

# Mystery of the missing pilot

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**MELBOURNE, AAP**  
— A six month investigation will be made in the Cape Otway area of western Victoria to try and uncover more information about the disappearance of Frederick Valentich.

Valentich, 20, vanished without trace in a hired Cessna 182 on the night of October 21, 1978, after reporting to Melbourne Flight Control he was being buzzed by a shape that was "not an aircraft".

The last firm sighting of Valentich came from the Cape Otway area.

The vice president of the Victorian UFO Research Society, Paul Norman, will make the study and hopes to question all the people who have made statements about the incident.

On the night Valentich vanished there were many reported sightings from southern Victoria and Bass Strait Islands of strange lights and sounds in the sky.

Mr Norman said there had been 300 reports of UFOs in the time leading up to the disappearance.

They had been sifted carefully and there were 50 "we would call good reports".



● *Frederick Valentich*

"There were more daylight sightings that day (October 21) than any other investigation I've ever been on."

Mr Norman said the sightings ranged from two "cigar shaped" objects flying in close formation to a single round object reported over King Island.

"I firmly believe there is an association between the sightings and Valentich's disappearance," Mr Norman said.

He said this belief was bolstered by the refusal of the Department of Transport to release the full tape of the conversation between Valentich and Melbourne Flight Service.

It had been claimed about five minutes of the tape had been cut "in the interest of national security".