

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR "FLYING SAUCER"

SIR: Under the heading, "Flying Saucer With a Difference," your newspaper on Monday named me as one of three who "watched a Flying Saucer" the night before.

My attention was first directed to this "Flying Saucer" by about a dozen children excitedly shouting "Just look at it!"

"It" turned out to be a luminous object in the south east close to the horizon.

I, and the two others your paper named, judged it to be a star even though it fluctuated in brightness and changed colour from white to red, blue and green in a most spectacular manner.

Pursuing further the idea that it was a star, I turned up an old text book of mine on Light and read—

"Scintillation (twinkling) of a star is due to irregularities in the atmosphere causing variations in the path of the light waves which partially interfere

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"This produces variations in the apparent brightness and colour of the star."

### **WELL - MARKED EXHIBITION**

This then, I thought, was an unusually well marked exhibition of the phenomenon known as Light Interference, which briefly is the building up of waves when the crests meet (resulting in increased brightness) followed by neutralisation (dimness) when crests and troughs meet.

It was first studied by scientists like Fresnel, Sir Isaac Newton and others, and its importance in everyday life lies in the fact that the most accurate methods of measuring the trueness of flat or curved surfaces of optical lenses and prisms, or metal test gauges for high precision machinery, are based on the principles of light interference.

But now, all these theories of Fresnel, Newton and Co. have been exploded overnight. The Science Writer of the "Glen Innes Examiner" has decided what we saw was a "Flying Saucer."

All credit for the "Flying Saucer" theory must go to him, Mr. Editor, even though in his article, he modestly attributes it to three others,

attributes it to three others,  
two of whom he did not even  
interview.

Yours. N. L. SCHMIDT,  
Glen Innes.

P.S.: This star was not  
Mars.