

WESSEX UFO RECORD.

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E D I T O R I A L

In "BUFORA JOURNAL" for the Winter of 1965 I ventured upon certain observations concerning what I dubbed, "The Psychological Saucer." With certain emendations I feel that my remarks may fitly be reproduced here, for the benefit of readers who may have been disturbed by my rejection, in previous issues of the "Record," of the spaceship explanation of UFOs.

I once received, for purposes of evaluation, a rather curious UFO report emanating from a middle-aged lady. So far as I recall the circumstances, she had encountered a flying object which made a noise like a Beethoven Symphony, smelled like a burnt kipper and looked like nothing on Earth or in the waters under the same!

This weird narrative posed a problem for me. The lady was not lying - even the most inept of liars would have come up with a story more plausible than this one. She was not, to judge from the ancillary details of the account, mentally unbalanced, in fact she impressed me as probably a very average, matter-of-fact individual. Yet how accept as fact, or even approximating to fact, a tale of an object so grotesque?

The end of the business was that I arrived at the conclusion that I was dealing with what has been called, "the psychological saucer." The lady almost certainly had seen a real airborne object of some kind, perhaps a meteorological balloon. She had been puzzled by what she saw and some obscure psychological mechanism had then operated in her mind and generated a most curious illusion. The balloon, or whatever it may have been, had triggered-off the whole affair.

One of the World's greatest psychologists, the late C.G.Jung, in his book, "Flying Saucers - A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies, " dealt exhaustively with the UFO from a psychological standpoint. He related it to the Realm of the Collective Unconscious and revealed its archetypal significance for Mankind. Jung's findings have been supplemented to some extent by the writings of a student of UFO phenomena in the United States, Tom Comella, who uses the pseudonym, "Peter Kor."

Jung and Comella see the UFO, psychologically considered, as a "Sign of the Times," in particular as symptomatic of the ever-widening

spiritual vacuum in which Modern Man dwells. Medieval Christianity looked for the End of the World in the Year 1,000. Before the dawn of that Year, visions of angels, demons and all kinds of supernatural prodigies bewildered and terrified believers. Today we have ceased to believe in the Supernatural for all practical purposes. Yet atomic, chemical and biological weapons, not to mention such evils as over-population and pollution of the environment, threaten us with a "Dies Irae" as drastic and unpleasant as anything ever imagined by the theologians.

The deepening crisis in World affairs - say Comella and Jung - has provoked an epidemic of visions like that experienced prior to the Year 1,000. Only, since this is an Age of Technology rather than of Theology, contemporary visionary manifestations assume the aspect of flying machines, in a word - UFOs!

For my part I think this is true, although not the whole of the truth, concerning the enigmatic UFO phenomenon. The UFO "rings a bell" deep within the human psyche. I think all students of UFOs know this, even those who pride themselves upon their scientific objectivity.

Comella will have it that all UFOs are psychological in nature, projections into the material world of some non-material Reality. His view cannot lightly be dismissed. A hypnotised man can "see" and "smell" and "touch" a rose which has no objective existence. Twenty or two hundred men, if hypnotised and given the appropriate suggestion, would similarly "see" and "touch" and "smell" the bloom, although a non-hypnotised man standing by would be incapable of apprehending its existence. Assuming that some powerful impulsion in the Collective Unconscious can generate in human minds illusions comparable with those experienced in hypnosis, it is possible to explain UFO sightings without recourse to any hypothesis of material flying-machines.

We cannot, of course, overlook UFO photographs, the physical effects and traces for which UFOs are alleged on occasion to be responsible and the class of UFO reports in which there is radar confirmation of visual sightings. It must be observed that physical and psychical manifestations are sometimes linked, as in cases of so-called poltergeists. It must also be pointed out that UFOs are not infrequently blamed for ground markings

which ought properly to be ascribed to such agencies as fungus, lightning strike or local whirlwinds. For that matter, if this planet has experienced several thousand extra-terrestrial visitations in the last thirty years, where are the wastes, the debris, even the wrecks, which might reasonably be assumed to result from so many missions from outer space?

