

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION AT VILA VELHA, BRAZIL?

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THE SCENE of this episode was Vila Velha, a town near Vitória in the Brazilian coastal state of Espírito Santo, and the date was February 3, 1973. The student Samuel Faria, aged 26, was sitting in his room at midnight, reading a magazine, when he heard a strange sound coming from the garden of the house. He described it as sounding like *boo-o-ong*, *boo-o-ong*. But then it turned into a sort of chirruping repeated at intervals of approximately one second.

There was nobody else in the large old house at the time except for Samuel's aunt, wife of a lawyer named Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza. This Dr. de Souza happens to be a radio ham, with his own call-sign, PY-1XO.

Samuel shouted to his aunt and, awakening with a start, she got out of bed and came down and joined him. Together they went to a window overlooking the garden. From this window, they were able to observe a yellowish light, quite close to the house, and a number of "points of light" about six metres or so from the ground. Then they heard what seemed to be the sounds of voices coming from the garden, and consequently Samuel felt that the explanation must be that somebody was playing a radio in the garden.

Then there came a knock on the kitchen door. By now, both Samuel and his aunt were convinced that there must be a thief prowling about out there, so they decided upon a plan of action. Samuel was to open the kitchen door and step out into the garden, armed with a gun, while at precisely the same moment the aunt switched on the garden light.

At first all went according to plan. Having flung open the door, Samuel advanced one metre or so into the garden. Then he halted, scared to death, petrified. After a moment of hesitation, he threw down the gun and fled back into the house without even remembering to shut the door behind him. He rushed straight to his room and jumped into bed.

The cause of his terror was that, out in the garden, he had seen a luminous orange-coloured ring (No. 181M on the Letrafilm table of colours) hanging at a height of about 20 metres above his uncle's radio mast and lighting up the whole garden as brightly as though it were midday. He said later that he estimated the diameter of the ring as maybe two metres.

The moment that he caught sight of the ring, Samuel felt an intense sensation of heat. "It was like being inside a furnace," he said.

Looking out again through the window of the bedroom where he had taken refuge, Samuel now beheld what seemed to be smoke drifting towards the nearby Convento da Penha. This establishment, about 350 metres or so from the de Souza house, stands on a hill lying beyond the garden.

Thoroughly alarmed by now, when Samuel had told her about the luminous ring and the smoke, Sra. de Souza also shouted for help, and a neighbour, a 40-year-old businessman named Roberto, came running over to the house.

Half an hour later Samuel, now calmer, ventured out into the garden again, accompanied by Roberto. They neither saw nor found anything abnormal there — except for one curious thing. They discovered that the copper wire of the radio aerial had been severed. At the two severed ends the wire showed a deposit of black dust covering a segment of some 20 cm. or so of the wire. (The investigator's report describes the aerial as of the AW6 type, with copper wire two or three millimetres thick.) The damaged aerial was duly repaired by Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza, the amateur radio fan.

When the SBEDV investigators came and looked into this case, they took down the aerial from the roof in order to inspect the break in the wire closely. They gave their opinion that it seemed to have been severed by some instrument resembling scissors.

The investigators discovered furthermore that, earlier on the same evening on which Samuel had had his alarming experience, he had seen a "small red ball" in the sky, seemingly at a considerable distance, and moving away eastwards. On that same evening, too, they discovered that the son of the family in the house next door to the de Souzas had seen the same thing, a "small red ball," and quite independently.

Furthermore, according to a report in the newspaper *A Gazeta* of Vitória, a gentleman named Maurício Goncalves at Cobi de Cima had seen a "big reddish half-moon emitting an enormous ring of white smoke."

But there was still more to come!

"They" return . . .

Thirtysix days later, that is on March 11, 1973, between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m., Dr. Walter Lourenço de Souza and seven others of the family were in the kitchen when they heard desperate cries coming from Samuel, who had just gone out, a few seconds prev-

iously, to take a bath in the bath-house located at the end of the garden.

Everyone rushed in alarm to the door, only to encounter Samuel tearing back in great disorder, banging his head on the door and colliding with Dr. Walter, who saw at once that his nephew's face was white with terror.

"What's the matter" they all cried.

Samuel, clad only in a pair of trousers, was trembling. He sat down on the floor and related what had happened.

