

15 p.c. of 1000 Flying Saucer Reports Not Explained

DAYTON (Ohio), July 18.—About 15 per cent. of approximately 1000 reports of flying saucers received in the last four years could not be explained. A United States Air Force spokesman said last night.

Jet fighters equipped with radar had been sent up, but none had yet made contact with a saucer, said Captain E. Ruppelt, of the Air Technical Intelligence Centre at Wright Patterson Air Base who is conducting an investigation into the reports.

Ground radar had tracked some unexplainable aerial objects, believed to have been travelling at speeds of from 1500 to 2000 miles an hour, but no one had reported seeing these, he said.

Capt. Ruppelt added that none of the sightings mostly reported around atomic bomb centres had resulted from atomic bomb blasts or cosmic ray and guided missile research.

Capt. Ruppelt has spent many hours tracing down reports which have been increasing in the last few weeks and has found many to have natural explanations. Of the 1000 reports, 38 per cent. were meteors of other heavenly bodies, 15 per cent. balloons, 22 per cent. birds and aircraft, 2 per cent. hoaxes, 10 per cent. too nebulous to classify as actual sightings, and 15 per cent. unexplained.

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Capt. Ruppelt said that no physical trace such as a piece of wreckage had been found following the receipt of a reported sighting.

The investigation started in 1948, but was dropped for a short period the following year. It was revived late in 1949. "We are firmly convinced that persons making these reports actually see something in the sky," said Captain Ruppelt.