

# SPIES IN THE SUPERNUMERARY ATTIC?

*Ignacio Darnaude*

Translation by Gordon Creighton to whom credit is also due for the title of this article

A Spanish lawyer had an extraordinary experience recently when he and his wife and some friends were staying in a hotel in Albufeira, on the coast of Algarve, Southern Portugal.

Sr. Francisco Tejero, aged 44, a graduate in Law from the University of Madrid and now in legal practice in Cadiz, and his wife, Teresa Lacave de Tejero, went for a brief holiday in Albufeira with their friends Sr. and Sra. Valles. Sr. Jose Valles is the holder of a degree in Chemistry, and he and his wife Pilar Osborne Domecq live in Barcelona. Both couples have been known to me for some years, and I was able to interview them on September 5, 1976 and hear their story.

The date was Tuesday, August 10, 1976, and the time was 5.00 a.m., at the Hotel Da Balaia, on the Algarve Atlantic Coast. The party had arrived there the evening before, and had gone into the hotel bar to have something to drink. There they saw two men and a woman who were engaged in a discussion and at the same time seemed to be watching our party most intently. The two men were short of stature, "with European features but very dark." They seemed to be somewhere between 40 and 50 years old, and yet they were "far too white-haired for such an age." Suddenly a couple of strange flashes came from the direction of this mysterious trio, like the flashes of a camera, and although they observed no camera, the two Spanish couples had the firm impression that somebody had just photographed them, no doubt with the aid of some micro-camera concealed in a cigarette-lighter or something of the sort.

Moreover the presence of the mysterious trio caused the two couples to feel an indescribable sort of malaise — so much so indeed that they rapidly finished their drinks and left the bar, and went to have dinner.

Their rooms were on the top floor of the hotel, facing out over the Atlantic. In relating their experiences of that night, both the wives told the investigator (who interviewed them separately) that they slept very badly, and had an altogether disturbed and heavy, unpleasant night. Teresa de Tejero in particular spoke of the very peculiar dreams she had that night — dreams such as she had never had before.

At about 5.00 a.m. on August 10, Señora Teresa de Tejero awoke with a sudden start, and, to her great astonishment, she observed that, on the curtains of the window (which was of course open — it was an extremely hot night) there was a very vivid luminous rectangle, "like a TV screen." She immediately thought of the strange "spies" in the bar, who had seemed to photograph them the evening before, and

her next thought was that maybe the "spies" had entered the bedroom and were going to rob them or do them some kind of mischief. She turned and shook her husband vigorously, shouting: "Paco! What's that extraordinary light on the curtains?"

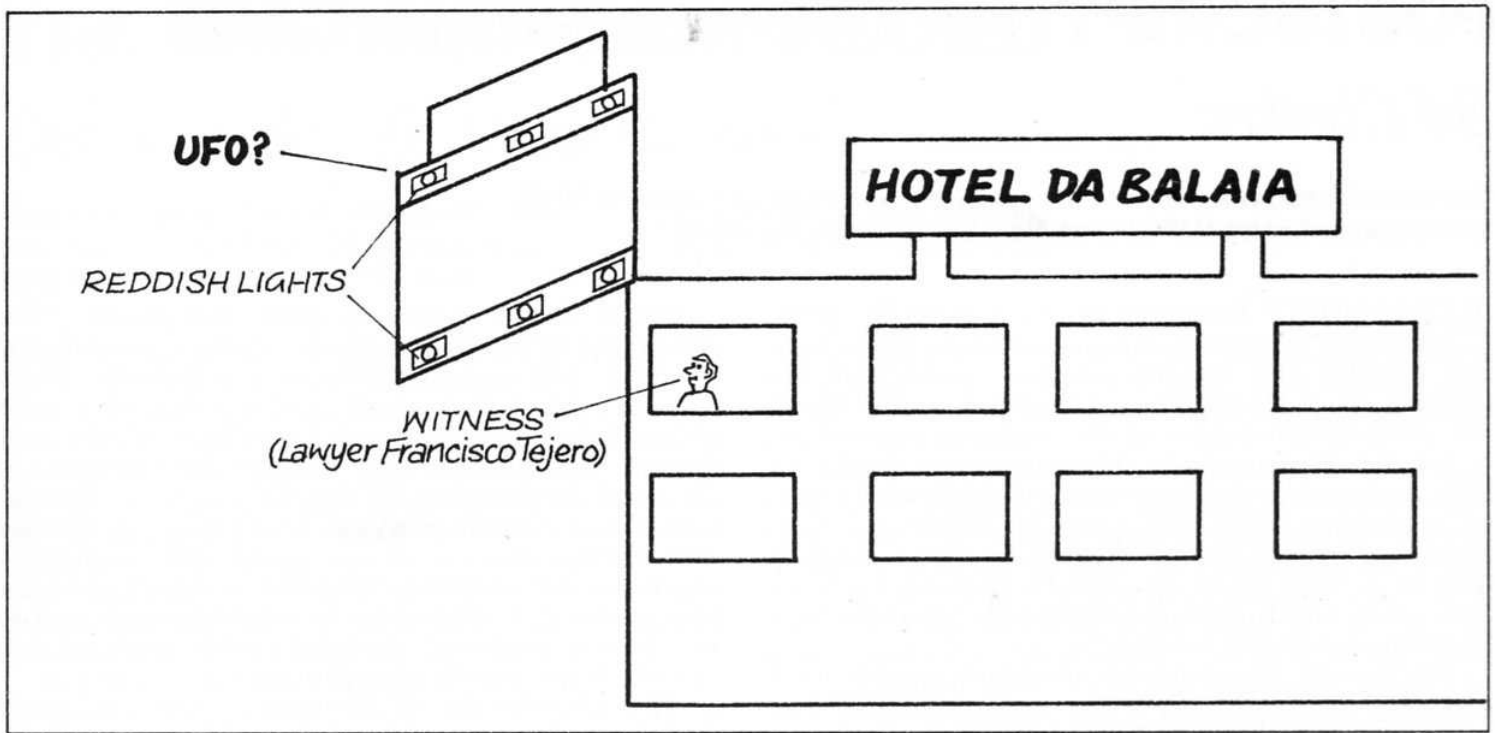
Her husband quickly jumped out of bed and went to the window. In his account he says: "It was as though I were in some sort of trance, as if I had been hypnotized by someone. Outside, all was utterly, infinitely peaceful. I was moving about like an automaton, as though I had somehow been turned into a robot. I looked out of the window, and saw a quadrangular thing, with six reddish lights on it, on the hotel, but on another wing of it which made an angle with the main face on which our window lay. All was dark underneath the 'thing,' and nothing was to be seen, and so I simply thought that the lights must have been left burning on those two top floors of the other wing of the building. I remained there motionless for a while, gazing at the 'attic,' not without a certain feeling of irritation because one of the lights was being directed in such a special fashion right into our bedroom. Then I turned round and went back to the bed and I said to Teresa: 'Those people up there must all be so *turned on* that they've left the lights on.' Then I lay down again and went back to sleep."

