

# the apro bulletin

VOL. 28, NO. 11

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

MAY 1980

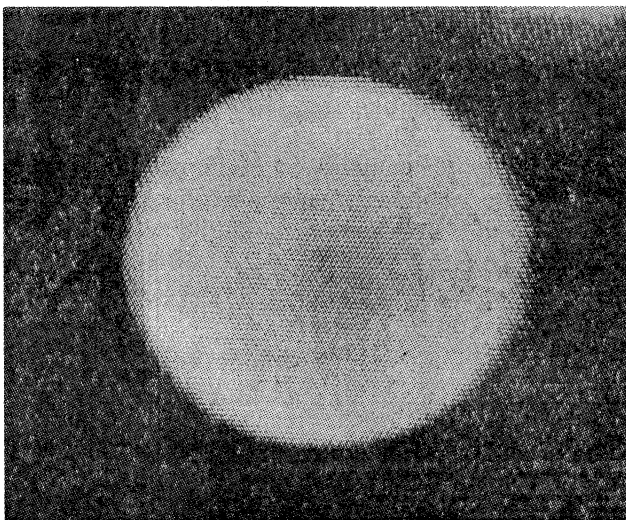
## DIVERSE PHENOMENA IN N.Z.

### THE KAIKOURA CONTROVERSY

*By Kevin R. Berry*

Kaikoura is a town in the South Island of New Zealand, about 100 miles north of Christchurch. During the months of December 1978 and January 1979, this town and the area around it were buzzing with UFO reports, some now known world-wide.

However, these were not the first reports that the area has had. The unidentified flying objects have been there for about three years, the residents say, and perhaps the Kaikoura and Clarence area could be considered as a UFO entry window. (Clarence is about 40 miles north of Kaikoura).



*UFO picture filmed by TV crew  
on January 3, 1979*

#### EARLIER SIGHTINGS

During 1978, two people travelling through the Hundalee Hills by car to Kaikoura saw the now famous object hovering over the hills. They were so busy watching it that their car almost ran off the road.

One of Clarence's 200 residents described what he saw in December 1978. He first thought the object was a stationary satellite, but realized that it wasn't. The

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*December 20, 1979 - Napier's Marine Parade.* At around 10:15 p.m. an unidentified couple sat looking out over the bay when a moving light caught their attention. It began falling downwards erratically and suddenly winked out. Then, at a point just below where the light had gone out, a silvery-orange, ball-shaped object appeared out of nowhere. It made a half-circle to the east, straightened and shot off at high speed to the south across the bay.

In the same place that the first object had appeared, another object appeared, turned a semi-circle and shot after the first object at twice the original speed. When the second object caught up to the first, both rushed away and disappeared to the south.

The witnesses thought that the lights were self-illuminated and not reflecting any natural or man-made light source, and thought that they were objects rather than simple lights as their actions were "too well disciplined." No sound was heard.

*April 27, 1980 - Auckland.* Four boys - Nigel McGuire (13), Kim Barry (13), Phillip Barry (15) and a 13-year-old who declined to be named - were on a fishing expedition on the McGuire's 200 acre farm when they suddenly noticed a strange glowing object moving slowly across the sky.

The object was described as eye-shaped with brightly colored lights around it and travelling about 50 feet above the ground. No sound was heard. The object "looked as if it landed behind a big hill . . . this tremendous color came out," said one of the boys.

They watched it for about a minute, became frightened and started running. Mrs. Ella McGuire said that when the boys arrived at her home they were trembling and crying. She wrapped them in warm blankets and treated them for shock.

When the boys had calmed down, they drew independent sketches and Mrs. McGuire said each diagram showed exactly the same shaped object in the same position.

Inquiries with the New Zealand Air Force indicated there were no planes in the area at the time.

