

BRAZIL UNDER UFO SURVEY

By Olavo T. Fontes, M.D.

We are grateful to the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* for July, 1960, published from 4407 East Linden, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A., for permission to reprint Dr. Fontes' careful documentation of the intensive survey to which Brazil was subjected on the night of May 13, 1960. The sightings followed a straight line pattern first discovered by Aimé Michel in France in 1954 (see his book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*.)

IN 1954 uninvited guests appeared in large numbers in the skies of Brazil. It was the first mass UFO survey of this country. It seemed to be a systematic geographic investigation carried out by aerial objects of unfamiliar type which did not appear to have the slightest intention of interfering with us. That pattern, however, was changed somehow when they came again for their second mass investigation in the second half of 1957, from July to December.

A detailed survey

The 1957 visitation was evidently a step-by-step military reconnaissance of Brazilian aerial and terrestrial defences—including a careful and detailed inspection of every Air Force and Army Base, military plants, supply centres, dams and locks, power plants, railroads and highways of strategic interest, etc. Besides, some incidents were disturbing—suggesting the possible presence of hostile UFOs. But as soon as the “flap” was over, UFO activity dropped slowly toward a “normal” frequency of six to seven sightings each month and remained so through 1958 and 1959. A small but definite increase in the sightings curve had been registered in June (about 17 sightings), July (18 sightings) and August (10 sightings), 1959, but soon the number dropped again to normal. Saturn-shaped vehicles, flying discs and cigar-shaped UFOs were the types of objects usually seen, but their apparent behaviour indicated only some sort of patrolling activity—with a few disturbing cases that did not seem sufficient to alter the general picture.

Then came a sudden and startling change which began during the first half of May, 1960.

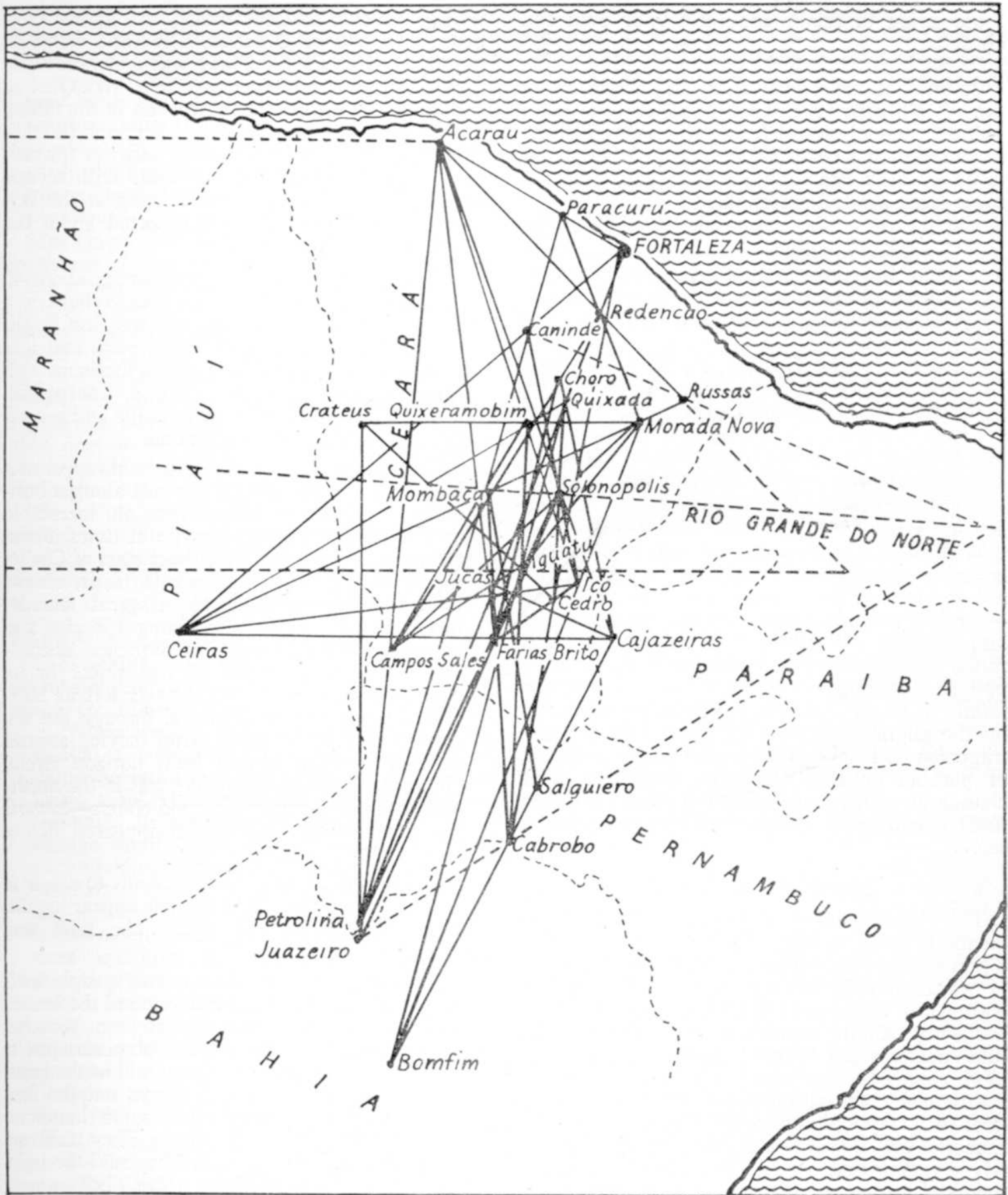
On May 4 at 4 p.m., a giant cigar-shaped object crossed the skies over the town of

