

1961: Mr. Apongo, Peru 2 Mr. CE1.

1961. Central Peru. (daytime?)

UFO scrutinizes lead-silver mine operations.

A letter to the editor of *IUR* said:

"As *IUR* seems to be a focal point of serious UFO studies, I wish to relay an account of an interesting UFO sighting that I don't think has been documented. It occurred in an isolated area of the central Peruvian Andes sometime in 1961.

"I was a geologist, 30 years old at the time, working for Marcona Mining Company (of San Francisco) at its iron ore mine on the coast of Peru 250 miles south of Lima. A Peruvian friend, Manuel Montiel, of Lima, was also working at the mine, in the electrical department, I believe, and he asked me to accompany him on a weekend visit to a small but rich lead-silver mine located high in the Andes east of us (Mina Catalina Huanca). The owner, Gustavo Hernandez, of Nazca, wanted the opinion of a geologist as to the viability and potential of the mine which he had opened only two years earlier.

"Reaching this mine was a real task. From Nazca, 1,800 feet above sea level, we traveled 50 miles (two hours) east over a well-graded dirt road to the Pampa de Galeras on the Altiplano at 13,500 feet elevation. This road goes on to Puquio and eventually the high Andean city of Abancay.

"In the Pampa de Galeras we turned north on an unmaintained road which soon became just a track, or trail, across the gentle topography of the Altiplano at 14,000 to 15,000 feet elevation. Some of the rocks had been thrown off the track. We traveled for about 13 hours on this track, averaging five to 10 mph, about 100 miles to the mine. All people and supplies going into the mine and the ore concentrate coming out traveled this same tortuous route. My 1991 map shows an actual road at this locality now.

"The mine lies on the southwest side of the wide and deep valley of the Rio Pampamarca which drains eastward into the Rio Apurimac and eventually into the Amazon. I was told the mine is located near the village of Apongo, which I located on a 1:250,000 topographic sheet at geographic coordinates 13 degrees 50 S. lat., 73 degrees E. long., in the province of Victor Fajardo, department of Ayacucho.

"In my brief stay I examined the mine and mapped the mine workings, and after my return I wrote a report, from which I draw the above details and names. A year or so later, let's say 12-18 months, which would make it sometime in 1961, a young mining engineer who had helped me map the mine visited Marcona, where I worked, and related the flying-saucer story. He said that just a few weeks (I believe) prior, a flying saucer appeared over the Catalina Huanca mine and hovered there for some time (between five and 15 minutes, maybe more). The mine is on a steep slope, and I believe from where he was, higher up, the saucer was perhaps either level with him or a maximum 45-degree angle and at only 100 meters distance.

"The object was round and glowing, with windows on the upper part. He had time to get his transit, set it up, and look at the object through the telescope. Because it was 'fuzzy,' he couldn't get a focus on it, he said. The saucer hung around the

despite being near  
Object remained fuzzy  
(not focussable)

despite  
being a  
piece of  
technology  
to all  
appearances.

mine area for a day or so and was seen by everyone there.(I recorded 70 persons working at the mine in my report.) The following day(as I recall)it followed an ore truck or supply truck for several hours as it exited the mine heading south over the dirt track I described. It was not seen again.” (xx.)

(xx.) Gay Jr., S. Parker. Letter to the Editor. *International UFO Reporter*. Fall 1999. Vol. 24, No. 3. p.29.

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