

UFOs OVER ROMANIA IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1990

By Florin Gheorghita, FSR Correspondent/Consultant in Romania (Iasi, North-Eastern Romania).

(Translation of letter from French - G.C.)

For many years FSR used to receive interesting UFO reports and photos from the engineer Florin Gheorghita, and our staunch older readers will recall various articles published by us under his name.*

The last piece received by us from him (in 1983) was "A NOTE ON 'PULSED LIGHT-TRACKS'", which I duly published in FSR Vol. 29, No. 6 (1984) along with Mr. Gheorghita's photographs. The photos showed strange zigzag patterns and streaks or lines of light (usually dotted or broken) which he or his friends in Romania had secured by exposing ordinary photographic film.

The appearance of that article provided an opportunity for Janet Bord and Colin Bord to send me a letter informing me that the photographs had been faked by Florin Gheorghita or by myself or by both of us. (See my account, "AN IMPORTANT REVELATION REGARDING 'PULSED LIGHT-TRACKS'", on page 25 of FSR 30/4, 1985).

Just around that time, as it happened, the repression in Romania under the Ceausescu tyranny had been growing much more severe. The trickle of letters from that country gradually dried up. We continued to send FSRs to Gheorghita, but we never found out whether any of them, or any of our letters, reached him, and we still do not know. He has however now 'surfaced' again, we are glad to report, and we are delighted to know that FSR has begun to reach him again at last. It will be interesting to read his comments about his 'faking'.

As regards the matter of these odious 'pulsed light-tracks', it is noteworthy that (whatever they may prove to be) quite a number of folk known to me seem to have been securing similar 'weird' photos, in various parts of the world. As examples, I will merely cite here the names of two such people. Firstly, there is our friend the Spanish economist Luis José Grifól Gutiérrez of Barcelona, who has even accumulated enormous and impressive albums of them, along with scores of weird and unexplained images in all colours, many of which he has displayed before members of the House of Lords UFO Study Group (now defunct). The second is our friend Mr. Stefan Chorvat of Slovakia, now resident in London, who used to be a member of BUFORA. I know that some BUFORA members will have seen his collection of photos of 'pulsed light-tracks' because, in the days when I was the President of BUFORA, I watched Mr. Chorvat, on several

occasions, showing them around to members during the hugely attended BUFORA meetings which we had in the lecture-hall of Kensington Public Library.

Whether Señor Grifól Gutiérrez is rated as a liar in Spain I greatly doubt. And I have certainly never heard of this accusation being directed at Mr. Chorvat. - EDITOR

Dear Mr. Creighton!

I recently received a very interesting UFO report from the city of Cluj (North-Central Romania, 40°47N 23°38E) which immediately set me to thinking again about you. Cluj, where I myself lived for a number of years, has had a long history of UFO visitations, and in fact it was while I was living there that I first became aware of the UFO Phenomenon! As you will recall, I sent many reports to you, between the years 1969 and 1973, and several were published in FSR. (And at Cluj University there was even a project to prepare a computerised Index of FSR! ED.)

The article from which I extract these details is the newspaper "*Opinia Studenteasca*", published here in Iasi, the Capital of the Romanian Province of Moldavia (or as we call it in Romanian - *Moldova*) - lying up in our north-eastern corner (and right beside that other part of Moldavia which was seized by the USSR and is now the ridiculous "Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic" due, one hopes, to be restored shortly to Romania. G.C.)

In its issue No. 47, in November 1990, this paper carried the following Report:-

A UFO at Flaminzi!

Various residents of the parish of Flaminzi (Botosani Region of Moldavian Province) declare that during the night of October 20, 1990, they saw a UFO flying around over the neighbourhood of the village of Poiana. Engrossed in their daily toils, the villagers subsequently forgot all about the affair which, had it been in America, would no doubt have got onto the front pages of the newspapers and have been discussed at length. As it was, the affair died down quickly, those who had "seen" the lights sticking to their guns, and the rest, who had slept through the night, saying the others were all crazy, and so it would have remained no doubt, and all would have been forgotten, had not two reporters from the "*Botosani Gazeta*" gone to Flaminzi, to be followed later by the Television.

