

A NEW TELEPORTATION NEAR CÓRDOBA

Strange luminous object by the roadside, 81 kilometres missing and a petrol tank half-full

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I—PRELIMINARIES

THERE has been fairly frequent talk of presumed manifestations of teleportation.¹ We freely admit that, in view of the fantastic character presented by the reports of this kind, we had always found it difficult to attribute any degree of credibility to them, particularly as regards the alleged Argentine cases of Bahía Blanca in 1959 and Chascomús in 1968.² For on each of those two occasions our spirit of curiosity was frustrated by a multiplicity of obstacles which rendered any direct study of the cases quite impossible. We were never able to interview in person the parties who, so it was claimed, had been the protagonists in such experiences, and this was not because we had opted for the comfortable position of merely citing the newspaper versions that were in circulation about the cases, without making any effort ourselves to evaluate the degree of truthfulness that there might be in them.

Very much indeed to the contrary: our efforts in the matter were intensive, but they yielded no fruit, because not one of the pieces of evidence examined by us led us to the parties themselves, if indeed such parties really existed. The press organs which had propagated the reports in the first place took refuge behind a barrier of alleged professional secrecy "out of respect for the trust placed in them by the eyewitnesses."

Faced with such options, our modest function had perforce to be confined to the gathering of the existing newspaper material about the cases, and to its dissemination at the international level—naturally with all the reservations that are essential in such matters. And the existence of other incidents, more or less similar to those of Bahía Blanca or Chascomús, which had seemingly occurred in other parts of the world, did nothing to diminish our great doubts regarding the feasibility of the phenomena of teleportation.

However, in the second half of 1972 we had the opportunity to make a study in depth of a happening of this very kind *one month before the Argentine press began reporting it*. This fact facilitated our task, inasmuch as the witnesses at no time displayed any weariness or any misgivings towards ourselves, and very kindly and helpfully submitted themselves to our interrogations.

The Encounter

Although it may perhaps be thought by some to be

unnecessary, we think it right and proper that we should first of all give a detailed account of the strange circumstances amid which our first meeting took place with one of the protagonists in the incident that we are about to describe.

In mid-August of 1972 an excellent archaeological exhibition of a high scientific level was held here in Córdoba. The exhibition was heavily attended by the public, one motive for their particular curiosity being the correlation, which the exhibition was endeavouring to establish, between certain figures and documentations of pre-Columbian civilisations of America, and purported extraterrestrial intelligences. This was especially the case with a small effigy, about 6,000 years old, from the Tiahuanaco culture, made of peridot and turquoises, and representing an entity from whose mouth emerge two tubes which converge towards his back, in the fashion of our present-day frogmen. This raised once again the much-debated problem of the possibility of our ancestors' having made contact with communities of beings originating from Cosmic Space and thus by analogy raising once again the problem of the UFOs.

My father went with me to see this exhibition, and he thought he recognised an old acquaintance among the crowd of people there. An exchange of words with the other party showed that it was in fact a case of mistaken identity but great physical likeness. However, as chance would have it, this unforeseen meeting was prolonged into an informal chat, which touched upon several matters connected with the archaeological exhibition and the extraterrestrial connotations that its organisers had sought to give it.

As soon as our conversation had got on to deeper and more confidential levels, our new chance acquaintance expressed his conviction that the UFO phenomenon denoted the activities of real physical presences inasmuch as a recent personal experience of his had caused him to change his mind radically about these phenomena. He had been led to visit the archaeological exhibition by a growing curiosity, nourished by the ardent need to know more about a problem which, up to then, had not preoccupied him greatly. He had not told the press about his experience for fear that the publication of the affair might create very real difficulties for him, and so he had confined himself to speaking of it only within the limits of a small family circle.

We made an arrangement with him for us to have an interview with him so as to learn all the details of the episode and of its possible implications. He accepted with pleasure our suggestion, though he urged us to avoid divulging the matter to anybody. (The present account is written with the express agreement of the two protagonists, the sole purpose being the publication of the case in foreign reviews.)

