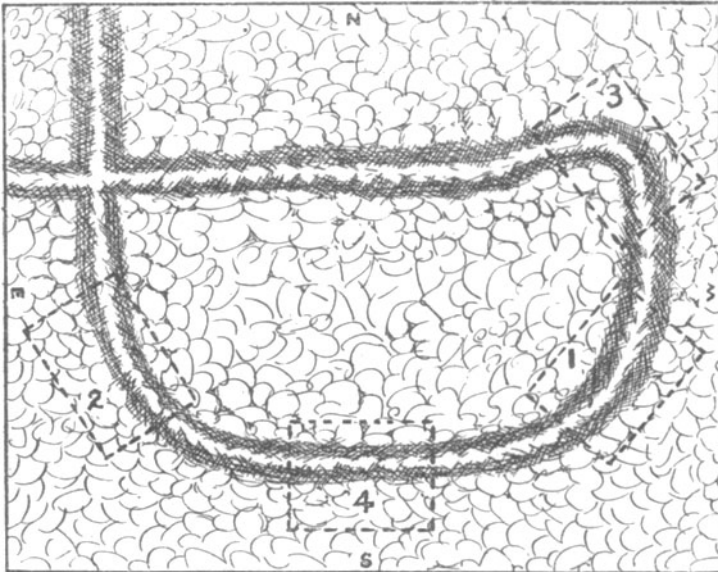


MAN-MADE CIRRUS?

At 19.00 B.S.T. on June 24, 1948, there was an exceptionally pretty sky of *Alto cumulus undulatus translucidus* at Farnborough (Hants.), the extensive cloud sheet moving from the NW. at about 50-60 m.p.h. A break in the sheet appeared and, as it approached, it became obvious that this gap was part of a long canal of blue sky in the centre of which was a long band of feathery cirrus occupying about one-third of the width of this canal and extending throughout its whole length. When the phenomenon was overhead the canal was in the shape of an enclosed loop, stretching probably 15 miles or more in an east-west direction and perhaps 10 miles from north to south. The phenomenon was visible for nearly half an hour, during which time the band of cirrus remained centrally placed in the canal of blue sky, indicating that it was at the same level as the altocumulus cloud and was moving at the same speed. The height of the cloud, which was associated with a weak warm front moving east over England, was estimated to be 18,000 feet (525-515 mb.) and the temperature about 10° F. No other cirrus was visible.

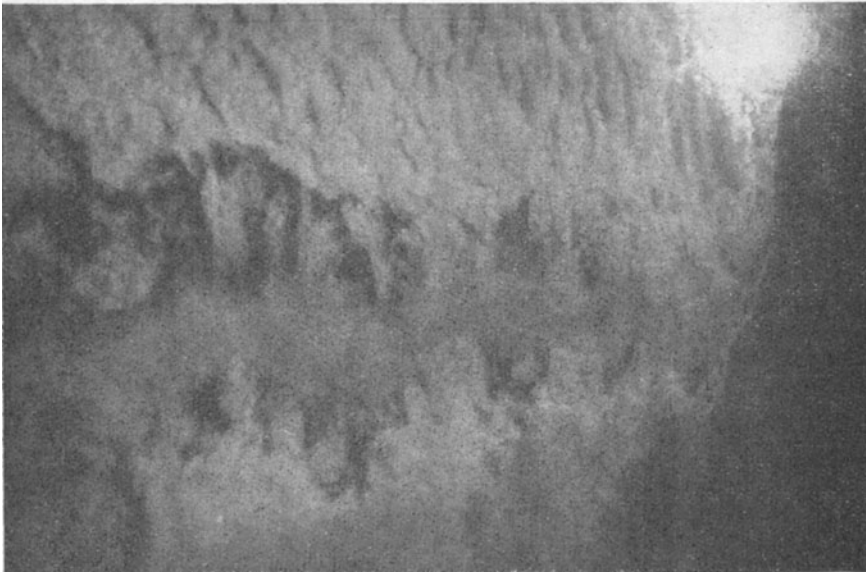
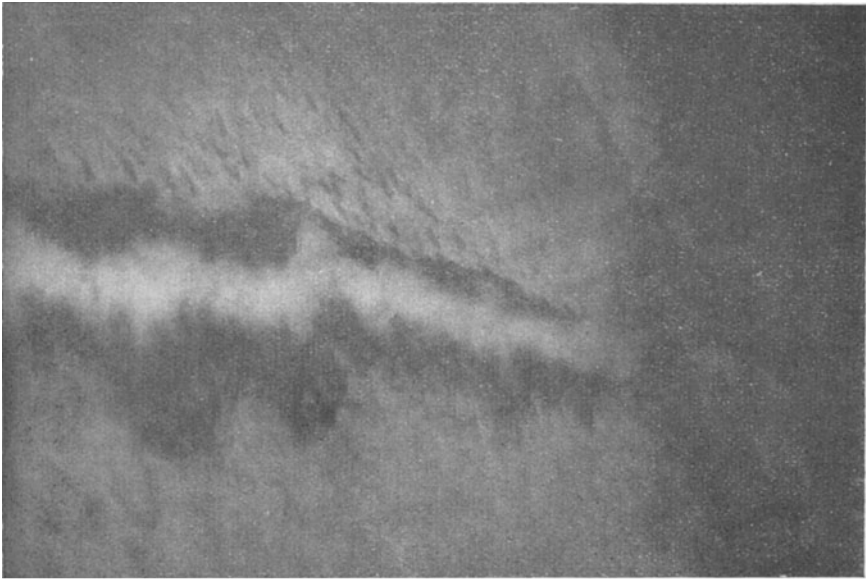


