

TWELFTH NIGHT... AND A UFO

Which, with an Andalusian farmhouse incident, comprise two Spanish cases from 1961.

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

Translation by Gordon Creighton

THESE two cases have been selected from my Catalogues of Landings in the Iberian Peninsular. Both involve multiple witnesses and both have a high *strangeness rating*.

1. Twelfth Night...and a UFO

A few words first about the principal witness in this case, which I have chosen for the sobriety of his account and for its interesting details. He is Don Luis G. Ferré Casas, a young man with administrative and technical qualifications having pursued courses in business studies and in teaching. He was 33 years old at the time of his experience. It was not until more than ten years later that our investigation group, CEONI, gathered all the data which I give below. In June 1971, having found out where the witness lived, we wrote to him requesting his co-operation, and he completed one of our questionnaire forms. Further details were secured in the course of subsequent correspondence between him and myself.

The time was around 3.00 a.m., in the morning of the day of the Feast of the Epiphany, that is to say, January 6, of 1961. Sr. Ferré and his parents and his sister were staying for a few days on an estate at Torroja del Priorato, in the Province of Tarragona. His father, accompanied by the family's dog (a pointer), had just retired to his room on the first floor, and the rest of the family were still downstairs chatting in the dining room and about to go up to bed themselves.

For some reason which has not been specified, the mother went out on to the terrace, and at once called urgently to them to come, whereupon the witness and his sister both went out to the terrace. And there, right in front of the house, on the mountain, at a distance of some 1,500 or 2,000 metres from the house, they saw what at first looked as though the Moon had quitted the sky and had come down and landed on the Earth. But the Moon was still there in the sky, full, shining as brightly as ever, and without a cloud to veil it. It was a perfect night, with clear visibility, and the temperature in the neighbourhood of 10° Centigrade.

What they observed has been described as a disc-shaped object, seemingly solid, with clearly defined edges, with a colour and brightness resembling those of the Moon itself. They could detect no sound from the object. It was on the ground on the mountainous terrain, in a spot where there was a fair amount of vegetation round about. Comparing the apparent size of the object with a nearby water tank owned

by the local waterworks (this tank is a few hundred metres from the house) Sr. Ferré estimates that its real diameter might have been about six metres. (See sketch by Sr. Ferré.) The effect which this sight produced in the minds of the witnesses is well summed up by Sr. Ferré:

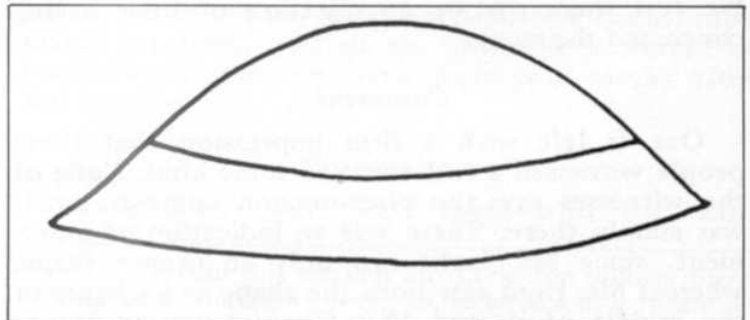
"A desire to investigate came over me, and I said I would like to get my shotgun and approach the object by a roundabout route. The object was as bright as the Moon. Or even brighter. But Mother went into a state akin to hysteria and so, in the face of this, I gave up the idea. So then we stood there looking at the thing as though it had been the most natural, purely everyday thing, and a great sense of tranquility took possession of us. And then, as there seemed to be no change, and without paying great heed to the matter, we went off to bed."

About twenty minutes had elapsed. The object had remained there in the same position throughout this time.

Next morning however, the mountain looked just as it did on all the other days. Although Ferré tried to find something which might have reflected the rays of the moonlight as a mirror does, he was forced in the end to the conclusion that there was nothing up there that could have done this.

And here is one final point, in the realm of the possible psychobiological effects produced in living beings by the UFOs. One day, as the witness was out hunting, with a pointer dog with an extremely good nose, he happened to walk across the place where the object had stood. The dog refused to follow him, and made a detour around the area.

Finally, the witness declares that on subsequent occasions, when the Moon is full, and looking out from that same window, he has never seen the phenomenon repeated.