The Interviews

The first interview was on August 26, 1972, and lasted four hours. The second was on September 18, 1972, and lasted two hours. Participants in the first interview, as representatives of CADIU, were my father, Sr. Benjamín Galíndez, Sr. Alberto Máximo Astorga, and myself. At the second interview we were represented by my father only, the purpose of that meeting being to clarify one or two details in the account. We have also contacted the two eyewitnesses on numerous occasions since by telephone with the same purpose in view.

The Persons Involved

The chance protagonists in this episode were two well-known Córdoba gentlemen. One of them—the one with whom we talked at the archaeological exhibition—is Sr. Atilio Brunelli, aged 52, professor of music, composer, and concert artist. The other, Sr. Severino Porchietto, is 58 and is a retired industrialist. Both of our interviews took place at the residence of Sr. Brunelli.

This personal contact with the eyewitnesses permitted us to gauge for ourselves the high cultural and educational level of both gentlemen, their sincerity in the telling of their story, and the unquestionable strength of the conviction with which they related it.

II—THE ACCOUNT

THE witnesses are both former residents of Balnearia (distant 185 km. from the city of Córdoba). Sr. Brunelli lived in Balnearia for 24 years, moving to Córdoba in 1954. Sr. Porchietto owned property in

Balnearia for thirty years, moving likewise to Córdoba later.

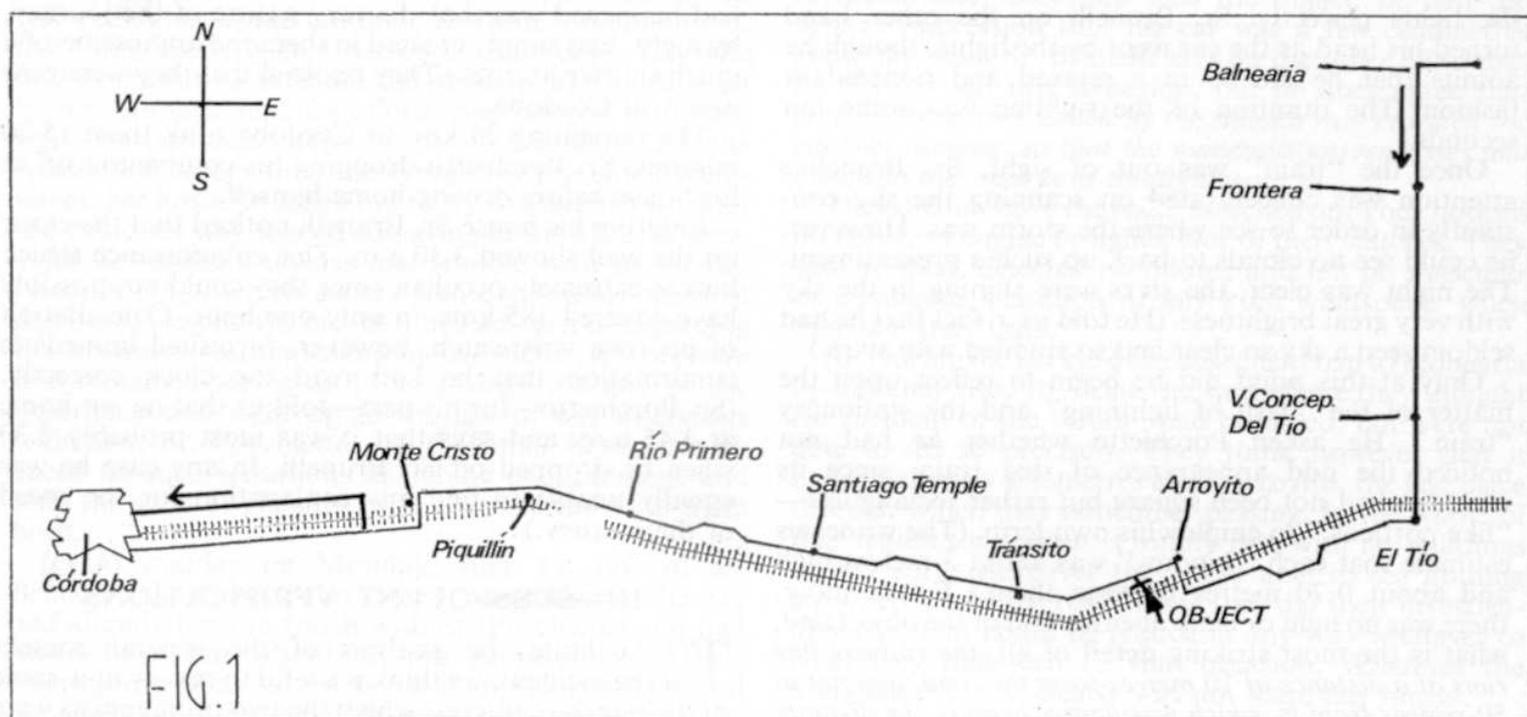
These circumstances just mentioned possess particular importance for our study. We are dealing with two individuals who, by reason of their family links and their ties of friendship with Balnearia people, are in the habit of going to Balnearia from Córdoba four or five times per year, and this has meant, over the years, that they have a very detailed knowledge of the route.

