

WE were very busy in 1988 at CIRCLES PHENOMENON RESEARCH, with a grand total of some 100 circles found, three of which were very interesting indeed. Whereas, previously, in all the earlier circles, the corn had stayed down until it was cut, *the corn in these three circles came up again, leaving a chequered pattern which could only be seen from the air.*

The BBC made a documentary film about our Phenomenon this year, and the three circles were shown in it. The documentary outlined the four prevailing points of view:-

1. Was the cause of the circles wind vortexes?¹
2. Was the cause helicopters?
3. Was the cause UFOs?
4. Was the cause hoaxes?

(At C.P.R. we have now found a way of recognizing a genuine or a hoax circle in a very short space of time.)

Another strange occurrence this year is that somebody seems to have been copying my films!² On collecting them from the shop, I noticed that they were not in their protective plastic wallet, and that they had white tapes with punch holes in them. On asking the assistant the reason for this, I was told that they "were not satisfied with the

results, and had re-printed the photos." I use a fully automated camera which always produces perfect negatives. (I also take photographs of weddings, funerals, and aircraft, but not one of these photos has ever been copied!)

On one of my helicopter flights in 1988 I found twelve circles in the space of one square mile. But, since then, fifteen circles³ have appeared in a field-opposite Silbury Hill.

COMMENTS BY EDITOR, FSR

¹ In an article, "RIDDLE OF THE COSMIC CORN-FIELDS", in the *Daily Mail* of February 11, 1989, Dr Terence Meaden, the meteorologist who for some years past has been the Great High Priest of Whirlwinds, is quoted by journalist Willy Newlands as stating flatly: "They're not made by hoaxers; They're not made by helicopters; They're not made by whirlwinds..." This will be grave news for some. We can say that we feel for them.

² That's nothing new!

³ See article "Did Avebury UFO produce the Silbury Hill Corn Circles?", by FSR Consultant George Wingfield, in FSR 33/4.

THE STRANGE BRAZILIAN SCENE

Gordon Creighton

JUST after World War II, after a decade in H.M. Embassy and our Consulates in China and four years as Consul-General at New Orleans, USA, a following spell of six months in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office in London and a year at H.M. Consulate-General in Antwerp, Belgium, I found myself serving as Britain's representative for a vast north-eastern segment of the enormous country of Brazil.

Already, in another vast country, China, in the summer of 1941, on the upper waters of the River Yangtze, in a region not far from the eastern frontier of Tibet, my companions and I had seen something strange in the sky, which seems to have been what was later to be called a "flying saucer".¹ And, after my arrival in Brazil, it was not long before I began to hear and read strange stories, mainly in the local newspapers, about similar goings-on in the skies over that country. (At just about the same time, although, of course, I did not yet know about it, a professional colleague of mine, Dr Alberto Perego, the Italian Consul at Belo Horizonte in the State of Minas Geraes to the south of me, was starting to make his own collection of the same sorts of reports.)

In more recent years, of all the non-Brazilians who have investigated the "UFO PROBLEM" in that country, the highly experienced professional journalist Bob Pratt from the United States is certainly the best known and most competent, for he has made six trips to Brazil (an even bigger country than the USA!). On the first occasion he went on behalf of the newspaper *The National Enquirer*, a paper that has never been "backward" in the publication of UFO reports, many of them spectacular (and one may well conclude that much of the opprobrium heaped upon the poor old *Enquirer* has been precisely on account of this "awkward" and "unwelcome" interest!). Bob's last two

trips to Brazil were undertaken on his own account, and all of his six trips have been for the specific purpose of investigating UFO reports.

Incidentally, no report that I have ever read illustrates more vividly than Bob Pratt does the frustrations and communications problems that confront anyone who attempts to travel around and gather information in the Interior of this stupendous country of Brazil.

Some of the reports given below concern material gathered by him in the hot, parched *Sertão* regions of the great North-East, which lay within my own Consular District (centre: Recife, Pernambuco). A good many UFO reports reached me from our subordinate Vice-Consuls at Natal, Fortaleza, and Maceió).

Brazil has been the setting of some of the most horrific² UFO reports that have ever reached us, and a few "hair-raising" and disturbing stories from there still lie in my files, unpublished, and I think are likely to stay there, for their contents are certainly not such as might be calculated to enhance the life and happiness of the average human were he to know of them.

Those who perceive something about the deeper side of the "UFO Problem" and of the enormous crisis now facing mankind will not be surprised to find *Brazil* — of all countries — so particularly infested in this sinister way.

