

THING IN THE SKY STARTS A BIG SCARE

THE THING shot out of the dusk last night . . . bright, white and mysterious. And all over the Kent coast traffic stopped, people stared and phones rang.

At Folkestone, a caller told police: "Quick, the Martians are here—and I'm not joking."

Another man phoned the Folkestone coastguard and said: "Please tell my daughter it's safe to go to bed."

The Thing was spotted 6,000ft. above the sea off Ramsgate about 8 p.m.

It hovered just off the coast at Deal. It floated across the sky at Lydd.

Fete

And it was not until a helicopter was sent from Manston, Kent, to investigate that The Thing's identity was revealed. It was . . . a **BALLOON**.

A police spokesman said that the balloon probably came from a fete at Dagenham—where a hydrogen-filled barrage balloon exploded and burst into flames last night.

Shrieking parents and children ran for their lives after the explosion at the end of a parachute-jumping display in Central Park.

No one was hurt. An inquiry is to be held.