

UFOs – mysterious phenomenon

ONE of today's most fashionable, mysterious and menacing phenomena is the flying saucer — the unidentified flying object.

In *Flying Saucers And The People Who See Them*, on ABC-TV on Wednesday 9.25pm, Doctor Stephen Black looks at the UFO, presenting some fascinating material, advancing several reasonable explanations and posing numerous unresolved questions.

Undoubtedly, many sightings are hallucinatory — or fabricated. Doctor Black investigates various flying saucers during the program, and in doing so shows how realistically film or photographs can be faked, and how easily a weather balloon can sometimes be mistaken for a UFO.

Other experiments with flashing lights demonstrate the brain's ability to misinterpret information gath-

interpet information gathered by the eye and the power of auto-suggestion on a small audience.

But many sightings re-

main mysteries. Dr Black interviews BOAC Captain James Howard who, in 1954, was flying 52 passengers to London via Labrador when he sighted UFOs to port at 19,000ft.

Closer inspection revealed one large black-grey object "like an inverted telephone receiver" with six smaller objects flying around it. The sighting was maintained for twenty minutes by passengers and crew until the arrival of a USAF fighter.

Partial corroboration was forthcoming from a party of Scandinavian astronomers and cameramen who, on that same day, were engaged in filming a solar eclipse. They observed two large UFOs at 15,000ft, successfully filming them for about ten seconds, before the saucers disappeared at high speed.

Mass hallucination?

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Mass hallucination?
Maybe. But the party was
in three aircraft, consisted
of more than 50 people
and recorded the sighting
on film. Is it possible that
all the people on Captain
Howard's flight were hal-
lucinated? Or perhaps
they were just "seeing
things"?