The sketch illustrates the general view of the path in the cloud sheet, and the photographs show the appearance of the clouds in different parts of the sky. The photographs are reproduced one and a half times the original size, and as the camera had a focal length of 13.5 cm. it follows that the path was about 600 yards wide.

It would thus seem that an aircraft had flown in a complete large horizontal loop in the altocumulus cloud, which was estimated to be not more than 500 feet thick, and by its exhaust heat had cleared a path some 600 yards wide, which was later occupied centrally by ice particles forming cirrus cloud.

It would be interesting to identify the aircraft and its pilot so as to supplement this description by details as to whether the aircraft was a jet or earlier type of machine and to confirm the conjecture set out above. The writer apologizes for some defects in the photographs.

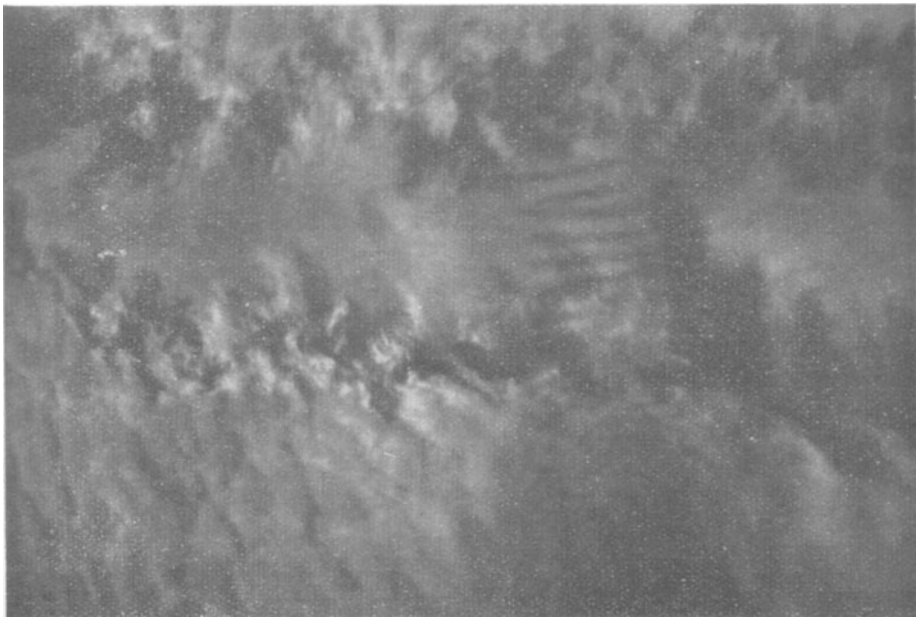
R. M. P.



General views of the path in the altostratus cloud.

Photographs by

[R. M. Poulter



Portions of the path in the altocumulus cloud.

Photographs by

[R. M. Poulter