

A NIGHT OF FLASH AND SPLASH

Pilots tell of mystery fire balls

Evening News Reporter

Scores of people on the ground, in ships, and in aircraft reported a mysterious "ball of fire" shooting across the sky early today.

The UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) was seen shooting over the Kent coast towards France.

But airline pilots over the Channel and hundreds of people in France, Germany and Switzerland reported clusters of the objects, streaming trails of light across the sky.

The U.S. Air Force said that brilliantly lit flying objects were sighted at three air bases in West Germany—Ramstein, Spangdahlem and Sembach.

A spokesman said the objects "looked like they had flames coming out of them."

Hundreds of eyewitness reports from all over Switzerland described the objects alternatively as round, cylindrical or cigar shaped, or as apparitions of light.

Trail several miles long

They crossed over the country at high speed, leaving a red luminous trail several miles long. The entire phenomenon lasted no longer than 50 seconds.

The Geneva airport weather observatory said the phenomenon might be the result of the light of the descending moon crossing electrically charged clouds, or simply a small comet passing over Europe relatively close to the earth.

In Paris, messages flooded into the control tower at Orly Airport.

Weather office officials in Paris said they could only suggest the objects were meteorites.

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