

UFO 'buzz' still riddle

By ALWYN GRAHAM

WAS it a UFO? Observers of the 'thing' spotted in the sky by Heywood ambulancemen and Leigh factory workers in the early hours of Friday morning, are today still no wiser as to what they saw.

On Friday two Heywood ambulanceman reported seeing an unidentified flying object. Police contacted Manchester Airport who cited "climatic conditions" as the cause of the sighting.

But night shift workers at Leigh's BICC factory were as puzzled as the ambulancemen. Unhappily, the factory worker who would most like to have seen the mysterious 'flashing

lights' was not on duty duty when they appeared.

He is Steve Balon, Northwest investigator for the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, the second oldest UFO society in England.

Flashing

Steve told colleagues they should have woken him at 2am when the objects appeared in the night sky. But no-one did, and he had to content himself with second-hand accounts from workmates.

Steve said he had investigated and been told the two ambulancemen had seen coloured flashing lights in the sky — but when they switched their headlights towards the 'object', the telephone lines at their ambulance station went dead and, unable to dial 999, they went to a police station and a policeman followed the

'lights' for more than a mile in his car before the quarry "suddenly shot off at speed".

He said he had spoken to air traffic control, and aurora borealis had been suggested as the cause of the sighting. But the evidence he had heard did not indicate the northern lights.

Star

One man who did see the phenomena was 50-years-old Jack Hollis, a night shift machinist at the BICC factory.

He told the BEN: "Something kept flashing red, white, and then green. I have never seen anything like it before. One man thought it was a star, but it was too big for a star.

"You couldn't make the shape out, but it kept changing colour. It wasn't an aircraft because it was in the same place for two hours."

Jack said there was a similar object, about the same height, but further away.