

TRANCAS, AFTER SEVEN YEARS

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This is an exclusive Report to *Flying Saucer Review* from Señor Galíndez, who is our representative in Argentine. Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton.

THE Trancas case is perhaps one of the most exceptional occurrences in the whole history of the UFO problem. Not merely for the number and the quality of the witnesses, but also for the features of the phenomenon itself and the close similarity it displays with other incidents of the same type.

At the time of its occurrence the Argentine press published very brief and indeed contradictory accounts of the events. The news services reproduced these literally, the result being the same deficiencies in their stories.*

Without impugning in any way the recognised rectitude of the witnesses, but considering that the case merited a more thorough-going study, we considered it necessary to essay a re-examination of it, at the distance of seven years from its occurrence. The results of our private enquiry have been positive, inasmuch as we are now in the happy position of being able to furnish a complete and truthful panoramic picture of the events, taken direct from the mouth of one of the people involved, who has been so kind as to go over the present report and check it.

The Interview

In the course of one of his journeys to various places in Argentina in connection with his work (the investigation of air crashes) Señor Alberto Máximo Astorga, the general co-ordinator of our UFO study group, was in Tucumán during the middle of 1970. Interested as he is in the UFO phenomenon, he took advantage of the opportunity to make enquiries among military circles regarding this remarkable type of sighting. And so it came about that he made contact with a military officer who is related to the Moreno family and who was good enough to give him a letter of introduction to Señora Yolié del Valle Moreno, one of the Trancas witnesses, who is today resident in Córdoba. This circumstance was of most particular advantage to us in our task of re-examining the Trancas case inasmuch as my father and I also live in Córdoba.

The letter of introduction enabled us to arrange for a personal interview with the witness. This interview took place on October 2, 1970, those present being the lady herself, Señor Alberto Astorga, my father, Señor Benjamín Galíndez, and myself.

Señora Yolié Moreno is married to a well-known member of the Argentinian Armed Forces but, in compliance with the special request of her husband, we are describing her by her maiden name in order to avoid any embarrassments for the husband vis-à-vis the said branch of the Armed Forces.

The Report

Señora Yolié Moreno is now 28 years old and has

Congratulations and thanks to Señor Alberto Máximo Astorga and Señores Benjamín Galíndez and Oscar Galíndez and their colleagues of the *Círculo Argentino de Investigaciones Ufológicas* of Córdoba, for this altogether excellent follow-up in depth of a case that is seven years old. The possibilities inherent in such an exercise were discussed with Señor Astorga when, on the occasion of a visit he made to England in 1970, he had meetings with Messrs. Creighton and Winder, and myself. The wealth of material that he and his friends have now turned up makes this a model of careful field-work, and reminds us of the correctness of the advice of several leading figures in our field that there is always something new to be found, even in old cases, if one tackles them thoroughly.

We look forward to the results of further probes of this kind that our Córdoba friends have told us they will undertake when the opportunity arises.

CHARLES BOWEN

two children. She is a person of deep education and culture, as are the other members of her family also, which fact fortifies the importance of her statements. According to her account, the sequence in which the events occurred at Trancas was as follows:

At 7.00 p.m. on October 21, 1963, there was a breakdown at the private power-plant of the "Santa Teresa" Estate belonging to her family. The plant is vital for the supply of electricity to the household as the property stands in an area that is uninhabited over a radius of 1½ miles round about, being located two miles from the country town of Trancas, in the Tucumán Province of Argentina. The Moreno family were therefore obliged to use portable lamps and candles. The witness is unable to say whether this difficulty over the power supply had any connection with the phenomena that subsequently occurred.

After taking their evening meal the family had perforce, in view of the failure of the electricity, to retire to bed at about 8.00 o'clock. Señora Yolié, who was at that date already married, had to remain awake however because at 9.30 p.m. she would have to feed her first-born baby. She was resting in room No. 4 (see Fig. 1) with her little boy and her sister Yolanda (aged 30 and unmarried).

At that moment, the domestic servant Dora Martina Guzmán (aged 15) knocked on the door of the room to say that she was frightened. But she did not make clear what was the cause of her fear, so that Yolié attached no importance to it and thought it was simply due to the loneliness of the place where the house stands. Later she mentioned to Dora Martina how strange she thought this was, seeing that as a country girl the maid ought to have been quite used to such experiences.

