

Mystery Planes Never Identified;

'Los Angeles Battle' Aired

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 29. — (INS)—Fourth Air force headquarters in San Francisco aired details today of the mysterious "battle of Los Angeles" on the night of February 24-25, 1942, when as many as five unidentified planes drew fire from southern California anti-aircraft batteries.

On the night in question, air raid sirens aroused the area's 3,000,000 residents, searchlights pierced the skies and anti-aircraft guns blasted

away at the unknown planes for five hours.

The official Fourth Air force history—compiled from hitherto secret documents—revealed that positive identification of the planes was never established and also explained why interceptors were not sent up.

The official report of Lieut. Gen. John L. DeWitt, the Western defense commander, explained that American planes were not sent up because only 45 U. S. aircraft were available and they were held in

readiness for a possible large scale attack.

General DeWitt did not rule out altogether the possibility that the planes were Japanese.

He pointed out that on the evening of February 23, a Jap submarine shelled oil installations at Elwood near Santa Barbara, Calif. He said:

"My belief is that those planes could have been launched from submarine somewhere close into shore under our detectors."