

ARGENTINA 1962

A massive UFO visitation

by Gordon W. Creighton

1962 was a year of remarkable UFO activity over the Argentine. The following is a summary of a very large batch of newspaper clippings just received in England.

Sunday, May 13, 1962. At 4.45 a.m. a flight of 20 UFOs, displaying the most varied colours, were seen by numerous people in Rio Cuarto (Province of Córdoba). One saucer seemed to fall out of formation and come down like a shooting star to a distance of some 300 metres from an eyewitness's car. It could then be seen that it was a great fiery ball some 30 metres in diameter. Suddenly, from one side of this ball there shot out four small red globes. These then lined up behind the large ball and together all five flew away keeping the same formation with the large ball in the lead. In the neighbouring state of Mendoza many people saw the same craft.

Indeed, during the 24 hours from midnight of Saturday 12 to Sunday 13 of May, UFOs were seen all over the Argentine, and landings occurred at several places, such as Oncativo (Córdoba Province) and Zapala (Neuquén). One newspaper said that this vast flood of sightings might well mark a new era with regard to the UFO problem, a key-day in the history of Mankind. The paper added that strange cosmic happenings throughout the country had had a profound emotional impact upon the many eyewitnesses.

June 4. A UFO was seen over Olavarrar (Province of Buenos Aires), and newspapers called it a "space-ship". On June 10, the paper *La Nación* (Buenos Aires) reported that UFOs had been seen three times since the beginning of the year in Catamarca and that the Government of that Province had called upon the local astronomical society (newly formed) for an investigation.

Reports of landings

On June 13 the Buenos Aires paper *El Mundo* reported that there had been so many saucer sightings over the Bahia Blanca area that the Chief of Police in La Plata had summoned all eyewitnesses to appear before him and give statements. Some of the reports were of landings. The paper

described the events as sensational and said the UFOs were visitors from space.

During the night of June 15, at Mar del Plata, numerous people saw a UFO, while at the neighbouring coast resort of Miramar a cigar was seen at 9.30 p.m. flying in from the direction of the South Atlantic. The whole craft was vividly illuminated and carried, in addition, three very bright lights (red in the centre, yellow on the right, and green on the left). The apparent size of the cigar was greater than the diameter of the Moon.

At 8.30 p.m. on June 18 a huge UFO, the apparent size of a football, passed at great speed over Córdoba and created a sensation.

A "cigar" overhead La Plata

During the night of June 21 many residents of La Plata telephoned the police and newspapers saying that a cigar was overhead and had been seen in the area several times during the past three days. Most observers said it was flying round in circles at great speed, periodically disappearing and re-appearing, and giving off red flashes. Reporting this particular case, one of the Tucumán papers noted that the UFOs seemed now to be coming down ever closer to the Earth, and that they were a theme of daily discussion among the public. Their presence in our skies at this time, the paper went on to say, could not fail to be connected with the growing crisis of our times. With every passing day they were revealing themselves more openly, so that "soon nobody will any longer be able to remain in doubt as to their presence. Then, like smoke dispersed by the wind, will be swept away the veil of confusion behind which vain attempts have been made to hide the supreme truth regarding their existence".

On June 28, *La Razón* (Buenos Aires) reported that on the previous day, in a perfectly clear sky, an extraordinary luminous body had passed rapidly from North-East to South-West over the town of Salta in the far north of the country, an area where so many UFOs had already been seen. The paper also reported that from around midnight of June 27-28 until noon on June 28 a constant rain of fine

ash-like dust had poured down on Salta and vicinity. Many had at first thought it was snow.

At about 2 p.m. on July 19, the whole body of over 150 workmen at the Auto Union DKW Car Plant at Sauce Viejo (near Santa Fé, which is North-West of Buenos Aires) saw a cigar moving rapidly towards the North-East. It seemed to be at a height of about 1,000 metres and gave out frequent blinding flashes. It was silent and left no trail, climbed and rapidly disappeared. Observers said the same type of craft had been seen there several times before.

Three UFOs.

At 7.45 a.m. on July 27, 180 schoolchildren in the town of Villa Tunuyuan saw three UFOs pass at great speed from north to south. They gave off a bluish light. Schoolteachers who were present added that the objects were discs and emitted blinding silvery flashes.