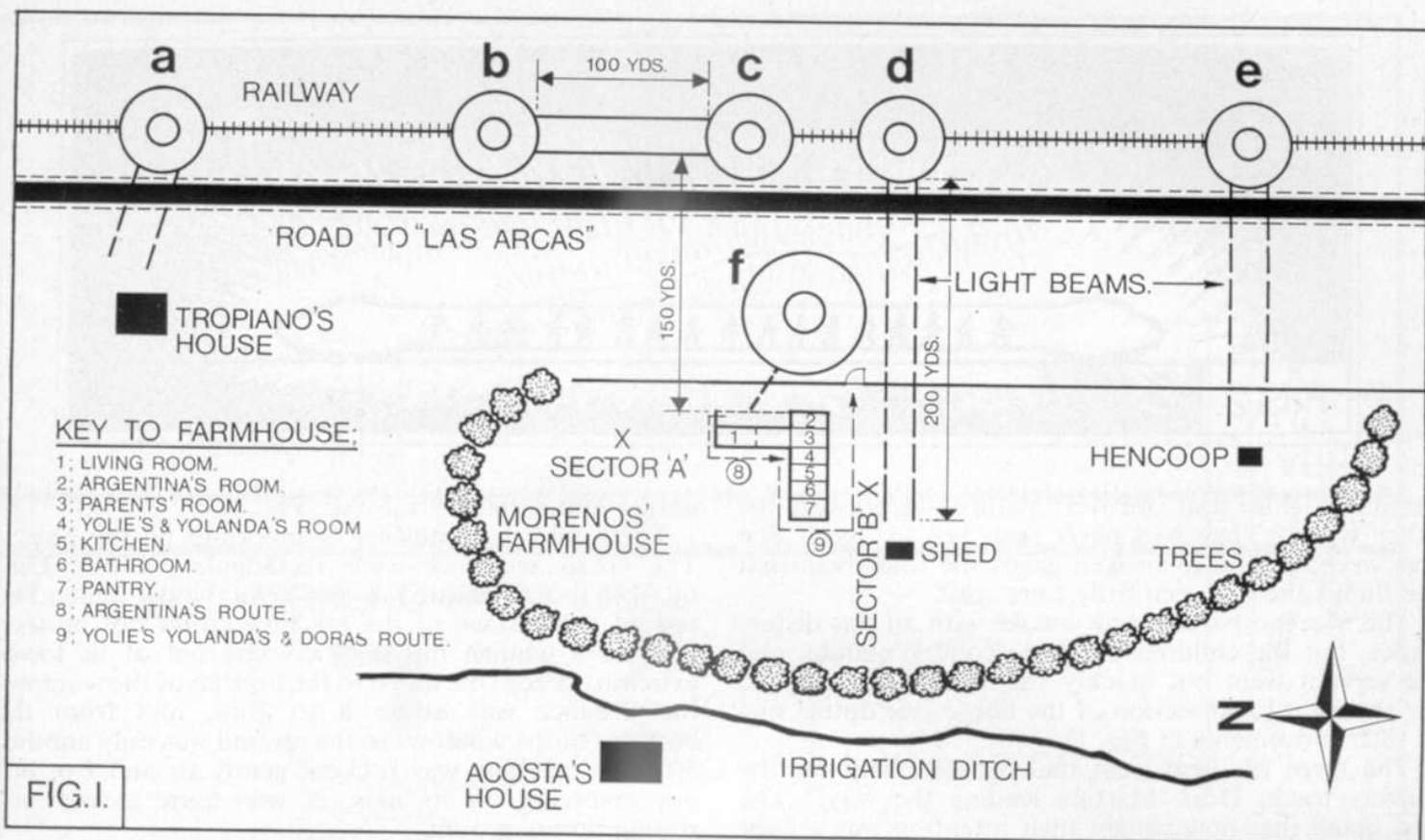


FIG. I.

Moments later, Dora Martina was back again, insistent, saying now that, out in the back courtyard, she could see lights for which she could find no cause. She explained that every time she went outside the house the whole area round about was suddenly lit up for a few seconds. There were no signs of a thunderstorm brewing. Merely a few scattered clouds in the sky.

Yolié and Yolanda got up and went out to the back courtyard. They saw nothing. They waited there a few minutes, and then went back to room No. 4. But no sooner had they done so than Dora Martina called them again to say that the lights had reappeared. So the two sisters went outside again for a second time, but again they saw nothing peculiar. Dora Martina was however panic-stricken. She begged them to stay out there for a little while as, so she said, the lights gave the impression of appearing at repeated intervals. So great was her fear that she said she would leave till the next day all the domestic chores still waiting to be done.

The three of them then walked to the far left of the courtyard (sector "A" in Fig. 1). There they saw that over in the direction of the Belgrano railway line, which is 150 yards from the house, there were two bright lights linked by a shining prolongation, like a tube, about 100 yards long. (Objects "b" and "c" in Fig. 1) Some silhouettes (approximately 40) could be seen, outlined against the bright background. The figures were moving to and fro, so that the witnesses thought that possibly there had been a derailment on the line or some sort of sabotage. The shadows, undoubtedly of human people and of normal height, seemed to be passing backwards and forwards in both directions, but Yolié thinks they were doing so *inside* the "tube" (see Fig. 2).

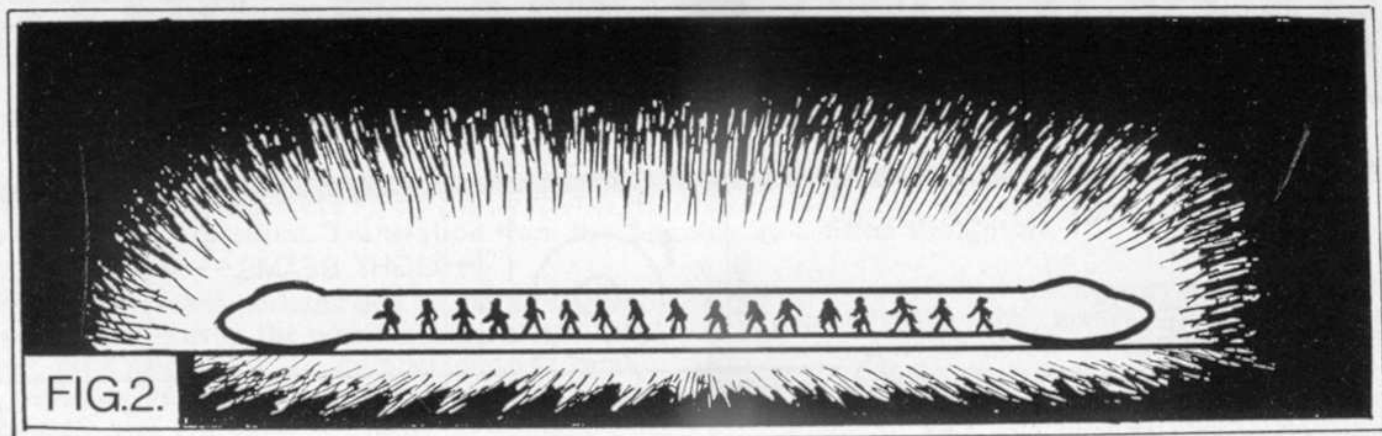
The surrounding vegetation prevented the witnesses from seeing in greater detail, and they were obliged to

