

# UFO OVER A GREEK TAVERNA

*Jenny Randles*

Data ratings: July 22 1978 Chalandri, Nr. Athens, Greece MED Level C

**RAYMOND DAWSON** is employed by the British Embassy in Athens, and is well settled in that country, having lived there for many years. His wife Kiriakoula is Greek, and he has a married daughter, Mrs. Catherine Dawson-Alexakas. Her husband is a doctor.

Mr. Dawson has had a passing interest in UFOs for some years, but never expected to see one. After his encounter his interest intensified, and he came to subscribe to FSR. He wrote to tell us of his sighting, and I took the matter up because of the potential interest of the case. I exchanged several letters with him and he was very helpful in answering all my questions. Furthermore he kindly persuaded his wife and daughter — who were also witnesses — to provide statements and drawings.

The summers in Greece can be very hot, and it is the custom to forsake the inferno of the city and drive out to a country taverna for an evening meal. This often takes place late in the evening, as many Greeks stay out in the country at their "Summer Villas" until the morning.

On Saturday, July 22, 1978, it *was* very hot. The temperature was still in the eighties in the evening, and so Mr. Dawson, his wife and their daughter decided to go for a meal at a taverna situated on pleasant wooded slopes a few miles from the city. It is in a district known as Chalandri, with attractive mountain and green landscaped surroundings. They had their meal in the open, and by 11.15 p.m. had finished and were waiting, without hurry, for the bill so that they could settle the account and drive home.

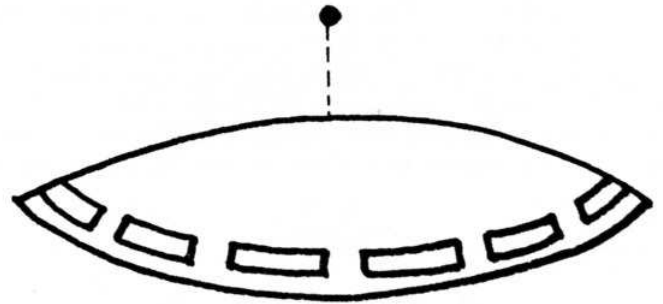
Catherine (who is 27, and who is also employed at the embassy as a passport and visa officer) was the first to notice something unusual.

As she says: "It was a clear evening, and we were just finishing our dinner when I heard a humming noise above me. I turned to see what it was, because I was most curious to see what manner of craft would be flying so low over mountains, and especially when there is no airport in that area. What I saw was a very big, dark, round-shaped object that was almost touching the TV antennae on the buildings. There were lots of square windows around it, and a red light on top."

For a few seconds Catherine was shocked, but then she recovered and called to her parents. They both looked up and saw it. At first all they could pick out were flashing lights, which floated to and fro from left to right after which they began circling. They too could tell that it was close and very low.

Mr. Dawson was unsure what to make of it. He turned round to see both his wife and daughter staring at the object, but before they could really

decide what it was it had vanished. Catherine called out: "It was a UFO," and Mrs. Dawson suggested that they should pay the bill quickly and go after it in the car. This they did. Nobody else in the taverna appeared to have noticed the object.



**Catherine's first sighting over the Taverna**

The Dawsons drove around the corner, and within a couple of minutes of their first sighting saw the UFO again. They approached the traffic lights and stopped. Catherine remarked that it was odd that there was no other traffic about. Everything was still and quiet. They had been to the area many times before and even at that time in the evening it was normally very busy.

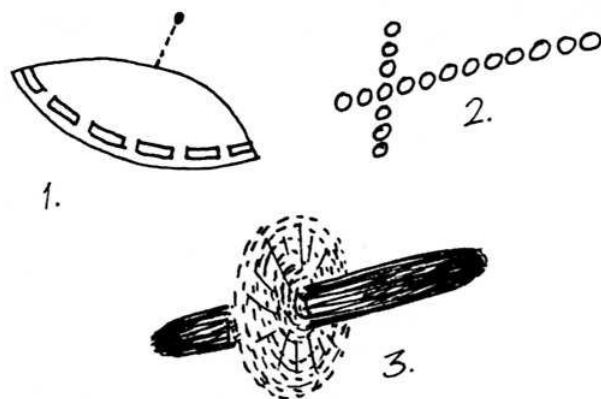
When Catherine pointed it out again, Mr. Dawson stopped the car. However, he left the engine running because he wanted to see if the presence of the UFO would affect it (it did not — the engine ran normally). They all got out of the car and climbed a wall at the side of the road for a better view. At this point there are slight discrepancies in their statements as to what was now seen. Catherine and her mother more or less agree to the following sequence.

When first seen on the second viewing the object was like a round disc with a red light on top and a row of windows along the side. These seemed to rotate. The UFO was basically hovering, but rocking from side to side — as if floating on a breeze and there was no sound at all at this stage. Then suddenly the object changed to a cross shape, made up of myriad multicoloured lights — lavender, yellow, pink, white, amber — all soft colours. Then it changed again to a dark cigar shape with "catherine wheels" of light around what appeared to be the front end. There were about five rings of lights spinning quickly around, and again the soft colours of differing hues. Apparently it looked quiet breathtaking.