In their earlier years they had both belonged to a musical group in Balnearia, and it was for this reason that they had been invited to participate, as guests of honour, on Saturday, July 15, 1972, in a reunion dinner to talk of old times together. Having accepted the invitation, the two gentlemen drove to Balnearia in the 1968 Ford *Falcon* car owned by Sr. Porchietto. The dinner took place in the Club Atlético Independiente Unión Cultural de Balnearia and was attended by about 500 people, which in itself speaks for the high regard in which our two interviewees are held. They promptly showed us the small gold plaques which had been presented to both of them at the dinner as a sincere token of friendship from their friends in Balnearia.

At 2.30 a.m. on Sunday, July 16, they took their departure from the reunion in order to return to Córdoba. They are very sure of the time, because already at 2.00 a.m. they had spoken to their hosts of the need to be leaving soon, given the late hour and the fact that they still had the two-hour journey to make to Córdoba. At their friends' insistence, they agreed to stay on a little longer—which they estimate to have been 20-30 minutes. After which, and after the usual salutations, they left the party. They had taken no alcoholic drinks. Before starting for Córdoba they put 40 litres of petrol into the tank (which was almost empty).

The Phenomenon

The trip was normal, and they maintained a steady speed of between 80 and 100 km.p.h., according to the state of the road. Sr. Porchietto was driving when, three



or four minutes after passing the locality known as Arroyito (see Fig. 1) they were astonished by a tremendous flash of white light which lit up the whole countryside around as though it were broad day. Sr. Brunelli caught sight of something dark in the sky, near the upper edge of the windscreen, but was unable to perceive its exact shape as the roof of the car was in the way. He did not attribute importance to the thing (which he had at first taken for a cloud, and indeed his comment when they saw the flash was "a storm!") and he suggested to Sr. Porchietto that it might be wise to put on a bit of speed. The time was 3.10 precisely, and they were 76 km. from Balnearia.

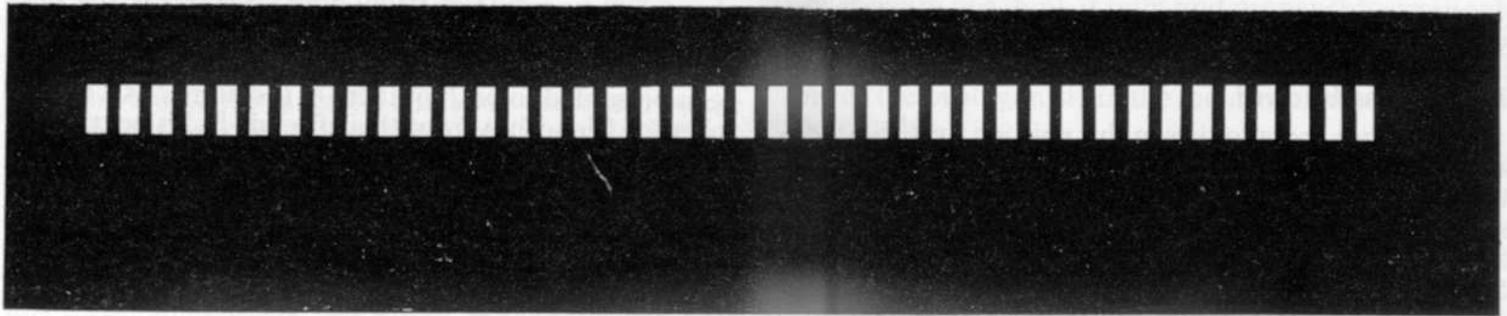
A few moments later they observed, on the left-hand side of the road, at a distance of some 50 metres or so from it, and on a completely level piece of ground, a

at which the "train" was standing.

