

TWICE

# PHONE MEN PCs report a UFO 'like a big plane'

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by IAN MCKERRON

FIVE policemen were among witnesses of an unidentified flying object over Dumfries early yesterday.

And at a special Press conference last night one of them said: "I'm still sceptical about UFO's but I'm totally baffled."

Residents on a council estate and workers at Dumfries infirmary also reported seeing lights in the sky which hung just below cloud level for about 20 minutes.

Sergeant Bill McDavid, who drove three miles into the countryside to get a closer look, said the UFO was shaped like an airship with five or six white lights looking as if they were from different compartments.

Because of the darkness he not see an exact outline but his impression was of a cigar shape.

He estimated that he drove to within a mile of it and it was not more than 500 feet above the ground. It was visible for almost an hour.

"It was certainly larger than an aircraft in the sky," he said.

Prestwick air control was informed—but Sgt McDavid said they seemed sceptical at first because they had no sign of it on radar.

All the police officers who saw the UFO said that the lights were all white—though other witnesses said they were different colours — and that while the UFO seemed to be hovering it was in fact moving very slowly north-west wards. There was no sound.

The local police station was flooded with calls.

## Suddenly

Police constable James Smith, who was sent to investigate, said: "I never believed in UFO's up to now. There was just no explanation for this cluster of lights."

Graham Brockie, 17, of Dunlop Avenue, Lochside, Dumfries was on his way home when he spotted the U.F.O.

He said: "It suddenly appeared in the sky. There were four or five lights in a cluster, they were red, yellow . . . all colours. At one point it seemed to be going round and round."

The first reports of the mysterious object were made to police at just after 1 a.m.

by Mary Blyth, 22, and her sister Vicky, 19.

Mary said: "The lights appeared from nowhere. We just stood and stared at it in amazement."

During the past three years a number of sightings of UFO's have been reported in south-west Scotland — particularly around Dumfries and 20 miles away at Moffat.

Stuart Campbell, a well-known UFO investigator, said from his Edinburgh home last night: "The description is consistent with past sightings and I have no doubt these people saw a UFO. There is no question of hallucination."

"I am very familiar with the description of the oblong shape and coloured light pattern. These witnesses obviously saw a UFO."

"There have been recurring reports of sightings in the area and also around Dundee. But no one knows what the object might be."

A spokesman at Glasgow weather centre said last night that it was not unknown for bright light to be reflected in the sky, especially if there was a low cloud base.

But he added: "If light from the ground is reflected in the sky it is usually just a yellowish glare. I have never heard of a cluster of coloured light in the way that has been described."

# THROW LIGHT ON UFO

RW-

**POLICE think they may have solved a flying saucer mystery.**

Reports of a UFO flooded in from around Dumfries.

Five police officers and 20 other people witnessed the oblong-shaped cluster of lights.

But last night the GPO said they could have caused the flap.

By FRANK RYAN

Engineers had been working early on Saturday morning on the brightly-lit microwave radio station at the top of the 750ft Riddingshill.

explanation for what the police saw."

Many eye-witnesses spotted the object hovering above the hill.

A spokesman at Dumfries police HQ said: "This could very well be the explanation."

"The engineers were working at the station with lights on until about 3 a.m. and there was low cloud in the area."

## CLOUDS

A post office engineer said: "The hill was about 200ft. in cloud at the time. The bright lights of the station could have been seen intermittently from below."

I am sure this is the