

Extract from
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Moving light ³⁴⁰⁴ in the sky puzzle

DID South Wales have visitors from space last week?

A Cwmbran courting couple, Mr. John Tanner, 21, of Cocker Avenue, and his girl friend, Miss Dianne Burden, twenty, of Fields Road, think we may have done.

At about 10.45 in the evening they were walking near Dianne's home when they saw a strange yellow light moving across the sky.

Dianne, a laboratory assistant, whose hobby is astronomy, told the South Wales Argus: "I have never seen anything like it before.

"There were not many clouds about, and the light was moving

well above them. It was some distance away, so it was hard to get an impression of size, but I am sure it was not an aeroplane."

At the time, John, a student of politics at Swansea University, thought the object might be a weather balloon, but as he was on his way home an hour or so later he saw the light again.

"This time it was moving in the opposite direction, so it could not have been a balloon. It was about the brightness of a first-magnitude star."

A Ministry of Aviation spokesman at Rhoose (Glamorgan) airport said they did not have any aircraft in the area at the time. "In any case, civil aircraft do not show a yellow light."

A spokesman at R.A.F. St. Athan said that as far as they were aware there were no military aircraft in the area at the time, and no weather balloons.

After reading a South Wales Argus account of the sighting, a Newport man, Mr. Thomas Young, of Beechwood Crescent, says: "My family saw it, too.

"At about 10.30 on Monday night we saw a yellow light, like a big star, pass from one side of the sky to the other, travelling very fast.

"We watched it for about ten minutes before it went out of sight."

Mrs. Marlene Insley, of Granville Close, High Cross, told the South Wales Argus: "My husband was watching Jupiter through a telescope on Sunday evening when he called my attention to a bright moving object in the sky.

"It first appeared in the north-west and moved across the sky at a constant height and velocity, finally disappearing in the south-east.

"The time of transit was about 15 minutes."

Satellites

One reader, who would not give his name, believes he has the answer. "I think they are satellites," he says. "On a clear evening you can usually see three or four because they reflect the sunlight.

"I live in the country and often see them going over towards the east, although there are some that travel the other way."

Another who claims that he saw the object in the sky is 14-year-old Peter Moseley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Berwyn Moseley, of Rhymney.

Peter says: "I saw it moving slowly across the sky and at times it seemed to change direction. It looked like a golden ball. I thought it was a satellite and called my mother and father to watch it."