

Argentina 1963-64 Part 3

By Gordon Creighton

PART II of my sketch of the most important cases in Argentina during 1963/64 took readers up to the end of 1963. We are indebted to Señor Oscar A. Galíndez, our representative in that country, for the voluminous supply of newspaper reports which, together with other reports, have enabled me to draw up a comprehensive picture of the overall scene in this part of South America. Readers should remember that it has been my policy to ignore the more mundane 'fly-over' sightings, and even some of the roadside landings reported in the early hours by motorist, bus and lorry drivers, for they swallow up too much valuable space.

Now for the 1964 reports.

San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)

At the private observatory owned by amateur astronomer Luis Ferro, this gentleman reported that he and several scientific friends, including an engineer and a chemist, had on January 7, 1964, observed a reddish-orange coloured object traverse the sky from south to north. It travelled on an apparently level course and was in view for five minutes.

On January 9, several residents of San Miguel saw a UFO overhead three times, the first occasion being at 9.55 p.m., the second at 10 p.m. and the third at 10.10. The object, seen through a telescope, had a clearly visible dome and was described by the witnesses as shaped "like one soup plate on top of another". The central part of it was bluish white. Outside this, they could see a straw-coloured ring, and the outer edge, very clearly defined, showed a fine bluish border.

Saladillo (Province of Buenos Aires)

According to a report made by a Señor Juan H. Botta, he was driving his car in the early morning of February 25, 1964, when he saw two intensely luminous objects. These remained stationary in the sky for an hour, after which one of them disappeared towards the north and the other one landed in a field near by. He was unable to approach it as there was a large stretch of water between it and the road. The two objects were discs, and Señor Botta said that when stationary in the sky they remained in a tilted position.

Gualeguaychu

On March 11, 1964, the newspaper *El Argentino* which is published in this town (lying due north of Buenos Aires and on the frontier with Uruguay),

reported that many people had seen a squadron of half a dozen saucers flying about and making all kinds of manoeuvres above the Uruguay River. "The saucers shone in the sky like great locomotive headlights. They hung at times as though suspended, and when they moved they did so in an arc, and one could tell when they were about to move as they would emit an intense flash before shooting away at incredible speed. One was seen to shoot off and follow a lorry that was approaching the town".

Metán, (Andes, near Salta)

On March 14, newspapers at Salta reported that on various nights recently many residents of the nearby town of Metán had seen a formation of luminous discs, one large and four small, flying about over the foothills of the Andes, and particularly in the area of the Crespón, one of the highest peaks of the Metán Range of the Andes. (Note: Metán is at 25° 30' S, 65° 00' W, and south east of Salta. It is roughly mid-way between Salta and Tucumán. Perhaps there is a base near the Crespón).

Argentine—Uruguay Frontier

Various newspapers for March 22, and *El Mundo* for March 25, again reported a squadron of saucers in this area just north of Buenos Aires. This time it was a large mother-ship, with five discs flying in perfect formation. From the mother-ship came beams of a most brilliant red light, which later turned to violet. The craft was at no great height. The saucers then began to swoop about, as though inspecting the region, stopping now and then to hover for an instant. They frequently turned on edge and gave out powerful beams of light that flood-lit the whole region. Many men working in a warehouse came rushing out and were blinded by the astonishingly beautiful but frightening sight. After flying around in impressive formation for a while, the discs were seen to re-enter the carrier, which then vanished towards the south-east.

Buenos Aires

Writing in the newspaper *Crónica* for April 9, Señor Ariel Ciro Rietti, President of CODOVNI, says that of all the past year's reports there has been nothing more impressive than the experience of the soldiers and scientists who saw the great "lights" high up in the Andes, and that there was no possible explanation other than UFOs. He

went on to say that he and the engineer Teófilo Tabanera had founded the Argentine Interplanetary Society, and that this had now merged with an **official Argentine aviation body known as the Aeronautical Secretariat**. And, he added, the new body formed as a result of the merger, known as the National Commission on Space Information, was now drawing large numbers of keen young people anxious to study the problems of Space and, "above all, the ultimate problem lying behind it all, namely the UFOs".

