

SKY

space but from a laundry in Rochdale!

He went on to explain that a man working at the laundry had contacted the police and told them that, on the night in question, he had released two children's balloons filled with hydrogen. Below, he had rigged up a system of flashing lights. This, said the Under Secretary, was what had been seen.

And so the matter was apparently neatly tied up.

Or at least it was until a local newspaper interviewed the man who claimed to have released the balloon and discovered that he had no idea of how to fill a balloon with hydrogen nor how to fit lights to it. In fact, said the newspaper, he had nothing at all to do with the UFO. He had not released any balloons. This supposition was given added weight when the people who had seen the UFO insisted that it was not a balloon of any type.

Now, after officially debunking this sighting, the Air Ministry have confirmed that an investigator has been sent up to Wardle. After his researches the Air Ministry still maintain it was a balloon.

It is small wonder that the public are both bemused and amused at such complicated events.

But, in spite of all this, I do not think that we should laugh at UFOs. During my investigation I have sifted through hundreds of sightings. Many could have been anything from balloons to meteors, from aircraft to spots before the eyes. Yet, wrapped up in all these have been some which stand out. They stand out because they have been reported by reliable people and because it is difficult to see how they could be any of the things which are often mistaken for Flying Saucers.

Evidence, muddled as it is, indicates that there are unexplained objects in our skies. They may not be manned or sent by beings from another planet, but they are there.

Flight Lieutenant J. R. Salandin saw something that he could not explain on October 4, 1954. In fact, he was so shaken that he had to fly around for ten minutes before he could tell Control what he had seen from the cockpit of his Meteor fighter.

He had taken off from North Weald in Essex at 4.15 p.m. Climbing towards two other aircraft which he could see high above him, he was surprised to see two small objects, one silvery and the other gold, pass near the two aircraft. Salandin had hardly recovered from his surprise and was still wondering whether he had been victim of hallucinations when he happened to glance ahead.

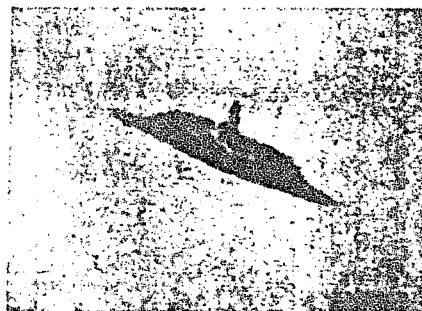
He received one of the biggest frights he has ever had. Streaking straight towards him at tremendous speed was a disc-

shaped object. In the brief time Salandin had for observation, the thing appeared to have a flange in the centre and two bulges above and below this.

The object was so near that it overlapped his windscreen. A collision seemed inevitable. Then, at the last moment, the object swerved and flashed past on the Meteor's port side.

Salandin had never before given a serious thought to Flying Saucers and even now he keeps an open mind on the subject. All that he knows is that he saw something very real up there over Essex on that October afternoon—and that it gave him a hell of a fright.

There have been many other non-sense sightings. Again in 1954, a



UFO photographed over Rouen in March, this year. Photos of UFOs are rare, never very clear. This is one of the few which seem authentic.

ings. A quick glance at the activities of the many hoaxers was enough to prove that. Take what happened in Jersey just three months ago.

Several people there saw an object in the sky. It was nothing very definite. It could have been a balloon, an aircraft catching the sun or a mere freak of the atmosphere. But it was peculiar. And it was also, according to a newspaper report, sufficient to give Mr. Reginald Queree of St. Helier, the idea of throwing a model Flying Saucer into the air and photographing it. The resulting picture was, he is reported as saying, the strange object which the others had seen.

But it was not until the picture had been published in good faith by a national newspaper, that this story was published.

"Large White Disc"

We could also laugh at the strange goings on at Wardle, in Lancashire. Here the hoaxers appear to have been at work again—but this time they operated in reverse, as it were.

It was the evening of February 15 this year when Mrs. Dorothy Fitton, a 45-year-old civil servant, looked out from her rather isolated cottage and saw a strange object moving in from the south-west. Flying quite slowly, it moved in a dead straight line.

As the object drew nearer, Mrs. Fitton could see that it was a light flashing alternately red and white. Above the light she could just make out in the darkness a large white disc—"as big as a cartwheel."

The object stopped, hovered stock-still for some five minutes, and then moved off, just as slowly and surely in a dead straight line towards the south-east. This was exactly ninety degrees from its original course. No noise at all.

Others in the village saw it. Mr. J. A. Leavey, the local M.P., heard about it and questioned those who had seen it. He was impressed and decided to ask a question in Parliament.

When the question was asked it caused quite a bit of hilarity in the House. Mr. Orr-Ewing, Air Under Secretary, said that the object did not emanate from



"Saucers are interplanetary," says the Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, editor of *Flying Saucer Review* . . .



"—but where is the concrete evidence?" asks Dr. Clifford Thornton, scientist and independent UFO investigator