

THE CASE OF THE VALLADOLID TRACTOR DRIVER

Fr. Antonio Felices et al

An investigation by eight members of the 'Charles Fort' Investigation Group, Valladolid, Spain, whose Chairman is Father Felices. This report was published in *Stendek* No. 23 of May 1976 (address: STENDEKCEI, P.O. Box 282, Barcelona, Spain). Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton

THE case covered in this investigation was the first of an extensive series of sightings which have been going on, with a frequency hitherto quite unknown in this part of Spain, ever since July 1975, and which constitute an extremely interesting "flap." Our "Charles Fort" Group have been conducting a detailed analysis of developments, and we are able to emphasise that the "flap" has had two constant features of great importance, namely (1) the high percentage of Type 1 cases, and (2) the marked degree of attention shown by the UFOs to the witnesses, which in a number of cases may be described as outright persecution.

The incident at Pedrosa del Rey, July 17, 1975

A study group went to the area a few days after the case had occurred, to interview the witness and gather details about the affair, which had already been the subject of a number of sensational reports carried by the media throughout the whole of the country.

The brief facts of the case are as follows:

At about 6.30 p.m. on July 17, the tractor driver Emiliano Velasco was engaged in ploughing a field known as "No. 21," at Villaster de Abajo, to the west of Valladolid, when he heard a discordant sound which he took at first to be due to a possible mechanical defect in the tractor. He was able to continue ploughing the furrow on which he had started, and came to the end of the run without difficulty. Then, when he had turned around and was about to come back down the field in the opposite direction, he was confronted with a cylindrical object which seemed to be floating above the ground. It was emitting a vivid silvery light. As he watched, the object performed a number of movements in successive circles around him and then, as his tractor moved up the field (400 metres long) it began to come closer to him. When he had nearly reached the edge of the field the object emitted a flash as it passed across in front of his track. Then, when he had completed his turn, there was a second flash from it, and he heard a high whistle and one of the panes of glass of his "driver's cab" was cracked.

Interrogation of the tractor-driver

We had a number of interviews with the witness, with members of his family, and with various other

local residents, our group devoting a very considerable number of hours to these enquiries in the course of several visits. All the interviews were taped, and we give below the extract containing the more important of the statements made by the witness:

CFG: You say that, before catching sight of the UFO, you heard a noise. Can you describe the noise?

Velasco: At first it seemed to me that there was something wrong with the engine of my tractor... as though a pipe had broken...

CFG: Then why didn't you stop at once, if you thought there was something wrong with the tractor?

Velasco: I carried on with the furrow, so as to get off the middle of the field. Because, despite the noise, the tractor was working perfectly.

CFG: What was the shape of the object?

Velasco: It was like a jar. Like a jam-jar. It had a sort of "hat" on top, and V-shaped feet.

CFG: Any other details that you recall?

Velasco: Yes. It had a sort of belt or band round it, and two windows above the band. And on one side of the thing it had some antennae spread out, like a fan...

CFG: What was the total length of time between the moment that you heard the sound and the moment when the thing went out of sight?

Velasco: The time it took to do one normal "run" the length of the field. About half an hour.

CFG: What, approximately, was the size of the object?

Velasco: Well, let me tell you. It was bigger than the tractor...say about three metres high and more or less the same width.

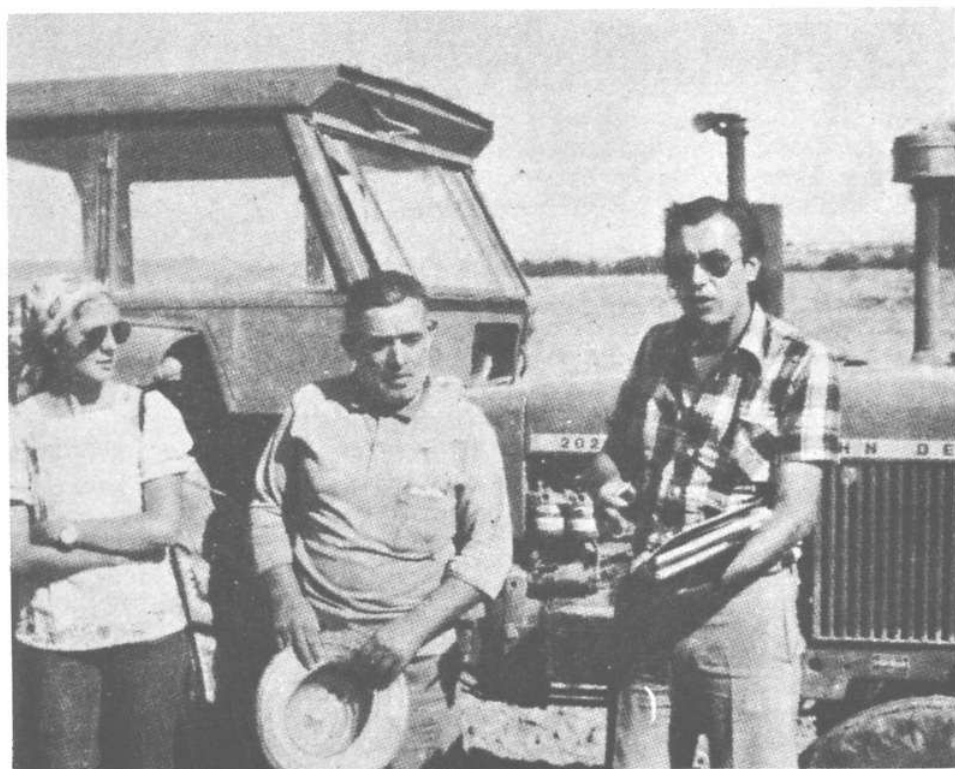
CFG: This noise you mentioned — could you hear it throughout the whole period of the observation? Did it vary in strength?

