

# 'Saucers' may be balloons

**A Fairfield man said yesterday he had studied a "flying saucer" through powerful binoculars on Saturday night.**

But a Civil Aviation meteorological official said it was probably a weather balloon.

Mr. Clive Ward, of Clancey Street, Fairfield, said he saw a round object in the sky about 7 p.m. and hurried inside for his binoculars.

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"Then I saw an illuminated globe, about 20 feet wide," he said.

"Round the outer circle a red and white light revolved at terrific speed.

"I watched it for half an hour. It was about 12 miles away, flying at about 3000 feet.

"As it moved backwards and forwards, explosions, with bursts of blue light, came out each side every 10 seconds.

"I called my wife out, and she laughed until she looked through the glasses.

"I am an ex-Army man, and I know it wasn't an aeroplane. It wasn't a searchlight, and it wasn't a star.

"It was a flying saucer."

## **Balloon released**

The meteorological officer said: "We released a balloon at seven o'clock last night and it must have passed over Fairfield.

"It would be easily visible at 3000 feet through binoculars.

"The balloon is pear-shaped

"The balloon is pear-shaped and has some cotton at the end with a two or three-foot candle burning, which allows us to follow its flight.

"The sketch in a Sunday newspaper, drawn by women who claimed they saw a 'flying saucer' last Thursday, corresponds with the description of a standard weather balloon.

"The top part is the balloon itself, and the 'faint haze' is the cotton, and the 'tail' at the end is the candle."

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