Botucatu, Sao Paulo. It was flying at tremendous speed and was gone in thirty seconds, but was sighted by many excited citizens. Two days later, a giant luminous rocket-shaped UFO streaked through the skies over Vila Ezio, Sao Paulo. It was spotted at 9 p.m., remaining in sight for three minutes. That same day, the same (or a similar) craft crossed over Apiai, Sao Paulo, moving at high speed. It was sighted for three minutes and looked like a giant rocket. Three days later, on the night of May 11, two disc-shaped objects were spotted over a deserted beach near Paracuru, State of Ceara. The following night, a glowing spherical object, encircled by a luminous halo several times its size, was seen over Gargalheira-Acari, State of Rio Grande do Norte. It was perfectly motionless when first seen, but it moved away two minutes later at high speed, toward the east.

At this point, it was evident that something unusual was beginning. According to past experiences, such sudden outbursts of UFO sightings always heralded more important events, usually a new UFO “flap.” The “flap” came as expected. But the startling series of events of May 13 were not expected—that is why the following reports are so important. For they carry us a step further—not merely do they give us more evidence about UFOs—they show us *what* they were doing there.

A true story

This is a true story, you must remember. You have to keep that firmly in mind because frankly some of the conclusions may sound like a science-fiction tale. You may reject these conclusions, of course, but not the factual evidence on which they were based. So, read the sequence of events



Map of Brazil showing sighting alignments for May 13, 1960.

I am going to relate and form your own conclusions.

In north-east Brazil the evening of May 13 was crisp and hot, the sky was clear and cloudless and the visibility perfect. That night strange aerial objects were observed from at least 33 towns scattered over an area which covered the surface of at least six Brazilian States. Sighting reports came from the following places:

State of Ceara—Acarau, Campos, Sales, Caninde, Cedro, Choro, Crateus, Farias Brito, Fortaleza (capital), Ico, Iguatu, Jucas, Morada Nova, Mombaca, Paracuru, Quixada, Quixeramobim, Redencao, Russas and Solonopolis.

State of Rio Grande do Norte—Currais Novos, Macaiba, Nova Cruz and Parilhas.

State of Pernambuco—Cabrobo, Petrolina and Salgueiro.

State of Paraiba—Cajazeiras and Picui.

State of Bahia—Juazeiro and Bonfim.

State of Piaui—Ceiras.

State of Maranhao—Sao Joao dos Patos.

With these 33 points over an area of dispersion covering at least six States, chance alone could not account for the pattern connected with them—for fifty-one absolutely straight lines meeting, and crossing, and converging into several multi-radial apices, forming a distinctive geometrical pattern closed up around the edges, with no point failing to lie on or within the borders established by the alignments; creating many triangles and trapeoids with several 90-degree angles and pairs of parallel or almost parallel lines, etc. That chance or coincidence should explain those features is extremely unlikely, as you are going to see.

