

Convinced "Flying Saucer" Was Venus

SYDNEY, May 26.—Captain Gordon Savage, the pilot who reported a "flying saucer" near Canberra this morning, said to-night 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, First Officer Hastilow said a white light alternated at 15 seconds intervals to a red light. They were flying at 3000ft. and the lights were above them, appearing some distance away and moving in the same northerly direction at a considerably faster speed.

Captain Savage climbed to 5000ft. to get a better look. The object drew away and eventually disappeared, but when the freighter's navigation lights were turned off the strange lights ahead re-appeared.