kneel down so as to see underneath the branches of the trees.

They agreed to go closer to the railway track in order to investigate.

The two Moreno sisters went back first to their room to put on enough clothing, for it was a very cold night. While Yolanda went to look for a flashlight and Dora went to get a "Colt 38" which she keeps for when she is alone in the house, Yolié tiptoed through room 3, where her parents (Antonio Moreno Ebaich, 72, and Teresa Kairuz de Moreno, 63) were asleep. This brought her to room No. 2, where her other sister, Argentina Moreno de Chávez (aged 28, and married to an Army officer) and her two children were sleeping. Her purpose in doing this was to ask Argentina to keep an eye on her own baby for her while she went outside. When Argentina heard what she had to say, she tried to dissuade her from going out of the house as it was always possible that the people might be guerrillas or saboteurs who would no doubt not hesitate to open fire on her if they saw her. But Yolié insisted that nothing would happen.

At that point, Argentina, now moved by curiosity herself, went out on to the adjoining gallery. She began to walk towards the end of the gallery so as to be able to see these supposed lights that her two sisters and the servant had seen. Then she let out a shocked scream, weeping and shouting that there were a number of strange machines near the house. Terrified, Argentina lost control of herself and ran frenziedly round towards the back of the house (see dotted line in Fig. 1). In her distraught condition she ran into a pile of bricks that were lying in the yard and fell down on the ground. She at once got up again and dashed into room 4. The change in her appearance—she is normally a



person of calm and introvert nature—astonished the other sisters. They had never seen her so upset. She was weeping, and in broken gasps she told them that the things she had seen truly were craft.

The Moreno parents now awoke with all this disturbance, but the children did not. Yolié, Yolanda, and the servant went out quickly via room 4 and headed for the right-hand section of the house (see dotted line of their movements in Fig. 1).

The three of them were making resolutely for the railway track, Dora Martina leading the way.* The first detail that now caught their attention was a faint greenish light near the front gate of the farm. They thought this must be the lights of the small truck driven by Señor Huanca, an employee on the farm, and so Dora Martina ran forward to open the gate and let the vehicle in. But, just as she was about to do so, Yolié shone her flashlight on to the green light. Suddenly six little windows lit up, revealing a strange disc-shaped form which was hanging there suspended in the air only 14ft. away from them (see object "f" in Fig. 1).

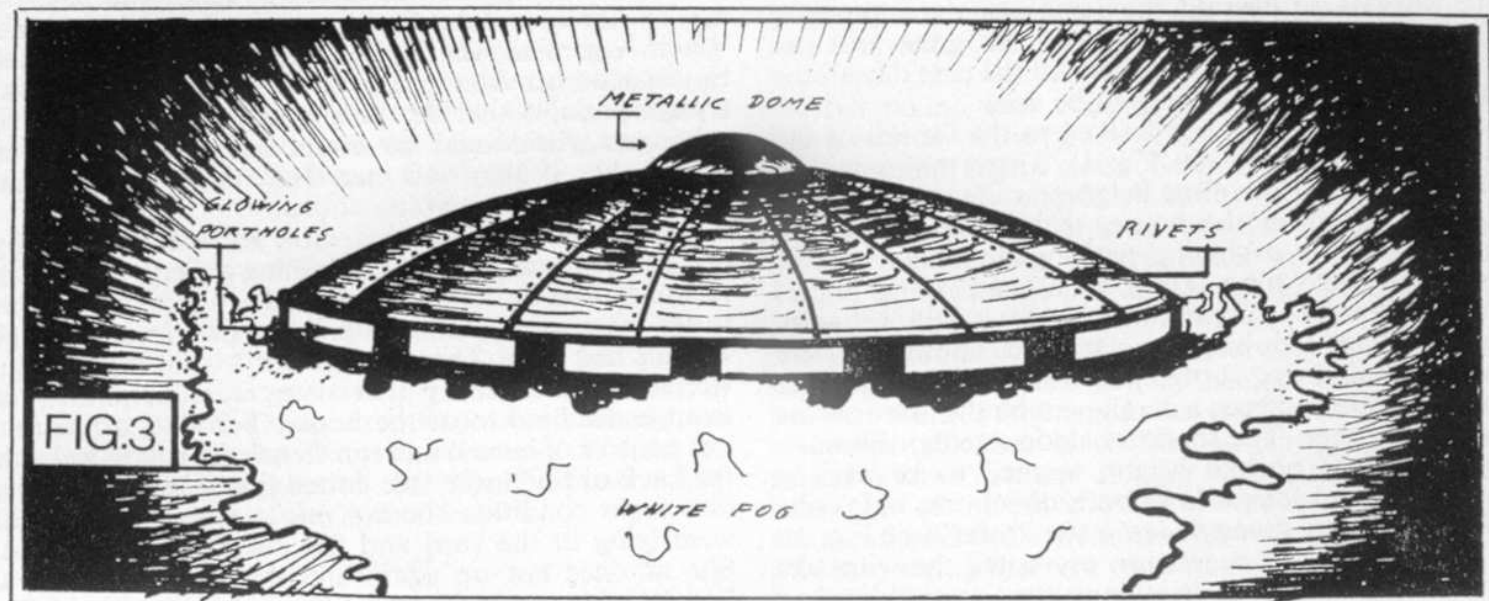
It was a solid body some 28 to 30ft. in diameter, its surface appearing to be of metal, resembling aluminium. It had a number of sections, fitted together with protuberances that looked like rivets, and on the top it had a dome, likewise of metallic appearance, but

