

# South American Round-up, 1971—part 2

Gordon Creighton

HERE are the six UFO reports to complete my selection of items from South America for the year 1971. As I stated in the first part of this article, in *FSR Case Histories Supplement 10*, a complete survey of all the material is not at present feasible.

## 10. Itaperuna bus chased by UFO (on or about October 20, 1971)

In a report to *O Dia* of Rio de Janeiro (October 21, 1971) from their special representative in Itaperuna, Mario Dias, it was stated that a flying saucer had pursued, over a distance of 20 kilometres, a bus owned by the company Viação Brasil and running between Bom Jesus de Itabapoana and Itaperuna. (See map on p. 24 of *FSR* for November/December 1971). The driver of the vehicle was José Chagas de Oliveira, living at 400, rua Paulo César, Itaperuna, and there were 19 passengers, who were thrown into panic.

The UFO was travelling at a height of some 500 metres above the road and emitting an intense brightness (changing constantly from green through orange to red) which lit up the whole highway.

Some of the passengers became extremely unwell, with giddiness and vomiting.

At approximately 7.00 p.m. the bus had departed from the Roberto Silveira bus station, bound for Itaperuna. Everything was normal until, as they were approaching a place called Talanquim, Omar Arnon, himself a chauffeur by profession, who was sitting in one of the back rows, caught sight of the saucer right above the bus. He at once shouted: "Hi! Look! We've got a saucer up above us!"

The driver applied the brakes at once. A woman let out a stifled shriek, and a man was heard to say: "Oh, no! Not that . . . how wise I was to have not wanted to leave Niterói today!"

Another passenger shouted for calm and told them all to keep to their seats. Two of them were already wanting to jump out through the windows. Another asked why the driver had stopped, and shouted: "Step on it! Why play into the hands of the enemy!"

Meanwhile, everyone was trying to get a look at the saucer, which was indeed hanging there at about 500 metres right above them. Not a sound came from it. It was simply "hovering" there, rotating on its axis, as though mocking them. From the rim of it came coloured beams of light which kept changing and varying in intensity.

The driver asked the passengers what they all wanted to do: drive on, or stay there?

They decided that he should drive on. And, as he did so, the saucer started to move forward too, and came a little lower.

The bus was now moving at high speed, but the saucer never left it. With the exception of one old man who said that he simply did not believe in flying saucers, the rest of the passengers were all exceedingly nervous,

particularly the only two women among them, one of whom was weeping.

The driver was trying to watch the road ahead of him and to peer out at the saucer at the same time. Meanwhile the other driver in the back row was delivering a running commentary on the movements, height, speed, etc., of the saucer.

When, however, the saucer started shooting down long vivid beams of light on to the bus, the driver commenced to slow down again. But then he remembered the tales he had heard about "paralysing rays", and so kept up his speed, while the terrified passengers peered up at the UFO in mortal fear of being seized by little creatures as had happened so recently to two men near Itaperuna.

When the bus reached the Ponte de Ferro, an iron bridge just before Itaperuna, the saucer halted, shot out a whole lot of flashes of light of different colours, spun round on its axis at dizzying speed and then suddenly shot away up into the sky and was out of sight in less than one minute, to the relief of all concerned, except perhaps the old man.

On arrival in Itaperuna the driver and all 19 passengers went off to the Police Station and related their experience to Commissioner Airton Mousas, who took down their statements. (Our thanks to Dr. W. Buhler for the foregoing report.)