The events of May 13

The events which took place in the north-east on the evening of May 13—between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.—were centred on the most backward part of my country. In this region of small farmers, of cotton and sugar-cane cultures, famous for its hard, dry climatic conditions, with people faithful to customs and manners which in part go back more than two centuries to the times of the Portuguese colonisation—here we would not expect to find people suddenly obsessed by flying saucers. Yet, a wave of UFOs spread over the whole region that night. The State of Ceara was the chief target, with more than twenty sightings scattered all over its territory, involving thousands of witnesses. The more outstanding reports are presented below in essential detail:

QUIXADA, 6.30 p.m.

Raquel de Queiroz, a well-known Brazilian

writer, novelist and columnist, was at her farm near the town of Quixada. The time was 6.30 p.m., just after sunset. There was a cloudless sky and the moon had not yet appeared. Mrs. Queiroz was talking with her Aunt Arcelina in the dining room when her husband called her from the outside. She heard several shouts and ran towards the porch. Her husband was there with several workers and everybody was looking at the sky. Here is what Mrs. Queiroz reported about the event, transcribed verbatim:

“To the north, almost north-west, about 45 degrees above the horizon line, a light was glowing like a big star, perhaps less bright than Vesper. That light was orange and was encircled by a kind of halo, a luminous and misty halo which looked like a transparent, illuminated cloud, circular in shape and several times the size of the full moon.

“And that light with its gaseous-appearing halo was moving toward the east along a horizontal trajectory, sometimes at incredible speed, sometimes very slowly; at times it was strong and elongated, like those stars of Christmas pictures; or it was seen to fade, almost disappearing—reduced to a great cloudy, luminous ball. And those changes in size and luminous intensity came in sequence, according to the movements of the object in its capricious approach. But it never left its horizontal path. And so it moved through the sky for ten minutes or more. After moving around a good quarter of the total horizon circle, always to the east, the object was in the north-east when it abruptly changed course—toward the north—and suddenly disappeared like a lamp turned out.

“We waited for a few moments to see if it was coming back. It did not appear again. Then we ran to the clock. The time was 6.45 p.m.

“There were more than twenty people with us, gathered on the grounds around the house, and everyone saw what we had seen. Workers arriving next morning, living at places just a few miles away from my farm, told us the same story. Some of them said it was not the first time they had watched that same luminous body moving across the skies. They told us about four other sightings. They said the light had come closer in those other observations, and was bigger in size.

“What kind of a thing was that, moving across the sky with its glow and its halo? I think it is better to use the name already cautiously officialised: unidentified flying

object. I cannot prove it, yet it was a UFO. It was not a shooting star, nor a plane. It was not a meteor. It could not be a natural phenomenon—with that deliberation in its flight pattern, with those capricious stops and accelerations, with that ability to move so easily through the sky. No, inside that thing, giving life to it, there was something alive and conscious. . . .”

Mrs. Queiroz' farm is about thirty miles to the south-east of Quixada. I believe she sighted the UFO which was travelling along an alignment running from west to east—from Crateus to Quixeramobim and Morada Nova. It must have passed exactly over Morada Nova, to the north-east of Mrs. Queiroz' farm, then abruptly turned toward the north—in the direction of Quixada. It was also seen from those places. It was probably one of the so-called “cloudy, ovoid or cigar-shaped objects” so many times reported in the past.

Meanwhile, at almost the same time, the Mayor of Redencao, Dr. Jose Alberto Mendonca, spotted a similar object over his farm, about 50 miles to the north of Quixada. This UFO was going toward the east.

REDENCAO, 6.55 p.m. and 7 p.m.

This sighting was witnessed by hundreds of persons and reported to the press by the county judge, Dr. Antonio Carlos Costa:

“When we left the church that night, we spotted a nebula of great size and oval in shape, hovering over the town and emitting a strong glow. Measuring about 6 feet from one extremity to the other (angular size), that strange cloud-like thing had a kind of bright circumference at the centre and was absolutely motionless. It had come from the south-west, as I was told later by those who first saw it. In a few moments all the residents in the town were watching the phenomenon. Then it started to move again. When it reached the zenith, the glowing nebula began to climb up along a vertical trajectory. Its brightness diminished gradually but the luminous nucleus changed its shape and increased in size—to disappear about four minutes later.”

