

# **N.S.W. radar check on 'saucers' is probed by Navy**

**CANBERRA —** "Flying saucers" reported by a Nowra Fleet Air Arm pilot are being investigated by Naval Headquarters in Melbourne. The pilot, Lieutenant O'Farrell, saw two objects which he took to be "flying saucers" when flying at night over Goulburn, N.S.W., on a return trip to Nowra.

He told authorities at Nowra, Naval Air Station and base for the Fleet Air Arm, that he saw what appeared to be the lights of two aircraft when flying at about 285 miles an hour. He said a "saucer" flew on each side of him, circled his plane and then drew rapidly away.

At his request the Nowra radar crew fixed his position and reported back that the screen showed an echo of another object moving along his Sea Fury.

This is the first known case in which unidentified objects in the sky have been confirmed by radar. Authorities ascertained there were no other military aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

vicinity at the time.

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Francis) confirmed last night that "a pilot from Nowra had recently observed two lights on his radar with vague shapes underneath".

The objects have been described as "flying saucers" because their identity is unknown.

Mr. Francis in his statement said: "It is a fact that on a night cross-country flight from the R.A.N. station, Nowra, on August 3, a pilot in his aircraft at 13,000 ft. observed two lights on his radar with vague shapes underneath. The lights passed ahead of him at a very fast speed. He was at the time flying at 220 knots. The pilot contacted Nowra and advised them.

"It was later ascertained

that the only other aircraft in the vicinity was a T.A.A. Convair."

Dr. S. C. B. Gascoigne, of the Commonwealth Observatory at Mt. Stromlo, commenting on Mr. Francis' statement, said it was highly unlikely and almost impossible that the objects could have been meteorities. This was because the objects as reported were too low in the

reported were too low in the sky and had apparently persisted for too long.

Unless the objects were much lighter than reported, or were due to a "meteorological refraction", which also was un-

likely, their identification had him baffled.

However, Dr. Gascoigne said that the Professor of Physics at the University of Adelaide (Professor L. G. H. Huxley) was obtaining radar pulses from meteor trails. He was using radar to obtain information on the speed and other factors about meteor trails.

Dr. Gascoigne added that many reports had been received from time to time of strange objects in the sky, but in no case that he knew of had any worthwhile evidence that could be checked been offered.