One of several of Mr Pratt's purposes in making this, his sixth trip to Brazil, in 1986, was to try to get some answers to a letter which I had sent to Dr J. Allen Hynek some years ago. I wanted to know whether it was possible to secure confirmation or any sort of follow-up to an alarming report in the *National Enquirer* of December 29, 1981. We had received a copy of that report, and had published it in full on pages 25/26 of FSR 27/5, which appeared in March 1982.

For the convenience of newer readers I now reproduce the item in question below. It is interesting that we have now secured some sort of "follow-up" on it, since "follow-ups" are something that only very seldom comes our way. It is constantly happening that the Editor of FSR receives an irate letter from some reader asking why on earth it is that we have produced no "follow-up" or sequel to some obscure UFO event alleged to have occurred in some remote corner of the globe, possibly years and years ago. One has the impression (I regret to have to say it) that some of our readers — particularly some of the *British* — have no grasp of the size and complexities of our Planet or the vast cost of mounting expeditions to outlying and outlandish places; and they expect me, sitting here totally unaided at my desk in England, to produce single-handed for them UFO reports galore, from anywhere in the world, like white rabbits out of a hat. I also recall one gent in New Zealand who used to get almost apoplectic because I could not mount an immediate expedition to the Upper Amazon in order to ascertain some small point for him. And there was another, whose letter-heading showed that he resided "at the back of beyond" in the Kimberley Region of North-Western Australia, who apparently was unable to fathom why the Editor of FSR could not flit hither and thither at will blithely culling UFO reports worldwide.

In this present case, which has as its setting the immensity of Brazil's Interior, it is indeed our unusual pleasure, thanks entirely to Bob Pratt, to offer some small measure of "follow-up" on a very perturbing story.

By way of an introduction, however, it will perhaps be better if we present again our original *World Round-up* report which I take from pages 25/26 of FSR 27/5 (1982):-

BRAZIL DID UFOs KILL FOUR HUNTERS?

The American tabloid, the *National Enquirer*, carried a sensational story in its issue of December 29, 1981, in which claims were made that four Brazilian hunters from the town of Parnarama (p. 3000) in the northern part of the country, had separately suffered violent death meted out by a UFO, or UFOs. The local police chief, Geraldo dos Santos Magela, told *Enquirer* staff writers Muldoon and Richman, that —

"As police chief it's my job to verify these reports, to determine if the deaths were caused by a UFO or if the reports were products of the imagination. Imagination . . . no. It was a UFO.

"The men died while the UFO was directly above them, and the other hunters with them were terrified. They came to me asking for help.

"At first I didn't take the reports seriously. But by early November, when the entire region was in a panic, I had to take them seriously."

Details of the gruesome deaths followed.

"The first hunter was killed on October 17. The vic-

tim, Abel Boro, went hunting with a friend, Ribamar Ferreira. They saw what appeared to be a bright star — but then it descended and hovered over the two terrified men, focussing its light on Boro.

"When it descended it was so bright that night became day," Ferreira told *The Enquirer*. "I got frightened and climbed down from the tree I was in — my favourite hunting spot.

"The UFO cruised around us and stopped right above the tree Abel was in. It was like a giant truck tire, all lit up and spinning around and doing something bad to Abel, because he was shaking with fear.

"I decided to run for help, but then I heard the screams from Abel. I turned around and saw all that light from the UFO was surrounding him and his body was all glittering.

"I don't know how I managed to run, but I got home and passed out. The next morning I went to Abel's house and he hadn't come home. His family and I went to the spot (where I had last seen Abel) and there he was dead. His body was all white. He didn't have a drop of blood in him. The UFO — it sucked Abel's life, like a space vampire." [Brazilians of these regions often call a UFO a "chupa-chupa". *Chupar* means to suck. G.C.]

The next report told how Anastacio Barbosa stated that he and his friend Raimundo Souza ran for their lives when a large object dropped from the sky and beamed a light at them in the woodlands. Raimundo tripped and fell, and before he could rise the light focussed on him. Barbosa prayed, and ran. Raimundo's body was found next morning: it was totally white.

The third victim was José Vitorio, who was lying in a hammock in the woods, with his hunting companion nearby. Suddenly a flying object descended over the hammock and shone brightly. The companion ran for help but when they returned Vitorio was found to be dead.

The witness to the fourth killing was José dos Santos who fired five shots at a UFO which, he alleged, was chasing him. He contrived to escape. Dos Santos had seen a friend working at the top of a hill when an object appeared and shone a beam of light at him. Said Santos: "He received a shock and came rolling down the hill. He went crazy for three days. He was terrorised. Then he died."

