

WE SAW A UFO SAY 5 POLICEMEN

by IAN McKERRON

THROUGH the swirling clouds and drizzling rain the "thing" suddenly appeared—a magnificent cluster of coloured lights.

Late-night revellers on their way home stared skyward in amazement as it hovered just below the low cloud base.

It was large, very large. For a full 20 minutes its brightness lit up the sky near the town of Dumfries in southern Scotland. Then it vanished over the hills.

Reaction

But before the mysterious flying machine—a "classic" Unidentified Flying Object, according to an expert—disappeared it was witnessed by five policemen despatched to the scene after the local police station had been flooded by telephone calls.

And Dumfries police took the unusual step last night of laying on a news conference with two of the policemen who saw the UFO.

Sergeant Bill McDavid, 39, said his first reaction was that it was shaped like an airship with five or six white lights looking as if they were from different compartments.

Because of the darkness he could not see an exact outline but his impression was of a cigar shape. He drove to within a mile of it and it was no more than 500 feet above the ground. "It was certainly larger than an aircraft in the sky," he said.

His colleague, P-c James Smith, said: "I never believed in UFOs up to now.

Amazed

"It was raining at the time and the cloud base was very low. It remained stationary for about 20 minutes, then vanished over the hill to the west."

The first reports were made to police 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."

A spokesman at Glasgow Weather Centre said last night it was not unknown for bright lights to be reflected in the sky, especially if the cloud base was low.

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. I have no explanation as to what these people might have seen."

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