

Meteorite theory in UFO riddle

By MICHAEL BROWN

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object whizzed over Britain on Christmas night and sent hundreds of people rushing for their phones to warn the police and RAF.

From Cornwall to Yorkshire the calls flooded in. A policeman from Cookham, Berkshire, was first.

He reported: "I've just seen a strange object pass overhead at great height and speed. It had a tail and was followed by a group of smaller bright objects."

Dover Coastguard reported the same thing, so did the police in Brighton, Essex, Devon and Cornwall. It had been travelling in a north-easterly direction, very fast.

Later reports from the Yorkshire area said the UFO seemed to have blown up and disintegrated.

But last night experts dismissed the UFO as "almost certainly a meteorite breaking up."

Meanwhile amateur astronomer Roy Panther, a 54-year-old printer, of Walgrave St Peter, near Northampton, claims to have discovered a near comet while star gazing in his garden on Christmas Night.

Bbs: CK: Paul S. Serefor
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That was no UFO, it was a meteor

By MICHAEL BROWN

HUNDREDS of people phoned the police and RAF on Christmas night warning that a UFO was whizzing across Britain.

First of the calls came from a policeman at Cookham, Berkshire.

He reported: "I have just seen a strange object pass overhead at great height and speed. It had a tail and was followed by a group of smaller bright objects."

Dover Coastguard reported the same thing. So did police at Brighton, Essex, Devon and Cornwall.

Fear

Later, reports from Yorkshire said it seemed to have blown up and disintegrated. Flight-Lieutenant Mike Best, of the RAF observation centre at West Drayton, Middlesex, said: "The initial fear was that a plane might have blown up."

"But nothing showed on radar, and we assume what people saw was a meteorite STARGAZER Roy Panther yesterday claimed the discovery of a new comet — the first from Britain for 15 years. Mr. Panther, 54, who lives near Northampton, said: The comet is in the constellation of Lyra, and is about 100 million miles from earth."

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