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# Venus

Evening News Reporter

**U**nidentified Flying Objects were reported again today over southern England.

Reports came from police in Sussex and Oxfordshire, and from a wing-commander and his wife in Hampshire.

Some reports said the UFOs were similar to the "Flying Cross" which police in Devon said they saw yesterday.

Mr. George Terry, the Chief Constable of East Sussex, talked to officers who reported seeing UFOs — and then said that in his opinion it was a bright star, or the planet Venus.

## 'NOT ALARMING'

"I don't want people to think that something horrible was happening," he said.

"I am perfectly satisfied there is nothing very alarming at all, and it does not match up in any way with what we are told was seen in Devon and Cornwall."

Today's first report came from a former RAF pilot, Wing Cmdr. E. A. Cox, of Penton Paddock, Hyde, Hampshire.

He said: "I was driving from Fordingbridge to Cadnam last night when my wife spotted seven brilliant lights in the sky about three miles away.

## 'THEY MERGED'

"As I looked up I saw three of the lights dissolve into the distance, leaving four lights which seemed to merge into a brilliant cross.

"I thought at first they were helicopters with landing lights on. But the lights were far too brilliant, and I was told by police later that no helicopters had been flying in the area.

"I have done quite a bit of night flying and studied different types of lights and flares, but I have never seen lights like this before."

At 4 a.m. today PC Bryan Cawthorne, aged 28, on motor cycle patrol between Ringmer and Halland, saw a bright light in the north-east.

## 'MOVING SLOWLY'

"I thought it was a star at first, but it was much too bright," he said. "I stopped the bike and watched it. As I studied it closer, I saw it was like a cross.

"It seemed to be hovering. I lined it up with a telegraph pole, and then I could see it was slowly moving back and forth."

PC Cawthorne radioed his headquarters at Lewes, and other officers also reported seeing the object.

Mrs. Patricia Backerley, aged 25, of Montgomery Avenue, Kinson, near Bournemouth, reported seeing a UFO at 5 a.m.

She said: "It was quite low and was radiating so much light that it was difficult to tell the shape."

## 'DARK-COLOURED'

At 7.50 a.m. two car patrol policemen radioed their headquarters at Kidlington, Oxfordshire: "We have spotted two strange unidentified objects."

The officers, who were patrolling the Spelsbury to Chipping Norton road, reported two "very dark-coloured shaped objects at a height of 500 to 600 feet, heading north."

Checks were made with RAF and U.S. bases but police were told no aircraft were in the air at the time.

The Ministry of Defence department that collates all UFO reports was asking Service chiefs and the Meteorological Office if they knew of anything that could account for the reports.

## 'NOTHING UNUSUAL'

A spokesman at the Royal Observatory, Hurstmonceaux, Sussex, said: "Nothing unusual was reported by our observers last night.

"The planet Venus — the brightest light in the sky — rose in the east at about 3.30 a.m. It might have been visible through cloud, and appeared to the inexperienced observer to be below it."

"The planet would have hung around until dawn before rising to height and disapp-