

# THE “ARICA CASE” OF THE CHILEAN SOLDIER WHO “WENT INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION” AND “AGED BY FIVE DAYS” IN FIFTEEN MINUTES! BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

(Translations from Spanish, Chinese and German, G.C.)

[Founded in 1955 on a capital of only £100, *Flying Saucer Review* has now battled on for 43 years, poor, unable to pay for any advertising, and consequently unable to reach a wide audience owing to the deliberate blanket ban imposed upon FSR and upon myself throughout the whole of the British media for the last sixteen years.

**Our staunch readers should realize that such a ban is potentially a very great tribute to us, for it shows that somebody knows only too well that we have, throughout been telling the truth or as near to the truth as we could get!**

With no office premises, no proper filing system, and a total of only five pairs of hands *at the most* -as today (and generally over the 43 years it has been only *two* pairs!) we have led this precarious existence and endured the heat of the day and borne the brunt of organized ridicule that has been concocted in official and authoritative levels

and poured out upon us through the British media. (One of these days I will publish the names of a few of the “big shots” in the paranormal field who have publicly scorned and ridiculed us but who all along have been studying the UFO scene and have had their plans to destroy us and take our place when the “appropriate moment” comes.)

Given this lack of clout and of facilities, the idea of checking, at the source, all the reports that have been coming to us from every part of the world would be utterly ridiculous, and readers with any commonsense will realize this. Nevertheless we do *try* to the extent of our so pitiful resources, to “follow up” and keep contact with such cases as we can, and the series of documents which I now give below about a Chilean soldier’s extraordinary experience in 1977 illustrates one happening in which, at any rate, we can claim an unusual piece of success in “follow-up”. G.C.]

## I. THE STRANGE CASE OF CORPORAL VALDÉS. REPORT BY DANIEL GIRIBALDI.

[Translation from Spanish G.C.] from Argentinian newspaper CLARÍN  
(Buenos Aires) of Friday May 20, 1977]

(See *The Arica Encounter*, by Gordon Creighton, in FSR 23/5 (1978).

Einstein himself once stated that, if someone were to travel at the speed of light, he would arrive at his destination before he had started. Reality is lent to this sort of speculation when you hear of the recent case of the Chilean corporal who, after being abducted by a UFO, was returned fifteen minutes later to the spot where he had been. The supernatural part of this case is that during that short lapse of time his beard had grown as much as it would have done if he had not shaved for several days.

The affair, which has been reported to us by telegraph, took place in the early morning of April 25th in the Arica region, 2,130 kms. to the north of the Chilean capital Santiago. [It is in fact at the extreme northern tip of Chile’s “ribbon-like” territory -G.C.] The man involved was Corporal Armando Valdés of the Chilean Army’s Rancague Regiment, which is based in the area.

The Corporal was in command of a patrol engaged on a routine inspection. As he subsequently declared (his statements were gathered by the Santiago daily papers and given world-wide dissemination) he had observed a powerfully bright beam of light at a distance of about 500m from the patrol, so he went off to investigate. He then re-appeared among his men without their being aware of his presence, and what caught their attention instantly was the fact that he had suddenly grown a beard. Then, almost immediately after that, he fell to the ground,

unconscious, and when he recovered his senses he was unable to remember anything of what had happened to him during the past fifteen minutes that he had been absent.

Had he been kidnapped aboard the UFO?... According to later reports the corporal is not only not retracting his statements but says: “Even at the risk that you may think I’m crazy I want to submit myself for hypnotic treatment that might enable me to reconstruct what it was that I experienced during those fifteen minutes”. And, furthermore, he called upon his fellow-soldiers of his patrol to testify on his behalf.

His superior officers and also the men under him all agree that Valdés had shaved quite correctly and completely that previous morning, as per the regulations in force, before setting out on the patrol as ordered.” [Chile is not one of the “slapdash” South American Republics. It is very “military”, and very smart! -G.C.]

Another important and inexplicable thing is the matter of the corporal’s watch. As one of the senior officers of Valdés’s regiment told the journalists, “his watch is of a type that has the days of the week marked on it. When the corporal fainted and the watch was removed from his left wrist, it was instantly noted that it had stopped at 4.30, the precise time when the phenomenon had appeared, and the calendar had gone forward five days in

the fifteen minutes that the corporal was missing!"

The case has become known far beyond the mere limits of the jurisdiction of a military unit stationed far away from the nation's capital.

