

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (A. P. R. O.), 1712 Van Court, Alamogordo, New Mexico, and is issued every other month to members only. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of the unidentified objects which have been present in the skies for hundreds of years. Inquiries regarding membership may be made to the above address.

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO — JANUARY, 1960

UAO Haunts Lake In Minnesota

MORE SIGHTINGS IN NEW GUINEA AREA

The following listed sightings have been forwarded by our Australian Representative, Peter E. Norris, and indicate continuing activity in the New Guinea area.

Observations of Unidentified Flying Objects

Friday, 23rd October 1959. Between 10 and 11 p.m. by Micah AIGABA, Registered Mission Teacher, Anglican Mission, Pumani, M.B.D. Papua. In the Daga country, at foot of Mt. Gwoira Range.

A very big light came over from the direction of Boianai (about 40 miles to the S.E.) It came straight towards Mount Gwoira (a precipitous mountain about 4500 ft. high, which stands about 5 miles E. of Pumani, dominating the scene). At first it was quite low, but when it reached the vicinity of Mt. Gwoira it ascended until it appeared to be vertically over the summit of the mountain. It then hovered stationary for a long time (an hour? the observer had no watch). Finally it descended until it seemed almost to touch the top of the mountain, but moved away in a northward direction, keeping about the same height, passing over Monari and Medino and then veering eastwards and circling round the coastline of the Cape Vogel Peninsula (apparently, though it was probably much nearer) and finally disappearing in the direction of Boianai again.

The appearance of the light was round (a disc or a globe?). It was dazzlingly bright, especially when moving and changed colour continuously, the basic colours being green, red and yellow. Parts of the object showed different colours simultaneously. "It twinkled." The colours changed about every three minutes. (This seems contradictory, but there it is). It was about equal to half the size of the moon, but was far brighter. The speed, when moving was "faster than an aeroplane" (i.e., a light aircraft, not a jet). It seemed larger and brighter when moving. "Like a fire in the sky." There was no trail or rays nor did it appear to illuminate the ground (it was probably too high).

Other witnesses Anastasia (Micah's wife) John (mission helper) and Bewabewa, Village Chief, and others unspeci-

fied. There was great excitement (they shouted out).

Friday 30th Oct. (one week later). By Micah AIGABA and others. Anglican Mission, Pumani. Approximately same time. The same object seen again. Exactly the same appearance and colour changes. But this time it did not come so near. It appeared again from the direction of Boianai and seemed to move northwards, following the coast (actually the coast there runs N.E., so it may have gone a bit inland). This time it disappeared to the north and was not seen to return.

Told to the Revd. N. E. G. Cruttwell by Micah and John.

(Sgd.) N. E. G. Cruttwell

Monday, 23rd November 1959. Observed by the Rev. Albert M. Ririka, of the Anglican Mission, Menapi, Papuan Priest. Also by Japhet Kirakai, Mission teacher and Cecil Kaibea, a Native Medical Assistant (Administration).

Time. First seen by Cecil about 7:30 p.m. Observed by Father Albert and Japhet at about 8:30 p.m.

The sky was cloudy to the north and west, but comparatively clear to the east (over the sea and Goodenough Bay). The observers were on the Mission Station at Koyabagira, one of the Outstations of Menapi and about 15 miles S.W. from there. The station is right on the shore with a clear view to the east and southeast across Goodenough Bay to the ranges of Boianai and Dogura. Boianai is approximately 20 miles across the Bay (or a bit less). They saw a brilliant illuminated disc (or sphere?) in the sky in the direction of Boianai. It was above the level of the mountains but not at a high elevation. It was approximately half the size of the full moon, but much brighter. The light was pure white, and did not change. Beneath the

(See *New Guinea*, page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

"Why Brazil?" Editorial

"The UAO Sightings at the Island of Trindade"

by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes

(This article is the first of a three-part series which describes hitherto unpublicized facts about the famous "IGY" pictures, and the sightings which preceded them.)

Investigation of a Mutual Broadcasting System news item concerning a UFO "as big as a two-story house" revealed some unusual information about the unidentified object itself, plus an example of how information is frequently misconstrued. Clippings kindly forwarded by E. O. Dahl and Mrs. Charles Bruner indicate that something indeed strange took place somewhere over Lake Mille Lacs in northern Minnesota late Saturday night, January 16, and early the next morning.

The object was shaped somewhat like a Christmas tree, with lights of red, white, blue, orange and green colors. Deputy Sheriff Bud Kisskeys of Crow Wing county stated that after receiving the initial call reporting the strange lights, he proceeded to the lake shore near Garrison. The report was made to him by a patrolman in a car in the vicinity. Kisskeys said, "There was one big cluster of lights that looked like a Christmas tree way out on the lake about 10 miles. You could see other lights, one at a time, along the shoreline. I drove to the spot where I thought one would be but it always seemed as far away no matter how long I drove."

Scores of other witnesses, including patrolman Johnny Hogan of Aitkin, and Frank Gowran of the Blue Goose Resort, Garrison, also observed the lights. Hogan, who was quoted as saying that five state highway patrol squads and sheriff's deputies from three counties plus 200 other curious spectators had seen it, compared the object's apparent size to that of a two-story house which he described as appearing to move up and down slowly between altitudes of 500 and 1000 feet.

While interviewed on a TV news program, from Alexandria, Deputy Sheriff Kisskeys said the lights had occasionally flashed on and off, and that they could not have been lights from fishermen's shacks out on the lake.

On Sunday afternoon, the Director attempted to telephone Gowran who had left his resort, and the individual who answered the phone said he wasn't expected to return until almost midnight. A call was then put in to Hogan who was out on patrol and not expected to return until late evening. Hogan's wife gave the name of a George Haase who purportedly saw the lights. A call and

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Editorial . . .

WHY BRAZIL?

This is the question being asked by UAO researchers the world over since Dr. Fontes' reports first began to appear in this periodical. This question has been echoed with increasing frequency and fervor since the September 1959 Bulletin containing the Itaipu Fortress report reached thousands of people throughout the world. That Bulletin brought hundreds of inquiries and applications for membership in APRO and brought the question, "Why Brazil?" into glaring focus. We believe we have an answer.

We must first take a good look at Brazil's general status in South America. A giant in land area, she is one of the most industrialized, the most air-travel conscious and more heavily fortified than other South American countries. The two most frequently visited areas of Brazil are the states of Mato Grosso and Minas Gerais. Mato Grosso is sparsely populated—Minas Gerais is the opposite—teeming with people, and containing heavily fortified military installations. One other characteristic of Minas Gerais is the great mineral and ore deposits including thousands of tons of uranium and plutonium.



Pictured above is Mr. Jun' Ichi Takanashi, our new Representative for Japan. A graduate of the Kwansai Gakuin University, Mr. Takanashi is Chairman of the Modern Space Flight Association, Editor of "Flying Saucer Intelligence," (a Japanese language periodical) and also editor of "Japan UFO Intelligence," the specially published English-language periodical of the MSF Association. The report on the reality of the Saturn-shaped UFO which was mentioned in the November 1959 issue of the APRO Bulletin is a product of Mr. Takanashi's investigative and correlative ability. The staff is proud to welcome Mr. Takanashi as one of the steering crew of A.P.R.O.

