

# DRAGONS AND UFOs AT LOCH NESS

*F. W. Holiday*

ONE evening at Loch Ness in August, 1972, Dr. Robert H. Rines, President of the Massachusetts Academy of Applied Science, came up with two colleagues to Strone where I was staying with my friends Wing Commander and Mrs. Cary, to tell us that he had just obtained what he hoped were underwater colour pictures of a large moving object which had broken the sonar-beam being generated by the Loch Ness Investigation research boat *Narwhal*. The object had been filmed using a strobe-light attached to the submerged camera. He asked us to treat the matter as confidential until he could have the film developed and intensified in the U.S.A. and examined by leading experts.

Eventually this was done and a press conference was held on November 1, 1972, at Boston, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers, The Boston Museum of Science, The Academy of Applied Science and The Loch Ness

## LANDINGS AND HUMANOIDS

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were not the only people who had witnessed this landing. In the coloured township, men, women and children fled screaming into their homes and locked the doors as soon as the light had appeared. At the military base at Rosmead, where the tennis court is situated, African people fled into the night when they saw the light. One man ran slap-bang into a tree and was knocked unconscious.

"Hundreds of cars are converging on Middelburg and Rosmead. Every field glass is being polished . . . but no one has yet thought of grabbing a gun!

"'You can make fun of my *red little men*, but I know there was something no one can explain. I'll take an oath on the Bible,' said Mr. Pretorius."

### Comments

One FSR correspondent, Mr. G. D. B. Williams, is uneasy about the Rosmead tennis court affair: he wonders if the damage is part of an elaborate hoax. Such a possibility must be borne in mind, although at first sight there are factors that would seem to militate against the hoax theory: the lack of vehicle marks, the absence of noise which might have alerted others in the vicinity, and the strangeness of the damage to the top tarred surface only.

This article is based on newspaper reports. Where distances are involved such as those in a vast country like South Africa—and indeed, as far as we here in England are concerned, on a global scale—we have no alternative but to rely on the media for our initial information. We are grateful for the courteous co-operation that has been offered by a number of newspapers, and particularly in this instance by the newspaper *Rapport*.

Investigation Bureau, at which the pictures were exhibited. The film had been processed by Eastman Kodak, and analysed by Professor H. Eggerton (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), H. Gillespie (California Institute of Technology), Dr. L. Katz (Astro-Dynamics, Inc.) and Dr. C. W. Wyckoff (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute).

The colour photographs show "sections of a large object with a rough textured surface of a dark green-brown colour."<sup>1</sup> In one group of pictures a triangular "appendage" appearing to contain five digits is visible and if this group is seen in sequence the "appendage" appears to change position in relation to the rest of the object. These photographs were "synchronous with the sonar traces obtained aboard *Narwhal*."

The experts considered that the "appendage" in the pictures was at least 20 feet away from the camera. "The total length of this "appendage" is estimated by one group at 6 feet, a maximum of 3 feet in width and drew the comment that it looks like a flipper; another group estimated the length at 8-10 feet with a width of 4 feet." The report also states: "Subsequent frames show another appendage which resembles a tail-like structure of similar dimensions."<sup>2</sup>

The sonar-echoes obtained simultaneous with the pictures were analysed by six leading experts including P. Sitzki, President of the Raytheon Company; Martin Klein, President of Klein Associates, sonar manufacturers and designers; Professor Harold Eggerton; Dr. R. Eide of the Simrad Company; Dr. J. Bouyoucos of Hydro-Acoustics, Inc., and Professor I. Dyer, Head of Oceanographic Engineering.

