

- 4 NOV 1988

# Village beat 'lit-up'

TWO Tenterden policeman are among local people who have reported encountering weird lights and "flying saucers" during the past week.

P-c Normal Sells and P-c Robin Buxton were on duty at Gascoigne Corner, High Halden, at 3.45 am on Thursday of last week when the whole of the night sky became as bright as daylight.

The phenomenon lasted between three and four seconds and they reported it to the operations room at police headquarters in Maidstone. Reports were also received from other observers at Deal, Sheerness and Sittingbourne.

The previous Sunday, teenagers Joanna Dickinson and Julie Jessop were walking near Julie's home at Woodlands Caravan Park, Biddenden, when they saw a strange object which they described as a flying saucer.

Oval shaped and with four bright white lights, it displayed a bright red light in the middle. They thought it was flying at about 500 ft and was emitting a deep hum. While they were looking at it it suddenly shot vertically into the evening sky and disappeared. They also believe that the object interfered with the telephone as the line went dead.

A third sighting took place on Thursday of last week when Stephen Button, the brother-in-law of another Tenterden policeman, saw a strange blue object.

He was driving between the Three Chimneys pub at Biddenden and the Smarden Road when a "blue ball" appeared and gave the impression of coming down to earth.

When he first spotted it he thought it was between 50 ft and 100 ft from the ground and as it descended it disappeared behind a line of trees. He thought it was going to land to the north of the road.

The sightings were reported to RAF Manstone who said they had passed the information on to the Ministry of Defence, their usual practice.