Only two other countries have received as much attention as Brazil, and they are the United States and Venezuela. However, the sensational reports of close-up sightings including contact of a sort with the occupants have been few in the U. S. This, in our opinion does not necessarily indicate that they have not taken place. There is one basic difference between the two countries which may be the solution to this purported problem. Brazil is a comparatively "new" country and its people are basically non-conformist to a high degree compared to Americans. Hence, a new idea or concept is not ridiculed into obscurity by a people who resent the possibility of a change. The Brazilian press is considerably less inhibited and not subject to pressure politics as is the American press.

In the United States, UAO sightings of a sensational or outstanding nature are suppressed, the witnesses ridiculed. There is ample evidence of this. Many times newspaper editors merely "go

along" with the current trend, which is a tongue-in-cheek attitude toward all UAO news or incidents. The Director has been told confidentially of a "general order" which went out to all the offices of one press wire service, to the effect that UAO items would be treated casually and humorously. Some politically ambitious editors can be coerced with merely a word or two. We have recently received a first-hand report of such a situation which came into effect during the November 1957 "flap" when a UAO hovered close to the ground several times in a certain area of the U.S. The incidents have not, to this day, been widely publicized. One incident involved a photograph of the field over which the object had been seen hovering, and the burned spot which resulted.

The complete account of the IGY-Trindade Island sightings and photos by Dr. Fontes which starts in this issue illustrates why UAO information has come out of Brazil. The Brazilian people want and demand and get their freedom. The press is a potent weapon against insidious or outright censorship. Practically every sighting or incident reported by Dr. Fontes has been carried in the Brazilian press.

Some researchers have expressed doubts as to the authenticity of these reports because they were not widely publicized in the U.S. The fact of the matter is that the information, though released in Brazil, did not enter the U.S. except in isolated incidents, and even then with only a smattering of the true facts. This is the reason that APRO, an international rather than national organization, has hand-picked representatives to carry out the job of investigation of sightings and incidents in countries other than the U.S. These representatives are full-fledged staff members, and are considered to be top-notch investigators.

For a further answer to the query concerning why UAO reports are most numerous in Brazil, it is quite possible that the contingent of APRO reporters there has some bearing. Dr. Fontes, who has fearlessly exposed official censorship in his own country, employs the methodology and regard for facts which he employs as a top-flight medical scientist. His contacts are many and influential, and he has given exhaustively of his time and resources to get the facts.

Combine all of these factors and we have the answer to the question, "Why Brazil?" It is the contention of Dr. Fontes that Brazil is quite probably playing unwilling host to UAO bases in her isolated, unpopulated areas. The same may be the case in New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and Venezuela.

MEMBERS —

Please forward changes of address—
and try to renew on time!

RECENT SIGHTINGS

Redmond, Oregon, 24 September—Authorities checked on reports of an object sighted by many over this central Oregon town. Patrolman Robert Dickerson first saw the object which he said came to within 200 feet of the ground and moved from side to side. He called Redmond Airport and notified Laverne Wertz at the control tower who also sighted the object, and according to a UPI report in the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin, Wertz described it as round and flat; both he and the patrolman said it glowed in colors of pale green, yellow and red and at times shot long blue bursts of flame. They claimed that it hovered over the area for at least an hour. Wertz also told the press that the Seattle FAA authorities told him the object was observed on a radar screen for about two hours at altitudes of 6000 to 25,000 feet, and that jet interceptors dispatched from Portland air base failed to catch the object which vanished in clouds at about 14,000 feet. Wertz also quoted FAA authorities as informing him that the report was sent to Hamilton AFB, California for investigation.

* * *

GLOWING OBJECT CHASES CAR IN NORTH CAROLINA

On Tuesday, November 3, several reports were made to law enforcement agencies regarding a mysterious glowing ball of light in the eastern sky about 6 a.m. Weather Bureau officials at the Raleigh-Durham Airport explained these as possibly a weather balloon which they had released at 6 a.m. and which "might glow in the sun" at about that time. A State Highway Patrol dispatcher at Salisbury said the object appeared very large, glowing and still visible in the east, moving south at about 8 a.m.

* * *

Not so easily disposed of, however, was the report of Robert L. James, a Taylorsville used car dealer, who reported a "ball of light" which chased his car along a deserted highway at about 4 a.m.—two hours before the weather balloon was launched. James, driving near Statesville, had observed the object as it came within several yards of his vehicle several times. He said it hovered over the car "just above tree-top level" and moved alternately at slow and very fast speeds. He stopped his car six times and each time the object stopped also. During this same time there were reports of the bluish-white fireball being observed over a 50-mile radius in the same area.

* * *

POLICE SPOT SAUCER IN CALIFORNIA

Fontana, Calif., 1 December 1959—Police Sgt. Robert L. Cochran and Reserve Officer W. B. Brandon were pa-

trolling east Fontana at 9:31 p.m. when they spotted a large, round object which glowed red and white. Spotted from the intersection of Barbee and Palmetto Avenues, the object was at 7 o'clock on the horizon, gave off so much light that it lit up the area. The two men drew a sketch which showed a lampshade-shaped object projecting light downward. A few minutes after it was sighted by the officers, the object took off at high speed, leaving distinct vapor trails from a jet-like apparatus, and shortly disappeared. Sun-Telegram (San Bernardino) reporters received another similar report minutes before Cochran and Brandon reported their experience, from a resident of Del Rosa.

* * *

During the first week of December (no exact date) 7 employees at the Kyger Creek Power Plant at Cheshire, Ohio, reported seeing an unidentified object in the area. We are attempting to obtain more information, for this power plant furnishes power for the Atomic Energy Plant at Portsmouth, and this is at least the second time a maneuvering or hovering UFO has been spotted in the vicinity—the first time, November 1957.

* * *

WOMEN SEE MISSILE-SHAPED UFO

An object described as resembling a "silver pencil with fins" was observed over Willoughby, Ohio on Thursday, 10 December by Mrs. Ronald T. Bundy and two other housewives. Mrs. Bundy said there was a loud sound like a clap of thunder, but nothing like the usual sonic booms heard in the area. The moon was out and the time was 5 p.m. Three jets in the air appeared at about the same time that the object did, but they were above it and northbound. The object, headed east, shot straight up and disappeared, leaving a trail of orange-like flame.

* * *

BOWL-SHAPED OBJECT IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

At 11:50 p.m., 22 Dec. Kenneth Lindsley Jr., 28 of Oakdale, Calif., was walking in the vicinity of Claribel Road and McHenry Avenue when he spotted a "bowl-shaped" object coming down out of the clouds toward him. He estimated its altitude as about 2,000 feet when he first saw it. Its color was bright orange. At first he thought it might have been a reflection of the moon but remembered later that the moon didn't rise until about 1:30 a.m. The object dropped to about 20 feet above the road and was throwing a reflection on the road so bright that Lindsley could see both sides of the road and the trees very clearly. He said it stayed down near the road for about two minutes, then went back up into the air. Lindsley, unnerved, headed back to Modesto to stay with a

friend, instead of continuing to hitchhike home to Oakdale as formerly planned. "I had walked about 1½ miles and was at the location of the new 'McHenry Bowl' when I spotted the object again. This time it did not come down nearly as close and did not stay so long. The second appearance was at 12:45 a.m." He told of his experience to reporters, hoping that corroborating witnesses could be located. His story appeared in the 24 December Stockton, California Record, and Mrs. Estelle Hendershott of Waterford came forward to report that she had seen the object while driving to her home at about 12:15 a.m., after getting off work at the John Inglis Frozen Food plant in Modesto. Other women on the night shift saw the object, also, and Mrs. Charles Erickson, of Modesto reported seeing the object from her home.