It was at this point that the first signs of other life were noticed. A small boy crossed the road. They called out to him, but he did not respond. Then the object was gone, circling away beyond nearby

housing. A number of cars had pulled up at the traffic lights, which had long since changed to green, so they had to drive off. They continued to search for signs of the UFO, but could not find it again.

Mr. Dawson's version differs in these respects. He says that when first seen on the second occasion the object was gently circling. Then it stopped and hovered. The "windows" were described by him as lights, rotating anticlockwise. The top was bell-shaped, with the red light on a kind of dome. The lights rotated around the rim. Then a beam of light came from the underside, diverging out of the ground. As the object rocked from side to side the beam seemed to be scanning the area. He recalls wishing he could see the underside — and at that precise moment felt quite eerie as the dome tilted away to reveal the flat underside at an angle. The beam of light moved with this turn so that it shone into the sky a little. He then saw the lights spinning in a really complex way, and thinks that this is where his wife and daughter saw the cross and wheel shapes as the object tilted and then presently tilted back.



Three phases of Catherine's second sighting

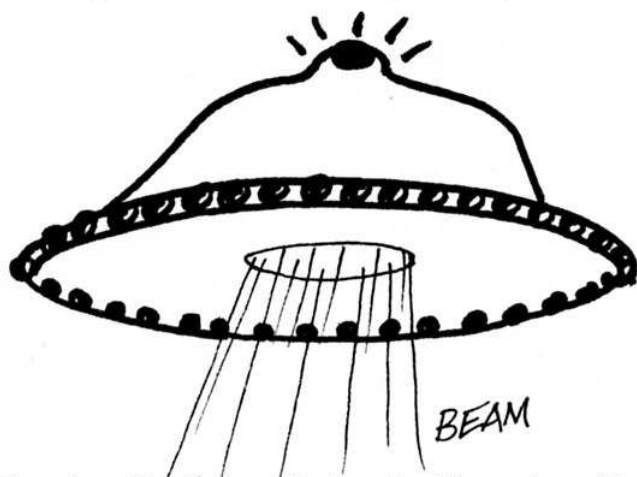
animals seemed to find a peculiar attraction in him, always gathering round. This even extended even to wild and ferocious animals, such as a buffalo and wild dogs. He has travelled the world extensively. He also recalled an incident when he was visiting a war cemetery, and about to take a photograph of the grave of a comrade. He distinctly heard the dead man's voice say to him: "Don't waste your time." He took the picture anyway.

Perhaps the strangest incident occurred in about 1962. During the summer he was returning from a visit to England and driving, he thinks, through Germany en route for Greece. With him were his wife and daughter (then aged 11).

It was mid-afternoon and they were travelling at about 110 Km p.h. in order to cover the distance to get home. The roads were quiet and they were passing through open country. They were not talking inside the car, but suddenly he was overcome with an intense feeling that something was in the field by their side. He slowed down and pulled off the road and "sensed" a conical shape in the grass some distance beyond the side of the road. He took a quick black and white picture with his Cannonet automatic shutter speed camera. The lens was a 4.5 mm 1 : 1.9.

He mentioned to the others that there was something funny in the field and then got back in to the car. He thinks they saw nothing, and now he too doubts whether there was anything there. He says: "I think that I imagined it more than I saw it — that's the only way I can describe it." He gave me the photograph and negative, saying he did not want them back, that he thought I should forget the photograph as it was "not very good," and doubting its value.

The photograph is to be analysed thoroughly, but on initial examination it seems that the negative has no image on it other than the scenery background. It appears that there needs to be enhancement to produce the very dim picture that appears on the print — but the print does show a faint dark cone and three white balls in a triangular formation at the base. The effect is ephemeral — very much like a double exposure — but this is exactly how Mr. Dawson says he saw the object — as if it were partly there and partly not there! \*



Based on Mr. Dawson's sketch of hovering object

The size of the object was estimated as being a little larger than a jet aircraft by Mr. Dawson, and three times the size of a medium sized aircraft by his daughter. It was twice as long as it was high. Estimates of the altitude that it was at during the second phase of the sighting are about 150 feet, although Catherine says that it must have been below 100 feet when first seen from the Taverna. The first phase of the sighting lasted just seconds. The second phase two or three minutes. The lights were so bright that they "lit up the sky."

Two days later there was a report in the local paper that referred to a Greek aeronautical engineer who called 15 others to watch the object. Their descriptions were very similar, and it was seen in the same area at the same time.

I further probed the witnesses with regards to past experiences. In view of Mr. Dawson's describing the rapport between himself and the disc (i.e. the tilting away "at request") I suspected he might be the one to have a sensitive background, and indeed this turned out to be the case. Neither his wife nor his daughter could call to mind anything relevant, but he certainly could.

