

It is definitely a high density burn mark, and has left a whitish ash on the bricks.

A fellow investigator, Mr. Gerber, exposed a gamma-ray tab, first to the marks on the lawn and, secondly, to the burn mark on the pillar. The colour of the paper changed from the normal yellow to a deep orange, indicating the presence of a certain degree of radiation. Unfortunately we do not know if the reading for radiation on the grass marks was greater than that on the pillar or vice-versa. They shouldn't have used the same tab paper for both areas, but unfortunately Mr. Gerber did not have other papers with him for re-loading the tab. However it does seem possible that there must have been considerable radiation present on April 30, for the reading was taken 12 days after the event.

My opinion is that the object may have used the porch pillar to repel itself away and clear of the Krugers' house. I checked the gardens far away up and down the street, and it appears that Mr. Kruger's lawn was the only spot with a reasonable amount of space on which an aerial object could possibly land, with the exception of the road, of course, but that would have been rather conspicuous, even at 3.30 a.m.

Mr. Kruger was upset by all the publicity that this affair was given, and shortly afterwards took his family away for a holiday. I tried to re-assure him with the suggestion that the object, if it was a UFO, had just picked his lawn at random, and really had nothing personal against him.

Who knows?

PUERTO RICO PLAGUED BY GAS AND TORCHLIGHT

Gordon Creighton

SEÑOR SALVADOR FREIXEDO has been good enough to send us a copy of the Puerto Rican illustrated magazine *Avance* for November 2, 1972, which contains a quite remarkable concentration of no less than four good articles¹ by Puerto Rican writers on the UFO Phenomenon in general and the recent "flap" in particular. One article, by Sr. Freixedo himself, is perhaps one of the finest concentrated summings-up that we have ever seen on the UFO Phenomenon, but it deals with that problem as a whole and as it contains no ideas with which FSR readers have not been made acquainted at some time or other I will not quote from it here. It is really not designed for the specialist reader but for the general public. For this deeply thoughtful ex-Jesuit, the parapsychological explanation is now the only one that really recommends itself, and he concludes his piece with the remarkable sentence used by Dr. James Macdonald when giving his evidence on UFOs before the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1968. We have printed this before, on the cover of FSR Special Issue No.2, *Beyond Condon*, but I will quote it again here because of its potentially enormous importance:—

"I now regard Hypothesis 7 [the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis,—G.C.] as the one most likely to prove correct. My scientific interests lead me to hedge that prediction just to the extent of suggesting that, if the UFOs are not of extramundane origin, then I suspect that they will prove to be something very much more bizarre, something of perhaps even greater scientific interest than extraterrestrial devices."²

Who knows to what extent that single statement may have been responsible for another courageous investigator's premature departure from the stage?

In the remainder of this article I will give a boil-down of all the recent cases that are included in the other three articles, which are all complementary to Salvador Freixedo's article *UFOs over the Caribbean*.³ Taken together they give what seems to be an excellent picture from which we can see that the Caribbean Islands are experiencing just the sort of phenomenon which we have been reporting from nearby South America and from all other parts of the world for years past. However, we have still probably not yet seen the real pay-out from Puerto Rico. This present digest of mine gives, for example, only two claimed landings and only one claimed encounter with entities. Salvador Freixedo's own article has one astounding entity encounter and an instantaneous cancer-healing, and mentions the discovery of many other "contactees."

In fact, in a letter written to me since his return to Puerto Rico last autumn, Sr. Freixedo says that there are a remarkable number of contactees now coming to light on that island. He speaks of *eight or nine cases* already known to him, and we await further reports from him about this extraordinary and probably crucial aspect of the UFO Phenomenon.

We are indebted also to the Editor of *Avance* and to Sr. Jose Bauer Garcia, Sr. Alfonso Martinez Taboas, and to the CEOVNI Group (Centro Estudios OVNI, Puerto Rico) for making this material available to us.

Puerto Rican Cases

The articles open with references to Puerto Rican sightings of around October 1 (though we know of course from Sr. Freixedo that the "flap" began at least around the start of August).

On the night of October 4, at Adjuntas, a small town in a rural area in the centre of the Island, according to the account given next day to the

press by a sixteen-year-old girl named Gladys Maldonado Quiñones, she saw, in her bedroom, two beings with scaly skin of a greenish brown hue who "communicated with her telepathically." She said they gave her a ring and a stone. She also claimed to have had strange dreams recently, in which she "had visited space-craft at bases on other planets." Critics were not slow to point out that Gladys was not particularly bright and had not gone beyond the fifth grade in school. The psychiatrist Carlos Busquets is said to be making a special study of the case of Gladys, and we hope that Sr. Freixedo or one of FSR's numerous other friends and readers in Puerto Rico will perhaps be good enough to send us in due course a copy of any report that Sr. Busquets may publish.

