

UFO OVER SEA CAUSES SURGE OF TIDAL WAVES

A remarkable report of near drowning and paralysis from Togo, West Africa

Joël Mesnard

We are much indebted to the Editor and Consultative Bureau of the *Groupement d'Etude de Phénomènes Aériens (GEPA)** for their special permission to reproduce this report, which appeared originally in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No.47 of March 1976.

Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

MONSIEUR A.W., a Frenchman who was on vacation in [the former French colony of] Togo, [usually known to English readers as Togoland, in West Africa,] claims to have been one of the two eyewitnesses to an extremely interesting UFO phenomenon which occurred on March 29, 1974.

On the evening of March 28 he was with a Togolese lady. Between 11.00 p.m., and 1.00 a.m. in the morning of March 29, they were bathing in the sea at a spot a few kilometres to the east of the large tourist hotel Tropicana, which stands on the shore some two or three kilometres to the east of the town of Lomé. After their bath, they sat for some time on the sloping beach beneath a grove of coconut trees. The night was very dark, and the sky clear and full of stars.

At 1.45 a.m., just as they were about to return to the hotel, they heard a high-pitched whistling sound, quite painful to the ears, coming from the direction of the sea. Then they beheld a dark object coming in towards them over the water. And, when it was at a distance of some 200 or 300 metres from them, it halted, and hung there, facing them. The spot where they were was dry sand, but suddenly a huge wave struck them.

A "hole" in the sea, and a mini-tidal wave

Their immediate fear was that they would be unable to fight their way back through the water to the beach, but fortunately A.W. was able to get his right arm round one of the coconut trees while holding the African girl in his left. All around them and beneath their feet they now felt the surge of a series of powerful waves lashing the shore, whereas only a moment before the sea had been 50 metres from the slope where they were sitting!

Suddenly three powerful lights appeared on the object and dazzled them. These lights resembled searchlight beams, and were directed at them. From the sides of the machine there were also other beams of light, and possibly from the upper surface too, as well as from the rear side which was hidden from them. Some of the light beams seemed to be projected upwards into the air, although Monsieur

A.W. is unable to be categorical on this point, being too much blinded by the three beams directed straight towards the shore. He states that the predominant colour of the light beams was white, but there were also yellow, pink and greenish-blue ones.

A.W. was wearing glasses, which were slightly darkened and corrective, and what struck him most particularly was the blue and green shades on the water illuminated by the beams from the machine. The most interesting detail related by him refers however to the state of the surface of the sea underneath the hovering UFO: the water was not level there, but hollowed out in the form of a basin, which he estimated to be some five metres or maybe even six metres deep. The width of this basin was comparable to the width of the object itself, that is to say in the range of from 25 to 30 metres.

