

He Took 'Saucer' Home (It Was One Of Ours)

Mr. Arthur Fletcher, of Harcourt Parade, Rosebery, thought he saw a "flying saucer" on his way to work early yesterday. Last night he took it home.

The "saucer" appeared as a flash of silver above his head just after he had left his home.

Suddenly it went "bang" and floated towards him.

It was a balloon.

Six feet in diameter, the balloon was silvered and had an aluminium escape valve, two batteries, and a light bulb.

As it fell another balloon soared on to a building.

Mr. Fletcher took his balloon to work, then home. He was puzzled.

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Last night the mystery was solved.

The Radio-Physics Division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation said the balloon was probably theirs.

One like it—a balloon with-

in a balloon—is sent up every day, 70,000 to 80,000 feet, to measure wind direction and speed in the upper atmosphere.

For the technically minded:

● The silvering allows scientists to track the balloon's course with radar.

● The light bulb is installed so the movements of the balloon can be observed during the first part of a night ascent (radar does not work at close distances).

● The escape valve is fitted to prevent the balloon inside the balloon from bursting.

Mr. Fletcher's balloon, which was seen as a "saucer" by other people, did not rise as high as it should have done, a C.S.I.R.O. man said last night.

Usually they float far out to sea.