

Send-off for a "flying saucer"

MELBOURNE, Tues. — Dr. V. C. Hopper, leader of the cosmic ray research team at Melbourne University, today invited newspapermen to see the birth of a "flying saucer."

He released a hydrogen-filled balloon eight feet in diameter.

Its aluminium-coated undercarriage carried photographic plates.

The balloon, of a type used in cosmic ray study, shot upwards at 1000 feet a minute and soon disappeared.

Dr. Hopper appealed to any person who found the apparatus after its flight into the stratosphere to return it to him at the atomic physics laboratory,

atomic physics laboratory,
Melbourne University.

59 sightings

He said that last year the University recovered about 90 per cent. of the balloons released.

But so far this year they had released four and recovered only two.

The Civil Aviation Department has received 59 reports of flying saucers in Victoria in the last week.

The reports had come from all parts of Melbourne and from scattered country areas, an official said.

An ex-R.A.A.F. man, Mr. Allan Brown, of Hamilton, 197 miles from Melbourne,

had reported that last Friday night he saw in the sky a bright object like two saucers with the top one inverted.

His wife, a member of the W.A.A.A.F. during the

war, had also seen the object.

They said that the object was very bright, its brilliance suggesting powerful electric generation.