

MANY SAW FLYING SAUCER: OFFICIAL TO MAKE REPORT

Northern Tasmania's flying saucer mystery deepened yesterday when a Civil Aviation official stated that he was making a report on the matter to his head office in Melbourne.

THE official, Mr. C. R. Strickland, Launceston airport manager, said a Canberra jet bomber flew over seven miles up at the same time, but he thought it unlikely it would be seen.

Meanwhile, "The Examiner" office became 'Flying Saucer Control.' Scores of messages were received from people in all walks of life confirming they had either seen or heard a mysterious object streaking through the sky.

All said they noticed the incident between 11 a.m. and noon on Saturday.

A number said they

A number said they had seen and heard the object before.

The object was first seen by Mr. H. C. Bean, Perth, about 11.20 a.m. on Saturday. He described it as big and round, silver in colour and slightly resembling a full moon.

Very Fast

Mr. C. J. Shepherd, welder, North St., Launceston, said he also saw a bright object in the sky. "It was travelling very fast and at a great altitude," he said.

He said he had seen it before at Perth.

Mr. C. Tyson, engineer Basin Rd., said that on Saturday he was in his garden when he heard a "roar, a hundred times greater than any jet aircraft, and travelling so fast it was impossible to pick out the object in the clear blue sky."

He paid little attention to his experience until he read the flying saucer report in "The Examiner."

Not a Jet

"I have been in the air force and know quite a

force and know quite a bit about jet engines, and I know that aircraft are produced about which we

know nothing. But this noise was nothing like a jet and whatever it was seemed to have considerably more power than a jet engine," said Mr. Tyson.

Mr. John Smith, tally clerk, Holyman's Wharf, said he heard an unusual sound while playing golf at Kings Meadows. Eleven other golfers heard the noise as well.

He said he heard the noise about 11.30 on Saturday morning and the object was travelling north.

The noise was nothing like a jet engine, he said.

Mr. W. Kerrison, butcher, Kings Meadows, said he saw a silver object pass over the Western Tiers between 11 and noon on Saturday. It was travelling south.

Sketched Object

Mr. K. L. Littlejohn, Launceston salesman who lives at Perth, brought to "Flying Saucer Con-

to "Flying Saucer Control" a sketch of the object he had seen (above right), and a written report.

He was convinced that he had seen a radio-controlled rocket.

He saw the object through a pair of binocu-



Mr. C. Tyson.

**TO
PORT**





Mr. K. L. Littlejohn and his sketch.

lars at 11.20 a.m. from
his home.

A Civil Aviation De-

A CIVIL AVIATION Department official reported that a Canberra jet bomber flying seven miles up on navigational exercises flew in the Launceston area about 11.15 a.m. on Saturday.

He said that for some time Canberras had been on navigational high altitude exercises using Launceston as a turning point.

However, Mr. Strickland, the airport manager, said he was keeping an open mind on the subject.

While he doubted whether anybody could see a Canberra flying about seven miles up, he thought it was possible they could track the aircraft by its vapour trail.

Official Report

He was receiving a report and sketch from Mr. Bean regarding his flying saucer experience at Perth and these would be sent to the Civil Aviation headquarters in Mel-

bourne, said Mr. Strickland.

He was also checking what Hobart direct com-

He was also checking what Hobart-direct commercial aircraft were flying over Launceston between 11 and noon on Saturday morning.

"I would be grateful for other reports and sketches, as it all helps us to sort out the matter," he added.

Not a Balloon

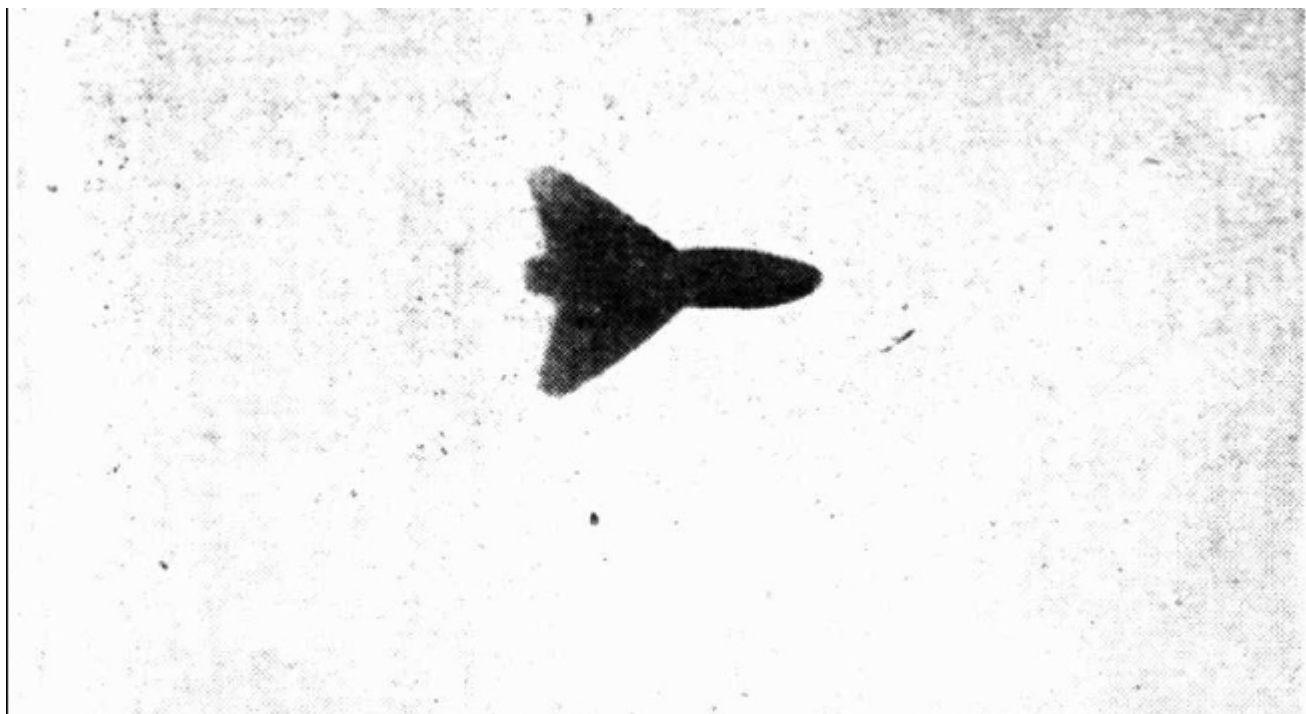
A Hobart Weather Bureau spokesman said there was no meteorological explanation for the phenomenon.

It could not have been a weather balloon because these were released at 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. from Western Junction daily.

The balloons gained height rapidly and would have been well out of sight by 11.20 a.m.

It could not have been the balloon from Hobart airport because this was released daily at 2 p.m.

Flying saucer, jet aircraft, radio - controlled rocket—which is it?



AN OBSERVER SKETCHED THIS...

PICTURE ABOVE SHOWS an artist's impression of the flying saucer as it was interpreted from a sketch by Mr K. L. Littlejohn, Perth. Mr. Littlejohn was convinced that what he saw was a radio-controlled rocket.

WAS IT THIS...?

A CANBERRA jet bomber in flight. One was in the vicinity at the time the object was seen.



