

1) X-ray diffraction analyses 2) spectrographic films 3) chemical analyses

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 — MARCH, 1960

Physical Evidence

NICAP SCORES

NICAP made national headlines on 27 Feb. with its disclosure of an Air Force Inspector General's Brief issued to all Commands on 24 Dec. 1959. The brief reads as follows:

"Unidentified flying objects — sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as flying saucers—must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business in the ZI. As AFR 200-2 points out the Air Force concern with these sightings is threefold: First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U. S.? Secondly, does it contribute to technical and scientific knowledge? And then there's the inherent USAF responsibility to explain to the American people through public information media what is going on in their skies.

"The phenomena or actual objects comprising the UFOs will tend to increase, with the public more aware of goings-on in space but still inclined to some apprehension. Technical and defense considerations will continue to exist in this area.

"Published about three months ago, AFR 200-2 outlines necessary orderly qualified reporting as well as public-information procedures. This is where the base should stand today, with practices judged at least satisfactory by the commander and inspector.

"—Responsibility for handling UFO's should rest with either Intelligence, Operations, or the Provost Marshal or the Information officer—in that order of preference, dictated by the limits of the base organization.

"—A specific officer should be designated as responsible;

"—He should have experience in investigative techniques and also, if possible, scientific or technical background;

"—He should have the authority to obtain the assistance of specialists on the base;

"—He should be equipped with binoculars, camera, geiger counter, magnifying glass, and have a source for containers in which to store samples.

"What is required is that every sighting be investigated and reported to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB and that explana-

(See NICAP, page 4)

Authorities Grab Photos; Hopf Urges Vigilance On Part of Members

Two instances in which private individuals succeeded in obtaining photographs of UAOs within the last few weeks have come to the attention of the APRO staff.

On the fourth of March, Charles Morris, 31, an airplane instructor, obtained 19 feet of moving picture film of a formation of three disc-shaped objects over Dubuque, Iowa. Morris estimated their altitude as 20,000 feet, their speed at about 200 miles per hour. The objects were saucer-shaped, silvery in color. Morris gave the film to the Federal government "for processing and study," the UPI report stated.

At Grand Blanc, Michigan, Joe Perry, a pizza restaurant owner and amateur astronomer, shot a few pictures of the full moon in February. When the color pictures were developed, one showed, clearly silhouetted against the lunar disc, a saucer-like object, radiating a green tail, and with a dome. Mr. Perry showed them around his restaurant, to customers and friends, and one individual said, "It's a flying saucer." Before long, two FBI agents dropped in, looked at the pictures, were noncommittal when looking at them, and in Perry's words, "They didn't seem to be interested until I showed this particular one, and then both of them jumped up." The agents took the photo showing the saucer, and several others. Perry said he hoped he has been of some service to the government, "but I hope I get that picture back," he said.

John Hopf, APRO's photo analyst, said in a recent letter to the staff: "This film will never be seen again—he might just as well have burned it up!"

The rest of the staff joins Hopf in urging members to keep a sharp eye out for any picture of a UAO. Inform the photographer that APRO will pay for the privilege of analyzing the film, and will guarantee that the original negatives will be returned, if requested.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. Ibrahim Sued, a social columnist for the Rio de Janeiro daily newspaper, "O Globo," included in his column the text of a letter he had received from a reader. Quote:

"Dear Mr. Ibrahim Sued. As a faithful reader of your column, and an admirer of yours, I wish to give you something of the highest interest to a newspaperman, concerning the flying saucers. If you believe they are real, of course. I also didn't believe anything said or published about them. But just a few days ago I had to change my mind. I was fishing together with some friends at a place near the town of Ubatuba, Sao Paulo, when I saw a flying disk. It approached the beach at unbelievable speed, an accident seeming imminent—in other words, a crash into the sea. At the last moment, however, when it was about to strike the water, it made a sharp turn upwards and climbed up rapidly in a fantastic maneuver. We followed the spectacle with our eyes, startled, when we saw the disk explode in flames. It disintegrated into thousands of fiery fragments, which fell sparkling with magnificent brightness. They looked like fireworks, in spite of the time of the accident—at noon. Most of these fragments, almost all, fell into the sea. But a number of small pieces fell close to the beach and we picked up a large amount of this material—which was as light as paper. I enclose herewith a small sample of it. I don't know any one that could be trusted to whom I might send it for analysis. I never read about a flying saucer having been found, or about fragments or parts of a saucer that had been picked up; unless it had been done by military authorities and the whole thing kept as a top-secret subject. I am certain that the matter will be of great interest to the brilliant columnist and I am sending two copies of this letter—to the newspaper and to your home." Unquote. The signature was not legible.

Mr. Sued had never written about the UAOs before. Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, APRO's Brazilian representative, read the letter in the column and decided to call Mr. Sued and attempt to at least view the particles. Four hours after a telephone conversation with the columnist, Dr. Fontes visited Mr. Sued at his

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MEMBERS —

Please Forward Address Changes!

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SECOND ALASKA SIGHTING IN THREE WEEKS

On the 14th of February a "flame-belching" object, tubular in shape, hurtled through Alaskan skies over Nome. The silvery object was sighted later at Unalakleet and St. Michael about 150 miles across Norton Sound from Nome.

This sighting, with more than the usual amount of physical description of the object, went out on the press wires. On the 16th of February, a spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command, Colorado Springs, Colo., confirmed that "unidentified flying OBJECTS" were seen over Alaska early on the 15th. Although other wire stories revealed no great amount of information, it seems likely that at least one object was seen on Sunday, the 14th, which would be the object which triggered the initial story, and one or more early the next morning on the 15th.

The NORAD spokesman said that Ent AFB at Colorado Springs received a report at 3 a.m. on the 15th, that two unidentified objects were moving in opposite directions across Alaska. Also revealed by NORAD was the fact that the object which was sighted at Unalakleet was rapidly moving northwest at a speed sufficient to produce contrails. The object reportedly produced a flash which

was assumed to have been an explosion. Of added interest is the fact that Pete Walsh, a Wien Alaska Airlines employee at Nome, observed the object and said it appeared to be a manned aircraft traveling at tremendous speed about 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the earth, and was monitored by two radar stations near Nome. Although monitored by radar, no estimates of speed were given by officials. We cannot overlook the possibility that this object or these objects may be Soviet aircraft, but if they are, it is difficult to explain the close resemblance between these objects and the object observed at Willoughby, Ohio, on Thursday, 10 December. See page 3, column 2 of The Bulletin for January 1960.

