

Moreover we got a very full and detailed report on the case from Mr. Harry M. Hoose of the U.S. Weather Bureau. Mr. Hoose told us, *inter alia*, that the UFO apparently had a radio transmitter, inasmuch as "between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. the radio signals from balloons that we had released suffered inexplicable interference."

Press reports on the sighting appeared in the Puertorican papers *El Dia* and *San Juan Star* of May 1, and also in *El Carbide*, a newspaper published in the Dominican Republic, for the same date.

Some time later, I read a report about a NASA project, in which they were said to be launching immense study-balloons from Ascension Island, off the West Coast of Africa. According to the report (which was by Marvin Miles and in the *Los Angeles Times*) these balloons, globe-shaped, reached altitudes of between 68,000 and 79,000 feet. Marvin Miles said there were still seven of these globes in orbit around the Earth, transmitting scientific data to the satellite *Nimbus 4*, which was in a polar orbit. Each of the huge globes was described as carrying 10 lbs. of scientific instruments. The report also mentioned that fifteen more globes of the same type had been launched.

I accordingly wrote to NASA requesting further details as to the precise positioning of these special balloons, but received no reply.

In view of the fact that the air currents passing over the West Indies and the southern part of Puerto Rico originate from the West Coast of Africa, I formed the conclusion that the object seen over Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic by hundreds of people on April 30 and May 1 might very well have been one of those balloons. The characteristics of the object over Puerto Rico certainly resemble very much the features of a balloon.

The photo shown above comes from the film taken from one of the aircraft sent up to intercept the object, and was given to me by a member of the crew. The circle outlined on the photo is the airplane's gunsight.

I hope that these details about the recent case over Puerto Rico will help FSR readers to secure a better grasp of the situation, and help in clarifying the all-important question of what is a sonde balloon or a high-altitude cosmic research balloon and what is a true "UFO" in our meaning of the term.

Readers' Reports

More than moonshine?

Dear Sir,—This report appeared in today's issue of *Le Parisien* (September 11):

"Maubeuge. Two 'flying saucers', or at least so identified by those who saw them, were observed in two communities around Maubeuge (Nord). The first appearance took place on September 3 at about 21.40 hours. A man in his seventies saw a luminous cylinder of red colour about 4 metres from the ground. The machine moved slowly and silently, now vertically and now horizontally. After watching the 'saucer' for some ten (*dizaine*) minutes, the old man went to get his neighbour who also observed the phenomenon. Later the two men saw the departure of the machine.

"The second UFO (*OVNI in French*) was seen on the next day at about 23.10 hours in another community near Maubeuge by four persons. It was of elliptical form and emitted strong whitish luminosity as well as converging beams of light. The sighting lasted for about ten (*une dizaine*) minutes. The vegetation at the places where the sightings occurred was slightly burnt. Parisian experts came to the sites and took away samples of soil for analysis."

I realise that the information is very poor. "*Une dizaine de minutes*" is a vague French expression. No names of the communities are given. And who were those Parisian experts? No source of this information is given either. However, I thought that this might be of interest to you.

Incidentally, the town of Maubeuge in the French Department of Nord has a peculiar reputation. The popular saying is that "this is not worth the moonlight at Maubeuge" — describing something utterly worthless. But then the town does exist, and if the sightings really occurred there, there is no way of avoiding it.

George St. George
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75015 Paris, France.

A Revisitation

Dear Sir,—At the time of my first sighting, in 1956, I was living in Southampton. I remember it was a glorious summer day with a clear blue sky. Four workmates and I were enjoying the sun during our lunch hour, when suddenly someone spotted a distant light in the sky, about as bright as a large star at night. When viewed through binoculars (6 x 30) it was seen to be slowly revolving.

While I was using the binoculars, I saw three disc-shaped objects streak across the sky towards us. Then quite suddenly they seemed to disappear (perhaps because they then turned edge-ways-on to us). Unfortunately only one other man spotted these discs with the naked eye. The "star" or "mother-ship" (?) remained perfectly stationary in the sky for another four hours, over the south-west part of the town.

About two years later, at the same place, whilst at work, for no apparent reason I suddenly said to a workmate, "Let's go outside and see if we can see a UFO." Much to our surprise, on looking up we saw a large disc-shaped object silhouetted very clearly against high white cloud. It was actually coming in our direction and flew with a stop-and-go motion, sometimes hovering for a second. Finally, when directly overhead, it shot straight upwards and was lost to our sight, quickly disappearing into a patch of clear blue sky.

On both occasions there was little or no wind. The time of the first sighting was approximately 1.00 p.m. and the second 12.00 noon.

R. Lucas,
Ivor Road, Hamworthy,
Poole, Dorset.

PRELIMINARY CATALOGUE OF TYPE I CASES IN ARGENTINA—PART 5

Prof. Oscar A. Uriondo

Translated from Spanish by Gordon Creighton

FOR the purpose of this catalogue, sub-classifications have been made in Dr. Jacques Vallee's sub-divisions of Type I UFO reports.

Parts 1 to 4 of this catalogue have covered 77 cases which fall into Sub-classes A-1 and A-2. Listed hereunder is part of Sub-class A-3 comprising 13 cases. The remaining six cases will appear in our next issue.

