

# 'FLYING SAUCER' OVER CANBERRA

**MELBOURNE, Fri.—Two Trans-Australia Airlines pilots said tonight that they chased a mysterious flying "object" over Canberra early this morning.**

They said they saw the "object" while they were flying the nightly freighter service between Brisbane and Melbourne.

The first officer of the aircraft described the object as "a flying saucer because I cannot find a better description."

He and the captain of the plane at first thought the object was the planet Venus, but later dismissed this theory.

The Civil Aviation Department and the Air Force are investigating a report which the two men, Senior Pilot Gordon Savage, D.F.C., and First Officer Frank E. Hastilow, submitted to T.A.A. headquarters in Melbourne.

**MELBOURNE.**

The report, written by Hasti-  
low, said the object appeared  
at 3.25 a.m. and disappeared at  
3.45 a.m.

## **White, red light**

The report said: "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 inter-  
vals to a red light.

"It appeared to be some dis-  
tance away. Captain Savage  
climbed to 5000 feet to get a  
better look at the phenomenon.

**"The indefinite object 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.**

"As soon as the light disap-  
peared we put out our navi-  
gation lights.

"A few minutes later the  
light appeared again from the  
same quarter, while we re-  
mained in darkness.

"The light continued to

"The light continued to alternate from white to red at the same 15-second intervals.

## Turned with them

"What interested us most was the disappearance of the light in spite of the cloudless conditions.

"I called Mascot tower and asked if there were any other aircraft in the vicinity. He said 'No'."

In Melbourne tonight the pilots said that as they turned their aircraft towards the object it turned with them.

When they rose to get above it, it also rose.

"I thought the object was some sort of superjet taking a look at Sydney," Captain Savage said.

"I chased it for about 60 miles and then lost it in a mist.

"Later I decided that the object must have been the planet Venus, but I soon dismissed that thought because I could not see any other planets."

## Not Venus

The Government Astronomer (Dr. D. Hooper) said tonight:

(Dr. R. Woolley) said tonight: "The object could not have been Venus or Jupiter if the color were red."

Officials at Stromlo Observatory, Canberra, said that at that time of the morning Venus would just have risen and could not appear to be above the plane.

**First Officer Hastilow, who has more than 4500 flying hours, said: "I've had plenty of experience with northern lights in Europe, shooting stars, and all that kind of thing, but I never saw anything like the Canberra object before.**

"I've got no theory to account for it.

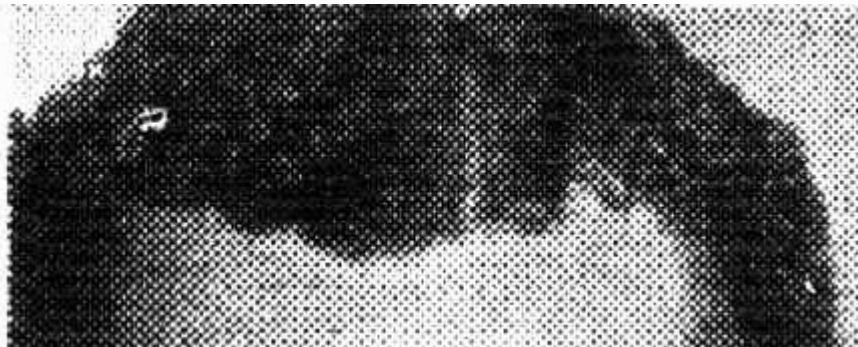
"I have referred to the object as a flying saucer in my report because I cannot find a better description."

Captain Savage has nearly 6000 flying hours to his credit.





**SENIOR PILOT. Captain  
Gordon Savage.**





**FIRST OFFICER, F. E.  
Hastilow.**