

# The Z-car and the Thing in the sky

By **TONY POWELL**

Whatever it was, it was patriotic. There it hung motionless in the sky dropping red, white and blue flares before shooting away at a tremendous speed and disappearing.

And the official log of a police car confirms the mystery that began with a 999 call.

The message that launched the great UFO hunt was received at Southampton police headquarters.

## FLASHES

It said: "You are not going to believe this, but it's true. In the sky there is a bright light of some description and it keeps giving off purple flashes."

The police emergency team drove to the home of the caller, Mr. John Dack, of Coxford Road, Southampton. Within minutes an even more unusual message was being received on the police switchboard.

A bewildered police officer said: "Yes, there is such an object in the sky to the west and remaining still. It keeps flashing red, white and blue lights and dropping coloured flares."

## NO SOUND

"There is no sound of an engine. It does not appear to be an aircraft."

A detailed police investigation was launched. Southampton University Air Squadron was contacted. The only night flying they had was miles away.

The Southern Meteorological Centre was consulted. "No natural phenomena known to account for it," came the reply.

## NO ANSWER

Eastleigh Airport had no answer, and the Navy's Southern Command headquarters at Portsmouth knew of no ship firing flares.

But as the inquiry continued a further message was received: "The thing has disappeared after moving off at a terrific speed towards Eastleigh."

And to-day the mystery has been officially "filed," said a detective inspector.