

Scientists Say "Saucer" Was A Meteor

Scientists in N.S.W., Canberra and Victoria say that the "flying saucer" seen by more than a dozen people in N.S.W. and Victoria on Saturday morning was a meteor.

IN SYDNEY, the Deputy Director of the Meteorological Bureau, Mr. J. Hogan, particularly commended a report sent to him by Mr. J. Edwards, of Towradgi, near Wollongong, as showing signs of careful observation.

Mr. Edwards said: "At approximately 6.10 a.m. on Saturday I saw an object in the sky from my home.

"It had the appearance of a comet or meteor that had broken up into three or four smaller pieces, together with an accompanying amount of sparks which were probably the smaller pieces of the original body

pieces of the original body.

"It appeared in the southwest and headed in a direct line due east.

In Outer Space

"It appeared well above the earth and I would say it was well up into the outer space.

"I could not even estimate its speed, but I would say it travelled at about one-half or one-third the speed of a shooting star.

"The main difference was that it travelled on a level course. It was also much larger and more easily seen and flew from west to east.

"What I saw had no resemblance to a 'flying saucer' nor any other type

saucer nor any other type of 'space ship.'

"I would attribute the 'sparks from the exhaust' as the finer particles such as one sees in the tail of a comet."

Meteor Shower

IN CANBERRA, the Commonwealth Astronomer at Mt. Stromlo Observatory, Dr. R. Woolley, said that a shower of meteors had caused the many reports of flying saucers over New South Wales during the week-end.

He added that the chief assistant at the observatory, Dr. A. R. Hogg, had seen a bright meteor with a slow-disappearing trail at 5.15 a.m. on Sunday.

He had been using a telescope, but said that the meteor would be visible to the naked eye as a bright light moving at high speed.

Unanimous

IN VICTORIA, two scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, who claim to have seen the object on Saturday morning, also insist that it was a meteor.

One of the scientists, Mr. P. Gartner, said that he had

seen the phenomenon while sitting in a car at Queenscliffe with a fellow-scientist, Mr. W. J. Fletcher.

"We are unanimous it was nothing but a large meteor," Mr. Fletcher said last night.

He said that the object could be easily confused as a flying saucer or cigar.

Dr. Woolley said that a meteor shower could extend for a number of days.

The Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Sydney University, Professor A. V. Stephens, said that in his opinion, too, the object had been a meteor.

"It is a dull solution, but it is the most likely of any in this case," he added.

Big Difference

However, the University's Professor of Physiology, Professor F. S. Cotton, said it was definite that the people who had reported seeing the "flying saucer" had not been imagining things.

"There is a great difference between the sighting of these occasional strange meteoric phenomena and

meteoric phenomena and the mass sighting of "flying saucers" throughout the world, which occurred some years ago," he said.

Security Probe

In Melbourne last night, an official of the Commonwealth Security Branch said that the reports would be probed.

"The eye-witnesses' accounts are too incomplete to reject the strange object summarily as a meteorological phenomenon," he said