On the same evening (October 4), the American scientist Stanton T. Friedman delivered a lecture (title: *The Flying Saucers do Exist*) in the general studies auditorium of the University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Friedman told his audience that he had been studying the subject for thirteen years and that, although he had not yet seen a UFO himself, it was quite certain that such objects existed and that for many years past the Department of Defence of the United States has been concealing the fact that the Earth has been under periodic visitation by extra-terrestrial beings in craft from other planets, and that some of these beings have made contact with humans by means of telepathy. He added that the visitors are of a higher intelligence than ourselves, and that their craft originate from places very different indeed from Earth.

Shortly after giving this lecture, Mr. Friedman moved out of San Juan to Adjuntas, to pursue his investigations there, but so far we know no more regarding his findings.

The Adjuntas area

The number of people in the Adjuntas area who claim to have seen UFOs is remarkable. There, as all over the Island, newspaper offices and TV stations and police stations were inundated with phone calls. In Adjuntas the witnesses include the mayor (Alcalde), his wife, Sr. Blanca Gonzalez, Police-Lieut. Raúl Rentas, teachers, workers, housewives, peasants. The nights particularly mentioned in the *Avance* articles are October 8 and 9, but there were few nights with no reports. Sightings were mainly between 7.00 and 10.00 p.m., and the nocturnal pattern is general elsewhere in the Island. The crowds flocking to Adjuntas have caused the bars and amusement centres to flourish and everywhere great excitement has prevailed.

Puerto Rico's last UFO Wave (1968) was also over the central, southern, and western areas. (Be it noted that the U.S. Government's "big dish" radio-telescope installation at Arecibo is right up on the centre, more or less, of the northern coast.) An interesting point that has emerged is that these rural areas of Puerto Rico which appear to have been under inspection are on, or close to, zones of high natural radioactivity in the soil, as has been confirmed

by consultation of the U.S. Geological Survey's map, *Natural Gamma Aeroradioactivity of Puerto Rico*.

In all cases, the UFOs allegedly seen at close quarters have been described as less than 16 ft. in diameter. As usual, a striking feature is that so many have been seen in the close vicinity of reservoirs, dams, electricity plants, high-voltage power lines, and radio installations.

The principal place-names recurring in these sighting reports are: San Juan; Aguadilla; Jayuya; Ponce; Bayamón; Carolina; Caguas; Cayey; Lares; Hormigueros; Yauco; and Río Pedras. (I note however that Arecibo does also figure in the list.)

The Sightings

Following upon the claim of the girl who said she had seen the two greenish-brown creatures early in October, 1972, my digest of the reported cases runs as follows:

1. **Saturday, October 7.** Thirty families in the Jardines de San Francisco residential area (Río Pedras) saw an oval, brightly shining object on a piece of open waste-ground between the urban concentrations of San Francisco and San Ignacio.
2. **On or around October 9.** Lt. Col. Luis Maldonado Trinidad, Head of the Southern Police District, reported to Headquarters that many people, including policemen, had seen silent shining yellow globes moving very rapidly through the sky.
3. **Wednesday, October 11.** Residents of the Jardines del Caribe district, on the Ponce-Peñuelas highway, claimed a sighting. Other witnesses were Police-Sergeant Nelson Irizarry and P.C. Francisco Vicente, both of whom reported it to the press. All agreed that it was a green object, turning orange at times, spinning very rapidly, and with an intermittently flashing light.
4. **Thursday October 12,** at about 10 p.m. people in the Lomas Verdes residential estate (Bayamón district) saw a green and orange object overhead. The named witnesses were three women: Sra. Elisa Alvarado; Sra. Luisa Cruz; Sra. Livia Maldonado.
5. **Night of October 12.** Jayuya. Sr. Rafael Rodríguez, using a telescope, watched several varicoloured objects flying from North to South, towards Los Picachos, and at times changing shape and seeming to take on the outlines of fish.
6. **Yauco.** (Date not given.) A group of young people saw five UFOs flying in formation and took photographs of them.
7. **Friday, October 13.** At about 2.30 a.m., in the old part of San Juan, Sr. Joaquín Mercado and his wife observed, from their terrace, a triangular formation of lights moving to and fro in the sky.
8. **October 13.** On the early morning of the same day, twenty employees of the Aguadilla Sub-regional Hospital, employees of the Moda Footwear Plant, and four policemen, all claimed they had seen UFOs roaming the skies. The hospital supervisor, Sr. Rosa

G. de Castro, told reporters that she had seen the UFOs very clearly. She described them as large dish-shaped objects with a cone on the upper part and with lights rotating around the periphery. At one moment, she said, she saw something shoot out towards the ground from one of them, and then rise up to it again.

