

CLUE TO THE FLYING SAUCER?

1930 Patents In Canberra

CANBERRA: An amazing discovery in the patents office in Canberra, revealed recently, may provide the first official lead to a satisfactory solution of the flying saucer mystery.

The records of the Patents Department have been found to contain no fewer than six patent specifications dating back to 1930 for flying saucers.

Specialists in aeronautical patents who have examined them say that they all embody the same fundamental principle and if developed to-day would almost certainly produce a practical flying machine like a flying saucer.

Drawings accompanying the specifications all show that the basic inventions resemble a huge inverted saucer capable of rising vertically, hovering in the air, or flying laterally at great speed.

The design of the saucers is such that they would necessarily fly upside down.

The first applicant for a flying saucer patent was an Aus-

stralian saucer patent was an Australian.

He was Mr. Charles Edmund Johnson, then of Hill St., West Hobart, and his application for a patent was lodged—almost bizarrely—on Armistice Day, 1930.

Other applications were lodged at intervals over the next 10 years from inventors as widely separated as France, Japan and the United States.

NAME GIVEN IN AMERICA

The discovery of the flying saucer designs in the Canberra patents office was delayed because none of the inventors is called "flying saucers"—a term

called "flying saucers"—a term invented in the United States after people said that they had seen such things flying.

The Australian flying saucer patent is prosaically described as "improvements in flying machines."

Another flying saucer, of which full working drawings exist in Canberra, is more impressively called an "improved propelling motor and vehicles incorporating the same."

A third is abruptly titled "a helicopter."

People here who have examined the specifications regard it as likely that the Americans are experimenting with a flying saucer, and that this is a lineal descendant of machines patented as long as 25 years ago.

BOILER-DRIVER FIRST IDEA

A significant feature of all the designs is that their successful operation depends upon the development of a copious high velocity jet of gas or gas-and-air mixture.

Lacking the jet motor, the early inventors were obliged to substitute an unsatisfactory boiler driven by an ordinary engine, and this feature would probably have made their machines unworkable.

The patents experts believe, however, that the subsequent development of the jet motor would completely revolutionise the possibilities of the machines described.

LIFTING MEDIUM A BENT-WING

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The flying saucer is merely the modified wing of an ordinary aircraft. Instead of being a straight, rectangular or tapered wing the fitting medium is a wing bent round upon itself to form a closed circle with the leading edge in the centre and the trailing or back edge of the wing forming the circumference.

In the extreme centre of the wing a circle of jets projects a blast of air horizontally outwards over the outwardly curved surface of the bottom of the saucer.

The air blast makes the whole saucer lift vertically just as the air, rushing over the surface of the wings of a conventional aeroplane, lifts it.

It was pointed out to-day that the most recent American reports from aircraft pilots of having encountered flying saucers in the air coincide precisely with the theoretical performance and probable appearance of machines based on the Canberra patents. These incidentally, are doubtless recorded in patent offices elsewhere in the world.

An American air pilot described the saucer he claimed to have seen at first hovering in the air ahead of him and then moving off laterally at very

Blameless Life?

India has banned the use of red tape because it is the British Imperial colour. They will use white.

great speed. He said also that he could see a ring of lights on the saucer.

The machines described in the patents office could both hover stationary in the air or be flown sideways at high speed by jet motors.

The exhaust jets from the lifting jet motor round the upper surface of the saucer would probably reveal themselves as a ring of flame tongues.