

Army Will Drop Air Discs Probe

Washington, July 3.—(AP)—A preliminary inquiry into reports that strange "flying discs" have been whizzing at 1,200 miles an hour over the western United States "has not produced enough fact to warrant further investigation," an army air forces spokesman said today.

The official said, "We don't have a thing that would give any realism" to a report made last week by a flying Boise, Idaho, businessman. He said he saw nine mysterious objects—big as airplanes—racing over Washington state's Cascade range with a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail of a kite." Several other persons in widely scattered localities later said they had glimpsed similar objects.

The air forces spokesman said the army has no new experimental planes or guided missiles which would fit such a description. He said air forces people are inclined to believe either that the observers just imagined they saw something, or that there is some meteorological explanation for the phenomenon.

However, Wright field (Dayton, Ohio) public relations officials said the air materiel command is making an investigation of "saucer shaped" missiles seen recently in the Pacific northwest and Texas.

Describing conversations with "a meteorologist from Langley field" and with "various scientific brains around the pentagon"—all anonymous—the Washington air force spokesman said these meteorological maybes have been discussed.

(1) That solar reflections on low-hanging clouds produced spectral "flashes" which might have appeared like moving objects.

(A Washington, D.C., scientist who declined to be identified, told a reporter, however, that he does not think it possible for solar radiation to produce such a phenomenon. "Otherwise," he said, "we'd be hearing of such cloud reflections all the time. The state of Washington has no monopoly on clouds.")

(2) That a small meteor might have broken up, producing crystals of silica that "caught" the rays of the sun. (But the air forces man said that if this happened, meteoric

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

Clipped By:



jamescarrion
Thu, Sep 6, 2018