

'Soupbowl' in the sky put 20 villagers in a spin

THREE POLICEMEN called in after villagers claimed they had seen an object in the sky like a flying saucer said last night there was no doubt the sightings were genuine.

Police were called after the object was reported by at least 20 people on a housing estate at Croespenmaen, Crumlin, in Monmouthshire.

The bright orange object appeared in the sky on Thursday night in the north-west in the direction of the Brecon Beacons, and changed rapidly in colour and size, said the witnesses.

Disappeared

It was in the sky for about two hours, finally disappearing when an aircraft flew overhead.

A spokesman at Glamorgan (Rhoose) Airport said last night that two Cambrian Airways Viscounts had landed at the airport at about the same time and could have passed over the area where the object was sighted.

Western Mail Reporter

But as far as he was aware nothing unusual was spotted on the airport's radar.

The Crumlin area lies directly beneath Green One—the corridor for aircraft flying between Britain and America—but a Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said pilots in the area at the time had not reported anything strange.

The object was first spotted at 8.30 by Mr. Robert Phillips, aged 24, a plumber, of Meadow Walk, Croespenmaen, who was on his way home from Oakdale.

He watched it for about 30 minutes through a telescope borrowed from a neighbour, and then phoned the police.

He said the object looked like an "inverted soupbowl with dark rings underneath it which appeared to be spinning." Three times it disappeared at the approach of an aircraft, but on the third occasion it did not return.

One of the policemen called to the scene, Sergeant Clive Williams, of Blackwood, said he saw an orange red circle in the sky which

seemed to turn over to a cone-shape

"Its colour changed from red to white and green and it moved away rapidly," he said. "I revisited the site in the morning and it must have been something in the sky for there are no mountains obstructing the view."

All officially reported Unidentified Flying Object sightings are investigated by the Ministry of Defence in case there are any defence implications, such as foreign aircraft.

Baffled

Of the sightings reported in 1971, 160 were aircraft 28 were satellites or space debris, and 11 were balloons.

Another 62 were meteorological and natural phenomena, and 27 turned out to be either flares, fireworks, lights on tall buildings, or flocks of birds. But another 58 sightings could not be explained.

FOOTNOTE: In Taree, New South Wales, Australia, a UFO which had baffled scientists and panicked animals was identified yesterday . . . the planet Venus.



● Children who saw the mystery object look hopefully for a reappearance last night. With them is Mr. Bob Phillips, who reported the sighting to the police.