

# Argentina 1963-64

By Gordon Creighton

MY last general report on sightings in Argentina, published in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* for July/August, 1964, gave a résumé of the most important cases known for 1962.

I propose to give now a similar sketch in respect of 1963/64. It must be realised that the material which we have is now so voluminous, running to many hundreds of pages of press-clippings, that it is no longer possible to mention ordinary sightings of UFOs in the sky, or even to mention most of the many cases in which such people as bus drivers, truck drivers and other motorists have seen saucers hovering beside the road in the early hours of the morning. Such reports are now too banal. In general, therefore, I confine myself to landings, reports of markings on the ground, materials dropped by UFOs, formation flights of saucers, "cigars", and appearances of saucers with mothercraft. All routine sightings of single UFOs overhead must be left out, since it is totally impossible to deal with such an avalanche of material.

It must be borne in mind that we now have clear evidence that the South American Continent is of capital importance to the visitors. One might speculate at inordinate length as to why this is so. The land is rugged and the interior relatively inaccessible. The population is small. The continent is part of the "uncommitted world" as regards the current struggle for power between the two main camps, and in the event of another big war might well remain out of it all for a while.

Or again, if we speculate in terms of hypothetical axial tilts and geophysical disasters which impend, and which our visitors are watching, it might well be that they have their reasons for knowing that the high reaches of the Andes will be safe. In any case, it is useless to waste too much time in speculation, but because it now looks as though South America is of such capital importance, I propose to report every case which seems significant, and if, in order to miss no vital detail, I recapitulate a few cases already reported, I believe that readers would prefer it this way.

It will be seen that I have included in this Summary headed "ARGENTINA 1963-64" two or three reports from the neighbouring republics such as Peru and Uruguay, as I was anxious that they should have their place in the record. Most of the more spectacular reports from these other republics (and particularly from Brazil) have already been included in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*,

but the Argentine reports, being so much more numerous because we have our representative in Señor Oscar A. Galíndez in Córdoba, have been held over so that we could give this comprehensive picture covering that country.

We now have a representative of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* in Brazil as well (Mr. Nigel Rimes in São Paulo) and already a tremendous flow of clippings has started from there, so it does not look as though Señor Galíndez's fear that the "curtain of silence was coming down in Brazil" is really justifiable yet insofar as the general press of that country is concerned. But it is a fact that there are certain pointers, the most notable being that the full story of the Brazilian farmer Antônio Villas Bôas appeared in the *Spanish* edition of the Brazilian magazine *O Cruzeiro* (printed in Rio de Janeiro) while it did not appear in the *Brazilian* edition, which occupies a dominant position in the realm of Brazilian journalism.

When we come to give a summary in respect of South America for 1965 it will be seen that the UFO "flap" in that continent has been so vast that we shall no longer be able to show it within the framework of Argentina and Brazil alone, and a wider treatment will be necessary.

## **Bahía Blanca and Province of Entre Rios**

While a formation of UFOs were seen flying over this town in January 1963, small fires broke out in a fallow field. At about the same date, a formation passed over Entre Rios, and observers recovered vitreous particles that had fallen from them. CODOVNI state, in their summary for 1963, that these particles were found to be an amalgam of silicon, boron, calcium, and magnesium, "just the same as has been found in similar circumstances in other parts of the world."

## **Córdoba—Tucumán**

The Córdoba paper *La Gaceta* for January 3, 1963, reported that a DC-4 passenger aircraft of Argentina Airlines, bound for Salta from Buenos Aires, had been paced by a UFO during the stretch between Córdoba and Tucumán. The UFO projected a vivid white light on to the aircraft, as the result of which (apparently) one of the four engines was put out of action. The pilot managed to reach the Benjamin Matienzo Airport, and the UFO vanished just before he got there.

## **Photographs**

*La Gaceta* of January 4 and 8, and *Histonium Review* of February 7, printed stories, with names,

of three people who had taken good photographs of UFOs, and enquiry is now being made whether we can obtain copies of these pictures for the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

### **Angel Hair**

According to *La Gaceta* of January 17, flying saucers were seen recently over Puerto Garibaldi in the Province of Entre Rios, and "angel hair" was seen to fall from them. Subjected to careful analysis, the substance was found to consist of boron, silicon, calcium, and magnesium. "Angel hair" was also reported to have fallen at a place called El Nilo.

