

YOUR NEW FSR

With this issue, FSR appears for the first time in its new guise.

As we mentioned in a note which we published on page 13 of FSR 32/5, this change has been forced upon us by the fact that, the E.E.C.'s regulations on paper production having taken effect, our printers are no longer able to buy paper in units of the same size as was previously the case.

We decided therefore to take the opportunity to improve the format of the Journal, rather than to reduce it to insignificance, and to include more text.

This means that, although the issues will now be published *quarterly*, over the year our readers will find that neither in quality nor quantity will their Journal fall short of the high standards to which they have become accustomed!

AN ITALIAN PILOT'S SIGHTING: AND ANOTHER ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COVER-UP?

Antonio Chiumiento

(President of C.I.S.U., Italy. FSR Consultant)
(Translation from Italian)

ON June 18, 1979, the Italian Air Force Senior Warrant-Officer Giancarlo Cecconi was returning to base after a photo-reconnaissance mission over the Appenine Mountains, when, just as he was over the area between Rovigo and the hills of Abano Terme, he received a radio signal from the control-tower of the St. Angelo Military Airfield at Treviso to contact the radar crew at the Istrana Airfield (Treviso Province also) who had detected an unidentified object moving at low altitude through the sky.

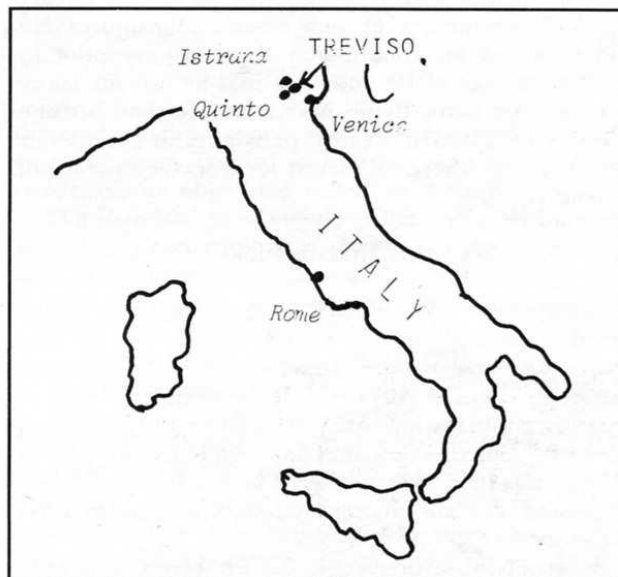
The time was 11.30 a.m.

Cecconi, who belonged to the 14th Jet Fighter Group of Wing No. 2, was flying a G 91/R machine, with three cameras, two of which were on the sides of the cockpit and the third mounted on the front. These are special cameras, capable of taking eighty photographs per second, and he had just been using them in his aerial survey mission.

He duly contacted the Istrana Field, and they gave him details of the UFO, which was behaving strangely and *appearing intermittently on the radarscope*, and was right above Quinto in Treviso Province. And, indeed, as he made for that area, he perceived a big strange black spot standing out clearly against the blue sky. Coming closer, he found himself viewing a long opaque black object shaped "like an aviation-spirit tank". Passing by it at a distance of about 80 metres or so, he took his first sequence of photos of it.

With further turns, he went around the object several times, and *was moreover able to observe all details of it with perfect ease*. In all, he took about eighty photos of the unknown object, which seemed to be about eight metres long and three metres wide and cigar-like in shape. Its upper part appeared to be slightly flattened, with — approximately in the centre — a small white transparent dome "resembling a drop of water"; the rest of the body of the thing being of the completely black opaque hue.

Meanwhile the staff on duty in the control-tower at



San Angelo di Treviso Airfield were continuing to observe and follow the object with their binoculars, while also in constant contact the whole time by radio with pilot Cecconi. They informed him moreover that, with their binoculars, they could see that "the thing" was leaving an azure-bluish trail.

Cecconi made one more turn, to approach the thing again. But suddenly it was gone, "as though dematerialized", vanishing from the sight of the ground observers and of Cecconi and also from the Istrana radarscope.