Even before seeing the photographs the Raytheon Company stated: "... it may be determined from the record at 0105 hours, 0117 hours and 0157 hours that the animal(s) has (have) a dimensional extent of approximately 20-30 feet as determined by the length of the echo-returns."<sup>3</sup>

When these traces appeared on the sonar-screen a quartz iodine searchlight was played on the surface of the water along the line of the sonar beam. "When the light was switched on the object seemed to come towards the transducer for a short distance and when it was switched off the object moved away. This occurred several times and more work should be carried out to see if any correlation exists."<sup>4</sup>

This latest evidence that the phenomena in Loch Ness are objective is the most conclusive and best-attested to date. Even so, it tells us nothing we do not already know. It is most tempting to adopt the conclusion that the objects are animals. Yet long-line fishing, dredging, netting, scuba-diving and submarine investigations have failed to produce a particle of organic evidence in support of this. Moreover, strange phenomena in the sky have been observed.



**Graham Snape (right) interviewing Frank Searle at Loch Ness about his sightings of unexplainables**

One evening about midnight in August, 1971, I was standing on the path above Strone talking to Graham Snape, a young schoolmaster who teaches science subjects and who at the time was acting as Group Leader for the Loch Ness Investigation. I was just about to go up to my caravan and bed when Snape gave an exclamation and pointed at the sky. I looked immediately but could see only broken cloud. He said he had just glimpsed several spherical objects moving from west to east between the cloud-cover.

While we were looking round trying to catch another glimpse of the objects a land-rover driven by Mrs. Pat Crowesdale—a well-known local resident—came up the lane. She also had seen the objects. Interested, we inquired around and found that they had also been seen from the Bureau's camp at Achnahannet. They were described as reddish balls moving slowly at low altitude and showing a distinct diameter. The Achnahannet witness was under the impression that one or more of the objects had entered the loch.

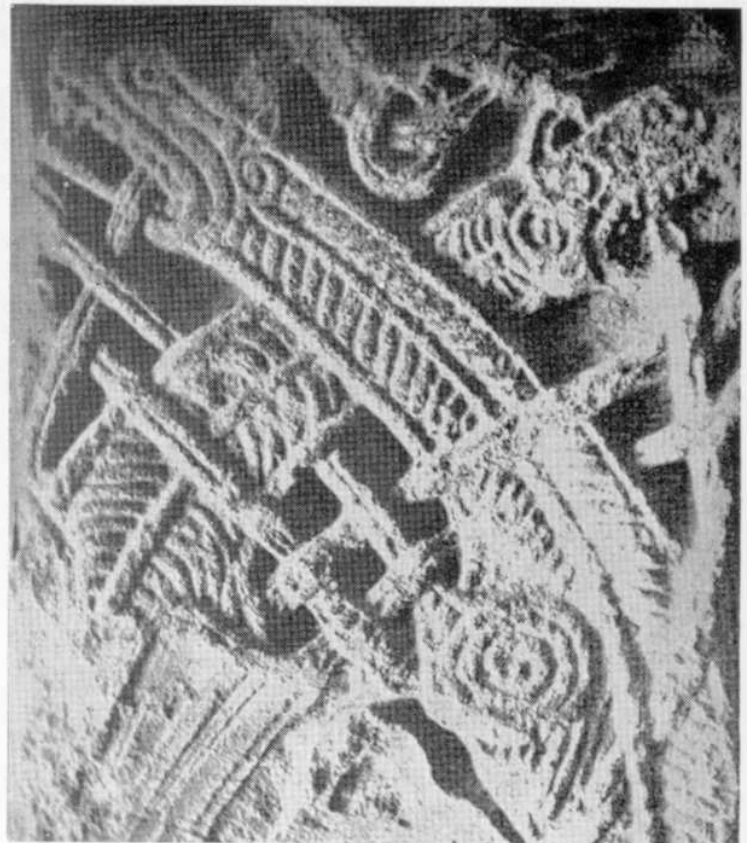
Frank Searle—an observer who has lived three years by Loch Ness and whose pictures of monsters have appeared in *The Daily Mirror* and other newspapers—told me about an incident in daylight. He was chatting to a visitor on the shore when an object, high in the sky, was seen approaching slowly from the west. At first they thought it was some sort of balloon, especially since the wind was from that direction. However, instead of drifting across the loch it hovered for a while and then retraced its path and disappeared from whence it came.

