

Pilot May Have Solved Flying Saucer Puzzle

SYDNEY, Friday.—*The mystery of flying saucers may have been solved by a Trans-Australia Airlines pilot who saw a "saucer" about 30 miles south-east of Sydney early to-day.*

The pilot, Captain Gordon Savage, believes the "saucer" he saw was an illusion created by the planet Venus rising above the horizon.

The Professor of Physics at Sydney University (Professor Love) said that Captain Savage's theory might be the explanation of flying saucers.

"Captain Savage's description not only tallies perfectly with Venus, but also with most other planets," he said.

The Government Astronomer (Mr. Wood) said: "Captain Savage has no doubt given a correct and level-headed explanation of the saucer."

Venus could be seen anywhere, either at night or in the daytime, he said.

Captain Savage is a former group captain and a Distinguished Flying Cross winner.

The Civil Aviation Department and the R.A.A.F. are investigating his report of having seen "a very bright light alternating in colour from red to white at 15 second intervals."

Captain Savage and First Officer F. E. Hastilow made the following official report on the incident—

"Flying in a northerly direction near Canberra, on our way to Syd-

ney we sighted to the eastward and above our aircraft a very powerful white light, which alternated at 15-second intervals to a red light.

"We were flying at 3000 feet. We continued to watch for a while. It seemed to be proceeding on the same course as we were, but at a considerably faster speed.

"Captain Savage climbed to 5000 feet to get a better look at the phenomenon, which was drawing away from us at a high speed, and eventually disappeared into a veil of atmospherics, very much as a headlight disappears into a fog."

Captain Savage said: "It was soon after 3.25 a.m. when we first saw the phenomenon, as the planet Venus, due to appear at that hour, came over the horizon. It would be distorted.

"Atmospherics would magnify it and make it appear larger than it was.

"Atmospherics on the curvature of the earth would give it the prismatic effects and changing colours.

"Being small and at a distance and very bright, it would appear to be like a plane.

"The fact that it disappeared

"The fact that it disappeared from view at times is explained by the presence of a thick layer of strata clouds with a break in them about 100 miles out to sea."