Returning from the bath-house, he had picked up his shoes from a pile lying in the passage leading to the servant's room. And then he had gone back again to the bath-house to make quite sure that he had locked the door of it securely. Then, turning back once more towards the house, and when he was not more than four metres or so from the kitchen door, he felt himself seized by the arms, raised about 20 cm. into the air, and pulled backwards. He let out a yell, and fought desperately to free himself. It was at this point that he collided with a papaya tree that stands there, and fell on to a packing case lying in front of the kitchen door. Free now of the claws that had been gripping him, he made his dash for the house.

Naked as he was, apart from his trousers, the red marks on the upper part of both arms were clearly visible to all. They were in the shape of parallel striae some five cms. long, and gave the appearance of having been caused by the pressure of helicoidal plates.

SBEDV investigator Marcos Alexandre Fundão took photographs of these marks, and one of his pictures was published next day in the newspaper *A Gazeta* in Vitoria, under the headline: "*Claw-marks on the victim of an attempted abduction at Vila Velha.*"

Samuel told Alexandre Fundão that the marks had given him absolutely no pain, either at the moment when they were inflicted, or subsequently. Nevertheless the red marks remained for eight months before finally vanishing. First they turned brown, and then gradually faded from sight. *They resembled burns, but burns that were painless.*

When, early in November 1973, the SBEDV investigators began to probe this case, further things came to light. For example, they found that, on October 25, 1973 — several days prior to Samuel's first experience in the garden — he and his aunt had both heard the same sounds — like many voices speaking at once — coming from that direction, and also another sound which resembled static on the radio.

The time was about 11.00 p.m., on October 25, 1973, and the phenomenon lasted about twenty minutes.

No TV interference

However, there seems to have been no electromagnetic interference on the last occasion of all, March 11, 1973 (i.e. the night when Samuel was "seized" by the "claws"). The TV was switched on at the time, and no disturbance of its working was noted by anyone. Likewise, the investigators found

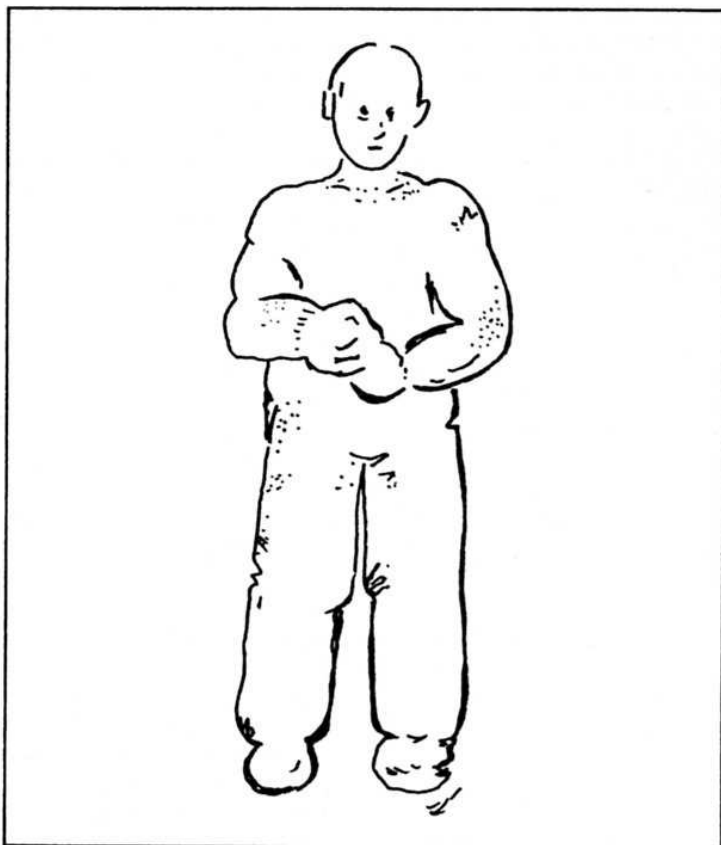
that Samuel's wristwatch seemed to have suffered no ill effects and had not stopped.

As regards Samuel himself, they found no evidence that his health had been impaired. His weight, which had been 68 kg., shot up to 78 kg. and remained at that level for some months, and then returned to 68 kg.