Paralyzed by the beams of light

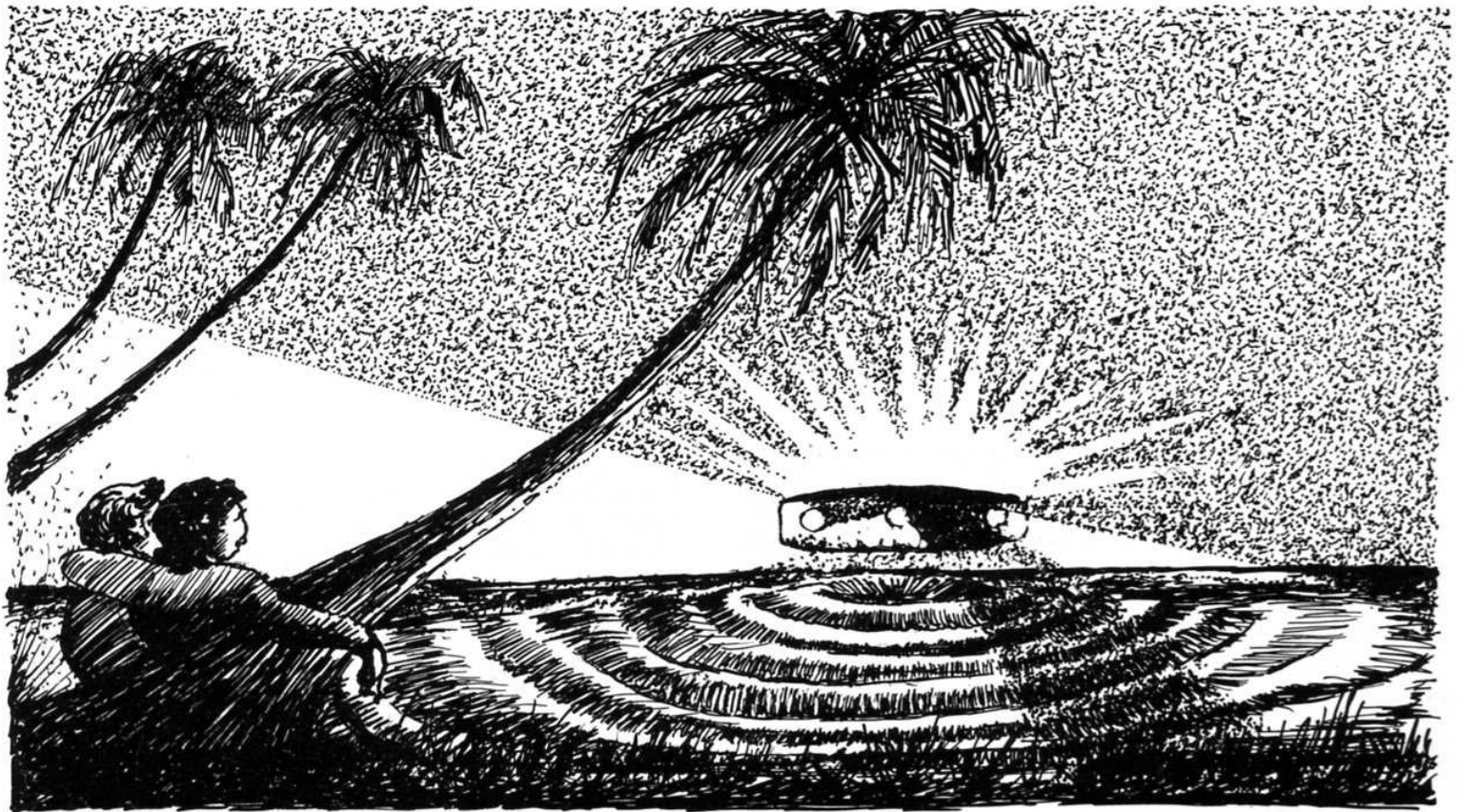
The two percipients remained where they were, hanging on to the coconut palm, their legs still in the water. But what held him there, paralyzed, was not merely astonishment or fear. In the opinion of A.W. the beams of light had something to do with it. There was also a temperature change, for whereas before the appearance of the UFO the air had been just warm and pleasant, the heat within the beam of light from the projectors was now terrifying. The sweat was pouring from both of them.

Departure of the object

Then, suddenly, the air felt fresher again, and the object was now moving off out to sea, very fast, but still at the same height above the water. Then its lights went out, and it was gone from sight. The sky overhead was black once more, and the sea had regained its normal appearance. According to A.W.'s waterproof watch the time was now 2.05 a.m. The phenomenon had consequently lasted about twenty minutes.

The two eyewitnesses made their way back to the hotel and went their ways. Both of them were still feeling pain in the ears as a result of the whistling note made by the UFO. Monsieur A.W. asked his lady friend to keep the affair to herself and tell nobody of what they had seen. He was afraid he

* GEPA, and *Phénomènes Spatiaux* address: 69 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14, France.



The object and the "basin" in the sea beneath it. (After a sketch by the witness.)

might be taken for a madman and of maybe even being thrown into gaol.

Subsequent effects felt by A.W.

Next morning, A.W. awoke in a dazed condition, with a sensation of "lightness, emptiness." And on the second day he was overcome by an inexplicable sleepiness that caused him to flop on to his bed "like a sack of potatoes." He slept for three hours or so, and then awoke with pains in the head which at once alarmed him. So he went down to the hotel desk, where the receptionist gave him two tablets which soon made him feel better.

In the course of the next few days, he fainted several times, and for a long time continued to feel what he regarded as unquestionably the effects of his strange experience. He is obviously a person of a calm and stable nature, but since that night he has felt very "nervy." He has spells of giddiness and dizziness, and momentarily the impression that he is being suffocated, and has spasms of pain. The condition is gradually improving, but when I met Monsieur A.W., which was almost two years after his UFO sighting, it was still troubling him. We have of course unfortunately no knowledge of what possible long-term effects his Togolese lady friend may have suffered.

Monsieur A.W. is not a man who is particularly interested in the problems evoked by UFO apparitions. However, some time after his adventure in Togoland, he had a further sighting, when he watched a ball of blue fire with a red trail pass overhead near Thionville.

A few months after his Togo experience he told his story in confidence to some friends, and they advised him to report the case to GEPA and they gave him our address, with the result that he sent a pretty detailed account of the affair to us. In February, 1976, I met Monsieur A.W. and his testimony struck me as both sincere and disinterested. In particular I noted that he made no attempt to offer any explanation for the phenomenon that he had observed, and confined himself to giving as objective a description of it as possible.