Assuming that UFO phenomena are due to the activation of an archetype within the Collective Unconscious, I cannot believe that this has come about at random. I would rather ascribe it to the action of Intelligences higher in the scale of Being than earthbound Man, the majority of whom are concerned to combat the insidious Materialism which is currently undermining the foundations of civilised life. Let us recall that Alfred Russel Wallace, Darwin's great coadjutor in the development of the Theory of Organic Evolution, wrote of :

".... Those glorious qualities which raise us so immeasurably above our fellow animals and at the same time afford us the surest proof that there are other and higher existences than ourselves, from whom these qualities may have been derived and towards whom we may be ever tending."

WARMINSTER SIGHTINGS

We are grateful to Ian Scott of Bromley, Kent and Mon McClure of Kinson, Bournemouth for contributing the undermentioned details of the organised sky-watch at Starr Hill, Warminster on May 18th last.

The weather conditions were ideal, a mild night with the sky remaining clear until 1.45 a.m. when it became misty and overcast, clearing at 3 o'clock for only one hour.

Between 11.45 p.m. and 3.45 a.m. nineteen sightings were logged. Twelve of these objects were quickly identified as satellites because of their orbital paths and their appearance.

At 11.10 p.m. a satellite-like object, travelling from west to East, changed direction whilst in the area of the Plough and proceeded towards the Southern horizon. Contd. page II.

APRIL STARSHIPS AT STARR HILL AND IN SPAIN.

- Arthur Shuttlewood -

Including a cub mistress and two cub scouts from Southend-on-Sea, Essex, an observation group of 21 people assembled on Starr Hill in the farm barn area on Saturday, April 22nd, 1974. It was a clear, starlit night, ideal for viewing, the only mild discomfort coming from a fairly keen north-easterly breeze that made overcoats and flasks of hot coffee real blessings.....A quiet night was nonetheless memorable for no fewer than nine lighted objects were seen by every observer within the space of 45 minutes. The skywatch lasted from 8-30 to 11-40 p.m.; yet the advent of the nine glowing spheroids came in the tautly exciting period between 10.00 and 10.45 p.m. At one particularly striking juncture, there were three in the air at one and the same time, visible to all.

All the lighted objects traced the same aerial path over the barn, flying in the direction of Stonehenge from Glastonbury. One aeroform was seen through binoculars to be carrying a light at both fore and rear - green and red, respectively. The objects were a silvery-white in colour, their altitude difficult to assess with complete accuracy; but the majority were flying well below flecks of cloud at some 10,000 feet. All satellites? Very hard to credit especially when a trio of these glowing circles appeared in the sky simultaneously. Moreover, man-made satellites do not carry lights fore and aft! The aeroforms, noiseless and some speeding much faster than others, were like pearly buttons floating on high. Again through binoculars, those nearest to observers on the ground had a broad rim of bright light, then were opaque within except for the precise centre, which was a live jewel of brilliance. A few pulsed in flight - irregularly and intermittently.

Eight girl employees at Beswick's, the fuse-making factory in Fairfield Road, Warminster, saw a bright silver ball flash through the air as they were going to work at 7.50 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19th. One was Pauline Trubridge who was with her music teacher husband Christopher at the time. The apparent metallic object sped overhead in a southward direction - and a number of UFO reports flooded into the editorial offices of Spanish newspapers for days afterwards. I am grateful to

warminster nurseryman Jack Harraway, who now lives in Spain and is on the horticultural executive of the European Common Market, for sending me a rich assortment of news cuttings and clippings, together with his own translations into English.

With the headline "UFO sightings still persist," the Informacion Alicante of April 4th, 1974 tells us: "Sallent (Barcelona) 3rd April (CIFRA). A UFO appeared in the sky over Artes, near Manresa, some 1,000 metres high. It kept completely still for 10 seconds, emitting and intense light, then disappeared. It happened last Sunday at about 7.15 p.m. but the witness remained silent as he feared he would be ridiculed. The witness was Sebastian Junyent Montanya, aged 66, ex-deputy mayor, ex-major, ex-councillor and President of Fotoclub Sallent at the moment; and therefore someone worthy of respect and who enjoys a high reputation in the town.