The Modesto Bee carried the story, which yielded this further information: Lindsley told a Bee reporter that "It extended over the entire road and on it I could see shadows which appeared to be moving but I could not distinguish what they were. It took about a minute and a half to get down, stopping just above the telephone poles. It stayed there two minutes, then went back down the road and up into the air."

* * *

NEBRASKA AND NEVADA RESIDENTS SEE BRIGHT SPEEDY LIGHT

On the 3rd day of January, 1960, at 10 p.m., Clark Fengel of Omaha, Nebraska and his wife observed a brilliant object which streaked across the sky leaving a fiery trail behind it, from west to east. He estimated its height as 10,000 feet; its trajectory was flat, he said.

* * *

On the same evening, a blue light which raced silently across the Las Vegas, Nevada sky, puzzled McCarran Field tower controlmen. "It was the fastest thing I ever saw," said tower employee Jack McMillen who spotted the light at about 11:05 p.m. A departing private plane also saw the object. Earlier that evening, four different pilots in two commercial airlines planes flying between Bryce Canyon and Mormon Mesa reported observing a similar light. Their reports of the object to Salt Lake City were intercepted by the McCarran tower. McMillen said he saw the light for about two or perhaps three seconds, going north to south at about a 15-20 degree elevation. He also said he had thought it might have been a meteor but changed his mind as it left no trail, and had a horizontal trajectory. He said he contacted a private plane which had just taken off and asked the pilot for confirmation. The pilot confirmed McMillen's sighting. An Air Force T-33 inbound to Nellis also confirmed its pilot had also seen a strange light.

(See *Recent Sightings*, page 4)

Recent Sightings . . .

(Continued from page 3)

TWO UAO REPORTS AT FORT WORTH, TEXAS

On the 6th of January several young couples panicked and left secluded regions of Cobb Park in Fort Worth, Texas, and officers were dispatched to the park after an excited caller reported a "flying saucer had just landed in Cobb Park and is chasing all the cars out." The Fort Worth Star-Telegram which reported this incident, reported also that Detective V. U. King spotted a bright light from the southeast part of the city and felt sure it was a blazing meteorite. The Weather Bureau described a current meteorite shower and a local amateur astronomer said his piece about meteors also. No one stopped to think, apparently, that the light which purportedly "landed" surely would not have been still visible in the sky much later, if it were a meteorite.

On the following night, a Fort Worth man reported seeing an unconventional aerial object just south of the General Motors plant at Arlington, Texas. The man, who reported the sighting to police, was described as near hysteria. He said the object had landed on a road and then "took off after a car." The police who took this information apparently failed to get the man's name and have found no further witnesses to corroborate the story.

New Guinea . . .

(Continued from page 1)

bright object (which he described as "like a plate") was a dark "boat-shaped" object, like a black cloud. They watched the round object slowly descend until it slowly disappeared "into" (or behind?) the black "cloud" being gradually eclipsed until it went out. The bright object did not reappear. But the black object was still visible in the same position an hour later. Fr. Albert estimated the time from his sighting of the bright object until its passing into the dark object to be about ten minutes. But Cecil the NNA said it had been there since 7:30.

There are a number of curious points about this sighting.

First: The bright object could not have been the moon, which does not rise until about midnight or later, and in any case is now only a small crescent.

Second: Although at first the "disc" was giving out a brilliant light so that the black "cloud" stood out against the glow in the sky, when the "disc" passed behind the "cloud" the glow disappeared, suggesting either that it had extinguished

its light, or that it had passed into the black object, which must then have been a solid object, not a cloud.

Third: The black object never moved during the whole sighting, nor did it change its boatlike shape (pointed at both ends) or its size. It was in the same position an hour later. Surely, had it been a cloud, it would have moved or changed its shape in a fraction of this time. I have never known a cloud to remain stationary and the same shape for more than five minutes, let alone an hour. This suggests that the object was a solid craft of some sort, probably a Mother Ship. Japhet (the teacher) is sure that it was a craft, as his school children claim several times to have seen "things like boats in the sky" passing over Koyabariga at night. I remember hearing this in July, when the sightings were at their height.

These witnesses are absolutely reliable, Fr. Albert particularly so. He is well educated, steady, unimaginative and completely truthful person.

(Signed) Witness M. Ririka
Japhet Kirakai

Recorder: Norman E. G. Cruttwell

Note: Boianai is 20 m (app.) from Koyabagira. The thing appeared over Boianai, but must really have been much nearer to Koyabagira.

N.E.G.C.

UAO Haunts . . .

(Continued from page 1)

short conversation with him, however, indicated that he had not seen the lights at all, but he offered the opinion that they were only lights from fishermen's shacks out on the ice. Mrs. Lorenzen, who is familiar with these small buildings, having lived at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, rejected this explanation; it did not fit the facts. Neither did the possibility that it may have been an experimental balloon, aurora borealis, or reflections. The most revealing bit of information came from APRO member Mrs. Charles Brunet who quoted Kisskey's statement on television to the effect that he had previously laughed at reports of UFOs but he knew he would not try to explain them away too easily any more.

And so the story died—letters of inquiry to the local editor, to whom Mrs. Lorenzen spoke via long distance, have not been answered to date, nor have those sent to Kisskeys and Hogan. Should more information on this startling incident come to hand it will be printed in the next issue of the Bulletin. It is interesting to note that clippings which contained this sighting also contained a mention of "mysteriously bright lights seen Friday (January 15) from scattered points

in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota were thought to be meteors." Apparently reports had been made to someone somewhere relative to those "mysterious" lights, but they had not seen print until the Crosby object gained attention.

APRO OBSERVES 8th ANNIVERSARY

On 1 January APRO began its 9th year of UFO investigation. Established in January, 1952, the organization has many accomplishments to its credit. Acting as a stabilizing influence in a field of research which is, to say the least, fraught with pitfalls including crackpots, confidence men and general confusion, we have survived financial setbacks, we've contributed heavily to the mass of evidence supporting the reality of "flying saucers," and to many books. We recognized the portent of the "little men" of France and South America long before the general research field was ready to admit their existence.

In April, 1956, the Director resigned her position with Civil Service and APRO became a full-time organization, with a full-time Director and several part-time qualified officers and advisors. Since then we have appointed several top-flight representatives abroad and established a smoothly functioning international research organization. We have brought to UFO enthusiasts the world over such exclusive accounts as the Venezuelan "hairy dwarf" onslaught of 1954, the Swedish "Little Men" of 1959, the first physical evidence examined and publicized (the "New Haven Incident," 1953), the "Ponta Poran Incidents" and many others. We have followed a policy of presenting up-to-date factual reports as well as well-investigated and documented reports of incidents at such times as they were completed.

APRO has brought UFO investigators around the globe together in a common effort; nationalism has no place in scientific research and we sincerely believe the mystery will be solved by many individuals from many countries; it involves all of the world.

