

SEVEN SCARED WITNESSES AND A HUMANOID

A SURPRISING TALE OF A LONG-DRAWN-OUT CE III
INCIDENT NEAR STURNO IN ITALY

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Written in English, this article has been sub-edited by C. Bowen.

THERE were many UFO sightings in Italy in 1977, especially at low altitude, including some interesting close encounters as well. Indeed it was all of the proportions of a wave, and there was one particularly strange, and important, incident, with several eye-witnesses, two of whom have since been questioned when hypnotically regressed. The investigation of the case was conducted by Sig. Umberto Telarico and Sig. Giorgio Russolillo of the group "Federazione Ufologica Regionale Campania" which has an office in Naples.

The witnesses

There were seven eye-witnesses:-

1. Sig. Amalio Capobianco, a teacher.
2. Sig. Arturo D'Ambrosio, a turner.
3. Sig. Antonio Pascucci, 26, a student.
4. Sig. Mario Sisto, 38, a singer.
5. Sig. Rocco Cirullo, 24, a student.
6. Sig. Michele Giovanniello, 24, a student.
7. Sig. Michele Riefoli, 47, a photographer.

This report is mainly drawn from the interviews with Sig. Cirullo and Sig. Pascucci.

The encounter

At half-an-hour past midnight (00.30) on the morning of Wednesday, August 31, 1977, when Sig. Cirullo and Sig. Giovanniello were walking along the main road which runs between Sturno (Avellino, Italy) and Frigento. Suddenly the two men saw a red light shining between the bushes and trees flanking a small hill which overlooked the road. On the fringe of the hill there is a neglected stone quarry, and the witnesses moved over to it, looking at a green light which was higher up than the red light; there were two white lights to the side.

All the time they could hear a modulated and continuous noise, like that of a Morse code signal superimposed upon that of an out-of-tune signal from a radio station. The two young men moved position again, and could now see a figure wearing apparently metallic-looking overalls which gave a silvery reflection in the bright moonlight. The entity, standing in the short undergrowth between trees, was at first immobile, but suddenly took two paces towards the observers who, greatly alarmed, ran off

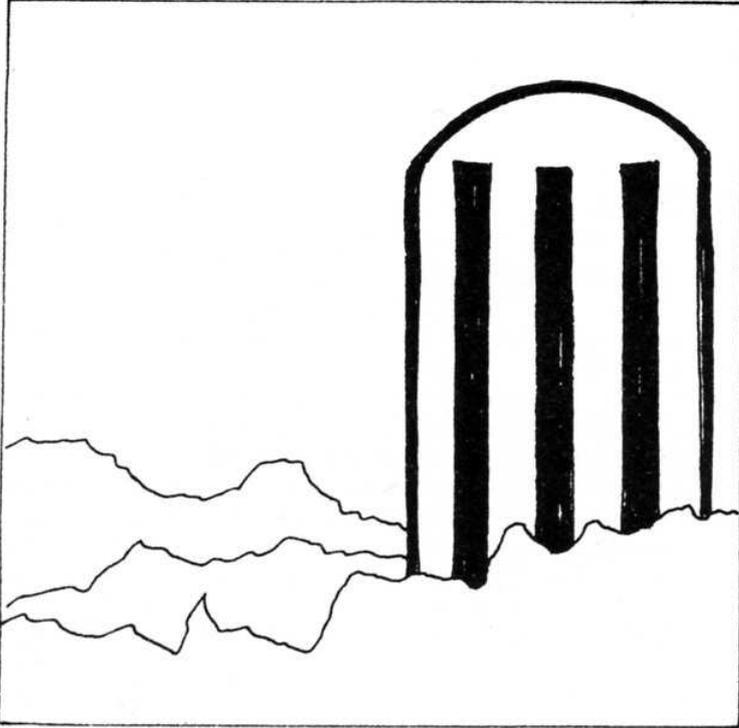
quickly to Castelluzzo. In the village they met up with Sig. Pascucci, Sig. Capobianco and Sig. D'Ambrosio. After they had told them of the encounter, Sig. D'Ambrosio suggested they should all return to the site in his car. This they did, and they arrived at the place at 1.00 a.m.

Leaving the car, they began to make their way on foot, and shortly they heard the eerie noise, and then saw the shining, immobile figure. Overcome by fear, the witnesses ran back to the car but, as nothing seemed to happen, their curiosity returned, and they ventured forth once more. Again the entity began to advance towards them and again they retraced their steps to the car. This tentative approach movement by the entity, and instant retreat, happened once and eventually all five set off back to the village to obtain a big electric torch. It was then that they met Mario Sisto and Michele Riefoli, and persuaded them to return to the scene with them. So the seven men clambered into the car and set off once again.

