

# OBITUARY

## Coral Lorenzen

By Dr. James A. Harder,  
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CORAL Lorenzen, founder and sustaining pillar of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) since 1952, died in Tucson, Arizona on April 12, 1988. She was 63. Although her most recent title was that of the APRO newsletter editor, everyone who was close to APRO knows that she was its moving spirit. She will be long remembered among friends for her devotion to the study of the UFO phenomena, together with a strict and no-nonsense attitude toward it. It should be noted, however, that Coral was one of the very first to recognize the importance of abduction reports, and was an early supporter of Betty Hill and the idea that extraterrestrials could indeed contact humans, an idea that is just now receiving widespread attention. She was a highly intelligent, devoted, and feisty lady, one who will be sadly missed by the UFO community. She is survived by her son Larry E. Lorenzen of Phoenix Arizona and his two children, Richard, 6 and Matthew 5, and by two other grandchildren: Jason Stryker, 9 and Blaire Stryker, 5.

This report follows shortly after the equally sad news of the passing of Mrs Lorenzen's husband Jim, co-founder with her of APRO, who had died in August 1986.

Reporting on Mrs Lorenzen's death, the local newspaper *The Citizen*, of Tucson, Arizona (April 16, 1988), quoted a notable statement by her to the effect that "man is toward the bottom of the evolutionary totem-pole when stacked up to other creatures of the Universe".

APRO's laboriously collected UFO files, sent in by the Organization's more than 500 investigators and reporters, were probably far and away the best and largest in the world, and there had been much speculation over the last two years as to what might finally become of them. We heard of at least three U.S. groups who were hoping to "inherit" them, but according to one recent report that reached us (we don't now recall from whom), Mrs Lorenzen left instructions that all her records were to be burned. If this is true, many will no doubt be unhappy about it. But maybe Coral was wise enough to recall her own words about the "totem-pole" and to perceive in the end that man's brain is designed only for the comprehension of things of *this world*, and that his much-vaunted Science, which has already given us so much nuclear waste and so much chemical pollution, etc., is unlikely to carry him very far when it comes to the ultimate questions. This is something that many other folk also need to learn. Already, only a couple of weeks before Mrs Lorenzen's departure, her helper Robert G. Marsland had informed FSR and other UFO investigation groups that there would be no more issues of the APRO BULLETIN, and that the activities of the Group were being terminated.

We at FSR salute Coral and Jim in their passing, and place on record this expression of the high regard in which we always have held them personally, as well as their work. They are — and will be — remembered. G.C.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Dr Ivor Grattan-Guinness, FSR Consultant

J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt, *Night Siege. The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1987. xii + 210 pp. \$6.95.

This book is significant in that it records a massive series of sightings made mainly in certain months of 1983 and 1984 in New York State and Connecticut. Investigators collected a large amount of evidence, and the authors have distilled into their text a proportion of it, mainly in the form of quoted statements. (Presumably the material is available to other researchers for verification and for their own use.) Enough data were obtained for the authors to prepare statistical surveys of the impressions gained by large numbers of witnesses of particular sightings. There is considerable consistency in the reports: the object was very large, boomerang- or V-shaped, and moved slowly at low altitude and at a low velocity. Most of the sightings were CE-I or -II, but some uncertain evidence is given suggestive of -III and even -IV cases. Certain other familiar characteristics are also described: failure to obtain quality photographs or videos (those reproduced in the book are poor); and ridiculous official explanations offered, such as formations of planes. A fortunate aspect of the sightings was that they occurred above an area inhabited by many highly educated and even technologically informed people, who were not to be swayed by official wisdom in the way that happens so often on these occasions.

John C Baird, *The inner limits of outer space*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1988. xii + 226 pp. £12.75/\$22.75.

The author brings his professional experience as a psychologist to bear upon questions concerning the possibility of other intelligences in the universe and their interactions with us. Ufology is studied at greatest length in chapter 3, but it occurs on occasion in later chapters. Perhaps the most valuable thrust is to stress the 'Fundamental Attribution Error' of social psychology: 'People overrate psychological causes and underrate external pressures in explaining the behaviour of others' (p. 123). Unfortunately the error seems to be prevalent in his treatment of our subject, for he gives more attention to socio-psychological belief structures and orientations than to the data upon which the attitudes are founded. For example, he relies on P. J. Klass for information on the 'widespread flap' of the 1890s in the USA rather than on the detailed account given at the beginning of D.M. Jacobs' *The UFO controversy in America* (1975). Indeed, the productions of the Prometheus State Publishing House feature rather prominently in all his bibliographies of chapters relating to paranormal events.