Returning to base, Cecconi at once handed in his photos, which were printed and developed forthwith. The result was a sequence of clear images, with the object perfectly shown with all its details.

The Eyewitness

Senior Warrant-Officer Giancarlo Cecconi, today retired from the Air Force, is a man with great flying experience. (More than 6,000 hours.) And he was, as stated, serving at the time in the 14th Group of Wing No. 2 of Light Tactical Fighters, equipped with Fiat G 91/R engines.

◀ According to a report in *The Times* of July 8th 1987, it takes 40,000 hedgehogs rotating in unison to stamp out a ring in the cornfields.



One of the pilot's photographs of the object.

Born in Firenze (Florence), but resident now in Treviso, he had been in Wing No. 2 for over 14 years and had become one of their outstanding figures. He had obtained his commission as a military pilot in 1952 at the age of 19, and after that he was for many years an Air Force flying instructor. He then became one of the "Combat Ready" personnel in the fighter detachments, where he served for a further period of sixteen years.

Our Investigations

Towards the close of 1979, on the occasion of a supposed night-sighting of a UFO, of which we had heard, we were making some enquiries at the San Giuseppe Civilian Airport at Treviso in the hope of securing confirmation. And it was at this time that we learned about the Cecconi affair. A civilian pilot told us that, not long before, one of his friends in the Air Force had seen and photographed an unidentified flying object.

By means of further enquiries we were finally able to trace and contact the Air Force pilot, Giancarlo Cecconi. After some hesitations, and mainly as a result of the reciprocal good relations gradually built up between us in our various meetings with him, he finally placed himself at our disposal in our investigations.

On one occasion, during a conversation at which our colleague Signor Maurizio Caruso was also present, Cecconi released the statements already outlined by us above, *at the same time requesting us to hold this material only at an archival level, and not to publish it.* At that date he was of course still in the Air Force, with Wing No. 2 at Treviso.

During our investigations, we were permitted to see one photogram extracted from the series of 80 that Cecconi had taken of the object on June 18, 1979.

The Pilot is Demobilized

In 1983, having learned that Cecconi had now left the Air Force — having reached the age-limit — we thought it opportune to meet him again and re-open the case.

We felt that, as he was no longer in the Service, Cecconi might without any fear perhaps let us have some further details about his experience. In the presence of an N.C.O. of the helicopter branch of the Air

Force we therefore re-opened our enquiry, and Cecconi very kindly, as always previously, confirmed to us afresh the whole episode and furnished additional details.

The affair nevertheless would *still* have only remained in our archives had it not been for the opportunity furnished to us by the reply given by the Ministry of Defence to a Parliamentary Question put to him in the Chamber of Deputies on July 10, 1984, in which reply it was stated officially that all data about the UFO Phenomenon could be consulted by entities and civilian students of the subject by making application via the Office of the Minister of Defence himself. Being aware, as we were, of the fundamental importance of the "Cecconi Case" in the realm of Ufology, by virtue both of the event itself and also of the reliability of the eyewitnesses involved, and also by virtue of the exceptionally rare opportunity to learn of the existence of the photographic documentation far away above suspicion, this reply from the Defence Ministry gave us an opening to ask the competent authorities for details about the Cecconi episode.

On August 24, 1984, our request was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence. We give the text of it below:—

To The Ministry of Defence Pordenone,
(Office of the Minister) August 24, 1984.

With reference to the Ministry's reply to the Question asked, on July 13, 1984, by the Honourable Giancarlo Abete, and its contents, as duly published in the national press, the *Centro Ufologico Nazionale*, in the person of its Vice-President, Antonio Chiumiento, respectfully presents the following request:—

- 1) To receive a transcript of the documentation regarding the Sant' Angelo di Treviso case as reported in the *Domenica del Corriere* No. 35 of September 1, 1984, if possible accompanied by one or more significant photographs from those taken by the pilot who experienced the episode.
- 2) The opinions of the Ministry regarding the said



Artist's impression.