Sr. Brunelli went on to say that he was beginning to think that they had not seen a train at all, but some sort of construction, or perhaps one of the much talked-of unidentified flying objects. This last-mentioned possibility visibly disturbed Sr. Porchietto, for, from that moment on, his companion began to notice a distinct nervousness in his driving. (Sr. Porchietto himself admitted to us that he had indeed been feeling, from then onwards, somewhat nervous.)

And Now the Surprises

They were exchanging impressions after this fashion when they approached a town which they judged from its lights to be Río Primero (see Fig. 1), although it astonished them enormously that this should be so,



row of rectangular lights which they both took to be the lights of a stationary train. (The railway line runs parallel to the highway, as will be seen from Fig. 1.) The lights—of a soft orange colour—seemed to be on a structure some 50 metres or so in length (see Fig. 2), the precise outlines of which they were however unable to see owing to the darkness.

Sr. Porchietto admits that—prompted as he was by the need to put on speed—he paid no great heed to the "train," though he does recall the characteristics of the lights perfectly. Sr. Brunelli on the other hand turned his head as the car went by the lights, though he admits that he did so in a relaxed and nonchalant fashion. The duration of the sighting was some ten seconds.

Once the "train" was out of sight, Sr. Brunelli's attention was concentrated on scanning the sky constantly in order to see where the storm was. However, he could see no clouds to back up such a presentiment. The night was clear, the stars were shining in the sky with very great brightness. (He told us in fact that he had seldom seen a sky so clear and so studded with stars.)

Only at this point did he begin to reflect upon the matter of the "flash of lightning" and the stationary "train." He asked Porchietto whether *he* had not noticed the odd appearance of that train, since its windows had not been square but rather rectangular—"like porticos," to employ his own term. (The witnesses estimate that each "window" was about 3 metres high and about 0.70 metres between them.) Furthermore, there was no light or lamp at either end of the object and, what is the most striking detail of all, *the railway line runs at a distance of 10 metres from the road, and not at 50 metres from it, which was approximately the distance*

since they had not yet passed through other equally important places, like Tránsito and Santiago Temple. Suddenly they arrived at a left-hand bend in the road which—quite clearly—did not fit the place at all. Their surprise was mutual as, knowing the route so perfectly, they were not expecting this deviation in the road.

They drove on, and found that in fact the place was Montecristo, which is 25 kms. beyond Río Primero. After their momentary surprise, however, they attached no further importance to the matter, thinking that what had happened was that the very nature of the journey, by night, had simply created in them the impression of a much shorter journey. They rejoiced that they were now nearly at Córdoba.

The remaining 28 km. to Córdoba took them 15-20 minutes, Sr. Porchietto dropping his companion off at his house before driving home himself.

Entering his house Sr. Brunelli noticed that the clock on the wall showed 3.30 a.m. This circumstance struck him as extremely peculiar, since they could not possibly have covered 185 kms. in only one hour. Consultation of his own wristwatch, however, furnished immediate confirmation that he had read the clock correctly. (Sr. Porchietto—for his part—told us that he got home at 3.45 a.m. and says that it was most probably 3.30 when he dropped off Sr. Brunelli. In any case he was equally unable to find any explanation for the speed of the journey.)

III—SUBSEQUENT VERIFICATIONS

TO facilitate the analysis of the general context of the incident, we think it useful to review now some of the points of interest which the two protagonists were

able to verify for themselves after their arrival in Córdoba.

(a) Both are in agreement that when they reached Córdoba they were in an unwonted state of euphoria. They felt no fatigue whatsoever as a result of either the festive party or the return journey. Sr. Brunelli admits that he found it necessary to awaken his wife and his two daughters immediately and tell them of the nice time and the attentions he had been given in Balnearia; but—and this is a curious aspect—at no time did he mention to them (*because he did not remember*) any of the vicissitudes of the journey, with the phenomena of the “flash,” the “train,” and the inexplicable contraction of the journey. Sr. Porchietto on the other hand told us that at 8.00 a.m. he was already up again, likewise feeling no fatigue whatsoever. But—unlike Sr. Brunelli—he told all his family, a few hours later, of all his experiences during the trip.