The future of APRO is bright, despite a constant shortage of time and funds. With the publication of the IGY feature in this issue, we will begin what we feel to be the end of our task. Dr. Fontes' evidence related to the IGY pictures is further corroboration of the reality of the Saturn-shaped UAO, a true UAO prototype, and the perfidy of authoritarian censorship. We hope that all members will redouble their efforts to support this final phase, for our budget does not include the 10-page-plus Bulletin which will be required to present the full picture.

THE UAO SIGHTINGS AT THE ISLAND OF TRINDADE

Part I

By OLAVO T. FONTES, M. D.

APRO Special Representative for Brazil

When Navy officers, competent technicians and experts on meteorological and atmospheric phenomena, from a military Meteorological Station and Oceanographic Post doing research connected with the IGY, report seeing the same UAOs on at least eight different occasions, the event can be classified as very unusual. Add the fact that a number of other people saw these UAOs and that in two cases they were observed through theodolites, and the story gets even better. Add a few more facts—that these UAOs were photographed and the photos, showing a lot of detail of the UAO, were proven to be genuine according to official statements; that they were picked up on radar and that several people got a close look at the object at least in two of the sightings—and the case becomes one of the best in the whole history of UAOs, good enough to convince even the most ardent skeptics. Enough to prove that they are real—some type of vehicle flying through our atmosphere.

If you have something more than good circumstantial evidence—something concrete like genuine photos showing detail of the UAO, measured speeds, or sizes—then you have hard, cold, scientific facts. If your photos are also offered as proof that the UAOs are intelligently controlled, for they represent a permanent record of the motion of the UAO, i.e., a photographic sequence of a UAO's flight path—then your case is closed. But remember that if they are real, then they have to be spacecraft because no one can give a second thought to the possibility that the UAOs might be a supersecret U. S. aircraft or a Soviet development. You know that no country in the world has developed their technology far enough to build a craft that would perform as the UAOs are reported to do. It would be absurd to think that the millions of dollars spent on the investigation of the UAO mystery are being spent to cover the existence of a UAO-type weapon.

This is the situation when you face the reports of the UAO sightings at the Island of Trindade, a Brazilian possession lost in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. Most of these incidents are known to the Brazilian public, but there are important details which have not been disclosed. However, even the information already released through the Brazilian press must be included, for it is almost certain that the American public doesn't know anything about it. It is a well-known fact that reports of flying saucers from other countries, when published in the American press, do not contain the necessary detail to give them factual stature. Most are fragmentary, and come through the

news services merely as an "item," mostly without verification, and many times without even names or dates. Therefore, I am going to report the whole story of the Brazilian Navy sightings at the Island of Trindade, the remarkable series of incidents which caused a tremendous impact on the Brazilian public and put the uneasy Navy authorities of my country in a very difficult position.

Hundreds of hours of my time were spent on an exhaustive personal investigation of these amazing incidents, to uncover all the facts connected with them, even the ones not revealed through the press. I was very lucky in my search, mostly because I was informed about the UAO's pictures at a time when they were still a top-secret subject—long before their publication.

The first word of the sightings came on February 4, 1958, when a Navy Commander phoned me to report a startling story. That man, a close friend of mine, had been a hard-boiled skeptic for many years. In the past, I had tried to convince him that UAOs were real objects but got no results—all my attempts had failed. Now he was calling to tell me he had changed his opinion just a few days ago, after he had seen some amazing pictures of a flying saucer taken a few weeks before by a Navy officer, at the Island of Trindade. "They are authentic," he told me, "because they were shot from the deck of a Navy ship, the NE 'Almirante Saldanha,' in the presence of a number of Navy officers and sailors, who had sighted the UAO too."

My friend went on to say that the ship was at the Island of Trindade on a scientific mission, and that an investigation had been made immediately. The ship's C.O. had taken the necessary measures to get the film developed aboard, in the presence of reliable witnesses, and had requested the negatives for examination. These negatives had been submitted to a careful investigation by photographic experts, in order to eliminate any doubt about their authenticity.

He had seen the five pictures the day before and was deeply impressed. They showed a strange object which was obviously an aerial machine of unknown type. He was also informed that a craft of the same kind had been sighted by the crew of a Navy towship traveling near the coast of Bahia (State). He said the evidence was enough to convince him that saucers existed.

This was the Navy officer's story. Feeling that he was now sincerely interested in the UAO problem, I advised him to talk to Commander X (there is no need to tell his real name), an officer from Navy Intelligence who was, in fact, the Head of the Brazilian Navy investigations of UAOs, and also the "contact officer" on the same subject with the U.S. Navy. "He was the person who showed me the

pictures," was my friend's answer. He then told me that Com. X was one of his best friends in the Navy. He also said he was going to request special permission to show me the pictures, under compromise. He warned that the matter was going to be difficult because the photos were classified for official use only.

Permission was granted on February 14. On that occasion my personal investigation of the case was already yielding good results. From several sources, through my contacts in the Brazilian Navy, a lot of new information on the incident had been collected. I already knew the following basic facts connected with it: (1)—that the man who had shot the pictures was not a Navy officer, but a civilian—a photographer named Almiro Barauna; (2)—that the UAO appearing in the photos had been sighted on January 16, 1958; (3)—that Mr. Barauna had taken only four pictures of the object; (4)—that the fifth one, which showed the same saucer (or a similar one), had been shot by a Navy sergeant stationed on the Island, on a different date—before the arrival of the NE "Almirante Saldanha;" and, (5)—that at least six other sightings had been made at the Island before the arrival of that ship, in less than two months.

This was the information I had obtained when, on the evening of February 14, I went to the Brazilian Navy Ministry according to the instructions received. I met the Navy officer who was my friend and we went to talk to the intelligence officer who was to show me the UAO photos. I was permitted to make a close examination of the four pictures shot by Mr. Barauna. I also saw the fifth one, which was together with the others, but no one told me anything about its different origin. The intelligence officers who worked on the UFO problem seemed to constitute an efficient staff and it was a pleasure to talk with them. We discussed openly the details of the saucer structure appearing in the enlargements made from each photo. They had traced the flight path of the object across the sky and carefully plotted on special charts the data concerning size, speed and altitude. They had no doubt about the authenticity of the photos. The Navy Photo Reconnaissance Laboratory did a complete analysis of the original negatives, which included visual studies, frame-by-frame slide projection, microscopic examination, granulation tests and measurements of the images' brightness. And the photo lab report had concluded that the photos were genuine. Also, a photogrammetric analysis made outside the Navy, by a civilian organization, the "Cruzeiro do Sul Acrophotogrammetric Service," had definitely excluded the possibility of a falsification or photographic trick. And

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the photographs agreed with the description of the object that the observers had seen—i.e., all witnesses had recognized the object appearing in the pictures as the same one they had sighted over the Island.

They confirmed the information I had collected about other sightings at the Island, but no additional details were given. At the end, they asked me to keep absolute silence about the whole matter. And so I did for a long time. I am not breaking the compromise assumed. As a matter of fact, all information released in that interview was published later in the press. The secret data included in this report, not yet published, were picked up from other sources under no compromise.

After the meeting at the Navy Ministry, the next thing was to try to find the man who had taken the photos. This task was given to reporter Joao Martins, one of our best UAO investigators, who was already working with me in the case. He found Mr. Barauna on the night of February 15. He told him he wanted the photos exclusively for his magazine. Barauna agreed, but advised that the publication could be made only after authorization from the Navy for he had assumed a compromise to keep the matter secret. The permission was granted on the same night, verbally, by Com. C. A. Bacellar. However, it was still subject to the approval of the Navy Ministry and Martins was forced to wait for it.

