

THE ITAPEVA PHOTOGRAPH

W. Buhler

We are indebted to Dr. Buhler for permission to report this case¹ and to Mr. Nigel Rimes for supplying us with a print of one of the photographs.

BETWEEN midnight and 1.00 a.m. on July 4, 1968, a most interesting photograph² of a UFO was taken near Itapeva, in the Brazilian State of São Paulo, by a man named Ibrahim Rodrigues da Fonseca, aged 33, who for the past fifteen years has been working as a professional photographer. Sr. Willy Wirz brought the case to our notice, and on September 22, 1968, I was able to visit Itapeva and interview the witness in his home.

Sr. da Fonseca took me out to see the actual site, which is some 1,500 metres or so from his residence, and lies near the suburb known as Mata Fome.

He explained to us that he is in the habit of working late at night on a course of study which he is taking. On the night in question it was extremely hot, so he had the window of his room open. Looking out through the window, he chanced to observe a star which "was bigger than the rest". (See sketch No. 1 by witness.) He had a camera at hand (a Flexarette 6 x 6) and, seizing it, rushed out towards the "star", which was rapidly growing larger.

Quest of a 'star'

As he ran towards it he was joined by another individual of whom we know only that his first name is Joaquim, the surname being unrecorded. Sr. Joaquim, who was drunk, insisted on accompanying him in his quest of the mysterious "star".

Together they arrived at the plateau considerably higher than the surrounding terrain, and suddenly an object "lit up" above them, seemingly just above the plateau. Sr. da Fonseca thinks that the object was about 7-8 metres wide and about 10 metres from them, but we are not sure that these figures can be taken as reliable for, when examining the site with him

we concluded that the spot where he and his tipsy companion were standing was at least from 14 to 20 metres from the plateau and about 3 metres below it.

The drunken Sr. Joaquim took to his heels on catching sight of the phenomenon. Questioned next day and asked to corroborate the sighting, he maintained that what he had seen was simply "a helicopter".

Photographs taken

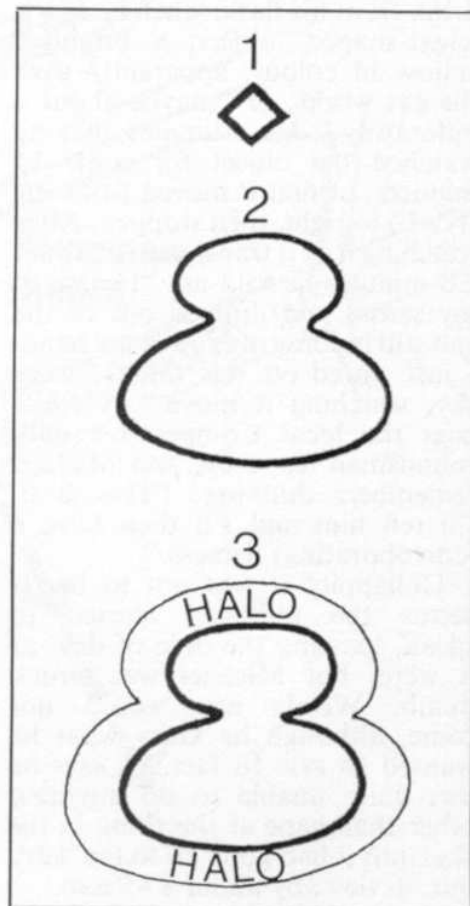
According to the statement of Sr. da Fonseca, however, the upper portion of the object was discoid (see sketch No. 2), and was rotating, though he did not recall in which direction it was rotating. As for the lower portion, he said that this too was discoid, but divided into two sections by a dark horizontal band. He detected no heat or odour from the object, but did hear a low humming sound. His intention had been to photograph the object from a distance, but when it now "lit up" in front of him so suddenly he was petrified with fear and just stood there for an estimated 15 minutes. Then he took two photographs in quick succession (set at infinity and with exposures of 1/25th or 1/8th second) and retreated.

When, soon afterwards, he saw the object rise up into the air, he noticed that a great "halo" formed, particularly around the upper portion, and there was a sort of "visual explosion" (see sketch No. 3).

