

causes, can also be a UFO-associated condition with many ramifications which can be studied from a variety of viewpoints.

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# THE LANDING AT QUIPAPÁ

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THIS interesting case occurred between 10.15 and 10.35 p.m. on February 25, 1966, at Quipapá,<sup>1</sup> a place near Garanhuns in the interior of the sugar-growing state of Pernambuco in north-eastern Brazil, and was the subject of a careful investigation conducted on the spot by Senhor Rubens do Couto Soares of Garanhuns on behalf of SBEDV, the Brazilian Society for the Study of Flying Saucers. Our report, based on the investigation, appeared in SBEDV Bulletin No. 54 (January/February 1967), and in this connection it is worth noting that the scene of this event is only 13 km. distant from Canhotinho, where an encounter with small UFO entities occurred on October 26, 1965.\*

There was also at São João, in the same area, on September 10, 1965, the case of Antônio Pau Ferro who saw the two small UFOs swoop down and land two little men quite close to him while he was working on his plantation of corn, beans, and tomatoes,† so we can say that this State of Pernambuco has had more than an average share of landings by little men.

In the Quipapá case there were three witnesses, all young women, namely Ofelia Versoa, aged 21, and two sisters, aged 20 and 17 respectively, bearing the curiously similar names of Maria Marlúce da Silva and Maria Marlucy da Silva. The two last-named live close by. The Águas Brancas Sugar Factory, employing 600 people, is near there, and Maria Marlúce works at the plant, partly as an assistant to the doctor in the first-aid post and partly in the accounts department. The younger sister, Maria Marlucy, stays at home and helps her

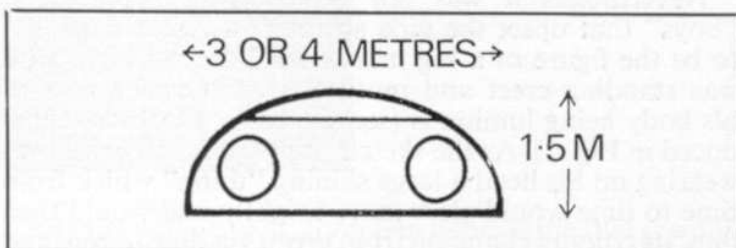


Fig. 1. Drawing based on sketch by Marlúce showing disc with two "headlamps"

mother with the housework, while the third witness, Ofelia Versoa, is from the nearby town of Igarapéba, and merely happened to be staying with her friends the da Silva girls during the days of Carnival.

#### The sighting

On the night in question, the three girls had been together on a visit to friends. At 10.10 p.m., they set off home, walking, as they habitually did, along a well-lit road which runs beside the narrow-gauge railway of the sugar factory, the home of the da Silva girls being located right beside this track. The level of the road is half a metre higher than the railway track.

Suddenly, about 100 metres ahead of them, they perceived some lights right in the middle of the road and concluded that it must be somebody engaged in repairing a broken-down vehicle, perhaps a jeep.

However, as they came up to a distance of less than 50 metres from the lights, they were alarmed by the sight of what they later described as a kind of large dish or cup, reversed, with two large headlamps (see sketch by Marlúce reproduced in Fig. 1). These two headlamps,

\* Case No. 65 in Gordon Creighton's "The Humanoids in Latin America" in *The Humanoids*.

† Case No. 59, "The Humanoids in Latin America."

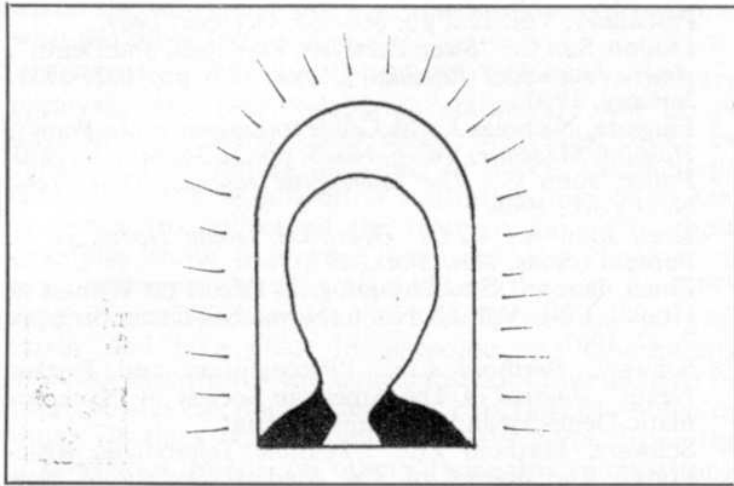


Fig. 2. Drawing based on sketch by Marlúce of luminous headgear worn by the tall entity

the girls thought, were dimmed like car headlights for the purpose of serving as parking lights.

