

WHAT WAS THE THING OVER SCOTLAND?

POLICE AND Coastguards throughout Scotland were alerted last night after reports of an "unidentified flying object."

Hundreds of telephone calls were received.

Most of them described it as a bright fluorescent cigar-shaped object with a long tail.

At watchers puzzled—is it a *Russian satellite*?—the Meteorological Office at Prestwick Airport offered the explanation that it could be caused by noctiluence in the cloud—a reflection of the sun's rays from a cloud very high to a cloud below.

At Portpatrick, near Stranraer, coastguard Eric Ridout said: "I watched the U.F.O. in a perfectly clear sky. There was no cloud at all—and there were plenty of clear stars around the light in the sky."

"I had binoculars fixed on it. I must confess I am completely baffled. It had a green glow to it at one point, then turned to pure white."

The pilot of a B.E.A. flight going into Glasgow Airport reported the object as a "patch of light" north-west of Prestwick.

And at Kinkochbervie, Sutherland, Mr. Andrew Marshall, a schoolteacher, said: "I spotted a green, fluorescent object in the night sky. It hovered in the one spot and seemed to pulsate, and then it seemed to turn on its side and vanish."