

David Jacobs sparks BBC chaos

# Shirley and the amazing UFO riddle



SHIRLEY—in UFO's path

■ AN amazing UFO Close Encounter involving broadcaster David Jacobs and politicians Shirley Williams and Jonathon Porritt set Britain buzzing yesterday.

■ HUNDREDS of sightings emerged nationwide after David described the brilliant ball of

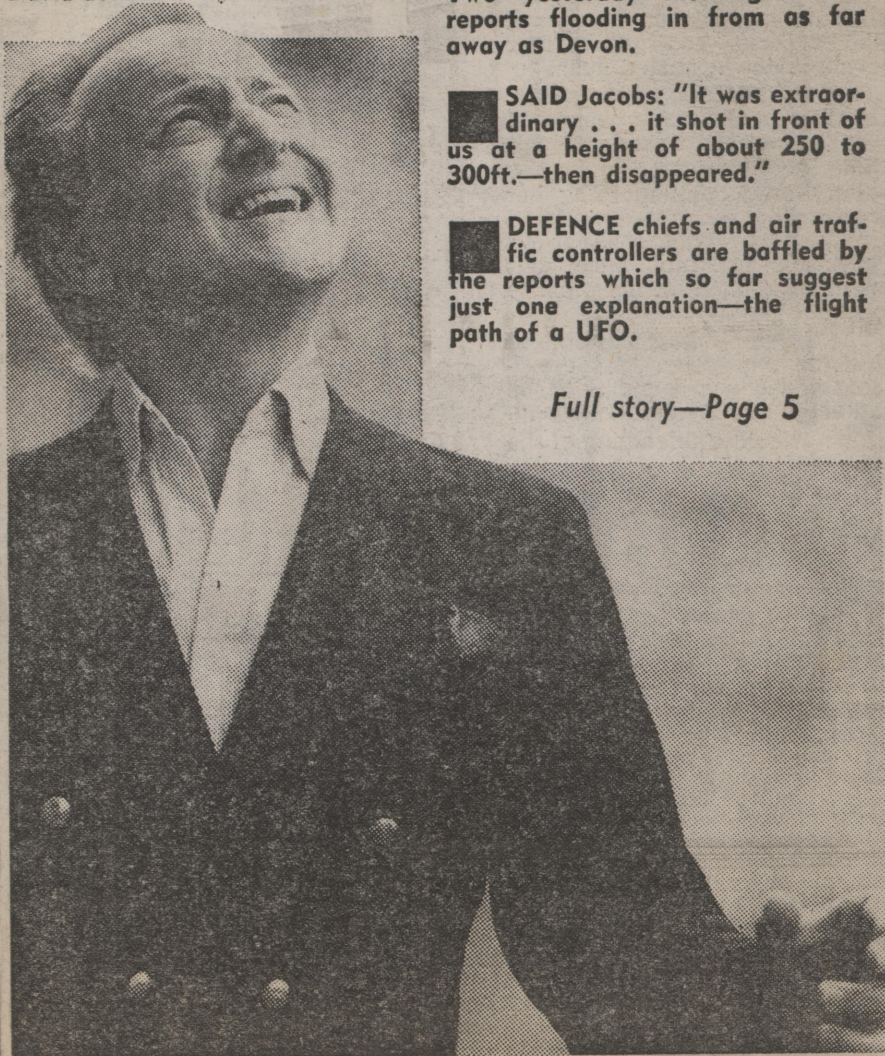
white light which crossed the path of their car as the startled trio travelled to London from Nottinghamshire on Friday.

■ BBC switchboards were jammed after David told of his astonishing experience on Radio Two yesterday morning—with reports flooding in from as far away as Devon.

■ SAID Jacobs: "It was extraordinary . . . it shot in front of us at a height of about 250 to 300ft.—then disappeared."

■ DEFENCE chiefs and air traffic controllers are baffled by the reports which so far suggest just one explanation—the flight path of a UFO.

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DAVID JACOBS yesterday—a close encounter

Picture: MICHAEL FRESCO

# DJ DAVID STIRS UP UFO FEVER

**UFO fever hit Britain yesterday, after a Close Encounter by radio star David Jacobs.**

Callers jammed BBC switch boards after Jacobs mentioned briefly on his Radio Two show that he had seen a mysterious ball of light as he travelled to London on the M1.

The callers reported similar sightings—and, pieced together, they gave the path of the "UFO" as a great swathe from the West Country to the Mid-

**By STEVE BAILEY**

lands and beyond.

Jacobs was returning from the 35th Any Questions anniversary programme in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, with panelist, politician Shirley Williams.

He said: "It was extraordinary. I've never seen anything move so quickly.

"Suddenly, a brilliant white light with a 'tail' shot from left to right in front of us, at a height of about 250 to 300 feet—then disappeared."

The spot where 57-year-old Jacobs saw the light was between M1 junctions 21 and 22 in Leicestershire,



## Trail of the UFO

**It went this way? The UFO path plotted from spotters' calls**

stretched up into Derbyshire.

There were so many that the popular broadcaster had to appeal to people to stop telephoning Broadcasting House as the switchboard could not cope.

The incident left many questions unanswered...

Air Traffic Control at nearby East Midlands International airport recorded nothing on their radar to account for the sighting.

And the Ministry of Defence in London—where a UFO log is kept—said it had had no reports. Nor, a spokesman added, had Britain's early-warning tracking station at Fylingdales recorded the incident.

Did Jacobs believe in UFOs? He said later: "There's no way I would close my mind to anything like that—and this is the first time anything like this has happened to me."

at 10.30 pm on Friday night.

His driver saw the phenomenon, too, and thought it might have been a shooting star.

Jacobs said: "It was travelling too low and too fast for that to be a possibility." Shirley Williams and fellow panelist Jonathan Porritt missed

the light from their rear seats.

Shirley said: "David was clearly taken aback. He gave a sharp intake of breath, and his first words were 'My goodness. That's impossible'."

Listeners' calls confirming or adding to Jacobs' sighting came from as far away as Devon and