

PCs report a UFO 'like a big plane'

SUNDAY EXPRESS 31/8/80

UFO mystery in Scotland

there was no sound with it," said the spokesman. "There have been other reports, but we tracked them down to car lights. This one could definitely not be explained." Some people who sighted the object told police it was a series of clusters of lights which hung just below cloud level for about 20 minutes before vanishing.

REPORTS of a large unidentified flying object over the town of Dumfries, Scotland, early this morning have baffled police. Residents on a council estate in the town and workers at Dumfries Infirmary reported sighting an object, said a spokesman for Dumfries and Galloway police. "It was apparently oblong in shape, well-illuminated, but

31st Aug 1980

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."

No such thing as UFOs? Rubbish say believers.

I AM fascinated by the Sunday Mirror series about UFOs. But I'm infuriated by members of my family who scoff at the idea of aliens from outer space.

There are so many stars out there, some MUST be inhabited.—J. Sellers, Coventry.

☆ You're not alone, John

I SAW a huge, silver-coloured object from my bedroom window early one morning. I wasn't dreaming, either, because other people saw it and rang the police.—M. Boardman, Failsforth, Lancashire.

I'M sure I saw a UFO over my home

town just last month—but how can you convince people?—R. H. Lewis, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. 2/80

SUN MIRROR 21/8/80
(Response to Stamfordville Incident)

SUNDAY EXPRESS 31-8-80

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."