

A FATAL ENCOUNTER

Charles Bowen

PILAR de Goiás is situated in the upland interior of Brazil. Not very far away is that remarkable act of federal faith, the new capital city of Brasília. The incident which is the subject of this article took place at a fazenda situated in the district at approximately Long. 49° 45' W., Lat. 14° 30' S.

The report of the incident arrived from FSR representative Nigel Rimes in mid-January. My account is taken from that report, which is a translation by Nigel Rimes of a transcription from the original report, made by Sr. Willi Wirz, managing director of the *Brazil Herald*. The transcription and translation are both dated January 11, 1969.

The alleged incident

On August 13, 1967, at about 16.00 hours (Br. St. Time), Inácio de Souza, 41, and his wife, Dna. Luiza de Souza, the parents of five children, were returning to the fazenda where Inácio was employed. They had been on a shopping expedition to the nearest village. Inácio is described as illiterate, simple, honest, trustworthy and reserved. He had worked at the fazenda for six years.

The owner of the fazenda is well known, and an extremely wealthy man: he has asked for his name not to be revealed. (Both his name and that of his fazenda are on file with FSR.)

As Inácio and his wife approached the house they saw three persons playing about (brincando) on the fazenda landing strip (the owner possesses a number of aircraft). Inácio's immediate impression was that these persons were naked, but Dna. Luiza says they were wearing skin-tight clothes of a pale yellow colour. When the three strangers saw Inácio and his wife, they started to move towards them.

It was at that point that Inácio saw a strange "aircraft" at the end of the landing strip. This object was touching, or almost touching, the ground. It looked like an inverted

wash-basin. Inácio suddenly became very frightened.

Inácio was carrying a 0.44 calibre carbine, and it is stated that he took aim at the nearest person and fired. Almost immediately the "aircraft" emitted a beam of green light which hit Inácio on the head and shoulder. He fell unconscious, and Dna. Luiza ran to help him. In some alarm she watched the three "persons" enter the "aircraft" which thereupon took off vertically, and at high speed, with a noise like the humming of bees.

Aftermath

The owner of the fazenda described the sequel. He had been informed about the incident three days after it had happened. It seems that on the first and second days Inácio had complained of numbness and tingling of the body, and of headaches. He also experienced severe nausea. On the third day the same symptoms were present, plus continuous tremors of the hands and head. The owner took the sick man to a doctor in Goiania, more than 300 km. from the fazenda.

The doctor discovered burns on the trunk and head, such as might have been caused by some poisonous plant, and indeed tried to establish whether or not the patient had eaten any poisonous plants. When the fazenda owner told the doctor the story of Inácio's encounter, he showed surprise and suggested an examination of faeces, urine and blood. He prescribed "Unguento Pierato de Butesin" (friend Nigel shrunk from translating that, and settled merely for a "?") which I presume is an ointment.

The burn marks were in the form of a perfect circle 15 cm. in diameter (Dr. Bernard Finch has suggested they might have been like a severe nettle rash).

The doctor thought Inácio had suffered an hallucination, and was suffering from some disease, for he had no time for flying saucer stories, did not believe Inácio's

story, and advised all concerned to "keep silent on the matter".

Inácio and his boss stayed on in Goiania for four days, during which time treatment continued. The patient was then discharged to the fazenda with the diagnosis "leukaemia". The prognosis was very poor, the patient being given about 60 days to live.

Surprised at receiving the bill so soon, in view of the serious condition of his employee, the owner asked the doctor about it and was told: "His case is a fatal one, because it is cancer."

According to information given by Dna. Luiza, Inácio, once he had returned to the fazenda, wasted away to "skin and bone", and was covered with white, or yellowish-white blotches, the size of a fingernail, which lay just beneath the skin. He suffered much pain, and died on October 11, 1967.

