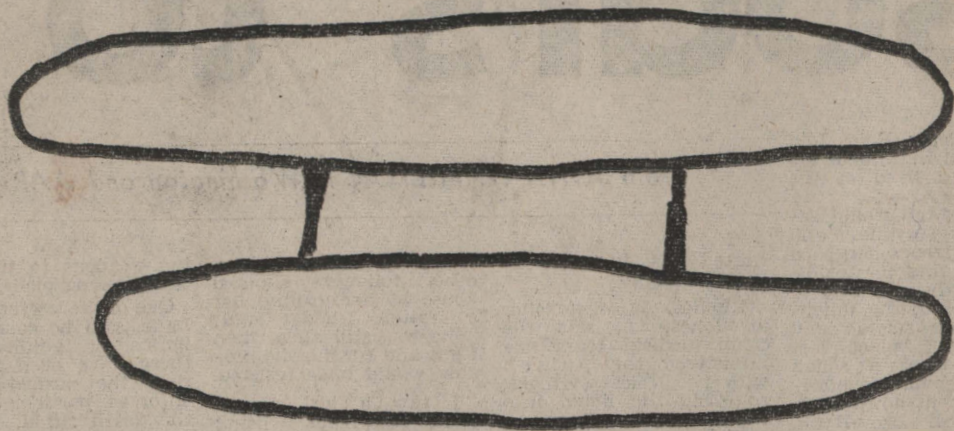
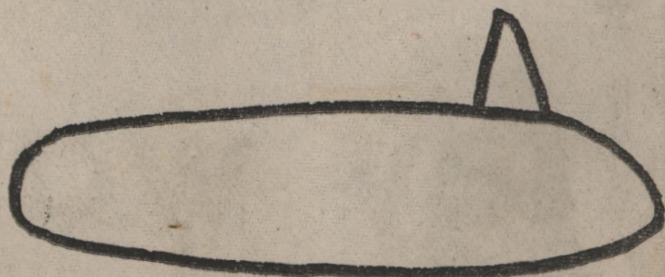
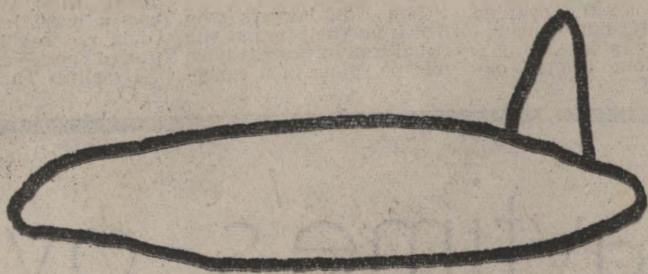


Day of the



Mark, 14, of Geelong, drew this sketch of the object he saw in the sky during a tennis match on October 21 . . . "It had a color like a sort of metallic silk."



A Geelong woman's sketch of the objects she saw at Cape Otway on October 21 . . . "What puzzled us was that the two objects were flying with such precision."

5 SIGHTINGS OF MYSTERY SKYCRAFT

By LAWRENCE MONEY, Herald Transport Reporter

Something strange was in the Melbourne skies the day pilot Frederick Valentich vanished last month.

That is the inescapable conclusion from a startling file of evidence compiled by UFO investigators in the past five weeks.

Documented interviews with unrelated people from locations up to 240 km apart have come up with the same story — of a round object and two silver-colored cigar-shaped objects moving unnaturally slowly through the air with no apparent means of propulsion and no wings.

At 2 p.m. a sighting was made at Currie, King Is.

At 3 p.m. at Corio, Geelong.

At 4.15 p.m. at Cape Otway.

At 7.10 p.m. near Frankston.

At 9 p.m. near Warrnambool.

All the sightings were on October 21 — five weeks ago today — when Valentich vanished over Bass Strait after reporting a UFO at 7.12 p.m.

The sighting at Geelong was made by a young tennis player with more than a dozen witnesses, and at Cape Otway a mother and her son both saw an object while driving.

The tennis player and the mother — who have

never met — both drew almost identical sketches of what they had seen.

They were twin cigar-shaped objects, apparently joined together.

Investigators from the Victorian UFO Research Society have tape-recorded interviews with these two and three others who reported seeing round objects that day.

The Society still has more than 20 more people to check out who made similar reports.

Here are the interviews with the five people whose full names have been kept confidential:

King Island 2 p.m.

A young wife was sunbathing in the backyard of her home in Currie:

"I was on the lawn and I was looking up at a cloud in the sky.

"As I was looking at it, all of a sudden out of this cloud a round object moved, going east to west towards the sea.

"It was very high up.

"I watched for quite a while then I sang out to my husband to come out and look.

"But he could not see what I was looking at.

"It travelled quite a way then stopped and started moving slowly back again.

"It was at an angle of about 70 degrees to the ground.

"It was a light white or silver object and the cloud it came out of just appeared normal."

The woman said she had seen a similar object in February — but that had "spots" on it.

Neither had made a noise.

Corio 3 p.m.

Mark, a 14-year-old Geelong youth, was playing tennis with three others at courts in Geelong — with about 12 others playing on surrounding courts:

"I went to stretch my neck and noticed this thing up in the air.