

The essence of our difficulty seems to lie in the fact that, right from the very outset of the "Flying Saucer or UFO Era" in or around 1947, the subject of our alien visitors, and their craft, got mixed up with mankind's long-established but poorly developed observational science of Astronomy. *I do not think that "flying saucers" or "UFOs" or "alien occupants" have anything whatsoever to do with Astronomy, but I feel very sure that man's erroneous assumption on this score is itself an important part of the massive campaign of deception now being conducted against us. It is the "aliens" themselves who have consistently fed into mankind this fatuous belief that they originate from Outer Space. And this belief has cost us enormous sums of money in Space Programmes and has been an enormous drain upon our energies and our scientific capacities.*

The attempt has been made, consequently, to think up a new branch of science, which we are beginning to call "Exobiology" and inevitably of course it is linked up with Astronomy.

My own guess is that our current wild and costly attempts to get into "Outer Space" will yield no information about "aliens" since there are very likely no physical aliens (i.e. "physical" as we know this term) in our own immediate vicinity in this part of the outer rim of our Galaxy. And we must be clear about one thing: *what is going to be travelling out from here into distant Space in the future is not going to be Homo Sapiens himself — but a multitude of his mechanical devices*

and instruments. (If we are to judge by the physical condition in which the Soviet cosmonaut Romanenko was recently found to be after his record spell aloft, then our particular species is not going anywhere else for a very, very long time; at any rate, not until we are capable of creating some sort of artificial gravity and I doubt whether we are anywhere near that goal.)

If we examine the contents of our journal, FSR, we see that it is true that a very great deal of it revolves around speculation about alien life in Outer Space — Exobiology. Many of our contributors still think along these lines, and it has not yet been possible for us to separate the two strands of thinking. Perhaps what we need first of all is a new term, like, for example, "ESOBIOLOGY". Whereas "Exobiology" means "outer" or "extraterrestrial" life, Esobiology would mean life of an "inner" kind. *That is to say, life on the inner planes or inner levels, or, if you will, "life on other dimensions, but nevertheless right here".*

Long-term students of our subject, such as both Dr Hynek and Dr Jacques Vallée, long ago discarded the idea of "extraterrestrial visitors" to Planet Earth. As Dr Hynek used to say: "For one thing, there are just too many of them!"

(If of course any of these aliens from the Pleiades, Tau Ceti, Orion, Andromeda, or any of the other stops out on the line really do start landing here, why then of course G. Creighton will be the first to queue up to eat cold crow.) G.C.

THE UFOs AS A MATERIAL PHENOMENON

*V.J. Ballester Olmos, FSR Consultant, and J.A. Fernández Peris
(Translation from Spanish)*

DURING the past six years we have been engaged on an ambitious project to investigate all the so-called "UFO LANDINGS" that have occurred in the Iberian Peninsula. With backing from the U.S. *Fund For UFO Research*, we centred our investigations upon the existing documentation regarding about 600 known reports, subjecting them to study, and discarding all those for which a reasonable explanation could be found. Our objective has been to arrive at a comprehension of the principal parameters of the UFO Phenomenon in Spain and Portugal so as to be enabled to proceed to subsequent studies with all the requisite methodology.

The results of this programme of work have now been published in our *ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH UFOs* (Plaza & Janés, Barcelona, 1987). Now, for the first time, any reader will have at his disposal, in one volume, all the data at present available on the UFO landings in the Iberian Peninsula.

We think it will be of interest if we lay stress upon one of the strangest of the features that characterize the landing-phenomenon: *namely its material nature.*

In a great number of the reports, the eyewitnesses describe phenomena of a physical nature, of a consistent materiality — with a "manufactured" appearance — strikingly different from what might be thought of as phenomena of a purely "energy" nature. At times the reports go so far as to mention objects possessing structural elements on their surfaces, such as "cupolas", "portholes", "antennae", etc.