As the object rose into the air, its speed, he thought, was little greater than that of a bird in flight. As it gained altitude, the humming noise was no longer to be heard.

Corroboration?

He returned to the place next day, but found nothing abnormal there. In the evening, however, an acquaintance, a young lady named



Lúcia Lírio, told him that, as early as 11 p.m. on the night in question, she had seen "a star, much bigger than the rest", right over the town.

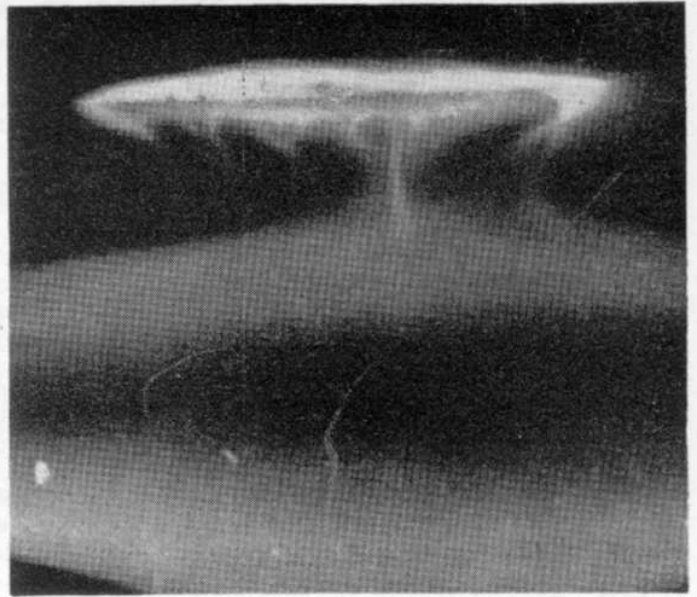
The first of his two photographs only caught half of the saucer. In the second photograph the saucer was well centred in the picture but he did not manage to get all of it in. (SBEDV secured copies of the photographs from a member of the São Paulo UFO Investigation Society.)

Photo filching

But now we come to the *disgraceful part* of this episode: a certain person³ from São Paulo visited Sr. da Fonseca, and, eight days later, the latter found that his two negatives had "disappeared",

one of them from the transparent cover and the other from the yellow paper in which he had kept them wrapped. *In view of this I again urge all those who possess the negatives of UFO photographs to take very good care of them. And we advise them to be extremely careful on the question of whom they permit to handle them, even on loan. For it is a known fact that, in a number of countries,⁴ various witnesses have "lost" precious negatives.*

For example, in Denmark recently, a roll of cinematographic film "went astray" in this same manner. It was the property of Major H. Petersen, and was a piece of film taken by the late George Adamski and allegedly showing UFOs. I happened to be in Denmark at the time, and I paid a call upon Major Petersen. He had just returned home from his holidays, and, on entering the house, was confronted by a scene of total disorder, "just like in a detective movie". Strangely enough, money, clothing, and other valuables had not been touched. Only the roll of film showing flying saucers "had vanished as by magic". We are reliably informed that, in other places, other copies of this same



film, or lengths of similar film, have likewise "absconded" from the hands of their respective owners.

NOTES by Gordon Creighton

¹ Translated from SBEDV Bulletin No. 66/68 (January-June 1969).

² Unquestionably the most striking feature of this photograph is its marked resemblance to the sketch of the UFO seen, also hovering a few feet from the ground, in the French island of Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, just 27 days later, i.e. on July 31, 1968. (For account and sketch, see *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 66

bis of November 1968, and our translation, *Contact Casualty on Réunion*, in FSR Vol. 15, No. 1, (January-February 1969).

³ We understand that the identity of the person suspected of having taken the negatives is known, and must make it clear that, if Mr. Rimes is right, they were purloined not by any Brazilian government official, but by a member of another civilian UFO investigation society (who, however, for all we know, may well have been acting on behalf of some other person or some other body).

⁴ See following article.

