

'Flying Saucer' Still Unsolved

About 15 per cent of approximately 1000 reports of "flying saucers," received in the past 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. J. Ruppelt of the Air Technical Intelligence Centre at the Wright - Patterson air base, who is heading an investigation into the reports.

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, he said.

Captain 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.

Captain Ruppelt has spent thousands of hours tracking

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

Of the 1,000 reports, 38 per cent were meteors of 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 unexplained.

Captain 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.