On the 6th of March, Mr. Walsh again sighted an unidentified object in the Nome area. In a telegram to Governor William A. Egan, Walsh said that a bright flash in the sky was sighted at 8:51 p.m., followed by an explosion. After the flash, the bright object was seen "drifting" to earth from the east, Walsh told the governor. The Alaska Air Command forwarded the report to NORAD at Colorado Springs, Colo., and on the 8th a NORAD spokesman said the report had been received but routed to USAF headquarters and the Secretary of the Air in Washington, D. C. "This is more in the nature of an intelligence item than an operations problem," the spokesman said.

The Associated Press report of the latest incident also noted that the object sighted in February was later listed as a white hot meteor. Who listed it as such, or how they arrived at that conclusion, was not announced, but the fact that at least one of the objects sighted in February was flying at low speed was not explained. It could not have been a meteor, if the description of the speed is accurate. Also, the Ohio object which strongly resembles the object observed in Alaska, was seen to ascend at great speed, disappearing into the sky.

RAAF Statement on Gill Sightings

Representative Peter Norris of Australia has forwarded a copy of a letter from Squadron Leader F. A. Lang, in answer to his letter of 25 January 1960, requesting information to the RAAF's conclusions about the Gill sightings (APRO Bulletin, Page 1, November 1959 issue). The following is the text of Lang's letter of 22 February: "Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter of the 25th January 1960. An officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of U.F.O. activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to proper authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201 (22) dated 14th February, 1957, such

reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the phenomena observed by the Reverend Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g., Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movements. (Signed), Yours Faithfully, F. S. Lang." (Read again the report of Mr. Norris and Reverend Gill and see if you can stretch your imagination to the point where Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will fly pell mell across the sky at great speeds, and with men standing on them and waving, yet! There's something wrong with the astronomy textbooks! . . . the Editor)

Agencies in Disagreement On Mystery Lights

A press release by UPI, datelined March 8, revealed that the Air Force was investigating reports of a mysterious stream of lights that flashed across eastern U. S. on the 7th of March. According to the U. S. Defense Department, the lights were seen as far north as Lake Erie and as far south as Key West, Florida.

Air Force officials in Washington said the lights were believed to have been caused by a meteor. Missilemen at Cape Canaveral, however, said the lights "definitely looked" like a satellite as it fell back to earth and burned in the atmosphere.

The National Space Agency in Washington confirmed the fact that Lunik III, the huge Soviet rocket which put the picture-taking satellite around the moon, was expected to fall into the earth's atmosphere in March.

But . . . officials at the Smithsonian astrophysical laboratory at Cambridge, Massachusetts, which keeps track of satellites once they are launched, said that the lights, which were reported by airline pilots, Air Force pilots, state police and control towers, had not been explained by them—they simply couldn't explain them away.

Observed through binoculars, the objects appeared to be fast-moving balls of molten substance, perhaps metal, which were falling apart, and which spread out as they proceeded into the southeast. They were observed at Cape Canaveral at 8:10 p.m., 10 minutes after they were spotted over North Carolina. The display at Canaveral lasted for three minutes, before disappearing into the blackness of the night. The three minute observation takes the objects out of the category of meteors, and since Smithsonian could

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Physical Evidence . . .

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home. There, on a table, was the sample sent by the unknown correspondent.

The particles were dull grey, solid and appeared to be metallic. They were rough and irregular, with scattered whitish areas on the surface produced by the deposit of a thin layer of a powdered substance which could easily be removed by the application of a fingernail.

Dr. Fontes picked up one of the fragments. Sued watched him, told him that at first sight he might think the stuff was lead, as it had that appearance, but that it couldn't be, because of its weight. Fontes noted that the stuff was lighter than aluminum—almost as light as paper.

Dr. Fontes then told Sued that he had friends in scientific work whom he would like to examine the material and Sued agreed, saying he wasn't interested in the subject of UAO, but that he would like to know the results.

Before beginning the analysis procedure, Dr. Fontes weighed the possibility that the stuff could have been submitted by a crackpot or publicity hound. He deduced that if either premise were true, the man had used pretty poor judgement in submitting the material to Sued, who had never exhibited any interest in UAOs, and who was a society columnist. Therefore, the man must have been sincere and had sent the stuff to the only man in the public eye that he could think of.

In his fully documented report, Fontes stated that ordinarily he would have sent someone to Ubatuba to more thoroughly investigate the incident, but inasmuch as he had the stuff in his hands, he decided to conduct a scientific analysis.

For the analysis, which he knew would have to be meticulously carried out, Dr. Fontes submitted a part of the sample to the Mineral Production Laboratory, a division of the National Department of Mineral Production—a Brazilian government lab. Fontes was introduced to Dr. Pfeigell, the chief chemist, by a friend. Pfeigell was at the time engaged in special work with plastics, turned it over to Dr. David Goldsheim, one of his assistants who, after studying the material, said they could be the fragments of a meteorite. Dr. Pfeigell didn't agree, because of the light weight of the substance, and personally conducted a test using phosphomolydic acid to determine whether the substance was metal. It was. He then decided on a spectrographic analysis.

The official analysis of the substance was made by chief chemist of the Spectrographic Section of the Mineral Production Laboratory, Dr. Luisa Maria A. Barbosa. Her report reads as follows: "Bulletin

No. 15 001," dated September 24, 1957, "Spectrographic analysis of unknown material. Protocol: 571/57. Origin: Ubatuba, Sao Paulo. Sender: Dr. Olavo Fontes. The sample received included two fragments of metallic appearance, grey color, low density, and weighing, each one, approximately 0.6 gr. Report of the analysis of one of the fragments: The spectrographic analysis showed the presence of magnesium (Mg) of a high degree of purity and absence of any other metallic element." Unquote. Signed, Luisa Maria A. Barbosa, Chemist-Technologist "N".