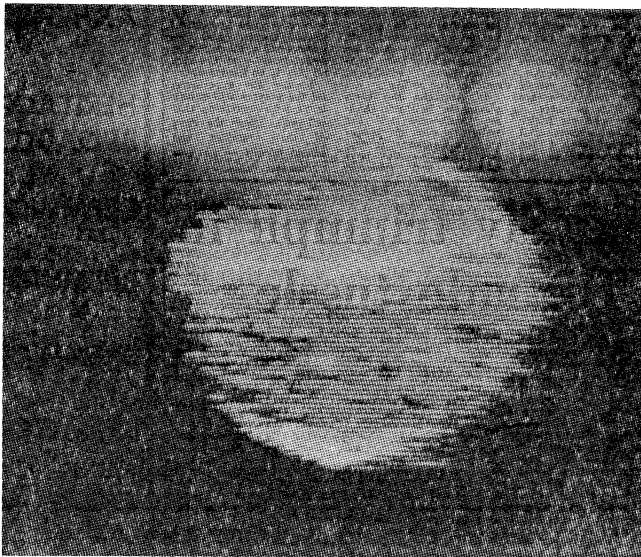
Within a week, at least two other mysterious sightings had been reported. Mrs. Grace Fry reported a bright white light between 7 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. She said she watched a large circular light that didn't move for ten minutes before it started to fade and eventually disappeared.

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rising over the tree-tops. It "hovered up to the left, then darted to the right again." They filmed all this with a telescopic lens, and estimated that the object, which was yellowish-chalky, was at an altitude of 10,000 ft. It had a reddish tinge when it first appeared, but this vanished when it stopped moving about. "It seemed to rotate on its axis and give off a pulsating glow," they said. The object had a clearly defined central core "which seemed to radiate out and form various patterns." These had looked like a star at first then like a folded umbrella. They also said that the object was about twice the size of the morning star. (Editor's Note: Dr. Bruce Maccabee has established that this object was the planet Venus rising, which fact has been previously published in the *Bulletin*.)

At 4:20 a.m. a second object, yellowish in colour, appeared in the sky. "There was a sudden intensity of light at first, then it scudded off across the sky," they said.

When the sun rose both objects were still visible, and they continued filming. The second object eventually faded out, but the first seemed to rise, and was finally lost from sight.



*Object filmed by David Crockett  
on December 31, 1978*

#### OTHER SIGHTINGS

There were many other sightings in the area, in other parts of the country, and all over the world. This was a "mini-wave." But the question of whether there were more UFOs about, or more sightings reported, or whether the increase was just an increase of reports published, remains unanswered. Here are some of the reports:

Three UFOs flew over Clarence on the morning of December 23, 1978.

The day before, several people in Wellington reported seeing UFOs.

A bright, spherical light was seen by people in Holland at 5 a.m. on the morning of December 27.

Another bright, spherical light was seen by Lord Gainford at a London New Year's Eve Party.

Back in New Zealand, a reporter for the "Press" in Christchurch photographed a green light over his back yard in early January.

In Oamaru, just two minutes after the TV One reporters began filming a UFO at Clarence, 320 miles north of Oamaru, police saw a light which appeared five times during the night.

Westport residents saw an egg-shaped light at midnight on the night of January 4/5.

On January 11, eelers in Hamilton saw a UFO which produced interference on their radio and frightened some nearby cattle.

In late January, New Zealand's Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition saw an object pacing the plane they were in as it passed over Kaikoura at 9 p.m. one night. It was tracked on Wellington radar and the plane's radar.

In Kaikoura, on January 6, three witnesses saw a vertical cigar-shaped object.

Nelson, New Plymouth, Invercargill, Auckland, Ashburton, Christchurch, Tauranga, and Karamea were among the other towns and cities in New Zealand which had reports of UFOs in the first three days of the New Year.

Australia also had its share of flying saucers. On January 3, for example, a woman and her son in Queensland were chased by a banana-shaped light.

Other countries reporting UFOs and even encounters of the third kind that week were England, Italy, Israel, USA, and South Africa. Reports could be found in the newspapers almost every day.

#### THE EXPLANATIONS

As is usual after important UFO sightings, the "experts" move in and explain the sighting away ten or twenty times.

The MOD, among many others, said the films were of Venus. However, in the case of the Crockett film, Venus was not even in the sky when the observers started filming. The TV One reporters said they could see Venus as well as the object they were filming.

Other Planets blamed were Mercury, Mars, and Jupiter, but I doubt that these were the culprits, as they do not look like the objects on film when seen with a telescope.

Balloons, Japanese squid boat lights, and car lights reflecting off clouds were also blamed, but I for one have never seen a car, balloon, or squid boat chasing a plane at 10,000 mph as was reported by Captain Powell, or doing a giant loop in 1/20 of a second, as filmed by David Crockett.

Saucer-shaped clouds, warm dry air, light-reflecting sea-foam rising upwards, and ball-lightning were other