

FIRST FLYING SAUCER DESIGNED IN HOBART

THE first person in the world to apply for a "flying saucer" patent was Mr. Charles Edmund Johnson, of 151 Warwick St., Hobart, who retired on March 22 from the position of Receiver of Public Moneys at the Tasmanian Treasury.

THIS is revealed by the patents office in Canberra. Mr. Johnson applied for a patent in Canberra in 1930. The depression followed, and he did not proceed further with his plans.

Under the orthodox construction

of aircraft, Mr. Johnson told "The Mercury" yesterday, air was forced against the aerofoils on the wings by the propeller, giving a lifting effect.

Under his plans, the aerofoils were stationary and the air was put in motion by an impeller and driven against them. Lifting power was obtained from the impact of the air against the aerofoils. A hovering effect, similar to the helicopter, was thus obtained.

Generator, Too

"Another invention of mine," he said, "was a steam and gas generator in which gas combustion was used in conjunction with steam to drive a turbine. This was the forerunner of the system of propulsion in the American steam torpedo."

With plenty of time now on his hands, Mr. Johnson proposes again

hands, Mr. Johnson proposes again to turn his inventive mind to mechanical things. He has faith in his gas and steam generator and he may yet try to make it a commercial proposition.

Even when a schoolboy at Dromedary, 15 miles from Hobart, Mr. Johnson had aeronautical ideas, and

with a schoolfriend, Frank Conlan, experimented with a glider.

This glider, which had a wing span of 12ft., was hoisted with a pulley to the top of a tree. When released it glided 50 yards.
