

1961: Seville area, Spain.

Multiwitnessed CEI: ^{"lesser"} Physiological
& animal fx

(32)

Sunday, 11 June 1961 (23:00) Villanueva del Río y Minas (Sevilla, Spain)

Feeling strange pricklings all over his body, especially on the head, Sr. José G. Darnaude, 28, saw a spinning luminous object approach rapidly from the northeast, drop down at a 90° angle, and stop to hover at 20-30 m. altitude, 250 m. away. It was a disk 5 m. long and 3-4 m. tall, shaped like two plates set face to face, with fuzzy edges. It changed color from white to orange to red to purple to white again. Over a dozen other witnesses saw it for several minutes before it rose vertically at great speed and flew away towards the southwest. Horses went crazy, dogs cowered in silence, sheep broke loose, insects hushed. A neighbor reported observing a light in flight.

Sr. Darnaude was educated in law, economics, and business management, and, at the time of the sighting, was the manager of his family's agricultural and cattle-breeding enterprise, on whose estate the sighting occurred. The sighting sparked in him an interest in UFOs. (First-hand, Ballester Olmos. FSR Case Histories 18, February 1974, 11-12.)

... on reverse: Ballester's longer
report in FSR Case Histories #18.

2. A visit to a farmhouse in the Province of Andalucia

In our opinion the next case is one of the most remarkable that we have on our files. We think this for two reasons: namely, because this sighting, so meticulously reported, is a typical example of all those varied features which go to constitute the world-wide UFO phenomenon, and, secondly, because our source happens to be a personal friend in whom we have the utmost confidence. He is a Sevillian, of a family that is held in high esteem, and a man who, by virtue of his whole background and career, academic and personal, is worthy of the highest praise. He is, to put it in a nutshell, in my opinion the ideal witness.

José-Gregorio Darnaude y Rojas Marcos was 28 years old at the time of his sighting. He took his bachelor degree, then did a three-year Law course in the University of Seville, and he has done courses in Economics and Business Management. In 1961 he was the manager of one of the enterprises owned by his family, the agricultural and cattle-breeding firm of Fuenteluega S.A.

First a brief sketch of the setting. The Fuenteluega Estate consists of 1300 hectares of mountainous terrain, low hills, meadows, an olive-grove, pine groves, and an orchard in front of and skirting the valley where the cluster of farm buildings lies. The property is within the municipal boundaries of Villanueva del Rio y Minas, Cantillana, and El Pedroso, at a distance of some 50 kilometres from Seville.

The time is 11.00 p.m. on June 11, 1961, a typical hot night of the Andalusian summer. José Darnaude is lying in a hammock in the garden in front of the house, when he feels a sensation of discomfort and a peculiar malaise, with a pricking and itching throughout the whole body and particularly on his head. And suddenly, from behind the house, there appears a luminous disc flying at enormous speed on a NE-SW course. With an abrupt 90° turn it then comes down and hangs in the air, at a height of some 20-30 metres from the ground, and practically on an eye-level with him, as the situation of the farmhouse is lower than the area over which the UFO was hovering. From where the witness was, the horizon (in this case bounded by a hill), appeared to be above the stationary object. The distance of the object from him was about 250 metres. It emitted no detectible sound and gave the impression (although he is not fully sure on this point) that it was spinning on its axis, while all the time changing in colour and intensity of colour through white, orange, red, purple, and back to white again, always scintillating and flashing.

The night was dark, with no Moon, but also with no clouds to hide the stars, and visibility was excellent. The apparent size of the UFO was roughly half that of the full Moon, and he estimated its actual dimensions at some 4-6 metres in diameter and 3-4 metres through from top to bottom (these being its major and minor axes respectively, as it was elliptical in form). Its appearance was as of two dishes set face to face and, as Darnaude

it, it seemed definitely solid, and with luminous, slightly diffuse, contours which were however brighter than the rest of the object. He could see no windows or other particular features.

Sr. Darnaude at once ran into the house and called to various members of his family and to the servants to come and see the phenomenon. The people in the house included José-Maria Barrera, Rufino Macias Helo and his wife Antonia, and some dozen other persons. Then suddenly the object, turning white again, shot straight upwards at an enormous speed and vanished from sight towards the West. The whole duration of the incident, from the initial sensations of itching and malaise to the disappearance of the UFO, had been some 7-10 minutes.

And now we come to yet another aspect of the complex riddle of the saucers, namely the changes brought about in the surroundings through the presence of an unidentified flying object. Darnaude informs us that all the insects, crickets, cicadas, etc., fell silent and only suddenly started singing again after the extraordinary machine had gone. In the stables (which have no openings in the walls through which the animals might have seen the UFOs) the horses and mules went mad with excitement. The sheep, some four kilometres distant from the house, at the far end of the property, broke through their hedges and wire-fences and scattered over the mountainside, so that the shepherds had to go and get help to round them up again. The mastiff dogs of the house, and the other dogs such as are usually found on farms, all covered and were silent.

Moreover there is yet another indirect corroboration for this case: the watchman at a limestone quarry at a distance of one kilometre from the house declared that he had seen a "round light" cross the sky at high speed.

* * * * *

I will close this report as I began it, with some of my own impressions of the eyewitness. I made the acquaintance of José-Gregorio Darnaude in October 1969 and, in fact, precisely during a meeting of students of the UFO problem which was held in Madrid, and which I myself had organized. He never at any time spoke confidentially about this case, nor did he make it public. On our way home afterwards however, as we were driving together to Seville in his car, he gave me, almost casually, a few snippets about the sighting. The present report is the result of subsequent meetings that I had with Darnaude and of correspondence with him, in the course of which he filled in one of our questionnaires with extensive details. He assured us that, in 1961, he neither knew of, nor was interested in, the UFO problem. But it is logical that after that experience he should have had the desire to inform himself on the subject and to seek, maybe unconsciously, to find some explanation for the occurrence or some reassurance and support in the catalogues of the very numerous similar cases that have taken place throughout the world. Senor Ferré

too (the witness in the first case which I have recorded above) has had the desire — since his own experience — to read serious books on the UFO theme. Nor do we think that this fact in any way gives ground for doubting his statements. Both

these men maintained strict secrecy for ten years about their sightings, and only "opened up" to the investigating specialist when given prior assurance that their testimonies would be used solely for the purpose of scientific study of the UFO question.