The analysis was made with a large Hilger Spectrograph. Fontes, expecting a more detailed report, questioned Dr. Barbosa: Fontes: "Your analysis showed the presence of magnesium of a high degree of purity, and absence of any other metallic element. Right?" Barbosa: "Yes. I found all common and uncommon spectrum lines of the element magnesium. There was no other metallic element in the sample, not even the so-called 'trace elements' usually detected in the metallic samples."

In order to overcome any lack of basic data, and to obtain a better evaluation of the pattern found, Dr. Fontes decided to request a second spectrographic analysis of the material, which was made on 24 October, 1957, utilizing the same Spectrograph.

Elson Teixeira, a former chemist at the Laboratory who had worked there for 15 years, did the second analysis. He planned also a quantitative spectrographic analysis, to determine concentration of any impurity, but the unexpected absence of impurities of any kind made a second analysis unnecessary.

A third spectrographic analysis of the material has been done. The Brazilian Army, after hearing about the case, dispatched Major Roberto Caminha to talk to Dr. Fontes, who turned over a sample of the material to the Army on the 4th of November. Dr. Fontes was not informed of the results of the test.

A small sample of the material was sent to the Laboratory of Crystallography at the Geology and Mineralogy Division of the National Department of Mineral Production, by Dr. Fontes. Dr. Elysiaro Tavora Filho, a well-known scientist, famous in Brazil for his pioneer works in Crystallography since 1949, supervised the X-Ray diffraction analysis. Examination of the material by X-Ray diffraction showed that the substance was magnesium, apparently absolutely pure. Professor Tavora sent one of his assistants, Dr. Augusto Batista, to the Mineral Production laboratory to request a careful re-examination of the spectrographic plate.

Tavora then decided to make a complete study of the powder diffraction

pattern of the material by the Powder method, using a powder camera of the Debye-Scherrer-Hull type. The analysis revealed that the substance was pure magnesium, and the only "impurities" was magnesium hydroxide (Mg (OH)₂). It was not, evidently, in the original metal, appearing as an effect of the explosion and fall of the burning magnesium fragments through the atmosphere and into the sea.

A Geiger counter and an Atomic Scaler were used to determine whether the fragments registered any extraordinary amount of radiation. No abnormal amount was found.

This, then, concluded the tests which Dr. Fontes obtained on the sample of metal.

The most pure magnesium refined is 99.9%, and such complex and time-consuming operations are required that this final product, although still exhibiting some impurities, is more costly than gold. It cannot be produced for industrial application, and is used for special uses, such as to be employed as a "standard" of purity, or for research purposes in the understanding of the fundamental properties of metals.

However, the purest magnesium ever produced on earth still has impurities which could be identified in the spectrographic analysis. The Ubatuba samples showed none.

The ASTM standard of purity for magnesium (ASTM 4-0770) shows, in the spectrographic analysis, the following impurities: Ca, 0.1%, and traces of Al, Cu, Fe and Si.

In other words, the magnesium in the samples analyzed, which was absolutely pure, represents something outside the range of present-day technological developments of our science. On the basis of this study, it is highly probable that the metallic chunks picked up on a beach near Ubatuba, Sao Paulo, are really fragments of a flying disc.

The object which exploded above the beach at Ubatuba, Brazil was made of 100% magnesium, which is not within the technology of our times. APRO rests its case.

(Editor's Note: The documented report, plus spectrographic film, X-Ray diffraction analysis film and Dr. Barbosa's report and the chemist's report, are on file at APRO's headquarters.)

Don't Miss . . .

the full story of APRO's attempt to get the facts about physical evidence to the public; repercussions, phone-tapping, anonymous warnings, etc. "Expert" attempts to identify magnesium as conventional space probe project. . . MAY ISSUE, APRO BULLETIN.

NICAP . . .

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tion to the public be realistic and knowledgeable. Normally that explanation will be made only by the USAF Information Office. It all adds up to part of the job of being experts in our own domain."

And so we can see that the UFO issue is far from dead with the USAF. There can be no doubt that, to use the words NICAP spokesman Vice Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter (Ret.), "behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about UFO's."

The Polar Satellite — What Is It?

For days in the early part of February the whole world riveted its collective attention on the dark polar satellite which had been detected by the United States' tracking system. Dubbed the "Black Knight" by some, the unidentified object radiated no light, was tumbling in space, and was not emitting radio signals. The U. S. Defense Department said it might have been a Russian "spy satellite," which was denied by the Russians. We tend to accept this as gospel because Russians would be quick to claim any space achievement in order to score another propaganda victory. APRO staff members considered the possibility that the object might have been a captured natural satellite from the Canadian precession of 1920.

One by one the usual explanations were ruled out until two remained: the shell of a rocket stage which had approximated polar orbit, or a UAO. The former was the explanation picked out by the Defense Department to explain away the mystery object.

WHAT WAS NOT REVEALED WAS THE FOLLOWING: The "Black Knight" had been tracked since the 4th of January, was one of two dark satellites in polar orbits, both of which weighed in the neighborhood of 15 tons each! The agency from which APRO obtained its information certainly should know what the score is, and the leak of information occurred during an attempt to coordinate efforts at tracking the object. In fact, APRO's information preceded that of the newspaper release by several days.

Army Reg Concerns Tracking Unknowns

The United States Army has in its current file of Classified Regulations, one which authorizes, in fact, urges, the tracking of any object exceeding Mach 1 above 50,000 feet altitude. This can hardly be construed as pertaining to satellites, which orbits are placed a considerably larger distance out in space, so it must be assumed that the Army is watching for high-flying unidentified aerial objects.

Mystery Flash and Power Failure

A bevy of clippings from various newspapers in the West revealed the information in early February that a strange brilliant flash of light had been observed by thousands in a four-state area.

On February 7 at 12:03 Mountain Standard Time, a flash of light which illuminated the cabin of a Western Airlines plane piloted by Captain Richard Belew of Salt Lake City. "It was fantastically bright," he said. "It started as a low blue light, then came a blinding flash." Belew's plane was approximately forty miles south of Great Falls, Montana.

At Butte, Montana, the secretary at a radio station observed that a noise like several jets on takeoff, followed the flash.

