

"FLYING DISC" FOUND ON UNITED STATES RANCH WAS WEATHER BALLOON

ROSWELL (New Mexico), July 9.—The Army Air Force to-day announced that a "flying disc" had been found on a ranch near Roswell. "Flying discs" or "flying saucers" are objects reported to have been seen currently in the skies from various points throughout the United States. The disc from the ranch now is in the possession of the Army. Subsequently it was announced by a weather officer at Fort Worth that the disc was a ray wind target used to determine the direction and velocity of high winds.

Lieutenant Warren Haught, public information officer of Roswell army airfield, announced that the find had been made some time last week, and had been turned over to the airfield through the co-operation of the sheriff's office.

It was inspected at the Roswell army airfield and subsequently lent by the intelligence officer at Roswell field to headquarters. No further details have been given.

Brigadier General Roger Ramey said the battered object which previously had been described as a "flying disc" near Roswell, was being sent by air to the Army Air Force's research centre at Wright Field, Ohio.

Brigadier General Ramey, who is commander of the 8th Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas, received the object from Roswell, and telephoning A.A.F. headquarters at Washington, described it as, "of flimsy construction almost like a box kite."

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It was so badly battered that Brigadier Ramey could not say whether it was shaped like a disc. He did not indicate the object's size but said it "apparently is some sort of tin foil." He added that the A.A.F. had found nobody who had seen the object in the air.

Diameter of 25 Feet

An Army Air Force spokesman said the object apparently would have a diameter of 25 feet if reconstructed. (The rancher who found the disc said it was about 3½ feet by 4 feet).

The spokesman said the object was too flimsy to carry any person and there was no indication that it had any capacity for speed, especially the super-sonic speeds attributed to "flying discs." Furthermore, there was no sign of any power mechanism.

The Army Air Force refused to give any further information, or to allow pictures of the objects, because

tures of the objects, because this is high level stuff.

Army Air Force headquarters also are checking a report that a second object has been found and handed to the A.A.F. training command at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. The A.A.F. said that both objects had a wooden frame, and officers who saw the Roswell object believe it might be a meteorological device.

An officer at the 8th Air Force headquarters at Fort Worth quoted Brigadier Ramey as saying that the object appears to be hexagonal, covered with tinfoil or some other shining material, suspended from a balloon of about 20 feet diameter. It possibly is a weather balloon flown at a very high altitude, but none of the weather men at this base recognize it as an army type balloon."

The A.A.F. spokesman at Washington said that some "junk" had been found with the Roswell object.

Ray Wind Target

The weather officer at Fort Worth described the Roswell object as a ray wind target used to determine the direction and velocity of high winds. He added, "There are about 80 weather stations in the United States using this type of balloon, and it could come from any of them."

Brigadier Ramey, broadcasting to deflate the stories which the discovery of the weather balloon had touched off, confirmed that it was a weather observation device. He added, "As for the flying discus I have never seen one."

In a statement announcing the discovery, Colonel William Blanchard, commander of the Roswell Army Air Base, had specifically referred to the object

specifically referred to the object as a flying disc.

The Louisiana police said the object handed to the A.A.F. at Barksdale obviously was the work of a prankster.

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