

Flying saucer was just dustbin lid

Herald Special Service

LONDON, Friday. — Two former RAF men hoaxed British officialdom with their own "flying saucer" — and nearly got away with it.

A discerning air marshal produced a theory after examining a "mysterious object" found near the little Sussex village of Birch Grove that it was really a dustbin lid.

The story of the hoax was revealed today by one of the "inventors."

Their "flying saucer," a circular metal object with a slight dome, was found early one morning by a gardener.

Police were called. Whitehall was informed and security officers were rushed to the spot.

There they found a hole in a tree through which "the thing" apparently crashed.

The strange object was photographed and a minute written about it.

HAD WINGS

One of the hoaxers said today: "We made it with a dustbin lid, a length of copper wire, a vaporised unit from an oil lamp, a tuning knob and a plunger from an acorn switch.

"We covered the interior with sheet metal

terior with sheet metal and gave it stubby

wings with a double tail unit and painted the markings 'GM/12345.'

"We blackened the rear with an oily rag to give the impression it had been burning fuel.

"We placed it in a half-buried position, giving the impression that it had dived out of the sky at terrific speed, tearing through the trees."

"BURY 'EM"

The Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer-Jones, advised the British public today it was high time to "bury these flying saucers."

In the House of Commons a Government spokesman subscribed to the view that saucer reports were "all baloney"—that recent

saucer reports were "all
ballooney"—that recent
sightings were actually
high-altitude weather
balloons.