“Two Beams of Light Appeared, Sweeping the Ground as though Seeking Something”

The light in the sky was seen by Virgil Atodiresei at about 9.30 p.m. as he was returning home along the main road in Flaminzi parish. From where he was, on the asphalted highway, he could clearly see a bright though diffused light right above the village of Poiana. Virgil, a young man of 23 said: “I didn’t pay too much heed to it, though the thought did pass through my mind that the passage of a motorcar through that place would be queer, because there’s no road there; it’s just ploughed fields”.

Meanwhile, in the village of Poiana, the electricity was all off. Neculai Bildea, professor of Mathematics, had gone into the village to get a light (presumably an electric torch? G.C.) It was pitch-black. Not a star to be seen in the sky, and the electricity was off in all the villages.

The first thing that he and his young companion Iulian Preda noticed was a glow that seemed to be flickering over a garden - like perhaps a bonfire of weeds burning. But the thing seemed to be not on the ground, but up in the air. Said Iulian Preda: “Then we began to fear that maybe somebody had set fire to the crops of the Volochina family”. Then the “flickering” died down, only to suddenly start up again, until it was as bright as a sodium light. And then it vanished.

“A Projectile-Shaped Object 50 Metres in Length seen”

According to the statement of Virgil Atodiresei, the flying object was as big as a submarine, and it was flying over the village at a height of, maybe, 100 metres. But its shape seemed a bit indistinct - at times like “a sphere full of beams of light”.

The two shafts of light emitted by it were conical. At their source they looked as though 1 or 2 metres in diameter, whereas on the ground below, each of them was projecting a circle of light about 20 metres in diameter. At a certain stage in the sighting Atodiresei could see a number of other smaller lights, symmetrically disposed on it, like sidelights. At times the thing was flying at great speed. Then suddenly it would stop abruptly, and change course, and these sharp-angled changes were repeated several times.

When Professor Bildea first caught sight of it, he thought it looked “like a gigantic tortoise”. The thing was now flying very low, and he climbed up onto a fountain to get a better view of it. From this vantage point, he was now able to see a band of small lights placed equidistantly around the “belly” of the “tortoise”. From this “belly” were coming four light-beams: one directed straight down towards the ground, another (briefly) aimed straight at him and Preda, and the other two beams obliquely down to the ground, and slowly “sweeping” it in all directions. But - more than that - from a certain angle the Professor was able to perceive that the two rear beams consisted of, as it were, luminous planes, as though laminated by an orifice -

planes formed of thin threads, like laser light. From a different angle, at his second sighting of it, he said, the object had the appearance of a projectile 50 m. long and 12 m. high. On the upper portion it presented certain transparent areas that gave the impression of portholes as there was a faint light coming from them - seemingly from the inside of the “projectile”. At his last sighting of it he once more observed “side-lights”.

His wife, Voichita Bildea, and her mother, Maria G. Trifan, aged 73, both saw the lights, but according to them there were *two* beams, not four. They were not able to give a description of the object; all they could see was a relatively misty spherical shape. From it came those two powerful beams of light - “so powerful that you could have picked up glass beads in the garden”.

Everyone said it was raining gently on the evening in question. Professor Bildea was, however, the only one who said that when the UFO appeared the rain instantly ceased, and that, as soon as the object had finally gone, the rain started up again, just as suddenly, and this time heavy rain. And there was one other thing: he said he had the impression that at one point one of the beams *had bent itself*, and had remained like that for several seconds.

The Meter showed that Energy was still being consumed while the Flow of Electricity was interrupted...

All the witnesses, without exception, said that the object had appeared several times and that each time the electrical current had gone off simultaneously. A little while after the object had vanished, the electric lights in the villages had gradually come on again, and things had remained like that until the next appearance of the object.

