

Flying Saucer Story "All Ballooney"

LONDON, Wednesday.

It was very nearly correct to describe the recent London flying saucer story as "all ballooney," Under-Secretary for Defence, Mr. Nigel Birch, told the House of Commons yesterday.

He had been asked what reports his department had received of the flying object seen by two airmen over London or other parts of Britain and reported to him.

Mr. Birch replied that on November 3, two experimental meteorological balloons were observed at different times by two officers in a Royal Air Force aircraft and the other by a member of anti aircraft command.

Amid laughter, he said "There was nothing peculiar about either of these occurrences."

Mr. Birch said meteorological balloons were fitted with a special device to produce a large echo on a radar screen, and the two balloons in question were allowed to escape or were let off at unusual times.

Earlier, an Air Ministry spokesman said all reports of possible saucers were investigated, but in 95 per cent. of cases there was a natural explanation.