This seemed to be the end of my investigation of the photographs. The amount of data I had gathered was accurate but it was inconclusive as far as getting a definite answer was concerned. Then something unexpected came to change the situation. On February 20, the first news about the incident appeared in the press: the newspaper "O GLOBO" printed a note on the rumors that a flying saucer had been sighted at the Island of Trindade by the crew of the NE "Almirante Saldanha." The note said that the information had not been confirmed or denied at the navy Ministry, but a Navy spokesman had said that a statement on the case would be released to the press at the proper time. That same night Martins was visited by Mr. Barauna. The man had bad news. Com. Bacellar had phoned him to report a very unpleasant fact: that same night, a radio news program had announced that a newspaper, the "CORREIO DE MANHA," was going to print next morning "exclusive pictures" of a saucer taken by the Navy, at the Island of Trindade. Bacellar also said that the Navy, taken by surprise and worried, had made a desperate attempt to stop the publication at the last moment—but failed. . . . Then they had sent him to

inform Barauna that he was free from the compromise and should take the proper measures to defend his own rights. Mr. Barauna told Martins that he was free to break their contract, too. But Martins decided to accept the fight. They prepared a written contract which was signed by Barauna. They went immediately to the office of the involved newspaper to stop the publication. Their attempt was a failure, too. It was then decided to publish the pictures in another newspaper, at the same time.

The newspaper "O JORNAL" was contacted and agreed to print the photos. Next morning, on February 21, the case was published in both papers. "O JORNAL" printed also a report about the sighting as told by Mr. Barauna, which has also been published in "The A.P.R.O. Bulletin" (March, 1958).

Despite the careful measures to maintain secrecy, some one had broken the censorship and put the Navy authorities in a very difficult position. And the man who had done this could not be punished because he was the Brazilian President himself. Ten days before, he had received several copies and enlargements of the UAO photos from Admiral Alves Camara, the Navy Minister, as evidence that the Navy had proof of flying saucers' reality. A few days later the President was visited by a close friend, a person connected with the editor of the "CORREIO DE MANHA." During the interview, that person noticed some strange photos spread on the President's table and asked about them. The President told him. He became very excited and asked permission to get them published. The President promised to consider the demand. Several days later, under the pressure of insistent demands, he finally acceded to liberate the pictures. And when the Navy tried to stop the publication at any cost, the President—who had not asked for the Navy's advice on the subject—said that his decision, right or wrong, was final. The photos were published. The incident made headlines in Rio's newspapers and later all over the country. Excellent enlargements of the pictures were printed in the press, showing the saucer moving over the sea and hovering above the Island's mountains. The effect on the public was tremendous. A thing like that had never before been revealed to the Brazilian people. Those photographs were clear enough to show the object was an unknown type of craft. And they had been shot by a member of the Navy's scientific expedition, i.e., they had been authenticated by the Navy.

The case remained on the paper's front pages for seven days. Navy authorities did not know what to do, for the thing was too big to be concealed anymore. To deny any connection with the incident was a childish thing, an unnecessary lie—but they tried it. The maneu-

ver was a failure, however, for the orders to keep the secrecy about the matter were not obeyed by civilian observers aboard the ship. They talked. Their reports confirmed Barauna's report. Under the pressure of public opinion, the Navy was forced to issue an official release which caused a Congressional inquiry into the Navy policy about the UFOs. This marked the climax of the confusion and controversy which followed public announcement of the startling events at the Island of Trindade.

The Congressional inquiry was approved at the House of Representatives on February 27, 1958. According to Brazilian law, Representative Sergio Magalhaes requested the Navy Ministry to explain the facts connected with the incident at the Island of Trindade. The text of this fascinating document was printed in all Rio's newspapers on February 27 and 28. It is transcribed below, quoted verbatim from the Government Printing Office publication, the "Diario do Congresso Nacional":

"HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U. S. OF BRAZIL" "OFFICIAL INQUIRY"

"Subject: The Navy Ministry is requested to answer or explain the following items of the inquiry presented by Rep. Sergio Magalhaes (Rio de Janeiro, D.C.) on February 27, 1958, and approved by this House:

1—If it is true that the crew of the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' witnessed the sighting of a strange object over the Island of Trindade.

2—Considering that the official statement released from the Navy Minister's Office recognizes that photos of the strange object were taken 'in the presence of members from the crew of the NE "Almirante Saldanha"'—it is asked if an investigation was made, and if the reports from the Navy officers and sailors involved were registered.

3—In the hypothesis of a negative answer, the Navy Minister is requested to explain the reasons on which he has based his inclination to attribute no importance to the fact.

4—If it is correct that the photos were developed in the presence of officers from the NE 'Almirante Saldanha,' and that the pictures showed the image of the strange object since the first examination.

5—If the negatives were submitted to a careful examination in order to detect any photographic trick contrived before the sighting.

6—Why the information was kept secret by Navy authorities for about a month.

7—If it is correct that other similar phenomena were observed by Navy officers.

8—If it is correct that the commanding officer of the Navy tow ship 'Tridente'

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witnessed the appearance of the strange object called a 'flying saucer.'

"JUSTIFICATION:

The appearance of these strange aerial objects known as 'flying saucers' has attracted the world's interest and curiosity for more than ten years. For the first time, however, the phenomenon is witnessed by a large number of members from a military organization, and the photos of the object receive the OFFICIAL SEAL through a statement released to the press by the Navy Minister's Office.

Yet, as the problem affects the national security, more information is necessary to clarify the facts. There is some controversy in the information divulged through the press, but the Navy apparently has no intention of releasing a complete report to stop the confusion and inform the public. Furthermore, the Navy Minister's Office, having declared (officially) that a large number of people from the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' crew had sighted the strange object photographed over the Island of Trindade—in spite of this, there was no request for the witnesses' reports or any other measures, as confessed the Chief of the Navy High Staff when interviewed by the press." UNQUOTE.

The flying saucers had achieved the honor of being referred to in the House of Representatives. By now the words "flying saucer" were being batted around by every newspaper reporter, radio and TV newscaster, and man on the street. It had become apparent that the press was reviving its interest in UAOs. Newspaper reporters uncovered and printed a lot of valuable information on the matter, for they rival any intelligence officer when it comes to digging up facts. But the best thing they were able to get was the Navy secret report to the House of Representatives with the answers to the questions asked by Rep. Sergio Magalhaes. The information was published on April 17, 1958, by several newspapers at Rio (CORREIO DA MANHA, O JORNAL, and JORNAL DO BRAZIL).

The document pointed out that the reports hadn't actually started with the Barauna Incident. Several other sightings over the Island had been witnessed by a number of workers, sailors and officers, on different occasions, during the months of December (1957) and January. Some of these cases had not been taken into consideration, said the report, "though the witnesses reported the sighting of the object on different days, because their stories were not sufficient for scientific evaluation due to the observers' lack of qualification (sailors and workers), and to the brief duration of the phenomena." But in five incidents, at least, the reports had come from Navy

officers, scientists, and other equally credible observers—and those reports couldn't be discarded. The Navy investigation of the matter was started in January, soon after the arrival of the NE "Almirante Saldanha" at Rio de Janeiro, and closed on February 2.

