

This "Flying Saucer" Was an Aeroplane

When a local resident saw a circular, shiny disc moving rapidly from west to east yesterday morning about 11 o'clock, he immediately thought of "flying saucers;" but on reflection he found a simple explanation. He figured that the reflection of an irregular shaped object at a distance, would take up a rather circular appearance, and so hide the true shape, and that what he had seen was really a single-engined plane.

The man stated that while working near Goodna he was attracted by the sound of an aircraft a little to the south. The morning was perfectly clear, and he glanced up. Then he saw the circular, shiny disc.

"The thought flashed into my mind that it was some large ball of fluff being blown by the wind, and I then looked elsewhere for the aeroplane," he said. "I saw it, but had no sooner sighted it than the strangeness of the first object occurred to me. I looked back to the place where I expected it, and just saw it disappearing," he related.

Continuing the story, he said that for some minutes he was rather puzzled, as he realised that its appearance tallied exactly with the usual descriptions of the "flying saucers." There certainly was no optical illusion, nor was it the white corpuscles of the eye, as the appearance was quite different.

He kept looking up, and later heard the sound of an aircraft to the west. It apparently was the one he had seen first, and it turned out to be a four-engined plane. He suspected that there would be another plane around, and very soon sighted another one in the west. This time he took it to be a "single-fan" job. Soon they both dis-

time he took it to be a "single-fan" job. Soon they both disappeared to the north-west.

"I was satisfied that the explanation was simply that this 'flying saucer' was the single-engined plane (probably a Mustang) flying at a much lower altitude than the larger plane. As it passed from west to east, and to the south of me, there was an interval of time when my eye was catching the sun's rays reflected from its shiny side," he continued.

"The reflection of an irregular shaped object at a distance would take up a rather circular appearance, and so hide the true shape. Its sudden disappearance was simply caused by the changing angle of reflection, which swung out of my vision.

REFLECTION

"If it occurred with a fast object, the observer would not have time to analyse what he saw, and it would be out of sight by the time it occurred to him that it might be something unusual. That was my experience, and as I later noticed at a certain angle a reflection from the light plane (though nothing like my first observation as the plane on the second occasion was to the south-west) I saw the similarity.

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"However, as at my first sight, the object appeared nothing like an aircraft, and exactly similar to the 'flying saucers' as described. I think this may be a part explanation, at any rate, of the 'phenomenon.' One point, I am sure of, is that if 'flying saucers' had never been made so public there would have been very few reports."

METEORITE OVER WORKSHOPS?

What was considered to be a meteorite was seen by night workmen at the Ipswich Railway Workshops early yesterday morning.

Mr. Les McMahon, an electrician, who does night duty at the workshops, said that he saw the object pass from south to north directly over the workshops at 5.38 a.m. Its head was torpedo-shaped and left a bright blue trail about 8ft. long. He saw the object for about three minutes, and then it seemed to contour earthwards, leaving a cloud of smoke shaped like a figure 7, eventually becoming the shape of an interrogation mark, then fading away.

"I was in the moulders' shop about the same time when I saw a vivid blue flash on the windows of the building," said Fire Watchman P. J. Hogan, who, at the time, thought a high tension wire had fused.