

POSTSCRIPT TO THE REPORTED ARGENTINIAN CRASH-LANDING OF 1950

IN *Close Encounters of an Unthinkable and Inadmissible Kind* (FSR Vol. 25, No. 4, July-August 1979) we gave a brief note about the report carried by the Venezuelan paper *El Universal* of May 7, 1955 to the effect that, in 1950, near Bahía Blanca in Argentina, an Italian-born architect named Bessa, formerly an Italian Air Force pilot in World War II, had come upon a crash-landed disc containing three charred bodies about 3 feet high. (An earlier account of this case was given on page 4 of FSR Vol. 1, No. 4 of July/August 1955 and had reached us via the *APRO Bulletin*.)

In a letter dated August 14, 1982, which we have only just come across in the accumulated back-log, and which was not dealt with earlier owing to the illness of Charles Bowen, we now find that Mr. Richard W. Heiden of Milwaukee, Wis., has the following comment on this case, and we think it important to place it on record here:—

“As translator/collaborator with Sr. Roberto E. Banchs of Argentina in his book *Los OVNIS y sus Ocupantes* (*The UFOs and their Occupants*) I am very interested in this case which was reported on pp. 9-10 of FSR Vol. 25, No. 4.

My other sources are C. Lorenzen's *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* (pp. 54-56) and *The Startling Evidence for the Invasion from Outer Space* (pp. 58-60 — the witness is referred to as “Dr. B.”, but Coral Lorenzen says his identity is known). I also used her article in Ray Palmer's *FSS* of December 1958 (pp. 26-34), where the name of the Italian witness was given as Enrique Carotenuto Bossa. Another source was *Saga's 1975 UFO Annual*, p. 93 (Lucius Farish told me that his source had been Palmer's *FSS*.) I also had Leonard Stringfield's *Situation Red* (pp. 80-83.) Len Stringfield told me that “Botta” was the pseudonym that the publisher had requested him to use. And there was also a letter in Nahon's *Le Courier Interplanetaire* (No. 15, p. 2), from “Enrico Bossa” of Caracas. Editor Nahon added, in a footnote: “He has requested us not to make his surname public.”

There are some discrepancies in the various versions as to the precise date and the place of the incident, and we have these three versions of the name, *Bessa*, **Bossa*, and *Botta*. If anyone can throw any further light on this case I shall be very grateful.” Richard W. Heiden.

NOTE

**Bessa* may conceivably have been a simple misprint

that crept in somewhere along the line for *Bossa*. In any case, it seems evident that all the versions, *Bessa*, *Bossa*, *Botta*, “*Dr. B.*”, are a cover-up, and that the true name has not been divulged. What also seems evident, moreover, is that although the incident allegedly took place in Argentina in 1950, the witness was residing in Venezuela at the time when his story was made public in 1955.

No “American Monopoly”

As will be noted, this alleged crash-landing in Argentina in 1950 is *additional* to all those listed so far (total tentatively 22) by Leonard Stringfield in his three *Research Status Reports*. Of these 22 cases, *three* are described by him as foreign, namely: (1) The British case reported by Dorothy Kilgallen and said to have taken place before the end of World War II; (2) a case at Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1953; and (3) another Argentinian case from the year 1978, when an object crashed in mountainous terrain and was retrieved by the U.S. Air Force. This cannot be our Argentinian case, which was allegedly 28 years earlier, not in mountainous terrain, but on the flat *pampa* lands around Bahía Blanca.

Our Argentinian case is certainly an interesting one not only for its very early date and its great resemblance in respect of quite minor details to many of Stringfield's reports, but also because it should come as a further refutation of the stupid claim which we have heard put around so much lately that “*Stringfield cannot possibly be telling the truth because none of his cases are outside the USA.*” There have in fact also been rumours of crashed craft (unfortunately without details so far) from both China and Russia. With the South African case and the British case revealed to the American columnist Dorothy Kilgallen by Lord Mountbatten at a cocktail party in London in May 1955 (see our original report in FSR Vol. 1, No. 3, July/August 1955) plus the two reports from Argentina, it would seem that we now have a total of *four* alleged UFO crashes outside the territory of the United States.