The most curious thing about this story is the newspaper report that a power failure at the Atomic Energy Commission's reactor testing station in Eastern Idaho, took place 2½ hours later. Mack Corbett, Director of Information for the AEC station, took pains to inform newsmen that there was no flash at the time of the power failure, as had been reported. He then explained that the power failure was believed due to a bird or birds flying into the power line.

Amateur astronomer Floyd Rickores, Hollywood, California, said he tracked a red ball in the sky for nearly five minutes after a "bright flash" lighted the room. "It seemed to stay stationary between two stars for three or four minutes," he said, "then took off with fantastic speed and disappeared."

Although there was no official explanation by responsible agencies, newspapers tended to assume that the flash was made by a meteor.

APRO believes there are too many coincidences involved in this incident, including Rickores' observation, which took place within a short space of time after the flash over Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, and the power failure at the AEC station.

Shortly thereafter, strange things were seen in the skies throughout the U. S. . . .

Takanashi to Study Ice Fall Data

Mr. Takanashi, our Japanese representative, has projected the study of unusual ice falls in the near future. He has asked the United States staff to forward data concerning airborne ice chunks to him for study and correlation. He has a definite theory in mind, and if members will continue to forward information pertaining to this facet of aerial phenomena to headquarters, said data will be forwarded to Takanashi with regular packets of related information.

Agencies . . .

(Continued from page 3)

not explain them despite conjecture about crashing rockets, we must then assume that the formation of lights was probably a flock of UAOs.

Notes and Comments

APRO mentioned in an Editorial in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 6, 1960, entitled "Secrecy About UFOs Is Overdone . . ." We would like to give more detailed comment pertaining to the fine work on behalf of APRO which is being done by our Photo Consultant, John T. Hopf. Not only tops in photography he has proved to be a first-class recruiter. . . . George Todt, columnist for the Valley Times, Pasadena, Calif., was awarded the Freedom Foundation George Washington Honor Medal. George is a UFO enthusiast and some of his comment about the subject has been read into the Congressional Record. . . . A Mr. Keith L. Milner of Cheltenham, England claims he is building a saucer which will be a "sort of anti-gravity machine made up of copper and zinc plates that are supposed to spin and draw their energy from supersonic sounds in the atmosphere. . . . UFORC of Akron, Ohio has produced another excellent special report, dealing with the sighting of several objects by American and United Airlines pilots on 24 February 1959; this report is comparable to the Fitzgerald report and would be an important addition to any enthusiast's file. . . . A recent (9 February) news release out of Moscow quotes the opinions of Soviet scientist M. Agrest, relative to the actual demolition of the Biblical cities, Sodom and Gomorrah. Agrest stated he believes present-day nuclear scientists should investigate possible radioactive deposits in Biblical areas in question. He believes the destruction of the cities was brought about by space travelers, and that the structure of Heliopolis, containing some of the largest single pieces of stone ever shaped by man, was used for a launching platform for the home-bound space-travelers. . . . Prof. Fred T. Haddock, of the University of Michigan's astronomy department, has announced that an attempt to contact intelligent beings on other planets will be made this spring by several leading American astronomers. Using the most up-to-date sensitive instruments, they will attempt to intercept messages which may be transmitted from billions of miles out in space. . . .

For your copy of UFORC's "REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS" mentioned above, send \$1.00 to UFORC, P. O. Box 5242, Akron, Ohio. Why not order an extra copy and present it to your local library?

UAO Sightings Over Trindade

By OLAVO T. FONTES, M.D.

Part II

The NE "Almirante Saldanha" Incident. The UAO Photos Authenticated by the Brazilian Navy

In early January, 1958, the ship "Almirante Saldanha" left Rio de Janeiro's harbor and proceeded toward the Island of Trindade with a crew of three hundred. That ship had been previously a Brazilian Navy school-ship, but it had been converted into a hydrographic unit to be used for investigations connected with IGY research. It belonged to the Hydrography and Navigation Division of the Brazilian Navy and, since October, 1957, the ship had made several trips to Trindade, most of them connected with the Navy's oceanographic studies for the IGY.

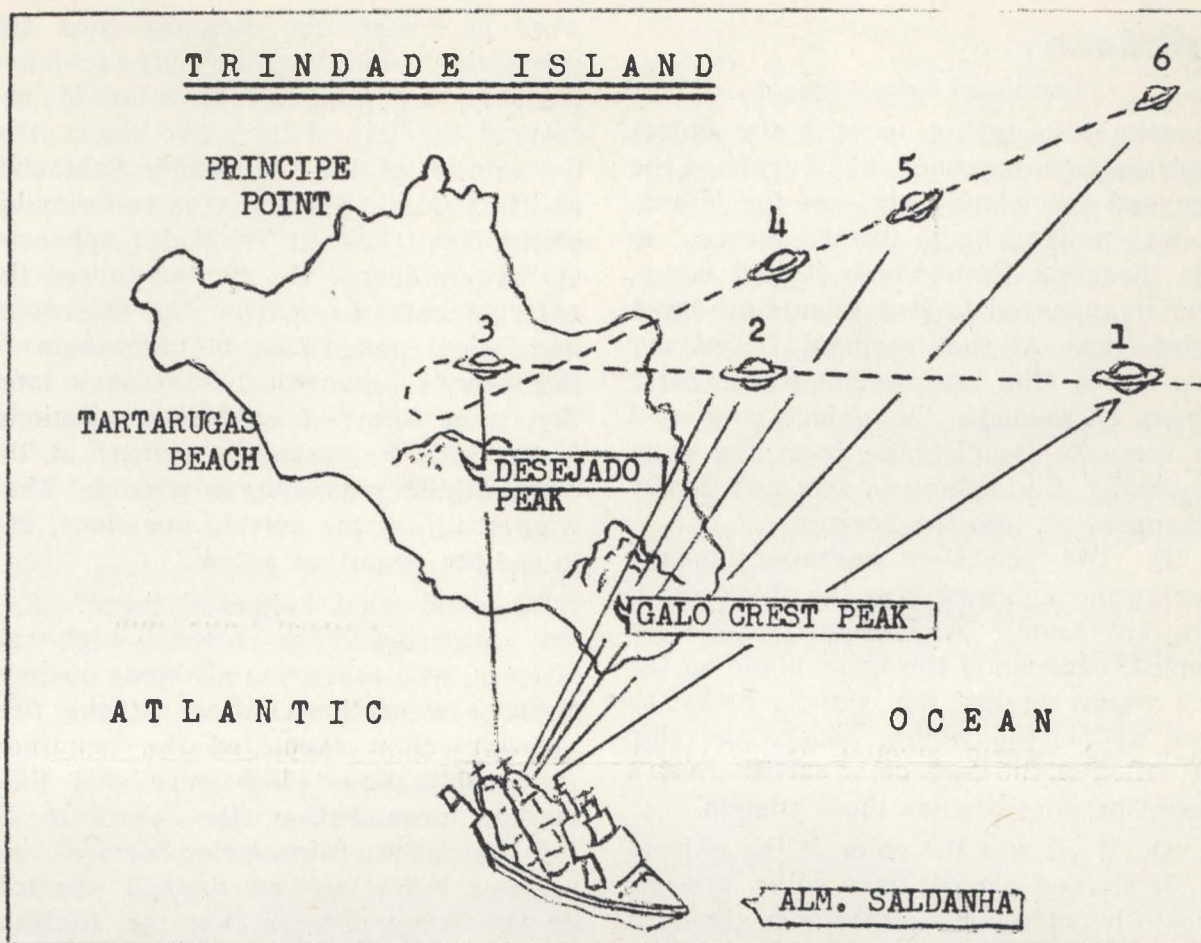
Several civilians were aboard the ship this time, invited officially to collaborate with the Navy Ministry in the scientific studies which were underway at the Island. One man was Almiro Barauna, a photographer and former newspaperman now working as a "free lancer." He was also an expert in submarine photography and had been invited to work in the field for the Navy.

