

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS OF SPANISH UFO CASES

R-B. Guérard y Holmes

IN July 11, 1974, I attended a meeting of the group called ERIDANI. We discussed, among other themes, the following cases, about which, I am sorry to report, some are obviously false. Details of the individual cases were sent by me to FSR some time ago, and have been edited into an article by Miss Buckle [*Spanish UFO Fiesta* — FSR Vol.20, No. 3 — ED.] while others may have appeared in your World Round-up columns.

Case No. 1: The youth (19), Carlos Alvarez, who took a picture in full colour of a UFO near Barajas Airport, here in Madrid, [Not published by FSR — ED.] The Secretary of ERIDANI, Sr. Enrique Villagrasa y Novoa, construction engineer in the Department of Public Works, in Madrid, interviewed the boy. He (Carlos Alvarez) proved most helpful and willingly submitted to any and all requests; he even offered to submit to a lie-detector test, willingly handed over to ERIDANI the camera with which he had taken the photo, and also the photo, but not the negative, which he said was lost. A test was made by taking another photograph at the same spot where he had taken the photo of the UFO, and it was proven mathematically that if the UFO were at a distance of 2 - 3 metres from the camera, at the distance from the ground the boy had claimed, then it could not have been more than 22 centimetres in length.

Then Carlos Alvarez found the negative and gave it to Sr. Villagrasa. The negative had been mutilated but was blown up in a photographic laboratory, to a size of 30 x 40 centimetres. It was then clear that there were two nearly invisible threads or wires extending from the top-left and top-right of the "UFO", which means that it was a toy hanging from something.

Armed with this evidence, Sr. Villagrasa and the Vice-President of ERIDANI (whose name I didn't get but who is an airlines pilot), went to confront young Alvarez and get his reaction. But much to their surprise, they discovered that he was in gaol! He was charged with use of drugs and homosexuality. So, this case has been deemed a fake — not because of his being in gaol or the charges against him, but in the face of the evidence.

Case No. 2: Santiago Pulido Romero, the farm-hand from Medellín (province of Badajoz). This case is suspect but nothing has been definitely decided as yet. A member of ERIDANI went to interview him personally, and it has been discovered that whilst the man enjoys a reputation of being hard-working and respectable, he is also known to be quite a "liquor-head", as he over imbibes. It is thought that this may have been an hallucination. When he is sober, he is said to be completely reliable, but when he is on the bottle, as it were, then this is something else again. No definite decision has been taken as



Pedro Jimenez, aged 13, who saw a UFO land in Jerez de la Frontera in March, 1974.

yet by ERIDANI, who continue to study the case.

Case No. 3: Juan Minguela Domínguez, the barber from Vigo, who on March 27, 1974 claimed he saw a UFO which frightened his hunting dogs, etc. (q.v.). This is also suspect. Sr. Villagrasa will travel to Vigo in August, on his summer holidays to interview this man and people who know him. Sr. Villagrasa says he believes that this is a complete fake, but will let me know his findings in September.

Case No. 4: Maximiliano Iglesias, the lorry driver from Lagunilla (province of Salamanca), who on the night of March 29, 1974 (q.v.) said he was chased by several humanoids.

This appears to be a true story, although this

young man refuses to talk to anyone, as he apparently has been intimidated. But he was interviewed by ERIDANI people who report that on the second day after the story broke in the press, Sr. Iglesias says two men appeared at his home claiming to be amateurs and wanting him to show them the exact spot where the incident had occurred.

They carried a geiger counter and tested 200 metres of ground where he said the UFOs had "parked" and it showed a high degree of radioactivity on the counter. Sr. Villagrasa says this is not unusual for that area, which is known to be highly radioactive due to certain mineral deposits there. The airline pilot (V.P. of ERIDANI) said this in itself is insufficient to make a judgement, as even so, the geiger counter could give a positive or negative reading as to whether or not the radioactivity in a given area was more or less than the general area, petering out where the extra-radioactivity ended. (I can add nothing to this, as I am totally ignorant of such technical knowledge.)

The general opinion is that this young man told the truth; but he is still under study.

Case No. 5: Adrián Sánchez Sánchez, 32, the travelling salesman (women's purses) from Sevilla. He has been interviewed and examined and his story is considered as true and no doubts are entertained by ERIDANI. Moreover, a farmer, who raises cattle nearby the spot where Sr. Sánchez says he saw the UFO "parked" on the side of the road, states that his cattle had been acting up and were nervous all during that same time. He had never seen them in such a state before and was at a loss to explain it. Now he thinks maybe it was due to the presence of the UFOs.

Case No. 6: The wee lad, Pedro Jiménez Aguilar, from Jerez de la Frontera (province of Cádiz). No question here either. His story holds up under all tests and he seems to be a nice, well-behaved, rational little boy. I am enclosing a photo of him, in case you are interested.

I have kept up a running correspondence with the boy, Pedro Jiménez Aguilar, and nothing varies, neither his writing nor his style, and I think him completely sincere.

