

"Flying saucer" plans were in Australia's Patents Office files

What may have been the first plans for a "flying saucer" were submitted to the Commonwealth Patents Office in 1941 by New Zealand inventor, Thomas Whetton.

The plans are for a rocket ship, the plans for which are described as "a new order and formulae of heavier-than-air aircraft."

Commonwealth officers say the plans may be for the first inter-planetary rocket ships.

They specify 12 variations of rocket ships and planes, including a flying barrel, a flying soccer ball, a wing and a flying bus.

Mr Whetton is an engineer, cinematographer and author.

Disclosure of his plans followed discovery at the patents office of plans for four flying saucers.

The type of "planes" specified also include a futuristic conception of the Wright Brothers' first biplane and a space ship which Buck Rogers might use five centuries hence

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The inventor states that his aircraft are designed "on new aerostatic and aerodynamic principles to make possible speeds from 500 to 1000 miles an hour."

The machines can be driven by either rocket propulsion, employing vortex tubes, or by ordinary aero motors, using boomerang-shaped propellers to help the aircraft reach higher speeds.

The inventor believes, however, that only the rocket-propelled planes would exceed 500 miles per hour.

ADVANTAGES

He claims the other advantages of the "new order" aircraft are:—

They cannot shatter and disintegrate at high speeds.

They cannot be affected by air pockets.

They are almost silent.

They cannot ice up at freezing altitudes.

They have no tails.

They will not bump or rock.

They cannot nosedive and crash.

They do not require shock absorbers because they come to rest with a cushion-like comfort, and—believe it or not—

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They can reverse.

Mr Whetton reveals in his specifications that he studied the actions of the bot-fly before developing his plans.

The bot-fly, he said, was itself driven by a kind of supplementary rocket propulsion and was capable of reaching a speed equivalent to 815 miles an hour.

SAME PRINCIPLES

Mr Whetton believes the same principles applied to aircraft will enable them to fly at this speed or even faster.

Mr Whetton claims that he was able to devise his rocket ships "by looking beyond the limitations of conventional precedent in aviation."

The expert who examined the plan considered that "As they stand at present, the plans are impracticable, but in some future age they may be quite a practicable proposition."
