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DAILY EXPRESS Saturday, December 27 1980

# 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."