

"Saucers" again

The dramatic resurgence of flying saucer sightings over the past week has given rise to further speculations about what these startling objects in the sky may be.

Most popular ideas of the layman—including the "sighters" — are that they are new weapons or space ships from another planet.

Science takes the cool view that they are natural phenomena, either meteors or disturbances in light caused by temperature inversions, as they term it, which gives the effect of light racing through the heavens. The latter theory is based on the fact that light, when entering a different degree of temperature, tends to bend from its course, a proposition advanced by Einstein in his famous Theory of Relativity.

There are cases for and against both arguments.

The space ship theory can be ruled out on the grounds that no planet but Earth seems capable of supporting life because of the fact that conditions are against it.

The scientists' theory may be correct—but the natural question is: Why is it that only in the past five or six years have these objects been seen, when temperature inversions, meteors, and all other natural phenomena have been existent since the beginning of Time itself?

The new weapon idea may have more to it than military authorities care to admit. Recently a United States plane flew at 1300 miles an hour; and only last week a British rocket raced along, radar-guided, at over 2000 miles an hour. Away back in the days of the Second World War, Hitler's V2 achieved an estimated speed of 3600 miles an hour. And how far has military achievement come since then?

The "saucer" mystery has had almost as many explanations as viewers. None has yet been completely satisfactory—probably none will until some definite proof has been presented, leaving no shadow of doubt about what the objects constitute.

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