

'Saucer' reports mount

MELBOURNE, Tues.
— "Flying saucer" reports continue to pour into the Civil Aviation Department headquarters in Melbourne.

Department officers are checking them closely and will probably turn them over to the R.A.A.F. for fuller investigation.

Of 59 letters received by the department so far only two have expressed scepticism. Others have reported "objects" of varying shapes and sizes seen over a period of nearly 30 years.

Diagrams sent

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Several people have reported multiple sightings, enclosing diagrams showing how the objects flew in formation. A department officer said today the reports were being treated very seriously.

"Some highly qualified engineers in our department are convinced that there is something in the saucer mystery," he said. "We just cannot ignore reports submitted by reliable witnesses like Mr. Boyle."

(Mr. John Boyle, British Astronomical Association Victorian vice-president, reported having seen an "unidentifiable object" over St. Kilda on January 3).

The reports have come from all parts of Victoria and other States.

At Melbourne University yesterday Mr. V. D. Hopper, leader of the cosmic ray research team, demonstrated how some people could confuse a balloon with a "flying saucer." He released a hydrogen - filled balloon trailing an aluminium container carrying photographic plates used for observing the effects of cosmic rays. Within an hour people were ringing newspaper offices to report a strange object in the sky

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Not explained

But Mr. Boyle strongly denies any suggestion that the object he saw on January 3 could have been a balloon. He said that none of the theories put forward so far could explain away the object.