Between 1.30 and 1.40 a.m. the seven of them, curious yet apprehensive, tumbled out of the vehicle and, to meet any eventuality, left it with its motor running. They took up position where they could watch the place where the entity was standing, and Sig. Capobianco directed a beam from the torch at the figure which was seen to be some 25 metres away. It seems that the entity had been moving, for the witnesses say that it stopped, and appeared bewildered by the unexpected light. It then turned towards the source of the light, winking two red-orange lights which were on its head at about the level where eyes would be. This was too much for the witnesses who set off rapidly in the direction of Frigento with the intention of reporting the affair to the Carabinieri. While they were on the way, however, one of the seven [*the not so magnificent seven!* - ED] reasoned that if they informed the Carabinieri, and the Carabinieri found nothing, then they'd all be in "serious trouble." So the car ground to a halt, reversed, and set off back for the site by the quarry.

They were nearing the site once more when, after negotiating a bend in the road, Antonio Pascucci drew the attention of the others to an intense luminosity ahead of them. As they neared the site they saw that the light was radiating from a source hanging

near, or actually on top of, the hill, at about the level of the top of the disused stone quarry. The bright light also strongly illuminated the cliff formed where the quarry had cut into the hillside. The source of the light was a cylindrical-shaped object, which they observed for a few seconds. The cylinder was sub-divided into vertical bands, alternating bright and dark, and its top was a bright dome shape.



Cylindrical object at top of quarry

At about 2.00 a.m. the witnesses were at their observation points once again, and this time they were to stay put for about one and a quarter hours. Once again, they say, they shone the torch on the entity, which turned towards them, shone its orange-red "eyes" in a synchronised fashion at them, and seemed to gesture to them. As before the modulated sound was heard.

Some of the witnesses interpreted the gestures as an invitation to approach, while the others suggested the entity might be indicating the Moon as a suggestion of its alien origin. Whatever it was, the gesturing was followed by the sudden emission of an intense light beam from the region of the head of the entity, a beam which illuminated the witnesses and the surrounding area. One of them shouted: "It's a laser... a laser!" and they bolted back to the car, where they all felt a trifle sheepish because they realised that the intense beam hadn't done them any harm other than dazzling them for a few seconds. So, recovering their composure, they again turned their attention to the entity, and took note at last of its characteristics.

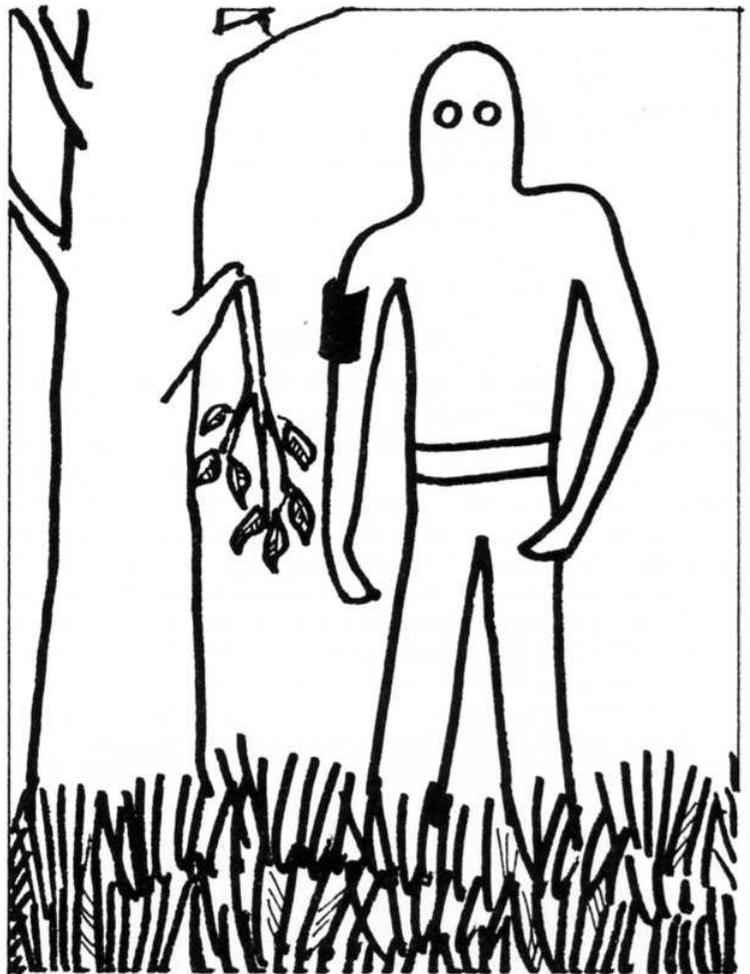
Using the surrounding references, they deduced that it was more than two metres tall (subsequent investigation on the site showed that the entity's height was of the order of 2.40 metres, and that the red light must have been at about 1.80 metres from the ground. From the descriptions it would seem that the entity's body was in proportion to its height. Its

