

Yes, something strange flits about up there

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object was sighted over Southern England, the Royal Observatory cautiously admitted last night.

They dismissed an earlier theory that a "flying cross" reported by a respected amateur astronomer was the planet Venus.

Said an Observatory spokesman: "There is obviously some good evidence now, that there is something flying around up there.

"As it was very cloudy when this sighting was made at Hastings, it is certain that the bright object was on this side of the clouds, and that there is something up there which is not a star or a planet."

The object's movements also made it "highly improbable" that it was a man-made satellite.

DENIAL

The spokesman added that they could give no explanation of the object "because if it is not astronomical it does not concern us."

But they have passed all the available information on the sighting to the Ministry of Defence.

A Ministry spokesman said last night: "This reported object was apparently 40 deg. to 50 deg. south of the position of Venus at the time. The report

about up there

SAY ROYAL OBSERVATORY

is being investigated, along with the information we have of other sightings."

He denied suggestions that the objects were a British "secret weapon."

The amateur astronomer who caused the Royal Observatory announcement is 25-year-old Peter Baker, of Milward Crescent, Hastings, Sussex.

He said yesterday that the sighting was made at about 6.40 a.m. on Wednesday—"in the south-eastern sky, a terrifically bright object in the shape of a cross.

"I watched it for about half a minute. It was much larger than Venus and emitted a silver-white light, which gradually diminished in size and eventually disappeared."

The Hastings sighting is not many miles from the "bright light" reported by two police patrols.

SHINING

More sightings of mystery lights in the sky were reported yesterday as far apart as Dartmoor and Dulwich.

Two shining objects appeared in Devon at almost the same spot where a "flying cross" was spotted there on Monday.

One of the policemen who reported the new sightings was Police-constable Roger Willey, who was concerned in Monday's incident.

First they saw a "bright object, travelling low in the sky" for about a minute at 2.5 am. when his patrol car was near Okehampton.

Three hours later, the car was travelling towards Hatherleigh, with one of its crew changed, when for "a matter of seconds" they saw a bright object which they described as "a cross, travelling at a fast speed at tree-top height in the direction of Holsworthy."

BRIGHT

Two mystery lights over Gloucester were reported at dawn by Mrs. Gillian Hyett, of Highnam, who watched them for an hour with her eight-year-old daughter, Susan.

Gloucester meteorological office said that from the description of the objects and their movements it was "out of the question" that they were weather balloons.

At 3 am. yesterday an East Dulwich woman told police she had seen "a bright object in the sky." The police officer who investigated the call said he had also seen a bright, cross-shaped object in the sky

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