

UFO SURVEY OF SPAIN: MORE EVIDENCE

by Antonio Ribera

AS promised in the July-August 1962 issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, I am now in a position to publish the orthotenic map of Spain, showing the deliberate survey to which the Iberian Peninsula was submitted, with a special stress on the Spring "wave" of 1950. I have been able to complete this research, thanks to the new leads on orthotenic given to me by Jacques Vallée, whose words I quote again: "... there is no reason why the day of 24 hours should be the only basis, even if this seems to play a particular role in periods of great activity." (See the March-April issue, containing the article by Vallée.)

The results were most surprising and revealing. In France, the "dispersion points" where the "mother ships" stationed themselves in order to send in all directions the "scout ships" following straight lines (orthotenic), where preferably in the mainland, due to the geographical shape of France and its relative lack of a long coastline. Accordingly, the ideal spot to situate a "mother ship," in France, is around its geographic centre (cf., for instance, the orthotenic network of October 7, 1954, in Aimé Michel's work *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*). In this case, the "mother ship" was above Montlevic, very near the geographic centre of France and from where the radial orthotenic could reach to practically every corner of French metropolitan territory. But the examples of "dispersion centres" near the geographical centre of France are common in Michel's work.

In Spain, however, a country which with Portugal has several thousand kilometres of coastline and a generally square shape (Spain is known of old as the "bull's skin"), it was more convenient and practical to put the dispersion centres along the coast, in four or five well-chosen spots, from which they could cover all Spain with a network of orthotenic. And so (see map), these spots were in a counter-clockwise direction beginning from the south: Algeciras (most important centre of dispersion); Entroncamento, in Portugal; the twin points Santiago and La Coruña, in Galicia; Gijón or Grado; Algorta (Bilbao) and Altos de Gainchurizqueta; Algallón (Huesca) and

Borredá-Vic (the only points not in the coastline); a point between Majorca and Ibiza (meant to cover the depression or concavity of the coast between Barcelona and Gandia; a place offshore was needed here, and, most extraordinarily, we had it!); Gandia itself and Murcia are secondary points.

Several things become immediately obvious: They have, as deliberately, left out two geographical zones: Algarve (Portugal) and Extremadura (Spain), both in the S.W. of the Peninsula. Also, the Pyrenees. Why? The former are quite deserted zones, of no interest whatsoever. As to the latter, the Pyrenees are a mountain range uninhabited in the most part. On the other hand, note that the most important Spanish and Portuguese towns have been surveyed: Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Valencia, Santiago, La Coruña, Gijón, Salamanca, Burgos, Oporto, and so on. Also, a special stress has been put on military places, as the Villafría airfield (Burgos); Gibraltar (Algeciras); Zaragoza (military airfield); Sarreal and Vimbodí (Reus military airfield near there); La Coruña (Navy base), etc. Everything, then, points to an intelligent, deliberate survey of the Peninsula, made because of its special geographic characteristics.

An important sighting

All the sightings were found in the Spanish press of the epoch, and all belong to the Spring, 1950, wave, with the exception of a sighting of La Coruña dated January 30, 1962, and the important sighting of the Balearic Islands, dated June 17, 1953. This sighting is most important, and I am going now to explain it, along with some other important Spanish sightings:

At the end of June, 1953, hundreds of people saw both from Majorca and Ibiza a bright object, still at a great height in the sky. Some officers of a coast battery triangulated its height, which was of some 45 kilometres. To the naked eye, it had an oval shape; seen through binoculars, it looked arrow-shaped. It was first seen by some Ibizan fishermen on June 17 at 5 p.m. The following days it was visible from two p.m. to

some time after the sunset, as a bright object in the sky. It went through all the changes in coloration which underwent the clouds at the sunset, proving that it was a solid object, capable of reflecting the sunshine.

It was exactly on the vertical of the Strait of Ibiza, between this island and Majorca.

