

# **LONDON SAUCER WAS BALLOON**

**London, Thurs.:** London had its own flying saucer scare today when thousands of people stopped in the streets to watch a mysterious silver object floating high in the sunshine. It was a balloon.

It was variously described as pear shaped and boomerang shaped.

Switchboards at the Air Ministry, police headquarters and newspaper offices were jammed with calls.

Meteorological experts studied the thing for more than an hour from the roof of the Air Ministry building.

Then came the official explanation. It was a 60ft. wide balloon released by scientists at Dardington, Bedfordshire, for cosmic radiation research.

## **Photo Plates**

It carried photographic plates and was expected

eventually to reach a height of 100,000 feet before a timing apparatus would this afternoon drop the scientific equipment by parachute somewhere in western England.

Prof. C. F. Powell, of Bristol University, said it was the biggest balloon they had ever launched.

When asked what happened to the balloon when the equipment was released, Prof. Powell explained blandly: "It drifts on and becomes a flying saucer over half a dozen different countries."