#### Humanoid "occupants"

Beside this object they saw three small individuals of the size of nine-year-old children and wearing peculiar large "headgear." From their gesticulations and head movements these three small beings appeared to the girls to be engaged in conversation, though the girls did not actually hear any sounds from them.

Nevertheless it was not however the three small "boys" that upset the girls so much as what appeared to be the figure of a big man, over 2 metres high, who was standing erect and motionless, the upper part of his body being luminous (see sketch by Marlúce reproduced in Fig. 2). As the sketch shows, this tall being was wearing on his head a large shining "thing" which from time to time would glow more brightly and would then dim, its colours changing from green via blue to red, and back again to green and so on. Said Marlúce: "I did not see any face behind the light, but I think he looked at me, since he was faced in my direction, and did not move. The three small ones did not show that they had seen me, and continued with their conversation."

This factor of the larger being in association with several smaller ones, makes this case particularly interesting, and recalls a number of other episodes, particularly that at Le Vézenay in France where, as reported by J. Tyrode in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 97 (December 1968), and recently in *FSR Case Histories* No. 1 (October 1970), the witness says *small beings in the company of what appeared to be a normal-sized man.*

By now the three girls had decided that these people ahead of them must be robbers. Panicking, Ofelia and Marlúce ran back and hid in a ravine near some houses situated about 100 metres distant. In the account which she prepared for us, Marlúce admitted that she was frightened enough too, but she said that her curiosity overcame her fear. She therefore stood her ground, and indeed even approached a few metres closer, and remained there for about four minutes. Then she tried to get the other two girls to rejoin her and make a dash past the UFO, as she was anxious to get home as speedily as possible. But to no avail, for the other two were still afraid to come forward again.

#### UFO takes up new position

At this moment, she noticed a jeep coming down the road from the opposite direction. So she ran back to the other two girls and was now able to persuade them to come with her past the frightening sight while the jeep was on the scene. It was ascertained subsequently that the driver of the jeep confirmed having seen the three girls, although he had not seen the UFO.

They rushed past the object and the beings, but were astonished shortly afterwards to find the UFO had landed again in front of them, on the right-hand side of the road and railway track as before, but this time nearer to the road and the track. The UFO was (perhaps in order to obtain some concealment from the jeep's headlights) in a slight depression in the ground, where there was a little stream. The road and track crossed the stream at this point by a small bridge.

Marlúce's account went on to say that, as the jeep passed them, its lights were well reflected by the UFO, which they therefore saw very clearly. Their fear was now greater than ever, for they would now have to pass by the thing more closely than ever. Trying to get the other two girls to pluck up courage for another dash, Marlúce approached it closely several times; indeed she says that at one moment she was only thirty centimetres<sup>2</sup> from it. At this time, however, none of the beings were to be seen.

#### Mother also sees object

Finally, after much hesitation, the girls made their run for it, and got past. Arriving home, the da Silva girls told their mother that they had seen "a thing from out of this world" on the road. Taking the mother with them, they all went back to look at the UFO again. Not far from their house there was a low wooden farm gate that it was necessary to pass through, and as they were arriving at this gate they saw the object coming flying towards them at a height of only about six metres or so from the ground. This produced panic again, and in the confusion the mother failed to get a good view of it, for all four of them were now in headlong flight, Marlúce screaming that the thing was going to catch them.

Arriving at the house, Marlúce bravely stood her ground outside to see what it was going to do, while the other three quickly got inside and shut the door. The UFO, its luminosity alternately waxing and waning, was now flying around in circles above the house. After a few seconds of this, it began to climb higher and higher and vanished from sight.

Marlúce states that she wept a great deal that night, and was unable to sleep. She had a persistent slight headache and her mother gave her a pill for it, but the pill was of no use. Next day however she felt all right physically, although her nerves were still jumpy.

#### Descriptions of "clothing" and object

Her account of the clothing of the three small beings is interesting, and quite reminiscent, at least in part, of the description of the clothing in the case of the small men seen by José Camilo Filho at nearby Alto dos

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