Gonzalo Rubinos Ramos, official driver of the Jefatura Provincial del Movimiento, was in a state of great excitement and fear when he arrived at La Coruña from Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), on the night of November 6, 1954. He said that in a place called "Curva del Obispo" (Bishop's Bend), his car stalled, his lights went out and then he saw a big, glowing, reddish thing near the road. After a while, the thing went up with a soft explosion. This happened at 10.40 p.m. Very upset, the Señor Rubinos Ramos climbed into his car, where he prayed for a long time before resolving itself to go to La Coruña.

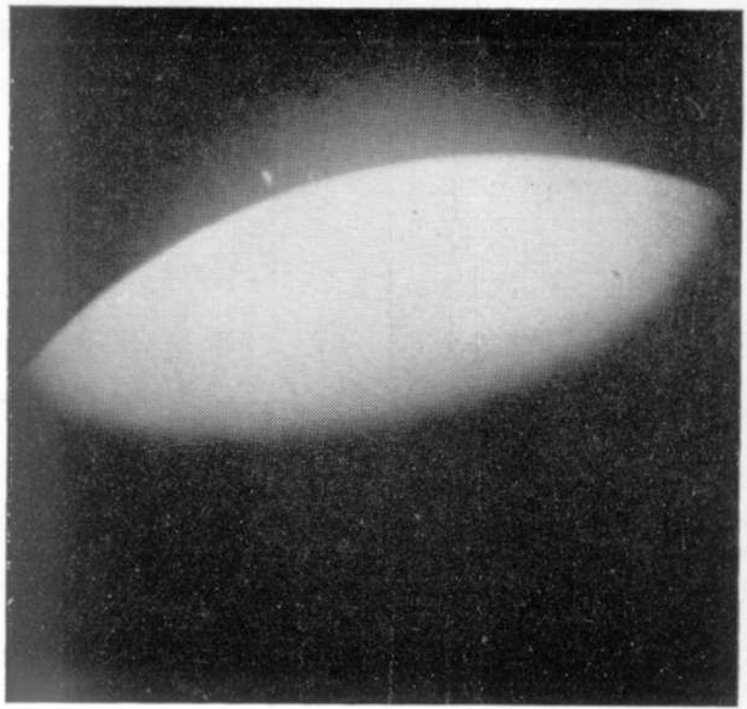
At the time, Sr. Rubinos Ramos was generally ridiculed (however, he being a very reputable man), but some time ago one of my correspondents, Don Oscar Rey, chief radioman in the Radiotelegraphic Station in La Coruña, wrote me that *exactly* at the same time that Rubinos had his strange encounter, their radio set had the greatest interference and static noise they had ever heard. Was it caused by the magnetic field of the "saucer"? Maybe. (The "Bishop's Bend" is 42 kilometres from La Coruña and its wireless station.)

A strange object

About the same time that hundreds of people in Majorca and Ibiza saw a strange object in the skies during several days, all the inhabitants of El Provencio, Cuenca, observed a strange circular object, still at a great height. It looked like the full moon; it was whitish, with a silvery edge and very luminous. Suddenly, it changed its position, turning sidewise. In this position it looked like a flat disc, with a small bump in the centre. Don Manuel Carlos Ruiz Schick took two photographs of the object with a Robot camera, similar to those used by the Luftwaffe during the war.

The "spaceship" remained at a very great height above El Provencio from 7 a.m. until mid-day. It seemed to follow the rotation movement of Earth. One of the Schick photographs is reproduced here. This happened on June 26, 1953.

Between the end of October, 1959, and the beginning of March, 1960, there were a series of sightings in the East Vallés (region of Barcelona) which we consider most important. The witnesses, in some of them, numbered hundreds, but only one of them had the courage, the method



One of Schick's photographs referred to in the text.

and the interest necessary to note them down and keep a record of them.