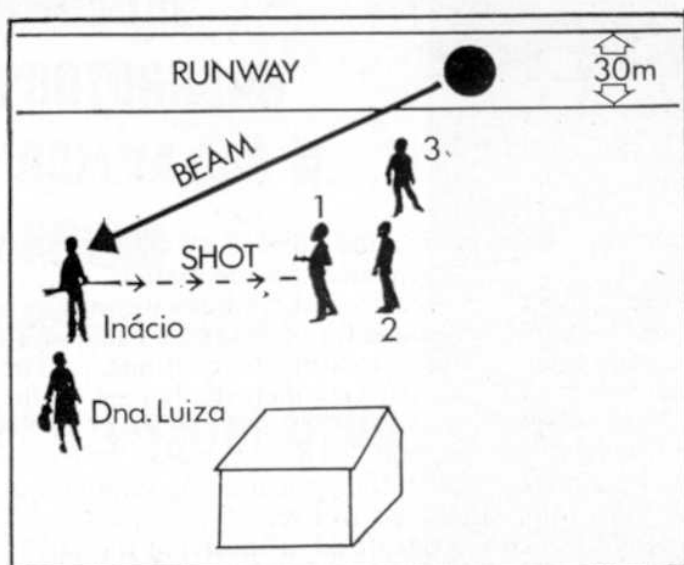
In accordance with her late husband's wishes, Dna. Luiza burned all his clothes, the bed, mattress, bedclothes and so on.

On being asked about the case, the doctor at Goiania commented: "So far as I am concerned it was just another case of cancer. I advised the fazendeiro to "forget" what he said his employee had said had happened, since he (the fazendeiro) had not been an eye-witness."

Comment

Now that I have published details of this alleged incident, I shall no doubt receive the usual letters from well-meaning folk who will howl indignantly that I am a scare-monger, and a wicked, misguided person for daring to suggest that our "visitors" wish us other than well; for even thinking they are other than goodness and light. There may also be one or two correspondents who suggest that I am as "nutty as a fruitcake" for believing such a tale.

So let me state here and now that a much closer investigation will be required before the story can be



either accepted without question as true, or dismissed as false. This, however, does not mean that the case should not go on the record, so I suggest we now take a closer look at the "facts" we have been given.

Here are a few possibilities that stare at us out of those facts:

(i) The unfortunate Inácio was at the time suffering from leukaemia, and the things he said he saw were the result of an hallucinatory experience brought on by his deteriorating condition. As his wife said she saw the same things, I suppose this would mean she had the same hallucination (but due to another cause?). It is also possible that she saw nothing, yet dutifully supported her husband's strange story.

(ii) The whole story was a fabrication by Inácio—or Dna. Luiza—who for reasons best known to themselves in the lonely, remote hinterland of Brazil, 300 km. from the nearest doctor, were seeking publicity. The onset of the killer disease was in no way connected with the burn marks, and was completely coincidental.

(iii) Inácio did eat a poisonous plant—or one affected with Strontium 90 fallout—and having realised his error, invented the flying saucer story as a cover-up (!). Being illiterate, he had not read about UFOs, but he had heard of them from the radio, and from gossip in the village when on shopping trips, and his memory was so good that he got the details absolutely right when he invented the story!

(iv) The victim and his wife had a very real experience and reported it

accurately. Inácio's subsequent condition may or may not have been attributable to things that happened on the fazenda landing strip. The Goiania doctor was very rightly concerned about the possible wild-fire circulation of such an alarming story, and did his best to seal it off.

