

(CARDIFF)

FRT

ALIENS LEFT US



Man describes the moment tent, dog and car were taken

'GOBSMACKED'

A MAN says he and two friends looked on "gobsmacked" as their car, dog and tent were taken by aliens from a fleet of 12 to 15 spacecraft.

The claims come amid the bizarre extraterrestrial tales revealed in UFO documents released by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Included in the 25 files, which contain 4,400 pages of reports received between 2007 and 2009, are a number of UFO sightings in South Wales.

In one handwritten letter and diagram, a man from Cardiff claims that, in October 1992, he and two friends were left "gobsmacked" after witnessing their car, dog and tent being taken.

And, in June 2008, a South Wales Police helicopter crew reportedly chased a UFO that had nearly collided with them. The encounter happened as the crew of three returned to their St Athan base.

The MoD's UFO project is being shut down after government officials decided it was no longer worth keeping open.

"These files spell out clearly

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why the MoD decided - after 60 years - it no longer needed to keep tabs on sightings, even those made by 'credible' people such as police officers and pilots," said Dr David Clarke, author of the book *The UFO Files*.

A surge in UFO sightings made alien spotting a full-blown social phenomenon and fuelled numerous headlines. Dr Clarke said it was this cultural fascination in the myth of aliens that stopped people from separating a flying saucer from a glowing Chinese lantern.

He said: "People believe in aliens but there's actually no evidence of it. They do see UFOs but they turn out to be something that isn't extraordinary when you look into them. People don't want to read about 'woman sees UFO' but it turns out to be a balloon."

Numerous other South Wales-based UFO sightings have been reported.

The MoD's response to these

reports was often a generic letter, stating: "Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us."

Experts say factors like the rising use of Chinese lanterns and an increasing interest in science fiction all contributed to the number of aliens allegedly being spotted.

"The first thing I would say is that it's 99% fairly mundane material and there's nothing unusual about that," said Nick Pope, who worked on the MoD's UFO project from 1991 to 1994.

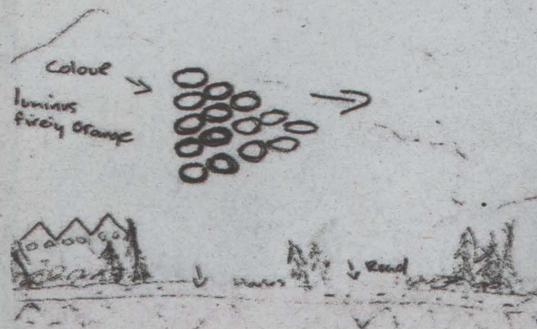
"At least nine out of 10 UFO sightings have almost always turned out to be honest but mistaken."

Since the release of Steven Spielberg's 1978 film - *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* - reports have rocketed, with the UFO desk receiving more than 600 sightings and reports by 2009 - treble the amount of the previous year.

I said look pink flanges flying south
for summer they kept lighting me mate
said their fire flies I signed with my mate
my other mate said nothing -

They were about 12-15 flying objects
in the sky they were in formation
of a triangle. I hear no sounds we
see them cross past us about 1 mins
then disappeared we were gobsmacked
then we all walked home to St Mellons

diagram what I and



■ UFO sighting drawing from a Cardiff man in 1992