This exceptional witness was the owner of a farm in the hamlet of Las Franquesas, near the town of Granollers. This man was Josep Ganduixer who is a strong, level-headed countryman of about 40, and his farm—Mas Cabrit—is situated on top of a small hill, from which one can see a wide expanse of land, from the Pyrenees north to the coastal range east and the Montseny and Montserrat mountains. Ganduixer gets up very early in the morning—usually at half-past four—to feed the livestock, to milk the cows and to do other country chores, and this is a good reason why he was able to see these interesting sightings. Most of them were made just before the sunrise, when the sun rays lighted from under the "things," which shone like melted silver. Also, and similarly, other observations were made at sunset, and for the same reasons.

The sightings were quite all of big "mother ships," large silvery cylinders which shone dazzlingly before sunrise and after sunset. Ganduixer firmly believes that they shone so because of the metal they were made of. They were often very distant, cruising serenely over the Pyrenees or along the coast. They had to be enormous, to be seen from such a distance (sometimes in the order of 100 kilometres).

The sightings took place on October 24, 1959 ("mother ship" which cruised slowly over East Vallés, seen by scores of people like a silvery cylinder, first horizontal and then tilted at 45°

angle regarding the horizon); January 5, 1960 (four discs, tilted and absolutely still); February 20, 1960 (magnificent aerial ballet, with three "mother ships" and eleven discs, with two other nearer the witnesses); March 2, 1960 (saucer seen at sunset, dive-falling over Montserrat); and last sighting reported, March 15, 1960 (two discs parting at sunset, one northwards and the latter southwards).

The October 25, 1959, sighting caused an avalanche of letters and calls to newspapers and radio stations. Radio Barcelona commented on it several times, and the weather technicians did their best to transform the rigid, torpedo-shaped "mother-ship" into a common weather balloon. They didn't succeed, of course. As for the other sightings, Ganduixer was able to call other people as witnesses. These were his mother and sister, and also his labourers. At the same time, he took sightings putting stakes in the ground and drawing simple, elementary maps, as reproduced here. If we have to believe Ganduixer—and I, for one, believe him, since in my opinion he is an honest, truthful man, who has already gone through a lot of trouble among his neighbours due to his "sightings of strange things in the sky"—he is the only man alive who has seen such a number of extraterrestrial spaceships. Moreover, some of the details he gave me sounded authentic (for instance, the tilting of the big cylinders, the time of the sightings, and others similar to those observed in Oloron (France), and other places where big "mother ships" have been observed. Ganduixer, with his limited cultural background—he speaks and writes, very badly at that, only Spanish and Catalan—couldn't know these things. He is a simple, healthy countryman, to whom Fate chose to be a very exceptional witness of things not of this Earth.

The Orthotemies

And lastly, here is a brief list of the more important orthotemies marked on my map:

1. 3 points. 570 km. Algeciras—La Palma del Condado—Entroncamento.

2. 3 points. 1,100 km. Algeciras—Salamanca—Gijón.

3. 4 points. 1,160 km. Algeciras—Torredonjimeno—Zaragoza—Huesca.

4. 3 points. 720 km. Near Utrera—Torredonjimeno—Valencia.

5. 3 points. 910 km. Jaén—Villarta de San Juan—Altos de Gainchurizqueta.

6. 3 points. 1,035 km. Entroncamento—Villarta de San Juan—Gandia.

7. 4 points. 1,200 km. Vich—Huesca—Burgos (Villafría)—Altos del Odicio.

8. 3 points. 1,080 km. To Sierra de Tolono—Burgos—Algeciras.

These are the proven orthotemies, which have been carefully checked. A similar work is under way for the remaining ones, but I hope to have all of them verified, specially those centred between the Balearic Islands.

Summing up, we can say that we have two kinds of evidence regarding the UFO visitation of Spain, begun in the Spring, 1950: direct evidence (as represented by the witnesses' sightings) and indirect evidence (as represented by the orthotemies made using all the points where sightings were registered).

