One of the most famous photographs of the Loch Ness Monster appeared in April 1934. Nicknamed ‘the surgeon’s photograph’, it was taken by London surgeon, Robert Kenneth Wilson. The photo clearly showed a long neck, with a tiny head, arched over the water. When the photograph was printed in the Daily Mail, it caused a sensation. But was it real? Many people thought so.

In 1994, Loch Ness Research, Alisdair Boyd, claimed that the photo was an elaborate fake. His enquiries led to a man called Christian Spurling who confessed to helping the surgeon plan the hoax in order to trick the newspapers. He said that the object in the photo was, in fact, a 30-centimetre plastic neck, attached to a toy submarine, and not a monster at all. To answer his critics, Boyd set out to prove his theory. From the shape of the ripples around the neck, it was possible to calculate the angle at which the photo had been taken. Boyd lined up his camera and took some pictures of a 30-centimetre styrofoam neck he had placed in the water. The results were almost identical. Despite this, Boyd remains convinced that there is a monster in Loch Ness and claims to have seen it.