

“Flying Saucer” Was Probably A Balloon

Many people thought they saw a flying saucer over Sydney between 10 a.m. and midday yesterday, but investigation showed, with reasonable certainty, that the object was a weather balloon.

First of many reports was that detectives and staff at the C.I.B. building had seen ‘a large white disc float across the sky’ about midday.

Detectives said later that the object could have been a “strip of film” being blown through the air.

Two officers attached to Central District Ambulance also reported seeing the object.

Mr. J. H. Taylor, of Miowera Road, Turramurra, also saw the object. He said last night:

“During the war I was in the Meteorological Office in England and I used to send half a dozen balloons up a day.

“I ought to know a balloon when I see one, you would

think. This was a balloon Flying saucer, my eye.”

The Weather Bureau said last night that a “met-balloon” had been released by the radio physics laboratory at the University at 9.16 a.m.

The balloon would have travelled over the city as it climbed to 65,000 feet.

It would take about two hours to reach this height. So it could have been seen over the city between 10 o'clock and midday.

Mr. Lindsay McCready, spokesman for the Radio Physics Laboratory, said last night: “For the last six months we have been sending up silver-coated balloons almost every morning between 10 and 11 o'clock to measure wind velocities at high altitudes.

“We track the balloon by radar.

“These balloons are about 6 feet in diameter when they commence their flights and expand to about 30 feet when they reach heights of 80,000 feet. They do not look any larger, however.”

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