

Flying saucer stories

maybe true

From NORMAN BARTLETT

PEOPLE in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States are seeing flying saucers again.

Reports and rumors about flying saucers began in 1947 and have cropped up persistently since.

In the beginning scientists and military experts scoffed at the idea and said that people who said they had seen flying saucers were suffering from hallucinations.

With a new flying saucers "invasion" under way many people are beginning to wonder whether after all flying saucers may really exist.

Last August, searchers at Baltimore, USA, found two strange, dilapidated aircraft in an abandoned barn. Air Force officers who saw them said they

Force officers who saw them said they were the probable prototypes of the flying saucers.

Each aircraft resembled a helicopter, with two saucers set together with rims touching.

They belonged to Jonathan E. Caldwell, an apparently rat-bag inventor, who disappeared about 1941. Investigators suggested that the frustrated inventor had moved to another part of the country and was sending up improved models.

"Chased dwarfs"

Soon after, two gold prospectors reported seeing a "whizzing disc" near Death Valley, in California.

One of the prospectors, Buck Fitzgerald, said: "The disc was about 24 ft. in diameter. It whizzed past us at about 30 m.p.h. It crash-landed and two little men jumped out and started running.

"The men looked human, but they were the smallest I've ever seen—like dwarfs. We chased them over the sand dunes, but lost them."

This year's crop of saucer stories also include a little man, Ray Dimmick, an American business man, who even reckons he had good authority for saying the saucers were from Mars—with Martian pilots!

However, Mr. Dimmick told reporters that he had seen the wreck of an ultra-streamlined "flying saucer" on a mountainside in Mexico.

He said the saucer was 46 ft. in diameter and the pilot—a 23-in. midget with a tiny body and a big head—had

with a tiny body and a big head—had died in the crash.

Dr. Craig Hunter, technical director of a Washington medical instrument firm, recently gave the first detailed description of a flying saucer.

He said he was driving along a road when he saw a spinning object in the air.

Pilots' report

"It was a dirty metallic color, between 50 and 150 ft. in diameter and about 25 ft. thick at the centre," he said. "It was travelling at an altitude of between 250 and 500 ft., trailing a streamer about 200 ft. long.

"I watched the disc for about two minutes. It seemed built in three concentric circular portions. The outer portion, about 10 ft. wide, had slits in it. The second ring seemed the only part which was spinning."

A few days later, two airline pilots reported having seen a flying saucer at night over Arkansas.

They were Capt. Jack Adams and his co-pilot, Lieut. G. Anderson, of Chicago Southern Airlines. They said it had windows at top and bottom, and a blinking light on top.

"We watched it for about 45 seconds, when it vanished from sight," said Adams. "It was several thousand feet above us, and travelling at 500 to 600 miles an hour.

"We firmly believe that the saucer we saw was a secret experimental aircraft—not a visitor from outer space."

Link with atoms?

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There have also been flying saucer reports from Tunisia and Algeria, in North Africa, from Hongkong, in China, and from Cairo, where Capt. Ali Basyouni, a pilot of Egyptian Misr Airlines, said he had seen three silver flying saucers over the Mediterranean 35 miles south-west of Haifa.

A few days ago in New York, Senator Clinton Anderson said he believed flying saucers had a direct relation to the United States atomic program.

The American Air Force top command has closed right down on comment. Frank Scully, who runs a column in the American theatrical magazine "Variety," believes this was done because the desk generals don't want to answer awkward questions.

"If I'm wrong," he says, "maybe they'll answer these."

His 19 questions cover all the latest serious and hair-brained ideas about flying saucers circulating in the United States just now. The 19 are at the top of the next two columns.