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341,684
daily sale

UFO flap

Cr = Richard King.

— RAAF

called in

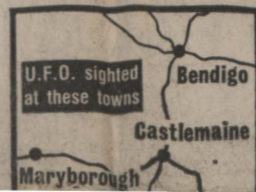
Hundreds see 'lights'

By DON GREENLEES

BENDIGO. — Hundreds of people in central Victoria today reported nine brightly-colored UFOs "buzzed" the area overnight.

Reported sightings came in from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Kyne-ton and Bendigo.

The Royal Australian Air Force



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BENDIGO. — Hundreds of people in central Victoria today reported nine brightly-colored UFOs "buzzed" the area overnight.

Reported sightings came in from Castlemaine to Maryborough, Kyneton and Bendigo.

The Royal Australian Air Force will investigate the reports.

The RAAF and air traffic control, Tullamarine, were alerted by a Bendigo radio station, but could not track anything on radar.

They said they were baffled by the sightings.

Most people described the UFOs as cone or cylindrical in shape, with oscillating red, green and white lights.

A RAAF spokesman said the air force would seek confirmation of the sightings before deciding what type of investigation should be made.

In Canberra, an air force spokesman said the unexplained aerial sightings — the air force's term for UFOs — would be logged by the Canberra-based air force intelligence group.

Radio announcer, at 3BO, in Bendigo, Mike Evans, said the first reported sightings were made to the station about 11 last night.

He said he later saw six objects through the studio window.

Cone

"It was like a white cone with red and green lights flashing," he said.

"Someone with a telescope in Castlemaine said it was like honeycomb on the bottom.

"I could see them quite distinctly changing colors. They were bright and about twice the size of the brightest star."

He estimated the objects were hovering at about 800 metres.

He said the UFOs would at times move a small distance, disappear and then reappear in another part of the sky.

He said the radio station was flooded with phone calls shortly after the first sightings.

"The phone just never stopped ringing. We have three lines on our talk-back, and six on the switchboard.

"They started ringing about 11 o'clock, and didn't stop till after three."

Mr Evans said the objects disappeared from the sky about 3 a.m.

One man, who phoned 3DB, claimed he was "tailed" by a UFO from Long Gully, about 5 km from Bendigo, into the town.

"He said it was almost directly above him at about 70 degrees," Mr Evans said.

"He drove flat-out into Bendigo trying to get away from it."

Mr Evans said many people were at first bewildered and curious about the light, but later became worried.

"It certainly scared the hell out of some people, they didn't sound too good," he said.

People in Bendigo said

dogs and other animals became upset and restless after the objects appeared.

The first sighting of the objects was made by a man at Kangaroo Flat.

This was followed by the report from the man who said he was being tailed from Long Gully.

The RAAF made a radar scan of the area about 11.40 p.m., but said none of the objects showed up.

A second check was made at 2.15 a.m., soon after nine of the objects were reported bunched together, but also proved fruitless.

The RAAF said that if the objects were too high or too low, they would not show up on radar.

Mr Paul Mulqueen, of Bendigo, said he saw eight and possibly nine objects hovering over Kyneton about 12.30 a.m.

He said he watched the objects through field glasses for almost an hour.

"After I heard about them, I went out looking," he said.

"I saw the objects as I was heading towards Kyneton, and got out and started looking with my field glasses.

Hovering

"They all seemed to be just hovering there.

"There was a constant rotation, changing color.

"They looked cone-shaped, but they were a hell of a long way up.

"They were easily bigger than a star."

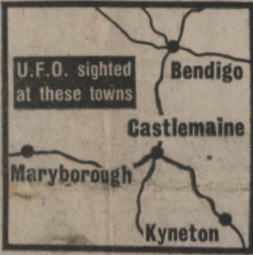
A Weather Bureau spokesman today said the appearance of lights in the sky may have been caused by an atmospheric inversion.

The spokesman said the inversion could have caused car headlights to be refracted in the sky.

He said an atmospheric inversion happened when there was a layer of warm air up to 500 metres from the surface of the earth.

"Normally air gets colder as it rises, but with an inversion, it stays warm," the spokesman said.

But the spokesman said he could not explain why lights would be seen in one area, when the whole state was covered by an inversion.



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