

they started up the engine again and turned on their lights, it came shooting back, giving off blinding blue and white flashes, and at one point came down to about five feet from the ground at a spot only about fifty yards in front of them. Its brightness was so intense that it was impossible to make out its exact shape. They continued their journey with their lights off, but the UFO made several more close passes over them before disappearing.

#### San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)

At midnight, between Saturday and Sunday, November 14/15, astronomers at the San Miguel Observatory saw an elongated flat reddish-orange flying object which crossed the heavens first from east to west and then back again, at a speed estimated at approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times that of the satellites usually seen. Nor was this the first occasion, as scientists at the San Miguel Observatory had already experienced two similar sightings.

#### Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires

According to *El Mundo* of July 9, 1965, the appearance of a large UFO and several smaller ones at 9.00 p.m. on July 3 when they were very clearly seen—though at a distance of many kilometres—from Ezeiza International Airport, aroused much interest, and led to the revelation that on some unspecified date during the last few months of 1964, one of the observers saw a similar large luminous object in the vicinity of Ezeiza. It was accompanied by two smaller ones. These approached it, one on each side, and were seen by the witness to be “absorbed” into what was evidently the “mother-craft”. At the moment at which this process took place, the luminosity of the large object increased greatly, only to diminish rapidly afterwards. The witness used the familiar simile of “a lamp being suddenly turned off in the sky”. The whole phenomenon had vanished.

## THE MADRID LANDING

by Antonio Ribera

ON February 8, 1966, the whole Spanish press published the following report, which had been sent to the newspapers by the CIFRA Agency :

“Madrid: February 7. It was about 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday, when, in the suburb of Aluche, very near the Casa de Campo, an object which was unidentified but which, from the descriptions given by witnesses, corresponded to the characteristics of the so-called ‘flying saucers’, touched down in the grounds of the ‘El Relajal’ property and took off again a few seconds later, vanishing in the sky.

“There remain, as vestigial evidence of the presence of this object, an area of ground—not very extensive—that almost has the appearance of having been burnt, and the emphatic statements of various witnesses of the occurrence. One of the witnesses was unwilling to give his name, for fear of publicity; the other witness, who watched, from a window, the arrival and the departure of the strange object, is Vicente Ortuño. Their descriptions agree in affirming that ‘an orange-coloured disc came down, landed, and then took off again at great speed’. All this at 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday.

“The witnesses, no doubt put off by all the stories that have been told about the ‘flying saucers’, were unwilling to say that the episode involved one of these machines. But they do agree in stating flatly that it was neither an aeroplane nor a helicopter. We, for our part, neither con-

firm nor deny this report which, once again, reads as though it might well belong in the realm of science fiction tales.

“The concrete and undeniable fact, however, is that there are two witnesses and an area of scorched earth, all testifying to the appearance of a strange flying object yesterday in Madrid. And, as a final point, we must add that when we got in touch with the Madrid Observatory and the Barajas observation tower, both these bodies advised us that at the time in question they had detected the presence of no unidentified object over Madrid.”

To begin with, all the information I possessed about this case (which presented considerable semblance of being true) consisted merely of what had appeared in the national Spanish press. The CIFRA report only named one of the witnesses, but without an address so that any investigation was a bit difficult. But a few days later my friend and fellow-worker Doña Cecilia C. de Puig told me that the review *Porqué* for February 16 had an article on the case and giving the address of Señor José Luís Jordán, one of the two witnesses.

So I bought a copy of it and read the article by José Luís Pimentel, their special correspondent who had interviewed this witness and two others. The rest of the article consisted of ‘far-out’ statements by a fourth person interviewed—a ‘professor’ according to his own designation—who

devotes himself to rapturous speculations concerning the 'Space Beings' with whom he claims to be in telepathic contact, and who keep him posted as to their own comings and goings (inclusive of course of the particular landing of the saucer in question, about which *he knew* four days previously. What a magnificent missed opportunity to deliver a prophecy!).

After interviewing Sr. José Jordán, the *Porqué* reporter saw two other witnesses, namely a lady named Doña María Ruíz Torres, of Aluche, and the watchman Juan Jiménez Díaz, who likewise saw the mysterious craft appear.

The interview with Doña María Ruíz follows :

"I was sitting quietly at the window when suddenly I saw something very strange dropping silently from the sky. I watched closely, thinking it was some kind of aircraft, but when I saw it nearer, I was petrified."

"Why?"

"I realised it was something quite exceptional. I became more frightened."

"Could you distinguish anything special about it?"

"Yes. I kept my eyes glued on it, and I could see a gigantic eye through the glass of a window, or at least it seemed to me to be a window."

The watchman Juan Jiménez Díaz made the following statement :

"If you want to know, I did not move from the spot where I was. I realised right from the very first moment what it was."

"What?"

"Something not of our world."

"But what do you base yourself on?"

"If you had seen it, you'd have understood all right. It was a most peculiar machine, something very striking. I think whoever was in it tried to land."

"How do you know that?"

"I saw a sort of door that started to open, but then, I didn't know why, it closed again and the thing flew off."