The Chilean Minister of Defence announced: "This entire affair is being investigated in the minutest details"

Furthermore, prestigious individuals, including Professor Pedro Araneda, have interviewed Valdés, have made tape-recordings of his statements, and are now analyzing them with the utmost scientific rigor and also examining the testimony given by the soldiers who were members of the patrol-group.



## II. COMPARISON OF TWO SPECTACULAR REPORTS FROM CHILE AND CHINA.

**By Gordon Creighton.**

(See original articles by G.C. in FSR 29/6 (1964) and FSR 38/4 (1993).)

"Old Hands" who were reading FSR 30 -and more-years ago, will recall the veritable steady flood of UFO reports that we were constantly receiving from two splendid Correspondents in Argentina and several others covering Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, and the entire region of the Andean Cordillera in general.

The Falklands War inevitably cut us off from one of our most valued Consultant/Correspondents, the lawyer Dr. Oscar Galíndez of Córdoba, Argentina, and for years after the end of that conflict we never heard a word from him or indeed expected to do so! Then suddenly, about 1990 or 1991, we received a letter from him about "matters ufological", and so we had high hopes of renewing our old relationship. But silence again descended upon our trusty and doughty old friend and we have no idea what has happened. What is known, however, is that Oscar A. Galíndez is now an Argentinian Provincial Judge, and we

take this opportunity to express to him our felicitations. We trust that all still goes well with him, and as always, we send him *un fuerte abrazo*. He is not forgotten here!

Our other long-standing and equally valiant Consultant/Correspondent for FSR in Argentina was Jane Thomas, then of Buenos Aires, whose press reports and translations also were gathered up by her from all the other Spanish speaking Republics. Jane (of French and German descent and totally fluent in at least four languages) is of course still on our Masthead for she is now Mrs. Maria Angela Thomas Guma and lives with her American husband Harold Guma in Arizona, USA, whence she still reports for us on the South American scene.

Her press reports from the various Republics still trickle in, and we published the last one in FSR 42/4 (Winter 1997).

(As for the last batch of Spanish-American UFO press reports sent to us by Jane before that, it is our sad duty to

record that it never saw the light of day in FSR, for Mitzi Trollop, the erstwhile Senior Resident FSR Cat, tipped an entire pot of glue on the Report, which, we recall was a huge one. We did our best to salvage some of it, but all in vain. (Meanwhile Mitzi Trollop has died, of sheer old age, and travelled on to the Great Cattery In The Sky - where we trust that the cosmic mice are abundant -and her little earthly remains lie with those of our other cats and dogs beneath the splendid hanging catkins of a fine Garrya tree at the end of our garden.)

The volume of material reaching us from all parts today is so great that much of it still lies unused in our files. Here for example is an interesting press-report from the town of Arica in the far northern tip of Chile.

It dates from 1990 and was sent to us by one of our Spanish Consultants, Señor J. Plana Crivillén of Barcelona, whom we now thank belatedly. Our older readers will recall that the Arica region used to crop up persistently in our earliest reports from South America, so evidently things have not changed much.

UFOs were sighted a week ago over the town of Arica in Chile. (In the far North, 2130 kms. from the Chilean Capital, Santiago de Chile).

These objects are seen here very frequently, and, in the opinion of the local inhabitants, they testify to the existence of a UFO base somewhere among the mountain systems of the country.

On this occasion, a week ago, two UFOs were observed. The eyewitnesses, when interrogated later, made it clear that they felt that indubitably they had seen two extraterrestrial craft. They said that no machines made on Earth could have been capable of the manoeuvres that these two UFOs were performing in the skies overhead!

The most spectacular and most widely known UFO case in Chile occurred on April 25, 1977, when it seems that Armando Valdés, a Chilean Army sergeant (N.B. In Spanish the term *cabo* is employed for both sergeant and corporal, -G. C.), was kidnapped near Putre by a UFO for "fifteen minutes of terrestrial time", but other features of the case, as well as his watch, showed that he had been absent for five days. The authorities refused to make any investigation of the case at the time.

#### **NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR:**

As I am sure it will interest many of our younger or newer readers, I reproduce below my original article about the vanishing Chilean sergeant, which we published in FSR Volume 23, No. 5 (February 1978).

Likewise, because of its great similarity and highly interesting nature, I am also republishing below the relevant part of my translation of the Chinese book "Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da" (Questions And Answers About UFOs), published in Hongkong in 1983 by our Chinese Consultant Mr. Paul Dong (Liu Wen-Wei). I published my English translation of this in FSR Volume 29, No. 6 (August 1984).