The Alleged Landing at Cosford, England

A British correspondent wrote recently to say that we should also not overlook the case of the UFO that came down on the tarmac at the RAF Training Camp at Cosford, near Wolverhampton, in 1964. (See *A Landing at Cosford*, in FSR Vol. 10, No. 2, March/

April 1964). However, as the very title of Waveney Girvan's article makes plain, that report (if true) related more probably to a brief touch-down and not to a crashed craft, for the Padre at the RAF Camp was

quoted as having said at the time that the two Royal Air Force recruits who were the witnesses in the case had "*fled in terror when they saw a trapdoor on the upper part of the craft begin to open.*" EDITOR

AN ENCOUNTER WITH "RAT-FACES" IN ITALY

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focus lens, and also filmed it for a few seconds with his German ciné-camera. Unfortunately the spool was broken, so he got no photos, but the ciné film, in colour, turned out well.

Mystery Visitor Demands Negatives

After this sighting had been published in the *Giornale di Vicenza* for Saturday, November 25, 1978, a man describing himself as an Air Force Officer visited the witnesses and asked whether, in order to check up on certain points, he might have the film and also, if possible, the negatives of the photos taken of the two 'lights' seen on August 5, 1977 (referred to above), promising to return everything as quickly as possible. Whoever this individual really was (it should be borne in mind that he was in civilian clothes and that Pertile did not ask him to produce any identity papers) the fact remains that he did not respect his promise, for he was never seen again.

Another Photograph

Again, still on November 24, 1978, at about 4.00 p.m., Signor Giancarlo Ceccone, a photographer with the *Giornale di Vicenza*, took a series of photographs of the Sant' Eusebio Primary Schools, in an outlying section of Bassano del Grappa. The photos were to illustrate an article to be published on the following day, so he developed them immediately. As he told us, he noticed that in one of the photos something was visible that should not have been there. He at once made an enlargement of that part of the photo and obtained a somewhat curious image, which was published in the paper on November 25. For the moment let it suffice for us to say that Signor Ceccone has signed a declaration for us in which he states that the photograph in question is not the result of any photomontage or hoax perpetrated by himself.

Conclusions

Consequently the alleged episode at Gallio is bolstered

by numerous collateral testimonies which would tend to support the high degree of reliability and sincerity honestly accredited to Signor Angelo D'Ambros.

In particular, the fact must be remembered that, shortly after Signor D'Ambros had observed that strange 'object' and its two presumed occupants, a number of people telephoned to the *Giornale di Vicenza* — unfortunately without giving their names and addresses — to report things they had seen, and without knowing what Signor D'Ambros of Gallio said he had seen in the woods at Gastagh. Some of these eyewitnesses averred in fact that they had seen an 'object' emerge from the Gastagh woods, and go towards Marostica (to the south-east) and that it had the same features as were described by Signora Borsato Ksusa. Others affirmed that they had observed it stationary near the mountains close to Crosara, and that it had then vanished in the valley of Santa Caterina di Lusiana.

Furthermore, we must bear in mind that the 'object' observed by Signora Ksusa had a shape and colours that, in substance, strikingly resemble those of the 'object' described by Signor D'Ambros. Consequently all the circumstances would serve to indicate that the alleged 'event' at Gallio was a "first-class UFO case", that is to say, a case to be set alongside those other happenings for which in actual fact there exists no possibility whatsoever of a traditional, conventional clarification. Owing to the prolonged duration of the encounter — four to five minutes — and the allegedly singular behaviour of the strange "beings", the case of Signor Angelo D'Ambros is destined to become one of the best-known and most enigmatic "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", just as has happened with the Kelly-Hopkinsville case.

The alleged event at Gallio presents features that are sharply at variance with the theory that would attribute the UFO Phenomenon — recognised as objectively real — either wholly or in part, to the carefully concealed presence of extremely modern and extremely complex terrestrial weapons and devices. On the contrary, it is evident that it would lend strong support to the theory which asserts the presence here of UFO occupants of unknown but in any case non-terrestrial origin.