

MET. BALLOON WRECK THOUGHT A "SAUCER"

NEW YORK, Wednesday (AAP).—Reports that "the flying disc" has been found on a ranch at Roswell, New Mexico, during the past week and had been handed over to the Army Air Force for investigation, yesterday startled sceptics who had been laughing at reports from over 40 States that "flying saucers" were being continually sighted in the skies above the United States and Canada.

The latest messages from the Army Air Force base at Fort Worth, however, say that the object found has been identified as a weather balloon.

When the discovery was first announced considerable secrecy was maintained, and at one stage further information was refused and photos were banned because "this stock is on the high level."

Army Air Force headquarters simultaneously began investigating a report that a second object had been found and handed to the Air Force Training Command at Barksdale field, Louisiana. Louisiana police later declared that this object was "obviously the work of a prankster."

The Army Air Force said that both objects had wooden frames and officers who saw the Roswell object conceded that it "might be"

object conceded that it "might be a meteorological device."

A Fort Worth official described the Roswell object as a raywind target, used to determine the direction and velocity of a high wind. He added that there are about 80 weather stations in the United States using this type of balloon and it could have come from any of them.

Later, General Ramey broadcast to disrate the story which the discovery at Roswell touched off and confirmed that it was a weather observation device.

He added, "As for flying discs, I have never seen one."

Some U.S. newspapers have featured the experiments of Professor Cotton, of Sydney, in causing students to see bright saucer-shaped spots through concentrating their gaze on one place in the sky for 10 minutes.

Latest freak reports include:

- Two men near Johannesburg (S. Africa) reported seeing objects "the size of gramophone records flying in V formation and revolving rapidly."

- In England, a clergyman's wife said that, the other evening, she saw something "that was more

she saw something "that was more like a ring than a saucer, flying inland from the sea. It was moving like a grey shadow against the clouds."

A shield-shaped, luminous ob-

ject, "flying at tremendous speed," was reported seen over North Zealand (Denmark) by several people who said, "It disappeared behind a hill and probably fell into the sea."

First report of the flying-saucers came from Pilot Kenneth Arnold, who, while flying over the State of Washington on June 24, said he saw them flashing through the skies at an estimated 1200 m.p.h.

Army weather experts in Washington discount any idea that weather balloons of the type found at Roswell could be the basis for scores of reports of flying saucers over the country. They said that only a few balloons were used daily.