ON DISAPPEARING UFO PHOTOGRAPHS

GORDON CREIGHTON

Much as many folk would like to think that Dr. Buhler is imagining things when he makes this statement, he is only too right! Investigators everywhere have experienced similar "losses", either in the mails or as a result of a "visit". I need only mention here Dr. Jacques Vallée's letter on *Witness Intimidation*, published on page 20 of FSR Vol. XV, No. 4 (July-August 1969), and my original article referred to therein, *The Italian Scene, Part IV*, in FSR for July-August 1963, describing the *Bender-like* and extremely unpleasant happenings alleged to have befallen Signor Paolo Bracci who—so it is claimed—saw a saucer land and a very charming man and charming woman emerge from it, who chatted with him most amicably and permitted him to film them and their craft with his ciné camera. A few days later however a series of very different experiences allegedly began for Signor Bracci, culminating in a midnight visit to his apartment by some tall men with dark hair and bronzed

complexions who stunned him by some form of hypnotic treatment and removed the film from his safe. In all such cases as this, *we may be very sure that the beings who are so anxious to remove the evidence are NOT the beings whose existence is proved by the evidence, and that we are here getting very near to the nub of the whole UFO mystery.*

Presumably what Senhor da Fonseca saw in Brazil was a machine operated by either these less pleasant gentlemen, or by a species of smaller creature working in association with them. Incidentally, while Sr. da Fonseca saw no operators in the machine, Monsieur Luce Fontaine, the percipient on the Island of Réunion, did see two small "Michelin-man" type of creatures, about 90 cms high, inside the craft observed by him. He is said to have suffered from radioactivity as a result of this close encounter, though it is of course not possible for us to say at this stage whether this alleged ill effect was due to chance or was

intentional.

Of many other alleged cases of intimidation, I recall in particular the 1955 case of "Monsieur Blanc" given by Jimmy Guieu on page 16 of his book *Black-out Sur Les Soucoupes Volantes (Black-out on Flying Saucers)* and mentioned by Miss Tova Bratt in her letter on page 20 of FSR Vol. XV, No. 4 (July-August 1969). Also the case at Vico, Italy, on the night of July 24-25, 1952, when, as the witness (known to us only as "Carlo") was fishing, a disc flew low along the river and "a man" looked out at him through an "open porthole" and blinded him with a vivid green ray. Six days later, while "Carlo" was again fishing, at the same spot, a mysterious tall slim man, speaking Italian with a strange foreign accent, came up, and asked him whether he had "seen any aeroplanes or other flying things near the river" and then, when Carlo replied—perhaps a little too quickly—that he had not, the stranger gave him a "long cigarette with a

gold tip", two puffs from which made "Carlo" desperately ill. Feeling that he was about to die, his head swimming, "Carlo" quickly took the cigarette out of his mouth, extinguished it, and was about to slip it into his pocket when the other individual seized it brutally, broke it and threw the pieces into the river, leaving "Carlo" stretched out on the river-bank almost dead. (This case which is also mentioned by Dr. Jaques Vallée in his letter in FSR for July-August 1969, comes from Jimmy Guieu's second book *Les Soucoupes Volantes Viennent D'Un Autre Monde*, 1955—English translation *Flying Saucers From Another World*; Hutchinson, London, 1956).

Finally, as regards the remarkable facility with which photographs of UFOs "are liberated" from the possession of their owners, I need only mention the famous Queensland case (*North Queensland UFO Saga*, by Stan Seers and William Lasich, FSR Vol. XV, No. 3, May-June 1969), and my own experience, related in a footnote on page 197 of *The Humanoids* (new Neville Spearman edition), with the editor of a British periodical of world renown. I had lent this gentleman, at his

request, several UFO photographs, including my only print of the Brazilian Trindade Island saucer. I had to write to him four times and telephone him at least seven times in my attempts to recover it. *Ten months later*, he blandly informed me that the photo had been posted back to me and that if I had any complaint it should be directed to the British postal authorities. But he and his staff were extremely careful not to give me any date for the alleged posting, so that in the end it was quite impossible for me to approach the Post Office about the matter.

The photograph was a fine big enlargement, and I do not think there are in Britain many people who have good copies of the Trindade Island series. Whoever now has my photograph, it is evident that they were very determined to separate me from it, just as, in similar circumstances, the editor of an Italian paper was evidently mighty anxious (either for his own benefit or for somebody else's benefit) to separate Professor R. L. Johannis from the first sketch which he made of the two little creatures that he claimed to have seen near Villa Santina in August 1947. (See *The Humanoids*—new edition—pp. 187-199.)

