

# 'Lights in sky' start scare

NEWS OF THE WORLD REPORTER

A MYSTERY "light" travelling slowly westwards across Kent and Sussex last night, caused scores of people to alert police-stations in both counties.

GPO switchboards in East Sussex were jammed by almost 100 calls to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Earlier the RAF had been sufficiently interested in the "thing" to send up a helicopter from Manston, Kent.

But a Ministry of Defence spokesman admitted last night: "It could only get up to 5,000ft. and it was impossible to establish definitely what the 'thing' was."

Police at Bexhill, Sussex, reported that the "thing" was silvery in appearance at about 30,000ft. Police at Lewes saw it "quite clearly" an hour later passing over their headquarters.

Just before midnight at Newhaven, Sussex, the "thing" was seen to be joined by another over the harbour. Both hovered overhead for more than an hour before moving slowly out to sea.

But a Ministry of Defence spokesman exploded a creatures-from-outer-space theory by explaining soberly: "We believe them to be Continental weather balloons which have been blown over here and are now being blown back."

