

HOMAGE to General Lionel Max Chassin (1902-1970), President of G.E.P.A.

DESPITE the delays resulting from the British postal strike and other factors, we would not like to leave unrecorded the death of this courageous colleague and our great regret and sadness on learning of his departure from the scene on August 16, 1970.

We extend our sincere sympathies to our French colleagues and fellow-investigators in G.E.P.A., and most particularly to their devoted and indefatigable René Fouéré, General-Secretary of G.E.P.A., for we know how close he and his team were to the General.

None of our team at *Flying Saucer Review* ever had the pleasure of meeting General Chassin in person, and he had been seriously ill for many years. But Gordon Creighton was able to enjoy an exchange of correspondence with him in the earlier years when he was still able to write.

So far as we know, General Chassin himself never saw a UFO, but he once wrote to Gordon Creighton: "Some of my pilots have seen some fantastic things!"

"Courageous" we have termed General Chassin, for it was he who, so long ago as April 23, 1958, had the courage to write the Preface to Aimé Michel's extremely important book *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (first published in English as *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*). At that time General Chassin was still General Air Defence Coordinator, Allied Air Forces, Central Europe (NATO).

HOMMAGE AU GENERAL D'ARMEE AERIENNE LIONEL MAX CHASSIN (1902-1970), PRESIDENT DU G.E.P.A.

EN dépit des délais résultants de la grève postale britannique et de plusieurs autres causes, nous ne voudrions pas laisser passer sans mention la mort de ce courageux collègue et notre profonde émotion et notre grande tristesse en apprenant son départ de la scène le seize août 1970.

Nous exprimons nos sincères sympathies à nos collègues français et compagnons investigateurs du G.E.P.A., et plus particulièrement à leur dévoué et inlassable René Fouéré, Secrétaire-Général du G.E.P.A., car nous savons combien lui et son équipe furent près du Général.

Aucun membre de notre groupement de la *Flying Saucer Review* n'avait jamais eu le plaisir de connaître le Général Chassin en personne, et il fut gravement malade pendant plusieurs années. Mais Gordon Creighton put jouir d'une échange de correspondance avec lui pendant les premiers temps quand il était encore capable d'écrire.

A notre connaissance, le Général Chassin lui-même n'avait jamais vu un M.O.C., mais il écrivit une fois à Gordon Creighton: "Quelques uns de mes pilotes ont vu des choses fantastiques!"

"Courageux", nous avons ainsi appelé le Général Chassin, car ce fut lui qui, le 23 avril 1958, eut le courage d'écrire la préface du livre extrêmement



General Lionel Chassin

important d'Aimé Michel, *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (paru antérieurement en anglais sous le titre de *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*). A l'époque où il écrivit cette préface il était encore Général Coordinateur de la Défense Aérienne, Forces Aériennes Alliées, Europe Centrale (OTAN).

If you're not a subscriber you might as well know what you'll miss . . .

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Changed your mind about subscribing? We hope you have, in which case you'll find details on the back cover. Meanwhile, please TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and FSR CASE HISTORIES

UFO ON THE SEA NEAR RIO

Dr. W. Buhler

When in London last year, Dr. J. Allen Hynek spoke of the obvious importance of multi-witness cases. This interesting Brazilian episode, which certainly falls within that category, was reported to us by Dr. Buhler when in England soon after its occurrence. Gordon Creighton prepared the material for publication, but this was delayed as we needed clarification on a few points. We are now able to present, with a few addenda to the concluding section on previous occurrences in the Tijuca area, a much more detailed version after perusal of the original Portuguese text by the author which appears in SBEDV Bulletin No. 74/79 for May 1970-February 1971.

THIS incident, which took place in broad daylight, at 11.40 a.m. on June 27, 1970, is notable because it was certainly observed by *at least eight witnesses*, and because it illustrates graphically how the UFOs are approaching ever closer to our densely populated urban centres. A great metallic disc came down on the surface of the South Atlantic Ocean, not much more than 500 metres or so from the Avenida Niemeyer, a famous coastal road, cut out of the cliffs, which affords a beautiful view over the sea and runs in a south-westerly direction from the Rio de Janeiro suburb of Leblon.

