

Planes to Chase 'Flying Saucers'; 'Something to This,' AAF Feels

With aircraft, including a jet plane, alerted along the West Coast in hopes of chasing and explaining the mystery of the "flying saucers," an Army Air Forces spokesman here disclosed today that the AAF believes "there's something to this" but is completely mystified as to just what.

Capt. Tom Brown of AAF public relations said the tales of flat, round objects zipping through the sky are too widespread to be groundless. He pointed out that a number of competent airmen have reported seeing the phenomena that have been the talk of the Nation since June 25.

For 10 days, he declared, the AAF has been checking on the stories "and we still haven't the slightest idea what the things can be."

Meanwhile, from Washington and the rest of the country came more reports of "flying saucers" as well as a number of scientific and

pseudo-scientific explanations of the mystery.

David Atamian, 5610 Shoemaker lane, Bethesda, Md., said he saw three or four "flying saucers" traveling north at great speed at 11:45 p.m. Friday. Mr. Atamian, who described himself as a writer of poetry, said he was sure he wasn't mistaken. The discs, he said, were flying at between 1,000 and 2,000 feet and appeared to be of a bright, bluish hue.

Government sources denied that any tests are being conducted that might be the answer to the mystery. A Navy official said the Navy had checked all its facilities to determine whether any were sending aloft objects that could account for the strange sights. The answers were negative.

David Lilienthal, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, said (See FLYING SAUCERS, Pg. A-3.)

the "saucers" had nothing to do with atomic experiments.

A Los Angeles newspaper story quoting an unidentified California Institute of Technology scientist as saying the "flying saucers" must have something to do with experiments in "transmutation of atomic energy" caused a brief flurry by the institute quickly denied the report.

Dr. Harold Urey, atomic scientist at the University of Chicago, called it "gibberish" and said elements could be "transmuted" but energy could not.

P-80 fighter at the Muroc, Calif., Army Airfield in California and six fast conventional fighters at Portland, Ore., stood ready to take off on an instant's notice should any "flying saucers" be sighted in those areas. Some of the planes carried photographic equipment.

Air-Ground Search Slated.

An air-ground search was scheduled to get under way today to investigate a report that eight flying discs had landed on a mountain-side near St. Maries, Idaho, in full view of 10 persons.

Mrs. Walter Johnson, Dishman, Wash., said the "saucers" came down in timber near St. Maries Thursday evening, but were not reported until she returned to her home in Dishman yesterday.

She said they came into view at extreme speed, traveling north. Suddenly, she said, they slowed and then "fluttered like leaves to the ground."

"The mysterious part was that we couldn't see them after they landed," Mrs. Johnson said. "We could see them flutter down into the timber yet we couldn't see that they did anything to the trees."

She described them as "about the size of a five-room house" and shaped more like wash tubs than discs.

Planes to Comb Area.

Col. G. R. Dodson of the Oregon Air Guard announced a patrol would leave Portland, Ore., today to investigate the report and Sheriff

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