

MYSTERY 'BALL OF FIRE'

Sighted Over East Scotland

The suggestion that an aircraft had exploded in the air, that it was a meteorite, or even a U.F.O., was advanced after a mystery 'ball of fire' was seen over East Scotland on Tuesday evening.

The bulk of the sightings came from the Ladybank and Cupar area although there were also reports from as far apart as Arbroath, Carnoustie, Dundee, Largs, and Glenrothes.

Dozens of reports poured into R.A.F. Leuchars.

A spokesman for the Station said "Nearly all the reports we received spoke of a white

trail of smoke such as you would normally see from an aircraft, which turned black and finally exploded.

"Some said there was a ball of fire and others spoke of a bright light.

"The report we attached most credence to came from a person in Ladybank who said he had seen a bright flash in the sky followed by a bang.

"A Nimrod aircraft from R.A.F. Kinloss was under the control of Leuchars at 5 p.m., the time the reports started to come in, and it was diverted to carry out a search.

"Nimrods are limited to an altitude of not less than 2000 feet over habited areas, and this hindered the search.

"The Nimrod reported seeing a fire on the ground near a farm outside Ladybank.

"The rescue helicopter from Leuchars was scrambled but the fire turned out to be no more than a burning farm tip.

"A sector search of the area between Ladybank and Cupar was then begun by the helicopter.

"The Nimrod was released when cloud cover prevented it from being effective."

The helicopter was also eventually recalled.

Mrs Grace McKay, 24, Grampian Gardens, Arbroath, reported seeing a ball of fire travelling "very low and fast" in the sky just before 5 p.m.

She called her husband through to see the object and they watched it until it vanished as suddenly as it appeared.

Both agreed, however, it was travelling too fast for an aircraft.