

# "Flying Saucer" Claim Called "Utter Balderdash"

AAP And Our Special Representative

LONDON, June 2.

"Utter balderdash" is the Civil Aviation Ministry's opinion of a statement by the US author Maj. Donald Keyhoe that the British blamed a flying saucer for the Comet crash near Calcutta last year.

In his book "Flying Saucers from outer Space," Maj. Keyhoe says "Several times these weird machines have come dangerously close to planes. Evidence shows one such approach led to a tragic disaster."

Maj. Keyhoe asserts "For days experts analysed the strangely battered wreckage. Then the Air Ministry gave out a guarded statement that the Comet had been hit by an unidentified flying body."

A Civil Aviation Ministry official says: "There never was any such suggestion and neither we, nor the Air Ministry, made any statement that

the Comet might have been struck by an unidentified flying body."

"Unidentified flying objects" are official Anglo-American descriptions of

American descriptions of flying saucers.

WASHINGTON, June 2. —Air Force officials said yesterday that reports of "flying saucers" had fallen off swiftly since 1952. They believed that more scientific investigating and better public education were responsible.

So far this year only 87 "sightings" had been reported, but the "flying saucer season" — which coincided with the July-August meteor showers— was just coming in. Reports of "flying saucers" increased when meteors were most common.

The Air Force received 1,700 reports of sightings in 1952. Last year the figure fell to 429. If the present rate should hold up throughout 1954 the total would drop to 208.

The Air Force said it still was unable to explain about 10 p.c. of the sightings. The idea that some drift in from outer space still received some attention, but the Air Force said it had no such evidence

"No object, or particle of an unknown substance, has been received and no photographs of detail have been produced," the Air Force said.

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