



## AN AUSTRALIAN UFO MYSTERY

Australia has had many UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) sightings. One that generated worldwide attention is the disappearance of Frederick Valentich, who vanished without a trace over Bass Strait on 21 October, 1978.

Valentich, a twenty-year-old flying instructor, left Moorabin, near Melbourne, Victoria, in his Cessna 182 aircraft on a flight across Bass Strait to King Island, Tasmania.

He had left the Victorian coast and been in the air only forty-seven minutes when at 6:19 pm he reported sighting an unidentified aircraft to the Melbourne Flight Service Controller.

He said he could not identify what type of aircraft was passing over him, at least 300m above, except that it was brightly lit, and travelling at an 'unknown' speed.

The Controller reported that there was no known air traffic in the vicinity.

Valentich then said the craft was orbiting on top of him, that it had a green light, and was 'sort of metallic and all shiny on the outside'.

He kept in contact with the Unit Controller for about six minutes, then all transmission ceased. His last words were, 'My intentions are to go to King Island ... that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again ... it is hovering and it is not an aircraft.'

The weather in the Cape Otway area was clear, with excellent visibility and light winds.

An intensive air and sea search of Bass Strait was conducted along with a land search of King Island. The search lasted until 25 October, but no trace of the aircraft was found.

*Strange Mysteries* by Rachael Collinson, HBJ, 1990