

performing low level aerobatics amidst Pavenham Woods on January 26th.

The investigator found several straight line alignments on the OS Map of the area, including one that passed through the landing site. This in fact is only

about one mile from the close encounter at the village of Harrold, reference earlier in the article.

It is the opinion of the investigator that the witnesses observed a very peculiar nocturnal phenomenon which reappeared on at least two subsequent occasions. Its nature is unknown.

OTHER REPORTS OF UFOs NEAR LAS BARDENAS REALES

Gordon Creighton

IN a previous article¹ I have already given an account of the important case at the Spanish Air Force's polygonum at Las Bardenas Reales, where a UFO was seen to touch down briefly at about 11.00 p.m. on January 3, 1975.

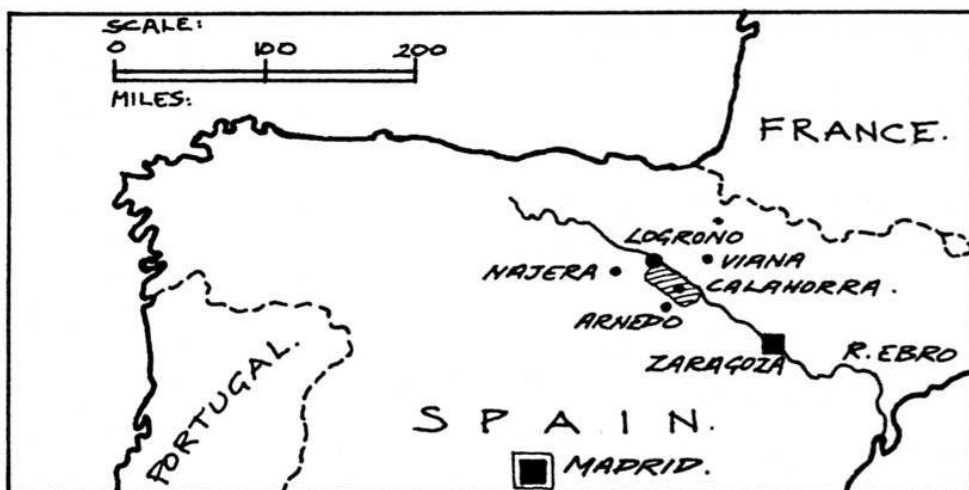
The Madrid newspaper *ABC* of January 7, 1977, carried a further report about past UFO activity in the same area, namely the district of La Rioja (running from the town of Logroño along a strip on the south side of the River Ebro eastwards towards the big Spanish Air Force base at Recajo). This is the same area in which the Las Bardenas Firing Range lies (see map).

The article consists of a résumé of nine previous UFO happenings in the La Rioja district, which occurred between August 1970 and December 1976. The details of these cases are as follows:-

1. August 27, 1970 In the early morning, near a football field at Las Gaunas, numerous witnesses observed a very bright blue luminous object which appeared briefly and then vanished among the trees. The object was spherical and emitted a beam of light. It was seen to be travelling against the prevailing wind.

2. At 2.00 a.m. on June 22, 1972, a student was listening to the radio at Logroño when an aluminium-coloured egg-shaped object some 30 - 40 cms. long silently entered his room and came to a halt about two metres above the floor, in front of him. On his tape-recorder the student secured curious sounds which technical experts have been unable to identify, and a beam of light some 5 cms wide was seen by the student to emerge from the UFO and play upon his transistor radio and his tape-recorder.²

3. At precisely the same time, i.e. 2.00 a.m. on June 22, 1972, a squad of soldiers on guard duty at the Recajo Air Force Base some 10 kms to the east of Logroño heard a loud noise of what seemed to be some powerful



Shaded area shows approximate positions of Recajo Air Force Base and Las Bardenas Reales firing Range

engine, and observed a machine, bathed in a great glow of light, flying at a staggering speed over the landing strip of the base. As the soldiers were unable to quit their posts they remained there until relieved at 2.30 a.m. The UFO was still flying around above them and continued to do so until 2.45 a.m. when it vanished. The number of men who saw it comprised two corporals and five enlisted men.

The UFO, which was very low, was shaped like a large cylinder. In fact it flew so low that the soldiers were obliged several times to throw themselves flat on the ground as it passed above them. A report on the sighting was forwarded from the Recajo Air Force Base to the Headquarters of the Third Air Force Zone, in Zaragoza.

4. March 23, 1974. A resident of Arnedo, who refused to give his name to the press, reported that he was driving his car along the Arnedo-Calahorra road (some 40 kms from Logroño) when he had three sightings of a luminous flying object.

5. November 28th 1974. A party of young men were travelling by car at dusk from Logroño to Viana (ten kms from the Recajo Air Base) when

their engine suddenly failed, although the petrol tank was full. A luminous beam was projected down on to the car, as though for the purpose of inspecting it. The men returned to Logroño and refused to give press interviews or reveal their names.

6. October 29, 1974. At 6.00 p.m. ten children from the school at Arrubal (4 kms from the Recajo Air Base) observed a silent, silvery-coloured craft with orange lights which was moving in a zigzag fashion and then halted for about one minute. The machine was elongated in shape, and the children claimed that it bore some kind of inscription.

The report included the names of all ten children.