The disc remained on the surface of the water there for half an hour, and two crewmen were seen inside it, wearing helmets and bright greyish aluminium-coloured garments resembling the garb of our astronauts. When the disc took off, it left behind it on the sea a sort of ring or hoop which had apparently served some function, perhaps as a float or stabiliser on which it had rested.



The Avenida Niemeyer below the Machados' house

The Avenida Niemeyer is at a height of some 30-40 metres above the sea along the section in question, and the particular house from which the witnesses made their sighting is located even higher up, above the road. It was a Sunday, and in fine weather no less than 1,800 cars, so we estimate,

would have been passing there hourly. Earlier on the morning in question I had been in that area myself, and I recall that at 7.00 a.m. the sky was still fairly clouded over (it should be borne in mind that in the southern hemisphere June is in the less sunny part of the year).

Three of the adult witnesses, whom I have interviewed, are Senhor Aristeu Machado and his wife Dona Maria Nazaré Machado, who live at No. 318, Avenida Niemeyer, and their neighbour and visitor, Sr. João Aguiar, who is an official of the Brazilian Federal Police and resides nearby at No. 210 on the same Avenue. The fourth adult witness is the Machado's eldest daughter, Creuza, aged 23. The remaining four witnesses were the rest of the Machado girls, Consuelo, aged 14; Rosemary, aged 10; Margarida, aged 8; and Cátia, aged 5 (I did not interview any of

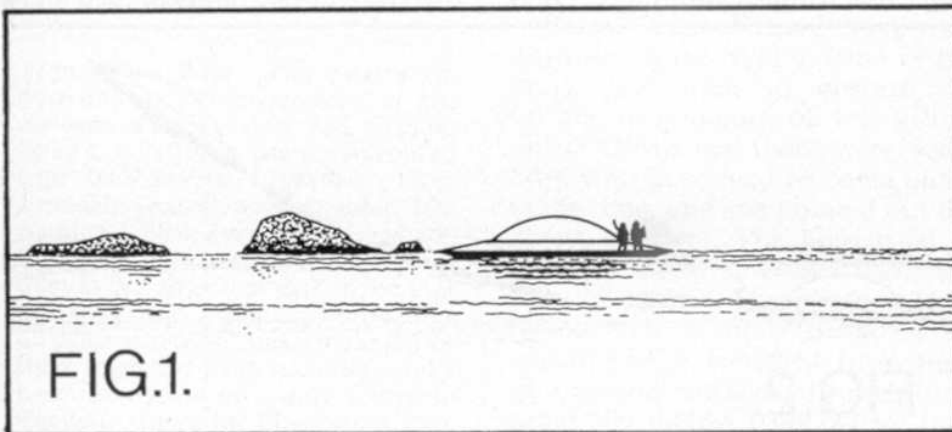


FIG.1.



Senhor Aristeu Machado and his wife look out from the verandah of their house

Our cover illustration is a composition based on a photograph of one of the Machado girls standing on the same verandah

the five girls, but only their parents and Sr. João Aguiar). It was in fact Dr. Carlos Netto, of the Rio newspaper *Diário de Notícias*, who notified me immediately of the occurrence, with the result that I was able to accompany him to the spot and talk to these witnesses at four o'clock on the afternoon of the same day. (Incidentally, it may be noted that the *Diário de Notícias* was the first Rio de Janeiro newspaper to treat the UFO Problem seriously and with a certain degree of consistency.)

The episode begins and occupants seen

The Machados' account is as follows:

Dona Maria Nazaré Machado was in the kitchen, preparing the lunch. From time to time she would step out on to the veranda, where the rest of the family, with Sr. Aguiar, were amusing themselves with a party game. At one point she enquired what the time was. It was 11.38. About two minutes after that, Sr. Aguiar happened to glance out over the sea, and quickly called the attention of the others to what he thought was "a motor-boat striking the water," for, as the object descended, it threw up spray on all sides around it

At once they all abandoned their game and began a vigorous discussion as to what to do about it, and as to whether or not the "motor-boat" was in need of assistance, for they could see two "bathers" inside the craft who seemed to be signalling with their arms. Sr.

