

UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER IN JARABA, SPAIN

Possible CE III involving TASTE sensation by the witness

F. Louange & J. L. Casero

THIS close encounter case could only be studied superficially, which in principle should not justify a publication. However, we hasten to present it because of certain unusual details in the witness's report, and in particular the involvement of a *Taste* sensation, which makes it potentially interesting for research.

The witness

This is a man around fifty, in the public eye, presently assuming official functions in Spain, who was pursued for his leftist ideology during the past regime. He had only mentioned his experience to one very intimate friend, having no interest in making it known in his professional entourage. It happened that this friend was also a friend of the co-author, J. L. Casero, and that during a conversation between the latter two on ufological research, this case of "close encounter of the third kind" was mentioned. It took the authors several months of patience, of phone calls through the common friend, as well as a long reassuring letter, to obtain from the witness a telephone interview, during which J. L. Casero could take note of the sequence of events.

Later, after new approaches, a short meeting was organized between the witness and J. L. Casero in a madrilenian bar. There, they re-read together, corrected and completed the written notes taken during the telephone interview. The witness drew a few sketches, but refused to give them away, so that nothing from his hand would remain from this first and last meeting; J. L. Casero had therefore to copy the sketches in the bar.

These details — which sound like an espionage novel — are only reported here in order to show to what extent the witness was little inclined to talk about his experience, accepting only under his friend's insistence. They explain why, now, the expectation of any additional cooperation can be excluded. On the other hand, the witness's personality and behaviour plead in favour of a high credibility.

The following report reflects all bits of information provided by the witness, without additions or deletions.

The experience

It took place around mid-October 1978 in Jaraba (province of Zaragoza, Spain) in the "Camino de la Hoz Seca," near "Pena Palomera," at the entrance of a canyon. Around 7 or 8 a.m., the witness was on his way to photograph nests of "Milopas" (a variety of eagles) with his *Canon* camera equipped with a 200 mm objective and

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loaded with Kodachrome film. The continuous cawing of crows could be heard. Suddenly, all became silent. He goes on walking, then positions himself between fences near a post for rabbit hunters. He mounts his camera with the teleobjective on the tripod, and focuses on the supposed nest. Surprised by reflections in the view finder, he looks around himself but does not notice anything abnormal. He then starts to hear a weak buzzing ("fusssss") which disappears suddenly, and turns once more to focus his camera.

After a while, he feels uneasy, with an impression of "metallic teeth" and the hair at the nape of his neck stands on end. The camera and his watch seem warm. He turns around and sees, at a distance of around 20 metres, a seemingly ovoidal object surrounded by small "antennas," for which he estimates a diameter of 5 metres by comparison with a *Dodge* (see fig. 1). There

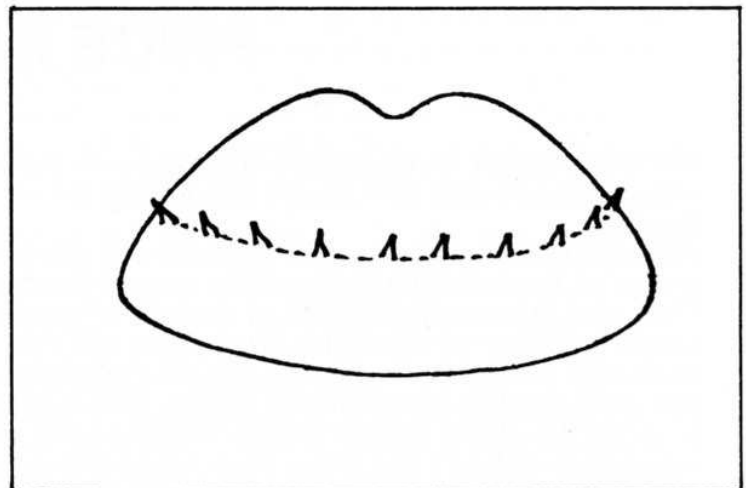


Figure 1: The object on the ground.

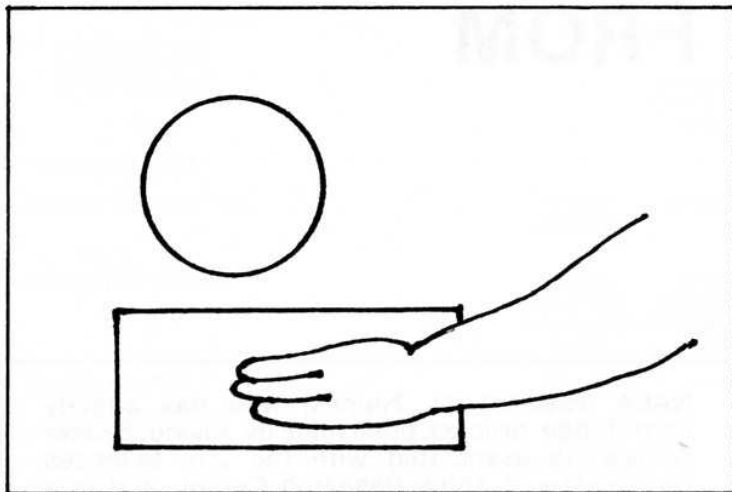


Figure 2: Sphere floating above the box.

