

14 OCT 1988

# A balloon!

FURTHER to your article 'UFO: DOGS HOWL' may I please add the final part to the story.

The UFO incident was reported to me at 9.58 pm on Sunday, September 18, 1988. It referred to an unidentified flying object which was seen over Pinchbeck village at a high altitude. Red, white, and green lights were seen to come from the object, and although there was no obvious means of propulsion, the object was seen to move slowly towards the north-west.

The night was clear, the stars were clearly visible and there was a bright, three-quarter moon.

Unfortunately, this incident clearly illustrates the problems which face witnesses — and investigators, when estimating height, distance and object size, during the hours of darkness.

The strange appearance, and behaviour pattern of this object created an illusion which confused the witnesses, who were then unable to differentiate between a phenomena, and simple logic.

The witnesses had no clearly defined points of visible reference, i.e. aircraft identification lights allied to rapid movement; the sound of aircraft engines; recognisable

shapes, etc. etc. It was therefore natural that they would be puzzled by what they saw.

The answer to the enquiry came on Friday, September 23, 1988, at 10 pm. An object was seen over Pinchbeck, to the west of the village, and at first glance, appeared to be high in the sky. Red, white and green lights came from the object, and although there was no engine noise, it was seen to move at a slow speed (almost imperceptible movement) towards the west by north-west.

There was a bright three-quarter moon; the stars were clearly visible, but on this night there was a point of reference — cloud!

At 10.15 pm, the object was clearly seen beneath the cloud base (approx 2000 feet) but when observed closely, was seen to be unstable with erratic movements. The object appeared to be revolving around its own axis, and when it did so, there was a projection of different colours.

At 10.30 pm, it became obvious that the object was climbing slowly, and at 10.45 pm, had entered the cloud base. Although visible for a further 15 minutes, the object disappeared from view, and was obscured by cloud.

Unfortunately, there is no dramatic conclusion to this enquiry. The object was quite simply — a balloon!

Probably six feet plus in diameter, and possibly a meteorological balloon from one of the many RAF/USAF bases in the area.

The coloured lights, which were seen by all witnesses, obviously came from the balloon envelope, but the light was clearly reflected from the moon. The envelope may have contained coloured panels, but it is more than likely, that the corruption, or bending of light beams gave the illusion of colour.

Finally we come to the heading of your article 'UFO: DOGS HOWL'. That I am sorry to say was a red herring! Dogs obviously whine and howl for reasons other than the presence of UFOs — or do they?

My thanks to the many witnesses who telephoned me with information.

ANDREW COCHRANE

13 Viceroy Drive,  
Pinchbeck