

CE-II ENCOUNTER (?) ON AN ITALIAN CHICKEN-FARM (1982)

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(Translation from Italian)

SIGNOR Zulimo Toffoli, 46 years old at the time of the experience (June 1982), is the owner of a chicken-farm at Volpago di Montello (Treviso Province, N.E. Italy). The place is some 17 kms. to the N.W. of the Provincial Centre, Treviso, and stands at 94 m. above sea-level, on the southern edge of the Montello mountain area. Toffoli himself lives at Susegna, to the north, but at certain times of the year it is necessary for him to spend whole nights at the chicken-farm, in order to check instruments, temperature, etc., and the UFO incident we are going to report, involving remarkable electromagnetic phenomena, occurred on one of these nights in June 1982, though when I interviewed him recently he could no longer recall the precise date.

The "Event"

The three sheds containing the fowls are linked up by an alarm-system which registers changes in temperature, warns of electrical malfunction, etc.

On the night in question, Toffoli was at the farm. Suddenly, at about 4.00 a.m., the alarm started to ring in one of the sheds, so he went to investigate. Stepping out from the shed where he had been sleeping (the middle one of the three), he immediately noticed that, near the electricity-inspection cabin, there was a *beam of light* shining towards the barred entrance-gate. The gate was shut but, a little way out beyond it, he perceived "*two red spirals*" which were rotating, and seemed to be "pointing at him". It was dark, and Toffoli, still drowsy, thought that this was someone who had come looking for him and was waving a pair of electric torches. He had in fact an interphone, but it had suffered some damage during a storm a few days previously, when it had been struck by lightning.

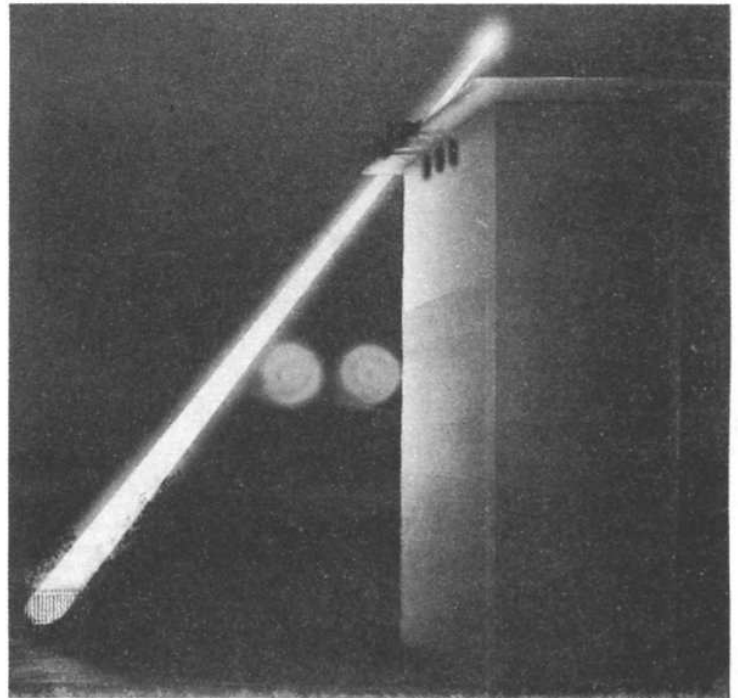
The beam of light was steady and motionless the whole time, and the alarm continued to ring loudly. So Toffoli made for the shed standing nearest to the electricity-inspection cabin and to the gate.

The alarm was giving warning of a fall in temperature — something totally unusual in June! Unusual also was the fact that the alarm had sounded in only one shed, since all the instruments were set to indicate the same danger-levels. So that the alarms installed on the other two sheds ought to have gone off too.

More worried of course about the cause of the breakdown (for he had once lost his entire stock of 50,000 chickens a few years previously for this very

reason) than about the strange lights, Toffoli first switched off the alarm, and then went over towards the electricity inspection-cabin to investigate the peculiar beam of light that was shining down on the gate, and the "red spirals" which he had at first thought seemed to be "aimed" at him.

The two red spirals were rotating, and there seemed to be a *dark mass* stationary directly above the inspection-cabin, and this mass seemed to be the



The Phenomenon on The Chicken Farm.

source of the beam of light, though he couldn't be sure on that point.