Sr. Ferré's drawing of the UFO he saw on
January 6, 1961

2. A visit to a farmhouse in the Province of Andalucia

In our opinion the next case is one of the most remarkable that we have on our files. We think this for two reasons: namely, because this sighting, so meticulously reported, is a typical example of all those varied features which go to constitute the world-wide UFO phenomenon, and, secondly, because our source happens to be a personal friend in whom we have the utmost confidence. He is a Sevillian, of a family that is held in high esteem, and a man who, by virtue of his whole background and career, academic and personal, is worthy of the highest praise. He is, to put it in a nutshell, in my opinion the ideal witness.

José-Gregorio Darnaude y Rojas Marcos was 28 years old at the time of his sighting. He took his bachelor degree, then did a three-year Law course in the University of Seville, and he has done courses in Economics and Business Management. In 1961 he was the manager of one of the enterprises owned by his family, the agricultural and cattle-breeding firm of Fuenteluenga S.A.

First a brief sketch of the setting. The Fuenteluenga Estate consists of 1300 hectares of mountainous terrain, low hills, meadows, an olive-grove, pine groves, and an orchard in front of and skirting the valley where the cluster of farm buildings lies. The property is within the municipal boundaries of Villanueva del Rio y Minas, Cantillana, and El Pedroso, at a distance of some 50 kilometres from Seville.

The time is 11.00 p.m. on June 11, 1961, a typical hot night of the Andalusian summer. José Darnaude is lying in a hammock in the garden in front of the house, when he feels a sensation of discomfort and a peculiar malaise, with a pricking and itching throughout the whole body and particularly on his head. And suddenly, from behind the house, there appears a luminous disc flying at enormous speed on a NE-SW course. With an abrupt 90° turn it then comes down and hangs in the air, at a height of some 20-30 metres from the ground, and practically on an eye-level with him, as the situation of the farmhouse is lower than the area over which the UFO was hovering. From where the witness was, the horizon (in this case bounded by a hill), appeared to be above the stationary object. The distance of the object from him was about 250 metres. It emitted no detectible sound and gave the impression (although he is not fully sure on this point) that it was spinning on its axis, while all the time changing in colour and intensity of colour through white, orange, red, purple, and back to white again, always scintillating and flashing.

The night was dark, with no Moon, but also with no clouds to hide the stars, and visibility was excellent. The apparent size of the UFO was roughly half that of the full Moon, and he estimated its actual dimensions at some 4-6 metres in diameter and 3-4 metres through from top to bottom (these being its major and minor axes respectively, as it was elliptical in form). Its appearance was as of two dishes set face to face and, as Darnaude describes

it, it seemed definitely solid, and with luminous, slightly diffuse, contours which were however brighter than the rest of the object. He could see no windows or other particular features.

Sr. Darnaude at once ran into the house and called to various members of his family and to the servants to come and see the phenomenon. The people in the house included José-Maria Barrera, Rufino Macías Helo and his wife Antonia, and some dozen other persons. Then suddenly the object, turning white again, shot straight upwards at an enormous speed and vanished from sight towards the West. The whole duration of the incident, from the initial sensations of itching and malaise to the disappearance of the UFO, had been some 7-10 minutes.

And now we come to yet another aspect of the complex riddle of the saucers, namely the changes brought about in the surroundings through the presence of an unidentified flying object. Darnaude informs us that all the insects, crickets, cicadas, etc., fell silent and only suddenly started singing again after the extraordinary machine had gone. In the stables (which have no openings in the walls through which the animals might have seen the UFOs) the horses and mules went mad with excitement. The sheep, some four kilometres distant from the house, at the far end of the property, broke through their hedges and wire-fences and scattered over the mountainside, so that the shepherds had to go and get help to round them up again. The mastiff dogs of the house, and the other dogs such as are usually found on farms, all cowered and were silent.

Moreover there is yet another indirect corroboration for this case: the watchman at a limestone quarry at a distance of one kilometre from the house declared that he had seen a "round light" cross the sky at high speed.

