FLASHING DISCS IN SKY LINKED WITH REFLECTION FROM PLANES

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NEW YORK-The reports from five areas west of the Mississippi about mysterious disc-like objects flashing across the sky agree roughly with the way light occasionally is reflected from a distant airplane.

In clear air the flash of sunlight from a plane can easily be seen 50 miles. This flash is round, the shape of the sun. Any other reflection at a great distance is also likely to be round, coming only from a small area on the plane.

Not accounted for are the speeds reported by some observers. A distant plane does not appear to be moving fast.

(At White Sands, N. M., Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner said "flying discs" reported seen in several western areas may have been jet airplanes. He said jet planes have circular exhaust pipes and that these, when heated, might give an illusion of discs.)

Reports of unusual objects in the sky have been numerous since the war. Atomic bomb and rocket rumors have accounted for most of them. Speculative stories about what may be seen in the future spread all over the world.

With those in mind, any unusual sight in the sky is likely to appear exaggerated.

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