

## JULY 30, 1909, GORE, SOUTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND



*Main Street, city of Gore, in 1909*

Amidst a wave of reports of "strange airship" in New Zealand in 1909, one report appeared in the newspaper Tuapeka Times, of Tuapeka, New Zealand, on July 31, 1909.

It said that an airship with two persons on board was seen at close quarters by two dredge hands engaged on the night shift on the Syndicate No. 2 dredge at 5 a.m.

The witnesses stated that the ship was lowered through the mist and circled round the vicinity, and that two figures were plainly discernable on board.

The airship was carrying lights at both ends. After theses manoeuvres, it "shot upwards." A yellow glare was noticed, and the weather clearing a little, the airship was seen travelling in a south-easterly direction.

At least two other newspapers I found published the same report; which appears in many ufology books.

Ufologist Tony Brunt found out that The Gore Standard newspaper had reported that the airship came down near Syndicate No 2 dredge working on a river in the Waikaka Valley some miles north of Gore. At about 5.00 a.m., two lights broke through the mist and then the forms of two figures sitting in the air machine M. F. Green, said the object came quite close to the dredge, circling around for several minutes as he and the second dredge man watched. At times it moved very fast and then slowed, at other times it would poise itself and then dip bird-like and rise again.

The object shot up into the mist leaving a yellow glare on the haze and then reappeared in a gap in the direction of Otakarama and disappeared. The master of the dredge arrived in Gore a few days later and he confirmed that his two men had seen the object. They watched it for some time before calling him from his sleep. However by the time he had dressed, the object had gone.

Tony Brunt also found that on the day of the sighting, the Clutha Leader newspaper published a letter from a correspondent who, like everyone else, had his own theory about the aerial visitors:

"Mr. Robert Grigor, surveyor, Balclutha, propounds a new theory which is certainly as feasible as the airship theory: 'With reference to the mysterious lights as seen at Sterling, Kelso, Milton and Invercargill, I make bold in all seriousness to look at the occurrence as a visitation from another world made by beings so far advanced in intellect and knowledge as at our present rate of progress in discovery and invention we may be at no very distant date.'"

## **VALUATION: HOAX**

Of course there is no evidence that any human-built airship ever flew in New Zealand in 1909, especially at night, with maneuvers such as reported, and lights on board. However, the only available document of this report is on a newspapers. It's an obvious hoax for selling copies of the paper, on the strength of what happened back in the Eighties in USA.