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### UFOs OVER THE AMERICAS

by Jim and Coral Lorenzen

Paperback (to be reviewed), any work by these authors, the founders of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO), of Tucson, Arizona, is worth reading. A Signet Book at 75c. Published by the New American Library, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY10019.

### SPACEMEN IN THE ANCIENT EAST

by W. Raymond Drake

30s. Neville Spearman, 112 Whitfield Street, London W.1 (to be reviewed). An author well known to FSR readers, whose fascinating speculations, historical and mythological, never fail to interest us.

# NO EASY SOLUTION TO THE MORRO MYSTERY

By Charles Bowen

BY September 1966 it was virtually impossible to extract even one recognisable strand of sense, let alone a chain of evidence, from the tangled skein of discoveries, revelations, theories and accusations which enmeshed the investigation into the bizarre death of two Brazilian electronics technicians.

The bodies of Miguel José Viana and Manuel Ferreira da Cruz were discovered on Saturday, August 20, 1966, on the slopes of the Morro do Vintém not far from Niterói, itself only a few kilometres from Rio de Janeiro. The decomposing bodies were neatly dressed in suits and brand new raincoats, and by the side of each head was a strange facial mask made of lead. According to the original accounts, the two Campos technicians were last seen alive in Niterói on August 17, 1966, when they purchased the raincoats, and a bottle of mineral water, before setting off on foot up the Morro do Vintém.

That evening (August 17) a Senhora Gracinda da Sousa was driving along the road near the hill when she saw an oval-shaped fiery object alternately hovering and then plunging and soaring vertically over one spot on the slope. She told her husband, and he later told the police after the news had broken about the discovery of the bodies.

From the vast number of sensational revelations and speculation, it emerged that the unfortunate Miguel and Manuel were active members of a group of "scientific spiritualists" who dabbled in spiritism, explosives and communications with Mars, and who, according to reports, had already tangled explosively with a UFO at Atafona beach, near Campos, on June 13, 1966.<sup>1</sup>

Then, with the enquiry becoming very interesting—in spite of all the confusion—further news of it was abruptly cut off, and the case slid into oblivion in mid-September, 1966.

#### Case reopens

Eleven months later there was a fitful spluttering of news of the continuing investigation: not one thing emerged that could help untangle the mess.

On August 19, 1967, a report was carried in the Rio

newspaper *Ultima Hora*<sup>2</sup> which stated that the police were searching for a car—the registration number of which was known—in which the bodies of Miguel Viana and Manuel da Cruz had been taken from Campos to Niterói for dumping on the slopes of the Morro do Vintém. A touch of confusion was added by an announcement that if the search went well the bodies would be exhumed at Campos on August 25, 1967. This, it seems, was necessary to determine whether the victims were murdered, or poisoned by chemicals which they were using to make extraterrestrial communications, or whether they died in a suicide pact by taking a corrosive acid.

It was reported in *Ultima Hora* of August 26, 1967, that the exhumation had taken place and that certain organs had been removed for examination. Delegate of Police Sérgio Rodrigues went so far as to say: "Important pieces of evidence were disregarded at the start of the enquiry and are now being used by my team. Although I have not yet got the clues to clear up the case, I do believe that in a few days time I will be able to hand the guilty party over to the Judicial Authorities."

Civilian air line pilot Elcio Gomes had been arrested (August 26, 1966) for making contradictory statements. Gomes, another "scientific spiritualist", was an associate of the dead technicians. Under questioning he made all manner of revelations. One of these was that there was a clandestine radio station maintained by the two dead men at Glicerio in the Macae district: according to *Ultima Hora* of August 31, 1967, the mystery was deepened by the reported disappearance of the two detectives sent there to investigate. Fortunately, this new mystery was only of temporary duration, for in *Correio da Manhã* (Rio de Janeiro) of September 3, 1967, we read that the same detectives were busily theorising to the reporters. New investigations, it seemed, were expected among spiritualistic circles by police who had now established the precise movements of Miguel and Manuel between Niterói bus station and the foot of the Morro do Vintém on August 21, 1966.

When I read this I confess I almost gave up in des-

pair, for we have voluminous accounts from the previous year which show that the bodies, in an advanced state of decomposition, were discovered on August 20, 1966.

### Back to square one

So there it rests. For all the resounding phrases and ominous hints of pending arrests, for all the discoveries including the van said to have carried the murdered bodies to the foot of the Morro, and for all the pathological examinations of exhumed bodies (about which nothing was said because nothing was found?), we find ourselves well and truly back in square one, and to boot, with some exasperating carelessness over the dates. In the end the police had succeeded in adding just one 1967 ingredient to the 1966 mixture, and that was the speculation that Miguel and Manuel had met their murderer after their call at an electronic equipment store in Niterói—where they were in no hurry—and before their call for mineral water at a bar where they

displayed a marked degree of urgency.

With a pious hope expressed in the *Correio da Manhã* that the mystery would be solved in a week, the case once again disappeared into limbo.

Alarming suggestions and unpleasant undertones inherent in the 1966 discoveries had no doubt led to questions being asked when, after a year, nothing had been resolved about the deaths of the technicians. Was the case allowed to re-appear briefly so that the police could project the idea of a “murderer”? After all, down-to-earth human mayhem is so much more reassuring than wild hints about spiritist dabblings with dark forces, or any suggestion that the men in the lead masks were done away with by a UFO, or even a great big glob of plasma.

### NOTES

- 1 Bowen, C. *The Mystery of the Morro do Vintém*. FSR Vol. 13, No. 2. March/April 1967.
- 2 Brazilian newspapers account, by courtesy of Nigel Rimes. Translations by Gordon Creighton.

## TWENTY YEARS BACK

By Brinsley Le Poer Trench

ON October 1, 1948, in the words of the late Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of the USAF Project Blue Book investigating flying saucers “the third big sighting of 1948, Volume III of “The Classics” took place”.

We have already covered the Mantell tragedy, as well as the Chiles and Witted sightings, in the last two issues. Now we will take a look at the strange duel that Lieutenant George F. Gorman, of the North Dakota Air National Guard, had with a UFO.

Gorman was flying into the Dakota town of Fargo after a cross-country practice flight. At around 9.00 p.m. he decided to land after flying around the locality for a while. He called the control tower and received permission to do so. A Piper Cub was going down just before him. However, he noticed another object pass him on his right. He called control tower again and was assured that apart from the Cub no other plane was in the vicinity.

The fighter pilot decided to investigate the object that he had just seen. So, he pushed his F-51 into a turn and moved in towards the UFO.

Gorman was now above the object which appeared to be a shining white light, blinking on and off. Then he made a bold decision and swooped down upon it.

Then, as Gerald Heard described the action “quick as a matador with a charging bull”, the object “side-stepped”.

Gorman realised now that the object was only a foot or less in diameter. Suddenly, it made a dart for the control tower, hotly pursued by the gallant Gorman in his F-51.

At 7,000 feet the UFO turned and Gorman tried without success to get closer. For twenty minutes the fighter pilot and the UFO dived and turned in probably the strangest aerial duel that has ever occurred in the history of aerobatics. At times Gorman nearly blacked out trying to follow the incredible tight turns and gyrations of the UFO which completely out-manoeuvred him.

This fantastic aerial dance came to an end when the “light” suddenly climbed away into the sky at great speed and disappeared.

The tower control man had seen the UFO and observed it through his night binoculars. According to Ruppelt four other witnesses saw the object, but did not see all the action as later described by Gorman. They were the pilot of the Cub and his passenger, and two CAA personnel on the ground.

Project Blue Book concluded that Gorman was duelling with a lighted balloon. Ruppelt pointed out in his book that many pilots have been fooled by lights.

Ruppelt has always seemed to me a very broad-minded, unbiassed and capable investigator. However, many people must have doubts as to the validity of his conclusions on this particular occasion.

Gorman told ATIC investigators “I had the distinct impression that its manoeuvres were controlled by thought and reason”.

Could not this object have been remotely controlled from some space ship miles above the earth?

I would like to quote what Gerald Heard wrote in his book on the same lines: “There is then no escaping the conclusion—as all who were in on that play agreed—that there was an intelligence guiding that ‘Light’. That is interesting, if perhaps a little too much so. What is not only interesting but heartening is that that intelligence showed itself considerate. It wanted to learn about us and it was not only clever in the way it did so, but considerate”.

Since the Gorman affair in 1948 there have been other cases involving remote controlled lights and in my submission it is a little too easy a way out to write this particular object off as a lighted balloon.

### SOURCES

- The Report on Unidentified Objects*, by Edward J. Ruppelt. Doubleday & Co., 1956.  
*The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*, by Gerald Heard. Carrol & Nicolson, 1950.