"Senor Junyent was returning to Vich at about 7.15 p.m., listening to the football results on his car radio, when approaching Artes by Route No. 141 he was suprised by the extraordinary sight of a rectangular object some 40 metres wide and 20 metres high, with stripes in the centre of the rectangle, and incandescent red in colour. Before it went,, two motorists stopped to look at the object, then took off at high speed. The UFO settled at an altitude of about 1,000 metres for 10 seconds, then departed at high speed and was lost to sight. The same man also saw another UFO in the distance, of the same shape but smaller. La Union (Murcia, 3.4.74.) Ten people at a mining enterprise in the town saw during the past night a luminous object in the sky which disappeared suddenly after remaining in view for some seconds. The object was circular in shape and was seen from Los Blancos, some six kilometres from the town.

"Vigo, 3.4.74: The psychosis of UFOs continues. In Vigo it has been reported that a group of nurses saw at dawn on the 31st a red coloured object both high and low over the estuary at Vigo. Moments later it disappeared towards the mountains of Morrazo; then Tarragona, 2.4.74: Various UFOs have been seen by different people in Almonaster and Cambrils, according to Diario Espanol. Two men who saw one in the countryside said that the flying object was like two plates, one inverted over the other.

Another family reported similarly in Cambrils of a luminous object going from east to west and not travelling fast." Then comes a report of a UFO coloured grey and about the size of a bus. "La Estrada (Pontevedra) 4 April (CIFRA): Two girls, Maria Luisa Dieguez Lopez, 13 years old, and her cousin Manolita Lopez Rodriguez, 12 years old, both students of Educacion, General Basica at La Estrada, yesterday declared that when they were going to catch the bus to college they saw a UFO. The girls said it would be 8.0. a.m. when they met in the road that leads to the main road Vegadeo to Pontevedra, where they always caught the bus to La Estrada when they saw in the sky a metal object which was quite noiseless. They said it remained motionless for some seconds at about 10-12 metres above the ground and 100 metres away from them.

"It was the size of a bus and had a turret at its highest part with a kind of reflector. One of the girls said it was grey, while the other said it was aluminium colour. After a few seconds wait, it disappeared over the horizon. The girls continued on their way and recounted their experiences to the travellers on the bus; and also to their fellow pupils and their teachers at college. Both were nervous and had no wish for further experiences.

"2.4.74. Villajoyosa (correspondent, Josquin Lloret Sanchis): Some refuse collectors affirmed that they saw a UFO over our city a few nights ago. The news spread around the city on the morning after the happening, but as it is fashionable at the moment to treat such things as a joke we decided not to print until we had received confirmation. We have now received such confirmation.

"The contractor of the refuse collection service, Senor don Juan Perez Riera of Altea, has explained that at the end of last week six of his employees had gone to a dump on the Finestrat road to empty a truck. While there, they were surprised to see a huge reddish-orange light. Some of the men got out of the truck to get a better view of the 'thing.' Some thought it was a UFO, as many had been reported recently, although they realised that this was the first time they had seen one, despite working in the area every night. The driver noticed a strong red glow coming from the "thing." Half terrified and half surprised the men decided to return to the town and report to their boss what had happened. The following night Senor Perez Riera returned to the place where the UFO had been seen,

but despite staying until dawn saw nothing unusual. What Senor Riera told us, we now tell you."

So? UFOs are becoming more frequent visitors to other countries beside England, nowadays The USA had a big spate of sightings from October to December 1973, my correspondence tells me. France had a wave of sightings - and reported landings - from December through to February of this year. Now Spain is having a really buzzing UFO period. It looks as if Britain will have a lively aerial time of it this Summer! But is it not reassuring to have so many corroborative and confirming stories from other parts that exonerate us at Warminster from the cruel jibes and cynicism we meet with so constantly from the know-allis?

O B I T U A R Y

"Wessex UFO Record" regrets to announce the death, at the age of 72, of Dr. Edward U. Condon, U.S. physicist, known as, "The Father of the Atom Bomb," also as the scientist who headed and lent his name to the Enquiry on UFOs which the American Government sponsored in the late '60's.