There may be other possibilities, but I haven't the space to consider them here. As for those mentioned above, *ii* and *iii* seem wildly improbable. As for possibility *i*, it seems unlikely that a man so sick that his condition could bring on hallucinations of such magnitude would be able to make a shopping trip, presumably on foot, to a fairly distant village. Then, again, his widow says she saw the same thing. We know it is generally accepted that two individuals cannot have the same hallucination, unless . . . and here we return to thoughts which Max Cade and I have entertained, and nurtured,¹ during the past two or three years . . . unless those hallucinatory-type images were imposed on the minds of the "witnesses" from the same source.² If we are to accept the stories of Inácio and his wife in terms of possibility *i*, then it stands to reason that the hallucinatory experience could not have been due to the disease. If we tie it in with our more recent speculations, then it is possible that there was a machine or agency on the landing strip directing radiation (like radar waves, for example) at the witnesses and causing them to "see" things. When poor Inácio got scared and popped off a shot with his gun, could some sort of defensive mechanism have

come into play, and intensified or changed the type of beam already directed on Inácio, while the "creatures" were withdrawn? Dr. Finch has pointed out that the beam must have been highly directional for its effects not to have been felt by Dna. Luiza as well.

Let us not forget that this is just speculative "thinking aloud", although we do know that excessive exposure to radiation can cause leukaemia.³ And if the beam of green light focused on Inácio de Souza was the cause of the onset of the killer disease, then it must have been a very intense radiation, for I have never heard of a victim being carried away so quickly after exhibiting the first symptoms of the disease.

As for the details of the sighting, I would very much like to know *how* the entities returned to their craft. I wonder if the investigators pressed Dna. Luiza on this point . . . it is very important.

Finally, if this account is to be believed—and I do not think it should be dismissed out of hand—then the warning inherent in the story is that if anyone is unfortunate enough to come within striking range of one of these objects and its attendant entities, then they should not take any offensive action. In a slightly different context, Dr. Bernard Finch once warned us to "Beware the Saucers";⁴ it is good advice in any context.

NOTES

¹ Cade, C. Maxwell: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence*, FSR, Vol. 13, Nos. 2, 3, 4, and especially Vol. 13, No. 6 (November/December 1967) and Vol. 14, No. 2 (March/April 1968).

² Bowen, Charles: *Few and Far Between*, FSR Special Issue, THE HUMANIDS, *Strangers about the House*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5 (September/October 1968), *One Day in Mendoza*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 6 (November/December 1968).

³ For example, I understand, on good authority, that before adequate safeguards were taken, early colour-TV sets in the U.S.A. were the probable cause of a number of cases of leukaemia. The combination of wide-angle TV tubes and multiple cathode guns required much higher anode potential than in ordinary "black and white" sets. The resulting higher incidence of higher-velocity electron beams was impinging—at the end of each scanning sweep—on the unguarded metal framework of the sets. This caused a "splashing-off" of X-rays which played in particular on the fringe viewers. If something as innocent as a TV set can generate lethal radiation, then imagine what a laser-like beam of concentrated gamma particles could do—a view with which Dr. Bernard Finch concurred when I discussed this case with him.

⁴ Finch, Dr. Bernard E.: *Beware the Saucers*, FSR, Vol. 12, No. 1 (January/February 1966).

FURTHER REPORTS OF UFO BASES

Gordon Creighton

MENTION has been made in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW from time to time¹ of the belief, apparently widely held in some parts of South America, that the operators of the UFOs possess bases or landing sites of predilection, be it beneath the sea along the Atlantic coastline of Brazil and Argentina, or in the uninhabited uplands, the *puno*, of the vast Andean Cordillera.

During the great wave of 1965, for example, there were reports that a mysterious ravine in a certain extremely secluded valley, some 60 kilometres to the south-west of Córdoba, in North-Central Argentina, might be serving as one of these bases.

Loretani valley incidents

On September 7, 1965, the Buenos Aires publication *Así* carried the following report about it:

"A flying saucer base exists at a spot some 60 km. SW of Córdoba. Some 50 farm workers, three lawyers, a hotelkeeper, a rancher, members of the Rosario Meteorological Service, and even a captain of the Navy, have been witnesses to the flights of many saucers which seem to have taken the Valley of Loretani as the centre for their operations, and a nearby ravine as their special base and hiding place.