The Navy report also included an account of these other incidents, which involved "unidentified objects" shaped like a flying saucer, and tear-shaped devices. "One object," said the report, "when seen from below, showed a spherical outline and its color was undefined for some, like stainless steel for others. The size was not determined. All the reports called attention to the high speed, controlled maneuvers, and extreme mobility of the objects spotted. Their movements were not continuous like those of an airplane—but abrupt and rapid, with sudden changes of course and speed, and right-angle turns."

It contained also the Navy's analysis of the Barauna Incident together with the evaluation of the photos taken by that photographer. The conclusion at the end of the document was the following:

"Personal reports and photographic evidence of certain value indicate the existence of unidentified aerial object(s)."

All the information transcribed above was printed in the Brazilian press, as well as a summary of the several sightings at the Island. No one knows who gave out the data to newspapermen, but some clues suggest Rep. Magalhaes himself. Anyway, the information was correct. I was able to check the matter personally. I saw the Navy report itself, in the hands of some friends from the Navy. In fact, there was more information in it than what had been revealed through the press. The matter will be discussed again in another portion of this report.

Incidentally, the Navy reaction to the publication of information contained in the secret report was expressed in the official release made by Commander Raul Lopes Cardoso, from the Navy Minister Office, on that same day:

"The Navy has sent a memorandum to the House of Representatives with the answers to the questions asked by Rep. S. Magalhaes, in an official document, on the sighting of a flying saucer on January 16, 1958, at the Island of Trindade. I must declare, however, that such a memorandum is a classified document, and the House of Representatives is not authorized to divulge any information included there. Only the President of the Republic, or the Navy High Command, could give the order to declassify the Navy Secret Report on the subject and make it available to the public.

"I would like to make it clear, on the other hand, that the document received by Rep. S. Magalhaes is not the Navy Secret Report itself. That Report con-

tinues to be absolutely secret. Any information or comments about it are still forbidden. What was sent to the House was a single memorandum, classified too." (Rio de Janeiro O JORNAL, April 17, 1958).

Rep. Sergio Magalhaes was the obvious target of the Navy release transcribed above. To avoid trouble, he was careful in his official declaration to the press on the matter. He said only the following:

"After receiving from the Navy the information requested in the inquiry connected with the flying saucer of Trindade, I have concluded that an unidentified object was seen by the crew of the NE "Almirante Saldanha," and photographed by Mr. Almiro Barauna." (Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRAZIL, April 17, 1958)

* * *

The facts reported above represent only a part of the whole history, but they are enough for the reader to get a general idea about the situation and to realize the extraordinary significance of the remarkable sequence of UAO sightings at the Island of Trindade. The following account presents the true and complete story, based on what I learned in my investigation of the matter. Most of the information included was published in the press, but my report contains also data which has never before been divulged. In these instances I have left out the names of the people who gave me the information, or the names of certain people who were associated with the Navy project—people who have co-operated to help me but do not want publicity. But the greatest care has been taken to make sure that the omission of a few names has in no way altered the basic facts because this report is based on facts—all of the facts. Contrary to the present thinking in military circles, I believe that the public must be told every detail of every phase of the UAO investigation. Therefore, nothing of significance was left out.

Now let us consider the events in the order in which they occurred.

* * *

Part I

The First Sightings at the Island of Trindade

Trindade is a small, deserted, rocky island located in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, between the Brazilian coast and the African continent, more than 600 miles off the coast of Bahia. During World War II, it was used as a military base for U.S. and Brazilian warships fighting German U-boats. But it was abandoned after the end of the war, remaining completely deserted and forgotten until 1957. In October, 1957, however, a task force from the Brazilian Navy arrived there, under the command

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of Captain-of-Corvette Carlos Alberto Bacellar. The Hydrography and Navigation Division of the Navy Ministry had decided to build an Oceanographic Post and a Meteorological Station on the island for research connected with the IGY.

By early November the task had been completed. The installations began their activities. Besides equipment for oceanographic and meteorological studies, there was also a radio station on the island. Instrument-carrying meteorological balloons were released daily by Navy technicians to study high-atmospheric conditions. These weather-balloons were flexible bags inflated with hydrogen and painted red, to make it easier to spot from the ground. The gas inside the balloons expanded gradually as they ascended (because of the drop of atmospheric pressure), and a stage was reached when the balloon could not expand further and then it burst. The instruments were automatically dropped by parachute before this moment. Each balloon carried a radio transmitter which started to send a radio signal as the balloon began to climb. Information registered on the balloon's instruments was automatically sent to the ground station. At the moment the instruments were parachuted, the radio signal changed automatically to a higher frequency. The balloon's movements were tracked all the time through optical devices because a close observation of its ascent would give information on the winds at various heights. The technicians tracked the balloon with theodolites, to avoid losing contact with it.

November was coming to an end. On the morning of a clear, sunny day, a meteorological balloon was being tracked with a theodolite as it slowly climbed into the sky. Com. Bacellar was inside the radio station, picking up its radio signals. Everything seemed to be normal. But suddenly the signals' frequency changed unexpectedly. Puzzled, Com. Bacellar sent a man outside to tell the operators at the theodolite that the balloon's instruments had been parachuted prematurely. The technician came back a few minutes later and was very excited: "They said that the instruments have not been dropped yet, Commander, and that . . ."

"That is impossible," answered Bacellar, "because I am listening to the new signal. What is happening outside?"

"I don't know, sir, but they say there is another object in the sky near the balloon, and perhaps . . ." But he had no time to finish the sentence because the commander was already running through the door.

It was unbelievable. There was another object in the sky besides the balloon, hovering over the Post at a great alti-

tude. It could be sighted distinctly with the naked eye, appearing as a bright luminous speck, silvery in color. It seemed to be moving from one side to another and making tight turns. At its apparent height, the speed had to be tremendous to convey an impression of motion so clearly defined. It was at an elevation of about 80 degrees. Despite the impression of motion, the first suggestion was that the "unknown" might be the planet Venus. The possibility was immediately checked and it was found that the azimuth and elevation of Venus did not coincide with the position of the object.

Com. Bacellar took over the theodolite and found the balloon still there, whereupon he immediately abandoned it and picked up the unidentified object as it came out of the sun. Through the 20-power scope, the UAO presented a distinct oval-shaped outline and was about three times as long as it was wide. It was silvery-white in color and reflected sunlight with what looked like a metallic shine. It appeared at times to change shape according to its position in space in relation to the observers. Sometimes it seemed round, or looked like a planetary disk.

There was a cloudless sky and no haze. The object left no vapor trail or exhaust. No projections were noted on the surface. It was not rotating, but the small change of shape at intervals suggested an oscillatory motion of some sort.

The balloon burst at the proper time but the UAO was still there. It remained in sight for almost three hours. At the end, diminishing gradually in size, it finally was lost to sight by the technician who was tracking its course all the time.

A radio message signed by Com. Bacellar was sent to Rio reporting the events and asking for instructions.

According to Com. Bacellar, this was the first UAO sighting at the Island. I had another information about two previous incidents in October, before the arrival of Bacellar. It was said that, in one of them, the UAO had landed at a deserted spot on the island but—when approached—moved away at high speed after a swift take-off. The information had come from a reliable source, but Com. Bacellar denied it.

The second sighting happened on December 5, 1957. A worker, according to his written report at the C.O. at the island (Com. Bacellar), watched a strange object cross the sky overhead at 8:00 a.m. The alien craft was flying silently at a height of about six thousand feet; it was silvery in color and round-shaped; its angular diameter was similar to that of the full moon's.

