

"FORTYEIGHT HOURS IN A FLYING SAUCER"

Gordon Creighton

IN three previous articles¹ I have given details of cases in which individuals have allegedly been teleported, notably in South America, and principally in Brazil. Sr. Oscar A. Galíndez² has also given a full report of an important case of this kind which is understood to have occurred in Argentina.

I now give, below, a translation of the report of yet another Brazilian case which appeared in the Brazilian press³ on May 16, 1969:

"Belo Horizonte, May 15, 1969 (Meridional): A strange adventure is related by the soldier José Antônio da Silva, who claims that he was picked up by a "flying saucer" near the town of Pedro Leopoldo and that he made a journey in Space for 48 hours and was then



put down by the saucer at Colatina,⁴ in the State of Espírito Santo, whence he made his way back to Belo Horizonte by train. The story is a strange one, but there are at least two other people who believe that this soldier of the Brazilian Guards Battalion is telling the truth.

"José Antônio da Silva, who is twenty years old and of little education, says that he was fishing at dawn on a lake near Pedro Leopoldo when he heard a noise behind him. He looked round and his heart was at once set racing, for what he beheld was a craft, disc-shaped, which was descending slowly towards the ground. It landed close by him, on a tripod that emerged from its under-portion. The vivid flashing light from it, yellowish

and red, became fainter, so that he was now able to see the shape of the craft. It was a 'flying saucer' of the sort that everybody has been seeing: a shape resembling two dishes, one reversed on top of the other.

THREE LITTLE MEN

"A hatch opened and slowly descended, bearing a stairway. And then three small yellowish men appeared, hairy, bearded, with high cheek-bones. In their hands they carried an object 'resembling those weapons that they use, in the films, against inhabitants of other worlds.' From these weapons came rays of light which struck the soldier's legs and paralysed them.

"The little men came close to him and examined him for a moment. Then they placed on his head a helmet made of a material like plastic. They spoke to him in a language which he did not understand. But he grasped that they wanted to take him for a trip around the other worlds.

INSIDE THE SAUCER

"They led the soldier inside the saucer, which prepared to take off. Inside it there was a space the size of a room, with a central axis running from the floor to the ceiling. Fastened to this axis there were four seats, as in an aeroplane. They sat him in one of these seats and fastened him down with safety belts. He heard the motor beneath. The saucer rose, and when in the air it turned upside down, but he did not feel that he was in this position. Then, after the saucer had turned over, the upper motor—which was now beneath his feet—began to function.