Dr. Condon incurred the criticism of many, including some of his immediate colleagues on the UFO Panel, by concentrating his personal enquiries into the UFO phenomenon on the activities of "contactees." Perhaps he understood vaguely that the UFO enigma is susceptible of treatment as a psychological rather than as a physical manifestation.

It seems that Dr. Condon was the possessor of a keen sense of humour, a trait which occasionally becomes visible in the portion of the "Condon Report" for which he was directly responsible.

There seems little doubt that he took his UFO assignment seriously at the beginning, even to the extent of joining the British UFO Research Association.

The U.S. Scientific Establishment will be the poorer for his passing.

Letter to Wessex UFO Record from Viscount Weymouth of Longleat House,
Warminster, Wilts.

Dear Mrs. Pike,

Thank you very much for sending me Wessex UFO Record No.3.

I have no personal experiences of UFO phenomena and so much here depends upon faith in the accuracy of others' perceptions. There are so many "faiths" around, and available, that I might well convince myself of this being sufficient reason to adopt one - or all - if it wasn't for the fact that some of these faiths to some extent clash in their beliefs.

While remaining interested in all manner of faith, (and particularly in its factual foundation) I feel it healthy to maintain a position of aloof independence - until such a time as one might find reason, on a basis of personal experience, to opt for one faith as opposed to another.

I believe there is much that is healthy in a cult activity probing the full potential of belief in UFO-type contact with extra-terrestrial civilizations. Yet this has to be balanced against the possible contagiousness of social paranoia - as could be argued as being in evidence from all this talk about UFO (or even CIA) spies living in our midst!

I was particularly interested in your editorial article. But it seemed that the logical options left open were either for materialism, or for Berkeley-type mysticism - whereas I would prefer to argue that mankind is in a naturally schizoid position of empirics - mysticism. There is a validity in a pragmatic logic as in a mystical logic (yet to be fully divulged.) But I would hesitate to present either brand of logic as the truth.

Sincerely,

WEYMOUTH.

UFOs AT WARMINSTER - FACT OR FICTION?

- Neil Pike -

It will be apparent from a quick glance in any bookshop that there is, at present, a spate of UFO-orientated material being offered to the public. Many of these books are reprints of information now much out-dated by subsequent evaluation. It is an unfortunate fact that many people just commencing their studies into the UFO enigma accept this material at face value. In this way invalid data is endlessly being re-cycled. In view of this, it is hardly surprising that UFO research has stagnated. With each new generation of ufologists, we return to square one!

Prophecies proclaiming imminent UFO invasions have not come about; no events have occurred which carry us one inch further along the road to solving the mystery; intervention by Galactic overseers has yet to take place.

Many authors who claim to know the answer to the puzzle (all, incidently, with differing conclusions) are unable to convince the populace en masse and have to satisfy themselves by becoming "cult" figures, with the predictable caravan of followers.

In short - a shambles!

What IS required is an accurate summary of events occurring in modern times, upon which future research can be based. On reflection, Dr. Condon's analysis went well along the road to satisfying this need, but it met with disapproval amongst those who wish UFOs to remain a fanciful mystery, as opposed to a subject meriting serious study.

Should we blindly accept all the fantastic claims made by writers with little or no knowledge of either science or psychic matters? Only in ufology is data analysed by mostly untrained personnel.

A fine example of the damage that can be occasioned by this approach can be seen at Warminster.

Over the years, articles and books reporting the events taking place in this area have become less and less factual, culminating in some current ideas that one would have thought would be instantly rejected by any person of sound mind. Some small number of sky-watchers are so credulous that I have been able to witness rumour and fantasy transformed to myth - and ultimately to FACT.

The sight and sounds of creatures naturally residing in the countryside around Starr and Cradle Hill are elevated to mythical status - their appearance becoming that of non-Earthly denizens and their utterances interpreted as sounds of Galactic Gadgetry. Are we really to believe that any alien intelligence would waste its time manufacturing cosmic toys, to be operated for the sole amusement of sky-watchers at warminster?