The villagers said that next day someone had come from the Botosani Electricity Works to check the power supply-line, and had found no defect such as could explain why the fuses had blown during the night of October 20. Nevertheless, for two hours during that night, the staff of the Electricity Plant had been unable to keep control of the flow of current along the line of the Parish of Flaminzi. They explained that the interruption of the current had not been done by the Electricity Company. *Moreover, they said, the meter had continued to show, throughout, that energy was being consumed, even when the power was “off”.*

ANOTHER SIGHTING DURING THAT SAME NIGHT (20/21 OCTOBER 1990)

But another fantastic sighting occurred that same night in the city of CLUJ, Capital of the North-Western Region of Romania, and well-known already for its very numerous previous UFO sightings and excellent UFO photographs. A Cluj newspaper, “*Truth Liberated*” (original Romanian name not given. G.C.) published on November 3, 1990, a brief account

of this new sighting, and subsequently Mme. Monica Ghet, a reporter from the magazine *Screen* (translated title. G.C.) came and, in the presence of Dr. Savel Cheptea (a lecturer at the Cluj University) made a tape-recording of the statements of a witness, Mr. Baghiu Ioan, a retired railway train driver.

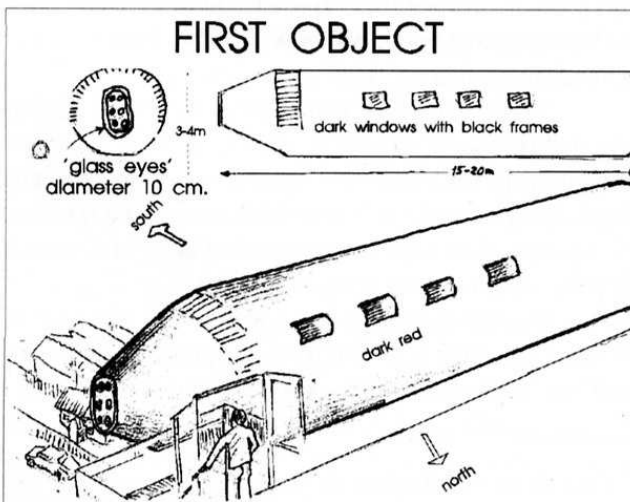
Statement of Eyewitness Baghiu Ioan

“At about 2.30 a.m., during the night of October 20/21, I woke up, and went to the kitchen to smoke a cigarette. As I stood at the window, I noticed several “stars” which were flashing, above the western suburb of Manastur, at an altitude that I calculated to be about 2,000-3,000 m. Looking more attentively, I was able to establish that, within the contours of a rounded framework, there were some 18 to 20 small yellow lights flashing. At the base of the rounded contour there was a larger point of yellow light intermittently emitting a beam of very intense orange light.

Fascinated, I stood watching this phenomenon until about 4.00 a.m. During this interval, I awakened my wife and my daughters, but only the eldest daughter came to the window to watch the phenomenon for a few minutes. I also drew the matter to the attention of my neighbour on the next floor above, Mme. Aurora Balaj, as I heard her moving around in her kitchen.

After 3.00 a.m. I had moreover begun to observe a second luminous phenomenon, and this one closer to our multi-storey block of flats. This second phenomenon consisted, as it were of two lights, bluish and violet-coloured, like fluorescent tubes, from which very powerful cone-shaped beams of light were coming down towards the ground. The phenomenon lasted only for a few minutes.

Then later on, after 4.00 a.m., I was totally astounded by the appearance, right beside my 8th-floor balcony, of a very large cylindrical object which glided slowly and silently past. This thing was of a dark red colour and had no lights. It was more than 15 m. long. I had an excellent view of it. owing to the public street lighting below. At the tip of the front part of it, which



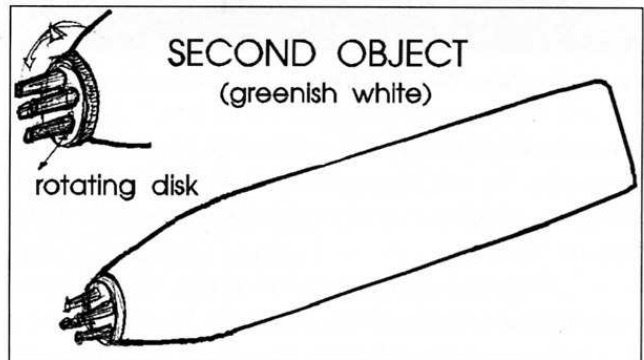
was right by my balcony, I could see the vertical face with a cross-section diameter of about 70 cms. or so. On this face, there were six “glass eyes”, like lenses, of a dark hue (like six magnifying-glasses, each of a diameter of about 10 cms.).

