

me (I quote his exact words): "If they had used the big one, I wonder what would have happened. With that, they can stop an army". When I asked him why he thought it was a weapon, he was surprised, and agreed that, after all, he knew nothing about it.

16) Nothing special, except for "a remarkable agility", according to the purely subjective impression of the witness.

I understand very well indeed why Luis

Schönherr would like to put some questions. As for myself, I'm going to wait a few more months and then I shall go and spend a few days at Valensole with a friend who is a painter and sketcher, who will try to reproduce it all with the guidance of Masse. I think the study of landings should become our No. 1 Study. Every well observed landing teaches us something new.

(Translation : G.C.)

## ARGENTINA 1963/64 — Part IV

by Gordon Creighton

IN the first three parts of this article I have surveyed the **major** UFO events in Argentina—and the occasional incident in a neighbouring country, as reported in Argentine newspapers—up to the early days of June 1964. Throughout the series I have had to ignore the more mundane 'fly-overs'; even so, demands on space have been so great that a fourth part is required to complete the amazing picture.

### Metán-Tucumán road

The newspapers *La Crónica* and *La Gaceta* for June 14, 1964 describe how, at 9.30 p.m. a few nights before, three prominent Salta citizens—a lawyer, an engineer and a business-man—were travelling in a station-wagon along this road when a most peculiar rectangular UFO, reddish-orange in colour, dived down several times in front of them. The first time the UFO caused such tremendous condensation on all their windows that they saw very little of it, and had to stop and wipe the windows. But when the thing re-appeared they saw that it was some 16 feet high, 20 feet wide, and had what seemed to be "two big paddles" or "blades" that were revolving clockwise around it as it sailed along silently above the road. They had already noticed that some distance ahead of them there was a stationery rectangular dark red light which looked like a lantern, and to their astonishment they now saw the larger machine pick up this "lantern" (apparently about 50 cm. square) and vanish at high speed.

Commenting again on the case next day, June 15, *La Gaceta* reviewed the tremendous number of UFO sightings recorded in that same district over the past two years. According to the columnist, it was now clear that the area north-west of Tucumán, and south-east of Salta, (included the vicinity of Choromoro, on Highway 9, where this

particular thing was seen) is for some reason a region of special importance for the UFOs. Have they bases there or in the nearby high-altitude desert, the Puna de Atacama? Or are they interested in some local mineral deposit, perhaps uranium? The paper goes on to mention that there are wild rumours that the "visitors" have built a fantastic subterranean city beneath the Puna de Atacama.

### Metán (Province of Salta)

According to the newspaper *El Mundo* of June 25, 1964, a flotilla of five discs was seen flying over the Metán district.

### South Atlantic coast of Argentina

Under the headline "Sea Mystery : Bengal light, meteorite, comet or flying saucer?", the newspaper *Democracia* of July 30 reported that at 11.24 p.m. on July 28, the Argentine authorities at Puerto Madryn (at the head of Golfo Nuevo) received a radio message from the Argentine tanker "Cazador" that they "had seen a flare on the sea just after 9.00 p.m. and, while making a search, had heard voices close by". Their position was 45°56' S, 64°00' W, roughly on a line with the port of Comodoro Rivadavia. A little later, a second message from the "Cazador" said that they and a second Argentine tanker, the "San Antonio", were searching over a five-mile radius.

Meanwhile, the newspaper goes on to say that on July 29 the Norwegian vessel "Sumber" had docked at Puerto Madryn and its captain had told the authorities there that at about 9.00 p.m. on July 28 they: "had seen a meteorite or small comet, flying horizontally to the earth and in a north-easterly direction. It had a luminosity which now and then became intense". The Norwegian captain added: "It might also have been a flying saucer!"

The newspaper observes that the Argentine tanker "Cazador" and the Norwegian ship were very near each other and had evidently seen the same thing, and that had it been a flare or rocket its trajectory would have been a parabola and in no possible circumstances could it have been horizontal. Meanwhile, the Argentine shipping authorities had continued to carry out an intensive search, but up to July 30 no explanation had been found for the intensely luminous object seen in the sky or for the voices heard in the sea.

(This report should be read in conjunction with my article in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* for July/August 1964, which contained a reference to weird stories of "mystery submarines", and of flying saucers seen entering and leaving the sea in this same region in 1960 and 1962. Several press-clippings received from Argentina have shown that the inhabitants of this South Atlantic coast area seem to take it for granted that the "Martians" have under-water bases here).

### **Rocha (Uruguay)**

The newspaper *Córdoba* published in the Argentine city of the same name (August 10) carries a report of an astonishingly brilliant UFO which circled about in a clear sky above the Uruguayan town of Rocha at 8.30 p.m. on the evening of August 9. Hundreds of people saw it and declared that it lit up the night sky as if it were daylight. Some witnesses said it was as bright as hundreds of mercury gas lamps all combined. It returned again over Rocha at about midnight.

