

A TERRIBLE NIGHT IN SPAIN

J. Mateos Nogales, et al

This is a report of an investigation conducted by the author, together with M. Filpo Cabana, G. Andreu de los Santos and A. Moya Cerpa on behalf of Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios (C.E.I.) of Barcelona, and published in *Stendek* Vol.8, 35, March 1979. We are grateful to the Editor and Consultative Committee of C.E.I. for permission to reprint this interesting material. Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton.

GERENA is a town in the Province of Sevilla, and one where UFO sightings are quite frequent, though why this should be so we have of course no idea.* Maybe the town has some special attraction for them; maybe it is some sort of hypothetical obligatory point via which those objects, the UFOs — or whatever they are — have to pass. or maybe again, as one of our good friends has suggested, they are drawn to the place by the activities of the ufological groups and field investigation groups in the region? Who knows? Anyway, whatever the reason, very many Gerena people have seen UFOs, ranging from the most "normal" of sightings right through to the most incredible sorts.

Gerena lies 30 kms. north-west of Seville, at Latitude 37° 30 N. and Longitude 6° 10 W. The Sevilla-Extremadura-Madrid National Highway passes at a distance of some five kilometres to the east of the town.

The events which we are about to describe occurred at a spot lying in the direction of the highway and at about 3½ kilometres from Gerena, very near to a farm called *El Esparragal*. The area comprises mostly cultivated crops, and is fairly flat, with a few low hills around it. The eyewitnesses were working at the time in a field of cotton.

First reports

We first heard about this case five years after it had happened. But that is of no importance. As somebody has remarked — and very pertinently — "We ufologists aren't journalists," and a case can be of the highest possible interest quite regardless of the date when it occurred.

As has happened with most of the cases that we have investigated, it was J. Mateos Nogales who learnt first of this incident, and contacted one of the witnesses and fixed an interview with him for Saturday, September 9, 1978. However, for reasons beyond our control we were not able to be there at the time and place agreed upon, so our witness went with his wife to the cinema. We had to wait a couple of hours after that before we could have a chat with him, but we think the effort was well worth the wait. When we were comfortably settled down with the witness we made a tape recording of the whole interview concerning his extraordinary experience.

After playing the whole interview over, we decided against following our usual course of publishing the witness's words exactly as recorded, owing to the large number of regionalisms and colloquialisms in the speech

of our peasants in this part of Spain, which would have made the account difficult to understand for people in other parts of the country. We decided therefore to edit the story and put it in the third person, naturally keeping strictly to the statements made.

The eyewitnesses

The eyewitnesses in this case totalled seven in all. Of these, we were able to find only one, Don Antonio Fernández González, now a family man in his thirties, but a bachelor at the time of the occurrence. According to him, the other people who were with him on the night in question were: David González Cadaval, Francisco Barrera, Antonio Palomo (since deceased), all three from Gerena. Of the remaining three, he remembers the names of only two, one being Francisco and the other Ventura, from the neighbouring districts of Las Pajanosas and Guillena. Our colleague Joaquín Mateos knows the three eyewitnesses from Gerena very well personally, and assures us that they are reliable individuals and completely deserving of trust.

The Sighting

It happened on a Saturday in the middle of August of 1973, at between 3.30 a.m. and 4.00 a.m. The event has remained well engraved in the memory of Antonio Fernández González. And in our opinion it is not surprising that this should be so.

The seven men were engaged in watering the cotton crop, using sprays. There were also seven others engaged on the work with them, but these other seven were elsewhere on the farm at the time.

They were working in pairs, on a twelve-hour shift, from 8.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. They had been out in the field and had given the first spraying, starting at 8.00 p.m. and ending at 10.00 p.m. Then, at 2.00 a.m., they set out once more from the farm to give the cotton plants their second watering, which would last until 4.00 a.m. Finally, at 8.00 a.m., they would go over the whole field once more to check the sprays and see that none of them were blocked up, and that would end their twelve-hour stint.

When the happening took place it was possibly just a little after 3.30 a.m. during the Saturday night in question, and our eyewitness, together with David González, was moving along a row of sprays, extending



The scene in the cotton field, from the cover of the Spanish magazine *Stendek*.

over a distance of some 300 metres or so, adjusting and directing the direction of the jets. Each of them carried a powerful electric torch (4 batteries) producing a long strong beam of light. While one was doing the adjusting of the irrigation jets the other would hold the torch for him, and so they went on, taking it in turns.

As Sr. Antonio Fernández González was stepping along between the rows of cotton plants on the upper part of the field, he saw a white light coming down the side of a low hill in the far distance. He stopped and observed this light very carefully. Thirty paces from him (thirty paces being the distance between one row of irrigation sprays and the next) were Francisco Barrera and David González. He asked them if they had noticed "that thing," and they replied that yes, they had, and that maybe it was the lights of one of the cars of a party of hunters coming into the area.