The large “cylinder” had a diameter of about three to four metres. (Two men standing, one above the other, could have fitted into it.) I was also able to distinguish four dark windows, with black frames.

The “cylinder” remained there, close to my balcony, for about two minutes. I did not feel afraid, but I did not dare to go out onto the balcony. After that, the large object moved back, wobbling slightly but still totally silent, and vanished.

After it had gone, I did go out onto the balcony, but there was now nothing to be seen.

But then, after a while *another object* appeared near my balcony! Although it was of the same size as the first one, it was definitely another one, because its colour was a greenish-white. It had no windows. At its tip (seen as a large round section with a dark rim), were four tubes resembling reporters’ telephoto lenses.



These tubes, along with the entire frontal plate, were rotating slowly. And this second “cylinder” was poised at an oblique angle in the air - I think at about 45°.

This second object also did not remain near my balcony for very long.

I picked up the telephone and called to my neighbour Bura, but there was no answer.

This second “cylinder” had also glided backwards before vanishing.

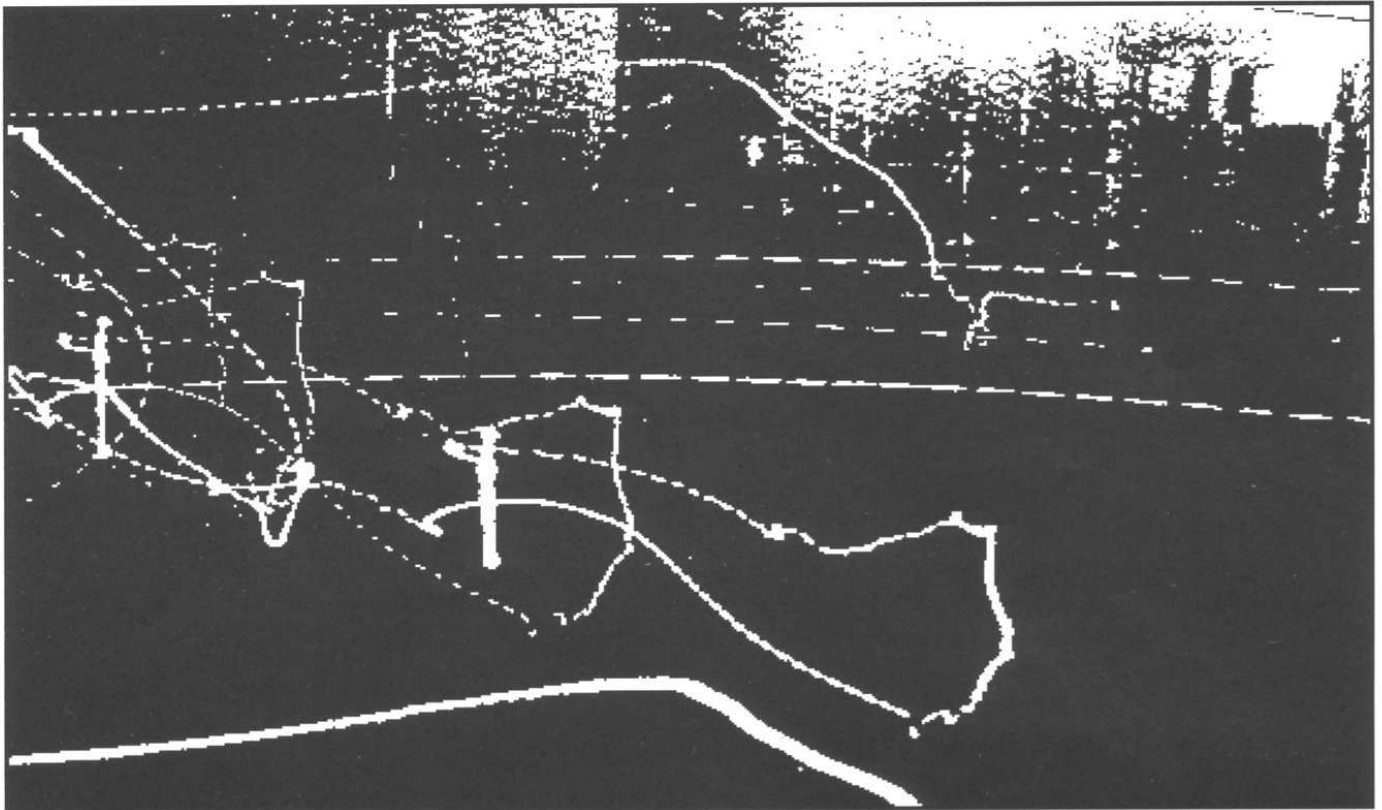
Stepping out later onto my balcony for the last time, I observed six lights moving away slowly northwards, towards the Baci Forest.

