

BRAZIL UNDER UFO SURVEY—PART III

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In the last two issues of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* we printed the results of Dr. Fontes's careful research into the orthotenic survey to which Brazil was subjected on 13 May, 1960. Further information came to light which enabled Dr. Fontes to reinforce his map (see our March-April issue) and its geometrical network of alignments. Considerations of space alone prevent our including these supplementary details and instead we concentrate on giving our readers Dr. Fontes's conclusions as to the meanings and purpose of the survey. We reprint this article from the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* for November, 1960, published from 4407 E. Linden, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A., with grateful acknowledgement to the publishers.

WHAT can be the real meaning of these straight-line networks connected with UFO activities over certain regions of this planet? What kind of plan or purpose is behind such geometric patterns drawn by UFOs? How many objects are really responsible for these groups of observations and alignments in each network? These are some of the important questions which could not be answered on the basis of the French cases alone. We are fortunate to find some clues in the Brazilian pattern; clues that shed some new light on the whole picture.

It would seem to be a plausible explanation, that of a well-organised reconnaissance of features of the North-eastern region of Brazil, securing certain types of detailed information pertaining to the geography of that area, carried out by a fleet of extra-terrestrial machines. Apparently this would be the logical explanation for orthoteny and also, from our point of view, the most reassuring answer. Yet, several things do not fit into this agreeable theory. Some of them, in fact, strongly suggest a very different meaning for orthoteny—at least in the Brazilian example discussed here. Therefore the following facts must be taken into consideration:

1. The North-eastern region of Brazil has been submitted, since 1953, to a particularly intense and detailed exploration, performed by discs, ball-shaped and cigar-shaped UFOs. Such a reconnaissance was, at the beginning, a systematic mapping programme evidently related with the geographic features of the whole region. Yet, a study of the available evidence clearly indicates that the original purpose was gradually changed

into a step-by-step military reconnaissance. That change, started in the last months of 1957, reached its peak early in 1958. The first targets of the military survey were the Air Force, Navy and Army Bases at Fortaleza, Natal, Recife and Salvador. The next objectives, according to the evidence collected involved every Army fortification across the region, civilian airports communication centres, federal highways and railroads of strategic interest. Finally, the survey shifted to the dams, power plants and water supply centres for the most important towns in the area.

2. The pattern outlined above was not apparent at first sight. It became obvious only when all observations recorded in the region were carefully plotted on maps and the common denominators were searched for. On the other hand, the reconnaissance activities referred to never attracted too much attention due to the fact that, in most cases, they were conducted by solitary UFOs, or by a small number of objects—one for each particular mission; the number of sightings recorded at any moment for the whole region was never outstanding, and there was no apparent connection between a given sequence of sightings. In the long run, however, a definite pattern began to appear—easily identified by those, like myself, who had plotted on maps all observations registered over the regions in the last four years. The hundreds of "unknowns" sighted showed a very definite tendency to distribute according to the general pattern described above.

3. The North-east is one of the most backward and undeveloped parts of the whole country, in a striking contrast with the East, South-east and

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South. The towns are small and old, the local industry is scarce—due to the inadequate supply of water and electric power. The local roads, with the exception of the paved Federal highways, are very bad. The people are poor and ignorant. On the other hand, the mineral and ore deposits of the region are not abundant, or important, in any way. There are no atomic minerals, there is no petrol or coal fields—only small deposits of tungsten, copper and tantalum ores. The climate is dry and hard.

4. From a strategic and tactical point of view, however, the North-east is a very important region. It is essential for aerial communication and ocean navigation between four continents. Yet, it is not easy to defend in the case of invasion by an enemy. Terrestrial communications with the North are blocked by the dense tropical forest in the Amazon region. Communications with the South and South-east are made only through a few Federal highways. Communications with the South-west are made only through navigation along the Sao Francisco River. Besides, the heavily fortified installations in the area are concentrated along the coast, around the capitals of the States—mostly at Fortaleza, Natal and Recife. The military defences in the interior are small and scattered. There is no radar network covering the whole region. There are no missile-launching bases.

At this point, it is necessary to study more closely the pattern of sightings over the North-east, in the night of May 13. It is evident that the 33 points plotted on the map are population centres. They were the obvious targets for the UFOs that night. Why? What is the *common denominator* linking together all these targets? If we find the answer for this question, then we have the key to the riddle.