The initial figure given for each case refers to the serial order of the event within the class to which it belongs, and the figure in parenthesis indicates the chronological position of the case within the total context of all classes.

Sub-class A3: Visibly abnormal body or phenomenon, flying at not more than ten metres from the ground

1. (8). 1957, August 5; Tolar Grande (Salta). 10.00 hrs. For six hours various strange machines shaped like spinning-tops were performing evolutions in the sky over Las Salinas de Arizaro (salt marshes) near Taípe. They flew at varying speeds and heights, performing a series of acrobatic manoeuvres and leaving behind them trails of white smoke. They were seen by a team of employees of the Vialidad Nacional (Public Highways Administration) and by a Gendarmerie patrol. The latter succeeded in taking photographs of the strange objects. On several occasions the UFOs performed sweeps at ground-level as though interested in learning the geological configuration.

Quoted from *La Razón*, in CODOVNI Bulletin, 1957.

2. (9). 1958, April 12; Tabladitas, 14 km. from Abra Pampa (Jujuy). Night.

Sr. Armando Avila Garrón, a well-known university professor, was strolling with his wife when they heard a sound similar to that of a motorbicycle and, shortly afterwards, saw a strange aerial vehicle, intensely brightly illuminated, the precise shape of which they were unable to determine. It passed in front of them, at a distance of some 20 or 30 metres, and almost touching the ground. It was surrounded by a large white aureole. Then it veered towards the east and vanished at high speed.

Riatti, C., and Vogt, C.: *El Enigma de los Platos Voladores*, in Patoruzito, Buenos Aires, 1959.

3. (10). 1958, August 8; Unsué-Bolívar Highway (Buenos Aires). 01.27 hrs.

As a Senate official was driving in his car, the engine suddenly stopped, and also his dashboard clock. At the same moment he caught sight of an unwonted type of machine, at a distance of some 300 metres, with a cupola from which a vivid blue light was being emitted. It was also giving off a soft whistle, like the noise of a ventilator, and advancing quite slowly and at very little distance above the ground. When the UFO suddenly climbed rapidly and made off towards the south the engine of the car began to function normally again.

Vallee, Dr. J.: *Challenge to Science*, H. Regnery Co., Chicago, 1966, p.52. [Also Neville Spearman Ltd., London.]

4. (13). 1959, Summer (approx.); Pan de Azúcar (Córdoba). Night.

Senora Stutz and Senora Rossi and the husband of the latter (he being a pilot with a civilian air line) were on a camping trip and had set up their tent in a valley bordering on the Pan de Azúcar (Sugar-Loaf Mountain). At midnight it began to rain heavily, so the two ladies tried to recover some things they had left out in the open. Sr. Rossi was asleep. Both ladies observed a strange opaque mass coming straight towards them. When only some 15 m. or so from them, it changed course rapidly and vanished into the night. In size and appearance it resembled the fuselage of an ordinary passenger air-liner, but without wings. A number of small rectangles could be seen along its body. It bore no lights and emitted no perceptible sound. It was flying at a height of not more than eight to ten metres.

Communication to CADIU from Señora Stutz and Señora Rossi.

5. (16). 1960, July 3; Yacanto-Córdoba Highway (Córdoba). 16.30 hrs.

At a spot some 70 km. from the city of Córdoba, Captain Francisco Luis Niotti of the Argentine Air Force observed an object stationary in the air at a distance of about 100 metres from him, on the right-hand side of the road, and at a height of between 10 and 15 metres from the ground. He stopped the car and took photographs of the UFO. It was of a conical shape, opaque, and he estimated its size at 8 metres vertically by 4 metres diameter. It was travelling along slowly and in complete silence. Then it accelerated and vanished at considerable speed.

Revista Nacional de Aeronáutica (National Aeronautical Review), November 1960, p.30.

6. (22). 1962, May 12; near Bahía Blanca (?) (Buenos Aires). 04.30 hrs.

Four trustworthy persons who were travelling by car saw three luminous objects at a short distance from them. Over a section of the route the objects were travelling in the same direction as the car, irradiating a dazzling light that damaged the retina of one of the eyewitnesses. One of the three objects performed rising and falling manoeuvres and then flew at ground level and must have flattened trees.

La Nación, Buenos Aires, May 24, 1962.

7. (26). 1962, May 13; Monte de las Palomas, Río Primero (Córdoba). 04.30 hrs.

Sr. Eduardo Ovejero and three well-known professional men from Córdoba were out hunting when they saw a small ball of violet light come down and vanish among the trees. They thought it might possibly have been a meteorite, but a few moments later the whole area around them began to be flooded with a whitish mist which grew denser from minute to minute, rendering all vision impossible. The mist felt dry, and had an indeterminate smell. Despite its density however they were able to observe a light coming from the west, moving along at treetop height. They ruled out the possibility that it might be the headlight of a locomotive, as the railway line was quite far away from them. The light passed over silently at a distance of a few metres from them, and they were able to establish that it consisted in fact of two lights of discoidal appearance. The mist vanished as though it had been absorbed by the phenomenon.

Communication to CADIU from Sr. E. Ovejero.