As will be noted, the Chinese extract in question relates two cases from China that also seem to involve "time-distortion", or "extensive time-lapse", or however one might attempt to define these strange occurrences.

The second Chinese case, amazingly like the case of

the Chilean sergeant, occurred in 1975 (two years earlier). I am sorry to say that, as usually happens, we have never heard any more about this case of the Chinese soldier who was reportedly picked up by a UFO in Jian-Shui County of Yünnan Province (far South of China) in 1975. Mr. Paul Dong told us he was seeking further verification of it, but we have not yet heard whether he was successful. -G. C.

#### **THE ARICA ENCOUNTER: CHILEAN SOLDIER'S "TRIP INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION"?**

(Translation from Spanish by Gordon Creighton.)

(Extract from FSR Vol. 23, No.5, February 1978.)

According to reports published in the press of Argentina and Chile, it appears that the first half of 1977 has been notable for a remarkable recrudescence of UFO sightings over the southern part of the West Coast of South America, and one newspaper (*La Crónica*, Buenos Aires, May 23, 1977) noted that in fact June 1977 would see the thirtieth anniversary of the first UFO sightings over that particular continent.

Our Buenos Aires correspondent, Miss Jane Thomas (to whom I am vastly indebted not only for many pages of press extracts, but also for English translations of them, which render the job of reduction and compilation far lighter and save me a great deal of time and effort) seems to feel a certain degree of doubt as to whether things "got going" in South America quite as soon as June 1947.

At first sight it seems likely that one might feel surprise and scepticism on that score, probably because so many folks imagine that June 1947 saw the start of the whole "UFO business" in the world (in the shape of the two American cases of Maury Island on June 21, and the Arnold sighting on June 24.) However, many people also realise that such a view is quite incorrect. The U.S. Air Force had already had plenty of UFO reports from their own territory and also from overseas during 1946 and the first half of 1947. Leaving aside previous centuries, throughout the whole of World War II there had been a trickle of reports (not to mention the many wartime sightings of the smaller *foo fighters*), and there had already been the big UFO flap over Scandinavia in 1946 with the sightings of the *ghost rockets* as these were termed at the time in the Scandinavian and British press.

So it may very well be true that the UFO phenomenon was also well under way in South America by the summer of 1947, and on checking my files I see indeed that José Higgins' (ref. 1) alleged encounter with some lumbering great creatures from a landed disc at Baurú, Brazil, dates from July 23 of that year -only twenty-nine days after Kenneth Arnold's sighting.

The extraordinary affair which is the subject of the present report took place in the early hours of April 25, 1977, near Putre (Arica region) in the northern tip of Chile, some 2,130 kilometres from the Capital, Santiago.

Corporal Amando Valdés of the local Rancagua Regiment of the Chilean Army (this unit comes under the Huamachuco Brigade based at Arica) was out on a routine night inspection patrol with seven soldiers in the Andes,

at a spot near Pampa Lluscuma, 150 kilometres north-east of Arica. Anyone who has experienced or read about this harsh, arid part of the globe can imagine for himself just how chilly it would be at such a place on the bleak *puno* lands, at 4.00 o'clock in the morning and at an altitude of not less than 4,000 metres. The seven conscript soldiers with Valdés were named in the press as Humberto Rojas, Iván Robles, Germán Riquelmo, Raúl Salinas, Pedro Rosales, Juan Reyes, and Julio Rato. Five of them were huddled against a *pirca* (dry-stone wall) beside the fire. The other two men were on watch, a few metres distant.

At about 4.00 a.m. Rosales, who was one of the sentries, came running over to report the appearance of two large violet-coloured lights which had descended from the sky, and one of them was still in sight, about 500 metres from them, very low, and bathing the whole area in its vivid glow.

This light seemingly began to make for the party, so the corporal ordered his men to screen off the fire with blankets, presumably with the thought of avoiding detection. The great light was totally silent, and they could now see that it had "two red dots" on each side. After moving nearer to them, it began to move away again.

At this point corporal Valdés got up and decided to go forward and investigate the light. He looked at his watch. It showed 4.15 a.m. As he explained later to the press, he stepped over the dry-stone wall and, calling upon God for protection, started walking towards the light, shouting as loudly as he could, challenging it, asking who or what it was, and bidding it depart. He was still only a matter of a few metres from the camp fire and his men, all of whom were watching him. And then he simply vanished before their eyes.

Corporal Valdés recalls nothing of what happened to him after that. He only knows that at about 4.30 a.m. he became aware that he was lying beside the fire again, but feeling very, very strange. Then he blacked out once more.

