

UFOs and the Scottish Seas

By W. S. Robertson

This contribution was received shortly after Antonio Ribera's article UFOs AND THE SEA had gone to press for the November/December 1964 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. In view of February's addition to the mysteries of the Scottish seas, it was indeed fortunate that this article was held over for publication in this issue.

FOR the actual size of the country, Scotland has one of the longest (and loveliest) coastlines to be found anywhere in the World. It twists and turns where the sea carves great gashes, and myriad smaller indentations, into the heart of the ancient mountains. Nor must we forget the sweeping inroads made by the sea into the lowland plains as well. Beyond the mainland, countless islands tumble into the turbulent waters, or hang stretched in loops and festoons towards the West. Small wonder, with such a coastline, that Scotland's seas have been the scene of many mysteries. On examination, many of these mysteries would seem also to be part of the great UFO enigma.

Scotland has had its share of UFO sightings. Not that there have been very many sensational reports; there is little doubt that some of them can be explained quite simply as "conventional" satellites and meteors, as in fact were many of the 1961 starlike objects. However, there was an object seen from Glasgow and Paisley towards the end of that year, which was described as a "pencil aglow", while at Aberfoyle, a mysterious light was seen flashing from the top of Ben Lomond. Again, one of the most outstanding reports of 1962 concerned a sky object which had a tail, and a ball of light. That particular sighting was made by a train driver at the Barony Power Station near Auchinleck.

While I do not doubt that other sky sightings have featured in the REVIEW's World Round-Up columns, I would like to recall some happenings at sea which have been quite sensational compared to those up aloft! My sources have mostly been reports appearing in the Scottish newspapers, *Daily Record*, *Sunday Mail* and *Sunday Post*.

On February 27, 1961, the steamer *Boston Gannet* was plying between Lewis and Harris in the outer Hebrides, when its officers and crew witnessed a strange object twisting and turning and falling into the sea. Several ships raced to the spot at the mouth of Loch Seaforth, but found nothing: no aeroplanes were missing from airfields, and certainly no aircraft were reported missing from flights over Scotland. The mystery remained unsolved.

Five months later, on July 15, the crews of two trawlers off the coast of Barra heard an explosion. One of the skippers said it was in the air, yet no rockets had been fired from the Benbecula firing range in the Hebrides. No planes were in difficulties that day, and nothing was ever found.

On Christmas day, 1961, the Broughty Ferry searched fruitlessly for three hours for a "ship" in distress, following reports of mysterious flares off the Fife coast.

In 1962, the first report came on March 11, when an object was seen falling into the sea west of the main Shetland Islands. The Aith lifeboat was called out, but found no trace of wreckage. Then on March 24, ships were told to avoid an unidentified object in the sea between Orkney and Shetland! I wonder whether or not these objects were in the famous "Revolving Wheel" category.

On April 6, 1962, aircraft, ships and even swimmers, searched in vain for a mysterious object seen in the Moray Firth; it had been reported by various people as a boat, or persons, in difficulties. The search was later called off.

June 10 saw yet another unexplained object in the sea, this time off the West Coast. Then on July 22, explosions were heard IN the sea, for which no explanation has ever been given. According to those who heard it, the detonation was the equal of that to be expected from 50 to 100 tons of T.N.T. This report came from the atomic station at Eskdalemuir.

After this, there was a long pause until March 9, 1963, when yet another "flare" off the coast of Aberdeen sparked off more fruitless searching. From then until quite recently, things have been quiet. I confess, however, that my records have not been kept up meticulously, but I now wonder if a new sea-sighting wave is beginning, when we read of the first case of 1965 in the *Daily Mail* of February 5. Once again the island of Barra was the scene.

The trawler *Star of Freedom* (70 tons) from Fleetwood, Lancashire, struck an unidentified object in the early hours of the morning of February 3. She was steaming at the time at nine knots in 80 fathoms, 15 miles E.S.E. of Barra. The crash lifted her bows from the water. A distress call was

sent out, and the crew manned the pumps. Eventually the badly holed trawler was beached in Castlebay harbour.

Skipper George Wood is convinced that he hit a surfacing submarine, but both British and American naval authorities denied that any of their submarines was responsible, and refused to comment on the possibility that a foreign vessel had been involved.

It is beginning to look like just another UFO in

the sea mystery.

Why do they single out Scotland for so much attention. Are they busy mapping and exploring that enormous coastline? Again, we must not forget that Scotland, although relatively small, has large tracts of mountainous and sparsely populated country, and uninhabited islands. Or is there another reason? Would it be because Scottish waters contain that highly publicised base for a Polaris submarine squadron?

WORLD ROUND UP (continued from page 30)

three young men driving along Fendalton Road saw a shining oblong object motionless in the sky in the direction of Darfield.

"At first we thought it was a plane coming straight in our direction," said Mr. John Brock. "But when we noticed it remained stationary we started taking notice." Mr. Paul Leonard, who was with him, estimated the height at between 500 and 1,000 feet. The object remained well in view until they turned left at the end of Fendalton Road.

"At 9.30 last night there were reports of bright and moving objects travelling from north to south. One report said the object appeared to be descending at an angle.

"The Meteorological Services staff at Christchurch Airport had its radar scanner operating between 4.15 p.m. and 6 p.m. yesterday, and was using weather balloons, but recorded 'absolutely nothing' unusual.