I then asked Mrs. Cary to undertake a watching brief and to let me know if anything of a similar nature turned

up during the winter. She had, she told me, once or twice seen odd coloured lights in the sky but had no opinion about their nature. One night in November, 1971, however, she saw something quite extraordinary. Coming fairly fast up the middle of Loch Ness at low altitude was a glowing, golden, oval object with a distinct reddish aura, its size being perhaps 20 feet on its long axis. It was lower than the crest of the background mountains and quickly shot out of sight behind the hill moving towards Fort Augustus. She had it in view only for seconds.

We have here in all this, I think, a pretty remarkable situation. In my view there is not the slightest doubt that the things in Loch Ness (and other waters) are what used to be called dragons. And as a definition of "dragon" we can only take the descriptions and depictions in world religious art as our criterion. All of it is there—the humps, the serpentine shape, the hairy neck and horned head and the rest. But the thing that makes the situation bizarre in the extreme is that the objects in the sky are also depicted and described. And they are described in relationship to the things in the water.

Mackenzie says: "The great dragon festival of China has been held for many centuries on the 15th day of the first month. On that day a dragon is carried through the streets and a man marches in front of it with a large red ball. De Groot, Hirth and Di Visser have written regarding this mysterious ball which was sometimes depicted by artists between two dragons. The ball has been referred to as the sun, the thunder symbol, the moon and a pearl. Sometimes, Di Visser notes, it is



**Detail on a 9th-century stone cross-shaft at Colerne, Wilts., showing long-necked Loch Ness-type dragons with associated spiral**



represented as a spiral emitting flames or as a ball on which something like a spiral is delineated.”<sup>5</sup>

The spiral has long been associated with dragons, particularly in the Scandinavian Jellinge-style sculpture of pre-Norman church art<sup>6</sup> and on many Chinese tapestries. It was a sacred symbol and appeared on the ancient Egyptian crown. Iron Age spirals appear on ornamented stone balls found in Scotland. Long before these, the spiral was used extensively by the Bronze Age in religious symbolism.<sup>7</sup>

The late Guy Underwood, a dowser, claimed that various mysterious lines of force he called “geodesics” are often grouped in spirals in a form determined by a mathematical law based on the number seven. He believed that these geodesics are a natural force probably akin to magnetism although this has been contested.<sup>8</sup>

He wrote: “One of the most interesting problems about the White Horse of Uffingham is the fact of its being known as a horse when it is clearly a dragon, i.e. a serpent with legs.”<sup>9</sup> After investigating the Bronze Age hillside figure he found that the animal’s eye was marked by a spiral of geodesics over a blind spring.

I learned to dowsing four years ago under the tuition of Mrs. Cary who is a member of the British Society of Dowsers. She has been dowsing the location of monsters in Loch Ness for many years. Most people of course were highly sceptical, especially scientists, until they pointed sonar-beams at the predicted locations and recorded echoes from unknown objects in the water-column. I have already had some success using this technique but have really no idea how it works.

With this whole thing—the dragons, the UFOs and the geodesics—we seem to be wandering in a limbo between objective science in a material world and psychic effects in a mental world. Some people consider dowsing to be an ESP faculty but even if this is agreed then we have still explained nothing.<sup>10</sup> The late Dr. C. E. M. Joad wrote: “As so frequently occurs when one is investigating so-called abnormal phenomena one finds it equally impossible to withhold credence from the facts or to credit any possible explanation of the facts. Either the facts did not occur or, if they did, the universe must in some important respects be totally other than what one is accustomed to suppose.”<sup>11</sup>

I accept the latter because one has really no option. Dragons are real because sonar waves bounce off them. UFOs are real because they intercept radar waves.<sup>12</sup> But how real is real? Even more important, what does it all mean? In pondering these questions and conducting further experiments we may find that our horizons have extended magically to include concepts at present not even dreamed about. Perhaps this is the object of the exercise?