The beam of light was of a yellowish-white colour; "true light" (we assume that by this Toffoli means that it was "like daylight". G.C.), and it was coming from a point several metres above the electricity inspection-cabin, and was stationary throughout, whereas the red spirals, rotating close together, were spinning on their own axis. At least, such was Signor Toffoli's impression.

But the idea he had in his head was still that somebody was looking for him — possibly to play a joke

on him (certainly not a very pleasant sort of thing, given the lateness of the hour), nor was there absent from his mind the thought that they might be thieves.

So he shouted a few times in the direction of the light, but there was no response.

After three or four minutes had elapsed from the start of his observation, he saw the beam of light "go out", and the spirals likewise vanished, and the large black mass situated slightly above the inspection-cabin moved away towards the west, in the direction of Montebelluna. At that moment, a faint hum became audible, of which he says he was not sure whether or not to ascribe it to that strange dark mass that had presumably been stationary right over the inspection-cabin.

The two spirals, which had impressed themselves so forcibly upon his attention, were described by Toffoli as "ribbon-like", and of an intense red colour, and possibly between 20 cms. and 30 cms. in diameter — that is, at their widest. And they were at a height of some six or seven metres above the ground.

Moreover, they caused him to feel slightly dizzy, possibly because of their "circular movement", but the eyewitness is quite sure that these spirals were in no way the result of his brusque awakening, because they appeared to be real, and not the product of some hallucinatory phenomenon.

Going back again to check on the cause of the alarm, Toffoli discovered that the temperature in Shed No. 1 which had been set for a maximum of 20°-22°, and a minimum of 18°, was actually now *below* the latter figure, although he was unable to determine exactly how much it was.

And — let us repeat — that is something pretty queer for that season of the year! For we are in *June*, a month in which, as the statistics show, what happens is usually the very opposite. But even stranger than that is the fact that only the alarm of Shed No. 1 had sounded — namely the shed that is nearest to the gate and to the electrical inspection-cabin, and consequently only about six or seven metres distant from the phenomenon observed by Toffoli.

The "dark mass" that he saw right above the inspection-cabin immediately after the light beam and the "spirals" had vanished ("switched off like lights", as he put it) is described by Toffoli as follows:—

"A machine, a vehicle, positioned high up, a bit obliquely, four or five metres long, and two metres wide."

When the "machine" moved, the witness heard a hum, but not a sound that was bothersome: "rather like that of a mosquito".

When the phenomenon had vanished, Toffoli went back to bed, but did not manage to sleep. He lay there wondering how to grasp the nature of the fault that could have caused the alarm to go off, and once more fully convinced that what had happened must have been due to the action of somebody who had come looking for him and had been waving a couple of elec-

tric torches in order to catch his attention. Alas, nothing has ever been ascertained subsequently that might confirm such a conviction!

(In his testimony, Signor Zulimo Toffoli revealed the typical embarrassment seen in this type of person who, previous to the event, have never had any sort of close approach to our subject, and "*didn't believe in UFOs*", and who are considered by those who know them as very little inclined towards any sort of concession regarding the problem.)

We are left, then, with the facts of the sighting: the observation of two strange red spirals, a strange conical shaft of light, and a strange dark mass that moved off westwards and presumably emitted a hum.

No other anomaly was noticed; the fowls themselves were not disturbed by the episode, and no strange manifestation was observed during the days following.

Hallucination?

The case furnishes occasion for various considerations, especially from the psychological point of view, which at first sight might seem to be almost the obvious one. And our attention has been drawn to the fact that indeed this sighting does present some of the features of an *hallucination*.

It is not for us to say, but it is indeed very probable that every one of us, at some time in the course of our lives, may have had some hallucinations. Hallucinations can be due to a great number of causes: drowsiness (which it could be in our present case); excitement; hypoglycaemia; delirium; fever; psychoses; deprivation of sensorial stimuli; stimulation by lights or electricity; hallucinatory drugs; alcohol; carbon monoxide; and, leaving aside the type of stimulus that produces hallucinations, it is a known fact that the human brain seems to respond to certain well determined and schematic parameters.