Distortion of the surface of the sea

Two features in A.W.'s story are of great interest to anyone who attempts to speculate concerning the physical phenomena likely to accompany the apparition of UFOs: these are his account of the "basin" hollowed out in the sea beneath the UFO, and of the surge of the water right up the sloping beach to where he was sitting. Given the conditions in which he found himself, it is not possible for him to give any very precise description of what the "basin" would have looked like in cross-section, or, in particular, of its bottom. But he is at any rate able to give its diameter, which he estimates at thirty metres or thereabouts, corresponding to his estimate of the width of the object itself, which was suspended a few metres — maybe ten metres or so — above the surface of the sea, and he gives his estimate of its depth as in the neighbourhood of five metres. One is led inevitably to compare this with

(Continued on back cover)

UFOs AND MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

PART 2: UFO SIGHTINGS IN PUERTO RICO

Sebastion Robiou Lamarche

Our contributor, Sr. Robiou, a Puerto-Rican engineer, sent us the illustrations used in Part I of this article. The text, however, has been taken from the Spanish journal *Stendek** (Nos. 22 and 23 of December 1975 and May 1976). Translation by Gordon Creighton.

THE first of the cases with which we will deal took place in January, 1975. The witness failed to give the precise date. Señora A.A. (she wishes to remain anonymous) was asleep in her home in the Garden Hills sector of San Juan when she was suddenly awakened by a strange sound. It was a powerful intermittent hum, accompanied by another constant hum which appeared to be of lower frequency. The electric fan in the bedroom suddenly stopped. Alarmed at this, Sra A.A. took the daughter who was sleeping with her, collected her other child, and they all went to another room and shut themselves in.

A few moments later, the loud hum stopped and the electric fan started up again. Sra A.A. had seen nothing. She had merely heard the hum, which scared her.

A few days later, in the patio of her house, near the swimming pool, her gardener found three strange marks forming a triangle. Around that time she also learned that on the same night when she had heard the weird hum, the family in the house next door had seen an intensely bright light above the palm tree in front of the house. The light itself was not unbearably bright, but it had other lights, green and red, with it and it seemed to have "bright holes" in it. This strange light had remained there for about ten minutes and then moved away and disappeared from view in the west.

This case has been the subject of intensive investigation. The three marks found in the patio were three inches deep and four inches wide, and formed an equilateral triangle with each side measuring 44 inches. Engineer Oscar Hernandez of the Foundation Engineering Laboratories made a profound study on the spot and in his laboratory, covering all aspects of the terrain. As a result of his study, he was able to establish that an average weight of around 14,190 lbs. would have been required to produce such holes on that type of soil. So far, no grass has grown again on the areas where the marks were, despite the fact that no signs of burning were detected there. Likewise no signs of abnormal radioactivity were detected in the area.

The next case was on January 12, 1975, when Señor Pedro Vega Avilés stated that he had seen three objects "brighter than the stars" travelling southwards in a zigzag motion near San Sebastián at about 5.30 a.m.

* Address: Stendekcei, P.O. Box 282, Barcelona, Spain.

Moca

On March 12, when the reports of mysterious deaths of animals at Moca had already begun, a farm worker from Moca named Luis Torres Aldaondo, and his son and daughter-in-law plus eight neighbours, all saw, passing overhead at tree-top height at about 9.30 p.m. "something that looked like a Police screen, of various colours, and spinning like a top." Then it suddenly began to rise as it moved off eastwards. The witnesses said it looked as though made of "shining silver" ... and that it was "bigger than the house." They said they heard "a faint whistling noise." The sighting lasted but a few seconds before the object was lost to sight among the clouds.

On March 21, just a few days after the mysterious killings of goats which we have already described, and when there had already been a dozen or so of similar cases, a party of witnesses, Señor Carlos Santiago and his wife and one of their daughters, were driving in their car when they observed a UFO which passed at great speed and very low over the El Mamey district of Moca. The object appeared to be "incandescent" and was soon out of sight. On March 24, Dr. Juan Sánchez Acevedo, a well known Moca physician and the local president of one of the political parties, was at work in his study at about 12.00 p.m. when he heard a "shaking, juddering" noise as though from something in the air. He described the sound as like a long drawn-out "ruum" ... "and stronger than an earthquake". The vibration caused the doors to rattle and his car to shake. Dr. Sánchez Acevedo at once wakened his wife, but by then the noise had moved away and seemed to be fading out. They saw nothing.

Round about the same period in March, three witnesses, Arnaldo Rullán, Carlos Rullán, and Alexis Fernández, reported having found "an area of flattened reeds, circular, as though some heavy flat-shaped object had settled there." And elsewhere in the same town of Moca, at the sports-field, while they were watching a game of soft-ball, three witnesses, Teodoro Quiñones Muñiz, Norberto Méndez, and Jorgo Ramos, saw "a greenish-blue disc descending from the sky". They then saw it perform a sharp turn and move off rapidly towards the east. (The date of these last two happenings have not been established.)

During the days that followed, various witnesses said they had seen a weird bird at various places in