

18 MAR 1986

# A MYSTERY IN THE SKY

South Wales Echo, Cardiff.

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## 'Flying saucer' storm in a Welsh tea cup

**UFO-SPOTTERS** flooded police and airport switchboards last night to warn of a mystery array of bright lights hovering over South Wales.

But although official sources today described the "alien space-craft" as night-lights on RAF aircraft on a mid-air military re-fuelling exercise, that wasn't enough to satisfy some "flying-saucer" watchers.

South Wales police were "inundated" with calls from as far as Bridgend

and the Rhymney Valley.

A spokesman for Cardiff Airport explained telephones were "red-hot" for an hour as the curious callers rang in.

"It was a military exercise with one aircraft approaching a larger one to re-fuel. They were travelling quite slowly and had an unusual display of lights — that is why so many people were baffled," said a police spokesman.

But Mrs Marina Davies of Rudry Common, near Caerphilly who spent 15 minutes watching last night, said: "A military exercise? Absolutely no way,

"I'm convinced it was a UFO although I would like to think it was on our side," she said.

Mrs Davies, her 10-year-old daughter Julia, a friend and another child were travelling up a lane to their cottage when they stopped.

"We saw two bright head-lights and started reversing back. I thought it was another car — but then the lights shot up in the air," she said.

"Then suddenly the lights shot off in different directions before flying away. I'd never seen anything like it before even though we often have aircraft over here," she said.

**SOUTH WALES** Police were inundated with calls from the public last night reporting unidentified flying objects in the area.

Throughout the evening scores of people saw strange lights that didn't appear to resemble aircraft lights.

A police spokesman said calls came in from Caerphilly, Bargoed, Rhondda and the Ogwr district while Swansea Coastguards received numerous calls as well.

But the mystery lights belonged to the Royal Air Force which was carrying out a mid-air refuelling exercise, police said.

A Cardiff-Wales Airport spokesman confirmed that it was a refuelling exercise involving DC-10's.

### Balloon

But many baffled observers said the lights couldn't have belonged to aircraft.

"I have never seen anything like it before in my life," said Mr. Howell Willcock, of Pellau Road, Margam.

"I saw six huge lights and then there was a gap of 300 yards before there was another three.

"There was no sound and they were travelling at the speed of a balloon. I had a good look and saw a faint crooked shape".

That sighting was at about 6.45 p.m. and half-an-hour later there was another sighting

by Tony Willimer, at Landore postal office, Swansea.

"I saw them coming in from Baglan", he said. "There were two lights and then they appeared to be two double lights."

"They were moving very slowly and there was no sound. There was no way it was a plane".

Mrs. Allison Grove, of Gable House, Horton, Gower, also saw the lights.

"There were about four or five of us who saw them and we have never seen anything like them before," she said.

"There was no noise anywhere and they were flying a bit lower than an aeroplane".

The lights were still in the area at 9.50 m. when they were seen moving out over Swansea Bay in the direction of Port Talbot.

One Pencoed motorist travelling between Ewenny and Waterton near Bridgend reported seeing three bright lights followed by an inverted triangle travelling at about 10,000 feet, with another very bright object going at a very fast speed even higher in the sky.

A woman standing in Blaengarw Square in the Garw Valley said she saw a cigar-shaped object followed by a further two lights.

Swansea Astronomical Society secretary, Mr. Gerry Lacey said the late sightings could have been an aeroplane bound for Heathrow Airport from America, that was a few miles south of its flightpath.

Earlier sightings could have been a satellite breaking up, he said.

"The mystery is that as far as I am aware, there are no reports of any satellites breaking up since the Russian one three or four weeks ago," he added.

Greenock Telegraph,  
Renfrewshire, Scotland.

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## 'Aliens' were the RAF

POLICE throughout South Wales received dozens of calls from people reporting a mystery UFO sighting of "triangles of bright lights" last night.

But checks revealed the "aliens" were RAF planes in an in-flight refuelling exercise.