

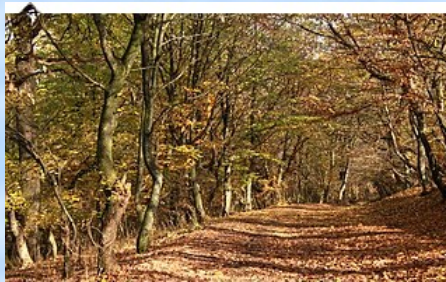
1968: Cluj, Romania

August 18, 1:23 pm

Source: web-site UFOs at Close Sight of Patrick Gross



*The first photo taken by the witness
and the object appearing in the others*



The site of the sighting

In the morning of August 18, 1968, Emil Barnea, a 45 year old construction technician, which had been an officer in the army, known for his integrity, and his girlfriend Zamfira Mattea, aged 34, employee in a charity organization, were taking a walk and went towards the wood of Hoia-Baciu, near the city of Cluj in Romania. They were accompanied by two other people, a man

and a woman, who remained anonymous because they wanted their privacy respected.

The weather was splendid, and the four decided to stop and have lunch under the sun in a small clearing of the wood, close of the road from Cluj to Bucharest.

Emil Barnea went to seek seasoned wood for a campfire. There was no wind, and the only sounds were the birds singing.

He then heard his girlfriend calling to invite it to come see something which intrigued her. It was 1:23 pm.

Barnea came back from the clearing and looked at what her girlfriend indicated to him: above the clearing where they were, there was a round craft in the sky, rather large, of metallic appearance, which reflected the sunlight as if it were silver plated. The machine slowly flew above the wood, without any noise.

Barnea then rushed towards his bag of which he extracted his camera, he estimated the lighting and the distance and took a first photography. As the machine went always rather slowly, it had more than enough time to take a second shot.

He noticed variations of luminosity of the craft, and its fluctuating flight.

At this time, the craft suddenly accelerated, going up, and Barnea had just the time to take two more photographs before the machine was too far away to be seen.

According to him the object was at an altitude of approximately 600 meters considering an 85° elevation on this photography, and 30 meters in diameter.

His fourth photograph was never publicly published because the other couple appeared on it, and they really did not want to be identified. This fourth photography was nevertheless shown by Emil Barnea to ufologists Florin Gheorghita and Ion Hobana later, it shows the machine who had become very small in relative size and as lost in a sort of cloud.

The four witnesses had followed all the evolution of the machine, which had lasted approximately two minutes, and then stood quite some time in awe and not knowing what to say.

At the end of a few days, the shock which this experiment had caused them had dissipated. At the end of one week or two, the film roll in Emil Barnea's camera was finished, and he developed it and made some prints. He was hesitant as of what to do about the observation and of the photographs, knowing that people talking of flying saucers were generally ridiculed.

There was all the same a fast investigation to seek for possible blimps or weather balloons presence in that place and at that time, and none were found.

The negative were examined to see whether they were tampered with by a photographer reporter of Cluj, and then by a specialist in photography of the Ager Press agency in Bucharest. Both concluded that there were no trace of any trickery.

Technicians of the University of Cluj lengthily studied the photographs and built and photographed small-scale models of the craft to check if the shades were in agreement with the described maneuvers, and as Barnea had indicated, they estimated that the machine, in addition to reflecting the sunlight, was to also have emitted its own light.

The analysis by Belgian G. Delcorps examined only the first photo. He estimated that "the photographic faking is to be rejected completely."

Then, F. Lagarde, known French ufologist, sent the photos and the bulletin, to another scientific expert. On 28 October 1970, he confirmed in its turn by the following: "With the photos in Romania, I came to the same conclusion as Mr. Delcorps. I must also join him – and it is not for the first time – the shadows have absolutely nothing to do with sunlight".

After checking in the documents, Mr. Larry Robinson declared the whole incident a big hoax.

Reliability evaluation:

- low -

supporting declaration from other supposed witnesses not available; no reports from other residents; technical equipment of investigation not available; possible fabrication, trick or hoax not excluded