The eyewitnesses describe having been confronted, with actual objects, three-dimensional, solid bodies

the precise material composition of which we are, however, still far from being able to ascertain.

We recognize that these statements are very difficult to accept. Despite the many years that we have dedicated to the study of this problem, we ourselves are still astonished and incredulous, and we are not asking anybody else to accept anything. The evidence is, however, there to be evaluated; and the respective pieces of testimony, well bolstered by the trustworthy quality of their narrators, are there too, at hand for verification.

In many of the cases, the observers speak of what they beheld as having had a *metallic appearance*. Let us look at an example:—

1. Three UFOs "shaped like projectiles"

At 7.15 p.m. on November 14, 1980, at San Martín de Tous (Barcelona, N.E. Spain). The farmer J.P. aged 35, was driving his tractor, in a field some eight kilometres outside the town, when he perceived that a nearby hill was completely lit up. So he started off, on the tractor, up towards the central part of the flank of the hill in question, as he needed to pick up some tins of gasoline.

As he approached closer and closer to it, the strange light grew stronger and stronger, and more white in colour. Arriving at a bend in the track, he was astonished to find himself confronted by three objects which were emitting the light. They were stationary in the middle of the road, at about 20 metres from him. They were cylindrical, with the upper parts rounded, "like a rifle bullet stood upright", and of a

silvery-grey colour, with clearly defined contours, and "giving the impression of being totally metallic and solid".

The three UFOs were standing in a line, with a distance of about a metre between one and the next. The one in the centre was larger than the others — about 2 m. high and 1.2 m. wide at the base, while the other two were both about 1.5 m. high and 0.9 m. wide at the base. Likewise, each of the three of the objects had a "belt of lights" around it, each light being of the size of an automobile headlight but far more powerful, lighting up the entire hill. When the beams from the tractor's headlights struck the three objects, their "belts of lights" changed automatically as it were to a faint light, like the parking-lights of some sort of vehicle".

Faced with the three strange objects, the eyewitness stood there expectantly for a few seconds, and then backed away in alarm and made off across the field. Turning to look back, he saw that the things were still stationary on the same spot. After a mile, he came to the road leading back to the town. From there he could no longer see any light up on the hill.

Arriving at the outskirts of San Martín de Tous, visibly shaken, he described his experience to some of his friends who were at a mill. Then, together, they all drove back to the spot in a car, but found nothing abnormal. The sighting would have lasted, he thought, about five minutes or so. It was a clear night, with perfect visibility.

At just about the same time, two farm-workers were chopping fire-wood in front of their dwelling, at a spot some 3 kms. to the east of the site where the UFO incident had occurred, and on precisely the opposite side of the hill in question, when they saw the entire surroundings light up. Looking upwards, they saw three objects "shaped like the heads of bullets", descending towards the ground only a few metres distant, but then, without landing, they rose up into the air again and made off at high speed towards the west. (Reference: IIEE Reports and J. Huguet).

One direct consequence of this presumed totally material nature of the UFOs is the production of *mechanical effects* of very varied kinds, upon both the terrain and the vegetation around the landing site. This is, in sum, the sole physical evidence of the presence of the UFOs that — scanty as it may be — we possess, and that we can measure and analyze.

In the next incident that we shall now describe, the phenomenon wrought a very complex modifying effect upon the surroundings, for soil was moved, plants were desiccated, and there were effects indicating an intense calorific action. There were also marks forming a geometrical outline upon the ground.

2. Take-Off from a Field of Vetch

At 11.30 a.m. on May 24, 1974, at San Clemente, in the Spanish Province of Cuenca. Demetrio Carrascosa Martínez, aged 53, employed by the municipal abattoir, and also warden of a game-reserve, was returning on his motor-bicycle, from gathering wild asparagus, along a lane some 4 kms. from San Clemente, when he caught sight of an object standing in a nearby field of lentil vetch. Its shape was oval; it was about 4 m. long and 3 m. high; and it looked like "two opened umbrellas placed one against the other". It was of a dark green hue, "like the colour of the clothing of the Guardia Civil (Police)". And it had a horizontal row of six or seven square things about 25 cms. wide, like port-holes, of a shining white colour set in a black band "resembling rubber tyres".