After a routine trip the ship arrived at the Island and stayed there for several days. It was scheduled to leave for Rio on January 16. That day, at 12:15 p.m., when the ship was preparing to depart, a strange object was sighted simultaneously by a number of observers gathered on the deck. The UAO came toward the Island at high speed, hovered briefly over a peak, disappeared behind it for a short time, and appeared again to move away toward the sea. Mr. Barauna was taking pictures of the ship's maneuvers at that moment. He spotted the UAO and got four pictures of it.

Let's review what happened as told in the witnesses' own words. Let's begin with Almiro Barauna's report. He was interviewed by reporter Joao Martins and his statements were published in the magazine O CRUZEIRO (March 8, 1958). They are transcribed below:

"Barauna's Report

"Q. Mr. Barauna, what were the reasons for your presence aboard the NE 'Almirante Saldanha'? A. The Navy has invited several teams specialized in submarine hunting to visit the Island of Trindade. I am a member of the Icarai Club for Submarine Hunting, and our group was invited for the last trip. So, on January 8, when the ship left Rio, I was aboard together with the following members of my group: Amilar Vieira Filho, captain of our team, a Government employee (he has a job at the CACEX); Jose Teobaldo Viegas, instructor at the Aero Club of Niteroi and Air Force Captain (retired); Mauro Andrade, from the London Bank; and Aloisio, municipal



"ALMIRANTE SALDANHA" was anchored close to the point near the "Galo Crest" Peak and photographer Barauna was at the stern. The UAO was first seen over the sea, coming toward the island. The first photo was taken at position 1, with the object flying at low speed. Photo number 2 was shot when it was placed behind the "Gallo Crest." Photo 3 was taken a few seconds after the turn made by the UAO near "Desejado" Peak. Photos 4 and 5 failed to register the UAO, which was then flying at high speed. The last picture, number 6, was taken when the object was moving away close to the horizon line. It disappeared a few seconds later.

employee at the Federal District. We were going to try to beat some records on submarine hunting. Personally, I was going to take underwater photographs for the Navy, and also to write some articles about the Island and the activities of the scientists working for the IGY.

"Q. Was any other civilian aboard, besides your group? A. Yes. There was Prof. Fernando, a geologist, with two assistants, and also a photographer, and a reporter from the newspaper 'JORNAL DO BRASIL'. The three scientists left the ship and went to the island.

"Q. Please tell me what was the date of the sighting? What happened? A. It was on January 16, at 12:15 p.m. The ship was preparing to leave the island, to come back to Rio. I was on the deck observing the operations to take aboard the boat used in the trips between the ship and the island (the island has no harbor). The sea was agitated. The weather was cloudy, clear, with no shadows. I had my Rolleiflex 2.8—model E, which was kept inside an aluminum box for protection against the corrosive effects of water and salt. I had left by Leica with a telephoto lens in my cabin a few moments before. The deck was full of sailors and officers. Suddenly, Mr. Amilar Vieira and Captain Viegas called me, pointing to a certain spot in the sky and yelling about a bright object which was approaching the island. At this same moment, when I was still trying to see

what it was, Lieutenant Homero—the ship's dentist—came from the bow toward us, running, pointing out to the sky and also yelling about an object he was sighting. He was so disturbed and excited that he almost fell down after colliding with a cable. Then I was finally able to locate the object, by the flash (of light) it emitted. It was already close to the island. It glittered at certain moments, perhaps reflecting the sunlight, perhaps changing its own light—I don't know. It was coming over the sea, moving toward the point called the 'Galo Crest'. I had lost 30 seconds looking for the object, but the camera was already in my hands, ready, when I sighted it clearly silhouetted against the clouds. I shot two photos before it disappeared behind the peak 'Desejado'. My camera was set at speed 125, with the aperture at f/8, and this was the cause of an over-exposure error, as I discovered later.

"The object remained out of sight for a few seconds—behind the peak—reappearing bigger in size and flying in the opposite direction, but lower and closer than before, and moving at a higher speed. I shot the third photo. The fourth and fifth ones were lost, not only because of the speed the saucer was moving, but also for another reason: in the confusion produced as a result of the sighting, I was being pulled and pushed by other

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persons also trying to spot the object and, as a consequence, photographed the sea and the island only—not the object. It was moving again toward the sea, in the direction from which it had come, and it appeared to stop in mid-air for a brief time. At that moment I shot my last photo (the last on the film). After about 10 seconds, the object continued to increase its distance from the ship, gradually diminishing in size and finally disappearing into the horizon.