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I will close this report as I began it, with some of my own impressions of the eyewitness. I made the acquaintance of José-Gregorio Darnaude in October 1969 and, in fact, precisely during a meeting of students of the UFO problem which was held in Madrid, and which I myself had organized. He never at any time spoke confidentially about this case, nor did he make it public. On our way home afterwards however, as we were driving together to Seville in his car, he gave me, almost casually, a few snippets about the sighting. The present report is the result of subsequent meetings that I had with Darnaude and of correspondence with him, in the course of which he filled in one of our questionnaires with extensive details. He assured us that, in 1961, he neither knew of, nor was interested in, the UFO problem. But it is logical that after that experience he should have had the desire to inform himself on the subject and to seek, maybe unconsciously, to find some explanation for the occurrence or some reassurance and support in the catalogues of the very numerous similar cases that have taken place throughout the world. Senor Ferré

too (the witness in the first case which I have recorded above) has had the desire — since his own experience — to read serious books on the UFO theme. Nor do we think that this fact in any way gives ground for doubting his statements. Both

these men maintained strict secrecy for ten years about their sightings, and only “opened up” to the investigating specialist when given prior assurance that their testimonies would be used solely for the purpose of scientific study of the UFO question.

GEORGE ADAMSKI STILL CASTS HIS SHADOW

Thoughts prompted by an interesting report from Peru

Gordon Creighton

WE are indebted to Captain Jorge Milberg of Lima, Peru, formerly with the Panagra Air Line, who has forwarded to us, through his old friend Derek Dempster,* a recent press account of a remarkable sighting.

This took place on October 19, 1973, when a Peruvian engineer named Hugo Luyo Vega allegedly photographed, with a Polaroid camera, an unidentified hovering object which appears to have been identical in all respects with the ‘Venusian scout-ship’ allegedly photographed at Palomar Gardens, California, on December 13, 1952, by the unfortunate and possibly much maligned George Adamski.

Captain Jorge Milberg states that he has a friend who knows the Peruvian engineer. There is consequently a possibility that a fuller report, and copies of the photograph, will in due course be secured for *Flying Saucer Review*, and we have asked Captain Milberg if he can help.

According to the account which we have, published in the October 23, 1973, edition of the Lima newspaper *El Comercio*, Friday, October 19, 1973, is a date that Senor Hugo Luyo Vega is not likely to forget. The time was about 3.00 p.m., and he was driving on the Peruvian Central Highway towards Lima, accompanied by a business client from Matucana. The client had just bought some mandarin oranges from a road-side stall, and now suggested that they take a little break for a few minutes and enjoy some of the mandarins.

Then, in the words of Hugo Luyo Vega: “We saw the flying saucer, just a few metres from us. My breathing grew faster. Neither of us spoke a word. A whole string of ideas raced through my mind. I managed to keep calm and ~~ran to the car and~~ and ran to the car and got out my camera. And I just did the best I could to secure a picture of it.”

He managed to get only the one photograph.

His story goes on: “At first the saucer was moving very slowly. But then it began to climb and was quickly out of sight in the sky, and this is why I was unable to get more than one picture.

“For a moment I didn’t actually think that the

picture would come out all right, for I don’t consider myself all that good as a photographer, and I was greatly surprised when I saw that it had come out. All the photo showed was the thing’s shape, but at any rate this little bit of evidence is enough to prove that it was a real ‘UFO’ and not an invention of my mind.”

Sr. Vega explained that when they first caught sight of the saucer it was “at eye-level.” The place was at approximately kilometer 54 on the Peruvian Central Highway, La Carretera Central. As he described it to the newspaper reporter: “The UFO appeared above the river Rimac and over the tremendous ravine. It was travelling very slowly, and my client and I just stood there enraptured by the sight.”

Description of the UFO

Sr. Vega described the saucer as follows:

“It was of the colour of burnished silver. The upper part looked like a cupola. At its apex there was a steady blue light,¹ and below that there was the shape of a turret with small windows, which we could see perfectly. Beneath that, the saucer terminated in a big platform about ten metres² in diameter, and, in the centre underneath, it had a cone with a very powerful dark red pulsating glow.”³

It took the two men some twenty minutes to recover from their astonishment, and even then they remained there discussing the affair for some time still before driving on.

Sr. Vega was reserved with the press on the matter of the identity of his companion. His concluding words were: “He is a wealthy man who prefers no publicity.”

The accompanying sketch was done for the newspaper by Sr. Vega. As can be seen, it displays the typical “Adamskian” bell-shaped “scout-ship.” It will also be noted that the sketch shows the portholes of the craft seemingly distributed in fours, and thereby hangs a tale which is not without interest and which may be unfamiliar to many readers, so I relate it again now.

It will be recalled that, some fourteen months after Adamski claimed to have photographed his “scout-ship” over Palomar Gardens, a thirteen-year-

* Mr. Dempster was first Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* in 1955/56.