This UFO was approaching from the north—probably along an alignment crossing over Sao Joao dos Patos, Crateus and Redencao. According to Dr. Costa's report, the phenomenon had been observed also from Acarape (impressing Father Antonio Crisostomo, the local priest), Guaiuba, Barreira and Choro.

At 7 p.m., another (or the same) luminous object was sighted in the sky over the area round Redencao, and also over that town. It was

first seen about 45 degrees above the northern horizon line, travelling from west to the east. It looked like a first magnitude star, surrounded by a gaseous-appearing luminosity like a small circular cloud.

CRATEUS, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

At 6 p.m., a strange luminous body appeared over the town, causing panic and hysteria among the population. The object was round-shaped, emitting a greenish glow and moving at high speed. There was no information about its trajectory, but there are reasons to believe that this UFO was possibly travelling to the east (toward Quixeramobim), or to the north-east (toward Redencao). Such reasons will be discussed later.

At 7 p.m., a luminous red object looking like a huge star was spotted in the western sky. It was travelling along a south-north trajectory at high speed, emitting an incandescent glow. It disappeared into the northern horizon. The sighting was witnessed by a number of observers from the town. As will be seen later, this UFO was moving along the alignment Juazeiro-Petrolina-Crateus.

QUIXERAMOBIM AND IGUATU, 7 p.m.

At Quixeramobim, a strange circular cloud crossed the skies over the town moving at high speed. It was seen by a number of observers. They described it as having a kind of luminous focus at the centre. After travelling a large distance in just a few seconds, the object disappeared suddenly.

At that same moment, in Iguatu, a strange luminous smear was seen in the sky, moving from the west to the east, at very low speed. As it approached the town, it became evident that an object was inside the smear, glowing with a very intense blue light. Dozens of persons witnessed the sighting, including businessman Horacio Fernandez, the first observer to spot the strange object in the sky.

This UFO was travelling along a 790-km. alignment passing over Sao Joao dos Patos (Maranhao), Iguatu (Ceara), and Currais Novos (Paraiba). Another luminous object was seen over Iguatu, that same night, moving at high speed. This second UFO was sighted by a number of citizens as it crossed the skies over the town, travelling from north to south. Travellers arriving at the town during the next few days reported the sighting of a similar object (or objects) over the towns of Ico, Solonopolis and Cedro.

The towns of Jucas and Carius, in the same general area of Iguatu, were also visited by

round-shaped UFOs, flying at high speed and emitting an intense greenish light. The southern zone of Ceara State was included in this visitation. Similar objects were sighted from the town of Farias Brito. According to the press, hundreds of persons witnessed the sightings, which caused reactions of fear and panic among the observers. No information was released concerning time of sighting and trajectory of the UFOs involved.

CAMPOS SALES, 6.30 p.m.: The Great Cloud Cigar. **CAJAZEIRAS, 7 p.m.**

At this town, located to the west of Farias Brito, the whole population watched a strange UFO coming from the west at high speed. It was sighted for twelve minutes and disappeared toward the east. It looked like a huge cigar-shaped object, about 3 feet long and 1 foot wide (angular size). The tips were opaque and smoky, but there was a bright light at the centre.

Half an hour later, at 7 p.m., a luminous object was spotted in the northern sky by a number of

observers at Cajazeiras, State of Paraiba. The strange phenomenon was shaped like a globe of some sort, huge in size, which was travelling from west to east along a horizontal course. It crossed over the town and then stopped in mid-air. It hovered at that position for a few minutes, and suddenly was gone into the darkness. A sergeant-telegraphist from the Military Police, State of Paraiba, was one of the witnesses.

Campos Sales and Cajazeiras are placed on the same alignment, running from west to east and ending at Parelhas, State of Rio Grande do Norte, where another UFO was sighted the same night. The Campos Sales sighting was important because the UFO was obviously one of the great cloud cigars. The details involved suggest that the ovoid or round-shaped cloudy objects sighted from other places might be similar craft, flying in a tilted position, seen from a different perspective.

(Dr. Fontes will conclude his survey in the May-June issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.)

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).



1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

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