Further Developments: encounter with an entity

Slightly over a year later, SBEDV received a letter from Samuel Faria, reporting that he had had a fresh contact. Accompanying this letter came a report from the SBEDV investigator Marcos Alexandre Fundão, describing these new happenings, which were as follows:—

On the night of May 1, 1974, between 11.00 p.m. and midnight, Samuel was returning home from the centre of Vila Velha when, just as he reached the street block where his house stands, he caught sight of "a little man" near the corner of the street, which was of course quite deserted at that hour of the night. The "little man" was no more than about 1 metre 30 in height, Samuel estimated, and was clad in clothing "of astronaut type." When Samuel first spotted him, the "little man" was at a distance of some 26–30 metres from him. But Samuel continued to approach him, until they were no more than 10 metres or so apart. Then the "little man" brought into operation an instrument which he was carrying in his hand. Samuel says this instrument resembled an electric torch. The "little man" pointed it at him, and shot a beam of light into his eyes which blinded



Our artist's copy of sketch sent by Sr. Fundão

him temporarily. At this point Samuel was still 20 metres or so from the front door of his uncle's house, but, blinded as he was, he made a dash for it, and arrived indoors terrified and told the rest of the family what had happened.

When he had got over the shock to some extent, he went back on to the street, accompanied by the family, but of course everything out there was now totally normal, with no sign or trace of the "little man."

Enclosed with his report, Sr. Marcos Alexandre

Fundão also sent to SBEDV a sketch of the "little man", made by an artist, on the basis of Samuel's oral description.

Source References

The newspaper *A Gazeta* (Vitória) February 14, 1973. Article headed: "UFO appears at Vila Velha for second time." Also *A Gazeta* of March 12, 1973. Article headed: "Attempt to abduct resident of Vila Velha by means of claws."

A FRENCH PARALLEL TO THE VILA VELHA ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION

Gordon Creighton

IT is surprising that Dr. Buhler should consider that Samuel's health or physical state showed no effects as a result of his unpleasant experiences, since we are told that his weight shot up by no less than ten kilos, and remained at that level for several months! Surely this indicates, at the very least, that Samuel's metabolism was probably completely haywire for a while!

As regards the matter of whether similar instances have occurred, I might mention briefly an extraordinary case which is probably known to very few English-speaking researchers (it has never appeared in FSR), and which took place in a village near the River Loire, in central France, at about 4.00 p.m. on the afternoon of May 20, 1950. There is a long and very detailed account of it in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 6, 86 (Jan./Feb. 1967) and also an ample discussion of it in chapter IV of Dr. Jacques Vallée's *Passport to Magonia*.

The name of the victim, a French woman, has been withheld from publication, but the case is very well established, and an official investigation by the local French police substantiated the physical traces mentioned in the report.

In view of the unusual nature of the affair, I give below the more important part of the woman's story:

"I was hurrying back home to prepare dinner. I was happy and content and I was singing some popular tune. Everything was calm and still, without any breeze or wind; I was alone on the path running along the bank of the Loire.

"Suddenly I found myself within a brilliant, blinding light, and I saw two huge black hands appear in front of me. Each one had five fingers, of a black colour with a yellowish tint, somewhat like copper. The fingers were roughly formed, slightly vibrating, or quivering. These hands did not come from behind me, but from above, as if they had been hanging over my head awaiting the proper time to catch me. The black hands did not immediately apply themselves to my head. I probably took two or three steps before they touched me. The hands had no visible arms! The

two black hands were applied to my face with violence and squeezed my head, as a bird of prey rushes on its unfortunate, helpless victim. They pulled my head back against a very hard chest — one that seemed to be made of iron; I felt the cold through my hair and behind my neck, but no contact with clothes. The hands were squeezing my head like a formidable vice, not abruptly, but gradually. They were very cold, and their touch made me think that they were not made of flesh. The big fingers were placed on my eyes, and I could not see any more, on my nose so that I could not breathe, and also on my mouth, to prevent me from crying out.

"When I was surrounded by the strong, blinding light, I had the feeling I had been paralyzed, and when the hands touched me, I had the very distinct impression of a strong electric discharge, as if I had been shaken by a lightning bolt. My whole body was annihilated, helpless, without reflexes. I was like a broken toy between the inhuman hands of my unknown aggressor. For a little over a minute, I felt his hands tightening very strongly on either side of my throat. It was horribly painful. Then he began to swing me forward and backward several times, still fiercely squeezing my head against his chest. I had the distinct impression that this being wore armour or a steel carapace, or some very hard and cold material. I felt his two (invisible) arms pressing heavily on my shoulders.