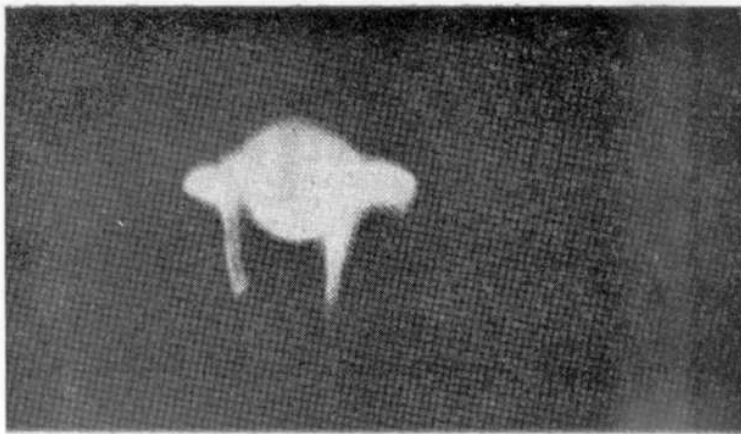
## 11. Pernambuco saucer photographed (on or about November 9, 1971)

According to a report in *O Dia* (Rio de Janeiro) of November 10, 1971, from its representative in Recife, capital city of the State of Pernambuco (N.E. of Brazil) residents of the Coque district had again seen a flying saucer and a press photographer employed by a local paper had chanced to be present and had managed to photograph the object, which flew round and round many times in the sky before vanishing.

The saucer, spherical in shape, with shining top and bottom, was seen by the whole population of Coque and was overhead for a total period of about twenty minutes.

The photographer's pictures of the UFO appeared in the Recife paper of November 9, on its front page, and as a result great crowds of people flocked out from Recife to the Coque suburb to see if any more UFOs would appear.

According to the report in *O Globo*, this is the fifth time that a saucer has appeared over Coque, a very poor suburb of Recife, and the residents of that area are now quite used to the experience. But this time the saucer had been different from the others. It was of many colours, and remained in the sky overhead longer than any of the objects previously seen there. The professional photographer who took the pictures of the UFO (not reproduced in *O Globo*) had plenty of time in which to adjust and prepare his camera calmly.



NÉLSON, FOTÓGRAFO AMADOR, OBTEVE ESTA FOTO

(Trans.) Néilson, amateur photographer, took this photograph (surname not given).

The saucer was dark in its central part but shone with many colours at the extremities.

As it was overhead for so long, and flew around and was visible for so long, the number of people who saw it is great, and the photographs published in the Recife paper caused even bigger crowds to flock off to the Coque district.

#### 12. Small beings emerge from landed saucer (first week of November, 1971)

According to a report in *O Dia* (Rio de Janeiro) of November 9, 1971, from their representative at Fortaleza, in the North-Eastern Brazilian State of Ceará, the people of the Fazenda Jerimum, an estate in the municipality of O Iguatu, saw a saucer-shaped flying object travelling rapidly and silently through the sky. Terrified, they fled to the house of the local priest to ask for his advice and help.

Meanwhile, the object was seen flying rapidly southwards, emitting an intense brightness. One eyewitness was a farmer named Raimundo Nonato Braga, who watched its evolutions in the sky. Said he: "The worst of all however was when the thing landed on a rocky hill and out of it jumped three little beings." Seized with a violent nervous crisis, this witness dashed into the town to tell of his experience.

At a place called Russas, some hours later, local people saw a similar craft, which landed and flew off again. (Credit to Dr. W. Buhler.)

#### 13. UFO seen low over Campinas (December 4, 1971)

According to a report in the *Correio Popular* for December 7, 1971 (published in Campinas, State of São Paulo, Brazil), on the night of Saturday, December 4, 1971, at about 10.30 p.m., the photographer José de Oliveira heard shouting on the street and at the same moment some children came dashing into the house yelling to him to look out of the window. He did so and saw an object shaped like an extremely luminous saucer, which was spinning on its axis and apparently floating stationary. He picked up his camera, affixed the telescopic lens, set the camera at infinity and was

able to take his time over releasing the shutter, but to his chagrin later found that he had no film in the camera.

Silently and, as he felt, menacingly low, the UFO flew across the whole Campinas suburb of O Castelo, and was seen by hundreds of people on the streets. It vanished in the direction of the Cadet School. (Credit to Mr. Nigel Rimes.)

#### 14. UFO emerges from the sea (December 19, 1971)

According to a report in *O Globo* (Rio de Janeiro) for December 21, 1971, from their representative at Pôrto Alegre, a Sr. Victor Soares has given details of a strange flying object which alarmed many people in various towns in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul during the night of Sunday, December 19, 1971.