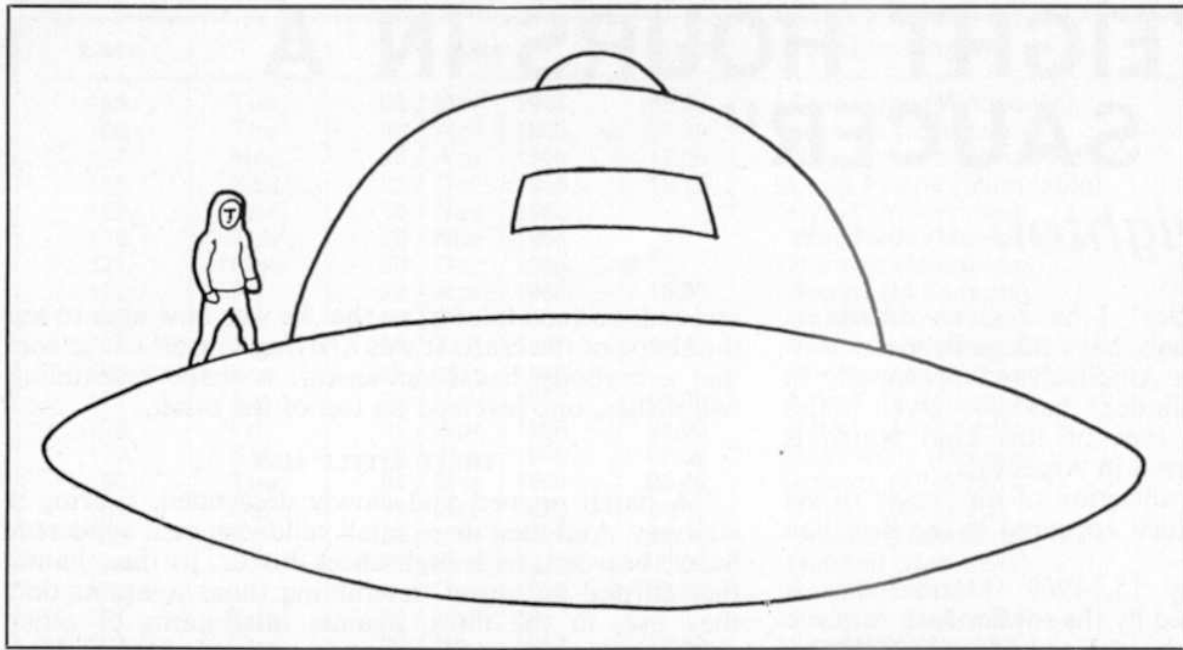
TWO WHO BELIEVE HIM

"The soldier produced a witness who believes him and is anxious to prove his mental sanity. The witness is Geraldo Lopes da Silva,⁵ a member of the Railway Police Service, who found José Antônio wandering along the railway track early last Saturday morning. The policeman listened to the soldier's incredible story of his journey in Space aboard a saucer flown by three men 1 metre 20 cms. high, and it terrified him. But he believed it.

"Another man who believes the whole story to be true is Emilio da Silva,⁶ assistant to the station-master. He said that he is not one to believe in everything he hears, but that nevertheless the soldier José Antônio 'seems to be telling the truth when he begins to recall everything that happened to him when he travelled through Space for 48 hours in a strange machine.'

HOW HE TURNED UP

"The railway policeman was making his inspection trip along the line (there have recently been pilferages



Our artist's reproduction of a sketch which accompanied the newspaper article

there of electric cable) when he saw a youth standing in a peculiar manner beside the track. He thought at first that he had found one of the thieves, especially as the man was carrying his overcoat in a bundle under his arm, as though he were secreting some cable. The guard went up to José Antônio, and the latter explained what he was doing there: he had, he said, just returned from a trip in Space.

"The policeman did not think José Antônio was mad, but took him along to the station, where a group of curious listeners formed around him as he again told his story.

THEY SAID THEY WILL RETURN

"At the station, José Antônio da Silva described how he had arrived by train from Colatina, where his Space-trip had terminated. The three men from the saucer had left him there, and he had caught a mixed goods and passenger train for Belo Horizonte. He said that the watchman at the Colatina railway station had even seen the saucer when it came down in a beam of light to land him on the Earth. And, as the little men were leaving, the soldier heard them say this sentence: 'We will return in three years from now to look for you again'.

"By now there was a large crowd of listeners around the soldier, all wanting further details. But he was unable to answer all of them, as their questions never ceased.

GREENISH-COLOURED WATER

"José Antônio went on with his story. He said that his trip had lasted 48 hours, and that he had scarcely been tired at all. Nor had he felt anything abnormal. At one moment, he said, the saucer passed very close to an extremely powerful source of light. He did not know what this was; but he thinks it might have been the Sun.

"Later, the saucer landed somewhere. When the door descended, he saw that he was in a bright ashen-coloured —?— (text defective—G.C.).

"In one corner, there were bodies of Earth beings. He saw drawings of animals on the walls, and was given

a bitter, greenish sort of water to drink. Then they asked him a few questions about how certain things were on Earth, to which he replied.

"Then the saucer returned to our world, crossing Space at great speed. He landed at Colatina and boarded a train of the Vitória-Minas Gerais railway line, as already stated. Throughout the train journey he had remained quite stunned, with injuries to his back and with his legs 'asleep'.

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

"When the soldier had told his story he was taken to the Barracks of the Guards Brigade, on the Praça Floriano Peixoto in Belo Horizonte. As soon as he had entered the Barracks a great multitude gathered around the gate. It is understood that from there he was taken to the Military Hospital for a mental check-up, but nobody will confirm this.

"This soldier who says he travelled in a flying saucer has an uncle who is a policeman at the Military Hospital. His name is Estanislau Ferreiro Filho. He does not know whether his nephew was at the hospital for the purpose of being examined. He thinks that José Antônio is all right, because he is even back at work already."

* * * * *

Well, there we have it. "A typical flying saucer story", many will say. Yes . . . and there is not a shred of evidence in it to point to "Outer Space".