“Q. Did you hear anything unusual during the sighting? Was the object emitting any sound? A. I am not sure, to be honest, because of the noise made by the sea waves against the island’s rocks, as well as for the yelling aboard the ship at the time. However, I think that I heard nothing besides those sounds.

“Q. What was the color of the object? A. It showed a dark grey color, appearing to be surrounded—mostly in the area ahead of it—by a kind of condensation of a greenish, phosphorescent vapor (or mist).

“Q. Did the object appear to be metallic? A. Yes. It was obviously a solid object.

“Q. How was it flying? Any special characteristic? A. Yes. It showed an undulatory movement as it flew across the sky, like the flight of a bat. And when it came back, it changed speed abruptly, with no transition, in a jump.

“Q. Do you know how many persons aboard the ‘Almirante Saldanha’ sighted the object? A. The object was sighted by almost all the people on the deck at that time, including Lieutenant Homero, Captain Viegas and Mr. Amilar Vieira.

“Q. What happened after the sighting? A. The ship’s commander and several officers from the garrison wanted to see what I had got in the photos. As I was very curious too, I decided to develop the exposed film at once, aboard the ship. The processing was done under the supervision of several officers, including Com. Carlos A. Bacellar. But only the negatives were seen aboard. The reason: there was no photographic paper for the copies on the ship at that time. The negatives, however, were seen and examined by the whole crew.

“Q. Did you keep the negatives in your hands? A. Yes.

“Q. Were you under any pressure to give up those negatives to the Navy’s authorities? A. No. Com. Saldanha da Gama (the ship’s C.O.) and the other Navy officers aboard were very kind. They never tried to get the negatives from me.

“Q. What happened when the ship came back to Rio? A. The ship stopped first at Vitoria, in the State of Espirito Santo. As it was going to stay there for two days and later travel to Rio, we

were permitted—the civilians from the submarine hunting group only—to leave the ship there and to take a bus for the rest of the trip. Later, two days after the arrival of the ‘Almirante Saldanha’ at Rio, Com. Bacellar (ex-commander of the Navy Post at Trindade) appeared at my residence. He wanted to see the enlargements made from the negatives, and asked permission to take them to the Navy’s authorities. Two days later they were returned with congratulations. I was also requested to appear at the Navy Ministry as soon as possible. They wanted to ask me certain questions, and to see the negatives again.

“Q. And what happened there? A. I was interviewed by several high-staff officers, who asked me all kinds of questions. I went there twice. At the first meeting, they requested the negatives for examination. They were sent to a civilian organization, the ‘Cruzeiro do Sul Aerophotogrammetric Service’, remaining there for four days. I was told by the Navy officers that the analyses proved they were genuine—excluding definitely the possibility of a trick or falsification. On the second visit, they performed several ‘Time-tests’. While I worked with my Rolleiflex, taking shots at the same time-intervals I had used to photograph the object, three Navy officers with chronometers registered the times. They came to the conclusion—based on these tests as well as on studies concerning the ship’s position and examinations of charts of the Island—that the object was flying at a speed between 900 and 1000 Km./hour (600 m.p.h.). The object’s size was also estimated, on the basis of studies related with the Island’s details also appearing on the photos, diagrams drawn on charts, graphs, etc. The object was about 120 feet in diameter, and about 24 feet high.

“Q. Do you know anything about the official report on the case? A. I saw a ‘dossier’ which was consulted many times during the interrogation. However, I didn’t read what was written there. I was also informed that my photos, mixed with other pictures, had been shown to witnesses of the sighting—to be identified. The result was positive.

“Q. Do you know anything about any photos by other people aboard the ship? A. No. Besides myself, there were at least four other persons with cameras at the time of the sighting. But apparently they were not able to spot the object in time, or were paralyzed by their own emotions.

“Q. Were you warned against something by the Navy’s authorities? Was there some recommendation? A. Yes. They requested me to keep the matter secret for some time. I was permitted to publish the case only after authorization from the Navy. The permission was granted, verbally, on the night of February 15, by Com. Bacellar. They

made only one restriction, which I cannot mention for the reason that I have given my word. . . .

“Q. Do you know if your sighting was the first over the Island of Trindade? A. I was informed of four other sightings over the island during those thirty days preceding the incident of January 16. I was also informed of another thing: At one of those sightings, the ‘object’ was photographed by a Navy sergeant. His photo obviously was not released and probably never will be—the reasons are evident. Besides those four sightings, there was also the radar case. A ‘target’ flying at supersonic speed was tracked through the radar of the ‘Almirante Saldanha’, on January 15.

“Q. Did you receive any money from the Navy for your work at the Island of Trindade? A. No. I was there as a guest.

“Q. Did you receive any money from the Navy for your photographic work, or for the enlargements you made for them? A. No. I only received the photographic paper to be used for enlargements.

“Q. How many enlargements have you given them? A. Thirty-eight.

“Q. One last question: What kind of impression did you get from observing the ‘flying saucer’? A. I am absolutely sure it was a controlled object—either directly or by remote control—but very well operated, in any case. The general impression of people aboard the ship was the same: it had come to make a close observation of the ship.” Unquote.

The interview transcribed above was rechecked and confirmed by the witness. However, Mr. Barauna also talked to the press reporting additional details not mentioned previously. The more interesting were the following ones:

(1) “I cannot estimate the number of persons on the ship’s deck at the moment of the sighting. However, during the official investigation ordered by Com. Saldanha da Gama, about one hundred members from the ship’s crew confirmed that they had sighted the UAO.

“The radar was not in operation at the time. The object was already gone when it was put to work.

“I shot the six pictures in about 14 seconds.” (Rio de Janeiro ULTIMA HORA, February 21, 1958)

(2) “I was worried for a few days after an officer told me that I was under military regulations, as any civilian aboard a Navy ship, so that the film was going to be confiscated according to orders from the Navy Headquarters, at Rio. But nothing happened. Now I am convinced that he was joking.” (Rio de Janeiro ULTIMA HORA, February 22, 1958)

BARAUNA’S INTERROGATION AT THE NAVY MINISTRY

On February 24, 1958, the newspaper “O GLOBO” printed an exclusive interview with Almiro Barauna about his in-

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terrogation at the Navy Ministry. As that part of his story had not been reported yet in full detail, it is interesting to know what he said in that interview, which is transcribed below:

"I went to the Navy Ministry for a four-hour interrogation about the photographs. The negatives were projected on a large sized screen. After a careful examination by all officers from the Navy General Staff gathered at the place, the Chief of the Intelligence Service (who was the officer of highest rank there) told me the following: 'I am going to ask questions. Do not be offended, for I do not doubt the authenticity of your pictures. But we need your answers for some questions. Now, if you were going to fake a photo, how should it be done in order to escape detection?'

