

FLYING SAUCERS MAY BE RADAR MIRAGES

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—Radar showed the air over Washington was full of flying objects early yesterday—but an airliner directed to one of the sightings could not find a thing. Air Force officials here raise the possibility that devices dropped from planes to jam radar may have floated this far from the Canadian border, where air exercises are in progress.

Simultaneously Philadelphia scientist Dr. I. M. Levitt has given support to the recent statement of Dr. D. H. Menzel, of Harvard, that weather conditions that cause optical mirages also cause radar and television mirages.

He is positive that as soon as Washington's present extremely hot weather changes the objects will disappear.

As many as 12 unidentified objects were noted on the national airport radar screen at the one time yesterday.

Saw Nothing

Radar operators at the airport reported scores of sightings from 1.30 a.m. to 5 a.m.

They appeared to be travelling from 90 to 120 miles an hour in a 15-mile long area.

About 3 a.m. an Eastern Airlines plane was directed into the area, but its crew saw nothing in the sky.

Dr. Levitt, one of the first

scientists to deny the existence

of flying saucers, said that the objects seen over Washington last Saturday night were mirages.

May Be "Blips"

Referring to radar "blips" which some persons believe "prove" that the objects do exist, Levitt said the "blips" for the most part were reported "distended" and could have resulted from ionized air or gaseous clouds.

Commenting on reports that they were flying in formation, he said the "blips" were uniformly spaced and that if their image was reflected on clouds or the atmosphere as a mirage they would be in similar formation.

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Also an air turbulence and the spacing of light could lend the effect of "dog fights" among the objects.

Dr. Levitt said the so-called "Durham lights" over England at the turn of the century caused quite a furore there.