

Foolish Officers

A CLOSE encounter of the constabulary kind faced two young bobbies yesterday after they reported seeing a UFO.

The glowing, spinning craft hovered over their Panda car in the early hours. When it vanished, PCs Ian Walmsley and Chris Evans rocketed back to Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, to alert senior officers.

They authorised a major UFO hunt, but soon the two star-struck constables were brought back to earth with a bump.

Air traffic controllers at Manchester Airport blew the spaceship theory sky high by revealing that what the officers had seen was a British Airways Tri-Star jet arriving from New York.

Their embarrassing

Rocket for two PCs with stars in their eyes

Express Staff Reporter

revelation did not amuse senior officers at Greater Manchester Police HQ, who refused to comment.

Bizarre

Nor were officials at Manchester Airport, who were bombarded with calls from UFO spotters, very happy.

Said an airport spokesman:

"Those two officers

were obviously sat under the flight path."

But PC Walmsley, who lives at Cheadle Hulme, was still not convinced.

He said: "I've seen hundreds of planes and this didn't look like one."

A bizarre twist to the space mystery came yesterday from an eminent UFO researcher.

He revealed: "It's not the first incident reported in the last couple of weeks."