

Lighted Flying Disk 'Eludes' F-51 Pilot

Second Flyer, 2 on Ground, Support Story of Chase

FARGO, N. D., Oct. 2 (AP).—A National Guard fighter pilot today told a story of a thirty-minute encounter with a mysterious flying object over this city in the darkness last night—and his account was supported by two control tower operators and another flier.

In a signed statement for Air Force intelligence, the pilot, Lieutenant George Gorman of the 178th Fighter Squadron, North Dakota Air National Guard, asserted that he chased and engaged in aerial maneuvers with a lighted, disk-like object which outran and outmaneuvered him. He was flying an F-51 fighter.

Watching him and the object with binoculars were Lloyd Jensen and H. E. Johnson, both of Fargo, control tower operators at Hector Airport here. The pilot of a Cub plane, Dr. A. E. Cannon, of Fargo, also reported watching the proceedings.

Lieutenant Gorman said he first caught sight of the lighted object at about 4,500 feet. It out-turned and outran him, for nearly a half hour until he lost it at 17,000 feet.

POSTING THE GUARD

Those Discs Again

Lt. George Gorman of the 178th Ftr. Sq. at Fargo, N. D., won't forget the night of 1 Oct. That was the night he flew into a story that hit the front pages of newspapers all over the country and brought back last year's tales of flying discs.

Gorman took off into a clear night and flew two hours with little more to do than watch the northern lights play tag. But when he brought his F-51 back over Fargo, to his left and below he saw a strange light. And here is Lieutenant Gorman's own story:

"At first it seemed like just another running light on an airplane. But it wasn't. For when seen over the lights of the town it had no wings. It was just a light. It seemed to be about eight inches in diameter.

"I watched it for a time, then followed as it circled over the town to make sure it wasn't just another airplane. Then I called the tower.

"According to them, there were no other ships reported in the area—just mine and a cub. I asked them to check National Guard operations and their report was the same.

"I reported the position of the object and went after it in a diving



Ohio has had some nasty floods in its time, and the 112th Engr. (C) Bn. is getting itself ready for duty when the next comes along. Personnel volunteered for additional training in use of DUKWs, over and above the time they spend in complying with their NGTF, and here's one crew cruising on Lake Erie.

turn to the left. It was flying at about 4,500 feet and, as I approached, the light blinked on and off several times, then brightened and picked up speed.

The Mustang was wide open but the light pulled away, keeping in a tight left turn. "It turned twice around me as I made a single circle," the lieutenant reported. "It must have been pushing 600 miles an hour."

Lieutenant Gorman said he resisted an impulse then and there to go home and count fingers and toes. "It is hard," he said, "to believe your own eyes when something with no wings walks off and leaves you standing still."

The tower had seen the light, too, and was checking it through binoculars. The glasses showed the fighter pilot making a head-on shot at the light. The rate of closure was terrific.

The lieutenant said he "ducked as the object passed over and made a climbing turn to the left. I pulled around again, trying to cut it off. No luck.

"We went through another head-on pass with the object taking the initiative. At 7,000 feet we both pulled up but the object did the better job. It climbed to 17,000 feet. I pulled up so quickly the F-51 hit a high speed stall but got to 14,000 anyway. I leveled out but didn't try to get above that point. No oxygen."

Then the light came back to Lieutenant Gorman's altitude. He turned, dropping to 11,000 feet, where the light made a quick turn and tried another head-on pass. Then, in a flash of speed, it went straight up and out of sight.

Said the lieutenant, "I don't mind the abrupt parking. I spun out and went home."

What makes this story so different from earlier reports of flying discs is the testimony of tower operators Lloyd Jennings and H. E. Johnson. Both made statements to



CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH MARTIN, JR. center, Speaker of the House listens to an air control intercept mission on a field telephone conducted at Camp Edwards, Falmouth, Mass. by the 67th Fighter Wing, Mass. Air National Guard recently during their second postwar two week summer encampment. Lt. Col. Charles W. Hedges, right, A-2 Officer is explaining the operation to Speaker Martin. Also looking on is Rep. Richard B. Wigglesworth, extreme right who was among the important Federal and State Officials who conducted a tour of inspection of the Officers and Men at the Camp.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

the effect that the light outran the Mustang.

Next there was the report of the Cub pilot. Dr. A. E. Cannon of Fargo said he watched the chase both from the air and ground. And he's an optometrist.

All four persons identified the object as a round light, perfectly formed, with no rays leaving its body.

Lt. Duane Lund, squadron PIO who rounded up the story for us, said the engagement left pilots of the 178th hopeful that they would see the object again—all that is, except one.

Lt. George Gorman isn't planning a repeat performance.