The Sighting had created such a sensation in Rocha that the Uruguayan paper *Accion*—from which the Argentine paper took the report—now revealed details of an episode that had occurred several months before. A Señor Roberto Dominguez and his wife and mother-in-law were driving from San Carlos to Rocha, and saw in front of them an intensely luminous, almost spherical object which "was moving about, up and down, as though dancing". (This is the famous 'ballet dance', of which both Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallée have spoken). They stopped the car, imagining that they were perhaps suffering from a hallucination or optical illusion, but the ballet dance still went on, and so it continued until they reached Rocha. In describing it they said: "when the object moved upwards, it expelled, downwards, a jet of thin sort of smoke, as though from an engine". They also said they could distinguish clearly two separate antennae projecting on the upper part of it.

Arrived in Rocha, they found that the object had now vanished, but while they were telling

their friends there all about it, they looked up again and saw that it was once more there, now hanging stationary, now gambolling about, in the northern sky.

### **Salta**

According to the Salta daily, *El Tribuno* (September 6, 1964), a Señor Chafredo Dagota, of Pueyrredón, Salta, had reported that at 9.00 p.m. the previous evening, at a nearby place called Cofico, he had seen a flying saucer touch down briefly. It appeared to stand on a kind of 'pillar' (a feature frequently mentioned in recent years) and gave out a blinding light. Near it he caught a blurred glimpse of two figures moving about.

### **Patagonia**

*Jornada*, a newspaper published in Rawson, near Golfo Nuevo, on the Atlantic coast of Argentinian Patagonia, reported on September 21, 1964 that saucers had been seen repeatedly around Trelew. For example, at 4.45 a.m. on September 8, four important business-men were travelling near Rawson, at a spot only 60 km. from the coast, where so many people claim to have seen UFOs leaving or entering the sea. Immobilised because their car had broken down, these men saw a huge shining object, with what looked like a "chimney" on top, stationery in the sky towards the coast. After they had watched it for three minutes it began to approach, giving off a vivid fluorescent light, red on top, yellowish at the base, these colours changing intermittently to blue and violet respectively. The object came to within an estimated distance of three kilometres of them, and now appeared to be "like the planet Venus, but six or seven times as big".

### **San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)**

From the newspaper *Los Principios* (Córdoba) September 16, we read that at the Adarra Observatory in San Miguel, where, on January 7 and 9 of 1964 the amateur astronomer Luis Ferro and his scientific associates reported excellent sightings of UFOs, another impressive sighting was recorded at 10.55 p.m. on September 14, 1964. The flying object, its apparent size being twice that of the Moon, was seen with the naked eye passing across the constellation Lira. The central part of it was white and fiery green, while the rear seemed to look like half-rings of an intense blue colour. Its speed was estimated at three times the speed of sound. The sighting lasted for three minutes, the object moving through the constellation of Lira in the direction of Jupiter. The witnesses were

astronomers Luis Ferro and Renato Matteassi and three students of Astronomy.

According to a slightly fuller report of this sighting given in the Jamaican *Daily Gleaner* for November 17, the astronomers admitted that, whatever the object was, it could not possibly be an artificial satellite inasmuch as it had flown across the sky and then reversed.

### San Juan

From the daily *Tribuna*, published at San Juan, (in the Andes and due east of Córdoba), October 13, 1964, comes yet another important account.

On the night of October 10, four women, all school inspectors, had a harrowing experience when travelling in a country bus from Angualasto to San Juan. At about 9.10 p.m., near Villicum, a tremendously powerful "light" appeared in the sky and split up into two portions which dived down at the bus. Two more lights then joined them. They were all as big as the full Moon and the terrified women begged the driver to put his foot on the accelerator, and began to pray "They were most powerful, burning lights, which gave out red flashes, and they put us in mind of many things, so that our only recourse was to pray and entrust ourselves to God . . . I do not believe that these lights were any natural phenomena", said one of the women.

The driver gave a vivid description of his mad dash down the Andean mountain road from Villicum at 50 m.p.h. with a broken spring, with the huge UFOs flying above the creaking bus and bathing it in over-powering light. The authorities made an investigation, and established that there was no other traffic anywhere on the road at the time, and that there was no machinery or equipment anywhere in the vicinity that could possibly account for the "lights". The driver, who had done the same journey scores of times, had never experienced anything like it before, but he told the press that two of his friends had seen the powerful "lights" at precisely the same spot about two months before.

### Patagonia

On October 21 the daily paper *Esquel*, published at Chubut (not far from Rawson) reported that at 5.30 a.m. on October 15, at a spot some fifteen kilometres from Trelew, the driver and passengers in a country bus saw a saucer hanging motionless beside the road, at a height of some fifteen feet. From the under part of the machine a trail of smoke was being given off. They estimated the machine's diameter at about ten feet. The driver stopped the bus and got out to take

a better look, and then entered the bus again and set out for Trelew, whereupon the saucer joined them and accompanied them almost into Trelew.

When the affair was made known in Trelew, it became apparent that numerous motorists and truck-drivers had already seen precisely the same thing at the same spot, but that nobody had taken their reports seriously.