Aguiar was positive that there were two persons in the craft, wearing shining clothing and "something on their heads." They seemed to be "thickish set and quite small."

The two persons in question appeared to be working on the deck of the craft, which was of a greyish metallic colour, and looked as though it might have been between 4 and 6 metres in length. It was covered with a transparent cupola (Fig. 1).

It was decided that Sr. Aguiar should run to the nearby Mar Hotel to telephone to the rescue authorities, while the rest of the party continued to watch the object closely. It had come down on the sea just where the water always looks darker, at the dividing line between the darker in-shore water and the clearer water of the open ocean.

The newspaper report in *Diário de Notícias* of June 28, 1970, states that the area of sea where the disc came down was about 500 metres from the shore, although later

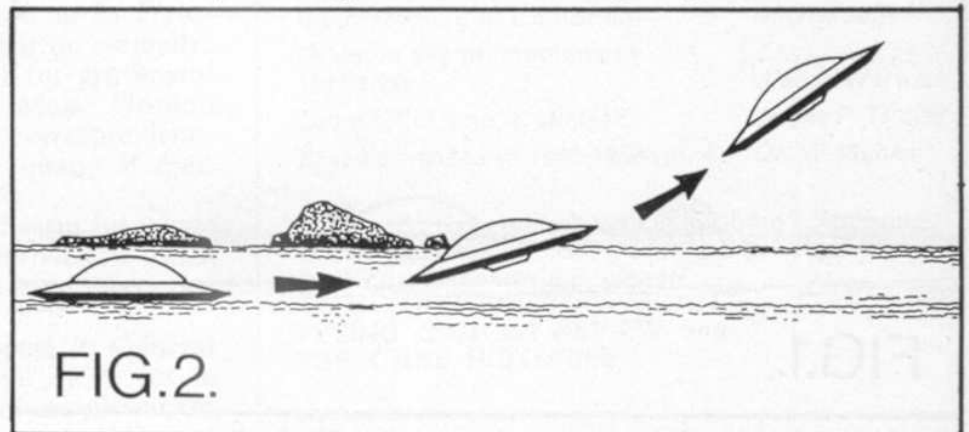
examination of the case suggests that it could well have been rather more than that, perhaps 700, or even 1,000 metres. In any case, remarkably close to the shore!

In my subsequent enquiries I learnt that the disc at one time moved in about 100 metres nearer to the shore. No sound was heard from it at any time, nor did it display the characteristic type of "bobbing" movement to have been expected from a boat.

Disc takes off

The time spent by Sr. Aguiar in going to and from the Mar Hotel (1 kilometre distant, towards Leblon) was, at the outside, 25 to 35 minutes. When he returned to the Machados' apartment, the disc was still on the sea, and he was one of those who saw it take off again. We may say therefore that the duration of its stay on the water was about 40 minutes.

Sr. Aguiar informed us that when the disc took off, it did not rise straight up, but skimmed along



for about 300 metres on the surface of the sea, throwing out the usual sort of bow-wave such as we see with our own fast motor-boats. In fact, it was only when the machine had become airborne and was moving away in a low arc out to sea towards the south-east that the witnesses realised that it was *not* an ordinary boat, but a flying saucer ... (Fig. 2).

Dona Maria Nazaré showed herself to be an excellent observer for, as the disc took off, she noted that, on its under-side (Fig. 3), it had a hexagonal-shaped object which she said looked like the Brazilian fruit known as the *carambola*.* This object seemed as though retracted up into the craft, and there were a number of coloured lights on the *carambola*-like object, flashing always in the same sequence, viz.: green, pale yellow, and red. (Other reports have suggested one rotating light changing colours through this sequence.)