The time was 5.20 a.m.

More than a month later there came another night-sighting, also accompanied by a power failure. This time it was in the Parish of Dolhesti, 40 kms. to the south-east of the town of Iasi. Here is the report of it that appeared in the local newspaper “Opinia” on December 8, 1990:-

UFO at Dolhesti

One night, before dawn (a few minutes after 4.00 a.m.) the staff of an enterprise were alarmed by the sudden interruption of their electric lighting. On going to see whether there might be some defect with the current-intake, they observed a powerful light over in



'Faked' photo No. 2, IASI, N.E. Romania, evening of July 22, 1975. (Taken inside an apartment)

the area of Crasnita. They went up on a nearby hill and were able to see an oval object about 10-12 m. in diameter, which was emitting a cold, white light like a sodium lamp.

The same description was given, slightly later, by a villager who was awakened by the barking of dogs. According to other villagers, the object was also seen by some men who were at the bus-station waiting for the bus to Iasi.

Later in the day, about 1.00 p.m., villagers claimed that the electric current had once more faded out slowly "like it does when the theatre lights go dim", but had come on again 20 minutes later without any total stoppage.

FOOTNOTES BY AUTHOR

See:

FSR No. 6/1969

FSR CASE HISTORIES No 13/1973.

FSR No. 1/1976.

* ADDITIONAL NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR

The full list of Florin Gheorghita's articles in FSR is as follows:-

1. "Flying Saucers Over Cluj, Romania" In FSR 15/6, (1969)
2. "High Altitude Objects Over Romania". In FSR Case Histories" (Supplement 13), (1973)
3. "Weird 'Flying Globe' Photographs in Romania". In FSR 22/1, (1976).
4. "A Note on 'Pulsed Light-Tracks'". In FSR 29/6, (1984).
5. See also my note, *An Important Revelation Regarding 'Pulsed Light-Tracks'*", in FSR 30/4, (1985), in



'Faked' photo No. 1. IASI , N.E Romania, 6.10 a.m, December 10, 1976. (Taken on a street)

which I commented as follows:-

"We now learn from Colin and Janet Bord that this piece (i.e. No. 4 (G.C.)) is a fraudulent concoction, and it seems that not only Gheorghita but I too have had a hand in the hoax.

So far we have heard from no other readers about this 'fraud', except from Mr. J.H.G. Allsop of Rayleigh, Essex, who also objects most strongly and says: "Such articles of mis-information have no place in a publication whose controversial subject demands that its credibility be above reproach."

Doubtless other readers would also like to avail themselves of the opportunity to expatiate on this hoax, and we look forward to printing the best of their comments. *- G.C.