head was planted square on its shoulders, with no sign of a neck [*perhaps this was the familiar diver's type helmet? - ED*] and the overalls, which entirely covered the entity, were of a silvery-metallized colour. Its luminescence came from a reflection of the moonlight. As described already, there were two intensely luminous red-orange lights which flashed alternately with varying intervals, and these were at a level where eyes would have been in normal circumstances. Some of the witnesses saw a "black box" on the entity's right arm, while others described a kind of metallic belt.

It is obvious the witnesses did not apply their attention to entirely the same features; they weren't agreed among themselves on the "black box" or the "belt" and none of them noticed whether or not the being had any kind of prehensile extremity.

Although the creature's nether limbs were always hidden in the undergrowth, it appeared to move about without bending its knees. Movement was rigidly executed, but without loss of balance, and the entity never turned its back on the seven men. This was observed even when the timorous witnesses retreated from time to time.

The witnesses say they heard boulders rolling, and attributed this to the presence of other unseen entities. Anyway, at 3.15 a.m. they decided to return to the village to look for other prospective witnesses but, finding none, went up again to the quarry where they arrived at about 3.30 a.m. This time luminous



The Humanoid

object and entity were nowhere to be seen; the witnesses' strange and unnerving experience was over. They returned home to their respective beds.

Carabinieri enquiry

The following morning it was Sig. Riefoli who, speaking with friends and acquaintances in a bar, "let the cat out of the bag" when he told of the night's experiences. In no time at all the residents of Sturno were seeking out the other six witnesses, and some of them went back to the quarry where three big circular marks were found. News of the strange nocturnal encounter soon reached the ears of the mayor, Dr. Alberto Forgiione, who quickly reported the affair to the Carabinieri office at Frigento. The Carabinieri arrived at the spot, examined the traces and then, that same afternoon, August 31, took the seven witnesses to their headquarters. The seven men were then interrogated separately and, after that, were confronted together. Individual depositions were then signed, and they were recommended by the Carabinieri to remain silent about their experience. "Better that you forget all about it — for the well-being of all," they said, and when asked why, the officer said they were acting on "superior orders."

Further investigations

The residents of Sturno told the investigators Telarico and Russolillo that the witnesses are known to be serious and trustworthy people, and this opinion was confirmed by the mayor of Sturno in a public press conference given in the town hall on September 3, 1977.

The two investigators next went to Gesualdo, a village near Sturno, a day or two later, where they interviewed a farmer and his family. They were told how these people had observed a strange "shooting star" of the apparent diameter of 10 cm at arm's length. This phenomenon, which was a fiery red colour had appeared six days earlier. It stopped for some minutes in the sky, and while it was thus halted the "star" directed a beam of light towards the ground. This beam, red in colour, appeared to be aimed in the direction of Sturno.

From the descriptions given, the "strange" beam seems to have been another manifestation of the phenomenon known as "solid light." When the beam was withdrawn, the "star disappeared" at high speed.

These farmer witnesses were deeply impressed by what they had seen, and they interpreted it as an omen of evil. What was of great significance was that they were completely in the dark about the events reported at Sturno.

A technical opinion and physical-chemical examinations

The opinion of engineer Carmine Cangero of Naples is very interesting. He had examined the three traces on the flat space in front of the cliff of the quarry, and tested a square centimetre of the ground to determine its elasticity. He later declared that a pressure of no less than 40 tons had been applied at

the vertices of the isosceles triangle formed by the landing traces.

During the enquiry the investigators also picked up, from one of the trace depressions, splinters of stone which had obviously been crushed deep into the soil.

Chemical examination of the samples collected at the site produced the following results: the base compound is calcium carbonate, while magnesium, iron and quartz granules were also present. When both samples were examined under a microscope, small traces of a metallic substance were observed on the superior parts (i.e. the parts presumably in contact with the object) but the quantity was so small that it has not been possible to subject it to spectrographic or chemical/physical examination. However it was possible to verify that the silver-coloured substance did not become oxidised when in contact with water and air.