were also two "individuals" 1 m 90 or more tall, wearing blue-grey suits, apparently made of dull plastic, and tight belts. They seem to be blond. One of them is bent over a tube, apparently metallic, which enters the ground. The other one carries a box above which a sphere seems to float (see fig. 2). The "fusssss", which had reappeared meanwhile, now stops. The tube carrier stands up and makes gestures to the witness, who stands up too and, while approaching a bit, feels an impression of heat. Speaking loudly, he asks the individuals whether they need help, but hears his own voice "distorted." A little afraid, he stops and asks them what they are doing. The individual goes on making gestures, and suddenly draws the tube out of the ground, "folds" it (is it telescopic? see fig. 3), and goes to the object with his companion.

The "fusssss" now reappears louder and louder, and the witness starts feeling again, more intensely, the "electric" sensation in the nape of his neck and his mouth, as well as vibrations in the ground. He goes back to his camera. The object rises up about two metres, while the sound increases. The witness does not notice any air movement, or any visible thruster; however, from certain angles, he believes he can distinguish three circular spots on the underside of the object (see fig. 4). He has time to take 2 or 3 pictures, then the object rises once more and disappears. The "fusssss" disappears at the same time, but the **metallic taste** in the mouth remains, and will last

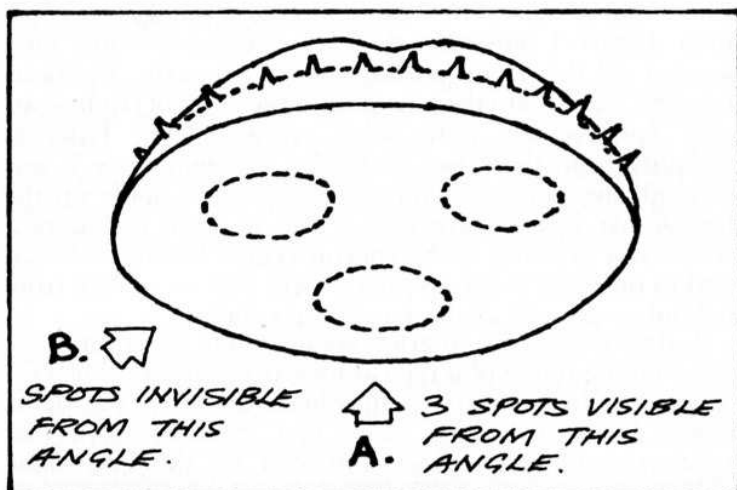


Figure 4: The object rising.

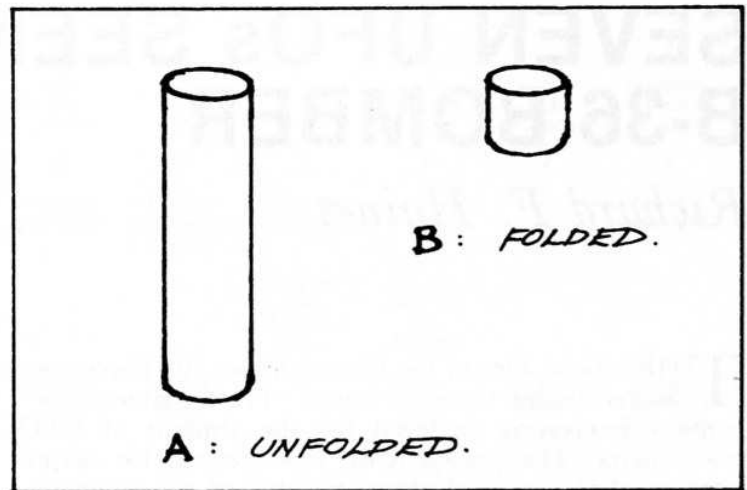


Figure 3: The tube.

around 2 days. The witness does not notice traces, except a small funnel shaped hole in the ground, with a diameter of around 20 centimeters (see fig. 5).

Once developed, the film will appear completely fogged.

The witness, who to date did not believe in UFOs, believes he has just seen one, but decides not to talk about it.

Conclusion

The reader will realise how frustrating it has been for the authors to have no possibility of making further study of this case, in which quite a few concrete and unusual pieces of information are reported: sensation of heat, metallic taste, distortion of sound, fogged film. . . With a more cooperative witness, it would have been mandatory to conduct an on-site investigation, to use hypnotic regression with a view to try and clarify many points of the story, to carry out a complete study of the state of the witness's teeth at the time of the event, to analyze the fogged film, and so on. . .

None of these have been done nor will it be possible to do them, and the only value of this "raw" report resides in possible correlations with other cases of similar characteristics. It is worth noting that in the same area and around the same period, several abduction cases, still under study, have been reported.