Measured against a ruler held at arm's length, he said it was 5 centimetres wide and enveloped in a sort of mist. It was flying towards the N.E. Many other people also said they had seen it.

One witness, a young man named Lino Osvaldo Saul, said he was at the beach resort known as Praia da Asunção with his girl friend when they both actually saw the object emerge from the sea and come flying towards them. They both fled. They were able to observe however that it was still climbing as it passed over them and that it emitted no sound.

Other people living at São Leopoldo, Viamão, Carazinha, and also people on the beach at Guaíba also saw the object and said that it was orange-coloured and flying very low. (Credit to Dr. W. Buhler.)

#### 15. Another landed UFO (December 21, 1971)

According to a report in the *Correio Popular* (São Paulo) of December 23, 1971, from Fortaleza in the State of Ceará, UFOs are back again in that area, this report and No. 12 being among the very few from that region for about two years past. On December 21, a strange flying object was observed for over ten minutes near the town of Mossoró, on the Rio Grande do Norte (river). The witnesses were a family who were travelling by car from Recife to Fortaleza.

Sr. Francisco Múrcio de Vasconcellos, manager of an insurance company in Fortaleza, stated that at about 11.00 p.m. on that day, as they were travelling up the BR-116 highway, they saw a strange object standing on the ground near the road. The object projected a powerful beam of light at them, whereupon he at once stopped the car. They all sat there for about ten minutes inside the car, watching the object. Their party consisted of not only Vasconcellos and his wife and two sons but also three other people. All were still intensely nervous when questioned later about the affair, and all obviously unwilling to discuss it.

The area where the saucer was standing is a particularly deserted one. Their first thought was that the object might be an aircraft. No windows or port-holes were visible on the craft, which was emitting sparks from a tube resembling the exhaust-pipe of a car.

When the UFO finally took off, it disappeared towards the beach at Timbau, some miles from Mossoró. (Credit to Mr. Nigel Rimes.)

# Readers' Reports

## A flying log

Dear Sir,—The following account was given to me by a friend, John Munn. At 6.30 in the evening, one day during the summer of 1970, Mr. Munn was travelling back to Portsmouth on the Southampton-Portsmouth train, when looking out of the (open) train window he saw a cylindrical object at an approximate height of 60ft. from the ground and 160ft. from the train and travelling parallel with it and in the same direction. Mr. Munn's description of the object is as follows:

The estimated length was about 30ft., grey-brown in colour similar to that of burnt metal and slightly reflecting sunlight; no apertures or protuberances were in evidence. The sky was a clear blue without a trace of cloud, and the sun was very bright. Any sound would have been obliterated by the noise of the train which had just left Cosham station when Mr. Munn made his observation.

The speed of the object was estimated at about 70 m.p.h. and appeared to increase before the witness finally lost sight of it. When the train reached a junction and turned off the object apparently continued on an unchanged course. There were other people in Mr. Munn's compartment but he didn't know whether or not to alert them to his sighting.

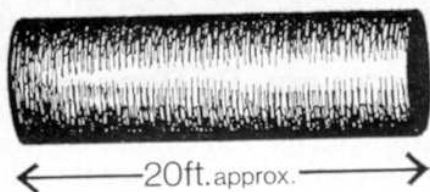


FIG. 1

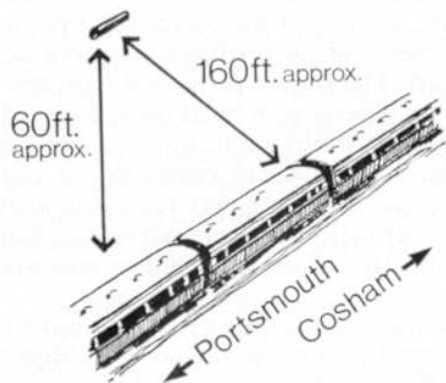


FIG. 2

Fig. 1 Appearance of the object.  
Fig. 2 Position of object relative to the train.