As a matter of fact—with the exception of Picui, Solonopolis and Farias Briton—ALL PLACES WITHIN THE ALIGNMENTS ARE COMMUNICATION CENTRES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. They are essential key points for road and railroad transport, as well as for river navigation through the North-east. In other words, those points control terrestrial communications through the region; if they are blocked, the whole network of communications through the North-east would be completely paralysed and made useless, as well as the communications with the rest of the country. The

communications with the fortified bases at the coast would be cut too.

We don't know how many UFOs were involved in the operation, but it may be important to stress the fact that *at least eight different objects were seen simultaneously—at 7 p.m.—over different locations* across several States very distant from each other in most cases. An accurate examination of the trajectories and behaviour of these UFOs shows clearly that they were really different objects—not the same UFO sighted simultaneously from those several locations. One of these objects was a flying disc, but the others were similar to the so-called "big cloud cigar" so many times reported in the past all over the world—and so well studied by Aimé Michel in his last book. The available evidence indicates that UFOs belonging to this general type are *true* space ships, huge in size, containing *at least five smaller* scout craft, ovoid or disc-shaped, which are launched from the larger ships to explore the areas under inspection. At least seven cigar-shaped (or ovoid) space ships were involved. On the basis of such data, it is reasonable to assume that *at least 42 UFOs* were involved on the May 13 operation over the North-east. This whole operation was performed at night—from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (local times) carefully timed and perfectly co-ordinated, each UFO with a specific target, each one apparently aware of its position on the whole plan—knowing what to do and where. It was evidently a large-scale, well-planned and co-ordinated operation, a perfectly timed tactical manoeuvre, planned by intelligences having a perfect knowledge of the region. It is interesting to notice that the network of alignments included the location of major highways, railroad arteries, dams and locks, power stations and water reservoirs through the whole region—but excluded the three important military centres in the area: Fortaleza (which was only touched), Natal and Recife.

What was the meaning and purpose behind the May 13 large-scale reconnaissance?

If the pattern is real—not the result of wishful thinking, which distorts the outlines and makes one accept the conclusion as the final answer, when it may be only the result of coincidences—if the pattern is true, then the conclusion is that the North-eastern region of Brazil was selected by alien intelligences as one of the probable areas for UFO mass-landings in the future. There is no

other alternative—if the pattern is real. Being so, the May 13 large-scale operation can be interpreted as a final test, a tactical manoeuvre of obvious military implications.

The pieces of the puzzle seem to fall together into one very clear pattern. A task force of alien space ships (cigar-shaped UFOs) will come down at night over the North-east. The mass-landings will probably be made in the State of Ceara, inside the triangular area limited by Choro, Quixada, Cajazeiras, Campos Sales, Mombaca and Quixeramobim—possibly around the town of Iguatu, cigar-shaped UFOs hovering over these points will be dispersion centres for a number of smaller disc-shaped machines—that will spread out toward the points of strategic importance at the network's periphery. Their patrolling activities will give complete aerial protection and block terrestrial communications with the landing area. Cigar-shaped UFOs placed over Redencao and Macaibas will counteract any attack from the military bases at Fortaleza and Natal. UFOs over Petrolina and Juazerio will cut the Sao Francisco River in two and block the Federal highway and railroad artery coming from Salvador; another railroad block will be established at Bonfim. Air control will be taken and completed; terrestrial communications will be entirely paralysed at many points inside and outside the landing area. Shiploads of "men" and equipment could be landed there in just a few hours. Defence would be disorganised, scattered and hopeless. The block of communications would create a terrible situation. Weeks might pass before military reinforcements could be brought from other regions of the country. Air traffic would be obviously wiped out since the first hours. Radio communications would be disrupted, power plants paralysed, etc., etc. Outside the landing area, no one would suspect what was happening there—until it was too late. There is no need to tell more. The reader can imagine the rest by himself.

Is this a bad dream? We don't know yet. The best thing to do is to take it as a warning—for all UFO investigators and military authorities all over the world. They must be aware that—if the pattern is real—similar tactical operations can be expected over other areas, over other countries, and that such areas were probably selected for mass-landings too.

As soon as possible, the conclusions of this investigation will be published in the Brazilian press. Lieutenant Montefusco, public relations officer at Fortaleza Air Force Base, said to the press that "the object or objects observed in the night of May 13 *were not* jet fighters from that Base, performing training flights" (Fortaleza *O Estado*, May 18). This statement was the only official reaction to the events of May 13, and suggest that Brazilian authorities are not informed about the whole picture. Therefore, it is necessary to get the information to them.

