

Mysterious Lights Flash Over Sydney

They crossed the State from north-west to south-east, passing over Coonabarabran, Kandos and finally Sydney.

Sightings came also from many parts of the central west, including Orange, Molong and Bathurst.

The objects shot across the State between 7.45 p.m. and 8 p.m., and an estimated 200 callers immediately jammed the "Herald" switchboard reporting "white heads and long red tails."

An Orange man, Mr K. McIntosh, who took sightings on the lights, said they appeared to

be travelling at between 18,000 and 20,000 miles an hour.

The course was consistent with that followed by Russian satellites.

Mrs L. Ford, of Donoghue Street, Kandos, said: "They appeared to be like meteors.

"As they flew across the south-east, they appeared to break up."

Mr and Mrs E. Williamson, of 18 May Street, Hornsby, said they saw four to six lights flashing across the sky as though they were running along invisible wires.

Mr R. J. Morris of Pacific Highway Mount Colah, said that

he saw the lights travelling towards the city, in "formation."

"The lights looked like small comets—they were coloured yellow, with short trails which looked like sparks," he said.

"They appeared to be a lot higher than the altitude at which airliners fly."

Mr H. Richardson, of Leppington said: "It was a weird sight. No sound, just a steady movement of eight lights in close formation. Too fast for planes and too slow for a meteor. I just couldn't make anything of them."

Spoken for the Civil Aviation Depart-

ment and R.A.A.F. Air Traffic Control, at Mascot, said they also received many reports of lights flying at high speed over Sydney.

"We did not see them but we can definitely say that no R.A.A.F. or civil planes were flying in group formation as the light-sighting reports indicated," they said.

The lights passed almost overhead as 50 members of the Astronomical Society of N.S.W. were meeting at Belfield Observatory.

The director of the observatory, Mr Gordon Patston, said later that all the amateur astronomers had seen the lights, and dozens more people had telephoned about them.

Mr Patston said the lights, of which most observers counted about eight, were seen 30 degrees above the horizon 25 degrees west of north.