Recently, an occurrence took place which demonstrated to me how easily a non-event can become a real happening. During a sky-watch at Starr Hill, a person was inquiring as to where exactly a landing was alleged to have taken place in 1973. Apparently, this occurrence was common knowledge amongst UFO enthusiasts in other parts of the country. Of those present, not one was able to throw any light on the subject. After the passing of ninety minutes or so and with the arrival of further sky-watchers, this enquiry had become hard FACT. A UFO HAD landed; there were TWO witnesses. By the end of the evening, this event was being discussed as another of the many happenings at warminster! Worthy of note in any future research, no doubt!

All unusual phenomena at warminster is immediately linked to UFOs; from the very beginning it was publicly stated that the events taking place in this area could NOT be accredited to "supernatural phenomena." From then until very recently no-one took it upon themselves to question this statement. A statement, incidentally, made without reference to persons better able to judge the varying aspects of the supernatural. So a preconceived notion has been accepted and followed for nearly ten years. Most forms of research finally reach certain conclusions - as opposed to conclusion first, evidence to follow as and when it fits.

Ask yourself these questions. How many times has it been your misfortune to have "just missed" a sighting? On how many occasions do you hear of a marvellous sighting occurring "just after you left?" How many times should you have been there "last week - last month?"

Ufologists seem to be dogged by misfortune. In my own case, I could easily come to believe that I have the effect of ceasing all UFO activity by merely being present at a sky-watch! Fortunately, this can be explained, as it would appear that the phenomena has taken a new direction of late. Readers will have heard of the "Invisible Walker" who has been active on the hills for many years, his footsteps clearly

heard but no physical body observed. Now we have the "Invisible Sky-watchers." These are beings who witness and report UFO activity on certain occasions, when according to my senses, the only persons present on the hill are a colleague and myself and we have seen nothing. Having read this far it would not surprise me if you were beginning to wonder whether I have any belief in UFOs at all! Let me assure you that I do acknowledge the existence of a phenomenon both at Warminster and elsewhere. I do NOT believe in exaggeration, or in the introduction of unsubstantiated trivia in order that the subject may be made to appear more sensational than it already is. This aspect of ufology only hinders the acceptance of the phenomena amongst thinking, intelligent persons and probably causes many potential ufologists to apply their enquiring minds to other subjects.

I would appeal for a more objective approach to the subject.

Let us get rid of all the unnecessary trappings surrounding the enigma and return to the study of a REAL phenomenon.

WARMINSTER SIGHTINGS - CONTINUED.

At 12.35 a.m. three intermittent flashes of light were observed in the vicinity of the constellation Hercules. Within five minutes, six more objects, flashing brilliantly, were observed. They headed in an Easterly direction, to be closely followed by two other objects, which appeared within a few seconds of one another.

At 1.25 a.m., again in the vicinity of the constellation Hercules, an object was observed taking a circular path whilst erratically flashing 10-12 times.

At 3.00 a.m. an object moved from North to South, pulsating quickly as it did so. It was followed by a second object, having the appearance of a satellite.

At 3.45 a.m. a satellite-like object was observed, travelling in a Northerly direction, then blacking out when directly overhead.

BOOK REVIEWS

"MAN & THE STARS" by Duncan Lunan. Price £3-50.

This large book, which includes some excellent colour plates, deals exhaustively with what may and should or should not happen if we contact alien civilisations, or they contact us.

Some observations on alleged visits to Earth in prehistoric times by beings from elsewhere, citing the "evidence" for such visits adduced by the school of Von Daniken, reveals how dubious all of this is. I am less happy about an analysis of radio echoes supposed to emanate from a probe directed to our solar system by the inhabitants of a planet presumed to circle the star Epsilon Bootes. It is not reassuring to be informed that astronomers have recently decided that the star in question is 100 light-years more distant than was formerly assumed. An error of 186,000 X 60 X 60 X 24 X 365 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 100, strikes me as an error of no mean magnitude!

The first sentence of the book reads: "At present we can only guess whether any stars within 12 light-years - or anywhere else, for that matter - will be found to possess habitable planets." I agree and would add that the evidence for the so-called Plurality of Worlds will need to be a great deal stronger than it is before I shall find myself able to treat the subject matter of this work very seriously.

"UFO'S FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN" by Ion Hobana & Julien Weverbergh.
Price £3-00.

