

MYSTERY OBJECT ALSO OVER RIANA AREA?

A report by two farmers of an object which flashed high over Riana on Tuesday afternoon corresponds fairly accurately with an object seen and heard in Northern Tasmania last Saturday.

The farmers are Messrs. S. W. Ratcliff and A. Maynard. They were working in fields about two miles apart early on Tuesday afternoon when the object passed overhead.

Mr. Ratcliff said last night that about 1.15 p.m. he heard a high pitched "hollow" roar which seemed to come from well above high cloud. It seemed to be travelling at tremendous speed from the direction of Wynyard and within a few seconds had faded from hearing in the direction of Launceston.

Describing the speed at which the object seemed to be travelling Mr. Ratcliff said: "It was not miles a minute, it was miles a second."

The object seemed to be following the normal course of planes from Wynyard to Launceston. He did not think it could have been a jet plane; it sounded more like a rocket or some such object.

Weather conditions were calm, and he did not think the sound could have been caused by the atmosphere.

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Working in a field two miles away, Mr. Maynard heard the sound about the same time and his description tallied with Mr. Ratcliff's. Because of cloud neither man could see the object.

Mr. Ratcliff said he heard a similar noise several weeks ago, but the object did not seem to be travelling as fast as the one seen on Tuesday, and he thought it might have been a jet plane.

Although the object over Perth last Saturday was seen as well as heard by many people, the description fitted the Riana object. It was described by all as travelling very fast and high, with a roar greater than that made by jet planes.

Guesses at the identity of the object so far have been—Flying saucer, jet aircraft, radio-controlled rocket, or an ordinary plane combined with a fertile imagination.

A Civil Aviation official at Western Junction last night said there had been no scheduled commercial flights over the Riana area at the time. However, R.A.A.F. Canberras had been doing a lot of flying over Tasmania recently and he thought it likely that the object was a Canberra.