

SUNDAY MAIL 28/9/80

UFO

RIDDLE OF RED LIGHT IN THE SKY

RW
CRAZY!

SCOTLAND went U F O crazy last night as a strange glowing light appeared in the sky.

The orange coloured streak of light was seen by people from Stirling and Glasgow to the Borders.

And it was no illusion. The Sunday Mail switchboard was jammed with callers describing the same thing: A long, thin beam of orange or red light hovering in the night sky.

Some callers described it as "cigar shaped" and saw "red flashing lights" coming from it.

And last night baffled experts were trying to work out exactly what it was.

The Air Traffic Control at Glasgow Airport said they had had only one plane in the area and the pilot hadn't reported seeing anything.

And Glasgow Weather Centre said they were inundated with calls from anxious U F O-spotters. But they didn't have a clue what it was.

"We have taken bearings from the calls we have received and it appears to be over Grangemouth," said a spokesman.

"It sounds as if someone is shining a strong light up into the sky. But I have no idea who would be doing that."

Other U F O-watchers thought it might be flames from an oil terminal at Grangemouth, but most callers said the light was too bright and long to be a flame.

Other suggestions were that a bright-light—perhaps sodium street lights—was shining off low cloud. The moon was also blamed for a reflection, again on low cloud. But nobody seemed to know.

TV astronomer Patrick Moore had his own theory last night. "It could be a very bright light reflected off low cloud," he said.

"It certainly ISN'T a flying saucer.

"If it is anything astronomical it can only be an aurora. That's caused by charged particles from the sun striking the Earth's atmosphere and making the upper atmosphere glow, like the Northern Lights."