

MIDSUMMER SIGHTINGS OVER ANDORRA

by Antonio Ribera

SOME extraordinarily interesting sightings took place near and around Andorra la Vella, capital of the Pyrennean principality of Andorra between France and Spain, during the period June 17-22, 1967.

On June 17, at 8.00 p.m., more than 50 people saw a formation of three globes or balls, stationary above the Pic d'Enclar mountain. The objects were described by the witnesses as red on one side and silvery on the other. The central globe was much larger than the other two, and the estimated size of all three was considerable.

After a quarter of an hour, the two small lateral objects made off at high speed, and the large one followed a few minutes later at a speed described as "terrifying."

I feel that these objects could not possibly have been meteorological balloons. Had the two smaller ones been swept away by an air current, then the same air current would have had to take the larger one too. They were objects endowed with a power of movement of their own.

Strange square object

On June 20, at precisely the same time, 8.00 p.m., more objects were noticed by some people who were passing by a local optician's shop. Alerted, the optician hastened to distribute binoculars and telescopes among the crowd. The principal witness, named Jaume Ros, was using a telescope with magnification of 60, and his description of what he saw is as follows: "A 'something' that looked like a sheet of plastic, supported at its corners by four very luminous balls, thus forming a square, one of the corners pointing upwards and another downwards." The colour of the balls was orange, and their estimated height about 4,500 or 5,000 metres, which is the altitude at which the airliners come over the Pyrenees to Andorra.

The "plastic sheet" seemed to have its own vivid illumination, resembling the incandescent quality of neon lighting, and small black points (figures?) were to be seen moving about on it.

The sighting lasted half an hour, and then the entire "system," the four balls and the "sheet," vanished at staggering speed.

Perhaps this might have been some sort of space-platform.

Flying "wigwam"

On June 21, at 12.15 a.m., in the middle of the night, the Andorran businessman Jaume Bordas and his wife Odile Bordas saw appear, on the horizon to the WNW, a luminous object of the apparent magnitude of Venus when setting. It

crossed the whole sky, much more slowly than a satellite, passing through the zenith. Its manner of movement was in a zigzag, stopping at intervals for three or four seconds, and dimming its light, and then moving forward again, assuming a much greater brilliance as it did so. Its colour was bluish-white.

Observed through 20 x 50 glasses, it was seen to be triangular in shape, with two projecting parts at the front which made it look like an Indian wigwam.

When it reached the mid-heaven, it described a small circle. On reaching the eastern horizon, its light went out briefly, then came on again, far more vivid, and the speed was stepped up to the order of ten times what it had been.

The total time taken to cross the sky was 10 minutes.

At 12.45 a.m., in the early hours of the following day, June 22, Señor Bordas and his wife again saw, from the fourth floor of their house in the centre of Andorra la Vella, the return of the same object or of one similar. It was in the same area of the sky, zig-zagging at the same slow speed. At 1.00 a.m. they saw appear, from the same area of the sky, what might be described as its "retinue." This was a formation of intensely bright points of light arranged in a circle or aureole and followed by a "tail" or trail of similar points of light. These bright points of light were much smaller than the first object which had passed over a quarter of an hour before them, but were moving at the same slow speed as it. They looked, in the words of the witness, "like small stars."

They finally vanished at the same point on the horizon as the first and larger object.

I feel these reports are of particular interest, in view of the British airliner captain's report of a cone-shaped object which flew under his plane near the Pyrenees, as told by S/Ldr. A. Prevost in the September/October issue of the *Review*.

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(Formerly published by I.W.U.F.O.S.)