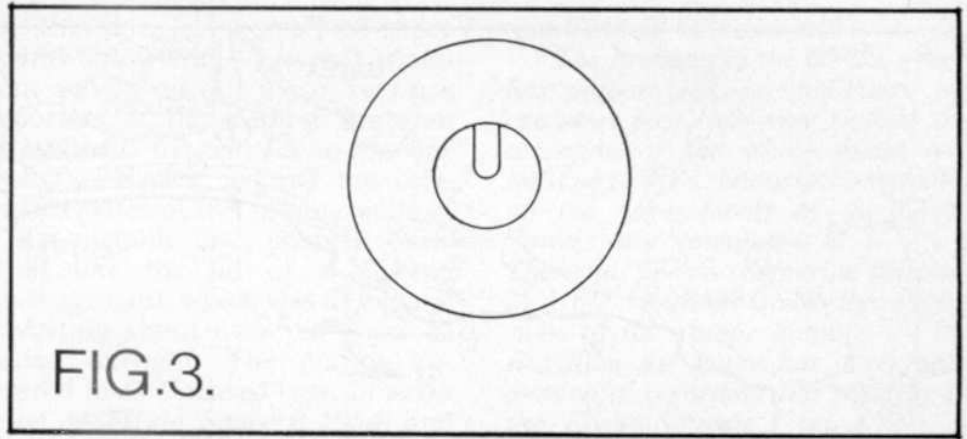
Occupants seen again

As stated, the disc appeared to be made of aluminium when resting on the sea, but once airborne, it looked transparent. At this point Dona Maria Nazaré could clearly see the two occupants sitting inside the craft.

There was little traffic along the Avenue at that hour, and consequently not much traffic noise. Nevertheless, as indicated above, none of the witnesses heard any sound that they thought came from the disc. Once airborne, the disc was speedily out of sight.

The "hoop" appears

On the area of sea where it had rested there was a "white, hooped-shaped object, of the size of a trunk or a chest" (Dona Maria Nazaré's



own description). After a short while this "hoop" sank. Then it reappeared, and from it there separated off a yellow, oval-shaped object the diameter of which, across its widest point, was approximately 40 centimetres, and which was floating with about 20 centimetres projecting above the surface of the water.

After remaining stationary for about three minutes, this oval, yellow object began to move slowly towards the beach, with its longer axis pointed in the direction of the witnesses' house. At the further end of the object there was a greenish flange which later separated off from the main (yellow) body and continued to follow it "at a distance of about 80 centimetres."

After a lapse of time which Dona Maria Nazaré estimated at about 15 minutes, the yellow object had come to a distance of about 120 metres from the shore. It then performed a right-angled turn leftwards, and headed off towards the beach at Gávea, still keeping always at more or less the same distance out from the rocks of the shore. *This movement (westwards) was in fact contrary to the maritime current prevailing in the area at the time.*

Dona Maria Nazaré then went down on to the road in front of her house and tried to observe the further movements of the yellow object. With her there were some boys who happened to come along at the time, and she pointed out the object to them. The boys tried to hit it by throwing stones at it, but without success. This phase lasted a further ten minutes or so, after which time it vanished from their view around the rocky promontory, some 500 metres from where they were standing.