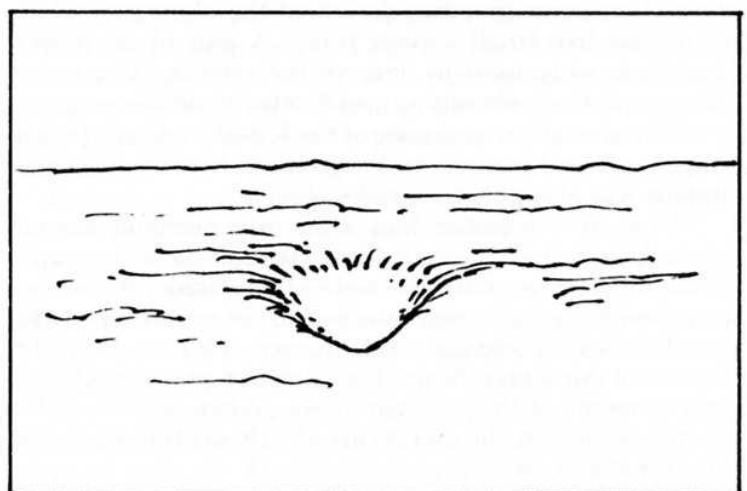


Figure 5: Conical hole in the ground.

SEVEN UFOs SEEN FROM B-36 BOMBER

Richard F. Haines

THE official files of the United States Air Force conducted under the code name "Project Blue Book" contain interesting material for the student of UFO phenomena. The present case was selected for review because of the relatively large number of eye witnesses, their training, and unique vantage point from which the sighting took place, namely at 18,000 feet altitude. The evidence consists of an official Air Force report, individual signed statements by eight crew members involved, maps, and several black and white photographs.

Case Summary

"While flying on a training mission on 19 May 1952 in the vicinity of San Angelo, Texas, an RB-36 crew of the 31st Strat(egic) Recon(naissance) Squadron, 5th Strat Recon Wing, observed seven unidentified flying objects ahead of their aircraft. The RB-36 was at an altitude of 18,000 feet, indicating 189 mph (214 mph TAS), and the weather conditions in the area were CAVU, with winds aloft of 35 knots from 315 degrees. The time of the sighting was 0148 GCT, and the aircraft's exact position at the time of the sighting was 30-37 N; 100-47 W, heading 301 deg true. The seven objects appeared at a position of 11 o'clock to the aircraft at an estimated distance of 50 to 75 miles, and were stacked in a vertical column, the bottom of which was estimated to be at 25,000 feet and the top at 60,000 feet. Several conflicting reports were received on the length of time the objects were in view, but it is believed that the time ranged from 15 to 20 minutes. The objects were lost from sight at a position approximately 30-53 N; 101-20 W, as light conditions were becoming very poor since the aircraft was flying in the direction of the setting sun. The objects were white in colour and no estimate of their size could be given. One crew member described the objects as white doughnuts like small vapour trails. A pair of six power binoculars were used to observe the objects. The radar observer did not see any unusual returns on his scope.

"The aircraft commander of the RB-36 radioed the San Angelo ground station, and a ground observer from that station was also able to see the objects.

"One crew member had a 35 mm personal camera aboard, loaded with colour film. He took six photographs of the objects, but only two were of any value. These two transparencies have been attached to the report forwarded to the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The attached photographs are enlargements of the transparencies. When viewed with a 35 mm projector, the objects are clearly distinguishable in the transparencies."

Thus ended the critical details of the Project Blue Book

NASA scientist Dr. Haines, who has already contributed articles published by *Flying Saucer Review*, is associated with the Life Sciences Directorate at Ames Research Center, and is a member of the Center for UFO Studies founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Editor of a fascinating book *UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist* — a compendium of works on phenomena associated with UFOs — Dr. Haines now has had published an important new work *Observing UFOs* (see Janet & Colin Bord's review in *FSR Bookshelf* — 4 on page 19 of this issue)

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file's summary report. This was followed by statements by eight crew-members, four of which included sketches of what they witnessed. Rather than present all eight statements in their entirety, Table 1 presents a comparative summary of the reported sighting details for purposes of cross comparison. Quotation marks are used to indicate the exact word(s) used in the original statement.

Crew stations

It is instructive to have some idea of the location of the various crew sighting stations and interior structure in this aircraft, because such factors play a part in determining what each eye witness can see. Unfortunately, it is not possible to be sure exactly which aircraft station is referred to in Table 1 in all cases because the microfilm copy of this case (received from the Library of Congress) had deleted this information. Nevertheless, three station locations were positively identified and two more (i.e., aircraft commander; co-pilot) were surmised based upon contextual details. This bomber carried a full crew of 22 men. Figure 1 illustrates the crew stations for nine men located in the front portion of the aircraft. Positions labelled 3 and 5 are the locations of the co-pilot (right seat) and commander (left seat), respectively. External visibility from these two seats was excellent since it was through the multiple panes of glass which made up the bubble-like canopy. An idea of this is given in Figure 2 which is a drawing of the cockpit region looking forward and to the right at the co-pilot's right seat — as seen from behind — as well as the navigator's station.

A drawing of the interior arrangement of equipment and sighting dome of a typical forward sighting "blister" (i.e., plexiglass approx. hemispheric dome) is shown in Figure 3. It should be noted that visibility from this location would have been impeded by the gun sight

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