

The Flying Saucers Come To Earth

Now that the "flying saucer" mystery has been officially and scientifically explained, many of the people who have been "seeing things" are expected to feel foolish. On the contrary, they should be as pleased as Punch. For never before has there been such a triumph for human eyesight. Scorn was poured upon the sharp-eyed men and women who saw strange objects whizzing through the atmosphere, looping around mountain-tops, hurtling through valleys, and even skimming the garden wall. What they saw, we are told, were plastic research-balloons, but the fact remains that, in at least 2,000 instances, they did see "something" that was mighty hard to see, let alone identify.

Of course, many more than 2,000 people claim to have seen flying saucers, and in many countries besides the United States. The balloons released by American naval physicists cannot have blown all over the world. So when the "heavenly objects" descried in Australia, Sweden, Portugal, Greece and Madagascar have been screened

of meteorites, red corpuscles in the eye, hangovers, planets (Venus in particular), and plain "hooey," there may still be a residue of authentic cases. And why must all these be confined to the illuminated bottoms of plastics balloons? Let no scientist believe, in his smug depreciation of lay capacity, that popular speculation has been stilled. The little blue-nosed men parachuting from the spout of a flying coffee-pot may be Martians, after all.

The serious-minded who are above such nonsense will see in the American explanation more than the debunking of a myth. The United States is determined not to let her leadership in atomic research pass to the enemies of democracy. Of that determination the strange balloons, exciting the imagination of men, have afforded the latest proof, for the cosmic-ray research which their electronic instruments have served has an indirect bearing on atomic developments. It follows that Communist spy "rings" will soon be chasing flying saucers through the skies!