Throughout medieval and Celtic literature dragons are referred to frequently as phantoms and apparitions. The existing data does not make this impossible. Dr. Raynor C. Johnson said: “I am of the opinion (as is Tyrrell) that there is no essential difference between an apparition and a ghost, but I differ from him in regarding both as physical. I would maintain that they do reflect in a limited degree ordinary light waves.”<sup>13</sup> If true, perhaps we should now add “and sonar impulses.”

What we find in this grandfather of all enigmas is an interlaced mass of legends, traditions and scientific observations which have so far defied all analysis. The male dragon—according to D. A. Mackenzie (*Myths Of China And Japan*)—has whiskers and under the chin or in the throat is a luminous pearl. The Chinese used to call this object “the precious pearl” or “the moon-pearl” and, under Buddhism and Taoism it became “the pearl that grants all desires.” Under the Sumerian and Egyptian cultures it was depicted as a winged disc and was the symbol of life. I feel we have no option but to regard these objects as the UFOs of modern report. Parallel with this we have dragons allegedly emerging from wells or holes at which points spiral geodesics can be detected by dowsers.<sup>14</sup> Is it mere chance that spiral effects have been detected deep in Loch Ness?<sup>15</sup>

In 1484 Felix Faber wrote: “But on our holy mount the heights are fit for mankind; on it there is no terrifying monster; light and darkness follow each other as in nature generally; there are no dragon-apparitions but all is divine and holy.”<sup>16</sup>

This is the background against which the mystery of the Loch Ness monster is being enacted.

#### References

- 1 Report from The Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, Ltd./Massachusetts Academy of Applied Science. October 29, 1972.
- 2 *Ibid.*
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 Mackenzie, D. A. (1926): *The Migration Of Symbols*, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., London.
- 6 Examples: 10th century grave-slab at Levisham, Yorkshire; Cross-shaft at St. Alkmund, Derbyshire.
- 7 Example: Newgrange.
- 8 Underwood, G. (1968): *The Pattern Of The Past*, Museum Press, London.
- 9 *Ibid.*
- 10 See: *Journal*, British Society of Dowsers, Vol. XXII, No. 154, December 1971.
- 11 *Adventures In Psychical Research* by C. E. M. Joad. Harper’s Magazine, 1938.
- 12 Condon, Edward U. (Scientific Director): *Scientific Study Of UFOs*, pp. 163-164. Bantam Books, New York, Toronto, London.  
Of the Lakenheath case, the now-notorious Colorado Project says: “In summary, this is the most puzzling and unusual case in the radar-visual files.”
- 13 Johnson, Raynor, C. (1953): *The Imprisoned Splendour*, Hodder & Stoughton, London.
- 14 A dragon well is mentioned in Nehemiah 2, 13. Alne church, York (south door), shows a dragon emerging from a well or hole. See also *The Dragon In China And Japan* by M. W. Di Visser (Amsterdam, 1913).
- 15 See report of Vickers submarine *Pisces* commanded by Capt. R. W. Eastlaugh which made 47 dives in Loch Ness during the summer of 1969.
- 16 Source: Skrobucha, Heinz (1966): *Sinai*. Oxford University Press.

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for details of F. W. Holiday’s new book,  
to be published in April 1973. . . .

#### THE DRAGON & THE DISC

# ANTHROPOIDS, MONSTERS AND UFOs

*Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman*

REPORTS of hairy anthropoidal creatures comparable to the legendary *yetis* of Tibet are as old as, or older than, American history. Loren Coleman and Mark Hall, in a study published in *The INFO Journal*, have written: "A vast folklore and a belief in a race of very primitive people with revolting habits is found from northern California up into the Arctic lands themselves. This tradition covers not only the whole stretch of the Pacific coast, but much of the rugged territory to the east, even into Greenland. Generally, these sub-hominids are described as very tall, fully haired and retiring. Sometimes they are described as carnivorous."