The author is not polemical either against believers in such events; indeed, he targets his strictures more against careless formulations of interplanetary sciences. He is evidently most familiar in those areas, to which his volume makes a modest but useful contribution. Outside them, however, his work is somewhat underwhelming.

# THE OFFICIAL STUDY OF THE UFO PHENOMENON IN SPAIN

*J. Plana Crivillén (C.E.I., Barcelona), FSR Consultant*  
(Translation from Spanish)

## Introduction

SINCE 1981 I have been making a special study of the activities and attitudes of the Spanish Government and the Spanish Armed Forces in relation to the UFO Problem. Consequently I have made an effort — within such limits as are possible — to give an overview of the contents of the Archives of the various official organs, or at any rate to give a fairly rough idea of what is contained in these archives that are not open to civilian investigators.

So far, I have assembled an extensive number of supposed UFO cases in the investigation of which it is known — or it is supposed — that some official body has been involved. Furthermore, I have a considerable and useful documentation derived from all the legislative bodies of Spain. On the basis of the reports in my possession so far, it is possible to define the sphere of activity of each of those Legislatures in regard to UFOs.

## Official Interest in the UFO Phenomenon

The UFO Phenomenon is of interest to the Spanish governmental organs exclusively from those aspects which affect the national defence and the national security. For this reason, the investigation and control of everything relating to the UFOs pertain to the Ministry of Defence.

The Spanish authorities have never pronounced officially on the subject, and will not do so, so long as the investigations are continuing. The provisional results arrived at so far cannot be made public inasmuch as, in the absence of any clear information on the matter, they might induce folk into having erroneous beliefs.

The whole information relating to the UFO Phenomenon was declared "*materia reservada*" ("restricted material") by the Combined Spanish Chiefs of Staff (JUEM) on March 3, 1979, by virtue of the powers vested in them under Article 4 of the *Official Secrets Act 48/78*.

Previously to that declaration of restriction, the only people having access to the UFO documentation were certain official bodies, with the result that the members of the public were also deprived of access to the reports.

## The Spanish Air Force

As the Spanish Air Force is the body responsible for exercising control over the sovereign national air-space, it is likewise the body responsible for conducting and co-ordinating all the investigations. The Air Force therefore makes a record of everything relating to presumed UFO sightings, without as yet having arrived at definite conclusions.

On December 31, 1968, the Air Staff Headquarters published *Norms* laying down the procedures and methods to be followed by the Air Force authorities in the event of a report of the possible appearance of UFOs in Spanish air-space. These *Norms* were brought up to date in January 1974 and are still in force at present.

Since that date in question (1968), when an important UFO sighting occurs, the Air Force automatically starts an official investigation. Prior to 1968, definite studies of UFO sightings had only been made occasionally.

The work of the investigation is conducted by a *Jefe-Informador* (Judge-Informant), who must be an Air Force commandant who is familiar with every type of occurrence that may occur in flight.

In the course of the investigation, a file is opened, with the classification of "*Confidential*", in which all the details about the observed phenomenon and about the eyewitnesses are entered, along with a meteorological report and a report on the possible presence of any conventional aircraft in the area of the occurrence, this being secured by consulting the military radar stations and the civil air traffic control centres. Finally, the Judge-Informant adds his own conclusions about the case.

Once the dossier on the case has been completed, it goes up to the Head of the Air Zone or Air Region in question, who then sends it on to the Air Staff Headquarters in Madrid, where it goes to the Flight Safety Section (Dept. of Analysis and Investigation), which is under the Division of Operations. Up until the beginning of 1987 the department responsible for UFO matters was the Air-Space Section.

In the aforementioned Department of Analysis and Investigation it seems that the various cases are evaluated and conclusions are reached, and they are classified and arranged statistically in one or other of these categories:-

- A) *Explained* phenomena, including occurrences of natural or conventional origin.
- B) *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena* ("*FANI*", in Spanish), including happenings the origins of which cannot be explained.
- C) *Unidentified Flying Objects* ("*OVNI*", in Spanish), including happenings of an inexplicable nature that moreover involved a *positive radar contact*.

On various occasions cases possessing a conventional explanation have been published, but those that remain totally inexplicable to the specialists are kept secret. The occasions in 1976 and 1978 when 14 official reports about presumed sightings of UFOs were imparted by two Generals of the Air Force Headquarters to the journalist J.B. Benítez were, so military sources say, "a bitter experience", in view of the massive commercial use made of the reports by the journalist.