When he and his wife awoke later that morning, everything seemed normal. Recalling the odd business of the "TV screen" on the curtains, Sr. Tejero went over to the window, curious to have a daytime view of the two upper storeys of the hotel that had caused the "luminous orgy," as he called it, of the night before.

But he was petrified with astonishment, when he got to the window, by the sight that met his gaze, or rather, the sight that *did not* meet his gaze. *For there was no other wing of the hotel running out at an angle. There was no building or structure of any kind whatsoever there. It was simply empty space. There was no 'attic'!*

Extraordinarily impressed, Sr. Tejero spent the whole morning reflecting deeply upon the strange experience that had befallen him in the early hours, and by eliminating all the other possibilities he finally came to the only conclusion that seemed plausible, i.e. that "a rectangular UFO, with two rows of lights," had been stationary right above the roof of the Hotel da Balaia, thus forming as it were an angle with the principal facade of the building, with the result that he had taken the UFO to be the two uppermost storeys of an adjacent block of the hotel in which somebody had left all the lights on.

Both Francisco Tejero and his wife Teresa "are



positive" that the "TV screen" on the curtains of their bedroom was some sort of instrument or process for controlling them or for recording their activities.

Nobody at the Hotel da Balaia said anything to them about any device having been seen by anyone during the night at the place where Sr. Tejero saw the "thing."

Observing the sky the following night, from the same hotel, Sr. Tejero saw a luminous point of light fly over. He felt that it was a UFO.

All four members of the party have been known to the investigator for many years on a personal basis, and they are serious, reliable, solid folk, conservative and old-fashioned in their views; folk who hate any sort of publicity, who are of high economic and social status, whose testimony in all matters would be unquestioned. Not one of the party has any knowledge of, or any specific interest in Ufology,

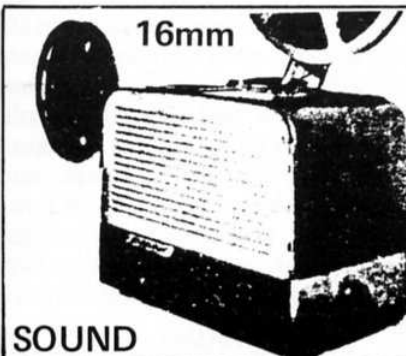
#### Bridlington UFOs (continued from page 10)

revealed that they did have an interest in UFOs before the sighting. The same woman also referred to the story of a UFO going under water, which reminded the investigators of a TV story. In short, then, we could establish no reason for doubting that the women had seen something unusual; however, we feel there are grounds for treating their claims with a healthy measure of caution.

regarding which they are all sceptics.