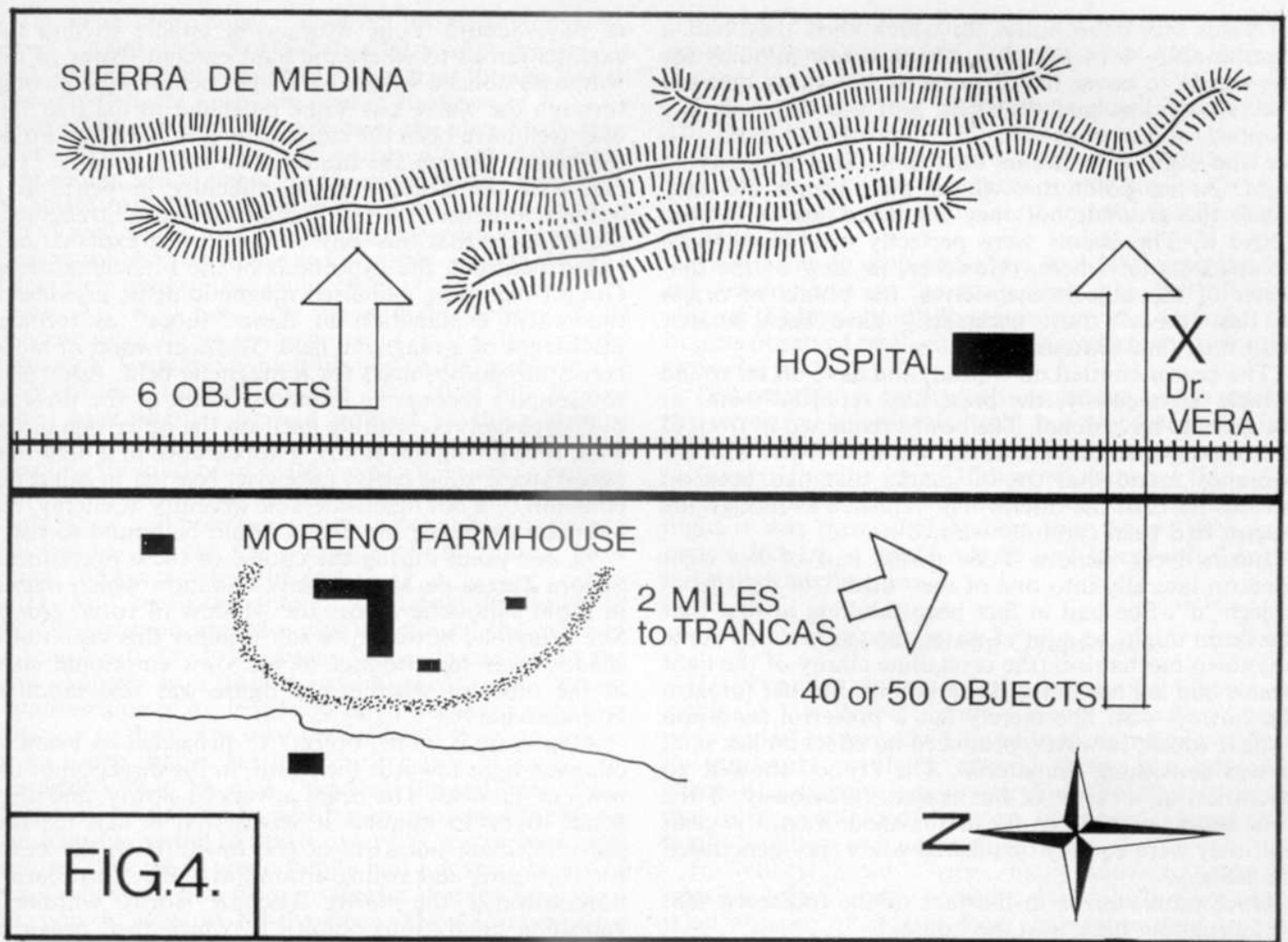
darker and with no rivets (see Fig. 3).