On August 1, according to a Tucumán paper, the driver of a vehicle was paced by a luminous cigar. The witness, an engineer named Ricardo W. Sommer, resident on Calle Rioja y Colón in the town of Chascomus (a few miles south of Buenos Aires) was accompanied by his wife. They were driving in his truck at 1.40 a.m. from Olmos towards Mar del Plata. Suddenly a blinding light behind seemed to indicate that some other vehicle was about to pass. But the light was fluorescent, and so bright that they could not even see the rear end of their own truck. Suddenly they found themselves right beneath a vast cylindrical craft travelling in the same direction as they were. In addition to the intense fluorescent light it was giving off reddish sparks. Señor Sommer made several attempts, but in vain, to escape from it by accelerating, and so they continued to travel along beneath it for no less than 15 kilometres until they reached La Atalaya, where the cigar turned away abruptly across country and vanished. Señor Sommer (an engineer by profession, be it noted, and no doubt an Argentine-German) declared to the newspaper that such a craft could unquestionably only be extraterrestrial.

Saucer lands on aerodrome

On August 2, various papers carried detailed accounts of a saucer landing on the aerodrome at Cambá Punat (province of Corrientes, far north-east tip of Argentina). The airport manager, Señor Luis Harvey, explained that he had been warned by his staff that an unannounced aircraft was about to land. He ran out on to the field and saw a luminous object circling above at high speed. Failing to get any reply to their signals, he and his staff prepared for a landing, but when the object came down they were astonished to see that it was no aeroplane at all but a completely spherical body

that hung, hovering and also revolving, a few feet above the same spot on the runway for some three to four minutes emitting all the while powerful blue, green, and orange flashes. Then, as the astonished officials approached, it climbed and vanished at staggering speed. The incident was at once reported to the authorities and an intensive investigation was launched. Discussing the case, the press made it quite clear that the UFOs could only be extraterrestrial. *La Razón* (Buenos Aires) said: "We do not believe the true explanation of these occurrences can be kept secret much longer". *Los Andes*, a paper published in the Andean province of Mendoza voiced the same view, and another important northern paper had the following significant comment: "The arrival of this interplanetary craft on an aerodrome in the Province of Corrientes—a fact that can in no wise be disputed, given the manner of its appearance and the calibre of the eyewitnesses—serves to strengthen the view that there may be Space Peoples' bases somewhere in our country, in view of the great number of recent sightings". The paper went on to compare this Gambá Punat landing with the famous case of the saucer that landed on the runway of the airport at Marignane, France, on September 27, 1952.

Pedro Atilli's experience

Three days later, on August 5, 1962, at 1.45 a.m., a truck-driver named Pedro Atilli saw a saucer as he was driving towards Mar del Plata. Suddenly his engine stalled for no perceptible reason. He got out with a lantern to see what was wrong. The section of road (between Las Armas and Pirán) was deserted. Suddenly, to his astonishment, he found that his engine was working again, and at the same moment he became aware of a tremendous luminosity coming from a huge cigar-shaped object that was lying about 300 metres from him, either on the ground or slightly above it. The machine seemed to him to be about 25 metres in diameter, and was giving off a powerful orange glow interspersed with flashes of pale violet and bright green. For a few moments he stood there dumbfounded, and then saw the object rise and vanish at astonishing speed towards the West, now giving off a clear white light.

In the course of August, 1962, there were many press reports of sightings at Concepción de las Sierras, San Javier, and various other localities in Misiones Province (a wedge of Argentine territory running up between Paraguay and Brazil). On one particular evening, people in seven of these towns reported a squadron of five UFOs flying northwards towards Brazil. The objects were silvery-grey, and showed vivid red lights. They were elongated, surmounted by round cupolas.

