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# Legendary herald for the royal birth

By Dennis Barker

ANCIENT superstitions that royal births are heralded by strange objects in the sky may be borne out by the experience of the crew and passengers on a Dan-Air jet flying from Gatwick to Corfu.

While the Princess of Wales was in labour at St

Mary's Hospital, Paddington, they saw a doughnut shaped object in the sky over Italy.

"It was a black shining object, about the size of a car," said Captain Len Swaiger, aged 52, of Tickerage Castle, Framfield, near Uckfield, East Sussex. "It was rather doughnut shaped and appeared to be flat bot-

tomed. We all watched it for about a minute."

"In ancient times," a Dan-Air spokesman said yesterday, "legend had it that a royal birth was heralded by strange sightings in the sky. Even in this age of more sophisticated radar, some things still go unexplained."

The British UFO Research Association will investigate the sighting, but its national investigations coordinator, Miss Jenny Randles, said cautiously: "There is nothing inconsistent with this having been a weather balloon. At 23,000 feet it could well have been distorted because of the atmospheric pressure."