There were no emblems or markings on the object. The small windows were rectangular, about 35in. by 25in., and emitted a powerful white light. The rest of the surface of the machine could not be seen because a whitish mist was coming out of its lower extremity. From the dome to the bottom of the windows the distance was about 8 to 10ft., and from the bottoms of the windows to the ground was only another 5ft. The machine was rocking gently to and fro, but not revolving on its axis. It was quite clearly not resting on the ground.

* * *

At once a sort of coloured band lit up inside the object and commenced to rotate, a detail which they could observe through the windows. The windows themselves were now changing colour, slowly and in sequence, which made it look as though they were travelling round, and in a counter-clockwise direction. At the beginning this impression of movement was given by a reddish light passing from one window to another. But gradually this process speeded up, until the whole periphery took on an orange tone. A soft hum accompanied the movement of the lights. And the whitish mist began to thicken, giving off a penetrating odour resembling the smell of sulphur.





The three witnesses took in all these details in less than 30 seconds. Then a sudden tongue of flame emanating from the object—they are unable to say from which portion—brought them back to reality, for it knocked them down violently and hurled their bodies, rolling them a distance of 6ft. or so on the ground. They picked themselves up and ran panic-stricken to the gallery. The servant Dora Martina had suffered most from the effects of the flame, as she had been in front of the Moreno sisters, both of whom merely felt a powerful sensation of heat. (Next day, Dora Martina was treated at the Trancas Hospital for first and second degree burns on face, arms, and legs. Yolié thinks there must be records of this at the hospital.)

Simultaneously with all this, three more bright lights (objects "a", "d", and "e" in Fig. 1) lit up on the railway line, making a total of six of these strange bodies. The distance between the most widely spaced two objects ("a" and "e") was about 400 yards. (It is probable that the lights seen from the rear of the house by Dora Martina, and the origin of which she was unable to establish, were these lights coming on and going out in unison. From the centre of the courtyard it is in fact not physically possible to see the railway embankment, but it is of course feasible for the glow from the objects to have lit up the whole courtyard.)

Coherent Beams of Light

As the band inside the craft rotated faster and faster, object "f" gradually became enveloped in the mist emanating from its under part. The structural features of the machine finally vanished from their sight, being just perceptible thereafter as an orange-coloured cloud.

From the window of room No. 2, which looks eastwards, the Moreno parents were able to observe, how, from the upper part of this same object "f", there came a "tube" of light about 10ft. wide, which was seeking out with extreme precision all the various features of their house, as though conducting a careful scrutiny.

The other objects, either at rest on, or suspended above, the railway tracks, had the same metallic appearance as object "f", though the latter seemed to be considerably larger. (Señora Yolié Moreno calls it "the mother ship" ["la nave madre"], not only on account of its size, but also because it was this one that seemed to dictate the behaviour of the other five.) The whole area round about was very strongly illuminated, so that it was a relatively simple task to appreciate these details.

When Señora Yolié saw that two compact beams of light were starting to come from object "d" she went out again through the door of room No. 4 and walked towards the far right side of the house (sector "B" in Fig. 1). The beams were directed straight at a shed,

40 yards from the house, in which shed they had a tractor. (No. 8 in Fig. 1.) It took a few minutes for the beams to cover the distance of 200 yards between the railway line and the shed, and the beams finally stopped about 6 or 7ft. in front of the shed. To see the 10ft.-wide beams advancing was a terrifying sight. At no point throughout their length did they touch the ground, but they remained just 3 or 4in. above it. The beams were perfectly cylindrical, with no shadows anywhere. (However, in view of the diameter of the objects themselves, the points of origin of the "tubes" must necessarily have been smaller than their final extremities.)

The beams emitted no vapour, and gave off no sound (which, erroneously, the press had reported them, at the time, to have done). The beams remained in front of the tractor shed for about 40 minutes. (Next day the Morenos found that the oil marks that had been on various parts of the tractor had vanished as though the tractor had been carefully washed down.)

Instinctively, Señora Yolié thrust half of her right forearm laterally into one of the "tubes" of light from object "d". She had in fact been thinking at first that the beam might be a jet of water concentrated by some unknown mechanism (the crystalline clarity of the light beams had led her to this speculation). But her forearm did not get wet. She merely felt a powerful sensation of heat which, however, produced no effect on her skin. It was something immaterial. The "tube" showed no alteration as a result of her action. (Obviously, if the light beams reached as far as the shed, then it is clear that they were equally unaffected when they penetrated the fence.)

Once more, terror in the face of the unknown sent Yolié running back into the house.

The father, old Señor Moreno, wanted to go out himself and investigate the cause of the lights, but his daughters prevented him from doing so. His wife, Señora Teresa de Moreno, was praying. From the windows of rooms 2, 3, and 4 they could see the luminous beams slowly advancing from the other objects towards the outbuildings of the farm. The beams were white and perfectly cylindrical in configuration. Their light did not scatter. They resembled 10ft.-wide pipes, lying parallel, two to each object except for object "f", which had only the one beam. The extremities of the beams ended abruptly. (The "tube" linking objects "b" and "c" had by now disappeared, along with the humanoid shadows. Now both objects "b" and "c" were directing compact beams of light at the house.)

From object "e" they saw coherent beams emerge and move slowly towards a hencoop containing 40 birds, which lay to the south of the tractor-shed (No. 9 in Fig. 1). The beams stopped sharply a short distance from the hencoop and remained stationary for many minutes.