Credit: **Gerald Garces** of Rialto, California.

[Our only wish is that responsible local investigators could double-check such a seemingly crazy story. There is evidence in the "Enquirer" account of much hysteria in the town, and among its officials, and we are left with a suspicion that the police chief supports the UFO theory either as a cover for his actual line of enquiry, or because he has no other ideas. The main difficulty, of course, is that enormous distances are involved, even for Brazilian investigators who, if they were based in Rio de Janeiro, would be faced with a journey of about 1200 miles each way, and into some pretty wild country, — EDITOR, CHARLES BOWEN]

(from Page 14)

My own *personal opinion* is that we are all wasting our time in chattering about "UFOs". Because "UFOs", whatever they are, are merely "a symptom of the malady". "A symptom of the malady now affecting this Planet." In all probability, that "symptom" is connected with the question of "WHAT

TIME IS IT FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US"? Were we to discuss that sort of question, we would of course cease to be a "UFO magazine".

And I doubt whether we would have more than fifty readers.

AN EXTRAORDINARY FIELD-INVESTIGATION TRIP TO BRAZIL (1986)

Bob Pratt © 1987

MUFON Staff Writer and veteran UFO investigator. Former reporter of UFO cases for *The National Enquirer*. Co-Author of the book about the "big boomerangs" over America: *NIGHT SIEGE: THE HUDSON VALLEY UFO SIGHTINGS* (Ballantine Books, New York, 1987).

Six years or so ago Gordon Creighton wrote to Mrs Mimi Hynek and asked her about a report in the *National Enquirer* of December 29, 1981, to the effect that four hunters had been killed by UFOs in a place called Parnarama in north-eastern Brazil. Mimi referred the query to me because I had worked on the *Enquirer* (until July of that year) and had myself gone to Brazil that summer.

I had no personal knowledge of the Parnarama case, but, while temporarily working at the *Enquirer* later that year, I was able to look at the reporter's file on which the story was based, and I duly passed on to Mr Creighton the gist of what I had found.

Now, however, I have had a chance to go to Parnarama myself, although the visit was unfortunately only a brief one. For I have just spent 18 days in Brazil — the latest of six trips I have made there for the purpose of looking into UFO reports (the first two visits as a reporter for the *National Enquirer* and the last two on my own).

Parnarama

The visit to Parnarama came on the 13th day of my trip, after a tiring 12-hour drive from Fortaleza to Teresina the day before. I went there with Jean Alencar, a 48-year-old lawyer who strikes me as a serious, conscientious UFO investigator who shuns the mysticism and other nonsense that appeals to so many in the UFO field. He took an entire week off from his practice to take me to a number of places in Fortaleza and the state of Ceará to interpret for me and help me look into a number of sighting and encounter reports.

He was as interested in the Parnarama case as I, and had never been there, nor even to Teresina (capital of the state of Piauí), but he did have UFO contacts in Teresina. We arrived on the evening of Sept. 17 1986 and Jean phoned these people. About an hour later, several young men from a local UFO group came to our hotel. Curiously, they knew absolutely nothing about the case, even though Parnarama is only 80 kilometers to the south. However, they agreed to go with us to Parnarama the next day.

Originally, we had planned to spend at least two days in the Parnarama area, but shortly after we arrived in Teresina Jean Alencar phoned home and learned that he had to return to Fortaleza almost immediately because of a court case. That was a Wednesday, and a judge had ordered him to have some papers ready for him by Friday. So we were able to spend only several hours in Parnarama the next day.

In the morning, we drove to Parnarama, a small town of two or three thousand inhabitants on the west bank of the Parnaíba River, in the adjoining state of Maranhão. The road from Teresina on the Piauí side is paved only a third of the way and is gravel the rest, very dusty. There is no bridge, but the ferry, which carries one car at a time, takes only five minutes to load and cross over to Parnarama.

Since the *Enquirer's* story and other stories quoted the mayor and local police chief as sources, we went to City Hall first. Naturally, there was a new mayor and a new chief, but we began asking questions anyway. At first, no one knew anything about the four hunters, but suddenly we began to get swamped with people

South and Central Brazil

1. Rio de Janeiro
2. São Paulo
3. Belo Horizonte
4. Conceição do Mato Dentro
5. Montes Claros

North-Eastern Brazil

6. Maceió
7. Pernambuco (Recife)
8. Natal
9. Fortaleza
10. Paraíba
11. Quixadá
12. Terezina
13. São Luís
14. Pinheiro
15. Alcântara