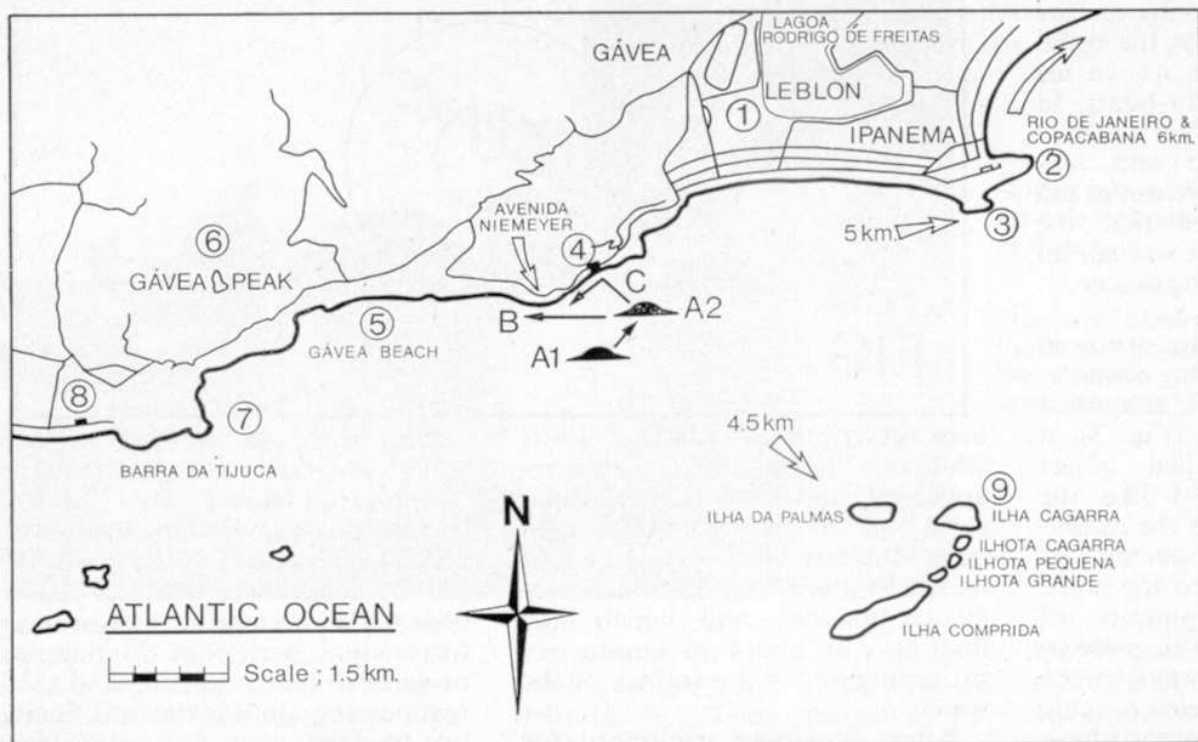
Meanwhile the "white hoop" was still in view, after having disappeared temporarily several times, and it was steadily approaching the Gávea beach as though it were going to join up again there with the yellow object. They watched the white hoop for a total period of 20 minutes or so as it kept vanishing and then reappearing, until it too was finally lost to sight.

The family, who had been interrupted in their parlour game when they first saw the disc just before noon, only returned to the veranda to finish the game at 3.00 p.m., when the sighting was all over, and they did not get their lunch until 5.00 p.m.

As for the phone call made by Sr. João Aguiar, it was to the Harbour Police, whose headquarters are near the Calabouço Airport, in the central part of Rio de Janeiro. So it would have been at least an hour before, normally, one would have expected a Harbour Police patrol boat to have got to the scene. When he called them, the Harbour Police checked up on Sr. Aguiar's own telephone number (he of course being a Federal agent himself) and they promised to send help to the parties involved in the presumed mishap off-shore. Sr. Aguiar was consequently quite surprised when, after only about 20 minutes, he saw a fast motor-launch heading out towards the islands (Ilha das Palmas and Ilha Comprida).

This motor-launch was no doubt one normally stationed at the For de Copacabana. We do not know whether its crew saw the UFO take off, but it may be assumed that they *did*, for they would have had the UFO in view long before they reached the area from which it took off and where the "white hoop" remained floating.

* Translator's Note: The *carambola*, also known as the *pitanga*, or the *Surinam Cherry* (*Averrhoa Carambola*, L.). A juicy, quince-flavoured fruit. Its segments, I recall, are most strangely shaped, very angular, like nothing I have ever seen elsewhere. But although we had *carambola* trees in our Brazilian garden, neither my wife nor I can now (at this distance in years) make a sketch of these segments from memory, and I have discovered no handy source in England where an illustration may be found—G. CREIGHTON.



