

PILOT SAID HE SAW A 'FLYING MUSHROOM'

MELBOURNE, Fri.—An airlines pilot today reported to the Department of Civil Aviation that he saw a "flying saucer" near Melbourne this morning.

The pilot is Captain D. Barker, of Australian National Airways.

Captain Barker said he saw a semi-transparent object like a "mushroom with a stalk" over the Templestowe Brickworks at 10.15 a.m. today.

"I am not interested in impressing anyone," he said.

"Neither had I been celebrating the new year.

"I was in bed at 11 p.m."

He said he reported to flight control but they said he should "take more water with it."

Flying fast

Flight control had told him a Convair was in the air in that position at 10.15 a.m.

a.m.

"My flying mushroom was nothing like a Convair in appearance," Captain Barker said last night.

"I have been flying for A.N.A. since 1937 and served for three years with the R.A.A.F.

"I know it wasn't a Convair."

Captain Barker said he was sitting on the edge of the dining table in his home at East Kew when he saw the "mushroom."

"It was moving rapidly in and out of thick cloud at 1800 to 2000 feet," he said.

"It was flying faster than any jet I have seen.

"In about 12 seconds it had disappeared over East

Doncaster—six miles from my home."

Captain Barker said tonight he would make a full report to the Australian Flying Saucer Investigation Committee if asked.

The Regional Director of the Department of Civil

the Department of Civil Aviation for Victoria and Tasmania (Mr. A. R. McComb) tonight said that the Department would carefully investigate Captain Barker's report.

"Captain Barker is a very experienced pilot and unlikely to imagine things," Mr. McComb said.