*(We were vouchsafed no further pearls of wisdom)

USEFUL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

For those who care to know such matters, it may be illuminating to learn that in Romanian a UFO is an OZN - G.C.

“I WAS TWO METRES FROM THE SIDE OF THE CONTRAPTION!”

By Michel Morel-Seythoux and Joël Mesnard

(Translation from French. G.C.)

We are greatly indebted to Joël Mesnard, Editor of the French UFO journal *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, for this fascinating case, reported by him in *LDLN* No. 305 (September/October 1990). EDITOR.

Cases of the so-called “Close Encounters of The Third Kind” (as well as “Landing Cases”) have become relatively rare over the past twelve years. They are unquestionably less numerous now than they were in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. However, they have not disappeared totally from the scene. And here is an example that is scarcely five years old.

The existence of this case was discovered by Michel Morel-Seythoux during an *LDLN* enquiry into the events of the evening of November 5, 1990 (massive UFO sightings throughout large areas of France). Subsequently, with the eyewitness as our guide, we made an investigation of the affair, at the site itself, on Sunday, February 24, 1991.

Strangely enough, the happening took place at a place which will bring back memories for the older readers of *LDLN*, for it was at *Ménétrux-en-Joux* (Sometimes written *Ménétru*), near the Hérisson waterfalls in the Jura region (Eastern France). One needs to walk but 20 m. or so from the site of this event, before glimpsing the Valley, in the depths of which can be clearly seen the spot known as Valdessus, and the fish-farm that was the scene of a UFO near-landing at about 4.20 pm. on November 2, 1972. (See the investigation report on this case by Jean Tyrode in *LDLN* No. 124 (April 1973), which was translated by me in 1973 and published as “UFO With A Taste For Fish”, in *FSR* 20/6, 1975. EDITOR. *FSR*.)

Monsieur César Locatelli, the protagonist of this story, is now aged 73. He was formerly a woodcutter, and then later a truck-driver. He is also a beekeeper of great experience, and it was on this account that, at about 4.00 a.m. one morning early in June 1986 (possibly June 20), he came to have an extraordinary adventure.

A little while previously, not far from the precipice from which one looks down on Val-Dessus, he had spotted a swarm of wild bees, and he was planning to catch them. Now of course one cannot safely proceed to make a capture in such cases except when the bees are asleep. And that is why, on the morning in question, he had arisen so early.

He had turned off the Ilay-Ménétrux road (D39) at the spot known as “*Tournant de la Dame*”, and was now driving in his 4L through the undergrowth, southwards, towards the Valley.

It is an area that he knows like the back of his hand, and he had the habit, when getting back on to the

road, to drive around a certain bush on his right, thereby avoiding the necessity to make a U-turn. The terrain there is favourable for vehicle manoeuvre, though, properly speaking, there is no actual road. One can scarcely detect traces of the passage of any vehicle there, and anyway one would truly have to be a native of the area to venture there in a car.

So, having gone two or three hundred metres underneath the trees, César Locatelli found himself close to where the swarm of bees was. He did his right turn, to go around the bush, and then it was that, suddenly, he “*discovered the thing*”. “You’d have said they were Monks...”

He was already driving dead slowly of course (as it was hardly dawn yet) and then _ he comes to a stop.

Barring the way ahead of him, and standing partly on the ground and partly on a big stone, there was an enormous transparent object lit from within by a bluish light. It was by means of this light that he was able to make out, inside the thing, six personages, of slightly less than normal human height (1 m.50 or 1 m.60). These personages were wearing white tunics reminiscent of the robes of monks, and the cowls covering their heads came down low over the front, hiding their faces. They were all standing around a sort of table (possibly oval) and were clearly bent over it.



Scared, Locatelli tried to reverse and make a get-away as rapidly as possible. But his engine was dead. He does not know whether this was due to his own emotional state or due to the phenomenon. He was however able to hear “*as it were, a sound like a high-tension line, a bit more high-pitched*”. He switched on the ignition again, and the engine started at once. As he made off, he threw a leftward glance at the thing. One of the beings now seemed to have moved away from the others. He was now bent forward slightly,