This report didn't attract unusual interest at the time because the witness was a person with no special qualification.

On December 31, however, came the

third sighting. The same object (or a similar one) passed again over the island. The time was 7:50 a.m. A silvery, circular object, with an apparent size compared with the full moon, crossed the sky silently at about six thousand feet. This time it was watched by five workers, a sailor, the island's doctor, and a Navy officer—Lieutenant Inacio Carlos Moreira.

By this time, the commander was worried. If those UAOs were hostile, the Navy garrison at the island had no chance to fight back in the case of an attack. The island had no weapons for defense—no artillery, long-range weapons, or even anti-aircraft cannons. Com. Bacellar did not expect an attack, of course, but his men were uneasy—and he knew it. There might be trouble in handling them if those UAOs—whatever they might be—continued to appear over the island.

The fourth sighting occurred on the following day, January 1, 1958. For obvious reasons, almost everybody was alert, with eyes turned toward the sky. At 7:50 a.m., a bright point of light flashed over the sea at very high speed. It described a 90 degree trajectory on the sky before vanishing into the horizon. In the middle of this trajectory, it glowed brightly for a few seconds—like a mirror reflecting the sun. The whole garrison, including Com. Bacellar, saw the object. At that hour a number of sea-gulls were flying around. Was it a sea-gull? Com. Bacellar said he is not sure. If it was a sea-gull, it was the fastest of its kind in the world.

Workers and sailors witnessing the phenomenon, on the other hand, reported that the object sighted was the same they had seen on other occasions. Besides, it had appeared at the same time and was moving in the same direction (to the North) as the UAO of the previous day.

Next day, January 2, another alarm was given—this time at night. But the men were excited and the thing was seen for a few seconds only. No one was sure about it. The sighting was discarded. The same night, however, the Navy tow ship "Triunfo," traveling off the Bahia coast, some 400 miles off the Island of Trindade, was circled for almost ten minutes by an unknown aerial object. The whole ship's crew witnessed the incident. The UAO was round-shaped, encircled by a weird orange glow, and maneuvered at high speed—with sudden changes of course and right-angle turns. At certain times it hovered motionless in mid-air for a brief time, sometimes close to the ship.

This was the fifth sighting of the series. It was not published in the press.

These facts seem fantastic, but they are recorded in the Navy Secret Report on the Trindade Incidents. The most incredible event was yet to come. Ac-

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According to the secret Navy document sent to Rep. Sergio Magalhaes, the sixth sighting happened on January 6. As usual, another weather balloon had been released that morning and was being tracked from the ground. The sky was blue and clear, with no haze, and there was a solitary cumulus cloud almost overhead. Com. Bacellar was inside the radio cabin, tracking the balloon's slow ascent via the signals emitted from its radio-sonde. Everything appeared to be normal . . .

Suddenly a strange thing happened: the radio signals began to diminish gradually in intensity, fading away as if the transmitter was moving to a distance outside the range of the ground station antenna. And there was no change of frequency. In fact, the signal's frequency did not change even at the expected time, when the instruments should have automatically dropped by parachute. The change never came because soon the radio-sonde was dead. For unknown reasons the balloon's transmitter was now silent.

Worried, Com. Bacellar went outside to investigate. There was nothing unusual at first sight: the balloon was already very high in the sky and still climbing up; it was slowly approaching the large cumulus cloud, which was overhead at an altitude of fourteen thousand feet. The balloon's instruments were expected to be dropped at this height.

It was then that the observers saw a strange thing: the balloon was sucked suddenly toward the cloud, entered it, and was lost to sight. It appeared again about ten minutes later, and resumed its ascent in the sky—more rapidly now, for it was lighter than before its disappearance into the cloud. The balloon's instruments had disappeared when it was inside the cloud. In fact, it had entered into that cloud still carrying its instruments—but it had left the cloud without them.

Had the balloon's instruments been parachuted when it was out of sight, inside the cloud? Maybe, but no one saw the parachute coming down with them. No one can be sure because they were not found.

As would be expected if they were picked up by an interloper . . .

Yes, there was an interloper inside the cumulus cloud. It came out soon after the balloon and was first spotted by the technician at the theodolite. Com. Bacellar was alerted and saw it too: a silvery object, with the color of polished aluminum, shining in the sunlight. It came slowly from behind the cloud, moving along a SW-E direction. Com. Bacellar looked at it through binoculars and then asked for the theodolite.

Through the 20-power theodolite, the

UAO looked like a half-moon with a bright white color. Bacellar followed it with the scope for half an hour. It was still moving from the Southwest to the East—but later it changed course and started to move from East to West. At this moment, Bacellar called a technician to resume keeping the slow-moving UAO in the theodolite's field and he went to the radio post, to check the radio-sonde data. He went later to a ship to get a sextant and, from the deck, he followed the object through that optical device for a long time.

At 12:15 a.m. the UAO finally disappeared behind a cloud-bank (cirrus clouds) and was not seen again.

According to Com. Bacellar's observations, the UAO's angular velocity was like that of the sun when the object was moving on an E-W course. However, when it moved in the other direction (along a SW-E course) the speed was much higher.

This sighting was reported in the press on April 17 (Rio de Janeiro CORREIO DA MANHA, O JORNAL, and JORNAL DE BRASIL) and May 17, 1958 (magazine O CRUZEIRO). All the details were included, except the facts connected with the radio-sonde signals and the balloon's instruments. These are related here for the first time.

At this point, I would like to call the attention of the reader to the fact that Com. Carlos Alberto Bacellar is a highly qualified officer, a competent technician, and an expert on meteorological and atmospheric phenomena. He started the first systematic radio-sonde research in my country. Therefore, he is well qualified to detect the difference between a UAO and a balloon, or the planet Venus, or any other meteorological or astronomical phenomena. His observations of the sightings described above were obviously more precise and accurate but, unfortunately, he could not talk about the matter. He confirmed the incidents but refused to give out more details because the data was still classified.

There was still another sighting in January according to the information I received from another source. When questioned about it, Com. Bacellar angrily refused to admit its existence. He said the whole thing was a lie. Despite this lack of confirmation I will report the case because the information came from a very reliable military source.

According to the information, this seventh sighting occurred just a few days before the arrival of the NE "Almirante Saldanha." This time the UAO appeared very low over the island. It flashed toward the Meteorological Post at terrific speed, slowed down abruptly, and hovered for a few seconds over it. Then it started to move again, described several circles around the island, hovered briefly above the "Desejado" peak, moved again

on a "zig-zag" course and was gone into the horizon at tremendous speed. When last sighted, it was flying in a North-westerly direction. This UAO was a weird object. It appeared to be made of polished aluminum (or similar metal), and was shaped like a flattened spheroid with a large ring circling its equator. The spheroid body did not rotate, but the ring appeared to be spinning at fantastic speed. The object made no sound as it flew through the sky. In spite of the fact that it had been sighted almost at noon, on a clear sunny day, against a cloudless sky—this UAO was surrounded by a bright greenish glow, which almost disappeared when the object was hovering, to become brighter when it started to move.