With regard to the close scrutiny which they felt they received in the bar, it is to be borne in mind that Genral Spinoia was due to arrive back in Portugal around that date, and it would not be surprising if, fearing a coup d'etat from the extreme right, the Portuguese authorities were keeping a careful eye on foreign visitors. Indeed, they might have gone so far as to photograph any stranger whom they felt to be suspect. But this does not account for the *strange appearance* of the men in the bar, and of course there are still the weird luminous "TV screen" on the bedroom curtains and the mystery of the two top storeys of the side wing that the Hotel da Balaia at Albufeira does not possess — mysteries for which a "Ufological explanation" seems to be the only explanation that makes any sense at all.

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# POSTSCRIPT TO THE NEMINGHA CASE

*Bill Chalker*

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SUBSEQUENT investigations of the UFO "precipitation" event at Nemingha in March, 1976, have not revealed the identity of the "victim" of the incident, so at this point we can only speculate about the personalised nature of the woman's experience.

Further study of the literature has brought to light at least one incident worth considering by way of similarities with this case. In "More on Teleportations" (FSR Vol. 18, No. 5) Gordon Creighton quoted a letter from Dr. P.M.H. Edwards to Gene Duplantier which appeared in the latter's publication, "Saucers, Space and Science."

To recount the incident, an elderly couple were motoring in cloudless weather in Central Wyoming when suddenly their car "was overhung and partially enveloped by a strange yellowy creamish-coloured mist that was weaving about them most peculiarly; it was transparent — yet it seemed to have 'body' or shape..."

Drawing upon this sort of case as a possible stimulating phenomenon leading to teleportation effects, as Mr. Creighton has done, is perhaps a little premature, but certainly these cases deserve documentation. Perhaps in this manner we may determine eventually the validity of the "strange mist" often reported in alleged teleportation events.

## RAAF case

As precipitation effects are quite rare in UFO events, I feel compelled to draw attention to the following case, which comes from the files of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Because of my continuing compilation of an Australian catalogue of trace cases the RAAF, and the Department of Defence (Air Office), have consented to pass on relevant material for inclusion in this catalogue.

In the vicinity of Brisbane, Queensland, on January 13, 1975, at about 3.00 a.m., a man was confronted by "...a large ball of flame in his yard. It was a reddish-brown colour, with flames about 5 feet high. He called his wife and they both watched it from their doorway, about 35 feet away. After 4 or 5 minutes, the flames had died down to about a few inches high, and there appeared to be several small residual objects left burning."<sup>1</sup> The flames lasted for some 15 to 20 minutes. "As they were nearly finished several long jets of flame suddenly shot out, as if small pockets of fuel had suddenly been ignited. There was no discernible sound or smell."

Although there were no overhead high tension wires or any thunderstorm activity, it had been raining heavily, and the ground was soaking wet. RAAF investigators examined the area and found

a lightly singed patch of grass and gravel. "The gravel had deposits of a black tar-like substance still adhering, and some samples were collected... There was no indentation at all, and no sign of a solid object hitting the ground." Analysis of the substance was carried out by the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Queensland. Their limited analyses, based only on ignition and comparison of smoke given off, tentatively suggested the material consisted of higher aliphatic and aromatic compounds, as would be expected in tar. It was suggested that the tar-like material was evolved from some heating process.<sup>2</sup>

The Department of Defence's "Unusual Aerial Sightings, Summary No. 7," could not find any known cause, but I would suggest that the much maligned "swamp gas theory" may be applicable. The Condon report detailed the theoretical mechanism, in which "a small amount of hydrocarbon, less than that required for combustion, is suddenly subjected to strong electric fields. The hydrocarbons become ionized and form more complex hydrocarbon molecules which clump together. Eventually there is enough combustible material in the centre to allow a burning core... if the concentration increases, the ball ignites explosively."<sup>3</sup> But the RAAF could find no sources of electrical energy, and therefore this hypothetical mechanism is not entirely valid.

This example is designed to show how unusual precipitates can occur in unusual "aerial sightings." While these effects can manifest in nature on rare occasions, it is worthwhile considering, how these effects would occur in the hypothesized propulsion mediums ascribed to UFOs.

To add more food for thought, G. Liuti et al, in "Nuclear Applications", Vol. 6, p. 494, May, 1969, and Suelo Machi, et al, in a paper presented at the First International Meeting on Radiation Processing at Puerto Rico, May 1976, Proceedings Section VI-2.I: "Radiation Treatment of Combustion Gases", have shown that electron beam irradiation of combustion gases of industrial plants has led to the formation of a white solid probability of approximate composition  $(NO_2)_2S_2O_{10}$ . The reaction mechanism has not yet been elucidated but probably involves oxidation of sulphur compounds followed by rapid reactions with nitrogen oxides ( $NO_x$ ). This reaction has possible relevance in the Nemingha case and perhaps even in some "angel hair" cases. At the same time it evokes some humorous possibilities, which in the long run may not seem as outlandish as at first inspection. One of my associates, in a satirical piece

*(Continued on page 27)*