I also believe that Adrián Sánchez Sánchez is truthful. I make these two judgements simply from my own home-spun psychology. For the same reason, I suspect the story of Medellín (Badajoz) — see Case No. 2, above. I get these "feelings" from the picture of Santiago Pulido Romero, who "looks" unreliable to me (which I admit is only a hunch, and "unscientific") and in the case of Sr. Sánchez, from the fact that he insisted that the Chief of the Civil Guard accompany him home.

In the case of the Infantry Major*, which I sent in to you recently, about the UFO in the Guadarrama Mountain Range, province of Madrid, his story is unquestionably true. He voluntarily submitted to questioning at ERIDANI headquarters, accompanied them to the spot where the UFO had posed on the side of the mountain and physical evidence was seen, plus the fact that he is a Major

in the Spanish Army, which in itself, is sufficient to believe him. To understand this, you would have to know these people. But no-one entertains any doubt about this story. It also coincides with a witness I know personally.

* This case will appear in our next issue—Editor.

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REMARKABLE ENCOUNTER AT DRAGUIGNAN

J. Chasseigne

The old town of Draguignan has been the scene of several UFO reports in recent years. We are indebted to the Editor of the excellent journal *Lumières dans la Nuit** for permission to reproduce this most interesting report, which is taken from LDLN issue No. 132 (February 1974). Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

IF this case is not some supremely well-mounted hoax — and I certainly do not think it is — then it must certainly be, so far as I know, one of the most sensational of recent years. Here are the broad facts of the affair:

PHASE I

At about 8.30 p.m. on Friday, October 19, 1973, a young Draguignan man, Gabriel Demogue, and his girl friend, were travelling on his motor-bicycle on a road leading up to the top of a small mountain known as le Malmont, which lies a few kilometres to the north of Draguignan. The height of the peak is 507 metres, and one has a remarkable view up there as far as the Mediterranean, and towards St.-Raphael as well as towards les Maures du Sud, the mountains lying behind, to the north, and the Canjuers Plateau. Thanks to the gentle *mistral* wind blowing down from the North-East, the sky is clear, and the young lovers propose to continue their sentimental outing as far as the panorama-table standing at the lookout-point near the summit and indicating the positions and directions of the various scenic features round about.

Suddenly, away towards her left, the girl sees an extremely vivid orange-yellow ball, surrounded by a lighter-coloured halo, travelling on the same course as their own motor-bicycle. The halo is not homogeneous in colouring, and seems to be revolving around the orange ball. The young couple are at this stage still more than a kilometre from the summit. They stop and watch the object, which is now slowly moving from West to East at no great height and seemingly not very far from them, perhaps some 500 or 600 metres, as they estimate. The apparent size of the central ball is comparable to the size of a melon. It appears to be flying above the southern face of the Malmont and then vanishes beyond the crest, leaving behind it a red glow which is visible through the trees. The girl is loth to go on, and Gabriel takes her back to her home in Draguignan. Then he meets a friend, to whom he tells his story. This second boy, whom I have not yet managed to interview, is a member of a small group of young people who are interested in UFOs. He contacts his comrades, and they all decide to go and make an investigation on the spot.

PHASE II

They set forth in two cars, the first an R8 driven by Alain Leca, his passenger being the second

boy whom I have not yet met. The other car, a Fiat 128 driven by Georges Macret, has Christian Bensa as the passenger. They reach the panorama-table via the very narrow road leading up to it, and before they alighted they turn both cars round so as to be ready for the descent, and switch off their lights. Then they gather near the panorama-table, where there are a couple of benches for visitors.

As soon as their eyes have grown accustomed to the darkness, they notice first of all a diffuse white glow on the top of the Malmont, some 80 metres or so from where they are standing at the panorama-table. Then their ears detect strange sounds which seem to be coming from that glow. We have been unsuccessful in finding a satisfactory way in which to describe these sounds, but let us say that the nearest thing to the reality would be to compare them with the noise of radio interference. Not one of those who heard that strange concert has managed to give a very exact description of it.

At that same moment Georges Macret, who is stooped over the panorama-table, feels the table suddenly grow hot and feels as it were a wave of heat passing through him. His companions likewise detect an almost instantaneous rise in the temperature of the surrounding air.

Then they see a red light below the white glow at the summit. This red light begins to descend the stony track leading down from the summit to the panorama-table, and as it does so they hear, quite distinctly, the sound of pebbles being displaced, as though someone very heavy is coming down the track.

The four friends start to feel ill at ease. Georges Macret, Christian Bensa, and the third youth take cover behind a low wall downhill from the panorama-table, and Alain Leca lies down at full length on one of the benches set around the table.

From these positions they watch the red light come down the path, and they notice that it is moving in unison with a dark silhouette which they estimate to be 3 metres high. Let us say, at any rate, that this shadowy figure of human appearance was over 2 metres in height. During all this time, the modulated whistle heard by them at the outset still continues.

Slowly pursuing its way, the silhouette reaches a

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