

a transparent cupola of glass or some similar substance which emitted a vivid glow. Directed downwards from the craft were four vivid beams of light, "like searchlights", changing continuously in colour from green to blue and back again to green.

The craft emitted a loud hum the whole time, clearly audible by all the boys, who were only forty metres from it. They stood there for some ten minutes or so observing it. Then a vivid blue burst of light flashed out from it and they heard a dull bang. They stayed watching for a further five minutes, and then ran back to the youth-centre. Watching from there, they saw the UFO rise, slowly at first, and then, gaining speed, make off.

Frau Margarete Gustafson, foster-mother of the 13-year-old boy Martin Steffes, confirmed that he had dashed into the house, excited and shouted hysterically. She said her first reaction had been one of anger at the boy, but when she and her husband ran outside they saw several round-shaped UFOs (of an *apparent* size of some 10cms. diameter as viewed by them) fly-

ing away westwards over the next-door house. The UFOs then returned and flew overhead again. She at once telephoned to the Police, who sent a patrol-car.

Eight Police Witnesses

Police Chief Thomas Welland states that he could scarcely believe his eyes, for on arriving he saw five UFOs, one of them changing colour constantly from dark-green to pale-green and, further off, four more of them, also flashing lights. He called for further Police, and three more patrol-cars arrived from Messel, so that a total of *eight policemen* were able to observe them. The nearest of the UFOs flashing the green beams, seemed to be trying to touch down behind a row of trees bordering the Messel-Darmstadt highway. Then they saw it shoot upwards again, and all their car-radios began to crackle. The lights flickered on and off in the houses round about, and TV reception was blotted out. (Unfortunately none of the patrol-cars carried a camera.)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE HUGE UFO OVER SPAIN (NOVEMBER 1985)

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(Translation from Spanish)

MORE than a year having now elapsed since this event, reported by me in FSR 32/1, I transmit herewith several further important details which I thought at the time that it might be advisable not to divulge:-

- (1) A video film of the phenomenon was made by the TV-3 Channel, and a copy of it was supplied to the Spanish Military Authorities, at the latter's request, so that they might study it.
- (2) The UFO over Tarrasa, which was filmed, and was also picked up by the radar, was at an altitude of 8,000 metres. (This was the UFO observed by Antonio Ribera, as mentioned in the Editor's footnote to my article.)
- (3) The great UFO nine kms. in length, and the smaller one which came out of it, were probably at a height of between 2,000 and 3,000 metres, and, so far as we know until now, were not observed *visually* by anyone.
- (4) The principal source of our information on the case was Sr. Antonio Toscano, Director of Operations in the Barcelona Air Traffic Control Centre,

with whom I was able to discuss it on several occasions, and who even permitted me to hear the taped recordings of the communications between himself and the pilots who saw the UFO over Tarrasa, he having been on duty at the time, and having seen the objects registered that night on the radarscopes.

- (5) The Spanish Ministry of Defence (and the Air Force) tried to prevent the divulgence of this important happening, and this is why, at the time, I withheld certain concrete data which would have shown what a detailed knowledge we had of the case, as well as the source of our information.

In conclusion, I would add that there do not seem to have been any certain sightings of importance in Spain during the last three months of 1986. However, there is a rumour that during October a UFO was detected by radar and chased by two Spanish *F-18* fighter craft over Zamora Province. But so far we have not succeeded in getting any information about this, and consequently the case may be doubtful.

A CE-III ENCOUNTER IN FIRENZE IN SUMMER 1985?

(Translation from Italian)

FABRIZIO VILLA and CALOGERO ORLANDO
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We are much indebted to Dr Roberto Pinotti, Director of the Italian National Ufological Centre (C.U.N.) for sending us the Italian text of this case and we are delighted to welcome Dr Pinotti, an old friend of FSR, onto our masthead as an FSR Consultant! — G.C.

IN the early hours of August 8, 1985, in Firenze, Signora Domenica Cantone, unable to sleep owing to the heat, went out on to the balcony of her sixth-floor apartment.

It was about 3.30 a.m. when she saw an object slowly and silently approaching from her left-hand side, from the direction of the Cascine. Arriving at a certain point, the strange thing halted, on a level with her balcony and a few metres from her, and directly above a little football-pitch right beside the building. Viewing the object closely, the lady was able to observe a central egg-shaped body of a luminous silvery hue, surmounted by a transparent, glassy, cupola (through which she was able to see the houses on the other side of the cupola).

But her surprise did not end there. For, inside the cupola she beheld two "men" who "were talking together" and who now and then broke off their conversation in order to gaze fixedly at her. All she could see of them was their heads, each of which seemed to be surmounted by two great "ears" (which also appeared as though they might be part of the "caps" in which their heads were swathed).

Suddenly, from the base of the object, three "legs" slowly began to emerge. (The lady called them "arms", as the daily newspaper *La Città* of August 24, 1985, later reported.) They were of the same colour and luminosity as the central body of the object. The strange object appeared to be desirous of landing. At that point the lady, seized with panic (for she thought the two men were bent on abducting her) ran back into the room to awaken her husband and tell him there was a UFO. But her husband did not awaken. The lady ran back on to the balcony, only a moment later, and saw that the UFO had already started to draw up its "legs". The two men meanwhile still remained where they were, gazing fixedly at her. A few moments later, the legs now drawn in, the object departed silently and at lightning speed in the direction of Monte Morello, emitting as it went an even more vivid light than it had before — so intense that "it hurt my eyes to look at it".

The time was now 4.00 a.m. Half an hour had elapsed since she caught sight of it. The lady, still terrified, then went back to bed, having first carefully shut all the windows and drawn all the blinds. She

was unable to close her eyes and sleep again that night.

Today, that lady is still terrified, and ever since that night she sleeps with all the windows barred, and in order to endure the heat of summer nights, her only thought now is to get herself a ventilator.

Two days after her sighting, some boys found marks on the sportsfield beside the building: three circular imprints with a deeper central area containing rubble and fragments of compressed carbon (at least that is what they looked like to the witness), and an outer area where there was a greyish powder.

As, during the interval since the affair, the rumour of her having experienced a ufological event spread through the neighbourhood, the marks discovered were considered to have been made by the object seen. In that case, it must have *landed* there. (The lady did not *see* it land there, but she does not exclude the possibility that the strange machine might have returned to the spot after she was back in bed. For it is virtually certain that we can rule out any theory that the object might have landed while the lady went to call her husband, since, as we have already stated, it all happened in an instant.) Subsequently, during the days after the discovery of the marks, many people have, out of curiosity, visited the site of this presumed landing, and have gathered up and taken away numerous bits of the detritus. Journalists from the Florence (Firenze) daily paper "*La Città*", were among them. But "*La Città*" denies this.

But unfortunately nobody else was a witness of the event on that night of August 8, 1985. This does seem a bit strange, as the lady lives in a large building and there are so many other buildings around about, with many families living in them. Moreover, that night many apartments had their windows open owing to the heat (as the witness has told us.) However, the fact remains that no other witness has come forward.

Those who have investigated the case have found the witness to be well balanced and perfectly normal, and anything but inclined to fantasy. (Her husband is a Police Inspector, in the Carabinieri.)

As for the marks found on the ground, it is impossible for us to express a definite opinion. And heavy summer rains have since removed the last traces of them.