At this stage in the proceedings, Eugenio Danyans and I decided to write to Señor Jordán, for, if his reply proved favourable, I intended to include his case in the book I am now writing.

In addition to the general features of the case that seemed quite typical and 'classical', there was one other fact, known only to Danyans and myself, which seemed to endorse the authenticity of the story. This was that my friend Baltasar Rodulfo had told me that a certain Jorge Forcada was in Madrid on February 6, and that this

gentleman found that the compass he always carries on him was showing curious perturbations, as if it were in the vicinity of a powerful magnetic field. Only much later did he learn about the 'landing' without at first attributing any relationship to these two facts.

In reply to his enquiry, Danyans received from Señor Jordán a long letter dated February 26 and posted in Madrid. In this letter, Jordán started off by expressing his displeasure that the newspapers should have revealed his address, as this had exposed him to much annoyance. He then went on to describe, in the fullest detail, the episode of which he had been a witness. I reproduce here almost *in toto* in view of its extraordinary interest :—

"At about 8 p.m. on the night of February 6, I was coming home from the housing estate of Casilda de Bustos, where I had been that evening to visit friends. Night had fallen, and I was driving towards 'Housing Estate C' at Aluche, with my headlights on. Something suddenly struck my attention very forcibly. At first I thought I could identify it as a helicopter, but I altered my opinion straightaway, since so far as I am aware the rotor blades of helicopters aren't usually lit up. At first what I saw was a white disc, but its colour switched to yellow and then to orange as it approached. (This may not be the precise sequence of the colours, but that is how I seem to recall it). By then I had already stopped the car and got out, so as to be able to watch the 'peculiar aircraft'. I confess that, due to my inclination to put it down as a helicopter, the idea had not even entered my head that it might be one of those 'flying saucers' that the newspapers were constantly talking about last summer.

"The disc was approaching at what seemed to be a very great speed. (I don't venture to make any comparisons as regards the speed, for I am ignorant in aeronautical matters.) When the thing passed over, almost right above my head, though still at a great height, its apparent diameter seemed to be about equivalent to the diameter of the steering wheel of a car. It was moving in a direction almost perpendicular to the runway of the Aeroclub. At that moment the idea came to me to remain right there where I was. About twelve metres behind me, or perhaps a bit more there was another man—I think he had a girl with him—and he too was looking upwards.

"When I looked at the disc again, I was puzzled to see that it was apparently coming down near the end of the road that I was on.

I admit though that it did not at first surprise me, and in my own mind I at once found a logical explanation. We must bear in mind that the well-known Aero Club is not far from there, so there was nothing strange in the idea that they should be testing some aircraft prototype or other in the area. This was my first and immediate idea. But my curiosity was not satisfied, and this caused me to get in again and start up the car, to go to the place where the landing was going to be. And so it was that, being back in the car, I did not see the actual landing take place.

“As I was driving along, I noticed a small road leading off towards the Aero Club runway, and I felt that this would lead me right to the spot. Then, while I was still approaching the place—I was still in the car, and I applied the brakes suddenly—I saw the enormous disc rising again from the ground.

“I repeat, it was **enormous**, that is to say enormous in contrast to what I had been expecting to see. Its diameter must have been not less than 10 or 12 metres. I was so affected by the sight, that I can still remember even now how for some minutes afterwards my tongue remained dry and ‘biscuity’.

“What shook me was not so much its great size as its astonishing luminosity. It would be more exact if I compared it with the brightness of those fluorescent paints used on road-signs, but much more vivid and intense. (There were no lights in the vicinity that could have caused this luminosity.) It gave out a steady muffled sound that reminded me of the hum of some electricity generating turbines that I visited some time ago in the marshlands of Jaen Province.

“The take-off, steady and uniform, was extremely fast, and I threw myself out of the car so as to be able to watch it though, I admit, my legs were trembling. I very much regret that the powerful shock I had experienced prevented me from noticing details, dazed as I was by the astonishing sight.

“It is useless to ask me whether I saw doors, or windows, or auxiliary instruments, or the precise outline of the machine. I noticed just one outstanding detail (apart from the support-legs which I will describe later.) This was that in the centre of the disc (i.e., in the ‘belly’ or lower part) there seemed to be what I imagine could have been a vent or an escape-hole for gases.

“Three big points stuck out from the machine (almost certainly forming the vertices of an equilateral triangle). I am certain of this, for the newspaper *Informaciones*, and also many

witnesses, all declared that they saw the marks that were left, equidistant some 6 metres from each other. (See *Informaciones*, February 9, 1966). These ‘legs’ or ‘landing gear’ ended in small squares or rectangles which were also luminous.

“I could describe several possible models for those support-legs, without however daring to go so far as to identify precisely any of them as being the exact thing.

Fig. 1



“I am in much the same fix about the edge and outline of the disc. I regret to have to confess that I am not very much sure of my first idea, which I identified as a sort of triangle with curvilinear sides.

Fig. 2



“But was this the product of an optical illusion when seeing the discontinuity caused by the bases of the three feet? Was the outline absolutely circular? My hesitations on this point may perhaps seem to you to be either the result of, or an indication of, a fraudulent story. But you are asking me for a detailed description, and I prefer to be guided by a sincere standard of judgment in this, devoid of anything fictitious. (I am giving you two sketches of the machine, without however accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the shape. Somebody asked me if it had a cupola. I told the newspapermen that I had not noticed a cupola, though it is a fact that the upper part of it was very visible to me).