I reproduce the title of this volume as I find it, albeit I cannot for the life of me understand what purpose is served by the apostrophe between the "O" and the "S" of, "UFO'S!"

The book will supply a want within UFO-research circles, in that it is a careful and detailed study of UFO visitations in Iron Curtain countries. One can only commend the authors on the vast amount of research which must have gone into its compilation.

It appears that the elusive UFOs are as ubiquitous - and as irritating - within the purlieus of the U.S.S.R. and its satellites, as they are in the Capitalist West. All the familiar features of UFO reports are reproduced, including even the occasional "operator" oase. "Contactee" narratives of the Adamski type are conspicuously lacking. I suspect

this is because anyone who has such a contact hesitates to report it, in view of the possible reactions of the Secret Police to unauthorized conversations with unregistered aliens!

"HIDDEN WORLDS"

by

M.H.J.Th. Van Der Veer & P. Moerman.

Price £2-50.

Subtitled, "Fresh Clues to the Past," this excellent work is an attempt to suggest the existence of an unknown civilisation, that of, "The Ancients," predating those of Egypt, Sumeria and the other cultures which arose between 3,000 and 4,000 years B.C.

The authors reject as "cosmiodiocy" the attempt to father civilisation upon visiting spacemen.

It is a pity the book's text is somewhat rambling and diffuse, since this vagueness tends to obscure the real value of the ideas advanced.

I will deal at greater length with this book and its thesis in a future issue of, "Wessex UFO Record." I shall suggest that the authors' proto-civilisation was located, in all probability, in the general area of the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Bahamas.

The above three books are published by SOUVENIR PRESS LTD., 95, Mortimer St., London W1n 8HP.

J.C-B.

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Sorry! No back issues of Wessex UFO Record available.

(For a number of years, Ruth Rees was Contact International's Committee Member for Spain. She returned to England recently and is now the International Public Relations Officer for Contact, working in close liaison with Brinsley Le Poer Trench, President of Contact International)

RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS IN SPAIN

- Ruth Rees -

Ufologists will already know that Spain has featured prominently in the UFO waves over the past decade, and some curious incidents have been reported recently down Andalucia way. I hope that we shall be receiving steady information about future events now that Antonio Ribera has been appointed ICM for Contact International in Spain. Sr. Ribera, probably the country's leading ufologist and writer on the subject had already established a reputation in scientific circles by his work on underwater research (for which he was decorated by the Spanish government) before turning his probing investigations into the UFO phenomenon. About five years ago I organised a conference at the large hotel on the Costa del Sol where I was working as PRO, and Sr. Ribera was our guest speaker. After the official session which was crammed to capacity, not even standing room available, such is the interest of Spaniards in the subject, a few of us hi-jacked the famous expert and got down to the real nitty-gritty over a clutch of Cuba Libres. What we learnt from him, the documents and photos he showed us, left a startling impression, but to summarise, it seems that about ten years ago a group of leading scientists and academicians received direct communications from extraterrestrial beings. But that's another story, and one which Sr. Ribera must tell for himself one day. Even up to two years ago, there were reports circulating about a colony of extraterrestrial males living in Southern Spain and that two of them had actually stayed at a Costa del Sol hotel. As these reports stated that these gentlemen were tall, fair, blue-eyed and exceptionally good-looking, I felt a personal enthusiasm about meeting them. But no such luck. (As far as I know, of course!)

The meetings I held in the hotel were always very frenetic occasions. None of the British orderliness of "If I may put a question through the Chairman". Everybody spoke at once, but there was enormous enthusiasm and great expertise on the subject. I remember with particular affection one member of

my group, a businessman from Torremolinos whose wife was slightly exasperated because, as she put it, "Antonio has sold our house and now we have to move into a larger one because his new telescope doesn't fit into the present villa." And there were many times that I was telephoned in the small hours by excited friends, not always official members of the Contact group, saying, "Ruth, are you in bed? Well, get out quickly and go onto the terrace, there's a big light just above the sea to the East and it keeps flashing different colours!"

