

Possible landings at Centeno, Argentina

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Señor Roberto Ferrari has a group in Santa Fe, Argentina, known as the *Centro de Estudios Físicos (Centre for Physical Studies)*. Their main interest lies in studying the possible methods by which the UFOs may be powered, and Sr. Ferrari informs us that among the ideas which they are examining are those that were propounded long ago, at the very outset of the UFO Phenomenon, by the remarkable Frenchman, Captain Plantier. Translation: Gordon Creighton.

THE case which is here presented is the first of a selection from the archives of our Centre which we are happy to make available for *Flying Saucer Review* and the companion journal *FSR Case Histories*.

The scene of the events described is Centeno, a place in the Province of Santa Fe.

At 3.40 a.m. on November 5, 1967, an employee of a dairy farm owned by Sr. Spini set out for the pastures to attend to his duties.

Suddenly he perceived, coming from the West, an object enveloped in a brilliant bluish luminosity. It landed on the ground at a distance of some 600 metres from him, and remained there for two or three minutes. In the meantime, the witness started calling loudly to one of his companions who was in the house. This second witness heard his calls and looked out, so that both were able to witness the departure of the object when it took off again towards the West. At no moment did either of them hear any sound from it or notice any strange sensations.

Landing Marks

As soon as it was light, they were able to establish that there was an oval mark at the spot, and that the pasture there was dry and flattened. Moreover another mark, in all respects similar, was found by a Señor Aranzadi, owner of an adjacent field, when he came

out of his house on the morning of November 20 (twenty days after the first case).

The Investigation

On learning of the landing, our Group sent a team of investigators to look at the site on November 26.

It had rained twice since the first landing and a great many visitors had milled around at the spot, but as our photographs Nos. 1 and 2 show, the oval area was still very distinct and the dried nature of the herbage was clearly detectable.

The dimensions of the oval flattened area were 6m. × 4m., with the major axis oriented from East to West.

Tests of the local magnetic field revealed no abnormalities. We took samples of soil and plants and sent them to be analysed by the Faculty of Chemical Engineering at Santa Fe, but no metallic particles and no traces of radioactivity or any other abnormalities were detected. The only distinctive feature presented by all the plants was that they were of the usual yellow colour, dry rather than burnt.

Statements were taken by us from the two witnesses, simple men who could offer no explanation for what they had seen.

At the second landing site we were more fortunate, nobody having been there before us, and we are pro-



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3

bably the only people who have investigated it, as it was much newer and few folk knew of it. It was similar to the first mark, with its major axis about $4\frac{1}{2}$ metres and its lesser axis 3 metres. The major axis was again oriented from East to West. Nearby there was also another smaller mark, one metre in diameter, circular, and some 70 cms. from the large oval.

Both these marks were quite intact, and the contrast between the yellow dried grass inside them and the green grass all around was most striking. (See photos 3 and 4.)

The analysis of our samples of soil and vegetation at the second site gave the same results as in the first case—entirely negative.

When questioning local residents we learned that “strange lights” had been seen there during the period in question, and also objects had been seen flying overhead.



Photograph 4

Conclusion

In the first case, two witnesses saw the object, and the correlation between the object and the oval landing mark seems clear. In the second case, although no witness of the landing was found, the strange characteristics of the oval mark and the yellow, dessicated, flattened grass lead us to suspect that it had been produced by the same means. It seems therefore that we can say that there were UFO landings at Centeno on the early morning of November 5, 1967, and during the night of November 19/20, 1967.

I would add that the effect on the dried grass has been extremely curious. The marks—which put one in mind of the sort of burns that would be given by a hot metal plate—indicate that the interaction between the UFO and ground was not confined merely to the zone of contact. The question as to what type of radiation it is that is responsible and in what conditions it is able to produce these effects remains open.

Readers' Reports

Taxi-driver's testimony

The following letter is from a new reader of *Flying Saucer Review* and *FSR Case Histories*, who took out subscriptions following the appearance of the Editor in the BBC-TV programme “Search” on May 26.

Dear Sir,—I am a taxi-driver and what got me definitely interested in these strange things derives from the following true account:

About four years ago my wife, Mary (a real down-to-earth woman), went out to the back green with our younger son, Donald (aged at that time 24 years), to bring into the house some clothes or washing that had been forgotten. They were both at the same time attracted to something hovering

low down in the sky quite near them, and they both gave me the following description from the view they had.

“It” seemed to be cigar-shaped, or it may have been saucer-shaped, from the angle it was seen (my son's remark). It was the length of two railway carriages with big lighted windows on its upper structure; there was a deep blue-purple light coming from underneath it. No motor or engine noise was heard. The light coming from underneath the great “ship” gradually got brighter, becoming lilac and then brilliant white, when it flew off into the night sky at an incredible speed.

Now here is the sequel to the foregoing. Eighteen months later a taxi-driver whose name is Hugh Milligan, who is quoted as saying “I never

believed in any of that tripe”, was going home at 3.25 a.m. after his night shift. He then saw hovering about 50ft. above his block of flats a great ship estimated to be about 250ft. across. He gave the same particulars about it as my wife and son had done.

He was so astounded, and a wee bit afraid, so he called our control on his radio. The control asked over the air if any other taxi was near. Six other taxis turned up and the seven drivers watched this “ship” for about five minutes, after which it “whoofed” away into the night sky at tremendous speed. Since then Hugh got permission from the janitor of the flats to use the roof area to keep watch for an hour or two each night; he could manage it with his big UFO camera and huge