Fig. 3



“The colour of the luminosity was orange, beyond any manner of doubt . . . Just as I am also positive that this sort of fluorescence could not be confused with the light emitted by an incandescent body.

“The machine rose and then—an astonishing fact—it **vanished just as though it had suddenly ‘gone out’, like a light.** [My emphasis—EDITOR.]

"There is not much else to tell. I went to a house near by (I learnt from the newspapers that this was the 'El Relajal' property), and there a gentleman listened to my agitated story. (I now know from the newspapers that he was the husband of a lady named Doña Herminia Pelaez Blanco.)

"I was still unaware that there had been numerous other witnesses. A few minutes after the thing had taken off, I ventured, still pretty shaken, to take a look at the spot again. All I found there was a white Renault car whose occupants—a pair of lovers—assured me that they had seen nothing, and further off there was another car near which two mechanics were working. They moved away from the vehicle when I approached them. (The reporter from *Informaciones* has told me a story about those two mechanics that is so 'fantastic', so 'strange', that I refuse to believe it.)

"My opinion about the episode? Well, right at the start I soon perceived that my object was not a helicopter, and I assume—here my certainty is absolute—that it was not a meteorite, as one 'learned pundit' stated in the newspapers. But it is still a very long way from that to saying that it was a machine from Outer Space. I confess that I am dreadfully confused about it all and that I have no capacity for judging the event in its true proportions. But do not let us forget that the Aero Club is nearby, though the Aeroport people did deny that

it was a machine from there, and although, furthermore, an Air Force officer came to see me saying that he too had witnessed the landing. Nevertheless, since the nature of the craft remains unknown to us, we must not totally reject the possibility that it was some top-secret experiment being carried out by the American forces stationed in our country."

**POSTSCRIPT:** In a subsequent letter to Danyans, Señor Jordán added the following very important details regarding electro-magnetic effects:

"I should add that an Air Force officer who visited me made a remark that coincides with the reference that appeared in the review *Europa*. [A Danyans article in which he quotes the Forcada observations—EDITOR.] A magnometric team from the Bārajas Airport registered several perturbations on that night.

"Likewise two of the traffic [radio-traffic?—EDITOR] receivers recorded, on the same band, some static effects of radio-electric perturbations on an unusual frequency, and having very unusual features. All this attracted attention, and was commented on by the technical personnel. The time—which coincides to the time in the story as known to us—and the frequencies registered, are all on record at the Control Tower."

The Air Force officer in question said his name was 'Pleza', which could well be a pseudonym. Danyans and I will continue our investigations with a view to establishing the identity of this officer and the truth of his statements, though, on the other hand, these do give an impression of truth.

(Translation—G. Creighton)

## NOTES

In addition to the above article in *Porqué*, there were also reports of this case in the following Madrid papers: *Informaciones*, February 7, article giving a brief account of the landing. Also photographs of site. (Continued on p. iv. of cover).

# World round-up

## ENGLAND

### Luminous object over Hull

Mr. A. E. Train C.Eng. of Kingston upon Hull, E. Yorks, has submitted the following account of a sighting observed from the garden of his bungalow: "On December 9th, 1965, between 6.10 p.m.-6.15 p.m. I ... saw at a distance hard to estimate, but at a high altitude, a luminous star-like object (magnitude brighter than the brightest star visible to the naked eye) hovering in the sky. Suddenly, the object started moving towards the west at slow speed and, on reaching a point due west of its original stationary position, it executed a 45 degree angle turn and, with ever-increasing acceleration, disappeared in a south-easterly direction.

It was impossible to make out its exact size, but I would say that it was very large. It also moved in

total silence and gained altitude as it disappeared in the distance.

### Flame-like plume

The following letter and editorial comment appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post* of January 28th:

"Sir,—My wife, myself and five of my six children clearly observed an unidentified flying object on Sunday, December 26, while we were walking in the Knowsley Estate, near Liverpool, some time after midday.

"I was a pilot in the last war and yet I found it impossible to explain what the object was; nor was I able to make a reasonable assumption to account for its behaviour in the air.

"The description given by Miss Wingfield who photographed an unidentified object passing over Ireland at 3.15 p.m. on the same day fits the object we saw (i.e., 'solid looking rounded object flying in sil-

## of news and comment about recent sightings

ence with a plume of flame-like brightness at its stern—but with no smoke trail', it eventually went away in a S.S.W. direction, climbing from a height of about 8,000-10,000 feet. We observed this object for some three or four minutes, visibility excellent."

—C. F. Campbell, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool, 12.

"A Ministry of Defence (R.A.F.) spokesman said that the department responsible for investigating reports of unidentified flying objects had no knowledge of sightings on December 26, nor had the Ministry of Aviation received any reports."

(Credit to T. J. St. John-Coleman of Anglesey.)

### Object dematerializes?

The *Kent and Sussex Courier* of February 11 carried the following interesting item: