

as it struck the ground. Their dog "followed it by the scent, as it was hot, and brought them to where it lay, covered over with earth and grass, that the violence of its course had contracted about it." The stone had grazed the heath "some six or seven yards". It was eight inches in length, five inches in breadth, and two inches

in thickness.

Upon proceeding to Alborow they met the greatest part of the town's folk, "who were generally all run out of their houses round about, amazed with this noise of war, and descreying no enemy near; when suddenly there was heard a joyful noise as of music, and sundry instru-

ments in a melodious manner, for a good space together, which ended with a harmonious ringing of bells."

John Philip Bessor,
Butler, Pennsylvania, 16001, U.S.A.
[*Fortean, or meteorological, phenomena, but a very interesting tail-piece to this divertissement*—EDITOR.]

The Investigations of General Uchoa in Brazil — Part 1

Gordon Creighton

ONE of the speakers at the recent Fifth Brazilian Congress on UFOs, held in São Paulo, was General Alfredo Moacyr Uchoa. Before an audience of doctors, professors, engineers, architects, psychiatrists, and experienced investigators of our subject, he described some of the remarkable happenings witnessed by the small and select group of people with whom he works. He is at present stationed in the Federal Capital, Brasilia, where it seems that he holds an official position in the Ministry of the Interior.

During his earlier years, General Uchoa—who has had a distinguished career, and is a graduate of West Point as well as of the Escola Superior de Guerra in his own country—had already encountered a number of situations and phenomena that orthodox science was quite unable to explain. This had caused him to develop an interest in parapsychology and, eventually, in UFOs.

The group of people whom he gathered together in Brasilia to study the reports of UFOs included his son Captain Uchoa, of the Military Police, and a number of individuals of outstanding intellectual and mental calibre.

Their first important case arose when a Rio de Janeiro television team arrived, having learned of certain luminous phenomena said to be occurring on a plantation owned by a man named Wilson da Silva and located near Brasilia. The TV team set out for the property, bent on "filming the saucers." A number of experts in parapsychology were invited to participate, and Captain Uchoa chanced to be charged with the security arrangements.

This case, and a number of others, as described by General Uchoa, have been fully reported in an important series of nine long articles by Eduardo Santa Maria in *O Dia*, the Rio de Janeiro paper, commencing on October 26 of this year, and ending on November 4. I propose to give résumés of these cases in this series of articles.

The TV party spent three days and nights at the plantation but failed to see anything and came away empty-handed. Captain Uchoa had however heard enough from the local residents to be convinced that something of real importance had been going on there,

and on his return to the Capital he told his father about it.

General Uchoa and his own group of investigators accordingly set out for the plantation and, after exhaustive enquiries, came to the same conclusion. In particular, they found that many local people considered the plantation to be *haunted*.

In March 1968 they were ready to start a regular watch at the place, together with Sr. Wilson da Silva. They set up their base-camp near the same 200ft. hill which the Rio de Janeiro television men had selected as their headquarters. They made a detailed study of every inch of the ground, but a long time was to elapse before they got their chance to see any sign of the famous luminous globes of which there had been so much talk. For four months they watched, a shift taking up position every night at 7.00 p.m., and watching until dawn. It was by now the Brazilian winter, and the nights were pretty cold, with the temperature a few degrees below zero.

At last, at 7.00 p.m. on July 22, 1968, Wilson da Silva suddenly exclaimed: "It will be tonight, General! I know it! I will guarantee that the saucers will appear tonight, at 9 o'clock, over the hill, in their usual place!" (It was stated that Sr. Wilson, in fact, always "felt," or "knew," in advance when "they" were coming, but he was never able to explain how or why it was that he knew.)

As 9 o'clock approached, they were all waiting expectantly, with cameras and other instruments at the ready. And, precisely on the dot, at 9.00 p.m., at a distance of some 350 metres from them, right above the hill, there was a tremendous flash, described by them as like a magnesium flash.

Wilson tells them all to link hands. One man at once turns pale and becomes very ill, and Wilson himself receives a tremendous thump on the back (there is nobody behind him) which fells him to the stony ground. As the others help him to his feet he explains that he had felt it internally as a violent mental shock which threw him totally off balance.

Meanwhile the light had now disappeared, only to

Continued on cover iii

The sighting at Ghost Pine Mine

W. K. Allan

Bill Allan tape-recorded his interview with the witness, and the recording forms the basis of the following article. The interview is typical of many which Mr. Allan has made following his regular broadcasts on local radio at Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

THE behaviour of his three dogs aroused Mr. Florian Nottell of Three Hill, Alberta, in the early hours of the morning of June 3, 1972.

Said Mr. Nottell: "All of a sudden they started yapping and raising heck, so I got up and looked out, and all of the countryside outside was lit up. I looked around and saw, further away, about six lights [*supposedly on an object*]; up and down they were going, just like a flare, down low again and then flaring up again. Finally I looked out of the other side of the window and the whole countryside was pretty near like daylight. Then I got kind of scared. And then it started moving around. It came down and went around and over the Texas gate, straight out. Then I jumped on a chair to see how long it would take to go up to the top of the hill (it takes a car about 30 seconds) and by the time I got up on the chair everything had become dark and I could see nothing more."

Allan: "Tell us again how big the lights were."

Nottell: "Well, the lights were at least four times bigger than a car's round. [*We wonder if he means four times the circumference of a car's headlights, rather than four times the circumference of a car?—ASST. EDITOR.*] They went out like a broom [*the rays flared out?*] and there would have been six or eight of them. Now when I went out to the back and looked, there were four lights, one on each corner, one at the top and one at the bottom at road level."

