

“Flying Saucer” Patents Found In Canberra Files

CANBERRA, Wednesday.—Four plans of what experts consider could be “working flying saucers” have been found in the Commonwealth offices of patent trade mark designs and copyrights at Canberra.

An expert employed by the Patents Office said to-day that if two of the “saucers” which the inventors envisaged were fitted with turbo jet engines they would immediately become a practicable proposition.

The plans, which were approved by the Patents Office in 1930, 1932, 1936, and 1938, include one Australian design, one Japanese, one English, and one French design.

Of the four, the patents expert said, the Japanese plan submitted in 1932 was the most

workable. This plan was based on the helicopter principle.

“Of course, they were all quite impracticable at the time they were submitted,” the expert said.

They were all based on a

propeller or helicopter principle.

Using ordinary propellers, the “saucers” would not have been able to get sufficient lift, but with the turbo-jet engine you get a terrific lift, and these plans immediately become quite practical propositions.

The Australian plan, submitted by Charles Edmund Johnson, of Hill Street, West Hobart, Tasmania, in 1930, appears exactly like a large inverted saucer. He calls his invention “improvements in flying machine.”

The Japanese design, submitted by two Tokyo engineers, also resembles a large inverted saucer. It, like Mr. Johnson’s design, is fitted to the top of an aircraft, and is based on the helicopter principle.

The expert, who refused to give his name, said to-day that the specifications had been in the Patents Office since they had been submitted, in some cases 20 years ago.

He said he had not attached any significance to the plans until last Monday, when his imagination was quickened by newspaper stories of “flying

newspaper stories of "flying saucers" seen in different parts of the world and statements by prominent American politicians and scientists that the saucer was a secret weapon.

"I then remembered our plans and looked them out," the expert added. A "Herald" reporter was able to buy a copy of each plan for 1/6 today.