

A SMALL "EXPERIMENT"?

by Gordon Creighton

DR. WALTER BUHLER, of the Brazilian Society for the Investigation of Flying Saucers (SBEDV) in Rio de Janeiro, has reported another extraordinary series of happenings which may be of the very greatest importance for all of us and may merit our most profound attention.¹

To the south-west of Rio, on the west side of a headland jutting out into the South Atlantic, lies a beach resort called Barra de Tijuca. Distant about one hour's drive by car from the centre of Rio, the resort is one of the most fashionable of the famous Rio beaches, and is still not too much built-up. In past decades it was well known to many foreign visitors and tourists as a secluded beauty spot, renowned for its frequent fogs and for the thunder of the South Atlantic rollers.

It was near Tijuca, on a small island ("Lovers' Island") that, on May 7, 1952, the two ace reporters of *O Cruzeiro*, Joao Martins and Ed Keffel, took the celebrated series of five photographs² of a flat metallic disc, shaped somewhat like a dustbin-lid, which they watched as it cavorted about over the island in broad daylight. If one reputable French investigator of UFOs is to be believed, the U.S. Technical Centre at Wright-Patterson Field shortly afterwards paid the equivalent of £8,000 for those photographs.³

Object diminishes in size

Over the years since 1952 there have been many more reports of UFOs in the area of Barra de Tijuca. Thus, for example, between 10 and 11 p.m. on the night of March 4, 1966, two doctors and twelve other people at the Lourenço Jorge Emergency Hospital on the Barra de Tijuca shore, as well as a number of local residents and passers-by, saw an interesting phenomenon in the sky. Dr. Ivan Silva Almeida described it to the SBEDV investigators⁴ as a luminous spherical object, "the size of a finger-nail at arm's length." The object, which he thought might have been perhaps 12-15 metres in diameter, was suspended in the air *below, and in front of* the peak of a 60-metre high rocky promontory called O Marisco, which is about 1½ km. to the south-west of Barra de Tijuca and of the hospital. A blue light seemed to emanate from the centre of the object, and the centre contained "red points which were lights turning on and off." Very slowly, the object grew smaller, as though receding in space (which however was quite certainly not the case). Then it rose into the sky and finally vanished over the horizon. It was a hot and humid night in the Rio de Janeiro summer season, and let us note that this state of affairs was exacerbated by a local power failure for which no subsequent explanation seems to have been forthcoming.

Shortly after midnight on a day about a fortnight later, Dr. Almeida and another witness were standing chatting at the entrance to the hospital when they observed a round, star-like, silvery object with a bluish lower portion. This object, which was out over the sea, grew larger, for it was approaching, and as it did so it turned red. When it had arrived over the Marisco promontory it halted for a while, and then moved on to the area of sky above a small mountain called the Pedra da Gávea (700 metres high) which stands a little way inland to the north of Tijuca and to the west of Rio. Taking up position in front of the Pedra da Gávea, the object began to perform the "pendulum movement" familiar to all students of our subject, and Dr. Almeida was now able to perceive clearly the outline of a "Saturn-like" construction (similar to that shown in the famous Ilha de Trindade photographs).⁵

As would be expected, cloud formations frequently occur above the Pedra de Gávea, and there was a cloud there now. On the lower edge of this cloud, Dr. Almeida and his companion saw two luminous points appear, and from each of the points they saw a beam of light shoot down and illuminate more clearly the "Saturn-like" object. The pendulum movement of the latter had been proceeding for some 45 seconds or so, when the two luminous points began to move downwards towards it. It took them one minute to reach and merge into the object, which at once ceased its pendulum movement, rose straight up into the heavens, and was out of sight in a matter of seconds.

We come now to the more spectacular happenings at Barra de Tijuca which are the main subject of this article.

Fainting pedestrians

At approximately midday on April 29, 1967, as he has described it to Dr. Buhler, another medical man of the staff of the Lourenço Jorge Emergency Hospital, Dr. Jerônimo Rodrigues Morais, set out in an ambulance in response to a phone call for them to pick up somebody who had been "taken ill suddenly" at Largo da Barra, a section of the Tijuca area.

Arriving at the place where the patient was waiting, Dr. Morais found him to be a man aged about 60 years who by now was back on his feet and quite well again, after having "fainted" in a sudden and mysterious manner. He had just lunched in a nearby restaurant, and was walking along the Tijuca promenade when passers-by saw him fall down, and one of them promptly telephoned to the casualty department of the hospital.