(b) That morning, a son of Sr. Porchietto was preparing to use the Ford Falcon to drive to the town of Río Cuarto. When he went to check the tank (capacity 60 litres) it was *half-empty*. He asked his father whether he had filled up again after his return from Balnearia, to which Sr. Porchietto's reply was obviously negative. Astonished by what his son had said about the tank, he hastened to see for himself, and found that the boy was right. *In fact the vehicle had consumed only 12½ litres, whereas ordinarily it takes 25 litres for that journey: (Of the original 40 litres there were still 27½ litres in the tank.)*

(c) From that morning onwards, in addition to the unwonted state of euphoria and placidity which possessed him, Sr. Brunelli began to notice an itching sensation which he located as being in the right lumbar-dorsal region. He described the sensation as a sort of numbness which—while growing more and more evident—was confined to a perfectly circular area 1.5 cm. in diameter. This circular area remained totally numb. After two minutes like that, he would again feel the itching sensation, until the normal condition was restored. This would continue to recur, about four or five times daily, over a period of four days. His wife told us that at no time did the phenomenon show itself by any somatic manifestations. She noticed no mark, wart, or particular colouration of the skin. But she recalls that, every time the symptoms presented themselves, her husband asked her to try to establish whether she could see any special colouring in the affected area.

(d) Sr. Brunelli always had trouble with his blood-pressure (18½), which caused him continuous spells of dizziness. Despite the fact that he had been disregarding the treatment recommended by his doctor, his pressure had remained stable at 14 ever since the day of the experience and right up to the last of our interviews with him. Sr. Porchietto, on the other hand, experienced no such sensations of itching or numbness, and only the state of placidity which was common to them both.

(e) At midday on Monday, June 17, one of Sr. Brunelli's daughters (who some hours earlier in the day had already been in touch with Sr. Porchietto and had heard from him about all the happenings of their return journey) asked her father if anything strange had happened to them on their way back. *Only then did*

he mention the phenomena already described above. Sr. Brunelli confessed to us that, despite the absolutely unwonted nature of those events, he was unable to explain how it was that his mind had “pushed them aside” for almost 33 hours. Despite the very significant nature of those events, and despite his own remarkably good memory, he said he did not remember having called the events to mind after he had got back to Córdoba. In fact he only recalled them when his daughter put the question to him.

(f) At any rate, from that moment, Sr. Brunelli felt a need to contact Sr. Porchietto in order to exchange impressions with him about the experiences they had undergone together. And, as a result of doing so, they were able to confirm together the details about the “lighted railway coach,” their time of departure from Balnearia, and the time of their arrival in Córdoba.

Both men told us that they found it utterly incomprehensible that they should have displayed no curiosity about the strange object, and all the more so in view of the exaggerated dimensions of its “windows” and in view of the fact that the railway track was not at a distance of 50 metres from the road. Likewise neither of them could find a satisfactory reason why it could be that it was only several minutes later that they realised that what they had seen was in fact something unwonted; and, even so, it now seems to them both quite inexcusable that they did not decide to turn back immediately and investigate the true nature of what they had seen. Sr. Brunelli considers himself to be by nature a person with a very great sense of curiosity, and he admits that on the occasion in question he did not behave as he would normally have done.

(g) Another interesting detail relates to the behaviour of Sr. Porchietto who, although a great smoker (as we were able to confirm for ourselves during our interviews), did not smoke a single cigarette during the remainder of the journey after seeing the “train.”

(h) It is the opinion of Sr. Porchietto that, a few moments after they had seen the object, he had the bizarre impression that **the car was a few centimetres above the road**. Sr. Brunelli says on the other hand that he did not get this sensation, but he does agree that *both of them were struck by the smooth way in which the car was running, so that the numerous unevennesses and bumps in the road went totally unnoticed.*

They did not have the radio switched on. They noticed no failure of engine or lights. Nor of their watches. They saw no mist, detected no odour, and felt no muscular or cutaneous sensation of any kind whatsoever when they saw the “train.”

