

RAF jets 'chase mushroom in sky'

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Science Editor

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy claimed that he saw two RAF Lightning jet fighters chasing a mushroom-shaped object across the sky yesterday.

The object, which appeared to be out-pacing the 1,500 mph. Lightnings, disappeared into cloud over Winchester, Hants.

Timothy Robinson, of Pitt Corner, Winchester, who told of the chase, said: "The objects had no lights or exhaust."

This latest report in the great Unidentified Flying Object scare came as the Ministry of Defence were giving an explanation for previous "fiery cross" sightings.

The Ministry and the U.S. Air Force said the "fiery crosses" seen on Thursday night in the West Country were "definitely" mid-air refuelling exercises carried out at night by American planes.

UNEXPLAINED

A U.S. Air Force spokesman said their giant tanker aircraft, which refuel several planes at the same time, were equipped with powerful lights for night operations.

The fuel pipes illuminated by the lights would form a fiery-cross shape in the sky.

He added that no tests were scheduled for last night.

The Ministry of Defence denied that any Lightnings were in the Winchester area yesterday when Timothy Robinson spotted the "flying mushroom."

But Timothy said last night: "The planes I saw were Lightnings. I checked them with a reference book."

SIGHTINGS

Despite the Defence Ministry explanation of Thursday's "fiery cross" sightings, they have not been able to explain other mysterious flying objects seen in many parts of Britain this week.

Yesterday's sightings included a "cross-shaped" object seen by several policemen at Stalybridge, Cheshire; a "cigar-shaped" object seen by three policemen at Bacup, Lancs.; and another cigar-shaped object seen by a bus-driver at Saltdean, Sussex.

And at Anglesey, North Wales, Farmer Owen Haws and his family were awakened by a noise "like a BBC time signal, only a hundred times louder."