

He Says He Saw Flying Discs---'Space Ships'

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (AP)—A Navy officer says flying saucers were seen over the White Sands, N. M., proving grounds for guided missiles last year and he thinks the discs are space ships from another planet.

The officer, Commander Robert E. McLaughlin, writes in the March issue of True magazine that saucers were seen at White Sands in April, May and June, 1949.

On one occasion, he said, two small saucers chased a Navy rocket.

At White Sands, officials said the report is nothing new and declined comment.

The Air Force, after extensive investigation, has called the discs hoaxes or misunderstandings of natural phenomena.

However, McLaughlin, identified by the magazine as a naval ord-

nance and guided missile expert, wrote in his article:

"I am convinced that they . . . are space ships from another planet, operated by animate, intelligent beings."

In its January issue, True magazine published an article by Donald E. Keyhoe, who also believed the saucers were space ships from another planet.

Said the Air Force at that time:

"Air Force studies of 'flying saucers' lend no support to the view that they come from another planet."

McLaughlin said that in April, 1949, a group of Navy men and scientists "tracked" a disc with an instrument which was being used to watch a weather balloon and chart its progress upward.

He added that data obtained indicated the saucer was about 105 feet in diameter and flew at a speed of about five miles per second at an altitude of approximately 56 miles. It was visible for a minute.

McLaughlin wrote that in May, 1949, he personally watched a flying saucer at White Sands.

"As I watched it," he recounted, "it rapidly gained speed. The object had now passed overhead and I thought it was going to fall near a ranch house two or three miles west of us. But it sputtered like a scalded cat, shot over the Organ mountains behind us and disappeared."

McLaughlin also wrote that in June other observers saw two small flying saucers flitting around a 2000-feet-per-second Navy rocket.

The discs finally speeded up and passed the fast-traveling Navy missile.

Last August, two Los Angeles newsmen reported that officers at White Sands informed them they had seen flying discs or mysterious flying objects.

Marvin Miles, aviation writer for the Los Angeles Times, and Cleve Roberts, news commentator for radio station KFWB, Los Angeles, issued the reports.

Brigadier General Philip G. Blackmore, commandant of the Upper Air Research center at that time, commented "so far as I know these reports are simply untrue. Nothing of the kind has ever been reported to me and I am sure it would have been if it were true."