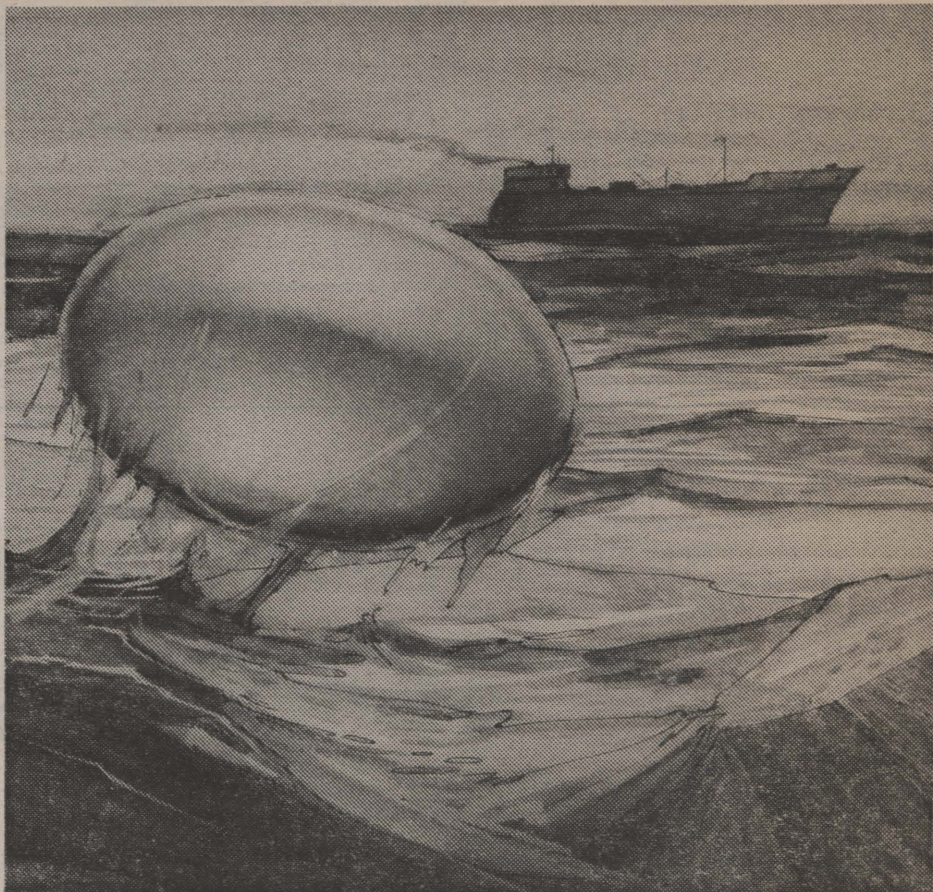


Ship's crew menaced by giant flying saucer

UFO from the depths of the sea!



A saucer-shaped UFO blasted out of the ocean and circled a Japanese freighter for 15 terrifying minutes last month before it returned to the water

and vanished without a trace, Japanese newspapers report.

No one was injured in the April 17 incident, which reportedly took place in broad daylight 175 miles east of Kanazawa in the Sea of Japan.

The 165-foot-long freighter *Taki Kyoto* did suffer some structural damage, however, while riding out the towering swells that the UFO kicked up when it rose out of and

later returned to the water, the press said.

"It was at least five times the length of our vessel and glowed like blue neon," Taki Usuda, the 54-year-old captain of the *Taki Kyoto*, told reporters at a belated press conference in Kanazawa.

"When it first came out of the water we couldn't believe what was happening to us. The swells in its wake almost sank us.

"And the needles on our instruments almost spun out of their casings. It was everything I could do to keep the

crew from leaving their posts.

"Some of my best men were huddled below deck crying just like women and babies."

The enormous starship

Bizarre spacecraft leaps from ocean touching off tidal wave

hovered about 50 yards off the freighter's starboard side for several minutes after it emerged from the ocean, said Usuda.

"It was terrifying," he con-

tinued. "The thing just sat there, motionless, in midair.

"We tried to radio for help but something was jamming our signals.

"Suddenly the UFO took off. It flew right over us and

circled for at least 15 minutes.

"It really was like a nightmare. It was moving so fast all we could see was a blur."

When the UFO finally

dived back into the water, Usuda radioed authorities, who scanned the area with ships and aircraft without finding so much as a trace of the alleged starship, the press reports said.

"Based on interviews with the *Taki Kyoto*'s captain and crew, as well as the unusual structural damage the ship sustained, we do suspect that they encountered something very unusual out there," said coastal authority spokesman Hoshi Ishido. "Officially we're calling it an unidentified object, a simple UFO."