# World round-up of news and comment about recent sightings

# ENGLAND Seaside UFO

In the Hampshire newspaper Christchurch Times of October 31, 1969, we read how, on October 23,-

"Two boys fishing at Highcliffe last Thursday saw a UFO-'an object with a red fore light and a green rear light, body invisible but about twice the size of the Concorde, and gliding along slowly at an altitude of 100ft, one of them told the CT.

"Paul Temple, of Montagu Road, Highcliffe, said that he and his friend, Barry Pearce, were fishing from Highcliffe beach when they saw the

"The UFO, he said, continued parallel to the beach and hovered over Barton Cliffs. It remained hovering, stationary, for two minutes before turning-then displaying orange and white lights-and going back to hover over the two boys 'as though it were observing us.'

"It moved up the cliff, and they chased after it, running for half a mile. Then the UFO disappeared. 'In actual fact, it must have accelerated at a

fantastic speed,' said Paul.'

### Giant object over Southend

The Southend Evening Echo of

December 16, 1969, tells how— "Mr. Jack 'Zetter, 22, of Seaforth Road, Westcliff, claims he and his wife saw a UFO from Sutton Road, Southend, and followed in their car until losing sight of it five minutes

"At first I thought it was the top of a building with lights on it. But then it moved,' said Mr. Zetter. 'It kept moving and stopping. It was as big as the civic centre. It was like a giant kite. The whole thing was a kind of silvery light.'

"He said it was difficult to estimate how far away it was. 'I'm certain it wasn't a plane or a balloon or anything

else recognisable.'

# UFO seen through telescope

From the Harlow and West Essex Gazette of December 12, 1969, we learn how, on December 5, 1969,—

"Terry Littlechild was leaving his home in Cecil House, Chingford Road, Walthamstow, just after eight to go to school when he noticed a bright light in the sky.

"His mother, June, also saw it, and told the Guardian at her home on Saturday, 'It was like a big, white light standing in the sky, still for just over three minutes.'

"Terry dashed upstairs to his room, where he keeps a telescope permanently

trained up to the sky.

"'I was astonished when I looked at it close up,' he said. 'There were two small lights, but very bright, and very close together, almost touching each other.

"While Terry came down the stairs again his mother saw the UFO move

"'It was over Alexandra Palace, about four or five miles away,' continued Mrs. Littlechild, 'and then it moved fast away to the left. We followed it for about five miles until it faded away to nothing."

# NORTHERN IRELAND Astronomers and their 'beliefs'

The following item is taken from the Belfast News Letter of December 18, 1969 -

"Do flying saucers exist? The chairman of the Irish Astronomical Society, Mr. Andrew Trimble, thinks they do, and last night put forward a strong argument in support of unidentified flying objects.

"In an illustrated talk Mr. Trimble said that many astronomers privately believed in UFOs but did not say so publicly because they feared ridicule."

# **NEW ZEALAND** Did orbs of light cause 'circles'?

We are greatly indebted to those many readers living in New Zealand who sent us news cuttings about incidents in the recent flap. Here is an account from the New Zealand Herald of October 9, 1969, about an event reported on October 4-

"Two bright orbs of light, seen following each other low in the western sky from Katikati early on Saturday, could have some connection with two mysterious burnt patches of grass found on the farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua, the man who saw the lights, Mr. I. A. McGregor, believes.

"Mr. McGregor, who owns a farm halfway between Katikati and Tauranga, said yesterday he had seen the lights at 2.50 a.m. on Saturday and had followed their sweep of the sky for 10

minutes.

"Samples of the perplexing patches of grass are to be sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for analysis."

# Horse scared of mystery 'circles'

The mystery 'circles' mentioned in the previous item were reported in the New Zealand Herald of October 8,

"Two mysterious circular burnt patches of grass have been found on the hillside of an open expanse of farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua.

The owner of the farm, Mr. C. T. Johnson, of Te Waerenga Road, said yesterday he had been riding his horse when he spotted the brown coloured

"When he attempted to get closer his horse became 'spooky and silly' and Mr. Johnson said she would not go near the circles.

'The horse reared up and Mr. Johnson was forced to dismount to investigate. He said he had been riding

for about an hour.

"A geologist from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Rotorua, Mr. D. Rishworth, accompanied a Herald reporter to the farm yesterday.

CIRCLES]

"The circles were on the side of a steep hill with the upper slope more burnt than the lower area. One circle was very distinct and measured about 53 feet in diameter, but a smaller circle, measuring about 30 feet in diameter, had almost faded away.

"The grass had grown a darker green on the smaller circle. Higher up the hill a number of small burnt-out

patches were found.

"Mr. Rishworth said he could offer no explanation. He dug a sod of earth and burnt grass and will send it to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Wellington to be analysed.

"Mr. Johnson said he had been farming at Kaharoa for 18 years and had never seen anything like it.

" 'At first I thought grassgrubs had been at work but when I got closer I saw a large circle of burnt patches. I haven't the faintest idea what caused the circles and can only say it is mighty mysterious.'

#### UFO THEORY

"However, many are convinced the theory of an unidentified flying object is connected with the circles.'

# Another 'circle' and torpedo-shaped UFO

From the New Zealand Herald of October 10, 1969-

"A third mystery circle has been found on a farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua, says a Herald Staff Reporter.

"The third circle burnt in the grass was found by the owner of the farm, Mr. C. T. Johnson. It lies across a fence-line. The fence is undamaged.

'Mr. Johnson earlier this week found two circular burnt patches of grass while riding his horse and he said the horse became 'spooky and silly' and would not go any closer to them.

"A sample of soil and burnt grass has been sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in

Wellington for analysis . .

