

# Transcript of Frederick Valentich's Final Communications with Melbourne Air Traffic Control

Twenty-year-old Frederick Valentich disappeared while on a 235 km training flight in a Cessna 182L light aircraft over Bass Strait, Australia on 21 October 1978.

Valentich radioed Melbourne air traffic control that he was being accompanied by an aircraft about 300 metres above him and the engine had begun running roughly. He finally reported, 'it is hovering and it's not an aircraft.'

## Transcript of Recording

### Time (GMT) | From | To | Text

9:06:14 DSJ FS Melbourne, this is Delta Sierra Juliet. Is there any known traffic below five thousand?'

9:06:23 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—No known traffic.

9:06:26 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet. I am—seems (to) be a large aircraft below 5,000.

9:06:46 FS DSJ D Delta Sierra Juliet—What type of aircraft is it?

9:06:50 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet—I cannot affirm. It is four bright ... it seems to me like landing lights.

9:07:04 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet. [This statement affirms to the pilot that the person on the ground heard his transmission.]

9:07:32 DSJ FS Melbourne, this (is) Delta Sierra Juliet. The aircraft has just passed over me at least a thousand feet above.

9:07:43 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger—and it, it is a large aircraft—confirm?

9:07:47 DSJ FS Er, unknown due to the speed it's travelling... is there any air force aircraft in the vicinity?~

9:07:57 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet. No known aircraft in the vicinity.

9:08:18 DSJ FS Melbourne ... it's approaching now from due east~ towards me.~

9:08:28 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet.

9:08:42 DSJ FS //Open microphone for two seconds//

9:08:49 DSJ FS 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.'

9:09:02 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. What is your actual level?

9:09:06 DSJ FS My level is four and a half thousand, four five zero zero.~

9:09:11 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet... And confirm—you cannot identify the aircraft.

9:09:14 DSJ FS Affirmative.'

9:09:18 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger... standby.

9:09:28 DSJ FS Melbourne—Delta Sierra Juliet. It's not an aircraft' ... it is //open microphone for two seconds// [This duration measured as three seconds. No information appears to have been removed from the tape.]

9:09:46 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Melbourne. Can you describe the...er—aircraft?

9:09:52 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet... as its flying past it's a long shape' //open microphone for three seconds // (cannot) identify more than that. It has such speed //open microphone for three seconds //. It is before me right now Melbourne.'

9:10:07 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. And how large would the —er—object be?

9:10:20 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet—Melbourne. It seems like it's (stationary).

[The author, Richard F Haines (USA) has determined that this word should be, 'chasing me', based on special filtering]. 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.~

9:10:43 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet.

9:10:48 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet // open microphone for 5 seconds // [measured as 3 seconds] It's just vanished.'

9:10:57 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet.

9:11:03 DSJ FS Melbourne would you know what kind of aircraft I've got?' It is (a type) military aircraft?'

9:11:08 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet. Confirm the... er—aircraft just vanished.

9:11:14 DSJ FS Say again.

9:11:17 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet. Is the aircraft still with you?'

9:11:23 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet... It's ah... Nor //open microphone for two seconds// (now) approaching from the southwest.

9:11:37 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet.

9:11:52 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet - The engine is, is rough idling. —I've got it set at twenty three—twenty four... and the thing is—coughing.

9:12:04 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet—Roger. What are your intentions?

9:12:09 DSJ FS My intentions are—ah... to go to King Island—Ah, Melbourne, that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again //open microphone for two seconds// it is hovering and it's not an aircraft.

9:12:22 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet.

9:12:28 DSJ FS Delta Sierra Juliet—Melbourne //open microphone for 17 seconds// [A very strange pulsed noise is also audible during this transmission.]

9:12:49 FS DSJ Delta Sierra Juliet, Melbourne.

End of official DoT transcript

## Key

— normal pause in communications (based on the first author's flying experience)

... longer than normal pause (several seconds)

' upward ending voice inflection (such as an interrogative question)

~ downward voice inflection

Parentheses ( ) enclose words that are open to interpretation because they are not clearly audible

Brackets [ ] enclose the authors' comments