The object was standing on three or four supports

about 2 m. long and 15 cms. wide, like "legs", and these ended on the ground on bigger things some 40 cms. wide.

The witness went over to the field. When he was still rather more than 70 m. from the UFO, it began to rise, at the same time rotating violently and throwing up stones and clods of earth, while four plumes of smoke shot out of it, with a strong smell of sulphur. Astounded by the sight, the motorcyclist skidded and fell. Picking himself up again, he ran off and hid behind a small hillock.

Meanwhile, the object continued to shoot up vertically at tremendous speed, while emitting a whistle "like the whistle of a gunpowder rocket", to use his phrase.

Reaching a certain altitude, the object shot off obliquely towards the north, and was lost to sight in the distance in four or five seconds. The entire sighting had lasted some 14 to 17 seconds.

Half an hour later, at the witness's suggestion, a shepherd went to the landing-site, and found a circular zone, approximately one metre in diameter, on which the vetch plants were all desiccated, and there were two holes 25 to 30 cms. in diameter, 20 cms. deep, and separated from each other by a distance of about 50 cms. Inside each of these two holes there were two or three smaller holes, some 4 cms. in diameter, running obliquely into the ground. Outside of the circular zone there were two holes 10 cms. in diameter, apparently over one metre deep, and set 1.5 m. apart. These two holes, with the other two larger holes, seemed to form a rhomboidal figure with its major axis oriented North-South. The walls of all the holes were scorched, seemingly produced by temperatures that must have been between 2,000° and 3,000° C.

Around the two largest holes there were fissures in the soil, and clods that had apparently been torn out of them. The shepherd appears to have noticed *smoke* coming out of the holes.

An analysis of the soil samples indicated no abnormal radioactivity. During the sighting, the sky was clear and the Sun was shining. (Reference: Reports from Enrique Villagrasa and Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos.)

A true — and very much needed — scientific investigation should have as its main objectives the analyses of the marks, the calculation of the amount of energy dissipated during the UFO event, etc.

Thus we have seen that the UFOs are not exclusively some mere elusive phenomenon, seeing that they leave behind permanent evidence of their presence. Since, as these two accounts given above permit us to deduce, what we are dealing with is a physical, material, happening, there remains open to us the possibility of securing photographic evidence, or film, or video. The Californian scientist Robert Baker has drawn up a questionnaire intended for potential photographers of UFOs, with the aim of making it possible to secure photogrammetrical analysis of the film.

The most interesting of his suggestions are as follows:— You must keep the camera steady (use a tripod or some sort of support); the field of vision should include identifiable features of the background (telephone poles, trees, houses, etc.); all the photographs must be taken from the same spot; the type of camera used must be mentioned, and the date and the time when the photo was taken; and immediately after it

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THE LUMINOUS PROPERTIES OF UFOs

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(Translation from Spanish)

Introduction

FOR the past six years the authors have both been engaged in an investigation project focused on the UFO-landing reports from the Iberian Peninsula. With backing from the U.S. *Fund For UFO Research*, we proposed (1) to make a critical evaluation of the six-hundred such UFO cases known in the Peninsula, by means of a co-ordination of the investigations already effected or by means of re-investigations requested from more than one-hundred of our collaborators distributed throughout Spain and Portugal; (2), to compile standard résumés of all these cases for which no conventional explanation could be found, including therein all physical or sociological descriptive data capable of being analyzed; and, (3) to create also a complementing catalogue containing all those sightings that were found to be "negative" or satisfactorily explained.

The ultimate objective of this work programme is the assembly of an unprecedented data-bank to serve as a basis upon which various analyses can be made of the most crucial category of cases, namely those of *close encounters with UFOs*.

