

“Flying saucer” to be tested (PLANE UNDER R.A.A.F. GUARD)

MELBOURNE, Sat.—The R.A.A.F. next week will test the nearest thing to a real flying saucer yet built in Australia.

The plane, a radio-controlled “wing,” is one of Australia’s top military secrets.

The plane will be tested over a sparsely populated area from Laverton R.A.A.F. station.

The aeronautical section of the Supply Department built the plane in a heavily guarded isolated factory at Fishermen’s Bend.

Workers who built the plane took oaths of secrecy.

Less than 12 other Supply Department staff members knew the plane was in production.

A truck, painted red, yellow, and black, and bearing “Keep Clear” signs, will

ing "Keep Clear" signs, will move the aircraft in packing cases from Fishermen's Bend to Laverton airport this weekend.

It will be kept in a locked

and guarded hangar alongside the new R.A.A.F. Canberra jet-bomber.

On testing day technicians will tow the wing to a special take-off strip on one of the airfield boundaries, almost a mile from where R.A.A.F. aircraft usually operate.

No markings

It will not carry a crew, and will have no R.A.A.F. or code markings.

Officials said today that people seeing the wing in flight might think it was a "flying saucer."

The wing measures 12ft across. It has no tail unit, no fuselage, and only a fuel-tank bulge in front.

Although small, it is an experimental aircraft, not a model.

It has a 10 horse-power pusher-type piston engine

pusher-type piston engine which a radio impulse starts.

It will fly at 140 miles an hour.

It has a skid instead of wheels.

Officials said today that later models, with jet engines, would be 10 times larger and would fly faster than sound.