

Flying Saucers Seen In Bell Jar

WASHINGTON, Thursday.

Army physicist Noel Scott, experimenting with a glass jar, has succeeded in producing fiery objects that look like some of those seen shooting through the night skies in recent weeks.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in releasing details of the experiment, said that Scott's findings were not considered a solution of all the flying saucer reports, but explained some of them and might shed light on the mystery generally.

By introducing molecules of ionised air into the partial vacuum of his bell jar, Scott reported, he created the orange-red balls, discs, mushrooms and "ice cream cones" familiar to hundreds of excited sky-watchers.

He said these miniature masses of illuminated air had sufficient body or substance to be picked up by radar.

A shower of mysterious "blips" was again seen on radar screens around Washington during a thunderstorm on Tuesday night,

but jet fighters could find nothing unusual after climbing to 15,000 feet to investigate the phenomena.

Scott used a jar three feet high and 18 inches in diameter. He pumped air from the jar to create a partial vacuum and simulate

a partial vacuum and simulate conditions in the upper atmosphere. Then, he injected several molecules of ionised air into the jar to form the orange-red fire balls.

An ionised case was a conductor of electricity, and the use of various gases would produce other colours, Scott said.

He explained that magnetic fields in the upper atmosphere varied greatly, probably chiefly in the temperate zones. It was known that the earth had a highly negative charge compared with the upper atmosphere, and that at times this produced weird electrical effects.

When a magnet, and sometimes even a human hand, was moved outside the jar the strange lights inside darted about with fantastic

speed, turning erratically, stopping suddenly, hovering or reversing direction instantly. The magnet or a hand containing static electricity broke up the magnetic fields to make the objects move at extreme speed which, said Scott, was probably why no plane had been able to catch up with the lights seen from the ground. A plane would disturb the magnetic field so that the objects would always be to the rear or in front of it.

Scott later demonstrated his technique for reporters.

A glowing column of ionized

A glowing column of ionized air, changing from old rose to purple, to blue, to a delicate orchid shade, rose like an eight-inch atomic cloud from a positively-charged plate at the bottom of the vacuum jar. When a magnet was brought close to the glass the glow hopped over the side of the jar and nestled against the magnet. The glow flickered out and reappeared in the centre of the jar.