Il traguardo del maresciallo Cecconi

In volo per 6.000 ore



case and, if possible, the opinions of the Commission appointed to carry out the analysis of the UFO documentation.

Thanking you in advance, I remain, etc.

Antonio Chiumiento
Vice-President of the C.U.N.
(National Ufological Centre)*

The Story "breaks" in the Press

On August 25, 1984, the notice of the Question in the Chamber of Deputies was published in the national press, all the newspapers carrying the essential features of the case prominently. Although the details furnished to the press were quite sparse, some journalists of *"La Tribuna"* (Treviso) succeeded in making enquiries in Service circles and in identifying Senior Warrant-Officer Cecconi.

At that point we considered ourselves entirely freed from any obligation to treat the case with reserve, and we published the entire episode. The newspapers reproduced it, some on September 14, and others on September 15 and September 22, copious details being given.

Many newspapers reproduced the artist Ugo Furlan's graphic reconstruction of the photogram which Maurizio Caruso and I had seen in the course of our first investigations of the Cecconi case.

The Ministry Replies

Then, finally, on November 2, 1984, the Ministry of Defence answered our request for information. We give below the full text of their letter:—

Rome, November 2, 1984

Subject: Observation of unidentified flying object at Treviso on June 18, 1979

"With reference to your letter of August 24, 1984, we write to inform you that on June 18, 1979, Senior Pilot Warrant-Officer Giancarlo Cecconi, serving in No. 2 Wing, when returning from a mission, was

directed by the ground control office to an area in space between Treviso and Istrana Airfields in order to identify an object registered on the radarscope.

The object in question, which was detected immediately, was photographed with the cameras aboard the aircraft, and was unequivocally identified by photo-interpretation personnel as a cylindrical balloon constructed from black plastic bags."

BY ORDER OF THE MINISTER.
THE CHIEF OF THE MINISTER'S OFFICE

UNQUESTIONABLY, THIS REPLY LEAVES US FLABBERGASTED. Particularly in view of Cecconi's statements during our investigations, and what he had said at the time of his extraordinary experience:— He had said: *"It is inconceivable that any flying object of ours could behave in such a way as that thing did. No State on this Earth could construct anything like it. On the basis of our knowledge of Physics, it would never have been able to be airborne."*

Consequently, to have identified the object as "a cylindrical balloon made from black plastic bags" casts some serious doubts upon the professionalism and the degree of experience of the Air Force pilots on whom we depend for the control of our national air-space.

The Photos Appear

The Ministry of Defence's reply immediately raises a question. Given the fact that the case "has been unequivocally identified by the military photo-interpretation personnel", then the question arises: why aren't the photograms — or at any rate *some* of them — included in the Ministry's letter, as requested by us? But the most flabbergasting part of the whole affair came to light shortly afterwards.

The case would have reached the point of deadlock and have been filed away by us, had it not been for the fact that, on April 19, 1985, the weekly magazine EPOCA (No. 1802) published an article signed by Remo Guerrini (*"Secret UFO Report"*), in which he mentions, among other cases, the Cecconi case and

describes the object seen as "a toy balloon". The article was also accompanied by three photographs from the case, published exclusively by the weekly.

Following upon the appearance of that article, we lodged a further request with the Ministry of Defence on April 22, 1985, asking for copies of the three above-mentioned photos so that we might be able to verify their authenticity and draw the correct conclusions.

Then finally, on June 21, 1985, the Ministry of Defence sent us copies of the three photos published by "EPOCA", as we had requested.

Evident Discrepancies

During our examination of the photos released by the Ministry of Defence, *we have detected evident anomalies, which are bolstered by the fact that in the course of our investigations we had been able to have sight of a photo from the series of eighty photograms that were taken.* The appearance and the shape of the object which is shown in the photos now published by the magazine and sent to us subsequently by the Ministry of Defence ARE REMARKABLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OBSERVED BY US IN THE ORIGINAL PHOTO.

