

## EUROPE REPORTS FROM LAND AND SEA WHAT THE RADAR MISSED

# Night sky riddle of the lights

Evening Standard News Desk

**M**ystery balls of fire speeding through the sky were seen over many parts of Europe today. The accounts often referred to a "squadron" of the objects.

The reports ranged from as far east as STRASBOURG on the Franco-German border to DEAL in Kent and NANTES in Western France.

There were also sightings of the strange objects, with flames trailing, from ships in the North Sea and to the South all over Switzerland.

There were many reports from captains of aircraft on widely dispersed flights and from three U.S. Air Force bases in Germany.

The coastguard at Deal, Mr. Eric Swales, who saw the objects through his binoculars, said they appeared to be a satellite breaking up.

He was flooded with telephone calls. Several people thought an airliner was crashing, but no aircraft was reported missing.

The sightings mostly reported the objects as travelling in a northerly direction, varying from north-west to north-east. But some said the objects, "going very fast and very high" were travelling towards the south-east.

### Cylindrical

Scheveningen Radio station broadcast a May Day message that the British ship Yewdale, 10 miles west of the Goeree Lightship reported a burning aircraft near the Dutch coast.

None of the objects was sighted on radar screens, said French military authorities.

Off Dieppe the crew of the French cross-channel ferry Valencay spotted several objects, including one group of five resembling orange lights.

Other ships, including the Trinity House pilot-cutter operating off Folkestone, reported a "burning aircraft" going in a south-easterly direction to disappear over the French coast. Some ships reported it was visible for two minutes.

The objects going south-east were also reported from hundreds of sources all over Switzerland, who described them alternately as round, cylindrical or cigar shaped.

### Vivid

A homegoing worker in the Paris suburb of Villemomble said he had just left the railway station when the object appeared. "It was radiating a vivid light tinted orange. It followed a general direction south-east to north-west then silently disappeared over the horizon," he said.

A spokesman said: "From what we heard there was a very luminous object leading a group of two others which were about

the same luminosity as a distant medium-sized star.

"It was followed by a formation of three other medium-sized "stars" travelling at the same speed and following the same course."

Later further reports came from Belgium, Luxembourg and the Bordeaux area of south-western France.

Heathrow Airport control tower said it had received no reports of flying objects.

*Peter Fairley writes:*

Since there are no reports of strange creatures stepping out of spaceships this morning and extending a clammy hand of friendship, it must be assumed that the UFOs were either pieces of a large satellite which had broken up or a minor shower of meteors.

One such shower—known as the Alpha Capricornids—is normally seen around this time of year low down on the southern horizon.