

New Weapon Verified By Scientist

NEW YORK, June 14—(AP)—The Herald Tribune quotes a 30 year old American scientist it says shared in the development of the secret Anglo-American weapon reported from New Zealand as saying that the weapon exists "and that first reports, although exaggerated, are substantially true."

The scientist, James Marion Snodgrass of Cincinnati, is further quoted as saying that the weapon was not connected in any way with the atom bomb and that it was not a biological weapon.

Existence of the weapon first was reported by Prof. T. D. J. Leech of New Zealand. Later dispatches mentioned a Prof. J. M. Snodgrass of the University of California as a co-worker.

Original reports said the secret weapon outrivaled the atom bomb.

The Herald Tribune says it reached Snodgrass in Cincinnati and quoted him as saying that he worked on the weapon in New Zealand and that he believed it to be a weapon of tremendous importance.

"But farther than that he would not go," the paper says. "He would not discuss its nature or whether it was for use against personnel or vessels."

The Herald Tribune quotes Snodgrass as saying the Navy holds all reports on it "although he recalled having spoken to Dr. Vannevar Bush, wartime scientific leader about it."

The paper says Snodgrass was a biophysicist and had done work on the effect of electric currents on the human body in the years that preceded the wartime work. At present he is chief engineer of the motion picture and sound division of the Payton-Acme Company of Cincinnati.

During the war, the paper says, he was associated with the National Defense Research Council and worked on biophysical problems at the War Research Division of the University of California.

Snodgrass was quoted as saying that weapon first was conceived by the British and although American naval men were not enthusiastic the British pressed the work, first during 1942 at an obscure south Pacific island, then in New Zealand.

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