

FLYING SAUCER YARN IS BORN . . .

Australian Associated Press

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

It was variously described as pear shaped and boomerang shaped.

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

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

Then came the official explanation: It was a 60-foot-wide balloon released by scientists at Cardington, Bedfordshire, for cosmic radiation research.

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 that it was the biggest balloon they had ever launched.

He was asked what happened to the balloon when the equipment was released.

Prof. Powell explained blandly: "It drifts on and becomes flying saucers over half a dozen different countries."