Numerous features in the story will however be noted as having already turned up in other accounts. For example, the shaft or column or axis running from floor to ceiling of the cabin. This shaft has been mentioned by numerous "contactees". Without taking up time and space now for a catalogue of such cases, one may at least mention Adamski and Antônio Villas Boas. As regards the alleged placing of a helmet on the soldier's head, I would refer to case No. 44 of *The "Humanoids" In Latin America*.⁶ The "contactee" in that case, Felipe Martínez of Argentina, claimed that he had had several meetings, in the period 1949-1951, and in 1965, with small helmeted men not much above

1 metre in height, who emerged from UFOs and spoke to him. On one such occasion he said they came down a stairway or ladder and tried to put a "space-suit" on him, but this caused him to feel such a disturbance of his circulatory system and such an acceleration of his heart that they took the suit off him. As regards the feeling that his legs were "asleep" after the alleged flight in the UFO, he noted that Felipe Martínez also said that one of the UFOs he had encountered (at Monte Grande, Argentina, in April 1965) stopped him and paralysed him as he was running enthusiastically towards it, shouting "Amigo!"

If studied carefully, this case of the soldier José Antônio da Silva may be seen to contain plenty of indications (if any more be needed) as to the nature and origin of the pesky little creatures whom he met, though not a whit of evidence that they either came from Outer Space or took him into Outer Space. It is the little gents themselves who fed this idea into him, as they manipulated and brainwashed his mind. Throughout the centuries these creatures have always been noted for their *penchant* for humbug. And this time, as so often in the past, they picked a simple sort of fellow with whom to play their tricks and to whom to give their current line in cock-and-bull stories, which is "Space Travel".

Can it be that the Astronomer Royal, Sir Richard van der Riet Woolley, Lord High Bogyman of UFO buffs, hit the nail squarely on the head when he opined, on January 1, 1956, and then again on June 16, 1960, that "*Space-Travel is bilge*"? It is true that, by an enormous effort, technical and financial, our species has now reached the Moon, but surely it still remains to be seen whether Homo So-Called Sap. is scheduled to go much further afield in the Cosmos than that. Perhaps we just are not cast in the heroic mould of Space-travelling creatures (any more than are little yellow, bewhiskered, potbellied runts that infest the same terrain as we do).

What *is* remarkably interesting, I suggest, is the zeal now being displayed by the little whiskered ones—and

by other types too—in diverting and channelling off human energies and human financial resources into what may prove in the end to be a fine but costly wild-goose-chase in Outer Space.

On a future occasion I shall have something to say about the activities of small, hirsute teleporters in England.

Lastly, be it noted that the soldier claims that the gentry had him in their possession for no less than forty-eight hours. São Francisco de Sales, home of the famous A.V.B., lies on almost precisely the same latitude as both Pedro Leopoldo and Colatina, and only about 725 kilometres due west of Pedro Leopoldo, and although we are not told that the soldier has any tales to tell about pretty ladies, many of us may feel that the affair has a whiff of the A.V.B. and Barney and Betty Hill cases about it. Would José Antonio da Silva, if put into a state of hypnosis, have an even more interesting story to tell?

Notes

- 1 *Teleportations*, in FSR Vol. XI, No. 2 (March/April 1965). *More Teleportations*, in FSR Vol. XVI, No. 5 (September/October 1970). *Another Teleportation—And its Sequel*, see elsewhere in this issue.
- 2 Galíndez, Oscar A.: *Teleportation From Chascomús to Mexico*, in FSR Vol. XIV, No. 5 (September/October 1968). See also, for general comparison on several points: Bowen, Charles: *Fantasy or Truth?* in FSR Vol. XIII, No. 4 (July/August 1967).
- 3 The source is a press-clipping, in Portuguese, from the newspaper "DN" for May 16, 1969. This might be either the *Diário de Notícias* (Rio de Janeiro) or the *Diário da Noite* (São Paulo).
- 4 See map.
- 5 There is no suggestion that these two people are related to the soldier, who is also called *da Silva*. This surname is as common in Portugal and Brazil as *Brown* or *Smith* in Britain.
- 6 In *The Humanoids*, now available in hard cover edition published by Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield Street, London W1P 8DP. (In U.S.A. by Henry Regnery Co., 114 West Illinois Street, Chicago, Ill. 60610.)

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