"It was at that moment that I heard his laugh, a strange laugh I could not explain; it was as if I heard him through water, and yet it seemed quite close, above my head. At first it sounded rough and hushed, then rather strong and rolling. It made me shudder and feel unwell. After a few seconds the laugh stopped, as though cut short. Then a knee struck me sharply in the small of the back, hurting me very much, as if the knee were made of steel. This made me think my aggressor was completely covered with steel. The blow made me fall backwards, and the

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unknown aggressor made me lie down, still squeezing my head against his chest. Then he dragged me along the path, by my head, and he seemed to be in a great hurry. I did not hear him breathing.

"He pulled me into a thicket full of brambles and nettles and acacias, still moving backwards and at an incredible speed, holding my head. At that moment I heard his voice above me, and it said: *'There she is. We've got her!'* As if he were talking to someone else, some accomplice who had stayed inside the thicket; this voice, like the laugh, seemed close by, although muffled by some obstacle, and it was short, rough, sharply cut.

"I was choking, and I felt I was going to die; I thought of my family waiting for me at home, and my whole life passed before me in a few seconds. My aggressor pulled me through the bushes until we reached a small pasture, and suddenly he stopped! Why? His hands had gradually slipped down my face, and I tried to call for help, but I had no voice left but a tiny, shrill cry. After a while I was able to sit up among the brambles. I had a very difficult time breathing. My bag was still in my hand, with the money it contained. At last I was able to get up in spite of my weakness, and then I heard a noise to my left inside the bushes. I thought I was now going to see my aggressors and recognize their faces, but I saw nothing! Only the branches were moving and waving about in the air; I saw and heard the brambles catching on to something in the empty void, and the grass being tramped down as though beneath the feet of some invisible being. I was terrified. Softly, I got back on to the little path again along the river bank, walking with very great difficulty. My legs, lacerated by the brambles, were covered with blood. I felt a strange, indefinable sensation of nervous exhaustion, as if I had had a powerful electric current put through me. In my mouth I had a bitter, nauseating metallic taste; my muscles no longer obeyed me; I felt something on my shoulders like a bar, and a painful sensation of heat in my back, as though I had been burnt by flames or by a burning ray. Momentarily, I still continued to

feel as though something invisible were touching me. I must have walked thus for five or six minutes. At the end of the path there was a bend, and from there I could see some houses, and it was more or less at this point that the various pains by which I was overwhelmed began to lessen somewhat.

"The whole thing had lasted a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, and it seemed to me that I had been living through something unreal. Suddenly I heard a loud noise, like a violent blast of wind in a storm, like a violent displacement of hot air, like a tremendous whirlwind. I saw the trees bending over as though beneath a sudden blast of wind of a storm, and I was almost knocked to the ground. At the same moment there was also a powerful, blinding white light; I had the sensation that something was passing by in the air at a very great speed, but I saw nothing; and very quickly all became very calm again. Then I felt unwell in various ways, and I felt I wanted to vomit. I reached the house of the lock-keeper at G—, and when I opened their garden gate, he and his wife came out to meet me, asking me what had happened; for they too had seen a light from their house. The lock-keeper's wife asked what had befallen me. When at last I was able to speak to them, they told me that my face was deeply marked with the fingers of two hands, making great red stripes. They treated the scratches on my legs with peroxide and an ointment, and bathed my face with cold water. My hands were badly injured."

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As I have mentioned above, this case has in fact never been reported in FSR, although I did a full translation of it as long ago as April 1967. The rest of the account, including the investigations of the Gendarmerie, is fairly long, so perhaps it can be printed as a follow-up to this article sometime in the near future. As will be seen, the case does display some interesting resemblances to the new report from Brazil. Personally, I would say that both are typical examples of attack by demonic forces.

COMMENT: INTERNATIONAL COSMIC DEPARTMENT

The following is taken from the "Peter Simple" column of the *Daily Telegraph* of December 1, 1977, and appears under the heading *UFO and UNO*:—

"Mr. Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada, a member-state of the United Nations Organization, has persuaded it to set up an agency to consider the 'UFO phenomenon.'

"He believes the world is now ready to accept evidence of Unidentified

Flying Objects as advanced space vehicles used by aliens of extra-terrestrial origin. The proposed agency would make contact with them and thus *'open a cornucopia of scientific wonders for us all.'*

"One might think, might one not, that we already had quite enough cornucopias of that sort to be going on with. But that is by the way.

"Have Mr. Gairy and other

believers in advanced extraterrestrial aliens never wondered whether UNO is being run by them already? Or whether these UFOs may not be thought-forms, emanations from the collective unconscious of the General Assembly itself, expressing by their senseless, confusing appearances and disappearances its own evil capacity for deluding and mystifying the peoples of the earth?"

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