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tists were examining the  
scene.  
Protestant extremists  
abducted Mr. Donegan  
after he left a Belfast club  
on Friday night

# 'Flying saucer' among Gwent UFO sightings

A RARE dry and clear night resulted in two Unidentified Flying Objects being reported to Newport police.

A flying saucer, 200 feet in diameter, was apparently spotted over Bettws, Newport, at 10.34pm by a trained ex-military observer. And about ten minutes later, a long "railway carriage" shape was reported over Cwmbran.

Mr John Clarke, a quality control inspector, of Frome Walk, Bettws, told the Argus he was putting on the kettle in his kitchen when he spotted the saucer outside his window.

"I first thought it was an aeroplane at around 10,000 feet, but I was trained in plane recognition while in the army and it wasn't anything I ever say then. It was the fact that it was completely silent that got me," said Mr Clarke. "I looked out again and realised it was a huge saucer-shaped object, perhaps 200 feet across, with a blue flashing light and a green light not blinking at all on the top.

"It was in my sight for about 15 seconds and then it vanished over the house. I called my wife and then we both saw it heading away towards Cwmbran."

Mrs Rosemary Clarke, a factory worker, said: "It was the astonishing size which impressed me. That, and the lack of engine noise.

I didn't used to believe in such things, but it would be incredible arrogance to believe that we are alone in this universe.

"We are honest, hard-working people who had just spent an evening watching television. We never drink. I'll talk about it with people at work and see what they think," said Mrs Clarke.

Unknown to the Bettws family, a matter of minutes later Mrs Marion Gladys Mason, of West Roedin, Coed Eva, Cwmbran, was driving home along Henllys Way near St Dials Junior School.

She told police it was then she had her first sighting of a long oblong shape in the sky, roughly the size of a railway carriage. It had two small white steady lights on each end and one small red one at the bottom.

The UFO was still in her sight when she got home. She rushed upstairs and got her binoculars. She was able to estimate its travelling speed at around forty mph, before it turned over Cwmbran and disappeared.

Yesterday a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said they would receive the Gwent police reports as a matter of course, and if they could not find a conventional explanation of the sightings they would interview the Clarkes and Mrs Mason.

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P.R. Rowland