Meanwhile, inside the farmhouse the temperature was rising to above 40°C, and remained fluctuating around about 40° (before the beginning of these phenomena, the thermometer had stood at a mere 16°C in the house). The bed-clothes of the three children, still asleep, were drenched with perspiration.

Inside the house the whole place was lit up as bright

as day. Señora Yolié Moreno is unable to find the explanation as to where the light entered. None of the witnesses noticed whether the light beams were passing through the walls, but Yolié indicated to me that this may well have been the cause of the illumination inside the house, though she hesitates to assert it flatly. (The fact that the beam had no difficulty in penetrating Yolié's forearm and the farmhouse fence strengthens the evidence that this may be the correct explanation.)

Furthermore, the hypothesis of the Frenchman Jean Goupil regarding canalised magnetic fields provides a theoretical explanation of these "tubes" as toroidal discharges of a magnetic field. Walls of wood or stone constitute no obstacles for a magnetic field. According to Goupil's theory the luminous beam of the toroidal discharge can reconstitute itself on the other side of the wall, thus giving the amazing appearance of a light that penetrates a solid body. Likewise, bearing in mind the emission of a not inconsiderable quantity of energy, the temperature inside the house would be bound to rise.¹

At one point during the course of these phenomena Señora Teresa de Moreno saw a shadow which passed in rapid silhouette across the window of room No. 3. She is unable, however, to say whether this vision of a shadow was the product of her own emotional state at the time, or whether the figure was real (another Hopkinsville?).²

After a short while, object "f" projected its beam of compact light towards the south, in the direction of the town of Trancas. The beam advanced slowly, and after some 10 or 15 minutes it seems that it had reached the immediate outskirts of the town. Then the beam rose upwards and swung around in a 180° turn, facing now towards the north. Then it slowly withdrew, vanishing finally into object "f" which then began to move towards the railway line. There the other objects joined it, and all of them flew off at low altitude eastwards, towards the Sierra de Medina (range of mountains). The time since the beginning of the observation had been 40 or 45 minutes. For more than half an hour thereafter the horizon was tinged with orange lights.

Verifications

The following details, subsequent to the incident, are of particular interest, inasmuch as they provide authentic endorsements for the occurrence of a phenomenon that truly is altogether out of the ordinary.

(a) When the machines had departed, the Morenos went out into the garden, where the cloud produced by object "f" was still hanging. It was extremely thick. A powerful smell of sulphur floated over the spot. The cloud did not disperse until four hours later.

(b) Beneath the air-space where the object "f" had been rocking to and fro, and within a circle 28 to 30ft. in diameter, they found, forming a perfect cone 3ft. high, innumerable little white balls $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. Next day they found similar little balls on the railway line, but not in such vast quantity as in the garden. The little balls crumpled under gentle pressure.

The head of the chemical laboratory of the Institute of Chemical Engineering in the University of Tucumán, Sr. Walter Gonzalo Tell, did an analysis of them, which showed that they contained 96.48% of calcium carbonate and 3.51% of potassium carbonate.

(c) The farm dogs, renowned for their fierceness, never barked once. Nor did they bark after the objects had vanished. The dogs seemed dazed, as though asleep. The same effects were observed in the hens.

(d) The copse of carob trees in the area where they found the little balls were all withered a few days later.

Over the years since, by using fertilisers, they have managed to get things to grow again in the area, but not as well as before. (The reader may recall the resemblances to the French case at Valensole, and Dr. Jacques Lemaitre's plan in that connection.)³

(e) At 10.30 p.m., the same night, Señora Yolié Moreno went across to the house of their neighbour Sr. Francisco Tropiano, which lies about 100 yards to the north of the Moreno residence (No. 10 in Fig. 1). She asked him whether he had noticed anything strange during the last few minutes (object "a" had been directing its solid beams right at Sr. Tropiano's house). But Sr. Tropiano said he had neither felt nor seen anything, as he had been fast asleep. All that he was able to do was to confirm the presence of the orange glow which still persisted in the east.

(f) Still bent on gathering additional details about the phenomenon, the Morenos questioned the overseer of their farm, Sr. José Acosta, whose house lies to the west of theirs, at a distance of 100 yards or so, but on the other side of an irrigation ditch. Acosta's own first question to them was why the field had been on fire, as he had seen that it was lit up to the east of his house. He added that he had "amused himself" watching numerous bright objects which were moving about for a considerable period to the westward. (Clearly these were features that the Moreno family had not seen. Study of Fig. 1 will show that from inside the Moreno farmstead the view is shut off by the trees. The Morenos were unable to see the objects observed towards the west by Acosta. Likewise Acosta could not see the objects seen in the east by the Morenos. Acosta could only have seen the glow from the objects on the railway line, and so put it down to a fire.)

(g) Another piece of unpublished testimony came from a lady physician, Dr. René Vera, doctor at the Trancas Hospital, which lies outside Trancas.

On the night in question, her car broke down as she was driving towards Trancas. So she decided to finish the journey on foot. The time was about 11.00 p.m. when she saw come flying over, from west to east or rather slightly towards north-east, a squadron of 40 or 50 luminous bodies which passed overhead at low altitude. They left the whole atmosphere impregnated with the smell of sulphur to such a degree that she was almost made ill by it.

This incident was related to the Morenos by Dr. René Vera herself long after the press reverberations of their own story had died away. She had not wanted to report it at the time, out of fear of the usual ridicule that she would have incurred.