If there is any hidden proof that attack or invasion is planned, we should be told at once. All of us—every country—should be told the truth and prepared to meet the danger. This is a matter of common sense—to prepare the people for the UFO mass-landings. However, there is at least an even chance that the space races mean us no harm—they may be planning only to make sure that their landings will be made in safety. But even in this case we must be fully prepared. These beings from other solar systems seem to resemble us closely in form—but not in size and anatomic details. Even if they are friendly, their unusual appearance could cause panic—especially in the case of a mass-landing. We must guard against fear, panic and violence by our own people, so that no tragic mistake is made, changing peaceful visitors into deadly enemies. For the first meetings will be tense and dangerous, and we must prevent hysteria.

The truth should be told—NOW.

MISINTERPRETATIONS

Another word to newcomers

THE most persistent form of attack on the hypothesis that flying saucers are inter-planetary is the claim that what the witnesses have seen is nothing more than some conventional object wrongly interpreted. Those who are new to the subject may find it an argument difficult to refute, particularly as the explanation is often put forward by someone in authority who commands the public ear. Since Kenneth Arnold helped to popularise the phrase "flying saucers" in 1947, one of the earliest attempts to explain away the UFOs came from Dr. Uner Liddel of the Office of the United States Naval Research. In January, 1951, he claimed that the sightings had been caused by the U.S. Navy's cosmic-ray research balloons. In 1953, professor Donald H. Menzel published his *Flying Saucers*, a book which gave a diversity of "explanations" to cover many well-known sightings. And then there have been the notorious series of announcements from the U.S. Air Force which allege that all but a small percentage of sightings have been explained away in conventional terms.

Conventionalisations of otherwise inexplicable occurrences is nothing new: readers of the *Works of Charles Fort* will be able to see the process applied for the best part of a century, and not always to flying saucers sightings, but to other extraordinary events as well. It is a natural reaction on the part of an "expert" when confronted with something revolutionary

which threatens to upset all his previous calculations.

One example of the "explain it away" method will have to suffice. The nine objects flying in formation over Mount Rainier and described by Kenneth Arnold on June 24, 1947, were accounted for by Dr. Menzel in his book as tilting snow-clouds or dust-haze reflecting the sun. Now, it is extremely difficult to refute Professor Menzel: the objects, one must admit, *could* have been something of the nature he suggests. In fact everything *could* be something else. Speculation along these lines is boundless. Perhaps the best way of dealing with this argument is to pretend that Menzel is in the witness box, having been called to prove Kenneth Arnold mistaken in what he saw. Surely the first question a defending counsel would ask is whether the Professor was anywhere near the spot where the incident was alleged to have taken place. After a negative reply had been obtained, other questions would follow. Had Menzel put to Arnold his explanation? If so, what was his reply? Did Arnold ever admit that he might be mistaken in what he saw? Was, in fact, there any sun-haze at the moment of sighting? And so on. As Kenneth Arnold sticks very firmly by his original testimony, Professor Menzel's theorising as to what the objects *might* have been is really a waste of time and any judge would have to warn the jury that first-hand evidence from a reputable witness is

always preferable to conjectures from an "expert," however eminent he may be in his own sphere.

A favourite trick of the conventionalisers is to select that part of the evidence which suits a particular theory and to ignore anything which contradicts it. Thus, the fact that a UFO was seen to be travelling *against* the prevailing wind is not allowed to destroy the weather-balloon explanation: similar explanations have ignored eye-witnesses' accounts of port-holes seen in UFOs and evidence of plan and purpose in their flight.

While it is always possible that a conventional object can be misinterpreted, it is also true that, in the past at any rate, the opposite has occurred and flying saucers have, in fact, been mistaken for something ordinary or, if that has not been possible, written off as a mirage or an hallucination. Professor Menzel never seems to have realised that his arguments can be turned inside out and used in favour of the inter-planetary saucer with at least an equal show of reason. The die-hard sceptic, indeed, is *forced* to explain away every sighting for just one genuine saucer can upset his adamant refusal to believe. The believer, on the other hand, can be more tolerant and admit that occasionally some conventional object in the sky has been wrongly described: after all, there are hundreds of well-attested sightings for which no ordinary explanation is possible.