A number of people at different spots on the island witnessed the sighting. The witnesses were scared and spread alarm and confusion through the garrison. Com. Bacellar, it was said, submitted the witnesses to a careful interrogation after taking measures to avoid any contact between them. All reports agreed that the "unknown" was a solid object about twice to three times the size of a DC-3; that it appeared to be intelligently controlled; and that its performance was beyond anything manufactured upon this planet.

The investigation also revealed another important thing (also denied by Com. Bacellar): that the UAO had been photographed by one of the witnesses, a Navy sergeant. The man was taking pictures of the island with a box camera when he spotted the UAO moving across the sky. He shot one picture before it disappeared. The negative was immediately requested by Com. Bacellar and the film developed the same day. The picture was good enough to show that the object photographed was the same as described by the witnesses. Its spherical outline as well as the large thick ring around it could be clearly seen in the enlargements made from the negative. On the other hand, it seemed that the UAO's rapid motion had not been adequately stopped by the box camera; the object appeared out of focus on the photo and no good detail was observable.

This photo was probably one of the five UAO pictures I saw at the Navy Ministry, together with the ones taken by Mr. Barauna. Despite the lack of detail, it is very important as evidence, for it shows the same object seen later in the photos taken by another person.

With this we can pass to the last UAO sighting at the Island of Trindade, the one that was widely reported through the press. It is the best case of the whole series, not only because of the amazing photographs taken by Mr. Barauna, but also for other important reasons that will be presented in the next portion of this report.

PART II — MARCH 1960 ISSUE

F.A.A. CLAIMS ICE FALL KNOWLEDGE

Mystery ice falls are in the news again. At Toccoa, Georgia, a 40-pound bit fell into a farmer's field—narrowly missing the farmer and burying itself a foot deep into the ground. At Whittier, Calif., a 25-pound chunk smashed a hole the size of a football in the roof of a house and loosened the plaster below. Another piece (of unspecified size) punched through an Englishman's roof, brought down the ceiling—splintering a chair. . . . Now come the explanations.

A release dated 9 Jan, 1960 from Washington, gives us to understand that certain unnamed government scientists have completed their studies of the Georgia ice and now know where it came from but they aren't telling.

Interested agencies are said to be Federal Aviation Agency, the Weather Bureau, and the Geological Survey. In explaining the secrecy one official (not named) said the government must be careful because whatever it says could affect lawsuits that could develop from similar ice falls.

It is sincerely hoped, in the interest of adult common sense that we get more out of this than another dose of the "ice chunks dropping from airplanes" placebo. No man-made plane could ice up to the thickness indicated by these reports and remain airborne. When icing conditions prevail, ice tends to form most readily in those low-pressure areas above the wing from which the aircraft derives its lift.

Without consulting any legal experts we would also like to venture the opinion that anyone whose person or property is damaged through the negligence of another person or agency has a legal right to recover damages from said person or agency and that anyone preventing said recovery of damages through the willful withholding of pertinent evidence is guilty of being an accessory after the fact or at least of obstructing justice.

STRANGE ASPECTS OF TEXAS BRANIFF CRASH

On the front page of the November 1959 issue of the Bulletin, comment pertaining to the crash of a Braniff Airways turbo-prop airliner elicited further information from David Wuliger, APRO member in Houston. Clippings containing press statements made by R. B. Carleton, vice-president in charge of operations for Braniff, included the following information: Carleton, who had been leading a crew of airline technicians investigating the crash scene, said an engine explosion may have caused the crash. He also said that glass window ports in a recov-

ered portion of the 113,000 pound airplane showed signs of tremendous exterior heat, but that the blast which disintegrated the big ship did not come from within the plane. A veteran Air Force pilot testified before a three-man Civil Aeronautics Board that he had seen a massive, mushroom-shaped red stationary glow in the area on the night of the crash. The officer, Maj. R. O. Braswell of Ellington AFB, Houston, was on his way from Shreveport, La., to Lufkin in a C-47 when he spotted the atomic-cloud-shaped burning mass, three to five degrees above him—an enormous thing, he said.

The Houston Press reported on December 10 that 280 Fort Hood soldiers fanned out through the woods and fields near Buffalo on December 9 in further efforts to turn up additional pieces of the airliner, which crashed on 29 September 1959. CAB investigator John Cyrocki denied reports that a deadly air-to-air Sidewinder missile had somehow broken free and homed in on the airliner, causing the crash.

On October 21st, the Houston Press reported details of the hearing which took place in the Buffalo, Texas gymnasium. Several of the statements by witnesses are most important. CAB investigator Joseph Zamuda said that at 11 p.m., just 9 minutes before the crash, the flight engineer had logged the fact that they were cruising at 15,000 feet, air speed 275 knots, all engine instruments normal.

Eye-witness W. S. Webb testified that he had just gone to bed on the night of September 29 when, while gazing out the window, he "saw a light in the sky. I thought it was lightning at first, but it didn't disappear. A few seconds later a ball of fire that looked like a star shot through the sky. Then I heard a noise like something was falling through the sky. It was a whooshing, shrill sound. I guess the fire ball was two-thirds of the way from the ground when it exploded."

A 39-year-old retired engineer, Jackie J. Cox, testified: "I was going home to Buffalo when I noticed a low lying cloud in the sky and heard the noise of a plane which sounded louder than normal. You could feel the vibrations on the ground. I heard the plane for about 10 seconds and then saw a bright orange light in the sky. It spread to cover the entire sky, as if phosphorous or magnesium were burning." Mr. Cox said after he had driven about a half a mile he noticed another flash, which appeared twice. After the second flash there was a noise like thunder.

Billie Guyton of Centerville testified that he noticed a small glow spread to cover the sky, that he saw a falling object come from the glow, first going forward and then straight down. After the object fell, he heard a thunder-like

noise.

It appears that something else was in the sky that night near Buffalo—something in a cloud. At the same time, in the same location, an airliner carried 34 people to their deaths.

Perhaps this is why 280 military personnel searched the area for the second time weeks after the initial investigation and search were completed.

U. S. NAVY MAN PHOTOGRAPHS UAO

Miami, Fla., 29 Nov. 1959—Joseph John Rehill, 39, U. S. Navy pharmaceutical aviation technician, was focusing his camera at an empty parking lot. Catching a glimpse of a "sudden flash," he snapped the shutter. When the transparency was developed, it showed five white spots in the sky—one of them followed by a faint streak.

Interrogated by N. F. Gariety of S.P.A.C.E. (267 Alhambra, Coral Gables, Fla.) Rehill was not too cooperative. He admitted that he had had a session with Air Force Intelligence officers. They had examined his Argus C-3 camera as well as the complete set of transparencies from that particular roll of film and had found no evidence of fakery, he said. And yet this man with 19 years of naval aviation service says he did not scan the sky after taking the picture to see if the UFOs were still there.

MORE MAPS

The office has received only a small percentage of the road maps it badly needs—we suggest that those members who sent none in response to our November request, mail one road map of their respective states as soon as possible.

HOPF LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our photographic consultant, John T. Hopf, has launched into an extensive campaign to bring more members into APRO from the Rhode Island area, and it is paying off. He has appeared on radio programs dealing with the UFO mystery, which resulted in a well-written, sober account of APRO's activities and goals in the Newport, Rhode Island newspaper.

Ruppelt Revision on Sale

Edward Ruppelt, author of "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects," has a revised edition for sale (Doubleday) which indicates a turn-about from his stand in his original book.

A review will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Bulletin.