Velasco: I heard it the whole time. When the thing came closer to me, the noise was so loud that I couldn't even hear my own engine, and it was at that moment that I realized a pane had cracked.

CFG: Were you scared?

Velasco: Not at first. It was very beautiful to look at, like a shining jewel. Then, when the thing came closer and started moving in circles, it was a different matter... And when I heard the "crack" and saw my smashed glass I got terribly scared and I made off at top speed towards the main road.

(The mayor of Pedrosa del Rey, Don Aurelio



The witness, Emiliano Velasco (centre), with investigators from the Charles Fort Group

Fernandez Pintado, when discussing these matters with us, said that in his opinion the most surprising thing was that Emiliano Velasco should have managed to plough a dead-straight furrow despite the fact that he had the UFO circling round him several times. So we put the question to the witness, whose reply was as follows.)

Velasco: But of course – how could it be otherwise? When you have got one wheel in the furrow, the tractor carries straight on, even if you take your hand off the steering wheel...

CFG: What was the closest distance to which the UFO came?

Velasco: About three metres.

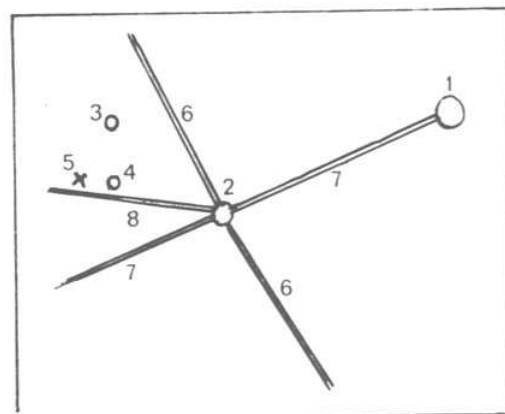
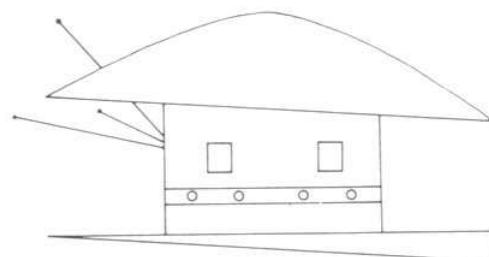
CFG: When the UFO was lit up by the two flashes, did you notice any changes in the colour of the UFO itself?

Velasco: The two windows lit up, and also the band around it.

The witness

He is a man of middle age and scant education. From our interviews with his family and his neighbours, we can describe him as a serious, but not a morose person, who is on good terms with everyone in his town, who consider him a sensible, balanced fellow whose main thoughts are on his work in the fields. He is a hired man on the farm owned by the widow Doña Angeles de la Peña. He has little interest in anything but the themes of his daily life: his family, his agricultural work, etc. At first sight it is clear that he is a man of limited intellectual interests.

He has remarkably little aptitude for coping with



Top right: Sketch of the UFO
Below right: Location of the site

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Key to | 1. Valladolid | 2. Tordesillas |
| map: | 3. Pedrosa del Rey | 4. Villaster de Abajo |
| | 5. UFO here | 6. Nacional VI |
| | 7. Nacional 620 | 8. Nacional 122 |

strangers, as was evident in his appearance on the television. As he admitted to us, he only agreed to do it “at the request of the employers.”