"It all started on July 15, 1965, in an idyllic spot. The Loretani Valley, so named in memory of the grandfather of the present owners, is in the foothills of the Sierra Grande, some twenty kilometres from the dam at Los Molinos. Leaving the Alta Gracia—Rio Tercero road, a dirt track winds off through the mountains to the spot. Around about are pine tree nurseries and plantations, some of the trees just sprouting, others now over 3ft. These are lands that are fertile even if not under cultivation, and a forestry concern, the COFINCO, has bought about 7,000 hectares here and is gradually putting it all under trees. In charge of these plantations is Sr. Rubén Busquets, who lives in the valley with his wife Diana Loretani, a descendant of the original owners. They have a fifteen-year-old daughter Marcela, a woman to help in the house, and her twelve-year-old daughter, and about

fifty hired hands who work on the tree plantations. There are few other settlers in the area, apart from one or two cattle and sheep farms. There are a couple of inns, and near the road leading off to the Valley of Loretani stands the modern Hotel de la Entrada, which serves as the social centre for the population gradually developing around here in what is called Villa Ciudad de America.

"Such then is the setting for one of the most extraordinary stories that it has ever fallen to us to report.

"It all started on July 15, and the Busquets family themselves were the first to see the saucers that are now throwing this whole region into an uproar. Sr. Busquets told us: 'I had been up to the bar of the Hotel de la Entrada with my wife and daughter Marcela, to collect the mail, as we usually do two or three times a week. Besides getting our mail we also do any telephoning that is necessary, as it is the only place in the region with a telephone.

"It was about 8.00 p.m., and we were returning to our home in the Valley. Marcela had got out to open the gate. And then we saw it.

"The gate in question is on the top of a hill. From there, across to the East, we could see the profile of the Sierras Grandes, towards the North and West other hills also, and, away towards the South-West, the waters of the Los Molinos Dam.

"The object was big and very luminous, of a bluish colour, but varying from moment to moment, sometimes to orangish-red. Its shape was that of a truncated cone, though we were unable to see clearly where the upper part of it ended owing to the beam of light directed upwards out of the object. The lower part was circular and convex. Taking the nearby hills as my gauge, I reckon that it was some ten to fifteen metres in diameter. It was motionless and made no sound. At one moment it shone a beam of light on to us. At that moment we became certain that it was something out of the ordinary. There are no houses and no roads over in that direction. It could not be any powerful light or any illusion caused by car headlights. It was "something" which was above and also behind the hill. After a long pause, it dropped down vertically, and the terrain hid it from us, but we could still see the glow

from it. Then finally the glow went out.

"We went on up to the house, but before we reached it we met one of our *peones* who was lying on the ground, having been thrown by his horse. He was pretty dazed, and covered with mud and dried grass. As a *mestizo* can never accept that a horse has thrown him, he told us that the horse 'had thrown itself belly-upwards, *so as to see them better!*' From which we realized that we were not the only ones to have seen that light in the sky; this peasant had seen it too, and his horse had been so terrified by it that it had thrown him."

Frequent visitations

But what had at first seemed exceptional became a regular occurrence later, for the Busquets saw the objects daily. It became a common thing for them to observe a UFO flying about over the Valley and dropping down into the ravine. One day a circular mark, some 7 metres wide, was found at a spot where evidently a craft had landed momentarily, and on another occasion Señora Busquets was able to see clearly windows on one of the craft. By now the hired hands were seeing them every night and had come to regard the situation as something quite normal.

One day, Señor Busquets was sitting in his car beneath some power-lines, and was watching one of the UFOs. He received a severe shock. Bethinking himself of the danger that the UFO might bring the power-lines down on top of him, he started the engine and moved the car away from there. The UFO, which he estimated to be at a distance of some 300 metres from him, promptly turned off its own light, leaving only a reddish glow, which seemed to revolve around it for a while and then this glow also faded.

On the night of July 24, 1965, the Busquets were again over at the Hotel de la Entrada, and were telling their friends about these happenings. A group of strangers who were present thought it all a