### **Tucumán**

On January 31, 1963, on a patch of scrub-land at a ranch at Cañada de Alsogaray, near Tucumán, two scorched "rings" were found, each 35 cms. wide (width of the scorched band) with a diameter of about 3.3 metres each, and lying some 40 cms. apart, forming as it were a figure "8". Police and scientists made deep cuts, and found that not only the grass, but also its roots, had been burnt down to a depth of some 10 cms. below the surface, "as though dessicated at a temperature in excess of 2,000°, yet without combustion or flame". On the "rings" a white ash-like powder was found. The scientists concluded that something very heavy and very hot had landed there, something shaped—on its base—roughly like a figure "8". Hoax was ruled out, and the authorities admitted that the only possible explanation was the landing of some unknown craft. The marks were evidently some days old, but UFOs had been seen in the vicinity not long before. Thus far, I quote from the UFO Report for 1963 issued by the Argentine Committee in Buenos Aires for the Study of Unidentified Flying Objects (CODOVNI).

But in a letter dated 30th June, 1964, from a meteorologist named Señor Ricardo Perez de la Sierra of Buenos Aires, I have received a number of further details about the case, and the most interesting of all is that a gentleman named Juan Gerónimo Perea, overseer of the neighbouring "El Trezol" Ranch, has now come forward and said that he and his wife and children had seen an egg-shaped craft, which appeared "thrice the diameter of the Moon as it flew overhead", pass over one night and go down towards the ground in the precise area where the marks were subsequently found. The thing was travelling at a very slow speed, he said, and leaving a long trail. It was only very reluctantly that this witness had consented to tell what he had seen.

### **Alberti (Province of Buenos Aires)**

According to the *Histonium Review* of February 7, 1963, a certain Señor Felix Carrizo and his wife were driving in their car to La Pampa when, at

6.30 p.m. of that same day, they perceived an extraordinary elongated object, intensely luminous, which was suspended at only a short distance from the ground. They stopped and got out to look at it, and Señor Carrizo took a photograph. The UFO then suddenly began to move, and vanished at fantastic speed. The photograph is reported by the paper to have turned out "astonishingly clear". I am trying to secure a copy of it.

### **Andes (Mendoza Area)**

Between June 18 and 24, a large party of scientists, meteorologists and Argentine Army engineers were up on the Andes studying the Zodiacal Light. On several of the nights they saw great red lights which moved up and down and to and fro on the sheer rock faces of the Cordillera, in the vicinity of the famous gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer, and near the Santa Elena Peak. Huddled in their mountain huts, the party also heard strange "metallic noises" outside, and there was much uneasy talk among the troops of flying saucers.

The whole area being uninhabited and all the climbing routes being blocked at the time by very heavy snowfalls, it was agreed by all concerned that "absolutely no explanation could be found". The report of this affair is also given by CODOVNI, who add that personnel of the Argentine and Chilean meteorological services who have to do duty on these lonely Andean heights confirm that they have frequently seen the mysterious moving lights.

### **Bernardo de Irigoyen (Province of Misiones)**

*La Razón* (Buenos Aires) for June 9, 1965, carried a report from Rosario stating that General Raúl Fabián Pistarini, commandant of the National Argentine Gendarmerie in the North-East, recently gave a press conference at which one of the topics was, inevitably, the great UFO wave of the summer of 1965. In this connection, Commandant Zirone told the newspapermen of an interesting earlier sighting—in 1963. He said that at 6.50 p.m. on July 27, 1963, when he was commanding the Gendarmerie detachment at Bernardo de Irigoyen, he and the Chief of Police, Commandante José Chiachio, and the Deputy-Chief, Señor Linka, had seen seven oval luminous UFOs flying in a perfect "V" formation on a West-East course in the direction of Brazil. The objects, moving at great speed and altitude, gave off many-coloured flashes of light, and as they passed beneath the cloud cover they lit up the clouds with their varied colours. The authorities at Eldorado, 170 kilometres distant, later reported that the formation had passed over there. The paper quotes this as being one of the rare occasions on which a high officer of the Argentine National



Forces has spoken openly about the UFOs, and notes that what had impressed Commandant Zirone most of all was this extraordinary display of colours.

