

## **"SAUCER" WAS ONLY BIG BALLOON**

LONDON, Thursday.— London had its own flying saucer scare yesterday when thousands of people halted in the streets to watch a mysterious silver object floating high in the sunshine.

Switchboards at the Air Ministry, police headquarters and newspaper offices were jammed by callers asking about the object — variously described as pear-shaped and boomerang-shaped.

Meteorological experts studied the thing for over an hour. Then came the official explanation. It was a 60-foot wide balloon released by scientists in Bedfordshire for cosmic radiation research.

Professor C. Powell, of Bristol University, said it was the biggest balloon the scientists had ever launched. Asked what happened to the balloon when it released its equipment at a given altitude he blandly replied "it drifts on and becomes a flying saucer over half a dozen different countries."