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We saw a flying cigar, say airmen

THE crew of a Portuguese Air Lines Skymaster aircraft claimed on landing at London Airport yesterday that they saw a long cigar-like object without wings while flying between Epsom and Dunsfold on their way to London.

The radio officer of the aircraft, J. O. A. O Almeida, said that the object "was travelling at a terrific speed. In nine years of flying I have never seen anything like it.

"It was long and slim and seemed to be revolving as it flashed under the nose of the aircraft.

"It looked as if it was made of aluminium."

The pilot, Captain Durval, stated, "I do not know what it was."

'No smoke-trail'

Flight-engineer José Eilva said, "The object seemed to approach from the port side and pass right under the nose.

"To me it looked like a silver cigar. There was no smoke-trail coming from it."

An Air Ministry spokesman said, "I can't suggest any explanation."

In the past more than 95 per cent. of similar reports had turned out to be attributable to some ordinary object, such as airborne meteorological equipment, he said.

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