

- 3 FEB 1989

UFO RIDDLE OF BLUE FIREBALL

A FIREBALL flared in the night sky over the Weald on Tuesday and then disappeared, leaving a UFO mystery.

The first sighting was reported at 6pm by a Charing man who phoned Headcorn aerodrome to see whether one of its aircraft might have come to grief, but none was airborne.

Fifteen minutes later two more separate sightings were reported by a man from Amhurst Bank Lane, Pembury and by Mrs Penny Cazzola, of Bainton Cottages, Brenchley.

The Pembury resident told police that the fireball flared with a bright turquoise light, then exploded and disappeared.

Mrs Cazzola, who was driving from Horsmonden to Goudhurst, said she suddenly saw a bright light straight ahead of her.

"I wondered if it was a plane but it was just too big and it was also quite rounded. It then dropped quite quickly and disappeared behind the horizon.

"When it fell it left a trail of very light bits, rather like a rocket does when it had just been launched" she said.

Asked whether she believed in UFOs — unidentified flying objects — she replied "I have a distinctly open mind. Something definitely fell out of the sky, so where is it now?"

Television South, based in Maidstone, said they had received a number of calls on the subject and telephoned the police at 7.35pm notifying them of the report.

A spokesman at Biggin Hill air traffic control said he had also heard of the report. He said that all local flying clubs had been contacted but there was no suggestion of any aircraft in distress.

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He said: "There was a lot of fog up in this area and so there was not much flying at all. We just can't place where this ball of light came from."

Mr Chris Freeman, owner of Headcorn aerodrome, was also at a loss as to what the fireball, heading in a westerly direction, could have been.

"We had nothing airborne at all. The only thing I can suggest is that it was a light aeroplane which was having trouble with its exhaust system. Quite often when planes have that problem they emit bright sparks, but if that was the case I don't know where it could have come from," he said.

● Last October two Tenterden policemen encountered weird lights and "flying saucers" while on duty one October evening. They said the lights, which lasted for about four seconds, lit up the whole sky as if it was daytime.