His initial dealings with us were marked by a good deal of suspicion on his part, but this disappeared gradually afterwards. His family told us that they had noticed changes in him since the sighting: he was now disturbed, worried, less interested than he had previously been in his work. And they also noticed that he was afraid of returning to the scene of the happenings. He was moreover afflicted by a number of ailments, the chief of which were some degree of loss of sight and hearing (though he did not tell us himself about this), as a result of which he had to ask for a period of sick leave, and this was granted.

The site

The farm is planted with cereal crops (wheat) and the yield is normally excellent. The soil is sedimentary, consisting of red clays with a scattering of boulders. It is gently rolling upland terrain, with sparse vegetation.

Further investigations

After a few enquiries we succeeded in making contact with the persons who now had the cracked glass in their possession. In September 1975 we

located the Costales family, relatives of the owner of the farm, and it was they who had the glass and they let us take it away for examination.

Our first intention had been to test the effects of a conventional projectile against some glass of identical characteristics. For this test we chose the smallest of standard cartridges, a 0.22 calibre American copper-headed bullet. If the hole made in the glass by such a type of bullet resembled the hole in the cracked glass of the tractor, a possible explanation would be that the damage to the latter had been done by a bullet of this type. P. Antonio Felices, President of our Group, carried out the tests with a *Star* type rifle at a distance of some nine or ten metres (this being the estimated distance of the UFO from the tractor at the time). And two types of bullet were used, one of penetrating type and the other having a more lateral, expansive effect.

After firing the first test shot, we found that it left a very clean, neat hole, but two cms. in diameter, which was three times the size of the hole in the glass of the tractor. When we used the bullet of the second type (expansive) the glass was totally shattered. Having made these tests, we ruled out the possibility (suggested by a considerable number of people) that the hole in the glass of the tractor had been made by a bullet from a conventional firearm.

Physical and chemical analysis

The next step was to get some physical and chemical tests made. Two of our members who hold degrees in Chemistry (Francisco Javier and Jesús Martín Gil) carried out various tests in the Departments of Inorganic Chemistry and of Physics in the University of Valladolid: their purpose, to try to find any objective facts that might provide a clue. Tests for traces of metal around the hole were totally negative. Tests were also made with Geiger counter, magnetometer, etc., also all with negative results. After our two members had delivered their report on this line of enquiry, we terminated it.

Changes in the terrain

In the course of our repeated visits to the site, our attention began meanwhile to centre upon the study of any possible changes in the terrain which might come to light and particularly any changes that there might be in the sparse vegetation there. But nothing was found.

However, in the interrogation of the witness Emiliano Velasco, certain other interesting facts did come to light. For these we are especially indebted to Sr. Juan José Benítez, who was the first to inform us of the phenomenon which we are now about to describe, and of which he, Sr. Benítez, had himself been a witness:

As Emiliano Velasco explained, it seems that the tractor now displays some very peculiar behaviour. He says that, when the machine arrives in a certain rectangular zone in the middle of the field (the zone measures some 12 m. by 6 m.) the engine, in first gear and making 2,000 revolutions, suddenly and quite inexplicably speeds up to 2,500 rev-

olutions, reverting again to normal so soon as it is out of the rectangular zone. Juan José Benítez was able to witness this phenomenon for himself, for the tractor driver gave him a demonstration at the site. In Benítez' own words "the din of the engine suddenly became unbearable, the indicator showing over 2,500 revolutions. Then, and without any intervention by the driver, Emiliano Velasco, all reverted to normal. This happened each time we entered the area in the middle of the field..."

When we of the Charles Fort Group were there on the next occasion, we asked Emiliano Velasco to lay on a similar demonstration for our benefit. He did not do so, making various excuses, all of which were however entirely reasonable and which we need not enumerate here.

We then decided that the responsible factor might be some local variation in the magnetic field, and we therefore checked the area, using several compasses, but with no result whatever, no sign of any change in the magnetic field being observed.

Further eyewitness accounts

Sr. Miguel Angel Casas and his wife, and Sr. Angel González and Sra. Leoncia García (mother-in-law of Angel González) who reside at the farm "La Castellana" at Pedrosa del Rey, situated some 300 metres distant from the main Valladolid-Zamora Highway, state that at dusk on July 16 (i.e. on the day previous to the tractor driver's experience) they saw something rise up from near Field No. 21. As they described it, this was "a bluish trail, denser than an aircraft trail, moving upwards in a spiral trajectory. The trail remained visible there for more than an hour."

Conclusion

In view of the absence of any objective evidence yielded by the tests, the whole case has to depend upon the statements of the single witness. Nevertheless, while fully aware of the risks always inherent in such situations, all the members of our Group are of the opinion that this is a genuine case. A truly scientific investigation cannot however, we admit, be arrived at solely on the basis of opinions and beliefs.

