

# **“FLYING SAUCERS” STILL A MYSTERY**

**NEW YORK, July 18 (A.A.P.).—About 15 per cent. of about 1,000 reports of “flying saucers” received in the past four years cannot be explained, a U.S. 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. J. Ruppelt, of the Air Technical Intelligence Centre at the Wright-Patterson Air Base, Ohio.

Captain Ruppelt heads a team investigating “flying saucer” reports.

He said that ground radar had tracked some unexplainable aerial objects, believed

to have been travelling at speeds of from 1,500 to 2,000 miles an hour, but no one had reported seeing these.

None of the sightings, mostly reported around atomic bomb centres, had resulted from atomic bomb blasts, or cosmic ray and guided missile research.

Captain Ruppelt has spent thousands of hours tracking

down the reports, which have been increasing in the last few weeks, and has found that many have natural explanations.

Of the 1,000 “saucers” reported, 38 per cent. were meteors or other heavenly bodies, 13 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. remain unexplained.

## **NO PHYSICAL TRACE**

He said that no physical trace, such as a piece of wreckage, ever had been found.

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.