



Diagram showing object partly submerged, as observed by Mr. Albert Robins.

witnessed before off Rabaraba by Mr. Otto Alder, then A.D.C. in 1968.

I shall make further investigations into this object and report again if I find anything else significant.

I have personally interviewed Mr. Robins and he has filled in a sighting form from which I have taken this information. I have known Mr. Robins for five years

and can vouch for his reliability.

As readers will see, this is right in the middle of the area of the 1959 New Guinea wave.\*

Explanations given by non-observers for the unidentified submarine object are:

- (i) bioluminescence in the sea,
- (ii) a school of porpoises stirring up phosphorescence,
- (iii) a whale or whale-shark, with luminous sea streaming off him.

Hardly adequate to account for what the Robins party saw. Mr. Robins and his crew are accustomed to normal sea phenomena. Furthermore, the question has to be asked: can bioluminescence be blindingly bright?

\* This fantastic wave is presented in detail in the Revd. Norman Cruttwell's contribution to FSR's 4th Special Issue, *UFOs in Two Worlds*—EDITOR.

## SERPENTS AND UFOs

Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman

IN his classic *Lo!* Charles Fort relates a peculiar story whose special oddness has always fascinated us:

*Zoologist*, 4-7-38—that, according to the log of the steamship *Fort Salisbury*, the second officer, Mr. A. H. Raymer, had, Oct. 28, 1902, in Lat. 5°, 31' S., and Long. 4°, 42' W., been called, at 3.05 a.m., by the lookout, who reported that there was a huge, dark object, bearing lights in the sea ahead. Two lights were seen. The steamship passed a slowly sinking bulk, of an estimated length of five or six hundred feet. Mechanism of some kind—fins, the observers thought—was making a commotion in the water. "A scaled back" was slowly submerging.

It was the mention of the "scaled back" that most interested Fort—and most interests us. Fort noted: "So doubly damned is this datum that the attempt to explain it was in terms of the accursed Sea Serpent." One thinks immediately of the *Nautilus*, Captain Nemo's submarine in Jules Verne's celebrated *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* (first published in 1870), a vessel whose appearance was designed to make those who encountered it believe they had seen some kind of sea monster.

(Perhaps this is more than mere coincidence. Jules Verne was a compulsive collector of *curiosa*,

just like Fort, and seems to have based some of his ideas on accounts of what later would be termed Fortean phenomena. For example, *Master of the World* and *Robur the Conqueror*, two related novels, apparently were inspired by mid-Nineteenth Century French reports of a mysterious "airship.")

A rather incredible event allegedly took place nine years before the *Salisbury* incident in the northwestern part of the United States—in fact not far from the area where the first great modern UFO wave erupted in 1947. The supposed witnesses, William Fitzhenry, H. L. Beal, W. L. McDonald, J. K. Bell, Henry Blackwood and two "eastern gentlemen" who asked that their names be not used, had left in the sloop *Marion* on a fishing expedition in Puget Sound just prior to the experience.

The following account, quoting one of the "eastern gentlemen," was published in the *Tacoma [Washington] Daily Ledger* for July 3, 1893:

"We left Tacoma about 4.30 p.m., Saturday, July 1st, and as the wind was from the southeast we shaped our course for Point Defiance, intending to anchor off that point and try our luck with rod and line. We cast anchor about 6 o'clock, the wind having died

out, and had fair success fishing. The wind coming up again pretty strong, Mr. McDonald suggested getting under way for Black Fish Bay, Henderson island, as he knew of a fine trout stream running into the bay, and also an excellent camping place near the fishing ground.

"So about 8 o'clock we weighed anchor and shaped our course for Black Fish Bay, which place we reached about 9.30. We landed and made everything snug about the boat and made a nice camp on shore, and as it was by this time 11 o'clock we all turned in to get a little sleep as it was agreed upon that at the first streak of daylight we should all get up. About 100 yards from our camp was the camp of a surveying party, but as it was so late we decided that we would not disturb them but that we would call upon them the following morning, and would probably get some valuable pointers as to the best places to fish and hunt on the island. After a few jokes had been cracked the boys laid [sic] down and in a short time everything about camp became as still as death.

"It was, I guess, about midnight before I fell asleep, but exactly how long I slept I cannot say, for when I woke it was with such startling suddenness that it never entered my mind to look at my watch, and when after a while I did look at my watch, as well as every watch belonging to the party, it was stopped.

"I am afraid, sir, that you will fail to comprehend how suddenly that camp was awake.