(i) During the course of a subsequent trip to Balnearia by day they tried to locate the spot where they thought the incident of the “train” had occurred, but were not able to do so precisely. They think however that it happened a few kilometres after Arroyito, the last place through which they remember passing. In the whole of that region the terrain is totally flat, with no buildings of any sort. Moreover they were able to see nothing anywhere along the road, when they did their investigatory run, that could be related in any way whatever to what they had seen on that occasion. Whatever the thing had been, it clearly was not there any longer.

Subsequently, after they had made the daytime

reconnaissance run, they went out again, this time at night, and were fortunate enough to see a passenger train go by. This was extremely useful for them, inasmuch as it enabled them to evaluate the very marked difference between the train and the object that they had seen. The train was moving along at a very short distance from the road (it should be remembered that the track runs parallel with the road at a distance of *only ten metres*), and the windows of the train looked very small to them, with a white lighting which made it possible to observe the internal details of the coaches without any difficulty. The strange object, on the other hand, was markedly different both as regards its distance from the road (50m.) and as regards the dimensions of its windows (estimated by them at 3m. × 0.70m.), the soft orange light coming from these windows, and the witnesses' inability to observe any details pertaining to the interior of the object.

IV—THE PROBLEM OF TIME-CONTRACTION

IN addition to the unwonted features of the object observed by Sres. Brunelli and Porchietto, it is clear that the most significant detail hinges upon the glaring contraction in the journey. We shall endeavour to set down clearly a few concepts which will be useful for an effective grasp of the episode.

(1) The mean distance between Balnearia and Córdoba is 185 kilometres. From Balnearia to Arroyito it is 76 km., and from Arroyito to Río Primero another 56 km., and from Río Primero to Córdoba it is 53 km. (see Fig. 1).

(2) The witnesses only remember having passed through the town of Arroyito, and immediately after that they saw the stationary "train." Some five-to-seven minutes after that they saw the lights of what—to their astonishment—they took to be Río Primero (located at 132 km. from Balnearia and at 56 km. from Arroyito). However, it was in fact Montecristo (157 km. from Balnearia and 81 km. from Arroyito).

I pointed out to them most emphatically that they had no memory of having passed through Tránsito, Santiago Temple, Río Primero (the road runs right through the centre of the town, which is excellently lighted) and Piquillín. *Clearly there is a section of 81 kilometres regarding which the protagonists recall absolutely nothing.*

(3) Had such an impression not been complemented by other important details it would obviously be irrelevant. These other details are as follows:

- (i) Although it could be possible to assume that, owing to their attention being distracted, they might have not noticed the towns through which they passed (which, however, taken merely on its own, is pretty improbable, especially as regards a town like Río Primero), it is significant that the sensation of astonishment should have been *simultaneous* in them both. Both men were surprised at seeing the bend towards the left. It is odd that people so familiar with the route should have been disconcerted like this and at the same moment. Sr. Porchietto admits that after seeing the object he had become somewhat nervous (and he could not therefore possibly have driven in so distracted and

inattentive a fashion as to not remember the populated centres through which they had passed). Sr. Brunelli, for his part, admits that immediately after the "flash of lightning" he made persistent efforts to locate the direction of the putative thunderstorm. (This would have had to keep him alert, so that he *must* have noted the towns located along the route);

- (ii) The car only used 12½ litres of gasoline from Balnearia, whereas the journey regularly takes 25 litres;
- (iii) Sr. Brunelli entered his house at 3.30 a.m., which he checked against the wall-clock and his own watch. Sr. Porchietto reached his house at 3.45 a.m. and agrees that he had dropped off Sr. Brunelli at *his* home 15 minutes before that. *This means that they had done 185 kilometres in only one hour.* Not only is Sr. Porchietto's Ford *Falcon* incapable of reaching such a speed, but, in fact, as a matter of prudence, he seldom does more than 115 km.p.h.

When we asked Sr. Porchietto if it had not occurred to him to look at his kilometrage indicator he replied that he had not done so, as he generally keeps no record of the distance done on each of his trips.

- (iv) A brother of Sr. Brunelli, who was also present at the reunion in Balnearia, confirmed that Brunelli and Porchietto left Balnearia at about 2.30 a.m.

