

Was it Venus or a 'real' flying saucer?

CAPTAIN GORDON SAVAGE thought he saw a "flying saucer" 60 miles from Sydney yesterday, then decided it was the planet Venus—and now doesn't know what it was.

The object was "a vivid light, alternating from red to white," and Dr. R. Woolley, Commonwealth Astronomer, ruled out Venus on that description.

Captain Savage's wife is unconvinced by the "Venus theory," and his co-pilot, First-officer Frank Hastilow, says frankly that he has "no theory to account for it."

Last night Captain Savage himself gave the impression that he had evolved the "Venus

that he had evolved the "Venus theory" to reassure himself rather than to convince others.

The men were flying at 3,000ft. when they first noticed the object.

They turned toward it, and it turned with them. They rose to get above it, and it rose too.

"Vanished"

"Then it vanished," said Captain Savage, who has nearly 5,000 flying hours to his credit and a D.F.C.

"I put out our navigation lights to lure it back.

"I thought it might have been some sort of super-super jet taking a look at Sydney. As soon as my lights went out, it came back.

"I chased it again, and it vanished after a few minutes. It seemed to fade into the mist."

Captain Savage admitted that his "Venus theory" could be valid only if a bright planet had risen at 3.10 a.m. (the time he saw the "saucer"), and if his aircraft were in line with a break in clouds which obscured other planets and stars.

"Just possible"

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Dr. Woolley said: "If it was a vivid red and white light, both Venus and Jupiter are out.

"If it had been a steady white, the Venus theory is just possible.

"By the time they landed at Mascot, 3.30, Venus would have risen, but what they saw sounds like some other aircraft to me."

First Officer Hastilow, who has over 4,500 flying hours, said: "I've had plenty of experience with phenomena — Northern Lights in Europe, shooting stars, and all that kind of thing, but I never saw anything like it before."

Mrs. Savage is worried about it all. "I hope he doesn't chase another one," she said. "He'll get himself killed."

Her husband grinned and replied: "I hope I do see another — I'll try and get a better look next time."





**Captain Gordon Savage,
D.F.C.**





**First Officer F. E.
Hastilow**