"Since the creation of the world I doubt if sounds and sights more horrible were ever seen or heard by mortal man. I was in the midst of a pleasant dream, when in an instant a most horrible noise rang out in the clear morning air, and instantly the whole air was filled with a strong current of electricity that caused every nerve in the body to sting with pain, and a light as bright as that created by the concentration of many arc lights kept constantly flashing. At first I thought it was a thunder storm, but as no rain accompanied it, and as both light and sound came from off the bay, I turned my head in that direction, and if it is possible for fright to turn one's hair white, then mine ought to be snow white, for right before my eyes was a most horrible-looking monster.

"By this time every man in our camp, as well as the men from the camp of the surveyors, was gathered on the bank of the stream; and as soon as we could gather our wits together we began to question if what we were looking at was not the creation of the mind, but we were soon disburdened of this idea, for the monster slowly drew in toward the shore, and as it approached from its head poured out a stream of water that looked like blue fire. All the while the air seemed to be filled with electricity, and the sensation experienced was as if each man had on a suit of clothes formed of the fine points of needles.

"One of the men from the surveyor's camp incautiously took a few steps in the direction of the water (some of which) reached the man, and he instantly fell to the ground and lay as though dead.

"Mr. McDonald attempted to reach the man's body to pull it back into a place of safety, but he was struck with some of the water that the monster was throwing, and fell senseless to the earth. By this time every man in both parties was panic-stricken, and we rushed to the woods for a place of safety, leaving the fallen men lying on the beach.

"As we reached the woods the 'demon of the deep' sent out flashes of light that illuminated the surrounding country for miles, and his roar—which sounded like the roar of thunder—became terrific. When we reached the woods we looked around and saw the monster making off in the direction of the Sound, and in an instant it disappeared beneath the waters of the bay, but for some time we were able to trace its course by a bright luminous light that was on the surface of the water. As the fish disappeared total darkness surrounded

us, and it took us some time to find our way back to the beach where our comrades lay, and we were unable to tell the time, as the powerful electric force had stopped our watches. We eventually found McDonald and the other man, and were greatly relieved to find that they were alive, though unconscious. So we sat down to await the coming of daylight. It came, I should judge, in about half an hour, and by this time, by constant work on the two men, both were able to stand . . .

"This monster fish, or whatever you may call it, was fully 150 feet long, and at its thickest part I should judge about 30 feet in circumference. Its shape was somewhat out of the ordinary insofar that the body was neither round nor flat but oval, and from what we could see the upper part of the body was covered with a very coarse hair. The head was shaped very much like the head of a walrus, though, of course, very much larger. Its eyes, of which it apparently had six, were as large around as a dinner plate, and were exceedingly dull, and it was about the only spot on the monster that at one time or another was not illuminated. At intervals of about every eight feet from its head to its tail a substance that had the appearance of a copper band encircled its body, and it was from these many bands that the powerful electric current appeared to come. The bands nearest the head seemed to have the strongest electric force, and it was from the first six bands that the most brilliant lights were emitted. Near the centre of its head were two large horn-like substances, though they could not have been horns for it was through them that the electrically-charged water was thrown.

"Its tail from what I could see of it was shaped like a propeller, and seemed to revolve, and it may be possible that the strange monster pushes himself through the water by means of this propeller-like tail.

"At will this strange monstrosity seemed to be able to emit strong waves of electric current, giving off an electromotive force which causes any person coming within the radius of this force to receive an electric shock . . .

"I hardly need to tell you that we were not long in getting under way for Tacoma and I can assure you that I have no further desire to fish any more in the waters of this bay. There are too many peculiar inhabitants in them. I am going to send a full account of our encounter to the Smithsonian Institute, and I doubt not but what they will send out some scientific chaps to investigate."

Clearly we are dealing here with some sort of machine-like contri-

vance which has assumed the shape of a sea monster. The electromagnetic effects, the lights, the copper bands and the propeller all make this an inescapable conclusion, despite some fancy theorising from the narrator (which we have omitted) to the effect that this might be a giant mutant fish.

The problem we confront becomes even more difficult when we come upon reports of weird aerial constructions like one seen near Copiapo, Chile, in 1868 and cited by Fort from *Zoologist* for July of the same year. The object carried lights and was driven by a noisy motor—or, as a contemporary source describes it, "a gigantic bird; eyes wide open and shining like burning coals; covered with immense scales, which clashed together with a metallic sound."

Even more to the point is a story from the *New York Times* for July 6, 1873, occasioned by what the reporter calls "the very worst case of *dilirium tremens* on record." A farmer in the Bonham, Texas, area had seen an "enormous serpent" floating over his place. Others working in a field nearby also viewed the object and were understandably unnerved. A similar phenomenon appeared over Fort Scott, Kansas. According to the *Times* for July 7: "About halfway above the horizon, the form of a huge serpent, apparently perfect in form, was plainly seen."