'The Herald correspondent at Dargaville reported that an unidentified flying object was sighted by a Redhill family on Wednesday (October 8) about 7.30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. J. Searle and their daughter Gillyan, aged 13, who live above Glinkes Gully, were halfway down a hill walking toward their home when Gillyan spotted what she thought to be an aeroplane on fire.

"It was moving in a line from Glinkes Gulley in the direction of Te Kopuru, and was seen for several minutes.

"Mr. Searle said the object appeared to be torpedo-shaped and flames were shooting out of the back like a giant skyrocket. He said that it seemed about the size of an aircraft normally seen in the area and was flying fairly low at a high speed.'

# Cattle scared by another 'circle'

Yet another mystery 'circle', and its effects, was reported in the New Zealand Herald of October 16, 1969-

'The third mysterious burnt-out circle discovered on central North Island farmland areas in a month has been found on a property at Puketutu, about nine miles south of Te Kuiti.
"The circle, on a small island in the

middle of a pond, was found by Mr. C. Blackmore on his farm. Mrs. Blackmore said her husband was herding his cattle down to the pond to drink. They went so far, then turned

'and belted back up the hill.'

"Mr. Blackmore thought the ducks had scared the cattle, but when he went down there were no ducks, just a circle on the island where the rushes had been flattened and turned brown. The remainder of the island was untouched and the rushes were quite green.

"Mrs. Blackmore said the dog would not drink from the pond and further attempts to get the cattle to drink there also failed. She added that there was a funny smell in the

area."

Credit: N. Wardell, The Apollo Verein, Otahuhu.

This account refers to the "third" circle: by our reckoning this one should have been described as the "fifth" as the four preceding it are all recorded in this issue of FSR—EDITOR)

# Erratic-moving, colour-changing UFO

The Auckland Star of November 25. 1969, tells how-

"The second appearance in two weeks of an unidentified flying object near Kauri Mountain, eight miles north of Whangarei, was reported yesterday.

"Mr. Neville Coop, of Ruatangata, had just returned home from a dance at 12.30 a.m. on Sunday when he saw a bright orange light in the north-

eastern sky.

"He called to his brother, Desmond, and they both watched it through a

telescope for 15 minutes.

"Mr. Coop said the oval object changed colour slightly, taking on a bluish tinge. It would remain still for about a minute, then move, either sideways or vertically.

"Finally, said Mr. Coop, the object rose rapidly and disappeared at speed.

"A similar sighting was reported by Mr. and Mrs. W. Risi, of Ruatangata.

# SPAIN Landing report

The Madrid daily newspaper ABC of December 24, 1969, carried the following account from Pamplona, Provincia de Navarra, datelined

December 23, 1969-

"An engineer employed at the 'Potasas de Navarra' mines here in Pamplona, says that he saw a flying saucer land and remain stationary for a few moments, near the locality of 'Las Arrublas,' between the small towns of Esparza and Beriáin; shortly afterwards it took off again.

"He claims that you can even see the marks it left on the ground, and also a large area of calcinated ground where it had been standing. He added that he had convinced some of his workmates, all of whom had gone to the scene to examine it and to take photographs, and also to analyse the

ground."—Cifra (agency). Credit: Sr. R-B. Guerard y Holmes

of Madrid.

#### Holiday observation

We were pleased to receive a report of a UFO observed by Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Astridge of Reigate, Surrey, while on holiday at Calella on the coast of Spain. The duration of the observation was two hours. Mr. Astridge writes-

"It was on September 26, 1969, and although at the time we were quite satisfied that the object was a "flying saucer, I wondered whether the sighting had been reported by other people, in view of the many thousands of English people on holiday at this resort. I contacted two newspapers, the British Ministry of Defence and the Spanish Embassy, but all denied having any reports.

"We were in a crowded thoroughfare running parallel to the coast when our attention was drawn to the object: dozens of people were pointing to the sky, and on looking up we saw a shining metallic object in the cloudless sky. It was completely stationary, and in shape and size was almost identical to that in the photograph on Plate III of the book Challenge to Science. The object we saw shone like burnished silver in the reflected sunlight, and appeared very high up. The edges were a little blurred.

"We continued walking towards the beach, while keeping the object under observation, but it did not move. On reaching the beach Promenade, we tried to observe it through one of the coin-operated telescopes, as it was over the sea, but the instrument wouldn't elevate sufficiently; several other people had the same idea, and some were watching it through binoculars. We then sat on a seat, and "lined it up" between the cross-spars of a telegraph pole, and for the next  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours it did not shift its position.

"As dusk descended, the whole object began to glow with a brilliant white light, until it looked like a gigantic star in the sky, then is slowly changed colour into a vivid ruby red; shortly after this it moved, completely soundless, streaking across the sky in an easterly direction at a speed far in excess of that of an aircraft, dwindling into a tiny speck within seconds, and

rising away from the earth.

"Altogether, many thousands of people must have seen this object, certainly many at our Hotel had seen it at various points along the coast, and yet, apparently, no one reported it; I should have thought that in view of the time it was there, and the number of observers, that it would have made headlines.'

# SWEDEN USOs reported

Unidentified submarine objects have been reported on a number of occasions in FSR, notably from Scottish and New Zealand waters. Here is a report sent recently to FSR by John A. Keel which adds to the score-

Mr. Ake Franzen of Stockholm. Sweden, has forwarded the following reports from the newspapers Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, Aftonbladet, Expressen.

#### USO OUTSIDE NORRTALJE

"An unidentified submarine has been reported Saturday night (September 13, 1969) inside the prohibited military sector at Björkö-Arholma, north of Stockholm.

"Navy Helicopters and a Coast Guard cruiser were sent immediately