

M... group of people keep watch on a hillside... wondering if they may catch a glimpse of The Thing.

Others listen for a noise which sounds "like tiles sliding off a roof," or watch for glowing lights in the night sky.

The Thing is claimed to be responsible for scores of unusual "happenings" at Warminster, Wilts.

And wild talk of beings from space has frightened some of the people who live in the small market town.

To calm their fears, the local council chairman, Mr. Emlyn Rees, is calling a "public meeting of enquiry" tonight.

Said Mr. Rees yesterday: "My main object is to reassure people. If these things are from outer space, then they have never done any harm to anyone."

The first "odd occurrence" was reported last Christmas when the town's head postmaster, Mr. Roger Rump said he was awakened by a rattling noise which sounded "like tiles falling off a roof."

He got out of bed to investigate, but could not find anything wrong.

HUMMING

At about the same time a woman reported hearing a humming and a sound—"like grit being unloaded from a lorry"—while she was walking to church.

The sound grew louder, she said, and then passed over her head.

Herbalist David Holton has heard of several "happenings."

Some pigeons fell lifeless to the ground after flying across the path of the sound, he claimed.

Last April a family reported hearing the noise, and a mother said her young daughter was "partially paralysed" by it.

The following month Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marson, of Hillwood Close, Warminster, were woken by "crackling" sounds, as if sacks of coal were being tipped on to a roof.

Then several dead mice, riddled with tiny holes, were found near the Marsons' home.

Mrs. Marson said she had heard similar sounds three times in one day.

After The Sound came The Glow. The rector of Heytesbury, the Rev. Graham Phillips, and his family reported seeing a glowing, cigar-shaped object high in the sky.

DISAPPEARED

Said Mrs. Phillips: "It appeared to hover for half an hour then became shorter, as though turning on its axis, and disappeared."

Twenty people in the village, which is four miles from Warminster, claim to have seen the object.

About four weeks later, 22 people said they saw a flying object like "two red-hot poker on top of each other."

Mr. Arthur Shuttlewood, a local newspaperman who has been covering the reports since they started, said last night:

"The Thing could well be a secret military development which the Army or Air Force have to keep quiet about."

But the Army, and R.A.F. who have extensive installations—some secret—in the area, deny responsibility for "The Thing."

Squadron-Leader Tim Woodman, who investigated 100 "flying object" reports in 1951, said yesterday: "I believe this hysteria and mass hallucination starts only when there is someone to falsely interpret these things."

He added: "There are no flying saucers, space-ships or unidentified flying objects visiting the earth from other planets."

"They'd hardly just sit up there making weird noises over Warminster."

Two years ago an 8ft. crater appeared in a field at Chariton some miles from Warminster.

RUMOURS

Rumours said that a spaceship had landed and taken off in the field. But later it was discovered that the crater was the work of hoaxers.

UNIDENTIFIED "Things" have also been reported by scientists in South America.

Dr. Mitrovan Zucrov, a Soviet scientist working at the Chilean Observatory in Carro Calan, said something "unknown to our understanding" was orbiting earth.

The observatory's director, Professor Claudio Anguita, agreed, and added: "We are not alone in the universe."

A colleague, Professor Gabriel Alvial, hinted that some governments knew what was going on—and were keeping silent.

He said: "It is lamentable that governments have drawn a veil of

THING IN THE SKY Baffles A Town

By ALAN ROGERS

A 'RED HOT' WORRY IN WARMINSTER, WILTS

If all goes according to plan, a spy post will be set up just outside Warminster, in wild and lonely Wiltshire, this month, to keep an eye on The Thing From Outer Space.

The Thing—described variously as a blood red ball of light or a red hot poker—has been sighted, claim the local citizenry, at least thirty or forty times since last Christmas.

In an otherwise dull summer, it has become Warminster's most hotly-debated topic.

So hot at times, in fact, that the chairman of the Urban District Council, Mr. Emlyn Rees, has called a town meeting for tomorrow to give people a chance to say in public what they have been growling about in private.

A confrontation, so to speak, of the "Cranks" and the Unbelievers.

The idea of a spy post will be put to the meeting by the man Mr. Rees has called in for a spot of expert guidance:

Mr. John Cleary-Baker, Doctor of Philosophy, a British Railway claims inspector and "evaluation officer" of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association.

Evidence

"I hope people will carry out weekend duties at the post," he says.

With cameras and tape recorders they should be able to get some valuable evidence on the intruders."

His own view of the Warminster Thing:

"It obviously represents the activities of some alien craft of an advanced technology—but whose, and from where, I couldn't hope to say yet."