

NEW YORK, Sunday.

EVER since Kenneth Arnold, 30-year-old, ordinary business-man pilot from Boise, Idaho, touched off the "flying saucers" mystery by reporting, on the afternoon of June 24, 1947, that he had seen "nine shiny discs like metal hub-caps flip-flapping along at about 1,200 m.p.h." only one fact seems quite certain.

Nobody has yet proved definitely that such things do or do not exist.

Air Force finding

THIS includes the U.S. Air Force, still investigating reports about "celestial crockery," though officially last December, after checking 375 cases, it closed down "Project Saucer," a special investigation group of Intelligence officers with headquarters in Ohio.

At that time it was stated in a blanket turn-down that all reports were:

Misinterpretation of "con-

ventional" aerial objects. These included giant experimental cosmic-ray balloons, radar target balloons with dangling strips of aluminium foil, meteor trains, wisps of or whole vapour trails from high-flying aircraft, bright planets.

2. Mild form of mass hysteria.
3. Hoaxes.

But steadily, from 1947 up till a few days ago, reports of curious objects that "go whizz in the air" keep on coming in from all over the United States.

They have now been reported from 43 out of the 48 States, with the majority coming from the south and east and near the Mexican border.

They have also, of course, been reports from other parts of the world, from Scandinavia, Africa, China, the Far East.

The objects allegedly seen here have ranged from the now almost conventional flying disc or "saucer" sometimes with "fuzzy" edges, or lit up at night, to torpedo-shaped wingless "space ships" showing regular

rows of lights in the ~~dark~~ and orange flames coming from the tail.

Sometimes they have been reported shaped like tubes, pillars, spheres.

But two facts seem to remain constant. They are all said to be either white or silver, and to move across the sky in an undulating way, tilting first in one direction, then the other, rising and falling, before finally disappearing into nothing or over the horizon.

Pilot's chase

ONE U.S. Air Force pilot, Capt. Thomas Mantell, lost his life some months ago trying to catch up with something that looked like "a silver ice-cream cone topped with red."

An experienced war-time pilot, with several thousand hours' flying time, Mantell was in his fighter plane leading two others near Fort Knox, Kentucky, when the control tower at his airbase, Godman Field, radioed him to try to locate a strange object sighted from the ground and moving in his direction.

Mantell later called back that he had spotted the "thing" at "12 o'clock high" (directly ahead and above him), and that it looked like a silver ice-cream cone topped with red.

His air-to-ground conversation was logged at the air base and I have checked it. He later reported:

"I'm closing in now to take a good look. It's directly ahead of me and moving at a good speed. The thing looks metallic and is tremendous."