East Ham UFO

(continued from page 19)

thing may have happened in the fashion which Maxwell Cade¹ and I² have suggested. The fact that this young man is clairvoyant is what makes this case interesting, and, I suggest, important.

At this point all that can be said is that Michael Oram is a pleasant and sincere person, deeply and somewhat emotionally involved with his experience. I found no trace of possible mercenary aspirations: I am convinced he telephoned the *Daily Mirror* merely because he had to speak to somebody whom, he hoped, might know about these things.

Both Dr. Finch and I hope that if he has another UFO premonition, he will let us know about it in advance!

NOTES

¹ Cade, C. Maxwell: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence* Pts. IV & V F.S.R. Vol. 13 No. 6 and Vol. 14 No. 2. See also *Crypto-Sensory Response* F.S.R. Vol. 15 No. 5.

² Bowen, Charles: *Thinking Aloud* F.S.R. Vol. 15 No. 6.

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BUFORA NEWS

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 16th May, 1970,
Shirehampton Public Hall, near Bristol.
Hosts: The British Flying Saucer Bureau.
Theme: "UFOs in Antiquity and pre-History."
Tickets: 15s. each, including tea.
Send remittance with a S.A.E. to the
Conference Registrar, 27 Station Road,
Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9TU.

NATIONAL SKY WATCH NIGHTS

The Bristol conference will be followed
by a sky-watch on the night of 16th-17th May.
The main sky-watch will be held on 27th-28th
June. Groups and individuals wishing to
take part should write direct to Edgar Hatvany,
BUFORA Field Officer, 19 Richmond Avenue,
East Bedfont, Middlesex.

Full details of the **BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**,
its journal and activities, are obtainable from
(send a 9in. x 4in. S.A.E.) Miss Christine Henning
(R5), 99 Mayday Gardens, London SE3.

Twenty-one years of UFO Reports

(continued from page 8)

- a. Are widely scattered over the earth, and come from such widely separated places as northern Canada, Australia, South America and Antarctica.
- b. Are made by competent, responsible, psychologically normal people; i.e., credible witnesses.
- c. Contain descriptive terms which *collectively* do *not* specify any *known physical* event, object or process, and which do *not* specify any *known psychological* event or process.
- d. Resist translation into terms that *do* apply to known physical and/or psychological events, objects, processes, etc. That is, as Goudge points out, translation would alter the meaning of the original report and hence effectively violate the methodological criteria governing the advance of science:
 - i. It must be *possible* for new observational data to occur; i.e., the existing conceptual framework of science, or the attitudes of scientists, must not rule out such new data *a priori*.
 - ii. The existing, conceptual framework must allow new concepts, principles, laws, etc., to be formulated to *interpret* and *explain* the new observational data.

Finally, may I say that although I know of no hypothesis that adequately covers the mountainous evidence, this should not, nor must not, deter us from following the advice of Schroedinger—to be curious, capable of being astonished, and eager to find out.

SPEECH OF THE ALIENS - 2

P. M. H. Edwards

Dr. Edwards is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

IN the first three parts, which comprised the first section of this article, we looked at (I) cases where the Beings allegedly spoke the language of the witnesses; (II) cases where certain E.T. words were reported; (III) cases where the witnesses merely reported that the aliens' language was unintelligible. Now for the final part, followed by general conclusions.

Part IV—Cases where witnesses later attempted to imitate or describe the alien sounds.