We drew up a list of 230 "anomalous experiences". And, on close scrutiny of these, we have established that *the most fundamental features* defining the strangeness of the UFO Phenomenon turn out to be its *luminous properties*. Let us take a look at them again.

Emission of light

The UFO sighting reports indicate that the UFOs are, above everything else, most powerful emitters of light, behaving in visible space like intense sources of energy. Of all their many and extraordinary features, the one that a scientific mind should find the most surprising — and the most stimulating — is the one relating to their *radiation of light*.

At times the luminous emanation varies in intensity, sometimes emitting brief but powerful *flashes*, as we call them, of unwonted power. As is only logical, this powerful light factor is in many cases responsible both for the scanty quality and quantity of details and features observed, and for the resulting physiological *sequelae* in the eyewitnesses involved, for in fact the tremendous dazzle exercises a most potent effect upon the human visual system, resulting in an outright temporary "blackout" or in greatly reduced vision.

Persons who have been involved in various UFO experiences are at one in emphasising that the entire area round about them is lit up with an intensity equal to that of daylight. The power of the light emission is staggering, illuminating areas several hundreds of metres in diameter. In one case which we shall describe below, our calculations indicate that the power of the light put out by the UFO was of the order of 500,000 *lumens*, which would be the equivalent of rather more than eighty street-lamps.

Bathed in light in the middle of the night

It was in 1969, in the month of May or thereabouts. The place: Sumacárcel (Province of Valencia, S.E. Spain). The time: 2.00 a.m. Ramón García Pons, aged

39, proprietor of a bar, was sitting on the bank of the river Júcar fishing, at a spot behind the church and just by the bridge on the road leading to Antella, when suddenly he was blinded by an intensely powerful light. Gradually, as his eyes became accustomed to the glare, he was able to perceive that it came from an object about 20 metres in front of him. He could only see the lower part of it, which was circular and horizontal, and emitting this intense yellowish-white light to a radius of some 200 m. or so all around, so that it was "*brighter than day*".

The object was at a height of about 11 metres above a field of sugar-cane and also partly over the river and partly over the adjacent field of orange trees. Terrified, the witness took to his heels and dashed up the nearby flight of steps leading to the town. There he paused and, from the bridge, stood there dumbfounded, viewing the object. From this advantageous position (the bridge is 6 m. higher than the surface of the river) he had a good view of the shape of the UFO — rounded, not completely hemispherical, on a flat base.

The diameter of the object was, he thought, about 15 metres, and it was at a height of about 4 metres more than himself. After about two minutes in which he remained there, flabbergasted, the UFO shot away, tilted by about 10° towards the horizon, at high speed in a S-SW direction, passed between two mountains about 1,000 metres from him, and in two or three seconds was lost to sight behind them. It had emitted no sound.

From the moment when the witness was first blinded by the dazzle, until his terrified flight, he thought that maybe 30 seconds or so might have elapsed. Then it would have taken him a further 20 seconds to get up to the bridge, and so he felt that in all the total duration of the sighting could have been about three minutes. It was a dark night, with no Moon, and a sky clear of cloud.

However, the UFO Phenomenon is seen to attain one of its very pinnacles of physical abnormality — and this really does fill us with astonishment — when we come to the accounts describing the extraordinary ways in which the light *behaves*: precise, clear-cut beams and bursts of light, just like something out of Science-Fiction, *light-beams that bend*, etc., etc. Let us take one example of this last-mentioned effect.

At a military base

The date was July 28, 1975. The time: 6.00 a.m. The place: Sierra Aitana (Province of Alicante, S.E. Spain). Three members of the Spanish Armed Forces: F.M.S., aged 36, a radar operator; M.A.M., an NCO; and a third man, a top-sergeant, were on the terrace roof of the radar installations at Sierra Aitana Airfield (Alert & Control Squadron No. 5), when they observed, at a distance of some 150 or so metres towards the south-east, an object moving along in the bottom of the valley, at about 15 or 20 metres from the ground. It was travelling in a north-easterly direction and, at a very slow speed, coming across the fenced military zone towards the front of the building on which they were standing. Scared, the NCO and the top-sergeant

ran down into the building, while the third man, F.M.S., walked across the terrace towards the UFO.

