

**RIDDLE OF THE AGE**



**FLYING SAUCERS**

**EXPERTS GIVE VERDICT**

**ON ASTONISHING FILM**

**A**IR TRAFFIC CONTROL at Wellington, New Zealand, thought it a huge joke when an airline pilot reported he had encountered not one but scores of unidentified flying objects. Strange craft with pulsating bright lights.

Scores? He was seeing things, they said.

But nine days later, on December 30th, 1978, the whole world was to witness—via television—UFOs in the sky off the Kaikoura coast of New Zealand, in the same area where the airline pilot had spotted them.

The amazing sightings came about when an Australian TV reporter, Quentin Fogarty, heard about the report of the airline pilot.

He decided to fly the same route where the UFOs had been spotted. Only this time he intended to have a film crew ready to record such sightings . . . if they occurred.

On Saturday, December 30, Quentin and his TV crew took off in a freighter aircraft. At the controls was Captain Bill Startup.

Soon the plane was south of Cook Strait and off the Kaikoura coast—the same flight path taken by the airline pilot.

**More shocks**

Captain Startup was shocked when two oval shaped UFOs suddenly appeared in front of him. He also saw another UFO closing in from the right and one from the left. It was as if they were forming an escort for him.

Keeping his nerve, he informed Quentin. But he and his film crew had already spotted the strange objects. Cameras whirred into action.

There were more shocks to come for the pilot. He picked up a blip on his radar 40 miles distant. A second later it was only 39 miles away. A mile in one second? Then the UFO made a turn straight towards the plane and hurtled past at an incredible speed.

On the ground at Wellington, Air Traffic Controller Geoffrey Causer stared at his radar screen in disbelief.

**Close-ups**

Several UFOs appeared to be tracking the freighter aircraft and another ten were moving erratically at fantastic speeds.

He was glad when the plane wheeled and headed away towards Australia. Quentin Fogarty later told of his close encounter with the UFOs.

"They were everywhere," he said. "My crew counted at least twenty-five of them. They were the most amazing

**TV team and radar men made sightings that cannot be explained within the scope of conventional knowledge**



sights I have ever seen."

His film showed several UFOs in the sky. Some were close-up shots showing the objects to be oval-shaped, brightly illuminated with a red tinge in the centre.

On January 1, 1979, the fantastic film was shown on television around the world. Proof—by eye, film and radar—that UFOs existed.

**In agreement**

Some experts disagreed. Sir Bernard Lovell, director of Jodrell Bank, the radio telescope station, claimed the objects were most likely meteorites from space which had failed to burn up on entering the earth's atmosphere. Others said the film was of the planet Venus.

But 20 top American physicists and astronomers made a careful study of the



**BUT A PICTURE THAT SHOWS THE EYE CAN BE DECEIVED**

film and finally agreed they were watching UFOs. Mysterious objects which they could not explain away.

Geoffrey Causer, air traffic controller, agreed. On the day following the filming, he had spent over three hours watching erratic but discernible blips on his radar screen. The UFOs were still about.

Planes of the Royal New Zealand Air Force were sent up to try to intercept them, but they were unable to do so.

Was the whole thing an optical illusion?

"No. Optical illusions do not register on radar screens," Norman Oliver of The British UFO Research Association told "The Weekly News."

"I would say the UFO sightings in New Zealand were genuine.

"There is, however, a great reluctance by authorities and scientists to admit the UFO is the Riddle of the Age. They say there must be a logical reason for every mysterious light in the skies."

The Ministry of Defence's definition of a UFO is "any aerial object that fails to identify itself to, or be identified by trained ground or airborne crews using visual or electronic detection devices."

**Disappeared**

At Brixham in Devon on April 28, 1967, coastguards reported a strange cone-shaped UFO hovering in the sky.

Despite gale force winds, the UFO remained in one spot for nearly an hour. It was seen by many people along the Torbay coastline and also tracked on radar.

An RAF jet was sent to intercept, but as the plane approached the UFO it shot up through cloud and disappeared.

"It was probably reflection from a car's headlights," was the Ministry of Defence's explanation.

In another recorded in-

was travelling across the bay in the same direction.

