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RAAF adds one more UFO

to the five it hasn't solved

THE RAAF has investigated 579 unidentified flying object sightings in Australia since 1963 — and is baffled by at least six of them.

One of those is the UFO sighted in the La Trobe Valley town of Traralgon, 100 miles north-east of Melbourne, three times this week.

Wing-Commander A. E. Ilton, administration staff officer at Sale air base, about 31 miles from Traralgon, said yesterday: "We have been unable to eliminate it as an explainable phenomenon.

"The La Trobe Valley has been one of the most intense con-

centrations of reported UFO activity. The RAAF has investigated eight different UFOs here in the past two years.

"Most of them had natural explanations. But while we are not prepared to commit ourselves to any theories, we haven't found explanations for them all.

"This latest one on Monday morning, Monday night and Wednesday morning was observed for some time by several people, including police officers, in Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Bolsdale, Nambrok and Rosedale.

"We understand this week's other sightings in Taree, New South Wales, have been satisfactorily put down to the planet Venus, but our one isn't so easy."

Wing-Commander Ilton said all RAAF bases had UFO investigation officers.

"The RAAF takes UFOs seriously," he said.

The officers were kept supplied with the standard "UFO description" forms which were filled in by people interviewed after sightings.

'INEXPLICABLE'

The forms and reports by in-

vestigating officers were sent to the Air Department in Canberra, which had built up a substantial file on UFOs.

Flight-Lieutenant John Ogden, the UFO investigator at the Sale base, has told the Air Department his inquiries into the La Trobe Valley sightings produced a finding of "inexplicable phenomena."

Wing-Commander Ilton said conclusions were left to the department's UFO section.

But Mr John Dixon, the man who first saw the Traralgon mystery object, is in no doubt.

"It had some sort of form behind a big dazzling white light, and it was bloody scary," he said.

A rigger on the Esso-BHP natural gas pipeline at Longford, 43 miles from Traralgon, he saw the object directly overhead about 4.30 am on Monday.

He was cycling to work when it hovered above him.

"I looked up, then I hit the brakes and then I pumped the pedals all the way back to Traralgon," he said.

"The thing didn't make any noise, but all the dogs in the district were howling in terror."