Montevideo, Uruguay

On May 9, newspapers in Asunción (Paraguay) reported that a Señor Raúl Pareja Rincón had recently delivered a lecture on UFOs in the Municipal Cultural Centre in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay. Quoting from his enormous files of sightings, he said he had seen a saucer hovering in broad daylight above the National Airport at Carrasco and that the authorities had suppressed publication of the fact that a saucer had in fact landed on the main runway there only recently. He told his audience that a formation of saucers, each about 100 feet in diameter and with portholes six feet in diameter, had recently flown over the Bay of Guanabara at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). One of the saucers had exploded and fallen into the Bay. The Brazilian authorities had salvaged the wreckage, and found it to consist of a metal alloy containing some elements that do not exist on Earth. He said that all governments were united in the policy of suppressing these indisputable facts.

Resistencia (Province of Chaco)

The newspaper *La Razón* for May 10 reports the extraordinary story of Alberto Kalbermatter, aged 23, who declared to the police authorities that while driving a lorry at night, he suddenly saw on the road before him, as though barring his way, a dark shape about nine feet high, and heard coming from it a powerful and terrifying cry. Kalbermatter says that he drew up sharply and, peering out, was able to see that the creature had long black hair and certain human features. Terrified, he at once stepped on the accelerator and fled, nearly running the creature down. He added that he felt sure it was some being from another world, and that, only a few days previously, he had seen at the same spot on the highway a large luminous object that seemed to be perched in a tree. The paper expressed the view that, although the story could hardly be accepted literally, Sr. Kalbermatter was, as the police admitted, not suffering from hallucinations, and that consequently he must have had some sort of strange experience.

Montevideo, Uruguay

On May 11 the newspaper *El Territorio* of Resistencia (Argentina) stated that in Montevideo an official conference on UFOs had opened, as a result of which a permanent triple UFO investigation body embracing Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay had been established. The Uruguayan Delegation included Captain Carlos Palermo of the Uruguayan Air Force, and after the first meeting the American documentary film *Flying Saucers* (featuring the famous Montana and Tremonton pictures) [shown in Britain under the title *UFO—Ed.*] was shown for the benefit of the delegates and the press. (Extracts from this film were included in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW'S recent ITV programme).

Salta

On May 23, *El Tribuno*, morning paper published in Salta, reported that Señor Tomás Víctor Oliver, an official of the local high court, was driving back to Salta from a nearby town on the night of the 14th, accompanied by his family and chauffeur, when they saw an enormous greenish light beside the road. They thought at first that it must be some new kind of illuminated traffic-sign, but it was a flattish, dish-shaped UFO about 40 feet wide. As they accelerated and shot past in panic they saw the saucer flash upwards and vanish. It is worthy of note that no magnetic effects were reported.

Pajas Blancas (Province of Córdoba)

According to the newspaper *Córdoba* of November 29, a 42-year old doctor and his wife, residents of Buenos Aires, had an extraordinary experience near Pajas Blancas on the night of June 5, 1964. They were driving from Córdoba to Río Ceballos to visit a friend. Suddenly, at a spot some 30 kilometres from the Pajas Blancas Airport, they saw something flying rapidly towards them and decided at first that it was an air-liner coming in from Chile. The object disappeared. Shortly after this, an intensely bright light appeared on the road in front of them. Thinking it was the headlights of an approaching vehicle, the doctor flashed his own lights as a signal to the other to dip his, for the light was so powerful that it was impossible to see the road at all. But the light remained undimmed and continued to approach, so the doctor gave up and pulled in to the side of the road and stopped.

The unknown vehicle finally halted only one metre (sic. misprint?) in front of his car, its bright light now fading slowly to violet, and they were able to perceive an elongated object. The doctor's wife became panicky, and they sat there for 20 min-