We were fortunate in always getting a good "press", not only in the regional newspapers but often in the nationals, and I was frequently called upon to talk about UFOs on the three different radio networks. My best piece of twin promotion, however, came when I was interviewed on Spain's national television channel by one of their top chat-show personalities. Everyone kept telling me not to be nervous when I felt completely relaxed, and it was the interviewer who seemed a bit edgy about the whole thing. Anyway, as a final question at the end of about five minutes interviewing he asked me with an arch, slightly send-up smile: "And tell me, Senorita Rees, if a flying saucer were to land now here in the gardens of this lovely hotel on the Costa del Sol, what would you say to its occupants?" Well, of course, he had laid himself wide open, and I replied with a smile, knowing that he would never forgive me for inserting the free blurb "Why, I'd say welcome to the Hotel Melia Torremolinos!" As the channel involved was a non-commercial one you can imagine the shout-in that followed between the programme director and the interviewer, who looked Spanish daggers at me.

Although we received such excellent coverage from the media, the journalists personally thought it was all a lot of nonsense and teased me unmercifully at every opportunity. So it was with particular glee that I received news a month or so ago about a spectacular UFO sighting over Malaga that was actually witnessed and photographed by some of the cynical press and radio men.

The sighting was reported throughout Spain, in the newspapers, on radio and television. The daily paper "Sur" offered to show the negatives of the photos that their press photographer had taken of the UFO, to anyone who cared to come and study them, and the paper devoted two columns justifying their claims, saying that they knew many people would doubt what they had reported and photographed but honest injun it was the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I couldn't help feeling a certain satisfaction

that they were on the other side of the fence now and knew the irritation of being greeted jeeringly when presenting documented facts. Which were the following:

A great object was seen in the sky over Malaga between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th March. It was observed by many witnesses, including Antonio Barcelo, Programme Organiser of Radio Peninsular, a close friend of mine and one of the most avowed sceptics about UFOs. Sr. Barcelo said that as the UFO, which was very bright, moved behind an estate nearby, he was able to gauge its size, which he believed would be around 100 metres. "It looked cigar-shaped to me," he said, "Although in the photos it appears round in form."

Two other witnesses were a Sr. Martinez and his daughter Dolores who live in the same suburb. Sr. Martinez reports: "I was watching television, "Cannon" to be exact, when suddenly this bright light came pouring through the window. It was about 10 p.m. My daughter and I went out onto the balcony and we watched the thing through binoculars. I estimated it to be about 100 metres long." When Sr. Martinez was asked by the reporters the usual question, "Couldn't it possibly have been an air balloon?" he replied scornfully: "Out of the question. It was enormous, and no meteorological balloon produces such brilliant overall light."

The extraordinary aspect of this sighting was that although the witnesses saw one huge object, when the photographs taken by the press photographer were developed, they showed quite clearly that two smaller objects were coming out of the larger one. I have newspaper cuttings of the photos and they are most striking.

Co-inciding with this sighting, the press agency CIPKA reported that on March 30th there was a strange happening in Salamanca, when a small van was followed by a UFO. The terrified driver raced to the nearest Guardia Civil station and explained what had happened, begging for protection from the alien craft!

There was another case of a frightened driver earlier that month, on the 19th. A Sr. Sanchez from Seville was driving along minding his own business when suddenly he saw an object approximately 200 metres long and 25 metres wide floating like some "gigantic cigar" a few yards above the road. The UFO made no sound whatsoever, it seemed to be made of a bright

metallic material and had two antenna-like protuberances. An opening appeared in the centre of the UFO and three craft which were about three metres in diameter seemed to enter through this opening, which must have measured about 20 metres in diameter. The third of these smaller craft came out again and turned towards Sr. Sanchez, who having got out of his car to watch, now ran very speedily back to it, driving at full speed to the nearest Guardia Civil, closely followed by the UFO for "many" kilometres.

So it's a similar pattern in Spain as in the rest of the world. I found it rather fascinating on reading a recent lengthy report about a major flap in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, that one possible contactee said her extraterrestrial contact spoke Spanish and English but was obviously neither as he had an unidentifiable accent. Let's hope they confine themselves to the two major languages - that at least would be a great help.

If any reader would like direct information about the Malaga sighting, I suggest it would be a good idea to drop a line to the editor of "SUR":

Mr. Francisco Casigas Sanz,
"SUR",
Alameda Colon,
Malaga - SPAIN.