To his astonishment, as he was listening to this

explanation, Dr. Morais now received a *second* call from the hospital, via a nearby telephone kiosk. He was to proceed with the ambulance to a bridge close by, called A Ponte da Barra, where another man "had been taken ill suddenly." Arriving at the spot, the doctor found that this time it was a 40-year-old fisherman who, as the by-standers testified, had suddenly lost consciousness while throwing out his scoop-net (tarrafa) into the sea. By the time Dr. Morais arrived, he too had recovered and was on his feet again, his period of blackout having lasted not much more than one minute.

Hard upon this, there came a *third* call for the ambulance, this time to pick up somebody who had fainted at the Barra dos Pescadores (a nearby fishermen's beach). When they got there however the victim had already recovered, boarding a passing bus for Jacarépaguá, and vanished without leaving his name. There were however the witnesses.

The *fourth* victim was a man living nearby at Restinga da Barra, and here again, when the ambulance and doctor reached him, the man had already recovered and gone back into his house, feeling, as he said, perfectly well after his short swoon. In this case too there were witnesses, for it was as usual one of them who had summoned the ambulance.

The *fifth* victim—and it is emphasised that all these cases occurred within the space of a few minutes—was a three-year-old child, a girl, who had been walking along, holding her mother's hand, and clutching in her other hand a tin with which to get some water from a nearby drinking-fountain. When the doctor and ambulance arrived, the child had seemingly made a complete recovery, and the mother told a story in every respect identical with what had been said by the witnesses in the other four cases. To make sure, the child was put into the ambulance and taken to hospital, where they found nothing wrong with her and discharged her. (Later in the day however her father brought her back saying she was again unwell, and the doctors found that she had a slight temperature. She was given medicine and sent home, since when nothing more had been heard of her.)

We now come to what may be the most significant part of this extraordinary story. The ambulance returned to the hospital, and, as it was backing into its berth, Dr. Morais—who was of course sitting in front beside the driver—chanced to look out over the sea and beheld, at an angle of some 70° above the horizon and about 30° to the right—in other words almost opposite the hospital—a stationary or almost stationary elongated, shining, metallic body of the colour of aluminium.

Although Dr. Morais had seen no less than fifteen UFOs at Tijuca during the course of the past fifteen years, he did not at first think this was anything but a helicopter and consequently did not stop to scrutinise it very carefully. He took the child into the hospital and, coming outside again a few minutes later, he found that the "helicopter" had

vanished—a feature which at once struck him as odd in view of the slow speed of such machines.

So we have here a series of no less than five cases of sudden and inexplicable loss of consciousness, all presenting identical features, and all occurring in a very restricted area and within an absolute limit of thirty minutes (12 noon to 12.30 p.m.).

When Dr. Buhler discussed the affair with the doctors and staff of the Lourenço Jorge Emergency Hospital, he was not at all surprised to find that many of the doctors there had already a considerable experience and knowledge of the UFO Problem, which confirms, as he so rightly says, the fact that this is a field in which the doctors of Brazil are themselves pioneers. (As readers will know, the three foremost Brazilian investigators, Dr. Buhler himself, Dr. Olavo Fontes, and Dr. Mario Prudente Aquino, are all medical men.)

Comment

Such, then, appear to be the known facts of this strange business at Barra da Tijuca. Everyone who has read the newspapers will undoubtedly recall some case or other in which fumes or gases have caused people to lose consciousness, and it is quite possible that such could be the explanation in the present case.

If, however, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW readers are disinclined to accept that explanation (and the SBEDV Bulletin reports no discovery of any such fumes or gas at Barra da Tijuca on the day in question) then they must judge for themselves whether, as Dr. Buhler suggests, a UFO has now been detected in the very act of carrying out some little "test" on Earthmen. Perhaps it could have been a trial run designed to ascertain such things as the degree of "susceptibility" of the "targets," the speed with which hospitals, ambulances and doctors can respond in emergencies. Perhaps, furthermore, it could have been laid on also to "examine," by telemetering methods, the reactions of the passers-by, the surrounding crowds, the level of intellectual or other development of the populace, perhaps even the thoughts and comments of the doctors and hospital staff, and so on.

I have said it before, and I say it again. Here is food for much thought. To the many idealists who may find me distressingly "suspicious," I can only say that I am perfectly willing to buy the idea that there may be "Noble Venusians" or "Elder Brethren"—as I have already shown in my section of *The Humanoids*—provided that I am permitted to balance the picture with the goblins and devils for which the evidence is equally good, indeed a great deal better, one is sorry to note. I am a firm believer in the existence of "Angels" or "Higher Beings," whatever these terms may represent. But let me be free to point out that there seems to be something else in the woodpile too. Surely no greater disservice can be done to the Earth beings of our kind—and to our descendants too, if there are to be any—than is being done by the fatuous

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WHY UFOs ARE HOSTILE

by Jerome Clark

ON a day in late summer 1939, a military transport left the Marine Naval Air Station in San Diego, California, for a routine flight to Honolulu. About three hours afterwards, several urgent distress signals sounded from the plane, and then silence. Later, the craft came limping back to execute an emergency landing. When Air Station personnel entered the plane, they found every man on the crew, including the co-pilot, who had lived long enough to pilot the craft back to its base, dead of unknown causes.