But our man thought it was "too much light" to be from a car.

They carried on working, and continued to watch the light. The sooner they finished the job, the more time they would have for resting a bit before the final inspection at 8.00 a.m. Meanwhile the light was coming nearer, and they were starting to get worried: "It gives me the creeps!" remarked one of them.

Our man sat down on the water pipeline, and all of them carried on trying to find some satisfactory explanation for the light. "It's coming much closer," said one, "and it's not a car, nor is it a 'plane. It is higher than a car would be, and an aeroplane wouldn't be so low."

They were all worried. One man a bit further away from the rest of the party, shouted: "It's one of those flying saucers that people are talking about!"

"Yes — that's it", said Antonio Fernández. "That's it. A flying saucer! Can't you see it is"

The light was drawing steadily nearer, moving very close to the ground, blindingly bright if you tried to look at it. Our witness, knowing not a thing about "flying

saucers" or such matters, threw himself down full length in the mud between the rows of cotton, and his mates hastened to do likewise.

And the weird object passed right over them, flying very close to the ground.

It is hard to give the chronological sequence for all that our witness told us, as it came out piece-meal, with elements from the start and the middle and the end of the experience all mixed up. The terror experienced at the time, and the passage of five years since, have tended to blur things, but we have tried here to give the over-all gist of his statements.

The sky was completely clear and full of stars and lit by the waning Moon. The UFO came from the North-West, flew around and to and fro above the eyewitnesses, and moved off towards Las Pajanosas in the north-east, but then returned and passed over the terrified farm-workers once more.

The UFO, when seen from a distance, had the shape of an eye, or of a plate upside down, but seen from below it was completely round, as they were able to see as it passed just a few metres above their heads.

Sr. Fernández told us that when it was overhead he did not dare look straight up at it, and so he did not see the red lights on its underside which were seen by David González who was lying buried in mud not far from him.

When the UFO was moving away they shouted to Antonio Palomo, who was some distance away from them, to ask if he was all right, because the UFO had stopped for a few minutes right above the place where he was, but there was no reply from him. Palomo was also buried deeply in the mire and unable to hear anything, as his appearance clearly showed when the others beheld him.

David González, who was the boldest, raised his head when the UFO was right over them, to see whether he could observe any people or any windows, but our witness told him to stop this, as otherwise "he would get his head snipped off." There was nothing to be heard from all the rest of the party. Every man of them was flat out in the mire formed from the soil of the field and the irrigation streams.

Each time the UFO moved away from them, they all got up and switched on their torches and began working again, as they were anxious to get the job of tending the jet-sprayers finished as quickly as possible in order to take a rest-break, and they carried on therefore like this until the UFO was once more back over their heads. *This happened a total of four or five times altogether, and the duration of the whole sighting was about twenty minutes.*

The witnesses noticed that, each time when they got to their feet after the UFO had moved away, there was a sort of white mist remaining there, so thick that they could not even see the stars in the sky. The mist quickly dispersed, but appeared again after every return visit by the UFO.

They noticed no peculiar odour of any sort (the cotton plants had of course as a normal routine been sprayed with insecticides) not did they notice any heat or any change of temperature.

The UFO made quite a loud noise — at least equal to that of a jet aircraft, but more drawn out. The brightness of the object was enormous. It lit up the whole field, and at one point David made the remark: "We ought to take advantage of the light to do the rest of the sprayers!"

The final pass that the UFO made over them was

fantastically low. So low in fact that one of the men felt sure it was going to flatten another who was a bit further on. The height of the cotton plants was about 60 cms, and the UFO grazed their tops as it went over.

When we asked how big the UFO was, Sr. Fernández said: "Its circumference was as big as a bull-ring. It was tremendous, I can't say precisely how big — but enormous."

According to our own investigations, it seems that the diameter of the UFO was about 35 metres or so — something that would indeed seem to have no limits when it is just a few centimetres above the top of your head!

The UFO halted briefly over a fence near where Antonio Palomo and one of the men from Las Pajanosas were working.

As the UFO moved away from them, Sr. Fernández could see, amid the dazzling glow from it, that the object was either metallic, or that it possessed something metallic.

When the UFO finally vanished, he was lying hidden in the cotton. When he got up again it was no longer to be seen, so he was unable to say in which direction it had gone.

Apart from the tremendous scare that it gave them at the time, the witnesses do not appear to have felt any secondary effects worthy of recording.

When they arrived back at the farm they awoke the whole household there to tell them about their experience. They were in such a state, encrusted with mud, that they had to take a dip in a water tank with their clothes still on.

The other party of seven workers, who were on another part of the farm, had observed nothing abnormal that night.

