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Just Nature Cutting Up, Says Air Force of 'Saucers'

Flying Discs

Flying Discs

THE LATEST NEWS: Washington, July 29—Air Force experts said today that they are convinced "natural causes" account for the "flying saucers" which have been dotting local skies for more than a week and have been appearing intermittently throughout the country for more than five years.

Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, director of Air Force intelligence, offered the further assurance that a six-year study shows "no pattern vaguely resembling any threat to the United States."

Referring to the fact that radar screens are picking up what appear to be natural phenomena, Gen. Samford said: "I think radar is beginning to tell us a great many things it was not built to discover—for instance, about Northern Lights and atmospheric conditions after a heat wave."

Despite the reassurance, which was delivered in an atmosphere of confusion, public concern over the mystery of the skies reached an all-time high.

Twelve more unidentifiable dots on a Civil Aeronautics Administration radar scope here early today threw the city into a dither.

(Jersey City reported tracking flying disks and one observer offered a photo of an oddly-shaped chunk of light to prove it.)

The Air Force flew the experts from Wright-Paterson Field, Dayton, O., to quell the gathering alarm, but meanwhile, USAF planes were equipped with special astronomical cameras, with which it is hoped pursuing pilots may be able to take pictures of the phenomena.

Air Defense Command planes remained on 24-hour alert to chase the "interlopers" and, if possible, "shoot them down."

Today's rash of "saucers" appeared on the CAA screen from 3:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. Airline pilots who were asked to scan the skies for signs of the things reported

they saw nothing. Air Force radar equipment at a field near the CAA installation also spotted nothing.

For that reason, the Air Defense planes remained grounded, giving rise to rumors that the Pentagon somehow was surrendering to the "saucers." The Air Force took pains to deny this, and promised pursuit the next time a flying mystery is sighted with the naked eye.

Meanwhile, other responsible Pentagon officials reiterated denials that the strange aerial lights—or whatever they are—represent some new phase of U. S. military experimentation. They expressed firm conviction, too, that the things are no threat to the nation's security.

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