"'Commander, as an expert in photography, I am well aware that no photo of such a kind could resist an accurate examination,' was my answer.

"'In your opinion,' said the Commander, 'what should be done to distinguish a faked photograph from a good one?'

"'A laboratory examination of the negatives should be made on the following points: granulation, emulsion, and large-scale projection. The definite proof, however, good enough to detect any tricks, would be a microscopic examination,' I said to them. 'It would demonstrate the increase in granulation connected with the double-exposure needed for the trick,' I concluded.

"After a few more questions, the intelligence officer said: 'We want your negatives for those examinations. Do you agree?' I agreed, of course, and he got the film. These things happened three days after the arrival of the 'Almirante Saldanha,' at the Navy's Intelligence Headquarters. A few days later, the negatives were returned in an official envelope with a card informing me about the results of the analyses.

"Some days later I was called again. This time they also asked for my Rollei-flex. They wanted to make tests in order to estimate, if possible, the speed of the flying saucer at the moment of the sighting. The tests were performed. They showed that I had taken my six pictures in 14 seconds, and that the saucer was flying at 900 to 1000 Km./hour. One of my photographs, taken when the saucer was hovering over the 'Desejado' Peak, stopped in space, did not show (as they said) the turbulence in the surrounding air observed in the others with the object moving. There was a kind of vapor or condensation in front of the flying object when it was moving—similar to that produced by the engines of a jet plane.

"At the end of the meeting, the Intelligence chief officer said he was convinced that my photos were authentic. Then he

showed me another photo which had been taken by a Navy telegraphist-sergeant—also at Trindade. A box camera had been used. I was surprised. That photo showed the same object seen in my pictures. It was evidently the final proof. They told me it had been taken some time before my arrival at the Island." Unquote.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS ABOUT THE INCIDENT

When the curtain of security around the sighting was broken, the Navy General Staff released special instructions forbidding the ship's crew and Navy officers to have any contact with the press on the matter. The Navy authorities refused at first to make any comment on the incident. All military chiefs interviewed by the press denied any knowledge of the matter, or said that only Minister Alves Camera was entitled to say anything. Some Navy departments even tried to show a complete lack of interest, explaining that the pictures had been taken by a civilian eventually aboard a warship. On the other hand, the NE "Almirante Saldanha" remained off Rio de Janeiro's harbor and finally received orders to leave Guanabara Bay "to make another trip related with IGY studies." This occurred on February 21, at a time when newspapermen were making desperate attempts to reach the crew kept aboard the ship. At the last moment before the ship's departure, it was divulged that reporters were free at least to contact the crew and get their reports on the flying saucer. However, the permission was denied by a counter order, for the Navy General Staff was against it. New instructions were issued to sailors and officers aboard the ship emphasizing that no contacts with the press were permitted. That same day (Feb. 21), a Navy spokesman called the press to say that the Navy had no responsibility regarding the incident, and that no official statement was to be released about it. But he agreed that the following information—with no official support—might be published:

"On the morning of January 16, 1958, over the Island of Trindade, the crew of the school ship 'Almirante Saldanha' sighted an unidentified aerial object for a few seconds. A civilian who was aboard the ship took some pictures of the object. The Navy has no connection with the case, and its only connection with the occurrence was the fact that the photographer was aboard the school ship, and came back with the ship to Rio." Unquote (ULTIMA HORA, Feb. 21)

Another spokesman, from the Navy High Staff Command, released the following statement to the newspaper O GLOBO, the same day:

"The news about a flying saucer sighting over the Island of Trindade were received here with utmost reserve. There will be an investigation to verify the authenticity of the sighting and photos.

No officer or sailor from the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' witnessed the event."

It was evident that the Navy authorities didn't realize the incident was too big to be concealed. Their desperate attempt to give the impression that the Navy had nothing to do with the incident was a foolish move. To deny any connection with the incident was a childish thing. The "unofficial statement" should not have been released. The press and the public already knew enough to see where the truth lay. On the other hand, the strict orders which forbade military people to give out any information on the matter did not apply to civilian observers aboard the ship. They talked to the press. Captain J. T. Viejas, from the AF (ret.), was the first to confirm Barauna's report in a press interview on February 22. His report is transcribed below:

"I was on the deck. My friend Amilar Vieira Filho suddenly called my attention to what he thought to be a 'big seagull.' I looked toward it and was unable to control my excitement, shouting: 'Flying saucer!' Mr. Barauna was 20 yards away with his Rollei-flex, watching the maneuvers. He heard my shouts and came running—in time to take four pictures of the object. Other people were also alerted by my alarm: a sergeant, sailors, the ship's dentist (Lieutenant-Captain Homero Ribeiro), and other persons. They all sighted the object. The photographer Farias de Azevedo, who was more distant, didn't come in time to get photos.

"The first view was that of a disk shining with a phosphorescent glow, which—even at daylight—appeared to be brighter than the moon. The object was about the apparent size (angular diameter) of the full moon. As it followed its path across the sky, changing to a tilted position, its real shape was clearly outlined against the sky: that of a flattened sphere encircled, at the equator, by a large ring or platform. Its speed was around 700 miles an hour at the moment it disappeared into the horizon.

"The object was sighted at 12:20 p.m., when the ship was preparing to leave the area. It caused a tremendous confusion aboard. Mr. Barauna found it very difficult to operate his camera, being pushed and pulled by excited observers around him. In fact, he was almost thrown into the sea. He got so nervous after the sighting that he needed more than an hour to calm down and be able to develop the film. However, in his excitement he forgot to rewind the film before opening the camera, and it would have been ruined if he had not been warned by an officer at the last moment.

