

## Bermuda Triangle

The Bermuda Triangle is one of the earth's great unsolved mysteries. It covers a huge area of the Atlantic Ocean bordered by Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Miami, Florida. It did not receive its name until 1964, but reports of strange happenings in the area have been recorded for centuries.

The first to bear witness to the Bermuda Triangle's weirdness was Christopher Columbus. As the *Nina*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria* sailed through the area in 1492, Columbus' compass went haywire and weird lights were seen in the sky, which he described as 'a great flame of fire that crashed into the ocean'.

In 1892, the sailing tramp *Marie Celeste* was found drifting on the Atlantic Ocean with no one on board. There was some water in the ship's bilges, but she was nowhere near sinking. The ship's only lifeboat was missing. Strangest of all, the crew of the *Marie Celeste* were never seen again, and their boat was never found.

The best authenticated mystery took place on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1945, with the disappearance of Flight 19. Five Navy Avenger bombers vanished while on a routine training mission on a clear day, as did one of the rescue planes sent to search for them. The men were trained to ditch in the sea, and all the planes carried life rafts. Yet, no survivors and wreckage from Flight 19 were found. Even the official Navy report stated that the Avengers had disappeared 'as if they had flown to Mars'.

About 200 other mysterious incidents have taken place in this area. Many of these are described in Charles Berlitz' book *The Bermuda Triangle* (1974).

Some people say that accidents will happen wherever people travel and the area of ocean in the Bermuda triangle is no exception to this rule. This is true, but it is the strangeness of the accidents that has attracted attention. This has led investigators to suggest a range of explanations from the scientific to the supernatural. One of the strangest explanations

is that the Bermuda Triangle is an area which is kept under surveillance by aliens and that from time to time they abduct specimens for analysis. This would explain the complete disappearance of the crew of the *Marie Celeste* and the 27 men of Flight 19. Another strange explanation is that the area is under the influence of the inhabitants of the lost continent of Atlantis, which sank below the waves thousands of years ago. A more scientific explanation is that the area is subjected to abnormal magnetic fields. This could have affected the compasses of the Avengers on Flight 19, causing them to fly in the wrong direction until they ran out of fuel in the middle of the Atlantic.

Whether the explanation is scientific or supernatural remains to be seen, but all the facts point to a highly unusual and dangerous phenomenon which should be taken seriously and properly investigated.