The Air Force receives all UFO sighting reports that appear in the social media (press, radio, TV) as well as all those reports that emanate from the Air Line Companies and from Civil Aviation. In addition, it also receives, of course, all the cases involving members of the Air Force itself (pilots, ground personnel, radar recordings), and all reports from the police (*Guardia Civil*) and from the Army and Navy, which



two last-named bodies do not appear to maintain UFO archives of their own.

A spokesman of the Air Force stated publicly in 1979 that "2 per cent of the flying objects detected in Spanish air-space could not be identified in any manner whatsoever, the remaining 98 per cent being due to natural or conventional phenomena." It is believed that at the present time there is a total of about 100 UFO cases, both "positive" and "negative", which have been investigated and placed on record by the Air Force. The Air Force's Archives also contain documentation covering the well-known fraudulent "UMMO" affair.

### Civil Aviation

The General Civil Aviation Administration — previously graded as a Sub-Secretariat — is the one that is responsible for the collection (via the Commission on Air Traffic Incidents) of all UFO sighting reports emanating from the airports, the air-traffic control-centres, and the air lines. After that, this documentation is sent to Air Force Headquarters, where all this information is centralized and studied, as already indicated above.

When UFOs are seen by commercial pilots, the air-traffic control-centres have to get the Chief of the Service Room to record the details of the event in the station logbook. Moreover, all the conversations between air-traffic controllers and pilots are tape-recorded, and the conversations that refer to abnormal aerial phenomena or incidents (UFOs, accidents, etc.) are transcribed and made available for study by the competent authorities that request them.

All the Spanish air-traffic control-centres have a permanent presence of Air Force non-commissioned officers who have charge of the CAMO Unit (Operative Military Air Control), which is under the Military Headquarters Controlling Air-Traffic, which in turn is subordinate to the Air Control Directorate. This involves liaison between the control-centre and the Air Force, with the view to the co-ordination of such matters as flights, possible UFO sightings, and exercising a secondary radar surveillance within its regional zone of competence.

The air-traffic towers and control-centres of all the airports are linked by telephone and by microwave to a) the nearest military radar stations; b) the "Pegasus" Combat Operations Centre belonging to the Air Combat Command, situated at the Torrejón Base at Madrid; and to c) the adjacent air-control centres. All of which has as its ultimate purpose, among many other purposes, the aim of transmitting and exchanging information regarding possible sightings or radar-recordings of UFOs in their particular zone of influence and air-cover.

For example, we could mention that, merely in the single Zone covered by the Barcelona Air-Control Centre, which amounts to 300,000 sq. kms., there are four or five important UFO sightings annually.

When a commercial pilot has a UFO sighting while in flight, he must make a report of the happening and send it to the Operations Office of his Airline. These reports are of a confidential nature, as they are forwarded to the General Administration of Civil Aviation, who in turn send them on to Air Force Headquarters.

As regards the pilots themselves, and as regards their encounters with UFOs in the air, there seems to be no standard procedure prescribed by the aeronautical authorities that obliges or even merely recommends them to inform the Administration officially when they have had some experience of this type. According

to what we have been able to learn from authorized sources, *since the end of 1979 the Spanish commercial pilots have been growing steadily more disinclined to report their incidents with UFOs, due to their fear of "red tape" and also to their fear of having problems with their Airline Companies or with the Authorities, who sometimes try to force them to retract their statements about what they have seen. For this reason, many pilots keep quiet about their experiences, and give no official or public reports of them.\**

### The Spanish Police (Guardia Civil)

Since 1953 the Central Headquarters of the Guardia Civil have kept their own records and archives of reports and statements on presumed UFO sightings that have occurred throughout the entire territory of Spain.

Officially, the Central Headquarters has always denied possessing in their archives any documentation on the subject of UFOs, claiming that, no public offence having been committed, and no judges' orders issued, no inquiries are conducted by them into the UFO Phenomenon and in fact the Phenomenon has not taken place.

Furthermore, they have always denied that members of the Guardia Civil have observed UFOs or have sent in reports on the phenomenon, and they have always indicated that the matter is one which pertains exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Air Force.

But then finally, in 1983 and 1984, through the General Commanding the Police Staff Headquarters, and the Commandant in charge of the Office of Public Relations, the Central Police Headquarters admitted that they *do* possess reports about UFOs, including eyewitness accounts from members of the Police Force, and also from many people who have reported their UFO sightings to the various Police Headquarters and Police Stations. They also admitted that Commanding Police Officers, and other Senior Officers of the Guardia Civil had carried out extensive interrogations of eyewitnesses and had made visual inspections at the sites of possible UFO landings.

The investigations by the Guardia Civil are set in motion when the national authorities or their own superior Commanding Officers direct them to do so. Also on the initiative of any Police Chief who has knowledge of some UFO happening. But there are no pre-established directives regarding the execution of such investigations.