#### **THE MYSTERY OF THE CORPORAL'S BEARD AND WRIST-WATCH.**

When the corporal came to his senses again after his second black-out, he was still totally incapable of giving any account of what had happened. He seems to have spent about fifteen minutes away from the men. As the men have testified, and his superior officers have corroborated, Corporal Valdés had shaved but a short while before going out on the night patrol. His appearance was as it should be, and everything about him was in order.

**He now had a beard which was the equivalent of five days' growth. (As Valdés himself emphasised later when talking to the newspapermen, this was all the more incredible inasmuch as beards grow abnormally slowly up there on the high Andean plateaux.)**

It was about 7.00 a.m. when the corporal came out of his second swoon. He promptly gave orders for the party to return to their unit to report on the events of the night.

**And now came the second discovery. Not only had his wrist-watch stopped showing 4.30, the time of his experience with the light, but the calendar date indicator now showed not April 25 but April 30. It had advanced by five days.**

Soon after leaving the scene of these events, Corporal Valdés and all his men were interviewed by a local gentleman, Professor Pedro Araneda, who seems to have been very knowledgeable on the subject of UFOs, and took the precaution of tape-recording his interviews with the corporal and his men.

This is fortunate, because as soon as the patrol were back at their base and had reported the affair officially, Colonel Oscar Figueroa, Governor of Arica Province, at once issued an edict prohibiting the publication of anything about the case in the local papers unless it had been submitted to his office for scrutiny. This action, the Governor explained, was taken "in order to avoid press speculations lacking a scientific basis."

Governor Figueroa also confiscated Professor Araneda's tape of the interviews with the corporal and his men, but this did not prevent the story leaking out into the press very rapidly, as the Professor had already managed to distribute parts of it to newsmen. (The first paper that got the story, *La Estrella*, published in Arica, was forced by the Governor to withdraw the whole transcript of what the corporal and his men had said.)

Meanwhile, away down south in Santiago, the Capital, a spokesman from the Chilean Ministry of Defence announced that the affair was being investigated intensively. Gradually the story penetrated the whole press of Chile and Argentina, and created a sensation. All the attempts to hush it up had failed.

#### **THE MESSAGE.**

According to the soldiers of the patrol, there was however yet one more astonishing thing to relate. When Corporal Valdés suddenly reappeared among them -neither he nor they were able to explain quite how- he was murmuring over and over again and with difficulty the words "*You don't know who we are, nor where we come from... we will soon return.*"

In a statement given subsequently to the press by Corporal Valdés, he emphasised that he was most anxious to have the affair fully investigated. He told newsmen: "*The events which I have related lay me open to being taken for mad. But I am not mad. And the soldiers who were there with me also witnessed the apparition. I want to recover the memory of those missing fifteen minutes, and I would even be prepared to submit myself to hypnosis in order to ascertain the facts and clear my mind of the uncertainty as to what took place.*"

However, on April 21, it was announced in the Argentine press (*La Crónica*, Buenos Aires) that a Chilean UFO investigation group at Temuco (2) had warned Corporal Valdés that it would be extremely dangerous for him to retrieve the details of his UFO experience by means of hypnotism, and in support of their argument they quoted the sad case of the young Argentinian truck driver (Dionisio Llanca) who had had an encounter with entities and had also been hypnotised, in the hospital at Bahía Blanca, by an investigation team of twelve doctors and psychiatrists, and who was now completely insane.

#### **REFERENCES.**

- 1) See Case No. 1 of "The Humanoids in Latin America" in

## 90. 中國發生過UFO劫持人的案件嗎？

在中國古代有過這方面的記載，如湖北《松滋縣志》卷十九《雜綴》中，有一篇記述清代光緒六年（公元1880年）間的異事：「西岩咀覃某，田家子也。光緒六年五月初八日，晨起，信步往屋後山林，見叢薄間有一物，光彩異常，五色鮮艷，即往撲之，忽覺身自飄舉，若在雲端，耳邊颯颯有聲，精神懵昧，身體不能自由，忽然自高墜下，乃一峻嶺也。覃某如夢初醒，驚駭非常，移時來一樵者，詢之，答曰：「余湖北松滋人也。」樵者咤曰：「子胡爲乎來哉，此貴州境也，去爾處千餘里矣。」指其途徑下山。覃某抵家，已逾十八日矣。究不知所爲何物吁，異矣。」