9. **Lares-Utuado highway.** Date not given. One serious citizen reported that he had seen a "dish-shaped object with yellow lights" which was travelling along slowly and halting at intervals.

10. **Coamo.** Sr. Juan J. Noriega wrote to the newspaper *El Imparcial* that he had seen "a great luminous ball" which came close to the ground. As it did so, he was able to see that on its sides there were "intensely bright openings" which looked like observation windows.

11. **Isabella.** Three citizens wrote to the same paper reporting an earlier sighting. They said: "At the end of August we saw in the sky a thing like a gigantic shining egg. It seemed as though it was hanging there. Then it began to move around in circles, and from the egg we saw other, smaller, eggs separate off. Some of these disappeared towards San Juan, and one of them came towards us and took up a stationary position in the air at about 100 metres from the beach."

12. **Saturday, October 28.** At about 11.15 p.m., Dona Julia Serrano and members of her family were in her apartment in the residential suburb of Jardines de San Francisco (Río Pedras area) when they saw a vivid light and heard a strange sound coming from near the roof of the house. All cried out in alarm as they beheld, just above the house, "an oval-shaped thing so bright that you could not bear to look at it. It appeared to be made of transparent crystal." Speaking to a representative of the newspaper *Claridad*, one of the witnesses said *the object was emitting what seemed to be rays*. Another witness said: "I got the impression that it was taking photographs of us, for it was moving very, very slowly, and at times stopping and standing quite still in the air, and giving off a sound like the noise made when an air-conditioning plant is working."⁴ Said a third witness: "I got the impression that they were looking for something, and that they were watching us." After five minutes the object flew off towards the Fuentes Fluviales electricity plant and vanished in the direction of the San Francisco residential estate.

Sighting over the Dominican Republic

The articles in *Avance* contain two sightings from the neighbouring island:

i. Reports of UFOs over the Dominican Republic began around October 1. On October 6, two brothers, Damaris and Ricardo Peña, were driving by jeep to Barahona (southern part of the Republic) when they saw a powerful light which they took at first to be from an approaching vehicle. But the light, which was of various colours, vanished. Not far from

this same location various people saw shortly afterwards three strange lights. (Time of these incidents: about 10.15 p.m.)

ii. According to the Dominican Republic newspaper *Listin Diario* of October 19, there was a UFO landing at 7.00 p.m. (precise day not given) at the village of El Fundo, district of Bani.

Sergeant of Marines Diego Amado Lugo was standing talking with primary school teacher Luis Barias Peña beside a road and near a reservoir, when they saw a flying object which was emitting an intermittent green light. The object was travelling at the speed of an aircraft, and when it was only a few metres from them it landed and was on the ground for three minutes.⁵ While it was landed its flashing green light was replaced by a flashing red one. When it moved off it went towards the South-East. They said it was the size of an automobile.

Other residents of El Fundo said they saw the same object. Members of the local COFA (UFO study group) conducted an investigation at the alleged landing site, but found no traces or marks, no signs of burning on vegetation or nearby trees, and no smell of sulphur. However no check for radio-activity was made.

The Explanations

In a situation where so many folk are seeing things, it is necessary that those whose duty it is to produce explanations shall work overtime to find good ones. And good ones they have found.

According to Sr. José Bauer Garcia's article, a chemical engineer named Roberto Pérez, of the Ponce Cement Works, paid a call at the famous Arecibo Ionosphere Observatory (Puerto Rico's "giant dish") to learn what all these curious red and green and orange lights in the sky could be.

He did not go away disappointed, for the Observatory officials assured him that the explanation for the whole thing was simple: "*gases released by the Observatory's staff for the purpose of dispersing the atmosphere when it was overladen.*"

This explanation was eagerly seized upon by San Juan's principal newspaper. (We have not yet heard however whether there has been any protest from the neighbouring Dominican Republic at the way in which these gases have been flying more than 100 km. across the sea to their territory and landing there in great clumps the size of an automobile.)

Another group of experts were reported in the Puertorican press to be preparing to prove, irrefutably, that the UFOs seen over the Island in October were all "optical illusions and reflections produced by a giant reflector."