The witness used the term "flying log" as his first impression of the UFO. The enclosed drawing of the object is by myself under the supervision of Mr. Munn.

Yours sincerely,  
**Nicholas Maloret,**  
Locksway Road, Milton,  
Portsmouth, Hants.

## 1969 Exeter incident explained

[Puzzled by the sighting of an object, brighter than a star, with a tail streaming behind as it sped across the night sky, Mr. A. E. Thomson wrote to THE OBSERVER asking for an explanation of the phenomenon. The Science Correspondent for that newspaper duly passed the letter on to us and it was published under the "Readers' Reports" section in FSR CASE HISTORIES Supplement 9. We are grateful to Mr. Anthony Pace for drawing our attention to an article by Howard Miles in the Journal of the British Astronomical Association (1972, 82, 2) which provides the answer to Mr. Thomson's query.—ASSISTANT EDITOR.]

Briefly, a very bright fireball crossed southern England on April 3, 1969, at 19.38 hours. As readers might be interested to know what appearances this meteor displayed in its journey across the sky, an extract from the article is given here together with the diagrams.

"The object was first seen when it was about 40 km. south of Beachy Head, travelling in a direction slightly north of west. It was bluish white in colour and rapidly grew in size and at the same time developed a long tail. The head was reported by several observers to be slightly smaller than full Moon. The tail tapered to a point and changed in brightness as it crossed the sky. Sparks were reported as separating from the main mass, these sparks being recorded as white by some observers and red by others. The main visual features of the fireball during its passage down the English Channel are summarised in figure 1.

"During the latter half of the visible track, there is evidence to suggest that the diameter of the head diminished to about 50% of the value quoted above, although the brightness seemed to have remained roughly the same. Most observers were content to describe the object as exceptionally bright, or very bright, but magnitudes of  $-8/-9$  were quoted. Towards the end of the flight, the head split into several components but they were very close together and each component had a long tail. From points well away from the track, how-

ever, this resolution was not observed and hence the detailed structure was not reported. Several observers from Cornwall described the tail as orange coloured whereas others still reported the bluish coloration but commented on red sparks. Just before extinction, the tail went red, shortened rapidly and then the object suddenly 'went out'. Two observers, well away from the extinction area, referred to a reddish glow for a short time after extinction but it is thought that this was due to the changed appearance of the object and not to any residual effects."

## The "raindrop"

The following report was submitted to us by the South West Aerial Phenomenon Society. It was related to Mr. J. C. Drawbridge of 33 Hart Mead Road, Thatcham, Berkshire, by Mr. Fritz Ruffler of 25 Three Firs Way, Burghfield Common, Berkshire, on September 20, 1971.

"It was a warm and sunny day in mid-September, 1956. The time was approximately 3.00 p.m. and there was no wind; the sky was virtually cloudless. Mr. Ruffler was cutting grass in a field near a church at Trash Green (off Bennett's Lane, between Burghfield Common and Theale, Berkshire). Bent over while busily snipping with his shears, Mr. Ruffler suddenly felt the fine hair on the back of his neck bristle and an unusual sensation ran down his spine. He felt as if someone were watching him. Turning round slowly, still in the crouched position, he saw an object which rooted him to the spot. He described it as a 'raindrop,' and as having a translucent, silver colour. Trembling, he watched the object which hovered for about 5 seconds as though looking at him. Then, without warning, it climbed at an angle from its hovering position and disappeared into the sky and was out of sight within seconds. Mr. Ruffler could not estimate the speed of the object. All he could say was that it was 'a fantastic rate of climb,' and not a sound was made. While working, his back was more or less to the sun. The object was directly behind him and took off in an easterly direction.

"After this happening, Mr. Ruffler made off for home as fast as he could. His wife described him as being 'all of a tremble' and absolutely white. She thought he was ill. When he told her all about it she reckoned he had seen a ghost.

"Apart from his wife, I am the only person to whom the witness related this story. Even telling it to me after so many years made him tremble! He