A: "Oh, it was like a great big box."

N: "Yeah, that's what it was. I thought at first it was a cattle liner but it couldn't have been because the lights were too low and too big. A cattle liner hasn't got four lights the same size."

A: "You said you didn't hear a sound at all"

N: "No sound. Just as quiet as could be."

A: "I don't think we have the colour of the light."

N: "Well, it wasn't like a car's lights. I think it was more bluish—fire with blue in it I think. In fact I didn't watch too much about that."

A: "I think you mentioned that when first seen the lights were right over . . ."

N: "You mean it was on top of the tippie."

A: "Of the mine."

N: "Right on top, on a hill. But anyway, I went up the day after to see what was going on and I didn't see any tracks turning around, or anything at all—just car tracks."

A: "Now the circle you mentioned you saw in the grass, is it anywhere in the neighbourhood of the mine?"

N: "That [*circle*] was out between the Morran bridge and Munson ferry, down in one of the valleys. There

are lots of valleys in there. Now if you want to go in and find it again, I couldn't find it."

A: "When did you see the circle in the grass?"

N: "That was the week after."

A: "Did you hear anyone else, such as the ferry operator, make any comment?"

N: "No. Just Miss Clappison down there. She's seen them there."

A: "Yes, she's seen the lights. So has her brother."

N: "I don't know if she saw them that night or not, but she always sees them there."

A: "She watches them."

N: "You could too, maybe, if you watch."

A: "When you went back, were the dogs all calmed down, or were they upset for a while after?"

N: "Soon as I went to bed again, they all went to sleep, but they wouldn't come off the bed to see who was coming. They always jump down and go to the porch, but not that time."

A: "You mentioned, and we should have it on tape, that the distance between the lights on the front and the back were from here to the house across the road. I would say that this is more than 40 feet, isn't it?"

N: "Well, I don't know exactly how long it was but it was plenty long. I think there were four lights on the side, but I couldn't figure out how I could see the lights this way."

A: "Yes, the headlights going sideways."

N: "But there were about six or eight, and there were lights on this side, on that side, all along, it was all lighted up."

A: "Now tell me, when the countryside was lit up, suppose you had some kind of vehicle, and it had eight headlights on it, on every corner at the top and one on every corner at the bottom, could they light up the countryside like this thing did?"

N: "No, no, they couldn't have done that. I could see for a mile and a half over the hill (well, the rise up there). Everything was lit up all around."

A: "There's one point that I think we should clear up. At the beginning when you said the lights went up like a broom, could you explain again how the lights still stayed at the bottom . . ."

N: "Yes, well let's say that it was the headlight of a car. Well, the headlight would be like sharp fire and that stayed stable, but the rays went up and down; they started small and then went up and spread out, and there were four, or six or eight. It was nice to look at, that thing that made the countryside so beautiful."

A: "They were rays. You don't think there is a chance they were flames? Did the rays look sharp?"

N: "Well, they looked like flames."

A: "And they just flared up . . .?"

N: "Up and down."

A: "Like a gas flare, maybe, when the pressure changes?"

N: "Something like that, but it wasn't going up and down fast, just slowly. That's all I could see. And then it started turning round, and when it turned around there were just two, and when they came down the road there were more again. Now how many—I didn't

count them. I didn't have time to count them."

* * * * *

Assistant Editor's note: The witness's obvious confusion about the number of lights which were present serves to lend credence to his truthfulness rather than detract from it. He merely relates what he remembers of his experience without making claim to having noted features he was unsure of having seen, and without presupposing a UFO explanation.

THE INVESTIGATION OF GENERAL UCHOA

Continued from page 15

reappear, this time pink in colour, to the right of the hill, and "about the size of a house." It was giving out tiny spurts of slightly purplish light.

Wilson da Silva begins walking straight towards it, saying that he is going to try for a mental contact. The rest stand watching, tense.

But after advancing only a few steps Wilson, overcome with terror, comes dashing back, shouting: "*Danger! Watch out for your lives! Put a hand to your chest, everybody!*"

All quickly do so. Clearly Wilson is utterly terrified. Such fear could never be simulated. Without stopping, Wilson has continued his flight towards the station-wagon, while everyone clamours for an explanation. Never, so they argue, has there been report before of anything sinister about the UFOs*. Wilson merely goes on shouting that there is *great danger*. The rest however still hold their ground, unbelieving.

Then the light appeared once more, extremely bright, at the same area as before. This time its colour was light blue. Every man watched it intently as it moved to and fro above the hill, the terrain of which had been exhaustively studied by them over the past four months, so that every bush, every twig, is familiar. Around the light they now perceived a zone of dense

"mist" (described by the author of this series of *O Dia* articles as "apparently serving as a protection against radiation," though it is not stated how this was known).

Suddenly the light makes straight for the party, who at last beat a hasty retreat. The light halts, then disappears again. Then it is back once more, some 500 metres from them, still blue, flashing, "twinkling like a star." It remains there for fifteen minutes before making its final departure for that night. They wait on till dawn, but nothing more is seen.

Back at the plantation residence, the investigators continue with the excited discussion. The whole group—all of whom, as already emphasised, are people of above average intellect and education—are agreed that what they have observed is entirely beyond any possible *human* explanation. General Uchoa draws up the report, and the other seven all sign it.

Meanwhile one or two of them go back to the hill to search for any physical evidence, but find nothing. And Sr. Wilson da Silva, now fully calm again and recovered, "guarantees" that the next few nights will bring further manifestations of the phenomenon.

* Evidently the General's group do not read FSR, for, if they did, they would be better informed.

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