move Animals reacted Electrical interference Other... WIFE HELEN

13. WHAT WAS THE APPEARANCE OF THE UFO

A. How large was its apparent size Star sized Moon sized Larger than these Other... 20 FT. X 10 X 2 FT? app.

B. What was its shape... Lenticular (Aerodynamic Shape) (Convex Board) (Surf Board Flying Sideways)

C. What was its colour... Metallic ANOYL-LIKE NON REFLECTIVE

D. Was it clearly outlined Yes No

E. Did it separate into parts Yes No How many parts... NO

*NOTE ON APPARENT SIZE: If in doubt the easiest way to determine this is to hold a suitable object (e.g. coin, ball, orange, etc.) at arms length, and quote the familiar object that just covers your estimate or memory of the size of the object in question. You could quote this object in (13) in other.....

14. DID YOU NOTICE

Seams Windows Lights Steady Lights Pulsating Lights Antenna Appendages Other... NO - ANNODISED SURFACE OR SANDBLASTED Smooth.

15. WHAT DID IT DO

Moved across the sky Hovered in the sky Hovered near the ground Rotated Moved in a straight line Moved erratically Changed direction Landed Took off

How was it lost to view... PASSED UNDER AIRCRAFT OUT OF VIEW

In what direction... N.N.W

At what angle to the horizon... 0°

Could you estimate its speed and distance.....

16. WHERE WAS THE OBJECT WHEN FIRST SEEN

A. North South East West North-east South-east North-west South-west

B. High in the sky Tree top level On the ground

C. At what angle to the horizon... BELOW HORIZON

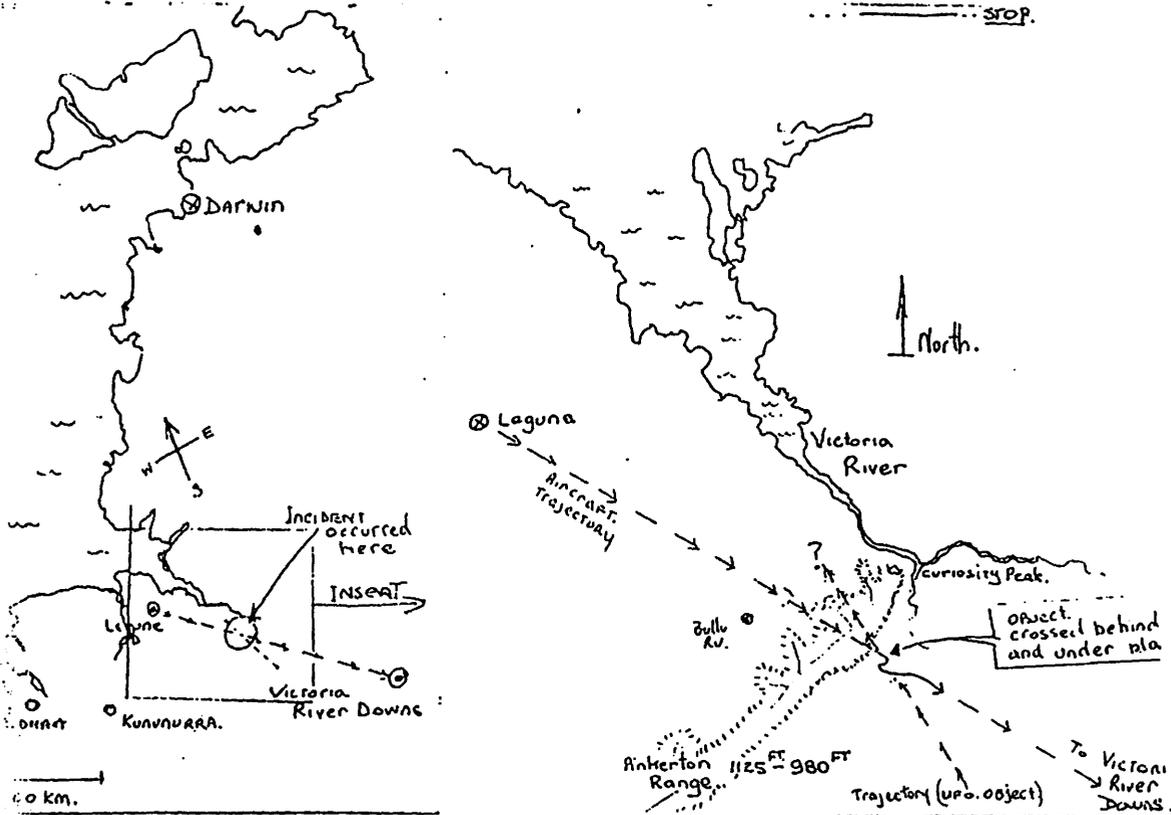
17. DID OBJECT PASS IN FRONT OF OR BEHIND ANYTHING

A. In Front Yes No

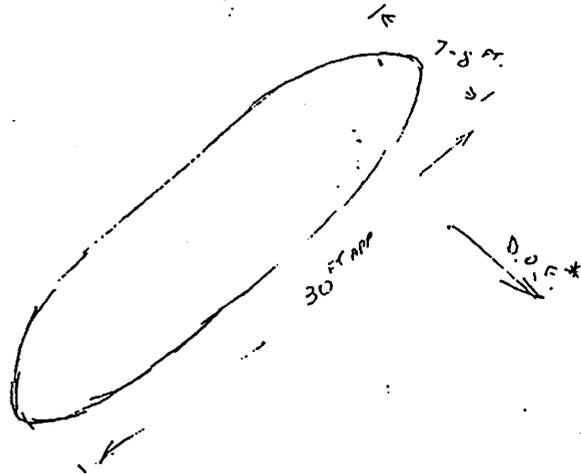
B. Behind Yes No

Cloud Trees Hills Other... EARTH

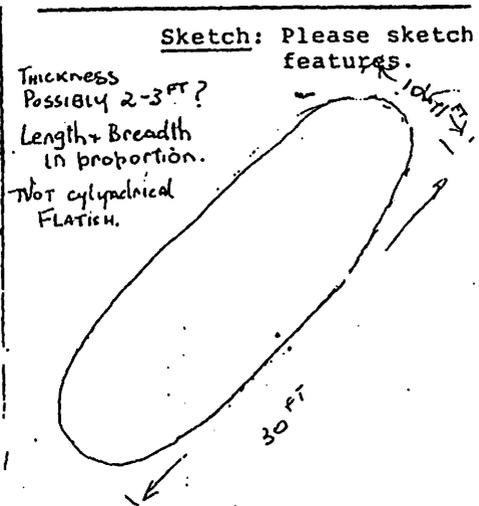
"In my opinion the radio interference was related to this object."



Sketch: Please sketch the object including shape and colour of any features. * D.O.F = Direction of Flight.
 (McKenzie-Smith.)
 Seen from aircraft.
 (Looking down at angle.)



Appeared metallic like anodised or
 Sand Blasted steel - white to grey colour.
 BUT non-Reflective.
 Did not reflect the setting sun.)



(Mrs. Helen McKenzie-Smith)