The first known written account dates back to 1811 and appears in the journal of one David Thompson, surveyor and trader for the Northwest Company of Canada. The *Memphis Enquirer* of May 9, 1851, reported an Arkansas sighting of the previous March, noting: "This singular creature has long been known traditionally in St. Francis, Greene and Poinsett counties, Arkansas sportsmen and hunters having described him so long as 17 years since."

Sightings of these anthropoids have continued up to the present day. The Bigfoot/Sasquatch of the American Northwest and British Columbia is only the most famous such creature and just about every state and province in North America has logged its share of reports. Curiously, there is every indication that such accounts are growing in number. In the past several years sightings have increased dramatically and probably will continue to do so. In 1970 Illinois underwent a prolonged anthropoid scare, complicated by repeated stories of large, mysterious felines allegedly seen in some of the same areas. Oklahomans in late 1970 and 1971 were running into ape-like beasts sometimes encountered in populated areas like the city of Lawton. During 1971 anthropoids appeared in Missouri, California, Florida and other states.

Fine, you say, but what has this to do with UFOs? A great deal, apparently. Consider the following:

On the evening of May 18, 1969, a power blackout blanketed a small rural area outside Rising Sun, Indiana. For two hours the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Kaiser was without electricity. The Kaisers did not connect the blackout with sightings of mysterious lights along a nearby ridge which had been made in previous weeks.

The next evening, around 7.30, the Kaisers' son George was walking through the farmyard on his way to a tractor when he was startled to see a weird figure standing about 25 feet away.

"I watched it for about two minutes before it saw me," young Kaiser said later. "It stood in a fairly upright position although it was bent over about in the middle of its back, with arms about the same height as a normal human being. I'd say it was about

five-eight or so and it had a very muscular structure. The head sat directly on the shoulder and the face was black, with hair that stuck out on the back of its head; it had eyes set close together and a very short forehead. It was covered with hair except for the back of the hands and the face. The hands looked like normal hands, not claws."

When Kaiser, who had been standing transfixed, moved, the creature made "a strange grunting-like sound," turned, leaped over a ditch and disappeared down the road running at great speed. Subsequently investigators made plaster casts of footprints found in the dirt by the ditch. These casts show three toes plus a big toe.

The following evening, around 10.15, neighbour Charles Roling watched a glowing greenish-white object for eight minutes as it manoeuvred in the sky above him.

A power blackout, an anthropoid and a UFO on three successive evenings. An interesting coincidence, at the very least.

A remarkable incident from Vader, Washington, a year and a half later adds a fourth piece to the puzzle.

On December 4, 1970, Mrs. Wallace Bowers heard her children calling for her to come outside. Stepping out the door, she was astounded to discover huge footprints in the inch-deep snow covering her yard. When she looked at them closely, she found that the tracks sank all the way through the snow to crush the gravel underneath down about an inch and a half. The prints measured 15 inches in length and nearly six inches across. She called the sheriff's office immediately. Vader, Washington, is in the middle of Bigfoot country and Mrs. Bowers was uneasily recalling how strangely the family dog had behaved the night before.

At 7.15 a.m. three days later, on the seventh, Mrs. Bowers again heard her children calling, "Mommy, come look!" The children were at the window staring out at something moving across the sky. At first, according to their mother, it "looked like a bright star" but then it got closer and for ten minutes the observers were able to view it carefully.

It appeared to be centred by a dome around which a larger circle seemed to be revolving. It was deeper orange in the centre, with the light diffusing toward the outer edge, but with a definite bright rim.

Mrs. Bowers said it seemed slightly tipped sideways, rather like an aeroplane banking, and then hovered briefly over the nearby Bonneville power lines. After it left the power lines, it changed from orange to a bright clear light and at one time seemed to make one last sweep closer, again turning orange. The children thought they saw a "grey shape" drop away from the UFO just before it vanished in the distance.

During the sighting Mrs. Bowers switched on the