26. August 20, 1954, Mosjøen, Norway. Miss Edith Jacobsen said the alien began to talk unintelligibly in a language that didn't resemble any language she had heard—and she had some knowledge of the sounds of English, German, Spanish, French, and Russian. She added that the stranger's language sounded *soft and melodious*, apparently possessing *but few consonants, and no gutturals at all*.²⁷

27. November 6, 1957, Dante, Tenn. Mr. E. Clark claims he saw three ET beings who talked *like German soldiers*. Presumably, this is intended to convey the impression of sharp, staccato, harsh speech.²⁸

28. December 15, 1957, near São Francisco de Sales, Brazil, and less than one week before Mrs. Mendonca's incident on the road to Ponte Porã (see C. E. Lorenzen's book *The Great Flying Hoax*, Wm-Frederick Press, New York 1962; p.137). The farmer Antônio Villas-Boas (formerly referred to in the literature as 'Adhemar') says the aliens spoke among themselves in a *strident sort of language*, which he could affirm was *certainly not Syrian or Japanese* (two languages spoken in his part of Brazil by recent immigrants). He said his own speech surprised the aliens, for they stopped and peered attentively at his face every time he spoke.

Their speech, he says, *bore no resemblance to human speech*, for they talked *in growls, almost but not quite like dogs*. The *grunts*, he says, were emitted *slowly*, being *neither high-pitched nor too low; some were longer, others shorter*, sometimes containing several different sounds *at the same time*, at other times *ending in a tremor*. They were like animal growls, and there was *absolutely nothing that could be taken for a syllable or a word*, in a foreign language. It all sounded the same to him, and it baffled him how those people could understand each other. He added the memory of those sounds still make him shiver, he could not even try to reproduce them, as his vocal organs are not made for them.

He says that, after the grunts had ceased, they seemed to come to a decision, and proceeded to undress him. Those who were growling took him to a door, above which he saw some strange scribble-like inscriptions in bright red-lettering, in relief.²⁹

29. November, 1958, near Tarland, 60 miles from Aberdeen, Scotland. During army manoeuvres, two

youths were left to hold a hilltop during the night. In the very early hours, at the first hint of dawn, they heard "*gurgling*" noises from behind some trees, only a few hundred yards from their position. They went to investigate, and saw two beings about 7 or 8ft. tall, stumbling clumsily towards them, using a *guttural language*.³⁰

30. In 1961, Betty and Barney Hill (cf. John G. Fuller's book *The Interrupted Journey*) said the beings spoke to each other in sounds like "M-m-m-m-m-m."³¹

31. April 24, 1964, Tioga City, N.Y. Mr. G. Wilcox described the speech of two 4ft. beings as *smooth and effortless English*, the sounds coming from the body, rather than the head.³² (See case 3)

32. May, 1964, Colonia Castelli, near Resistencia, Argentina. Señor Alberto Kalbermatter, driving a truck, almost ran down a huge, dark, human-like being, 3 metres tall, which had abundant black hair. It emitted a *guttural cry of tremendous volume*.³³

33. July 16, 1964, Conklin, N.Y. Five boys saw a being the size of a little boy, and could not understand what he said. He made peculiar noises as though they came out of a pipe; these they described as similar to the noise made by a 'kazoo'. (The hapless ufonaut might have been burping.)³⁴

34. A few years ago, a West Calgary (Alta.) youngster had a traumatic experience with alien beings, which cannot be publicly described as yet. However, when he was asked, under hypnosis, to describe the aliens' speech, he loudly made a "B-z-z-z-z, B-z-z-z-z" type of sound, which bears resemblance to the sound described in the previous case, above: (July 16, 1964).

35. July 1, 1965, Valensole, France. M. M. Masse said the two small beings made *gurgling sounds* from their throats;³⁵ (see Case 14). In another account, the sound is described as being like *grumbling noises from their middles*!³⁶

36. July 26, 1965, Carazinho (RGS), Brazil. Senhor A. B. Azevedo described the speech of five 1.50m. beings as nothing like he'd ever heard in his life. They spoke within earshot for five minutes, and it sounded like a *very sibilant language*.³⁷

37. September 20, 1965, Pichaca, Perú. A girl saw six 90cms. beings talking incomprehensibly, and sounding *like the cackling of geese*.³⁸

38. August 23, 1965, Lugin, France. A man saw two small beings in a silvery dress, *grunting like pigs*.³⁹

39. November 8, 1965, Monza, Italy. A man saw figures in light colours and transparent helmets, who were communicating with *guttural sounds*.⁴⁰

40. July 18, 1967, near Doubs, France. M. Joelle Ravier and three others saw four beings at Les Gravières, who were 1 metre tall, black, with potato-