Notes

1. For its anecdotal value, we will mention that when the Geiger counter was applied to the glass, a higher-than-normal degree of radioactivity was recorded. The initial glee was however dispelled when it was realized that this was due to our own investigators, who work with radioactive products themselves.
2. Juan José Benítez is the author of two UFO books, the titles of which are *Existió Otra Humanidade (There Was Once Another Human Race)* and *S.O.S. a la Humanidade. (S.O.S. to Mankind.)*

Note by Gordon Creighton

This article should be compared with Juan José Benítez' report, *Benacazón Landing and two Humanoids*, a translation of which appeared in FSR Vol.22, No.1, and also with Joaquín M. Nogales' *Postscript to the Benacazón Landing*

(Concluded on page 11)

TIME TRAVEL, UFOs, AND THE FOURTH DIMENSION

Luis Schönherr

ON the occasion of the recent article by S.E. Priest¹ I should like to present some comments, as I myself have been responsible for several articles on time travel and the associated topic of the fourth dimension, published in this *Review* several years ago.²

Right at the outset I want to make clear the following. I am convinced that the accumulated body of UFO reports — although in part still insufficiently documented and described — deserves the attention of science and would, in itself, independently of any hypotheses, constitute a genuine scientific problem.

But I am afraid I cannot really identify myself with any of the many hypotheses on this subject whether they be mine, or those of others. This does not mean that I consider speculation as being worthless, for it may indeed lead to working hypotheses, which in turn may be tested by the observed facts. Here again one must not forget that if a system of thoughts can be shown to be logically consistent (this is true in the case of the theory of a fourth or higher dimensions), this in itself is no proof that it is consistent with reality too.

A really conclusive test in this respect is not possible until someone is able to make a fairly reasonable proposal as to the criteria by which this test should be made at all. The reader may decide for himself to what extent this essential prerequisite is fulfilled in the many hypotheses presented during the last quarter of a century. I must confess I am not too optimistic in this respect. It may be even questionable whether all the necessary facts for such a test are observable at all, or if so, have already been given proper attention.

The reader will be well advised to remember this, when he reads the following contribution to the TT-discussion.

* * * * *

Mr. Priest foresees quite rightly some of the problems of a time travelling machine materialising in our time, and his conclusion that it must have the ability to fly (or better, that it must possess a maximum degree of freedom) is certainly correct. He could have gone a bit farther by saying that a TT-machine would have to provide a self-contained biotop for its crew, or — as I had put it over a decade

ago — that it must have the properties of a space ship.³

At about that time I also had similar ideas to those expressed by Mr. Priest when he suspects a lack of skilfulness on the part of the ufonauts.⁴

But while it may well be that we have here indications for certain deficiencies either in the hardware or the software of the control systems of the UFOs, we should perhaps not overlook their possible abilities in some other respect.

Consider for example that form of repeated manifestation, often in the form of a pronounced escalation, that sometimes precedes a sighting or a contact, and which is evident in cases like those of Antônio Villas Boas, or Maurice Masse and his presumed “lavender pilferers.”⁵

If UFOs really originate from beyond our three dimensions, then such a sequence of events inevitably forces upon us the idea that UFOs are able to follow what in four dimensional geometry is called the “world-line” of a body. The expression “world-line of a body” is perhaps a bit misleading. It does not mean that a world line is something different from a body. It is the extension of a body into, or along the fourth dimension.

One could further theorize that this enables the UFO-intelligences to identify and relocate things and places within our three-dimensional space. This would mean that a UFO would not necessarily have to operate within our three-dimensional space in order to search for something therein. Nevertheless it could enter our space at that point where the thing it is searching for is to be found at a given moment in our time.

Up to now I have only written of things and places. It may be a rather discomfoting thought, but... can they also ferret out the world-lines of humans, or of human brains? At first glance there is in principle no reason why this should not be so. One could at best ask whether they can follow the world-lines of all of us, or whether only a certain number of humans have an invisible tag by which they can be located?

Could this be an alternative explanation for some of the repeater-cases that constitute a stumbling block for anyone who is concerned with mass data of UFO sightings?

Valladolid Tractor Driver: Gdn. Creighton's comments (continued from page 10)

which followed it. From the tractor driver's account in the present case and from the accompanying sketch, it seems likely that the UFO shows a striking resemblance to — or may even have been identical with — the Benacazón object, a sketch of which will be found on page 24 of FSR 22/1. In both cases, as will be seen, the object is described as

cylindrical, surmounted by a kind of “hat” and with feet.

The two places where these events are said to have occurred are however far apart. The Benacazón case was near Sevilla, in south-western Spain. Valladolid lies more than 450 kilometres distant, and almost due north from Sevilla.