Meanwhile, on October 4, the newspaper *El Nuevo Día* had come out with the real explanation: "*the whole phenomenon was due to the movements of night-wandering helicopters of the Armed Forces.*"

The same paper also gave an alternative explanation: UFOs were hallucinations engendered in the minds of folk who have been "brainwashed into believing in them," and who therefore "think they are under an obligation to see something."

Yet another astute individual, a resident of Adjuntas, did some deep research and came up with a still better explanation: "all the so-called 'flying saucers' seen over Puerto Rico were simply due to the beams of light from the hand-torches used by his children." (I should certainly like to know where these children buy their batteries, for, as C.E.O.V.N.I. point out, this must mean that the beams of his children's remarkable torches can reach over 100 km. into the Dominican Republic, where the month of October also saw a heavy concentration of UFO reports.)

Commenting upon these choice explanations, Sr. José Bauer Garcia agrees that they are splendid. Unfortunately, however, he says, the more intelligent sections of the population of Puerto Rico are smart enough to know that both the USA and the USSR—the most advanced nations technologically in the world—believe they have made discoveries which strongly suggest the possibility of life elsewhere in the Universe. And he adds that there is another group of people in Puerto Rico, "connected with religious circles," who go even further than that, "and see in these phenomena the handiwork of demonic beings who, by virtue of their formidable mental capacities, are able to cause humans to undergo some perniciously evil experiences." This group "consider the UFO Problem to be a much graver one than is realized."

The article by Alfonso Martínez Taboas does not deal with the current Caribbean Wave but with certain well-known cases, for all of which he quotes FSR as his source. These cases are those of Imjärvi; Inácio da Souza; the case of the young Canadians of the Léger and Sauvé families; and the case of San Pedro de los Altos. There is also a photograph of the Canadian, Michalak, showing the group of sixteen circular burns on his chest, allegedly received when this man stood close to a landed UFO on a Canadian highway.

Alfonso Martínez Taboas also discusses at length Dr. Hynek and his book *The UFO Experience*, the ideas of both Dr. Jacques Vallée and John Keel, and quotes from their books *Passport to Magonia* and *Operation Trojan Horse*. He emphasises the constant

discrepancies to be found in all alleged "messages from Extraterrestrials," and concludes that the very greatest prudence is advisable in approaching the whole subject, as it is obvious that somebody is lying.

All the articles in *Avance* contain references to FSR and have engendered an unprecedented number of letters from would-be readers in the Island.

Notes

- 1 Titles of articles: *Los Ovnis Veulven a ponerse de modo*; *La Realidad de los OVNIs*; *Cuando los OVNIs se manifiestan*; *Platillos Voladores sobre Puerto Rico*.
- 2 See: *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects: Hearings Before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, Nineteenth Congress, Second Session*, p.36. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1968.
- 3 See *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 14.
- 4 Could this noise "like the sound of an air-conditioning plant" be the same noise which, undetected by the audience, became superimposed upon Sr. Salvador Freixedo's voice when he was lecturing? (See his *UFOs Over the Caribbean*.)
- 5 When analyzing the great number of reported landings in South America for the year 1965, I found that their average time upon the ground seemed to be about three or four minutes.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* (Vol. 20, No. 1, due in July 1974)...

- Berserk: a UFO-Creature encounter
by Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz
- Time correlations between Geomagnetic disturbances and eye-witness accounts of UFOs
by Dr. Claude Poher
- New tales from the Vienna Woods
by Ernst Berger
- UFOs in folklore by Janet Bord
- Preliminary round-up of the French wave

A HIGH ALTITUDE OBJECT PHOTOGRAPHED OVER PUERTO RICO

Sebastian Robiou Lamarche

Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton

FLORIN GHEORGHITĂ'S article about the high-altitude objects seen over Romania* has reminded me of the following interesting case which occurred here in Puerto Rico on April 30, 1969, when a strikingly similar object was photographed from a military aircraft.

