

Strange lights seen over Tyneside

E.C.

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STRANGE lights in the North-East sky last night excited the region's UFO spotters . . . but they were probably meteorites.

RAF Boulmer and Metro Radio received reports of sightings of blue-white lights from Tyneside and Wearside.

Sales representative, Mr. Reg Chapman, of Bekeley Square, Gosforth, saw them at 4.40 p.m.

"This group of lights suddenly appeared from behind a big bank of black cloud," he said. "There were all moving quite fast and in a straight line south-west to north-east in an arrow head-type formation. I counted 12 or 13."

Mr. Chapman, aged 55, said his wife, Doris, 11-year-old son, Chris and sister-in-law, Mrs. Lillian Murray also spotted the lights which were in sight for about 20 seconds.

"Eventually they just faded away," he added. "The lights were moving faster than any jet fighter but I don't think they were going fast enough for a meteorite."

Another eye witness, Constable Keith Bottomley, of Hexham police, said he saw eight to ten bright lights high in the sky.

They were travelling very fast and left behind what appeared to be fluorescent trail.

There were several other sightings.

An RAF spokesman said two or three meteorites had been expected to enter the earth's atmosphere around the time the lights were seen.