Inscription on UFO allegedly seen by ten children near Recajo Spanish Air Force Base (item 6).

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7. Early June 1967, A number of girls from Logroño were returning home from sitting an examination in Madrid. As they were travelling along the Burgos-Logroño road, on the section between Najera and Logroño, their car was pursued for several kilometers by a bright, shining object.

8. December 30, 1976. Anastasio Martínez, nightwatchman at a tobacco processing works at Arrubal, was returning to his home in Logroño at about 2.10 p.m., when he saw, on the road ahead, an oval-shaped machine which emitted a trail about ten metres long and greenish and orange-coloured. He said he estimated the width of the craft at about 5 metres.

9. December 30, 1976. At 1.15 a.m. on the same day, José Maria

Satrústegui, driver of a milk-truck and living at Villava, accompanied by his son Miguel, was on the road at a place some 40 kilometers from the Recajo Air Base when they saw a big, luminous, yellow craft emitting vivid beams of coloured light and a green trail.

All these, and many other minor cases, had already been mentioned in the Rioja edition of the newspaper *La Gaceta del Norte* over the period 1970-1976, and are now reprinted in summarized form in the Madrid paper *ABC*. It is evident that this whole region around Logroño and the Spanish Air Force's base at Recajo, and their firing range at Las Bardenas Reales, has been one of the principal foci of UFO activity in Spain for many years past. As I have already reported, the Spanish Air Ministry has now embarked upon a policy of quietly

"leaking" their best UFO cases to the journalist and UFO investigator J.J. Benitez. We may assume that this steady pattern of phenomena in the regions along the southern bank of the river Ebro has probably been one of the factors underlying their decision to "come clean about the UFOs."

References

1. See *UFO Lands on Spanish Air Force Target Range* (FSR Vol. 24, No. 5, 1978).
2. This case has been reported in detail in the article *UFO Enters and Inspects a Room*, by Albert Adell and Pere Redón (FSR Vol. 19, No. 2, March-April 1973).
3. See *The Spanish Government opens its Files*, (FSR, Vol. 23, No. 3, 1977).

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

To the Friends of William Daniel

Dear Mr. Bowen, — Bill Daniel's mother, Mrs. E. K. Daniel, requested that I write you about the following. As you know, Bill was greatly interested and involved in the study of the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps no one devoted more time to the gathering of UFO literature and in keeping up with the UFO situation that did Bill. His physical disability, unfortunately, prohibited him from field investigation and from travel, but within the confines of his abilities, he made a splendid and largely un-paralleled contribution.

Bill left a voluminous library of UFO materials and requested that his library be donated to the Center for UFO Studies, with which organization he had long been associated, feeling that his library would be put to the best possible use in that manner. We at the Center are honored to accept this gift and in recognition of his action, the library of the Center will henceforth be called the William Daniel Memorial Library.

With the full concurrence of his parents, we are establishing the William Daniel Memorial Fund to make possible the proper housing of the library and its extension. We hope that his many friends will recognize that there is no better way of honoring his memory than making a contribution to the William Daniel Memorial Library Fund.

Since the Center for UFO Studies is a not-for-profit corporation, con-

tributions are tax-deductible, an important point these days. The size of the contribution does not matter as much as the thought that goes with it and any and all sums will be applied to the growth and housing of the William Daniel Memorial Library.

Sincerely,
J. Allen Hynck
Center for UFO Studies,
1609 Sherman Avenue,
Suite 207,
Evanston, Illinois 60201
June 18, 1979

Animals and UFOs

Dear Sir, — I found Ian Cresswell's article "UFO frightens a dog" quite enthralling (FSR Vol 24, No. 5) since it raises a number of points I have further to found somewhat confusing.

Firstly, Mr. Cresswell states that the dog "was sitting at his feet munching a sandwich..."

Now to me this suggests that the animal had previously shown no signs of inappetence, since the symptoms of any animal "going off its food" is frequently indicative of incipient illness. In other words, the fact that the creature appears to have enjoyed its meal could perhaps eliminate any possible incubative period of disease such as distemper or hard pad.

Secondly, the dog "started to snarl and whimper, and took off..." which action apparently coincides with the appearance of the UFO from the

"large fluffy white cloud." I feel therefore, that one can legitimately query as to what rationale inclined the dog to comprehend that the alien visitor was "not of this world." Ultrasonic sound perhaps?

On his return home, Mr. Cresswell found the dog "still barking... and in a matter of weeks was dead." The only clue we can find here was that the dog "started to degenerate into fits, and died shortly after." But if the illness "was precipitated by the experience." by what *modus operandi* was this achieved? Recognition and fear of the unknown?

There are of course many canine diseases where fits and convulsions form a major part of the syndrome as a whole, but in this case I have the feeling that up to the time of the appearance of the UFO, the animal had been quite normal.

This does not therefore sound to me like a case of epilepsy, meningitis, or encephalitis, all of which exhibit a convulsive state, so one can only conclude that perhaps some form of radiation might be involved.

But if this is the case, why was not the young man himself involved?

Had a postmortem been instituted immediately after the dog's death, who knows what might have been found?

However, this is just one aspect of the many puzzling, intriguing facts we are currently finding when we deal with UFO/animal contact.

I have endeavoured to deal with this in our forthcoming book *The Dyfed*