A statement by Cecconi asserts that the object photographed by him presented itself always in the same position, and was consequently always photographed from the side. *Which is not shown by the changes of position in relation to the ground and to the horizon found in the photographs released by the Ministry of Defence.* A further important point is that in the photo seen by us during our earlier investigations a part of the Sant'

Angelo di Treviso military airfield was clearly visible, some of the hangars being detectable.

But while we may well dwell upon the incongruities in the photos issued by the Ministry, which we are at present in no position to confront with the one originally seen by us, the considerations and therefore the conclusions adduced in the case AROUSE CONSIDERABLE ASTONISHMENT. The fact that "the balloon made of plastic bags" should have driven the airfield's radar crazy with its sudden disappearances and reappearances *immediately suggests some totally anomalous sort of behaviour.* The very presence of the balloon, the lightness of which should have offered no resistance to the air currents that occur at high altitudes, and the very air displacements caused by the turns executed by the aircraft would surely have produced numerous oscillations and disordered movements by the "balloon", whereas the object seen by Cecconi maintained a perfect stability while continuing on its almost imperceptible upward course.

But the case is not finished with, for the facts are even more confused by what has now been said about it in the "Summary of UFO Sightings From March 1979 to April 1985" put out by the General Staff of the Italian Air Force, for, in it, the Cecconi Case of June 18, 1979 (No. 1 in the List) carries the wording: "UNIDENTIFIED".

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*NOTE BY EDFTOR, FSR

At the date in question, August 1984, Signor Antonio Chiumiento was the Vice-President of the Italian National UFO Research Centre (C.U.N.). Since then, however, another Italian group has been established by him. This is the C.I.S.U. (Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici).

UFO REPORTS FROM POLAND

Bronislaw Rzepecki

Founder and Co-ordinator of the Groupe de Recherche OVNI (Kraków UFO Research Group), P.O. Box 71, 30-529, KRAKÓW-14, Poland). (Established in 1985).

(Translation from French and from Polish)

This most interesting report from Poland has just been published in our splendid French contemporary, *Lumières Dans La Nuit* (No. 271/272, January-February 1987; and No. 273/274, March-April 1987), and we have translated it and hereby express our indebtedness and thanks to Monsieur Veillith, Monsieur Lagarde, and their Editorial Committee.

A part of the Report, namely that section relating to the extraordinary sighting at Chalupy, was already sent to us a year or two ago from an entirely different source in Poland, namely Mr Henryk Kowalski of Torun. Our belated thanks, therefore, also to Mr Kowalski. Incidentally his version (in Polish) contained some elements that are absent from Mr Rzepecki's. I have therefore rendered these into English from Polish, with the help of Mr Marek Dabczak, to whom we likewise tender our thanks. — EDITOR

I THE UFO OVER THE ZAKOPANE POWER PLANT

Date: January 17, 1979

Investigator: Nikodem Butrymowicz (OVNI VIDEO Investigation Group. Warsaw.)

POLICE Officer Anton Szredler was on his way to work, at about 06.05 a.m., when suddenly his attention was caught by a brightness over the Tatra Mountains. There were two lights, one over the meteorological station, at 30° above the horizon, and a second identical bright light immediately beneath the first one. Suddenly the upper object moved downwards at great speed, then passed over some recently erected buildings and paused briefly above Mt. Swidnica. Arriving at the Police Station, he got a camera from the office, and took a series of photographs, from the sec-

ond floor balcony, between 6.20 and 7.10 a.m. During this time the object (he is now speaking of only one object, not two) seemed to have moved further away, westwards, and now looked smaller, its original size having been about a quarter of that of the full Moon.

The matter does not end there however, for there was another witness, Jozef Kojs, an employee of the Zakopane Power Plant. There is a hydroelectrical installation located about 200 metres to the south of the station of the funicular railway for Mts. Kasprowy and Koznice. On the day in question, Jozef Kojs was just about to finish his shift, and was awaiting his relief, at about 6.00 a.m. Suddenly, at about 06 07, the strength of the 24 V accumulators dropped, and shortly after that the 220 V accumulators failed too. Even his pocket torch no longer worked. The turbo-generators were whistling furiously, but producing no power.