The object was oval in form, "like a rugby football", with three lights, red, white, and yellow, set in a "T"-shape on its top. Although not intermittent, the lights were flashing — giving off a generally yellowish effect. On its upper portion the object had "a sort of nozzle" about 3 m. in diameter and inclined slightly down towards the ground. This "nozzle" was emitting an intense white light which, while not illuminating the surrounding terrain, dazzled and blinded the witness. The body of the UFO was dark grey and of a metallic appearance; its edges well defined; and its surface entirely covered with "rivets". It was emitting a *hum* similar to the noise of an electric motor, and in size it was slightly bigger than a *Sabre F-86* aircraft (length 11.4 m).

The flight trajectory of the object was straight and horizontal. It passed over several depot buildings and then, as it passed in front of the spot where the witness F.M.S. was standing, it halted, at a height of about three metres from the ground, and about five metres distant from him. (These military installations are up on the top of a mountain.)

While it was stationary in this position, a sort of "sliding-door" opened in the front of the UFO, and from it came a flash "like the trail of a comet", which shot out in a curve and struck the eyes of the witness. This brought him up sharply, and he now perceived that he was right on the edge of the roof and so would have fallen off had he gone a step further. At that moment the object abruptly changed course and flew off at high speed and steady altitude towards the east, and was gone from sight in three or four seconds. The sighting had lasted about 10-15 seconds.

No effect was noticed on the function of the radar equipment or in the electric power unit supplying it. An attempt was made to catch the UFO on the radar, but without success.

Need for scientific study

The analysis of the light emitted by these bodies

would be of absolutely transcendental importance for solving the enigma of the UFOs. Much information about the nature of the UFOs could be secured through a spectrographic analysis of the light emitted by them.

There is a whole mass of data to which innovative kinds of analysis could be applied, and which presumably might permit us to make headway in our present knowledge of this mystery. A combination of high technology, rigorous methodology, and trained personnel is the indispensable requisite — in a word, scientific laboratory investigation — if we desire to raise the UFO Problem from a generally sensationalist and sometimes fraudulent situation to one that is dignified and academic. We venture to predict that the investment of funds and of talent in the study of the UFO case-histories will yield significant advances of a scientific order.

In our book *Enciclopedia de los encuentros cercanos con OVNI's* (*Encyclopaedia of Close Encounters with UFOs*) (Plaza & Janés, 1987), we have furnished exhaustive material with which *anyone* can analyze all that we know today about the UFO Phenomenon. It will no longer be possible for society to make excuses for abandoning the UFO Phenomenon to charlatans and esotericists because of the alleged absence of trustworthy information: this is the challenge that we throw down to the scientific, university, and intellectual community of our country.

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than six or seven metres when I found myself confronting six individuals who were standing near four machines that looked like snow-scooters. Diverted from my intention by their embarrassing gaze, I dropped my project of looking for firewood, and approached the party, who were all on the smallish side and seemed to be of "Asian" type and apparently seeking shelter under the bushes of a hedge.

Arriving at a point about two metres or so from them, I perceived nothing particularly bizarre about them except for the strange machines. Then, in order to strike up a conversation with them, I said:-

"Good day! Rotten weather?". And in reply I heard a few incomprehensible nasal mumbblings. So I persisted, and enquired again: "Are you local?" The second of them, counting from my left (see sketch), of an effeminate appearance, said two words¹ that I was unable to understand.

Thinking they were jokers, I pressed on: "Ah- O.K. So you're extraterrestrials then?", and I looked around for the hidden cameras, as I imagined I had perhaps stumbled upon the making of a film. Then individual No. 2 approached me, squatted down, and, in the sodden ground, drew two signs, one of them resembling