(As these things were coming from the west, we think, bearing in mind their large number, that they were probably the same ones that the farm overseer Acosta had seen travelling towards the Sierra de Medina. Only a few minutes earlier, the objects seen by the Morenos had made off towards this same range of mountains. We wonder whether the compact projected beam of

light that did an 180° turn was not perhaps a sort of signal to form formation with the other ones seen by Acosta?)

Fig. 4 explains very clearly the sighting reported by Dr. René Vera.

(h) Señora Yolié Moreno told us that, at the time, she had to fill in a technical questionnaire for the Argentine Navy, and complete a test for the Pentagon in the U.S.A.

(i) In the opinion of Señora Yolié Moreno (basing her assumptions on the rivets seen in object "f" and also on the humanoid silhouettes seen at a distance) the objects observed by them were *the product of a terrestrial technology*.

This assertion is particularly important, not as regards the terrestrial hypothesis itself, but as regards the fact that the remark reveals Señora Moreno as a person not inclined to fanciful ideas. If there was any one thing that served to keep her calm during her experiences that night it was this belief of hers that "since they were people like us, it could not be any question of extra-terrestrial intelligences."

Some Interesting Comparisons

(I) The description of the band prompts us to recall the late Wilbert Smith's theory regarding "magnetic sinks" which could be utilised by means of conducting rings revolving around them. The luminous effects of a machine employing this procedure would be due to the rotation of the ring, although at times they might build up to a corona discharge.

In Wilbert Smith's view, many saucers would be invisible to everybody at night, particularly when there is an absence of heat in their rings since they are not rotating. (Remember that, at the beginning, object "f" remained in semi-darkness, at a short distance from the Moreno farm.)

But if the speed of the rotating ring were to increase, and if the ring were to heat up again as a result of its motion inside the magnetic field, Smith maintained that a pink glow would appear. Then, at still greater speeds, the colour would grow brighter, turning to red, and then to orange, and then to yellow, and finally would reach the reddish-white glow of white-hot metal. The conversion process would gradually be more rapid each time.⁴

(In the Trancas case, the revolving band began to move slowly, with a colouring between pink and red. As its rotation became faster, the colour turned to a vivid red and then finally to an orange shade which persisted during the 40 or 45 minutes of the phenomenon. The phases of major revolution velocity—which would have been yellow and then reddish-white—were not attained by the Trancas object. Nevertheless, the correlation and sequence in the colour variations do coincide with Wilbert Smith's theories.)

(II) Sulphur

Among the Argentine cases in which the odour of sulphur was a distinctive feature it is worth recalling the notable landing at Villa Constitución⁵ in the Province of Santa Fe on September 11, 1967. On that occasion the object remained suspended for four hours at a height of only 3ft. from the ground. ||

(III) Residua

In its chemical composition the carbonated residue at Trancas tallies completely with the residue left from the landing outside Bahía Blanca, also in Argentina, on May 12, 1962. The analysis of the Bahía Blanca material was done in the laboratories of the National Southern University and showed the presence of a high percentage of calcium carbonate and a residue of potassium carbonate.⁶

(IV) Coherent Light Beams

When we interviewed Señora Yolié Moreno, we showed her various UFO publications that contained descriptive sketches of sightings involving "tubes" of light. Great indeed was her astonishment when she perceived the marked similarities between those cases and the Trancas phenomenon. It is well worthwhile to bear them in mind inasmuch as they confirm the authenticity of the Trancas case. Here they are:

Case I: May 6, 1967. Hochfelden, near Strasbourg, France. From a strange object a sort of luminous cylindrical beam was projected towards the ground. It vanished suddenly. Then a second and similar beam appeared, and then two more, all of them parallel. The three beams all terminated abruptly at a height of 3ft. from the ground.⁷

(The most notable differences between this and the Trancas case lie in the thickness of the "tubes" of light and in their instantaneous disappearance. At Hochfelden the diameter of the first beam was of the thickness of a thumb, and of the subsequent beams it was of the thickness of a little finger.)

Case II: August 29, 1967. Oka, Canada. From a disc-shaped object there emerged a compact beam of light which moved about in various directions as though performing a mission of observation.⁸

(In the opinion of the witnesses at Trancas, the beams in their case seemed to be making a meticulous study of the outhouses and dependencies of the farm.)

Case III: August 31, 1968. Villier-en-Morvan, France. From a landed object standing 1½ miles from the witnesses there slowly emerged a compact luminous beam which covered the distance to them in between five and 10 minutes, till it arrived at a spot 30 or 40 yards from where they were. The "tube" was 3 or 4ft. in diameter. After a few minutes it was slowly drawn in.⁹

(Object "f" at Trancas projected a coherent beam about two miles long, which distance it covered in between 10 and 15 minutes. The enormous diameter of the "tube" in this French sighting seems very similar to the Trancas case.)

Case IV: September 1, 1968. Mendoza, Argentina. Several strange beings, which a few minutes previously had been involved in a curious case with two witnesses, entered a flying object by means of a compact beam of light which remained at a steady inclination of 45° to the ground.¹⁰ ¶

(In the opinion of Señora Yolié Moreno, the figures that were moving to and fro between objects "b" and "c" at Trancas were apparently doing so *inside* the "tube" linking the two objects.)