Hypnotic regression of witnesses

Witness Mario Sisto was examined by psychologist Dr. Mario D'Antuono in his Neapolitan office. At the end of the session, during which Sig. Sisto had vividly relived his experience, Dr. D'Antuono stated under hypnosis it is not possible to invent a story. Witness Michele Riefoli was the other one to be questioned under hypnosis. He was regressed by psychiatrist Dr. Antonio Prevete of Naples, who uses hypnosis in his medical practice. After a positive result Dr. Prevete declared that there was no doubt about Sig. Riefoli's experience; he had literally fought a being who wasn't human.

Some time later Mario Sisto and Michele Riefoli were invited to Turin at the request of the American periodical *The National Enquirer*. They were placed under hypnosis separately by Professor Franco Granone, neurologist and professor of psychiatry at Turin University. Professor Granone declared that the two persons were in deep hypnosis, under which they repeated what they experienced entirely, or imagined, or heard. "This they did without a possibility of deceit; they truly have perceived, or observed, or imagined that being," he said. "So they are sincere. Only with suitable brain-washing can one condition a mentally-sound individual because, also under hypnosis, or under the effect of hypnotic drugs, he affirms things not true or solely imagined."

Conclusion

This is a very interesting CE III report. Its reliability seems to be good, in view of the farmer and his family's independent testimony, and the results of the hypnotic examinations, even if a small measure of doubt can be raised by the Turin statement.

As I see it, this observation of a "humanoid" proposes a question which has yet to be answered: "Are the humanoids 'robots' or are they 'living beings'?" It is a fact that the seven witnesses all said that the strange figure moved about without bending its knees — in a way that is impossible for human beings.

(Continued on page 22)

PHENOMENON OBSERVED OVER SOUTH URAL, RUSSIA

V. V. Rubtsov

HERE is a translation of an extract from my article "Here, on the Edge of the Unknown..." which was published in *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* No. 11 of 1978 (pages 53-55): other information contained in that article was fortan rather than ufological, and dealt with such subjects as sea serpents, ball lightning, and so on.

"Geological and mineralogical scientist R. Furduduy from Kiev relates that he was in the tented camp occupied by the participants of the XV international Congress on Geology of Coal Sediments on the bank of the River Zilim (South Ural), when he and his colleagues saw an astonishing phenomenon late in the night of September 6, 1975.

"In the north-western sector of the sky, about 40° from zenith, and against a background of stars', he said, 'there was a shining bluish-white firey bubble. Its angular size was equal, roughly, to that of the full moon. This bubble quickly grew larger as if it was inflating. Its shape resembled a hemisphere with its salient part directed upwards. This hemisphere's light seemed to resemble the bluish-white surface of a shining luminescent lamp, although its brightness was less than that of the latter.

"In total silence we watched that bubble as it expanded.* and soon its angular size had reached about 20°. The sighting lasted about two minutes before the bubble vanished instantaneously. It had vanished as if someone had turned off an invisible knife-switch.

"Later on I learned that this, or a similar phenomenon, was observed that same day and time from the town of Ufa, which is 85 km to the North West. There the observers saw the bubble above the horizon in the south-eastern sector of the sky.'

"A simple calculation gives us the height of the

hemisphere's location at about 50 km and the diameter of its base as 600 metres at the beginning of the sighting and, at its closest as 20 km.

"Here is another account: the reader A. D. (who has asked that we do not publish his name) from the station Aydirlya (Kvarken region, Orenberg district) relates how one autumn evening in 1971 he '... saw in the sky a small sphere flying directly towards us and quickly growing larger. The sky had darkened but the sphere was clearly seen against that background. It rotated like a terrestrial globe, and even the outlines of continents and oceans were seen on it. Then this object had closed all the sky and 'ran' on it [this passage is not clear, but is suspected to mean that the object blotted out the sky before departing at speed - ED]. At the same time another small ball appeared. This also enlarged quickly, but after that its growth slowed down. Something which looked like a spark was seen to emerge from its centre, pass along its radius, and then everything disappeared. The next day I enquired of friends, who had been out fishing that night, whether or not they had seen the objects. They confirmed the description, but said that they had seen it in another direction.'"

* [The UFO which landed in the Canary Island of Gran Canaria on June 22, 1976, confronted, on the road, a doctor travelling by taxi to visit a patient, whose son was also in the cab. The three witnesses saw, through the transparent wall of the sphere, two giant humanoid occupants. When the driver switched on a movable spotlight the object rose into the sky and grew in size - the humanoids retained their original sizes - until it was as big as a 20-storey building; it then shot away, with a high-pitched whistle, towards Tenerife (see FSR Vol. 23, No.3, published October 1977) - EDITOR]

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