Each of the bodies carried large, gaping wounds, and the outside of the ship was similarly marked. Air Station men who touched parts of the craft came down with a mysterious skin infection.

One of the most puzzling aspects of the whole affair was that the '45 automatics carried by the pilot and co-pilot as service pieces had been emptied and the shells lay on the floor. A smell of "rotten eggs" pervaded the atmosphere inside the plane.

Was this 28-year-old air disaster an early case of UFO hostility? "Mysterious skin infections"¹ and "rotten egg" odours² are phenomena familiar to all UFO researchers. It would seem that the transport was attacked—apparently without provocation—by some sort of strange aerial intruder.

On the basis of incidents similar to this one, Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour, in their recent *Flying Saucers Are Hostile* (Award Books), have concluded that at least some UFOs are visiting the earth for malevolent ends. "There is a wealth of well-documented evidence," they write, "that UFOs have been responsible for murders, assaults, burnings with direct-ray-focus, radiation sickness, kidnappings, pursuits of automobiles, attacks on homes, disruptions of power sources, paralysis, mysterious cremations, and destruction of aircraft."

A bit strong? Perhaps. But the material they have gathered is certainly unsettling, more than enough to expose the fallacies inherent in sentiments like those expressed by a recent contributor to these pages: "The extraterrestrials, although they may have badly frightened us, have not, so far as we know, deliberately caused any of us serious bodily harm, nor have they used lethal weapons against us. This cannot be said, alas, on our side. Unavoidable accidents may have occurred . . . but no deliberate act of aggression causing death has been made against us."³

From *Hostile* and the independent research I have done on the question, I dare say that a case might be made for the remarkable restraint on our part. Although on a number of occasions jet interceptors have been scrambled to check on UFOs, there are very few instances in which these aircraft have been fired on the saucers, and then only because some action of the ufonauts frightened the pilots. Keyhoe, for example, cites an incident wherein a UFO

abruptly switched direction and seemed to be trying to ram the jets which were pursuing it, forcing them to open up with rockets—to no avail, evidently.⁴

There is, of course, the inane "self-defence" plea of certain apologists, who maintain that, because the UFOs are somehow menaced by us and our weapons (puny in comparison with those the UFOs possess), they must strike back to save themselves. Thus, the F-89 at Kinross Air Force Base was abducted because the UFO had to "defend itself"—a curious notion since—rather than fleeing, which it could easily have done—the saucer flew directly *towards* the aircraft.

We should also remember that, while flying saucers have ostensibly downed more than a few of our planes, we have *never*, so far as is known, forced a UFO to crash, nor often tried to knock one down. I am inclined to think that we are treating our visitors with more respect than they deserve.

On the other hand, I find it very difficult to believe that the ufonauts are in the early stages of an invasion plan, as Steiger and Mrs. Whritenour profess to feel. The UFOs may be "hostile", but that is not all that can be said about them. After all, they are "indifferent" and, indeed, even "friendly" *when the occasion calls for it*.

What it comes to is this: because UFOs have killed and injured seemingly innocent persons, we should not conclude that the saucers have sinister motives (at least, I mean, on those grounds alone). Because UFOs usually do not bother us, we should not conclude that they are indifferent to us. Because UFO beings are sometimes kind to us (as in some contact claims), we should not conclude that they like us. We should conclude, though, that *they are intimately concerned with us—to the extent that they have gone to fantastic lengths to prevent us from knowing what they are doing*.

In earlier articles⁵ I approached the issue from the opposite corner: those claims in which ufonauts have evinced "friendliness". Let me restate my arguments briefly. In contact claims (such as those of George Adamski, Sid Padrick, and Professor Guimaraes) the ufonauts have planted a fairly consistent image of themselves, relative both to their origins and to their purposes. In communication with human beings in post-Arnold times, the entities usually pass themselves as benevolent beings from Venus (or other planets) whose coming is stimulated by a desire to save the human race from destroying itself. Yet there is absolutely no objective evidence, other than the contact stories, that the UFOs are either interplanetary or "friendly" in the human sense; but their *is* objective evidence that some of these contacts took place as described. The implication, then, is that the ufonauts are lying.

In the 1896-97 American flap, the UFO occupants