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NEWS OF WALES

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# Encounter of the close kind

A REPORT OF a "close encounter" by a 36-year-old West Wales motor mechanic is being investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Tony Silvestri thinks an unidentified flying object caused a brilliant light inside his car as he drove home from Lampeter to Ciliau Aeron with his wife and daughter.

"Gwendoline, my wife, and Alana, who is eight, were both scared stiff by it," said Mr

Silvestri who works for a motor accessory firm in Lampeter. "The whole interior of the car was lit up by a brilliant greenish light as we drove past the theatre at Felin Fach.

"It was so bright that I could not see through the windscreen or out of the windows. Fortunately it only lasted for a few seconds.

"It couldn't have been caused by the headlights of other cars because it was too bright and the wrong colour.

"I pulled up and stopped at the side of the road but could see

nothing that might have caused the strange light inside the car.

"Next day I gave the car a complete electrical check and there was nothing wrong with it. I didn't think there would be because the light was too brilliant to be caused by an electrical fault."

Yesterday Mr Silvestri was interviewed by Flight-Sergeant Dave Pengilly, the officer at RAF Brawdy in Pembrokeshire who checks all reports of UFO sightings.

"Each report of this kind is always investigated," he said. "I make checks and then pass it on to the powers that be in the Ministry of Defence who are now looking into this case."

Complaints about low flying aircraft are also dealt with by Flight-Sergeant Pengilly, since many low-flying exercises are operated from RAF Brawdy.

"We don't like unidentified things in our air space," he said. "We have to check that there is no threat to security too.

"We have only two or three UFO reports a year and most of them are explainable.

## Strange

"For instance we had a report a few weeks ago from a lady who saw a bright orange light 60 feet above the ground near the M4 in the Carmarthen area. It turned out to be a hot-air balloon trying to land at dusk. But she was convinced it was a UFO and we will never convince her otherwise," he said.

"Strange lighting effects are often produced inside cars by sunroofs and in the case of Mr Silvestri the source of the light must have been external. But we are still looking into it."

Said Mr Silvestri, "My car has a sunroof but that doesn't explain where the brilliant green light came from. I travel along this stretch of road every night and I've never had anything like this happen before."