### Lima (Peru)

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razón* of October 16, 1964, carries a report from Lima stating that farmers in the Lampian Valley, sixty kilometres north of Lima, say that almost nightly during the previous month, they have been seeing whole formation of discs passing overhead at enormous heights. Sometimes the discs were moving very fast and sometimes slowly, and leaving behind them a luminous orange trail. They say that the saucers appear from the Pacific side, vanish beyond the Andes, and then invariably appear once more from the Pacific and make a second run, but this time more slowly and at a lower altitude, so that it can now be clearly seen that they are round and silvery. The farmers add that at times the craft remain stationary for a while, giving out orange coloured flashes.

### Rosario

*La Tribuna*, a daily newspaper published in Rosario, on November 2, 1964, reported that Sr. Ariel Ciro Rietti, president of the Argentine Commission for the Study of Unidentified Flying Objects (CODOVNI), recently had a press conference in Buenos Aires to inform local newsmen of the latest developments. The most interesting point mentioned by him was that his group were engaged in studying the frequency of sightings in one particular region of the Argentine, namely the zone running from Salta, via Córdoba, to Bahía Blanca, with particular relation to gravity and the magnetic declination throughout this zone. He gave an outline of the theory of the Frenchman Lt. Leplantier concerning the possible magnetic propulsion of the saucers, and said that his group was working on a study of this whole question.

### Mansilla (Province of Entre Rios)

According to a report published in the newspaper *La Crónica* for November 11, two residents of Mansilla, Sr. Néstor Reynoso and Sr. Orlando Marosini, were travelling in a truck between Victoria and Mansilla at night (on November 10, 1964) when a huge luminous UFO approached them. They turned their lights off, at which it receded from them, equally rapidly. But when

they started up the engine again and turned on their lights, it came shooting back, giving off blinding blue and white flashes, and at one point came down to about five feet from the ground at a spot only about fifty yards in front of them. Its brightness was so intense that it was impossible to make out its exact shape. They continued their journey with their lights off, but the UFO made several more close passes over them before disappearing.

#### San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)

At midnight, between Saturday and Sunday, November 14/15, astronomers at the San Miguel Observatory saw an elongated flat reddish-orange flying object which crossed the heavens first from east to west and then back again, at a speed estimated at approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times that of the satellites usually seen. Nor was this the first occasion, as scientists at the San Miguel Observatory had already experienced two similar sightings.

#### Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires

According to *El Mundo* of July 9, 1965, the appearance of a large UFO and several smaller ones at 9.00 p.m. on July 3 when they were very clearly seen—though at a distance of many kilometres—from Ezeiza International Airport, aroused much interest, and led to the revelation that on some unspecified date during the last few months of 1964, one of the observers saw a similar large luminous object in the vicinity of Ezeiza. It was accompanied by two smaller ones. These approached it, one on each side, and were seen by the witness to be “absorbed” into what was evidently the “mother-craft”. At the moment at which this process took place, the luminosity of the large object increased greatly, only to diminish rapidly afterwards. The witness used the familiar simile of “a lamp being suddenly turned off in the sky”. The whole phenomenon had vanished.

## THE MADRID LANDING

by Antonio Ribera

ON February 8, 1966, the whole Spanish press published the following report, which had been sent to the newspapers by the CIFRA Agency :

“Madrid: February 7. It was about 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday, when, in the suburb of Aluche, very near the Casa de Campo, an object which was unidentified but which, from the descriptions given by witnesses, corresponded to the characteristics of the so-called ‘flying saucers’, touched down in the grounds of the ‘El Relajal’ property and took off again a few seconds later, vanishing in the sky.

“There remain, as vestigial evidence of the presence of this object, an area of ground—not very extensive—that almost has the appearance of having been burnt, and the emphatic statements of various witnesses of the occurrence. One of the witnesses was unwilling to give his name, for fear of publicity; the other witness, who watched, from a window, the arrival and the departure of the strange object, is Vicente Ortuño. Their descriptions agree in affirming that ‘an orange-coloured disc came down, landed, and then took off again at great speed’. All this at 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday.

“The witnesses, no doubt put off by all the stories that have been told about the ‘flying saucers’, were unwilling to say that the episode involved one of these machines. But they do agree in stating flatly that it was neither an aeroplane nor a helicopter. We, for our part, neither con-

firm nor deny this report which, once again, reads as though it might well belong in the realm of science fiction tales.

“The concrete and undeniable fact, however, is that there are two witnesses and an area of scorched earth, all testifying to the appearance of a strange flying object yesterday in Madrid. And, as a final point, we must add that when we got in touch with the Madrid Observatory and the Barajas observation tower, both these bodies advised us that at the time in question they had detected the presence of no unidentified object over Madrid.”

To begin with, all the information I possessed about this case (which presented considerable semblance of being true) consisted merely of what had appeared in the national Spanish press. The CIFRA report only named one of the witnesses, but without an address so that any investigation was a bit difficult. But a few days later my friend and fellow-worker Doña Cecilia C. de Puig told me that the review *Porqué* for February 16 had an article on the case and giving the address of Señor José Luís Jordán, one of the two witnesses.

So I bought a copy of it and read the article by José Luís Pimentel, their special correspondent who had interviewed this witness and two others. The rest of the article consisted of ‘far-out’ statements by a fourth person interviewed—a ‘professor’ according to his own designation—who