

"FLYING SAUCER" REPORT

Air Pilot Revises Theory

SYDNEY, May 26.—Captain Gordon Savage, the pilot who reported a "flying saucer" near Canberra this morning said tonight he first thought it might be a Russian plane, but he is convinced now that the red and white alternating lights he saw were a phenomenon caused by the planet Venus rising on the horizon.

Captain Savage and First Officer F. E. Hastilow were flying a D.C. 3 freighter from Brisbane to Melbourne and near Canberra were turning back to Sydney, because Essendon was temporarily closed, when they saw lights to the east at 3.25 a.m.

In an official report to his company, Hastilow said a white light alternated at 15 seconds interval to a red light. They were flying at 3000 feet and the lights were above them, appearing some distance away and moving in the same northerly direction at a considerably faster speed. Savage climbed to 5000 feet to get a better look. The object drew away and eventually disappeared but when the freighter's

disappeared, but when the freighter's navigation lights were turned off the strange lights ahead re-appeared.

Replying to a radio query from the freighter, Mascot control tower said that no other plane was in the vicinity. Later Mascot tower picked up an unusual light in the east.

Asked to-night why he had turned off his navigation lights, Savage said: "At that time I was quite convinced it was some foreign object in the sky. I thought it might be some other aircraft that did not want me to see him. I immediately thought of a Russian plane that might be having a look round our coastline. I turned toward it and tried to chase it, but it disappeared."

Savage said he ruled out his first belief that the lights came from the planet because he could see no other stars and believed the night to be cloudless. He later learned there was high cirrus clouds hiding the other stars while Venus rose from the horizon "with a glare of light on a black background. It was impossible to tell the distance. I could only compare it with aircraft navigation lights."