KEY:

1. Leblon suburb
2. Copacabana Fort
3. Arpoador Point
4. Machado House
 - A1. First position of disc
 - A2. Disc before take-off
- B. Take-off
- C. Course of yellow object
7. Marisco Point (Peak)
8. Lourenço Jorge Hospital
- 5, 6, and 9. Named on map

When they got there, the motor-launch stopped at a distance of about 1 kilometre from the shore. Then the witnesses saw the crew of the launch hoist aboard, with great difficulty, a cylindrical red object (the difficulty being due no doubt to the great weight of this object). Having done this, the motor-launch returned at high speed to its point of origin.

Comments and theories

We cannot, *a priori*, guess the purpose of such a descent on the sea by Extraterrestrials. Could it be that they aimed to investigate certain local conditions by means of some *sondes* (the objects floating in the sea which they released?) or were these latter perhaps *spare parts*, destined for one of the Extraterrestrials' submarine bases, and which would have floated off, under automatic control, towards that base? Or could they perhaps have been automatic devices which, either afloat or submerged, could transmit information about the psychological reactions of the witnesses, say, in the house at No. 318, Avenida Niemeyer and, later, also of the folk bathing on the beaches at Gávea and Barra da Tijuca? Would these *sondes* perhaps have been recovered later, or would they have gone floating off to be lost in the sea?

Or could they be some sort of

devices which might have a long-term effect on human (i.e. terrestrial human) psychology?

Similar cases

I will quote briefly some other cases.

1. **Avenida Niemeyer.** This was also reported to us by Sr. Aristeu Machado. He said it had happened six months previously, when a lady named Dona Altair was living in the same house, No. 318 Avenida Niemeyer. Dona Altair told all the other residents of the house that on a certain occasion at about 2.00 o'clock in the morning, she had gone out of her bedroom on to the veranda and had seen, on the rocks at the side of the house, a flash of light which at first she thought was a reflection from the street lamps. But she had to abandon that conclusion when the light suddenly rose upwards into the air and became a pattern of changing colours. She then realised that what she had just seen was a "flying saucer".

2. **Barra da Tijuca.** Between 10.00 and 11.00 p.m. on the night of March 16, 1966, and again at 2.45 a.m. on March 17, doctors and nurses at the Lourenço Jorge Hospital at Barra da Tijuca watched an object which had seemed to come up out of the sea. At times it hung suspended over the sea, as though about to fall into it, and at other times it flew around over the

Pedra do Marisco, a peak near the hospital. Green in colour at first, it later turned blue and then red. It was seen to receive two objects, apparently teleguided. (See SBEDV Bulletin No. 55-59, March/December 1967. See also Gordon Creighton's article: *A Small Experiment?* in FSR, Vol. XIII, No. 6, November/December 1967.)

3. **Ilha Cagarra.** This case is quoted on page 24 of SBEDV Bulletin No. 55-59 erroneously as Ilha das Cigarras. At 5.45 p.m. on March 17, 1966, bathers at Arpoador (Copacabana) heard a violent explosion and saw a white, oval object drop into the sea near the Ilha Cagarra. A sentry at the nearby Fort said he saw a sort of parachute falling. Sr. Victor Wellisch, Head of the Maritime Life-Saving Service, put out four lifeboats which searched until 7.30 p.m., while an aircraft flew over the island. Two witnesses, Dona Iolanda and Sr. Ney Roban, of rua Carlos Gois 327/701, reported that they saw an enormous "ball of fire" vanish behind the lighthouse at Barra da Tijuca.

4. **Gávea Peak.** On April 15, 1967, as reported in SBEDV Bulletin No. 55-59, a UFO, like a brightly shining star and shooting forth white beams of light, appeared at 8.30 p.m. over the Gávea Peak. A number of doctors, including Dr. Oscar Lacerda, observed the oval-shaped UFO through binoculars

and saw it hovering, then turn red, and begin to flash like an aeroplane signalling. For a period of about 15 minutes it seems that the occupants of the UFO may well have been studying the minds of the doctors in the Lourenço Jorge Hospital and the working of the hospital itself.

