

"UFO's OVER SHAPINSAY"

TWO unidentified flying objects were sighted over Shapinsay early on Monday evening.

Kirkwall joiner Jackie Davidson and his apprentice John Allan were leaving their workshop at Hatston, at around a quarter past five, when they saw the objects.

The UFOs appeared out of clouds above Shapinsay and were dark grey in colour and much larger than planes, they said. One was of an oval shape and may have been spinning while the other was of a more angular design.

Visible for around ten or 15 seconds the UFOs were roughly a quarter of a mile apart. Travelling considerably faster than a plane, they came out of the clouds at a position between Balfour Castle and Shapinsay lighthouse. They seemed to head towards Hatston briefly before returning along the same route back into the clouds.

OUT OF THE CLOUDS

Speaking to "The Orcadian" on Tuesday, Mr Davidson, Summerdale Drive, Kirkwall, explained: "We had just finished for the day and were about to jump into the van when I saw the UFOs come out of the clouds over Shapinsay. I wondered if I was seeing things, but then my apprentice, John said 'Look, what's that over there' "

"One was an oval shape and the other had a kind of delta appearance. They seemed to head towards Hatston, but then they went back again and disappeared into the clouds.

"We jumped into the van and drove down to Hatston slip to see if we could see them again, but they were gone."

John Allan, who lives at Laverock Road, Kirkwall, remembered the UFOs as "sort of oval shaped grey things, slightly darker than the clouds they came out of. We saw one very clearly. It was definitely bigger than a plane, much deeper and wider."

Orkney Coastguards in Kirkwall could give no explanation of the sighting and said that no reports of UFOs had been made to them. They also pointed out that there had been no Coastguard exercises in Kirkwall or Shapinsay that could account for the sightings.

The Civil Aviation Authority at Kirkwall Airport, who were involved in the one-day Civil Service strike on Monday, reported no UFO sightings.

Similarly, the Met Office saw nothing unusual, although they pointed out that a light seen in the sky by someone in Deerness on Thursday had been identified as a star.

Shapinsay Post Office said that they had not heard of any unusual sightings on the island.

However, if sightings of the Shapinsay UFOs were limited, Mr Davidson and Mr Allan saw them very distinctly. It will be interesting to see if any explanation can be found for this "close encounter of the third kind."