The resulting reports gathered by the Police are then passed to the Provincial Police Headquarters, in whose Zone the event occurred, and after that they are generally sent, if sufficiently interesting, to the Central Police Headquarters in Madrid, where the documentation is received and dealt with by Section 2 (Information Service) of the Staff Headquarters. Some of the reports from the Police have even gone up to as far as high levels in the Headquarters of the Military Region concerned, or to the Air Staff Headquarters itself.

In short, then, so long as the subject of the UFOs remains "*classified material*", the Air Force and the Civil Aviation Authorities are not authorized to issue any public statements about any aspect of the phenomenon. The Guardia Civil (Police) on the other hand do display a more open attitude, as is shown by the fact that I have so far received from them summaries of 27 supposed UFO cases which they hold in their archives.

Such, then, is our general bird's-eye view of the attitudes of the principal official Spanish bodies that, in one way or another, are involved with the UFO Phenomenon.

\*My italics. (Editor, FSR).

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR

Quite apart from the vast number of "agents of influence", (some of them even posing as "Ufologists"), paid agents and operators, scientists, astronomers, and journalists and other members of the media whose *job* it is to see that nobody knows of the presence or existence of alien beings, it is extraordinary to find what a lot of ordinary decent folk will still assure you blandly that "UFOs don't exist", and that consequently no Government would conceivably bother itself with such a childish subject.

Another amusing category in Britain, many of whom write to me and to FSR, are those that think they themselves are the only ones who are smart enough to have spotted that UFOs exist, but that the Governments do not know anything about it! These folk therefore spend vast sums on postage stamps for sending copies of their UFO reports to the Ministry of Defence, the Air Force, MPs — indeed even Her Majesty The Queen! — as well as to the newspapers and TV and radio stations, and all manner of recipients, in the hope, seemingly, of "drawing their attention to the matter"! These correspondents apparently do not seem to realize that the Governments and the authorities KNOW ALL ABOUT THE PROBLEM — AND HAVE DONE SO

FOR A LONG TIME PAST — and stand in no need of advice from us *and in all probability have not the slightest need for any further UFO reports either!*

This further fine article from one of our Spanish experts, J.P. Crivillén, shows how carefully the whole problem is being watched by the Government of Spain, and it would be totally ludicrous to think that, if the Government of another European country like Spain is following such a tight policy, then the Governments of such countries as Britain or the USA have not the minimum amount of grey-matter required to perceive that they too should be watching everything with the greatest conceivable attention, seeing that the very existence of all of us is at stake!

In this connection, I draw attention to the important articles by J.P. Crivillén which we have recently translated and published in FSR. These were:-

*"Enormous UFO over N.E.Spain"* (FSR 32/1).

*"The Attitude of the Spanish Authorities Towards the UFOs"* (FSR 32/3).

*"Spanish Motorists Chased for Five Hours"* (FSR 32/6).

*"The Spanish Scene"* (FSR 33/1).

*"Another Spanish Youth Claims Abduction by Aliens"* (See below).

## ANOTHER SPANISH YOUTH CLAIMS ABDUCTION BY ALIENS

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(Translation from Spanish)

ACCORDING to a report published in the journal "*Diez Minutos*" of November 17, 1987, a young Spanish electricity technician named Fernando — (surname withheld) claims to have recently had a remarkable encounter.

There had already been many reports from eyewitnesses who claimed to have seen unknown and unidentified flying objects over and around the large Spanish city of La Coruña in the Province of Galicia (North-Western Spain).

Fernando — who has now given his story to the press, claims that a year ago (autumn 1986) he was abducted and held in custody for several hours by beings from a strange craft who certainly "did not appear to be terrestrial".

On the Friday in question, in the autumn of 1986, he had just left his place of work and had gone to collect his motorcycle which had been undergoing an overhaul. "I wanted to try it out, because I take part regularly in cross-country motorcycle events, so I went to a nearby quarry in the Culleredo district. It was a place that I already knew well, full of rocks and steep gradients — ideal for practising for cross-country rallies".

Fernando recalls that he had been in the quarry for about an hour. "It must have been about 7.00p.m. I sat down for a while on a big stone, to have a smoke. Then, above the other end of the quarry, high up in the sky, among the clouds, I saw a great light. Slowly, this light approached me. Then suddenly seven orange-coloured triangles came out of it, flying in a pyramidal formation, three in line in front, and four behind. And one of the triangles broke formation and came straight towards me".

Fernando continued with his story, quite naturally, as it were, with no change of voice or manner:-



Fernando's sketch of one his captors.