Said Sr. Fernández: "I worked at that farm for five or six years, but never had any further experiences of this sort. If I saw anything again and if it was afar off, I wouldn't be scared. But I don't want to have a close-up view like *that* again!"

PERSONAL COLUMN

£0.35 (\$0.85) per line or part e.g. £1.40 (\$3.40) for 4 lines or part

"INVESTIGATION" — The first issue of this new irregular magazine published by UFOIN is available now at 50p (US\$1.25). By investigators, for investigators, it covers all aspects of the technique and practice of UFO investigation. Write to: Martin Keatman, 31 Stuart Close North, Walton, Stone, Staffs ST15 0JU

UFO DIRECTORY of UFO Societies, groups & publications worldwide. Only £1 incl. postage UK. (5 U.S. Dollars incl. Airmail overseas) from: UFO Network, 2 St Ivian Court, Colneyhatch Lane, London N10.

WARMINSTER, Wiltshire — Centre of UFO activity. Cottage now available to UFO researchers and skywatchers. Holidays or weekends. S.a.e. for details: UFO Services, 47, Belsize Square, London, NW3.

BRITISH UFO SOCIETY, resarch, investigation, photos, newsletter, skywatches, meetings. S.a.e. details: 47, Belsize Square, London, NW3.

THE CHRISTIAN UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION exists to help. Enquiries invited, especially from the troubled: CHRUFORA, Spring Cottage, Fairford, Glos.

Some time later, when David González was returning home on his motor-bicycle after a visit to his girl friend, he had another experience with a big unidentified object which settled down right in the middle of the road and barred the way. He left the motor-bicycle beside the road and dashed back to his girl friend's house, and it seems that she too was able to observe the departure of the object when it took off. This latter case (which was mentioned to us by Don Antonio Fernández González in the course of his statement) was already known to us.

Translator's Note

*It is indeed a fact that a remarkable number of UFO reports come from Gerena, Sevilla, and those areas of Andalucia. For example, a brief look back through FSR for the past few years yields the following, all from that part of Spain:—

FSR Vol. 20, 3. Eileen Buckle: *Spanish UFO Fiesta*. Ignacio Darnaude: "Army of Humanoids" land in Spain.

FSR Vol. 20, 4. R. B. Guérard y Holmes: *Further Investigations of Spanish UFO Cases*. (See Cases 2, 5, and 6.)

FSR Vol. 22, 1. J. J. Benítez: *Benacazón Landings & Humanoids*. Joaquín M. Nogales: *Postscript to Benacazón*.

FSR Vol. 22, 3. World Round-up (P.31).

FSR Vol. 22, 6. World Round-up (P.28, Case No.12).

FSR Vol. 23, 2. World Round-up (P.30).

	<p>THE OCCULT SIGNIFICANCE OF UFOs £2.10</p> <p>Dr Douglas Baker. Illustrated. At a time when movie audiences are marvelling at <i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i>, a noted occultist reveals that eight per cent. of all Americans have sighted UFOs! Recorded in this fascinating book are twelve documented sightings of UFOs in varied locations including America, England, Brazil, Spain, South Africa and Russia. Dr Baker (who believes that about twenty per cent. of sightings are valid), presents the occult interpretation of UFOs and quotes evidence from top American scientists that there are more sightings of UFOs today than ever before and that the riddle will soon be solved!</p>		
	<p>Ufology £3.75</p> <p>James M. MacCampbell. Illustrated. Based on seven years' research of sighting reports, this book explores different types of Flying Objects; high frequency radiation emissions; temporary paralysis and shock in witnesses; etc.</p>		<p>Opening of the Third Eye £2.60</p> <p>Dr Douglas Baker. Illustrated. How to develop a vortex of psychic energy, extend awareness in new dimensions, with five safe techniques for arousing the Third Eye — an 'inner vision' organ!</p>
	<p>PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES OF ASTRAL PROJECTION £2.50</p> <p>Dr Douglas Baker. Illustrated. In astral projection consciousness vacates the physical body and temporarily inhabits an astral (emotional) body which possesses its own organs of sensation! Author—who has experienced "many thousands of astral projections"—describes five stages of this phenomenon and explains the necessary routines for projecting to each stage in turn through relaxation, visualization and breathing techniques.</p>		
	<p>Practical Time Travel £1.15</p> <p>Colin Bennett. How to reach back to past lives by occult means. There are detailed instructions for storing animal magnetism, the creation and projection of thought-forms, crystal-gazing, psychic concentration and contemplation.</p>		<p>Numerology: The Secret Power of Numbers £1.15</p> <p>Mary Anderson. Explains how to calculate a numerical analysis of one's name and then proceed to a character reading. How to use a numberscope to know the future.</p>
<p>From your Bookseller or: THORNS PUBLISHERS LTD Dept 523C, Denington Estate, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2RQ Free List on Request</p> <p>Prices Post Paid BANKCARD</p>			