To conclude this part of the Argentina 1963/64 story, here is one of the most staggering cases of the period, one which has become a UFO "classic".

### Monte Maíz (Province of Córdoba)

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January/February 1964 gave a brief outline of the case of the 47-year-old Argentine truck driver, Eugenio Douglas, who had an alarming encounter with gigantic UFO entities. Many more details of the affair have since come to hand, and in view of the importance of this case I am sure that readers will want to have everything relevant recorded here.

It was 3.30 a.m. on October 12, when Señor Douglas was taking a load of coal along the road between Monte Maíz and Isla Verde, bound for his home town of Venado Tuerto in the Province of Santa Fé. A violent rainstorm had just started, when, at a point about 3 km. beyond Monte Maíz, he was blinded by a powerful white light. At first he thought it might be some vehicle with full headlights, but soon perceived that there was only one beam.

He now felt a burning and prickling sensation on the face, as though from "fiery needles". An intense heat accompanied the approaching beam of light, and it seemed that the insides of his eyeballs were burning. He collapsed, half fainting, over the wheel, and his lorry went into the ditch.

Climbing out a few moments later, dazed but otherwise unhurt, he perceived that the source of the blinding light was an oval or round object which barred the road. He could make no estimate of its size, but it seemed to be at least 30 ft. high. The pouring rain hampered his vision to some extent, but what now followed he saw very clearly indeed.

Suddenly another light, less blinding, appeared at the side of the object. It was a door opening, and from it there emerged three enormous beings in human form, whom he described as "robots". Their height was tremendous. He told the Police later: "Perhaps four or five metres, or even more. . . ."

Their clothing, of a nature and appearance which he was unable to describe, seemed to be "stuck to their bodies". On their heads were glowing helmets, from which emerged short antennae, "like those of a snail". (Douglas has no recollection of the faces of the creatures, but feels that they cannot have been too different from ours, for although he felt fear, he is emphatic that he felt no revulsion whatever.)

Seeing him there beside his truck, the entities shone a beam of red light at him. Or rather, as he

described it, it was not so much *one* beam of red light as *many* red lights, of tremendous power, which seemed to irradiate his skin as they struck him. The beams were burning him, and in his confusion and terror he drew his revolver and fired three or four shots at them, then fled in panic back down the road to Monte Maíz, still feeling himself pursued by the burning red light.

When he had first felt the burning and prickling in his face and eyeballs while still in the truck, he had tried to shield himself with his poncho, and as he fled down the road he now tried to wrap his head as best he could in the blanket. Having gone some distance, he looked back, and saw that the creatures were going back into the machine. The machine then took off, and proceeded to make a series of dives at him on the road, and at each dive he again felt the burning and prickling in his body.

At the very moment while this was happening, a number of residents of Monte Maíz were taking part in a vigil beside the body of a Señor Ribas who had died that day. Suddenly they all noticed that both the lights in the rooms and candles in the funerary chamber were changing colour. At first they became a bright red, changing then to green, and finally, began to give off an asphyxiating gas which forced them to rush out of the house. Arriving on the street outside, they at once beheld the strange spectacle of truck-driver Eugenio Douglas running madly towards them, waving a revolver in the air and with his head muffled up. Out of breath and exhausted, he was uttering piercing cries for help.

The house where the wake was in progress was on the outskirts of Monte Maíz, and close by was the first cluster of street lamps, marking the beginning of the populated area, and the people who had just rushed out of the house saw a vivid red light in the sky and saw the same changes taking place in the street lamp, which turned red, then green, and began to give off the same unbreathable gas.

By now there were many people who were witnessing all this. For example, there was a family returning from a party. They too saw the changes in the street lamps, and a few minutes later they beheld the truck driver who, with his face covered with mud and holding his poncho, was running wildly round and round one of the lamp standards.