For 18 minutes the formation of UFOs kept pace with the airliner. The captain became worried and radioed Goose Bay.

A fighter was sent up to intercept. As it approached the mystery UFOs, the six smaller disc-shaped craft seemed to disappear inside the huge "mother" ship. It then shot off at an incredible speed leaving the fighter standing.

This strange sighting was dismissed as being a flock of birds by the authorities.

But, as the captain of the plane stated, "No bird could fly at 274 m.p.h. at 19,000 feet and for 80 miles."

There are rumours that flying saucers are not from other planets but from our own earth. That they are really circular-shaped craft built by Russia, America or Britain and being secretly tested at night.

If this were so, it would account for many of the night sightings.

**Tragedy**

Norman Oliver gave his views on this theory.

"UFOs have been around for many years now," he said. "If a country had developed a space craft capable of such tremendous speed and manoeuvrability it would have been boasted about by now, not kept secret for so long.

"I would think someone would have discovered the factories where such craft were made long before now and told the world.

"No. I don't think there is any truth in it. These UFOs are extra-terrestrial objects," he said.

Could UFOs have been responsible for another baffling tragedy on lonely Dartmoor in July, 1977?

Two days after reports of strange lights speeding low across the sky, walkers on the moor came across 15 dead ponies.

The ponies, which lived wild on the moor, were grouped in a perfect circle. Their bodies were mangled and torn.

There was a path of scorched grass stretching for many yards in a straight line.

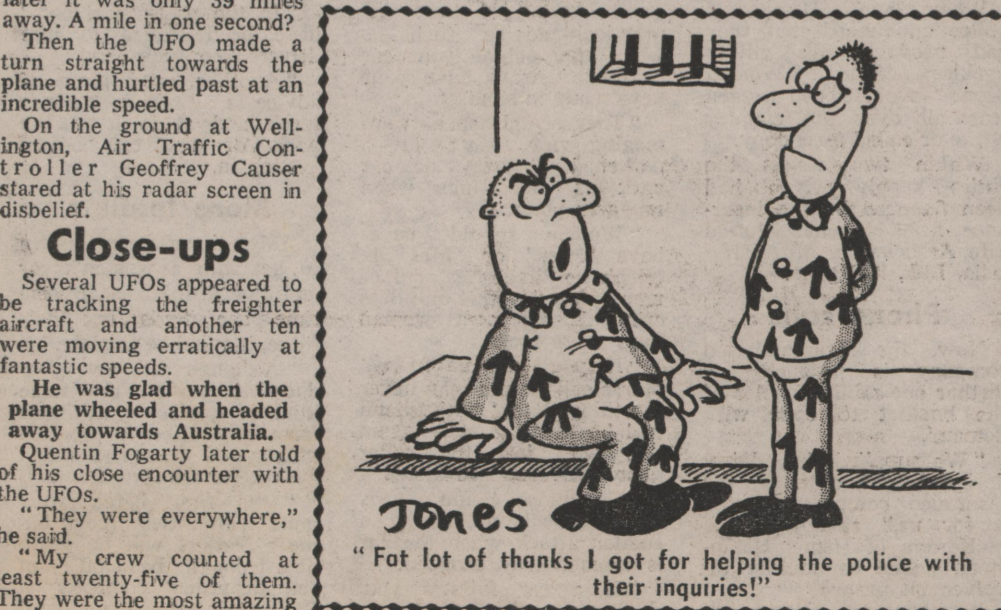
Was the scorching done by a UFO? Travelling at speed low over the moorland, a UFO could create a vortex and suck up anything in its path.

Is this what happened to the ponies? Sucked up into the air and then dropped to their deaths?

It's possible we'll never know for sure. So, for the moment, the incident will have to remain as just another entry in the catalogue of baffling UFO mysteries.

**Next Week — Eye-witness reports of bodies found in crashed alien craft.**

**The picture above was taken in Brazil and shows only unusual cloud formations in the evening sky.**



"Fat lot of thanks I got for helping the police with their inquiries!"

**LAUGH LINES**

● **Tobacconist** — "Try these cigars sir, you can't get better."  
**Customer**—"I know. I had one last week and I don't feel well yet." — E. L., Sutton Leach.