Case V: End of October 1967. Boyup Brook, Australia. A man who was driving in his car towards Boyup Brook suddenly found himself the focal point of a

"tube" of light coming from an object some 100 or more feet from the ground. Observing it through his wind-screen, he was able to see that the "tube" was between 2 and 3ft. in diameter and that it was hollow.¹¹

(Yolié Moreno had the same impression when she was watching the advance of the "tubes" projected by object "d".)

Reinterpretation of the "Cloud Cigars"

Reasons of space prevent us from discussing this at greater length, but we cannot resist the temptation to launch the following theory: is it not possible that the "cloud cigars"—or at least *some* of them—might not be a special class of objects at all, but projections of coherent light beams such as those seen at Trancas? How would the object "f" have appeared, had its beam almost two miles long been observed at a great altitude? The slow forward movement of the beam would have given it the character of an object that, circular at first, became tubular later. Like, for example, the "cigar" over Dôle (France) on August 18-19, 1954, as described by Aimé Michel.¹² On that occasion the object, almost circular to begin with, became steadily longer until it was cylindrical.

A reverse process is described by Jacques Vallée¹³ when he cites the phenomenon that occurred at Homer, U.S.A., on April 11, 1964. One of the objects seen on that occasion had the shape of a pencil, but a few seconds later its length began to diminish, until finally it assumed the aspect of a saucer.

The cloudy mass that generally surrounds one of the ends of the "cigars" could be interpreted as the *nucleus of the projection*. Let us explain: the object "f" at Trancas was surrounded by a dense cloudiness—to such a degree that finally the cloud hid the structural shape of the object. Only after that did it emit the compact beam of light towards the farmhouse. This process leads us to think that the production of the cloud might be intimately related to the projection of coherent beams of light. Cloud and projection would then be two aspects of one and the same phenomenon. If object "f"—with its long luminous beam—had been at a great altitude, it would have been seen as a whitish "cigar" with an orange cloud at one of its extremities. We have raised the question, and we leave it posed.

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THE PORT MONMOUTH LANDING

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PORT MONMOUTH, New Jersey, is a small residential community on the Raritan Bay, and about ten miles from New York City. It is closely surrounded by numerous installations. Throughout recent years the newspapers have reported many UFO sightings in this area.

In an article in the July 18, 1970, issue of *The Courier* of Middletown, New Jersey, Mr. Walter Garner described a UFO hovering over the meadows for approximately one hour. Mr. Garner, who visited the scene as late as two weeks after the incident, said the grass was "still flattened" in the reported areas as well as in a smaller section several feet away. The grass, "still living, would not stand erect, yet grass flattened by footsteps quickly bounced back (Photographs 1 and 2)." The family who witnessed the incident did not wish any notoriety and therefore was not identified, but the following is an account of their experiences.*

On Saturday, July 4, 1970, at 3.00 a.m., Mrs. D.J., a 33-year-old housewife, suddenly woke up for no apparent reason and looked out of her open, second-floor cottage bedroom window. Hovering over the meadows, across the street, she saw "a big round ball. It had an eerie white glow, and was bouncing back and forth across the meadows. I propped myself up on the pillow and watched it for approximately 15 minutes. I shook my husband but he wouldn't wake up. I had gotten in bed at two in the morning, and had dozed off again before waking. We had been out but had no liquor.

"It was something spectacular. The light was flashing in order as in the back tail-lights of modern cars—flashing red in series across the middle. I could only see half the thing (see Fig. 1). It was the size of our garage [approximately 20-25ft. in combined width and height]. There was no sound. The street light had gone out for 15 to 20 minutes and then came on.

"When I woke up again at 5.00 a.m., the fog was rolling in [it was clear before] and I couldn't see anything. I told my husband but he wasn't impressed. The kids were excited and wondered why I hadn't called them. A little later they called me, and my son said, 'Mom, you should see the big spots in the meadows.' There were areas where the grass was mashed down."

Interviews with Mrs. D.J.'s son Billy, age 15, and her brother-in-law, D.R., age 22, revealed that, "There were three imprints that made a perfect triangle. They were about 30-40ft. apart and about 18in. square. There was a large circle [in the grass] between 15 and 20ft. in diameter, and a smaller circle about 50ft. away, which was about half the size of the larger one.



Photograph 1.

Photograph of Mr. Walter Garner

"Something strange is leaving marks on the Port Monmouth meadows." (*The Courier*, July 16, 1970.)

"Then we saw tracks going to the creek like they had dragged some small round thing into the ditch. [On the periphery of the large circular flattened area] there were about two sets of a dozen imprints which were about 2ft. apart. They were curved like raindrops (see Fig. 2). It was very visible, the grass was all crushed down, there was mud on the banks of the creek, and there were signs of the tracks in the mud."

One week to the day, at 4.00 a.m., Mrs. D.J. suddenly woke up and pounded her husband in an attempt to arouse him, "for I felt that something was going to happen. It was a funny feeling—I was scared half to death. I told him. Then the street light went out. We sat there for about five minutes and out of the sky came a round ball of light. It went from the tower [across the field] behind the trees. It was glowing, yellowish-white. I called the police. They came with their guns drawn."

While this was going on, Billy was sleeping on the front porch. He noted, "There were three coloured—red patches of lights. They went around the disc in about one to two seconds. The outer part was greyish in colour (see Fig. 3). The noise it made was like an aeroplane in the distance. The noise became louder

* Name and address on file with FSR—EDITOR.