

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES: SPECTACULAR LANDING, WITH UFONAUTS, AT TERREST, WEST FLANDERS, IN 1951

The following story is a summary of a conversation between the eyewitness (Mr. H.) and two investigators from the Brussels Group SOBEPS. Luc DEVINCKE typed out the text of the interview and sent it to SVL in October 1982. (The interview took place in 1977).

(Translation from Flemish). From SVL TIJDSCHRIFT, Vol. 2, No. 5, January 1983. (Journal of the SVL UFO Study Group, Antwerp, Belgium. Director Wim Van Utrecht.)

ABOUT the end of 1951 (probably in either October or November, the eyewitness no longer recalls precisely), Mr. H. was returning from a visit to his parents, then residing in Houthulst. The time was approximately 22.15 hrs., and his wife was accompanying him.

When they arrived in the village of Terrest they suddenly saw a fiery red ball in the air. It was coming from the south, and at first it looked as though it was going to come down right on top of the eyewitnesses. But when it had descended to a height of about 20 m., four legs emerged from it and the object landed about 25 m. from the eyewitnesses, in the middle of the highway. The curious contrivance had the shape of a typical flying saucer; convex on top and flatter underneath. It was wellnigh impossible to approach close to it, owing to the intense heat that it emanated. When, notwithstanding his wife's objections, Mr. H. did attempt to approach the device, at each step he took forwards a beam of light shot out from the centre of the craft. The beams were about 15 cm. in diameter and hit the ground at a distance of about 10 m. from his feet.

The witness also described how, just before it landed, the craft opened out like a scallop-shell. From its inside there shone out an intense red light, from which seven beings emerged, each of them about 80 cm. in height. The beings too were of a fiery red colour. Said the eyewitness: "In my opinion, they weren't wearing any clothing; it looked rather like a sort of 'skin' drawn over them. They had big heads and their eyes were like little wells."

Mr. H. recalls that one of the dwarves rubbed his

fingers over one of the feet of the landing-gear. Some of them were also sitting on the rim of the craft. It looked as though they were operating the craft. One of the beings made a sign to him to step back, the craft rose vertically, till it was at a height of 100 m. or so. At that height, it changed direction, and flew off at an oblique angle eastwards. It had been on the ground for about 20 seconds. The Ufonauts had not appeared to be aggressive. In the opinion of the witness the beam of light had been intended rather as a warning.

The local cinema was just emptying at the time of the occurrence, and there were consequently other people too who saw the red light emitted by the craft. But the people leaving the cinema had not actually seen the craft itself.

At the spot where the device had landed four scorched black impressions were found in the gravel of the road. These consisted of oval marks, each with a diameter of about 15 cm. Together they formed a square measuring about 1.5 m. to the side.

On the following day, Mr. H. reported the matter to the Gendarmerie at nearby Klerken.

Mr. H's wife was so shocked by the occurrence that even 26 years later she had still not fully recovered. According to her husband she had suffered severely as a result of it, both mentally and physically.

We are publishing this interesting "close encounter of the third kind" without further commentary. We can only regret that the occurrence dates from 1951, and that for this reason no thorough investigation of it ever took place (i.e. interviews with the other witnesses, analysis of the marks on the ground, etc.)

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FORTHCOMING ISSUES WILL CONTAIN SEVERAL SPECTACULAR CLOSE-ENCOUNTER CASES!

EARLY BRAZILIAN REPORTS

WE have on file the complete set of Bulletins of the SBEDV (Brazilian Society for the Study of UFOs) covering the period since Dr. Buhler began to issue them in November 1957. Many remarkable SBEDV cases have already appeared in FSR in translation, but many more still remain, untranslated and unknown to the outside world. It is our intention to skim through these early bulletins — as well as other bulletins in other languages — as and when opportunity offers. Here are three reports from SBEDV Bulletin No. 1 (November/December 1957.)

1. UFO Visits Statue of Christ the Redeemer

On the summit of Corcovado, the highest peak overlooking Rio de Janeiro and the Bay, there towers a 100-ft. statue of Christ, with arms outstretched in blessing and protection over the city. From far out at sea, the statue appears as a great white cross.

At about 8.30 p.m. one evening in November 1957, a number of eyewitnesses watched a UFO as it paid a visit of inspection to the Statue. Professor Sérgio Raul de Barros Bragina and his wife, and a student named Inocêncio Lopes, reported that they watched the UFO move towards the Statue, and then halt when it had reached the approximate height of the right arm. Then the UFO split into two parts. One part moved downwards to the foot of the Corcovado, and it did this three times. The sighting had lasted fifteen minutes, after which the UFO moved off over the centre of the city, where it was seen by many and was filmed by Hilton Ronha and one of his colleagues of the local TV Station (T.V.Tupí.)

2. A Fantastic Happening and an official Cover-Up

Ceres is a small town near Goiânia, Capital of the State of Goiaz in the centre of Brazil.

SBEDV reported that, in a letter received from Dr. Gabriel Barbosa of the Secretariat of Justice of the State Legislature of Goiaz, they had learnt that a man named Miguel Espanhol and his driver were travelling by truck near Quebracôco in the Ceres area, when their engine died, halted by a huge disc, *140 metres wide*, which landed close by. From it emerged seven men who stood and watched the truck for a while before returning into the disc, which then departed. The two witnesses were left in a state of profound shock. The Goias State Police issued an official denial of the affair, and SBEDV received information that instructions for this denial came from a very high level. And

SBEDV's report on it from Dr. Barbosa of the State Secretariat of Justice was written later than the date of the official cover-up. (FSR Vol. 4, No. 3, contained a report on the case from another Brazilian investigator, whose slightly fuller version said that the entities were *all small and long-haired*. This is the version given as *Case. 21 of The Humanoids in Latin America* — a Section of *The Humanoids*. What is new in this second report, now translated for the first time, is the evidence for the official cover-up. G.C.)

3. Another Cover-Up and a Ridiculous "Explanation"

One night in 1956 a luminous body was observed from the Brazilian Air Force Base at Recife in North-Eastern Brazil hanging stationary for twenty minutes above the Barracks of the 14th. Infantry Regiment in that city. Many officers and men of the Army observed it.

After a lengthy secret enquiry, the authorities announced in December 1957 that it had simply been an air-liner which was attempting to land at Recife International Airport.

(This sort of "air-liner" has been seen over London's Airport too. G.C.)

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