Fort further notes a serpent "flap" in Darlington County, South Carolina, in May 1888; this time the thing supposedly made a "hissing sound."

Other reports, with which Fort was unfamiliar, include the following:

On December 5, 1762, a "twisting serpent" lit up the town of Bideford, Devon, for six minutes before fading away, and a "serpent of fire" taking the form of a horse-shoe passed over Geneva on May 15, 1811. It was also seen in Paris.

In more modern times, in March 1935, something described as "a large shining form resembling a gigantic snake wriggling forth in the northwestern sky" appeared over southern Norway and Denmark. It is said to have had four or five curves and to have moved in a vertical position with its "head"

# ARE PSYCHIC PEOPLE MORE LIKELY TO SEE UFOs?

A case history, in the witness's own words with commentary

*Janet Bord*

**Our grateful thanks to Lucius Farish for introducing us to the story and claims of Charlie Jones. At our suggestion Mrs. Bord corresponded with Mr. Jones and obtained much additional information. Recently married, our contributor was well-known to readers as Miss Janet Gregory.**

NOW that more and more UFO researchers are beginning to consider the possibility of a link between UFOs and a whole range of occult phenomena, it is interesting that deeper investigation of UFO witnesses quite often reveals that a witness has had more than one UFO sighting, and has also experienced what are generally termed psychic phenomena. It would appear that a certain "sensitivity" is in operation, and those who have it are likely to see all manner of strange things invisible to most human eyes.

One man who comes into this category is Charles Jones. He lives in a pleasant, rural area of Indiana, U.S.A., and has seen UFOs fairly frequently during the last twenty-four years. "My first observation of UFOs was early in 1947, which was a huge, dark orange-coloured sphere which flew around Indianapolis, Indiana, three times before it began to turn red and quickly sped off to the south-east. From then up into 1952 I watched several bluish-white UFO light streaks in the western sky flying south. I did not pay much attention then until sometime in 1964 . . . During 1966 and 1967, several UFOs flew by our house over our neighbour's field (to the east) to around 1,000 feet. At

the north end of our woods, they would turn west. The turns which I observed were of a high degree radius turn, never sudden 90 degree angle turns. Once in a while one would have trouble and zigzag some before proceeding on west."

During the 1960s, Charlie took some photographs of the lights he saw at night. The area was especially rich in sightings during that decade, with a flap lasting from the end of 1965 until 1969. Several different types of UFO were seen, including the frequently observed disc-shaped craft, one of which flew over Charlie's house just above tree-top height, on November 13, 1965.

## UFO and humanoid sighting near Sheridan

It was only a month later that Charlie had his most spectacular sighting. He saw a UFO at close quarters, and a "man" sitting inside it. It was Saturday, December 11, 1965, shortly after 1.00 p.m. Charlie was driving home from Sheridan where he had been Christmas shopping, and was travelling south along the Lamong Road. The weather was overcast with a white cloud cover at the time, and it had rained before noon. "What caught my attention," he said, "was a small white light

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pointed toward the earth. A similar object was observed twice over Cruz Alta, Brazil, in December of the same year. When it reappeared in July 1937, its "head" had become a ball of fire.

Then there was the great scare of 1857-58, when in the late dusk one evening a giant serpent hovered above a steamboat slowing for a landing along the Missouri River in Nebraska. It seemed to be breathing fire, say accounts, and it had "lighted streaks" along its sides. Sightings must have continued, for some years later a song passed into local folk tradition:

'Twas a dark night in Sixty-six

When we was layin' steel.

We seen a flyin' engine come  
Without no wing or wheel

It came a-roarin' in the sky  
With lights along the side . . .

And scales like a serpent's hide.

By the turn of the century Nebraskans were no longer confusing serpents and UFOs. In February 1897 "airships" started flying over the state and in the years ahead stories of a giant creature in Alkali Lake near Hay Springs, first told by Indians to the first white settlers in the area, were revived. One alleged observer said

that "its head was like an oil barrel, shiny black in the moonlight. Its flashing green eyes were spitting fire."

With incidents like those recounted above, we are moving into new and uncharted territory, where the line between "machines" and "animals" becomes blurred; so does the line that divides the various types of Fortean phenomena. The moral may be that research which concentrates on UFOs alone, ignoring the other mysteries of the physical world, is pointless. Perhaps what we need in the meantime is a report of a UFO dumping large, moving objects into the waters of Loch Ness!