"The negatives were immediately developed by Barauna in the presence of Com. Bacellar. The whole crew was gathered outside, waiting with great

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anxiety for the results. The negatives were seen by everybody on the ship.

"When the ship arrived at Rio, the negatives were taken to the Navy Ministry and projected on a screen, together with a picture of a flying saucer sent from the U. S., in a military report informing the Navy about sightings made in that country. A comparative study demonstrated that the object sighted at Trindade was similar in shape to the one photographed in the U. S.

"Flying saucers have been sighted several times in the past months by members of the Navy Post at the Island of Trindade. Some of those people observed UFOs on more than one occasion last year, and were even able to guess with accuracy the time a saucer would be sighted again over the island (the exact hour). But it was believed that they were mistaken. There are a lot of sea-gulls in that region. In any case, Com. Bacellar was so worried about the presence of UFOs around weather balloons launched from the island that, in November 1957, he sent a radio message to the Navy reporting the strange events." Unquote (Rio de Janeiro DIARIO DA NOITE, O JORNAL, etc., February 22, 1958)

Captain Viegas' interview was a tremendous blow for the group who still tried to keep the secrecy about the incident. The press reaction to the Navy's attitude was going to be dangerous unless the policy to deny any connection with the case was changed at once. It was obvious that to forestall any more trouble the Navy had to talk freely about the facts and not try to hide them. As a result, statements of several Navy authorities were released that same day—all of them confirming the sighting and the existence of the photographs. Some of these statements will be transcribed in another part of this report, but one of them will be presented now—for it came from an officer who was aboard the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' when the UAO was sighted.

This officer was Com. Paulo Moreira da Silva, of the Navy's Hydrography and Navigation Service. He was interviewed on February 22 by reporters from the newspapers "O JORNAL" and "DIARIO NA NOITE," releasing the following statement:

"The object sighted in the skies of Trindade was not a weather balloon, neither an American guided missile. I cannot give yet my conclusions, for the data are being analyzed in a secret evaluation at the Navy Ministry. I can tell, however, that the object was not a meteorological balloon—for the one which we had launched that day was released at 9:00 a.m., two hours before the appearance of the object in the sky. This balloon was tracked until it burst at the

proper altitude. Besides, while the object was encircled by a greenish glow, our balloon was of red color. Also it was not a guided missile from the U. S., because the Island of Trindade is off the route of those rockets; they are launched from Florida in the direction of Ascension Island." Unquote

The reports from other civilian observers aboard the NE "Almirante Saldanha" were also printed in the press. One of them came from Mr. Mauro Andrade, employee of the London Bank of South America, and member of Barauna's group. In an interview published in the newspaper "O GLOBO" (Feb. 22, 1958), he said:

"I didn't witness the sighting because I was inside the ship, not on the deck, when the object was seen. But I can give a list of responsible people who saw it and saw the photographer Barauna take the pictures as well as develop the negatives.

"I don't know how I was tracked by the press. I was startled by the publication of news and photos related with the incident because we had promised—all of us—to keep the whole thing secret.

"I was somewhere inside the ship, was alerted by the shouts, and ran outside to see what was happening. Yet I didn't see the object. But all people I found on deck told me that they had really sighted a flying saucer. I believed them, and my belief was confirmed by the film developed aboard. In fact, I saw a thing on the negatives which looked like a flying saucer, although I cannot be sure if it was really one of them. The film was developed before the eyes of witnesses, and was shown later to every one aboard." Unquote.

The other report came from Mr. Amilar Vieira Filho, president of the Icarai Club for Submarine Hunting, and member of the CACEX Research Division (a Federal Department). He avoided any contact with the press for several days, but was finally interviewed by a reporter from the newspaper "O GLOBO" on February 27. He explained that his attitude was based on two reasons: first, the compromise assumed by the whole delegation of his Club to tell nothing about the strange sighting of January 16, at Trindade; and second, his natural aversion to any kind of publicity. However, after the Navy official release on the matter, and after the interview given by other members of his group, he felt that the silence he had imposed on himself was not justified anymore. He made the following statement:

"First, I want to make it very clear that I don't know if what I saw was really the so-called 'flying saucer.' What I saw, in fact, was an object of grey color and oval in shape when first sighted, which passed over the island and then—emitting a fluorescent light it didn't possess before—went away toward the horizon

and was gone, vanishing just on the horizon line. Everything happened in just a few seconds, in no more than 20 seconds, and for this reason I cannot give you more details about the curious craft. It looked like an object with polished surface and uniform color. I am sure it was not a balloon, an airplane, or a sea-gull."

He was not going to tell anything more, but the reporter decided to ask a last question:

"Flying saucer or not, can you tell me if the strange object you sighted was the same registered on Barauna's photos?" After a brief hesitation came the answer:

"As I said before, the thing was too rapid. It was almost impossible for the human vision to fix any detail of the object. Mr. Barauna, however, was operating with a camera of modern type which was able to register those details. Generally speaking, the shape of the object sighted was the same seen on the negatives developed aboard the NE 'Almirante Saldanha.'"

The reports of Captain Viegas, Mauro Andrade, and Amilar Vieira Filho represent additional evidence confirming the story told by Almiro Barauna. They were rechecked with the witnesses and confirmed. They were not denied by the Brazilian Navy. However, two things are still lacking to meet the challenge of the UAO agnostics—the non-believers. One of them is an official release from the Navy confirming the whole thing. The other is a written statement signed by Com. Bacellar, former chief of the Navy Post at Trindade.

These important documents will be presented in the conclusion of this report, together with other additional facts connected with the case.

UAO PHOTOGRAPHED IN VIENNA

The Vienna newspaper Wiener Montag devoted its whole front page to a picture of a glowing white object against a dark background on March 7, and labeled it the "most sensational photograph of our century."

The newspaper photographer Edgar Schedelbauer, snapped the picture on the 2nd of March, over a wooded area in the Styria Province. Schedelbauer said the object moved slowly, then hovered for about 10 seconds. He took several pictures during this time. The newspaper issued a statement that they published the picture only after careful consideration and after experts had checked the negative to determine whether it was a hoax.

The photographer stated that when the object, which disappeared after hovering, left, he heard a sound similar to that of a jet plane.