

PR Thomas

COMMENTARY

By MATTHEW CHAPMAN

ON A CLEAR summer's afternoon a glider pilot is circling slowly in the skies above RAF St Athan in South Glamorgan with only a gentle breeze disturbing his progress.

Suddenly to his right he sees a large flash in the sky and looks over expecting to see another aircraft flying alongside him. Instead he saw what he later described as a small black, egg shaped object, stationary in mid-air several hundred yards away from him.

"The object remained in position for no more than a minute, then it literally vanished into thin air," the glider pilot later wrote in a report on the sighting.

The incident has been classified as a sighting of an unidentified flying object, which means although it may not have been an alien spaceship nobody has any other feasible explanation.

The 31-year-old Newport pilot



MYSTERIES IN THE SKY: These bright objects were filmed by a TV camera crew over New Zealand.

Close encounters with the unexplained

was lucky in having another witness to the same object. An air cadet flying nearby also saw it hovering above the RAF station's control tower.

"After the object disappeared we scoured the sky both with binoculars and the naked eye; this was no balloon, aircraft or weather device I have ever seen before," the pilot wrote later.

Sightings such as the one

which took place over St Athan on September 15, 1991, are common throughout Britain and Wales has its fair share of unidentified flying objects

Just back from Wiltshire, having captured on videotape her own unexplained sighting, Kerry Blower is kept up to date with almost every incident reported in Wales. From her home in Cwmbran she makes regular

forays across Wales as the local representative of the British UFO Association, cross-examining the latest witnesses to strange goings on in the sky.

For years now the Welsh have been visited, buzzed, frightened and even abducted by UFO's, if hundreds of witnesses are to be believed.

Ships of all shapes and sizes have been seen hovering over

towns and villages:

- September 23, 1982, two policemen report having seen a "star like" UFO land at Monmouth, the third incident in Gwent that week.
- February 17, 1978, strange quartz like crystals said to change colour and generate heat drop from the sky during a severe hailstorm over Haverfordwest.

- January 20, 1983, six separate sightings, including two by policemen, of a giant triangular object hovering and then moving over the Llandaff area of Cardiff.

Recently Kerry Blower went skywatching in the Wiltshire countryside with her husband and a friend and witnessed what she says was one of the most extraordinary sights of her life.

Late at night as the group were looking for satellites in the night sky they saw nine bright spots of light hovering and apparently revolving some way away from them. Kerry always carries a camcorder with her wherever she goes and one was on hand to capture the sight.

For those who are mystified by the UFO phenomenon it is of little comfort to know that Kerry herself has no explanation for what she saw. "I don't know what they were but at the moment I just want someone to give me some answers," said Kerry.