All these people, with the Ribas family, and a number of others who had participated in the wake, now accompanied Douglas to the Police Station, where he was at once interrogated and examined. The witnesses also told what they had observed with the street lamps and the candles, and the Police realised that this story was entirely true, because, at the very time in question, a number of residents of

Monte Maíz had telephoned the Electricity Plant to ask whether anything was wrong, and the Power men had replied that it looked as though one of the Plant's engines was about to break down.

A medical man was at once sent for. This was Dr. Francisco Guillermo Dabolos. He testified that he found the truck driver to be suffering from burns upon the face and hands, and described these burns as: "lesions produced by unknown causes". Douglas's blanket also showed signs of burning of the same type, and when his truck was inspected next day it was found that his wiring was burnt out. The doctor found Douglas perfectly sane.

A witness who later testified before the Police was the businessman Mateo Manocchio. He told them that at 3.30 a.m. he had been driving along the road in question, and had seen the changes in the street lamps and had seen Douglas rushing towards him, head muffled, and brandishing a revolver. This witness went on to say that he himself had felt an indescribable sensation, accompanied by a loss of memory which lasted for some hours. On recovering his memory he went to the Police and made his statement.

On the following day a number of local residents examined the spot where Douglas had met the entities. The heavy rain had erased most of the footprints, but they were able to make out some which were approximately 45-50 centimetres in length.

A twelve-page report on the Douglas case, together with the depositions of the numerous witnesses and the doctor's findings, was in due course forwarded by the Monte Maíz police station to the Administrative and Political Headquarters (Jefatura Política) of the Rural District of Unión, which is the nearest large town. Commenting on this, the newspaper *Córdoba* of November 19 observed that had statements been collected from every one of the people who had seen the strange changes in the lights and candles and had felt the asphyxiating gas, the report would have run to far more than twelve pages. The foregoing is taken partly from the Report for 1963 issued by CODOVNI (the Argentine Committee for the Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, Buenos Aires) and partly from numerous clippings, and I feel that no apology need be made for giving the case in such great detail, since it includes points of much significance, not the least of which is the fact that a witness claims to have suffered from amnesia as a result of the episode.

So far as I know, no official report or explanation has ever been offered on this case, which remains shrouded in mystery. I have seen no further reference to it anywhere in the Argentine press since the end of 1963.

[We have prepared a map to accompany this article: it will appear with Part II.—EDITOR.]

## More about UFOs and the Sea

By Antonio Ribera

WHEN, in my previous article on *UFOs and the Sea*, I wrote the words "the dossier on strange happenings in this area seems complete", I was quite wrong: as wrong as I should be if I were to say the same thing again. This dossier is still wide open, as are most of the intriguing problems posed by the UFOs. It was my own article in fact, which whetted my appetite to look further into the matter, and I followed a line of research which I invite anybody who has an interest in the question to follow.

First of all, I found several reports of strange happenings at sea in the REVIEW itself, of all places. In the *World Round-up* section of the March/April, 1964 issue, there are two interesting notices about "Mystery at sea" (page 22) and "UFO at sea" (page 23-4), the former from England and the latter from Portugal. Then, in the same section of the September/October issue of the same year, we read on page 24 of a "Mystery submarine" observed in Swedish waters. This strongly reminds the reader of the mystery submarine, such a big news item in the international press some time ago, which was detected off the Argentine coast and

taken as a Russian U-boat. Then there was W. S. Robertson's article *UFOs and the Scottish Seas* in the May/June issue. A careful search through all the past issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, of which, unfortunately, I do not possess a complete collection, would almost certainly unearth more reports of sightings at sea.

### Cardiganshire Sightings

Then, in my friend Gavin Gibbons's book *The Coming of the Space Ships*<sup>2</sup>, I found some very interesting marine sightings, which gave ample food for thought. . . . I quote from page 114 of the book: "We move to Wales for our last example but one of the erratic behaviour of this strange object—to the coast of Cardiganshire, to be precise. It was at 7.15 p.m. that Mrs. Harding, a farmer's wife of Aberarth, was called outside by her young daughter, who was pointing excitedly at the evening sky. She gazed out over the sea in the direction that Rosalyn, her daughter, indicated. There, to the north-west of where they stood, and well out to sea, was a large orange ball giving out a black trail and zig-zagging downwards. They