The direct evidence is very considerable. Owing to lack of space, only a few examples have been reproduced here; they could be called the Spanish "classics," but dozens of other interesting sightings could also be quoted. The indirect evidence looks foolproof; in this case the network adapted itself to the special geographic characteristics of Spain (as it did in France, the Mohgreb and Brazil, as the students of orthotemy in these countries, Aimé Michel, Jacques Vallée and Dr. Olavo Fontes, respectively, have demonstrated).

It would be very interesting to follow this study in other countries; gradually we should be able to gather material for a general orthotemic map of Earth. Maybe then we could guess what lies behind this seemingly military reconnaissance of our globe!

THE UFO SLEDGEHAMMER

by Wade Wellman

In the Spring of 1963, Dr. Menzel is publishing another book intended to debunk finally the flying saucers. The following article is, therefore, a timely reminder that despite his academic standing, Dr. Menzel is by no means infallible and, on several occasions, has displayed a closed mind when confronting the great mystery of the skies.

AMONG those scientists who deny that unidentified flying objects have an extra-terrestrial origin, none has been quite so vociferous as Dr. Donald H. Menzel, director of the Harvard University Observatory. Believers in the interplanetary theory have never found another opponent so dedicated, at least in the United States. Multiple questions arise as to why Dr. Menzel is so preoccupied with a subject in which he places no credence whatever. He has said that he feels it his duty to fight ignorance and superstition wherever he finds them, but the psychology probably lies a great deal deeper than this. I do not presume to explain it; perhaps Dr. Menzel himself could not given the real reason for his obsession with the topic.

Students of the UFO mystery should not allow his dogged opposition to blind them to the real facts about Menzel's astronomical stature. He belongs, I think, in any list of the top five astrophysicists in the United States, and his standing as a meteorologist is considerable. He has a strong interest in geophysics, and has travelled on scientific expeditions around the North Pole and Alaska. Mechanics and aeronautics interest him somewhat; he can fly an airplane though he isn't a licensed pilot. Intellectually and scientifically, he surely must be thought of as a most substantial person, and I only regret that no one can tap the psychology behind his attitude.

Dr. Menzel has not, in my opinion, seriously weakened public belief in the interplanetary theory, though I don't like to think of what might have happened to this viewpoint if, for instance, Dr. Einstein had denounced it as effusively as he has done. In the light of Menzel's great reputation (one which I take to be fully merited), his inability to damage the opposition may appear surprising. He has failed for several reasons: partly because he oversells his case, partly be-

cause his Harvard Press book was a careless job, and partly, I think, because of his independent mind. Working on his own responsibility, he has not given support to the military debunkers in this country; indeed, he has often opposed their theories, waging his peculiar crusade single-handed. This, for a man on the negative side, will not do, though his greatest opponent, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, has been remarkably successful in his one-man crusade for the positive view.

Dr. Menzel's independence has seldom been remarked upon, and is sometimes ignored completely. The suggestion is even advanced that he might be a tool of the military censors—a preposterous theory, as anyone will see upon reading the transcript of the Armstrong Circle Theatre broadcast for January 22, 1958. Menzel contested several Air Force positions on this programme, which Keyhoe describes in detail in his last book, *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*. During the interview Menzel argued strongly that the Air Force investigation should pay more attention to weather phenomena and ice crystals. He rejected the official explanation for the death of Captain Thomas Mantell. The Air Force has claimed that Mantell chased a skyhook balloon to his death; Menzel thinks a sundog the more likely explanation—a sundog which the flier termed “metallic and tremendous in size.”

On the Circle Theatre programme he quarrelled with the official saucer terminology. “They are often not even objects,” he said. “This is why I prefer the name ‘flying saucers’ rather than UFO, which implies that they are material or tangible.” He dismissed his opponents as “over-eager amateurs,” and even suggested that the Air Force dissolve Project Blue Book, the investigating project which has operated since 1948. “In my opinion, it's not the reports of flying