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DISK A WEATHER DEVICE, 'SAUCER' REPORTS DROP

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weather observation devices, said it was not a balloon.

Lloyd Bennett, Oelwein (Ia.) salesman, was stubborn about the shiny 6½-inch steel disk he found yesterday. Authorities said it was not a "flying saucer," but Bennett said he would claim the rewards offered for the mysterious disks.

There were other diehards. Not all the principals were satisfied with the announcement that the wreckage found on the New Mexico ranch was that of a weather balloon.

The excitement ran through this cycle:

1. Lt. Warren Haight, public relations officer at the Tuswell base released a statement in the name of Col. William Blanchard, base commander. It said that an object described as a "flying disk" was found on the nearby Foster ranch three weeks ago by W. W. Brazel and had been sent to "higher officials" for examination.
2. Brig. Gen. Roger B. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force said at Fort Worth that he believed the object was the "remnant of a weather balloon and a radar reflector," and was "nothing to be excited about." He allowed photographers to take a picture of it. It was announced that the object would be sent to Wright Field, Dayton, O., for examination by experts.
4. Later, Warrant Officer Irving Newton, Stetsonville, Wis., weather officer at Fort Worth, examined the object and said definitely that it was nothing but a badly smashed target used to determine the direction and velocity of high altitude winds.
5. Lt. Haight is reported to have told reporters that he had been "shut up by two blistering phone calls from Washington."
6. Efforts to see Col. Blanchard brought the information that "he is now on leave."

Phone Calls From England.

Sheriff George Wilcox's telephone lines at Fort Worth were clogged last night. Three calls came from England, one of them from the London Daily Mail, he said.

Newton said four of the wind sounding devices were released daily by every Army weather station in the nation. The incident indicated the possibility that other "mystery disks" have been weather balloons reflecting the

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Wed., July 9, 1947

sun at high altitudes as they were carried along by the wind. The devices, consisting of a 50-inch synthetic rubber balloon and a star-like device that looks like a box kite, can attain a height of 60,000 to 70,000 feet. They may drift any place. High altitude pressure usually explodes them. Instruments they carry are set to break loose at medium altitudes and fall near the observation station.

In addition to the Army weather balloons, hundreds of others are sent aloft daily by government weather forecasters. United States meteorologists at Chicago said about 80 large balloons, five feet in diameter, and hundreds of others from 18 inches to two feet in diameter, were released in the nation every day.

However, the weather men couldn't agree on whether people were seeing the balloons. The Chicago forecasters said the balloons rose too rapidly. J. C. Huddle, Kansas City weather man, said he considered them a "likely source" of some of the reports.

"On a clear day, I've seen our white balloons several miles high," Huddle said. "They can be seen for a long distance and at about 600 feet high they give the illusion of moving very fast."

Psychological Explanation.

Scientists said today that the hysteria stirred up over the "flying saucers" could well mean that psychological casualties in an atomic or rocket war would far outnumber deaths from atomic bomb explosions.

Dr. Edward Strecker, director of the Philadelphia Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases, described many of the reports on the "saucers" as due to a mental condition known as "pathological receptiveness."

He said that at the beginning of the saucer episode, some persons "may have seen something, such as the glint of an airplane in fast flight." This probably led to a misinterpretation of an illusion, he said, recalling that illusions are common.

He said that the emotional state of many persons had been overactive since the first atomic bomb exploded.

Dave Johnson, aviation editor of the Idaho Statesman, reported today he saw and took motion pictures of a black object as he was flying between Boise and Ander-

son Ranch dam. Johnson said he hoped the object would turn out to be a flying disk.

Johnson, flying for the third day in search of the elusive flying saucers, said he radioed the weather bureau and asked whether the object might be a weather observation balloon. The bureau radioed back that it had no balloons in the air at that time.

"I was looking into the sun when I saw the object," Johnson said over his plane's radio. "It flashed silver against the sun and maneuvered rapidly through the sky. I was able to get only about 10 feet of film before it was gone. It was so far away I don't know whether I got anything or not before it was gone."

Iran Reports 'Starlike Bodies' That Explode.

TEHRAN, July 9 (AP)—The flying saucer spread to Iran today. Press reports from Zabol, Shosof and Sarbisheh, near the Afghan frontier, said residents there had observed strange "starlike-bodies" in the sky which exploded loudly, leaving a cloud of smoke.

The Newspaper Mehri Iran said the objects apparently had something to do with a secret weapon, which it called "V-20."

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