Perhaps a twin-town tie-up can be arranged between Warminster and Malaga!

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Taken by John Wright of Walthamstow during the Summer of 1973 at Starr Hill, Warminster. This picture was one of a series of exposures which, combined, would have made up a panoramic view of the area.

Although nothing unusual was observed at the time, when the film was subsequently developed, two consecutive frames showed unusual markings. One is shown on our cover. In the next frame the large black object has disappeared, but the lines of force can still be clearly seen.

The film has been examined and professional photographic opinion discounts any idea of either fake or accidental anomaly such as lens flare or the like.

I had intended to continue in this issue with my account of the Astral Realm and its inhabitants and the methods by which it is possible to leave the body and travel therein. However, in the light of the furore and hysteria which is being generated by the film, "The Exorcist," I have decided to turn aside and glance at the topic of possession.

To begin with, a few definitions.

OBSESSION, (in the Esoteric, not in the psychiatric sense), is present when a person is constantly assailed by astral entities, being influenced in his thoughts and actions by such entities to a greater or less extent. In this condition, the aura of the victim exhibits a jagged, uneven appearance. Alcoholism, drug-addiction and the like can bring about obsession and its termination generally must be sought in the breaking of the habit responsible for it.

POSSESSION is present when the astral body of the victim is driven out of the body, to which it remains connected only by a tenuous magnetic link. The intruding entity is then in complete control of the body. In possession there is a rent in the auric shield. It can be brought about in the same ways as obsession can. However, in really severe cases, accidents, blows to the head and certain types of brain disease may be involved.

It is probably true to state that most neurotic and psychotic persons, (as well as many who are neither), are at times subjected to obsession in a limited degree. In other words, we are all influenced by those who surround us, astrally as well as physically. Mental and bodily health are the best safeguards against "undue influence" from outside agencies. Yielding to intense anger or depression are also risky practices if one wishes to ensure that one's soul remains entirely and always one's own.

Possession is a horse of another colour. It is, fortunately, very rare and we should not allow hysterical clergymen and evangelists to frighten us into going in dread of it. We must also be careful to distinguish between genuine and pseudo-possession.

Such celebrated instances of so-called possession as those of Madeleine Bavent and the nuns of Louviers and of Jeanne des Anges and nuns of Loudun, to cite two well-known French instances from the Seventeenth Century, actually represent cases of pseudo-possession. The nuns were hysterics and exhibitionists possessed by no spirits but their own,

albeit disguised as "demons" in the traditions of the Faith in which they had been reared. In such cases as these the ritual of priestly exorcism may often prove effective, in that the negative suggestions which have brought about the condition may be counteracted by positive ones which disperse it.

Real possession is not by "demons" but by discarnate human beings dwelling on the low levels of the Astral Realm. Canon John Pearce-Higgins recently observed that, in dealing with haunted houses, he had encountered lost souls, not malevolent spirits. The same applies to haunted people. As that quaint old psychic seer Emanuel Swedenborg observed, "Heaven and Hell are from the Human Race." It is true, of course, that the discarnate personality of a Jack-the-Ripper or a Boston Strangler would, for all ordinary persons, represent a being as thoroughly demonic as any horned and sulphur-breathing denizen of the religious imagination.

One method of curing possession is to apply a current of static electricity to the body of the victim, using a Wimshurst machine. An entranced medium sits by, to receive the dispossessed entity, so that others present can talk with it and endeavour to bring it to a penitent and constructive frame of mind, failing which, astrals of a higher complexion will remove it. Similar results may be obtained without the use of the machine by a circle of sitters concentrating on the victim. Generally speaking, however, the use of static electricity ensures good results. The method was developed by Dr. Carl Wickland and widely employed by the late Dr. Alexander Cannon.

An Indian yogi would remove a possessing entity by the use of a current of psychic energy generated by the chanting of mantras.

It will be seen from the above that, while possession is a reality, it is by no means the awe-inspiring, mind-boggling affair suggested by the film, "The Exorcist." It is a recognised psychic ailment and there are tested ways of treating it, which are almost always effective if used by competent and experienced persons.

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