Fundamentally, there are four images which recur with the greatest frequency in hallucinatory experiences: namely *lattices*; *spiders' webs*; *tunnels*; and — precisely — *spirals*. These features, linked with the fact that we are dealing with the testimony of a single witness, and moreover of a witness in a state of altered consciousness (brusque awakening, and hence drowsiness) seems to point towards an interpretation of *this type*.

On the other hand, an objective confirmation for the story is furnished by what would appear to be an "effect" induced by the presence of the phenomenon itself: namely the fall in temperature and the consequent triggering of the alarm, and only in the one particular hen-house which was nearest to the phenomenon. For these reasons, therefore, it is our opinion that, over and beyond the point of discussion provided for us by the episode, it is not acceptable that this report be shrugged off with rash and foolhardy explanations which, in our view, have no basis in the facts of the situation.

Nevertheless it is certain and it is desirable that the work of collecting case-material should not be confined to a mere chronicling of the facts, but must examine closely and profoundly all possible causes of

the phenomenon — a complex phenomenon which consequently involves an organic study, inasmuch as, amid the myriad welter of reports, *unquestionably something real did happen. ...*

THE "FLYING MAN" AT CASTELLEALE (ITALY)

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(Translation from Italian)

We are indebted to Dr Roberto Pinotti, General Secretary of C.U.N., for sending us the text of this report, due to appear in C.U.N.'s journal "Notiziario UFO", No. 106/1987. EDITOR

THIS strange affair occurred in November 1974 in a tiny hamlet of a few houses, Case di Mordano, near the village of Castelleale, lying deep in the rustic countryside of Romagna Province in northern Italy. The eyewitness was a woman aged 42 at the time and named Signorina Giovanna Sensoli. Miss Sensoli, whose address is Case Mordano 5, Castelleale, has had no education and is illiterate, of a peasant family. (But, be it noted in passing, she has good health and has 10/10 vision.)

This case has been repeatedly and thoroughly investigated by me over a long period of time, involving several return visits there, due both to the interesting nature of the story itself and also to the fact that several unpleasant happenings, including a number of deaths, have befallen the Sensoli family during the period of our enquiries (1976-1983).

Our first interview with Miss Sensoli goes back in fact to November 1976, when we were able to secure a taped recording of the happening. However, it was not a very satisfactory tape, as we found in due course, owing to the number of confusing voices heard on it and the failure to prepare a proper statement. Moreover, I had some friends there with me at the time who, although interested enough, did not help to secure a good recording.

The Account

Here is the story:—

"It was about 5.30 p.m. on a day in mid-November 1974. As was my usual wont, I was attending to the animals in the farmyard beside the house, when I was struck by their strange behaviour. Chickens and rabbits were running about as though terrified and hiding in any corner they could find. I looked around to see what was going on, and noticed some of the fowls were looking upwards. So instinctively I did the same, and, to my great astonishment, I saw, hanging in the

air above the house, at roof-top height, and about four metres from me, a "man", who was seated on a box that was swinging to and fro and who was looking around as though seeking something.

"He was big — about 2 metres in height — and dressed in a very shining one-piece garment with green, red, and white markings, and in a pair of skiing boots with square toes and square heels.

"His features seemed to be dark, but a helmet with visor covered his face, and I only managed to see his eyes, more or less like ours, and to tell you the truth we gazed at each other for a brief instant.

"Well, this man was hanging there in the air above the house and rocking to and fro, with one foot stretched down towards the roof as though he wanted to support himself on it. From the "box" (which was about 50 cms. deep and about the same width — I don't know how long —) there was a rod sticking up, a rod with coloured stripes. It must have been the control-handle for the motor, and it gave out a sharp hum that I could hear very clearly.

"A bit disconcerted at the sight, I shouted several times to my mother, but she didn't reply at once. Meanwhile, maybe because of my shouts, the man had moved away slowly eastwards across our threshing-floor area, which is 20 metres wide. I went over in the same direction, and, looking in the same direction to which the man was looking, I saw a very vivid light, as big as the Full Moon, coming from the North and also slowly moving eastwards.

"As soon as I caught sight of it, I was overcome by a wave of heat. And, although there was a bit of mist at the time, the whole place around, the house and the threshing-floor, were lit up vividly for a few seconds like bright daylight.

"After passing across the threshing-floor area, the man halted above a flat-topped hayrick, as though going to land on it. I approached him once more, puzzled by his incomprehensible gestures, and once