1977年4月25日，智利邊防軍阿曼多·瓦爾德斯(Armando Valdés)在同飛碟相遇時失蹤十五分鐘，然後再次出現，鬍子長出3厘米，手表上的日曆已經過了五天。在中國，也有同樣的事發生，據中國UFO協會北京分會的張克濤先生講，也有此類案例發生，不訪贅述如下：

1975年深秋一天夜晚，駐紮在雲南建水縣的中國人民解放軍某部守衛營房的兩名戰士發現了一個碟形的巨大飛行物泛着柔和的桔紅色光芒，在他們頭頂上盤旋。一名戰士立即跑回營房報警，另一個人留下監視。幾分鐘後，當營長帶領十餘人全副武裝趕到營房門外時，發現留下的士兵已不知去向。營長當即指揮全營指揮員和戰士四處尋找，但沒有找到。幾小時後，加崗後的守衛營房的四名戰士忽然聽到身後傳來呻吟聲，他們回頭一看，正是那個失蹤的戰士。他又奇迹般地出現了。這時，大家發現他的眉毛、鬍鬚和頭髮長長的，醒來之後記憶力全無。他的手表早已停了，由於他的手錶不帶日曆，所以無法確定他在別處度過了多少時間。他的武器和手錶都帶上了微弱的磁性。

這個報告的真實性如何，難以斷言。中國UFO研究者時波先生曾爲此案拜訪過張克濤先生，請他提供那名失蹤復現的戰士的姓名以及此報告的來源，不知何故，張克濤先生未能提供詳情，因此，無法進行調查。迄今爲止，此案僅出現在張克濤先生發表在一家雜誌上的「飛碟並非崇洋媚外」一文中。

The *Humanoids*, edited by Charles Bowen, (Neville Spearman Ltd., 1969; also Henry Regnery Co., Chicago; more recently as a Futura paperback, 1977).

2) Centro de Investigaciones Espaciales, Temuco.

### NEWSPAPERS CONSULTED.

*Clarín* (Buenos Aires) May 20, 1977  
*La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) May 19, 21, 23 and 24, 1977  
*La Razón* (Buenos Aires) May 19 and 20, 1977  
*Sunday Express* (London) May 26, 1977

### HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CASES OF KIDNAPPINGS BY UFOS IN CHINA?

Reprint from FSR Volume 29, No. 6 (August 1984)  
EXTRACT FROM PAUL DONG'S BOOK FEIDIE BAI WEN BAI DA (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON UFOS), Published by DELI SHUJU, HONGKONG, 1983  
(Translation from Chinese by Gordon Creighton.)

There have been records of this sort of thing in past times in Old China. Thus, for example, in the County Annals of Song-Zi Xian (Vol. 19, Miscellaneous), in Hubei Province, for the year 1880, it is on record that "a certain Mr. Ju Tan, a farmer of Xi-an, arose early on the morning of May 8, 1880, and was walking along towards a copse on the hill behind his cottage, when he caught sight, in the undergrowth, of a strange glowing object, shining brightly in many colours. He stepped forward and attempted to seize hold of it, and suddenly felt himself swept up into the air, as though beyond the clouds, with a loud sound of wind in his ears, his mind stupefied and numbed, and quite unable to move his body. Then suddenly he was conscious of dropping from a great height, but on to a lofty mountain-peak.

"Feeling as though he was awakening from a dream, the farmer was terrified beyond measure. Some time later a woodcutter came along and questioned him as to who he was and where from, and Ju Tan replied "I am from Song-Zi County in Hubei Province." The woodcutter

exclaimed: "How did you get here! This is in Guizhou

Province, more than a thousand li (= 500 kms. -G.C.) from your place."

"The woodcutter showed him the shortest path down the mountain. Ju Tan arrived in due course at his home, and found that 18 days had elapsed. After much enquiry, it was still

impossible to know what had caused his experience. It was just an extraordinary mystery."

(N.B. This case greatly resembles the many that I have translated over recent years, particularly from Brazil. And there is even a notable similarity in the way in which the victim is set down, for many of the Brazilian victims are also reported to have recovered consciousness and found themselves perched on top of quite inaccessible high places and mountain peaks. -G.C.)

On April 25, 1977, the Chilean Border Patrol soldier Wa-Er-Der-Si (Armando Valdes) vanished without trace for 15 minutes on encountering a flying saucer, and subsequently reappeared with 3cms growth of beard and the calendar-watch on his wrist showing that five days had elapsed. There are similar cases in China.

According to Mr. Zhang Ke-Tao of the Peking branch of the Chinese UFO Research Society, the following is an example. I report it as it comes (unverified):-