In an interview with journalists which appeared



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| 1 Córdoba | 9 Neuquén |
| 2 Buenos Aires | 10 Tucumán |
| 3 La Plata | 11 Santa Fé |
| 4 Bahía Blanca | 12 Cambá Punat |
| 5 Mar del Plata | 13 Misiones Province |
| 6 Miramar | 14 Chumbicha |
| 7 Catamarca | 15 Ezezia International Airport |
| 8 Mendoza | |

in various papers in August, 1962, Señor Vicente A. Bordoli, a truck-driver living at Mar del Plata, stated that when driving southwards along National Highway No. 3 which skirts the South Atlantic coast of the Argentine, he and his son Hugo Bordoli had frequently seen strange luminous craft both entering and leaving the sea. In his view these craft, veritable flotillas of them, are controlled by signals emanating from underwater bases, perhaps from large submarine mother-craft. Señor Bordoli concluded his statement by saying: "It is absolutely certain that in the depths of the Gulf of San Matías there is a flying saucer base. These happenings are common knowledge throughout a large region of Patagonia, where it is a regular and quite a normal thing for people to be heard speaking of the Martians."

"Soviet submarines"

Readers will recall the fiasco of February, 1960, when the Argentine Navy lost an enormous amount of face in trying (over a period of nearly two weeks) to sink or capture two "submarines"—allegedly Soviet, of course—in the Golfo Nuevo, or Nuevo Gulf. As the sketch map shows, this gulf is close to the Gulf of San Matías. Señor Bordoli's story now throws an enormous amount of light on that episode, especially as it was reported in the Argentine and British press *at the time* that flying saucers were involved and had been seen entering and leaving the sea in the Golfo Nuevo.

The current batch of reports contains nothing further for the period from August to December of 1962. But on December 11, at 2 a.m. in the morning, a dramatic event took place near a town called Chumbicha, between Catamarca and Córdoba, in the Andean region of North-East Argentine. Accompanied by his wife and son, Dr. Godofredo Lazcano Colodrero, Director of the Sobremonte Museum, was driving in his car from Catamarca to Córdoba. The moon was full. When they had gone some 7 kilometres from Catamarca, and some fifteen minutes after passing through the small town of Chumbicha, they saw, lined up in military order at the foot of the mountains and not more than 600 or 700 metres distant, seven brilliantly luminous saucers. Dr. Colodrero stopped the car and they sat there, watching, until, shortly afterwards, the squadron of saucers rose straight up and flew away at great speed, leaving behind them trails of intense luminosity.

On December 22, the Buenos Aires papers reported that, a day or so previously, a saucer had landed at 2.15 a.m. on one of the main runways of the International Airport at Ezezia, near Buenos Aires. The machine had remained there, sitting on the runway, until disturbed by the arrival of a

giant Pan-American DC8 passenger plane. The principal witness interviewed by the Press was Señor Horacio Alora, officer in charge in the Flight Control Tower. He said that he and his colleague Señor José Besutti had watched as the intensely luminous UFO had landed right in the centre of the runway at a distance of some 2000 metres from the Control Tower. At that distance the object had the apparent size of a football. When it took off again, it went straight up to an estimated height of 500 or 600 metres, and then made off at vertiginous speed. He and his colleagues had in fact been getting ready to bring in the Pan-American DC8, and the behaviour of the UFO was consequently something that they had had to watch most carefully. One of the Buenos Aires' newspapers pointed out, in commenting on this case, that such a landing on an important international airfield proved clearly that the saucers were no longer content to land merely in out-of-the-way places. They were now coming down boldly on the principal airfields of the country. The paper went on to say that the Argentine Air Force was busy collecting all available information about this and many other UFO landings.

An astonishing situation

All this is just a résumé which I have made from one batch of clippings sent to us by a bank official in the Northern city of Tucumán. He says he has dossiers covering the past ten years, but can submit only these few reports at present, as these clippings are "spares". He adds that he can supply a summary of all his main material. Here, I submit, is an astonishing situation. For some years past the whole of the Argentine has been subjected to a most intensive visitation, and there are evidently bases there, both on land and in the sea. The subject is by now common knowledge, it seems, to most Argentinians. And yet, apart from the few reports that have appeared from time to time in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, what have the people of this country been able to learn about it all? Absolutely nothing. When enquiries were made of the Argentine Embassy in London at the end of 1962, the replies given by their Press Attaché and Air Attaché showed clearly that they both knew quite well what was going on. They even supplied me with a list of newspapers to which we might write. This was done. An identical enquiry in Spanish went out to a dozen important papers. At least one paper printed the letter, and the present batch of clippings from a private individual at once resulted. Since then, there has been silence. Have the Argentine authorities, or someone else, intervened to suppress any further replies to my enquiry?