

One of the three ground markings. (shadows spoil)

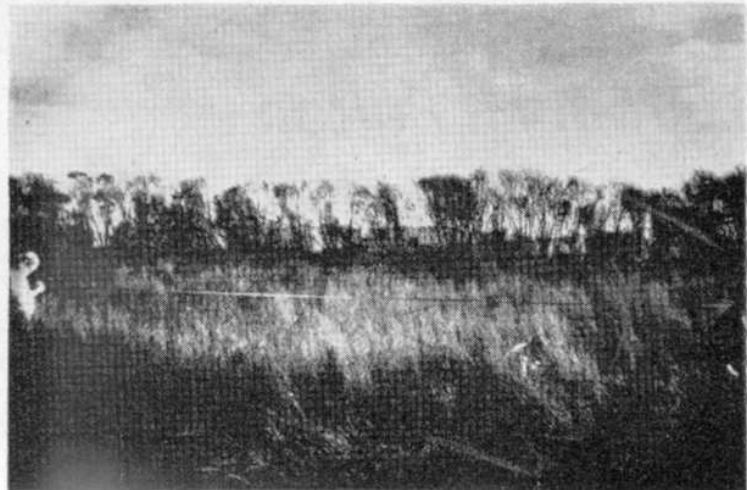


Photo of the bleached circle looking across to the taller bleached stand of manuka.

proved negative. Soil and scrub samples were taken. A piece of ti-tree was subjected to a gamma spectrum test; this proved negative."

Press Feature Story on Ngatea Circle Widens Interest

With the publication of a five-column-width feature story syndicated on the Ngatea incident by several newspapers throughout New Zealand, public interest caught on and caused the first stir within official confines.

The story was headlined: IS MARS NOW TAKING A LOOK AT US? The Wellington *Evening Post* of September 10 carried the feature; Wellington Victoria University staff had noted it; but when a leading horticulturist, Mr. Stuart-Menzies of Te Puna (near Tauranga) released to the press the results of his examinations of samples taken from the Ngatea circle, things really began to pop. According to Mr. Stuart-Menzies, the scrubweed within the affected area had been killed by high frequency short-wave radiation. Mr. Stuart-Menzies had been called in to examine samples by Mr. Harvey Cooke of Tauranga.

The horticulturist elaborated: "Manuka from the circle was radioactive and had been cooked instantaneously from the inside outward. Every ounce of moisture in the plants had been instantaneously vaporised; they are bone dry and brittle. The energy received has reduced the pith to black carbon without the outsides showing any signs of burning." Mr. Stuart-Menzies added that he knew "no earthly source of energy which could produce these effects; some outside object appears to have landed on the spot and in taking off emitted the energy which cooked the plants."

It was now early October and "mystery circles" were being reported

from other areas in the North Island, but more notable was the fact that real interest had penetrated official enclaves. First off the mark was an authorised team of four from Wellington's Victoria University, led by Dr. N. F. Barber, Professor of Theoretical Physics. These gentlemen were closely followed by members of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, sent into the arena by the Minister of Science, Mr. Brian E. Talboys. Wellington's provincial morning paper, *The Dominion*, has given a day by day, blow for blow discourse on the Ngatea incident on its front page commencing early October. The Minister of Science, apparently, was unable to avoid the issue. Wellington is the seat of government and a major election platform was just swinging into real action. Election date was November 29.

The moment official interest became directly involved, simple and rational explanations for all mysteries were rapidly forthcoming. It was almost as though an order had gone out to kill off the UFO landing theory as quickly as possible. The official explanations ranged from the possible to the unlikely and the utterly ridiculous. They came in a fast flow from T.V., Radio and Press, now in the reverse order of priority to that given at the beginning of this account. Some examples of the official explanations: the scrubweed had been sprayed by aircraft, from a tractor, by duck shooters; the ground indentations had been made by rooting pigs, by rabbits and removed fallen ti-tree stems pulled from the soft peat soil.

Mr. Bert G. O'Neil, a seasons farmer and owner of the property, had eliminated the above explanations on his first examination and he had been quoted accordingly in the nationally syndicated article of September 10.

All non-official investigators and visiting farm friends were inclined to agree with Mr. O'Neil.

(Mr. Fulton's report will be concluded in our next issue—Editor.)

Olavarria

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previous cases. I need quote only those at Monte Maiz,³ Argentina, on October 12, 1963 (tall beings, light beams); Trancas,⁴ Argentina, on October 21, nine days later (farmhouse "besieged" by UFOs which shone beams of paralysing light that penetrated walls, raised temperature to unbearable level, threw dogs and fowls into a state of torpor, and terrified the farm occupants); Sauce Viejo,⁵ Argentina, December 1963 (dazzling luminous entity entered stationary railway coach; and Torrent,⁶ Argentina, in February 1965, when two-metre high "Martians" wearing helmets that emitted flashing beams of light terrorised farmhouses, their light beams penetrating the solid walls—and tried to abduct one of the farmers.

NOTES

¹ See Case No. 19 in my report *A New South American Wave*, in FSR Vol. XIV, No. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1968).

² The hour of 9.00 a.m. may be a newspaper misprint, for I find it difficult to believe that at a Latitude of only 37°00 in the Southern Hemisphere winter, cocks would be so dilatory as to awaken and greet the dawn so late as this!

³ For full details see FSR Jan./Feb. 1964 and Nov./Dec. 1965. Also Case No. 33 of my *The Humanoids in Latin America*, in *The Humanoids* (FSR Special Issue of October 1966, now published as a revised hardcover edition by Neville Spearman, London, 1969).

⁴ For details see FSR Jan./Feb. 1964, p. 29; FSR March/April 1965, p. 7, and my article *Argentina 1963-64, Part II*, in FSR Jan./Feb. 1966. Also Case No. 34 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.

⁵ For details see my *Argentina 1963-64, Part II*, in FSR Jan./Feb. 1966. Also Case 35 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.

⁶ For details see Case No. 41 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.