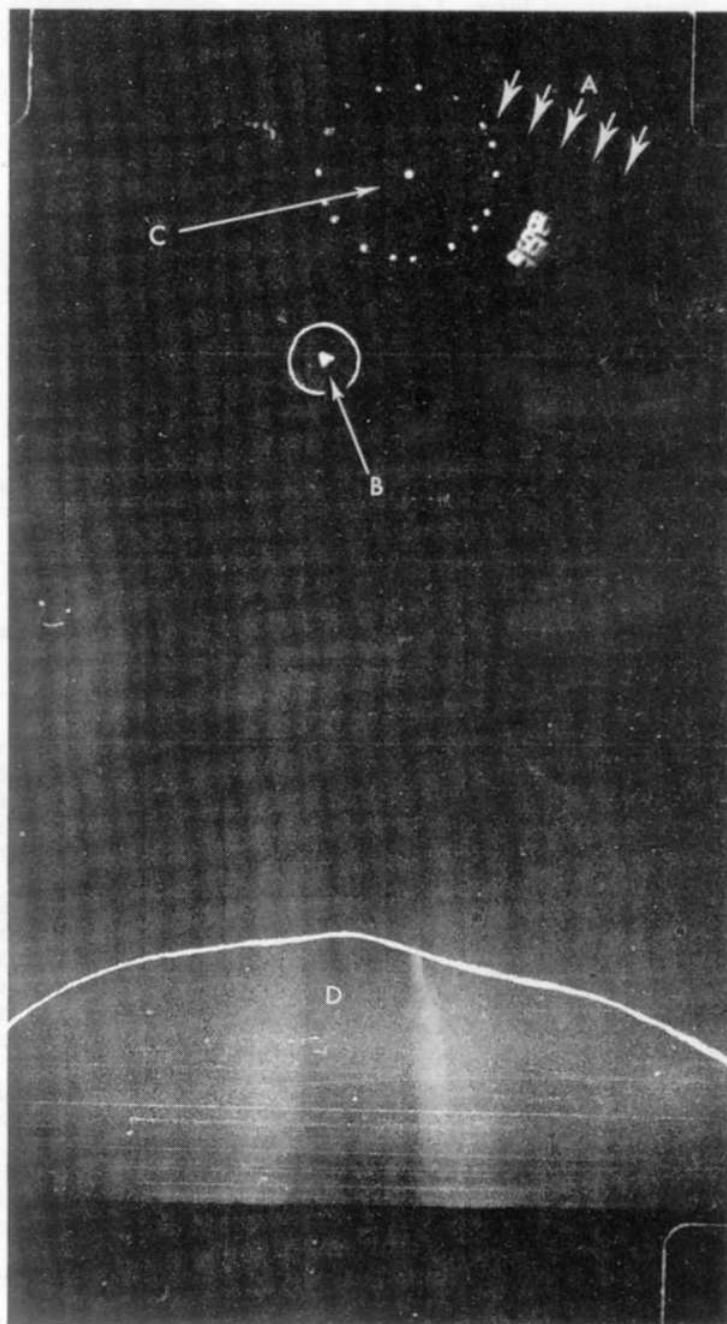
The UFO was discovered, high in the sky, at dawn, by hundreds of eyewitnesses on the southern coast of the Island of Puerto Rico. The first official report about it came from the encampment of the National Guard at Salinas. The object was travelling on a westward course, and was picked up intermittently on the radar, according to the account given by the control tower. (It was also reported that the same or a similar object had been detected during the previous night, over the little island of Vieques, off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, and on April 30 hundreds of people at La Romana, in the neighbouring Dominican Republic, also saw "a luminous object travelling slowly eastwards emitting flashes.")

The Air National Guard of Puerto Rico sent up a T-33 fighter to investigate the morning intruder. Still travelling from east to west, its altitude was estimated at between 29,000 and 31,000 ft.

At about 10.00 a.m. the Air National Guard sent up a second aircraft. This was an F-104, which climbed to about 60,000 ft but found that the UFO was still above it. From the photographs secured from the F-104, the altitude of the UFO has been calculated at 70,000 or 80,000 ft. It was moving very slowly — at about eight miles per hour — and was about 200 ft. in length. It was seemingly solid, white in colour, with one area brighter than the rest (apparently reflecting the rays of the sun). In shape it appeared to be triangular, with a concave base. A B-52 bomber from Ramey Air Force Base also reported picking it up on his radarscope.

On the following day, May 1, the same object, or a similar one, was seen by various pilots of the Caribair Line. And on May 2 a pilot flying to Port-au-Prince in Haiti reported having sighted a similar object.

I have made a detailed investigation of this case. I was able to interview Charles Bumstead, the pilot of the T-33 aircraft which was sent up to take a look at the UFO. And I was subsequently also able to interview Colonel Fred Brown, the commanding officer of the F-104.



Key:

- A Sun Rays
- B Object
- C Jet Gun Sight
- D Sun Reflection on jet camera lens

* Published in *FSR Case Histories* No.13, February 1973.