"The Civil Aviation radar equipment was not working because it is only manned in poor weather.

"The United States Navy's radar equipment was also idle."

FOOTNOTE: "An unidentified flying object, similar to that sighted by a South Brighton man off the New Brighton beach last night, was seen by a Woodend, Invercargill woman last night."—P.A.

More UFOs over Canterbury

The Christchurch flap continued. From *The Press* of February 5 we learn that:

"About 10 p.m. yesterday someone reported to *The Press* that a man had come to his house at Rockinghorse Road and reported seeing a strange

object. He refused to go along the road unless the resident came with him. The resident did, but saw nothing.

"Meanwhile other persons report seeing strange objects at night at a greater distance. All reports describe sightings which occurred about 9.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Two persons reported on Wednesday evening that they saw a strange bright object in the sky about this time.

"Yesterday another man reported seeing an object on Wednesday evening at 9.30 p.m. It was bigger and brighter than a satellite he said, and travelled across the sky and descended at an angle.

"Mr. P. T. Sheehan of Sumner reported that he and his wife saw an object three times on Monday, at 9.30 p.m., 10.10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.

At 9.30 p.m. the object travelled rapidly from west to east, crossing from horizon to horizon in about four minutes. Forty minutes later it travelled from south to north at the same speed. Twenty minutes later it appeared again, much slower, oscillating in its movements from south to north and appearing to be stationary at times.

"Meanwhile another report says a white object was seen in the sky off the Hinds coast about 9.15 p.m. on Wednesday by several persons. It moved north across the sky at a fast pace, its height being above 10,000 ft. It descended on an angle, and was reported to be oscillating or flashing at times.

"At 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday three men driving along Fendalton road reported seeing a shining object motionless in the sky in the direction of Darfield. The height was between

500 and 1,000 ft.

"The Meteorological Office reported a weather balloon was sent up at 5 p.m., but by 5.30 p.m. it would have been about 35,000 ft. and definitely out of sight. Further, the wind was blowing the wrong direction for a balloon released at Harewood to be sighted where the object was reported."

(Credit to David O. McGiffin of Christchurch, N.Z.)

Dunedin V-formation

The *Southland Daily News* of Invercargill carried the following account in its issue of January 22:

"A Dunedin Magistrate's Court officer is no longer a disbeliever in flying saucers. At 11.45 p.m. yesterday he saw about 12 bright orange-coloured objects flying in perfect V-formation over the city.

"The officer, who does not wish to be identified, said he was leaving the Justice Department buildings in Lower Stuart Street when he saw the objects emerge from the heavy mist over the city at that time.

"They were proceeding in V-formation, about six separate objects in each wing of the V, and travelling as fast or faster than a jet plane. There was no noise.

"The objects were not high as they flashed north and he says he saw them very clearly for about 4 sec. They were a definite circular shape and all the same size.

"A check with the RNZAF office and the control tower at Dunedin airport showed that no known flights were made over the city last night."—P.A.

LATE FLASH

Just as we closed for Press the news arrived that George Adamski had died at Washington, D.C. on 23rd April

STOP PRESS MESSAGES FROM OUTER SPACE

The Russian claim to have detected, and to have deciphered messages reputed to come from a super civilisation in outer space, was widely publicised. The claim was received with considerable scepticism.

On reflection, however, it seems to this REVIEW that this new claim fits neatly into the general pattern of the Russian scene (see our article on

page 15), and leads us to wonder if this is yet another instance of the apparent Russian intention to prepare the Soviet peoples for an announcement about the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.

On April 18, *The Observer* found an opportunity, when discussing this matter in an article entitled *Is somebody calling?*, to attack the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

THE FLORIDA CONTACT STORY

(see page 20)

In a reply to Dr. Bernard Finch, the U.S. Air Force declared that the report from Florida was an attempt to perpetrate a hoax. The 'hieroglyphics',

a copy of which accompanied the Air Force letter, certainly appear to be bogus. More about this in our next issue.

MAIL BAG (continued from page 26)

last year a group of us here kept a detailed record of an object we observed orbiting the Earth each night. It behaved in such a manner that it could not be said to be any satellite of Earthly origin. It made 45° turns as it passed over; it would stop for 3 or 4 seconds before growing dim until it was no longer visible. On three occasions it crossed paths with either Echo I or Echo II. It went the wrong way, tending to hold a course more to the west of a north-south line.

Our investigation brought various answers: Smithsonian thought it

might be part of a Saturn rocket. One face of the Air Force offered the idea of a secret Russian satellite (manoeuvring?). The other face of the Air Force suggested we were confusing planes and Echo satellites. A non-government source noted that each time Mars comes close to Earth in its orbit, astronomers note a strange satellite. Was this object noted over England? Appearance is comparable to Echo—the general speed and motion. Brilliance is more like that of the planet Jupiter.

We have heard rumours to the effect that this object was also observed passing over Boston, Miami, Japan and South America. None of these reports have been confirmed as yet.

watching a bird, a balloon or a cloud formation. And, since the height had been established as 700 miles, that was not news.

Do you care to offer any ideas?—Mrs. Helen G. Hartmann, 4666—27th Ave. No., St. Petersburg, Florida 33713, U.S.A.