He referred to the fact that both children and



The interesting feature of this case is that it is bound up with the sensitivities of the central witness. He is obviously sensitive to "something" — be it another dimension, vibrational energies or whatever — and this is a consistent feature of close encounter witnesses. Yet the UFO sighting was not simply a product of his sensitivities or even imagination (the two may well overlap in a way we do not fully understand). Other people saw it clearly.

In the case of the photograph, which Mr. Dawson does not regard as important, there seems to be real significance. It relates well to other paranormal photography by UFO witnesses like Mrs. Stella Lansing. Furthermore we should not forget that the formation of white lights in a triangle is not an uncommon UFO description. (A few days before I prepared this article an object precisely the same as this was observed to land in a farmer's field in Culcheth, Cheshire — three miles from my home — no doubt a report on this case will appear in FSR in due course.)

Could it have been significant that he was driving

under sensory deprived conditions? The drive was long and hard — nobody was talking — the roads were quiet. How often do we find similar conditions in UFO abduction stories (e.g. the Betty & Barney Hill case, the Aveley abduction etc.)

It seems to me a fruitful area for consideration. How much does the mental state of the principal sensitive witness have to do with the onset of a close encounter experience?

In addition — or maybe conversely — pointing out that as Mr. Dawson appears to have some strange way of attracting animals and children to him, one can ask whether that means he has a kind of aura around him to which *they* are sensitive — and could that aura be used as a homing device by the UFO phenomenon — whatever that may be?

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\*Postscript: Complete analysis of the photograph is not possible because of the faintness of the image on the negative. The print sent to us has been enhanced to indicate position of the image and is therefore of no value for further research.

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## DEBUNKING RUNS WILD

(Continued from page 2)

didn't explain why his crop of peas was flattened. He said that a large patch of his paddock of peas was flattened in a circular pattern measuring about 4 metres across. Some sceptics said these depressions were caused by unauthorised helicopters out hunting deer. Just why such helicopters would be hunting deer out in Cook Strait was not mentioned.

Supersonic swarms of insects also got into the act. Two researchers who work for a U.S. Government laboratory said "light can be generated by placing the insects in an electric field. The spruce budworm moth can swarm in clouds as big as 100 Km long and 25 Km wide. The light from such a large swarm might have been mistaken for UFOs.\*

Past observations have revealed that when many sceptics have suddenly realised UFOs are real they immediately enter a transitory state, blaming them on the Russians, Americans, Germans, and so on. Anticipating this line experienced ufologists began to listen for the secret weapon theory. They had not long to wait. The expected "explanation" came from a former RAF research specialist... "Americans could be testing the latest electronic counter-surveillance equipment on civil aircraft and radar." This statement could have been plausible if it had not been for the fact that similar encounters had taken place long before the day of remote controlled drone decoys. There was the Washington D.C. flap of 1952, only on that occasion no TV crew was in the area. Ufologists are grateful that the

New Zealand film did not fall into the hands of officialdom, although it could finally follow the trail of confiscation, or wind up behind the paper curtain of censorship, after a period of debunking activity.

If the official debunking by the Royal New Zealand Air Force will no doubt go down in history as the biggest fish story ever told. The reports, we are told, were "caused by lights on Japanese squid boats." A more logical explanation would have been that they were chasing flying fish at 10,000 feet!

Veteran ufologists find another amusing pattern during their investigations of UFO reports over the years. They have noted a difference between the eyesight of civilian pilots and the eyesight of military pilots. When civilian aircraft are vectored into the proximity of UFOs, the objects not only are seen, but also are photographed. On the other hand, pilots of military aircraft go aloft wearing official blinkers which prevent them sighting the forbidden UFOs, while back at official headquarters spokesmen continue to sound like cracked phonograph records as they follow obsolete orders to debunk at all costs.

Meanwhile, the ridiculed ufologists are the only people, it seems, who are doing anything positive to investigate and analyse the reports and photos. As this *Bulletin* goes to press, Channel 0 has followed the suggestion of VUFORS advisers, and has placed the film into competent hands where it will be analysed by the most advanced techniques. The results will be avail-

able to the general public as well.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist, who is in charge of the investigations, is also on record as campaigning against government secrecy on UFOs in the United States.

The Channel 0 film has created much interest among that small percentage of scientists actually involved in UFO investigations. VUFORS ufologists met with Dr. Maccabee during his visit in Melbourne. Already, it is known that the light intensity on the film is too great for a reflection of any type. The angle of measurements also coincide with the speed as clocked by Wellington radar. Some frames show a glowing triangle about the size of a house. Other frames show an oval shape complete with dome-like appearance of the conventional UFO.

Digital computerised enhancements are expected to be issued for publication at the press conference in Washington on 26th March... watch your daily newspapers, especially *The Australian* and hope that the analysis will not be squashed by officialdom.

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NOTE: Dr. Maccabee's papers on UFO Related Information from the F.B.I. File were published in the UFO Investigator, official publication of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1 Bank Street, Gaithersburg, MD. 20760. U.S.A.

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\* [Gordon Creighton has already prepared an article on this phenomenon for a future issue of FSR. ED]