5. **Largo da Barra/Tijuca.** This case of April 29, 1967, was reported by Dr. Jerônimo Rodrigues Morais of the Barra da Tijuca Hospital, and given on pp. 13-14 of SBEDV Bulletin No. 55/59. It was also reported in full under the sub-title *Fainting Pedestrians* in Gordon Creighton's article *A Small Experiment?* referred to above. While UFOs were active in the Barra da Tijuca area, a number of cases of sudden and mysterious fainting occurred.

* * *

Addendum by Gordon Creighton

To complete, as far as possible, this picture of UFO developments in the area to the south-west of Rio de Janeiro, one should perhaps add the very famous early case near Barra da Tijuca on May 7, 1952.

On that date, on a small off-shore island known as "Lovers' Island (not shown on our map), two ace reporters of the leading Brazilian magazine *O Cruzeiro*, João Martins and Ed. Keffel, secured the celebrated series of five photographs of a flat metallic disc, shaped somewhat like the lid of a dustbin (garbage can), which was flying and cavorting about over the island in broad daylight. The photos appeared in *O Cruzeiro* (special extra issue on *Flying Saucers*, 1954) and have often been reproduced since in books and articles. At that date the attitude of the Brazilian Air Force on the subject of UFOs was very different indeed from what it is now, as can be seen from the fact that the whole of the *O Cruzeiro* special issue was devoted to these photographs and to the "sensational lecture" about them which was delivered on December 2, 1954, at the Brazilian Higher Military Academy (Escola Superior de Guerra) by Colonel Adil Oliveira, Chief of the Information Service in the Staff Headquarters of the Brazilian Air Force. Young Air Force officers who had seen UFOs gave impressive statements before the gathering,

and Colonel Oliveira said:

"The Problem of the UFOs, which has preoccupied our humanity for centuries past, has now riveted the attention of the whole world and must be treated seriously, as virtually all the governments of the Great Powers are interested in it . . . There has been a staggering increase in UFO sightings since the explosions of the atomic bombs . . . the Brazilian Air Force has never been unmindful regarding this mystery of the 'Flying Saucers'" (etc.).

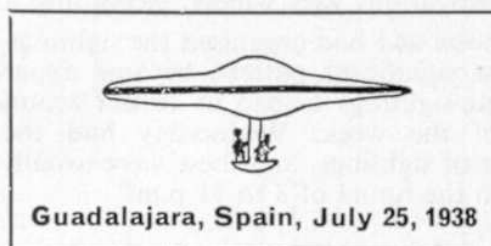
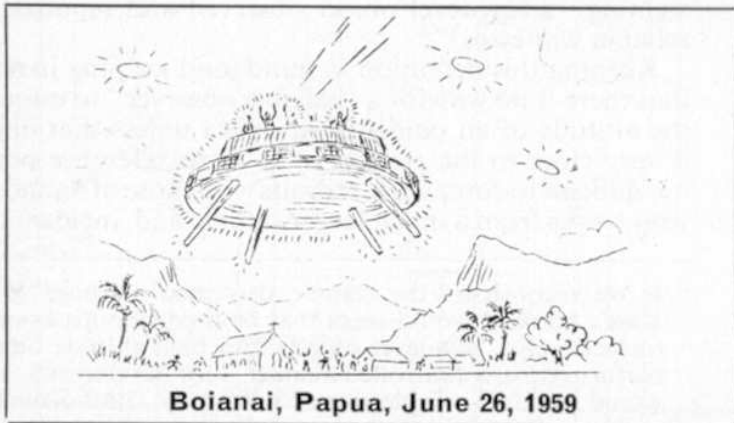
All of which may have been quite O.K. away back in December 1954, but very soon afterwards, when the effects of the Robinson Panel and the CIA recommendations had filtered through to Brazil, the usual volte-face and clamming-up occurred, and since then nobody in any official position in Brazil has said the sort of things that Colonel Oliveira said. The lid has remained firmly on, and no doubt everything possible has been done to induce the public to forget that *O Cruzeiro's* special and extra number of 1954 on "Flying Saucers" ever existed.

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