The families of both men have certified that they arrived home in Córdoba at 3.30 a.m. (Brunelli) and 3.45 a.m. (Porchietto) respectively.

- (v) There is no other, shorter, route between Balnearia and Córdoba than this route which they took.

V—OTHER WITNESSES

THE two witnesses tried to keep the experience secret, and mentioned it only in very restricted circles. (It should be remembered that our interviews with them took place one month after the incident and that, up to that time, the press still had no knowledge of the affair.) However, a schoolmistress related to Sr. Brunelli communicated the matter to the Córdoba office of the Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razón*. The reporters promptly headed for Sr. Brunelli's house to get confirmation of the story, and Sr. Brunelli refused to receive them as he wanted no publicity for the affair. But the newspapermen said that if he did not agree to their interviewing him they would have to publish a statement denying the truth of what had been reported. Faced with this alternative, he agreed to the interview.

The publication of the affair—at least as regards its more general aspects—led to a positive corollary. For a family named Isaía—also property-owners in Córdoba—contacted Sr. Brunelli and told him that on the same night as his sighting they had seen a flash with similar characteristics to the one that Brunelli and Porchietto said they had seen.

On October 21, 1972, we interviewed the Isaía family, to learn the details of their experience.

They had left Balnearia at between 2.35 and 2.45 a.m. on July 16, 1972. There were five in the party, travelling in a Ford *Falcon* (gasoline consumption 20 litres per 170 or 180 km.). They were Sr. Tito Aldo Isaía, Sr. Enrique Isaía, Sr. Ludovico Isaía, and two friends

who chanced to be with them, Sr. Ricardo Baile and a young lady named Estela. After they had been travelling for about 15 or 20 minutes they had reached Frontera (23 km. from Balnearia), when they saw, towards the S.W., a vivid flash which lit up that quadrant of the sky for a fraction of a second. (From Fig. 1 it will be seen that Arroyito lies to the S.W. of Frontera. The time of their observation of the flash coincides sufficiently closely with the time given by Sr. Brunelli and Sr. Porchietto for the flash seen by them.) The flash observed by the Isaia party was of an exceptional whiteness. They too thought that it was a storm coming, but saw no clouds to support such an assumption. The night was cold, with a clear sky studded with stars, they reported.

The Isaia party had no other experience of interest, nor did they see the "train" after Arroyito. They reached Córdoba at 4.15 a.m. (that is to say, after between 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 40 minutes of travelling, on the basis of the approximate time of their departure from Balnearia as given by the Isaia party).

VI—COMPARATIVE UFOLOGY

OTHER incidents in Argentina in which "train-like" objects have been reported:

(A) The "Train" at Cuesta de las Vacas (Province of San Juan).

On July 7, 1968, when driving from the place known as Difunta Correa to the town of San Juan, Sr. Francisco Zamora, a 40-year-old industrialist established in San Juan, had a strange experience. With him were his wife María Frías, his sister Trinidad Zamora, his brother-in-law Carlos Muñoz, and two children. Just after passing over the Cuesta de las Vacas slope (in the Province of San Juan) they encountered a sort of "train" which crossed the road in front of them. They stopped the car until it had passed. When they started up again *they found that there were no rails there*. Examining the surroundings with astonishment, they found that they were on a plain. They had never seen railway lines there before, but did remember that there were some much further on ahead. Of this point they were sure, and they were able to confirm it. A few kilometres further on they found the rails, just before entering Pozo de los Algarrobos.

When describing their experience to us, they said that what they had seen was something like a railway coach with windows and about 30 metres long. *It gave the impression of travelling along in the air at a height of 1 metre from the ground*. They had a perfect view of it in the beam from their own headlights.³

(B) The "Train" at Colonia Helalcó (Santiago del Estero).

In the first few days of July 1972 (and consequently about 15 days before the experience of Sres. Brunelli and Porchietto at Arroyito), Sr. Emilio Albaire, director of the Industrial School at Frías, witnessed a case with similar features. He was with his family, at night, in a country house which he has at Colonia Helalcó, when they observed an enormous long object which looked like a train, with windows illuminated by a greenish-blue light, and which landed right on the mountains

about a kilometre distant. They thought it would have been about 50 metres in length. A few minutes later the object emitted a blinding light and rose up vertically, looking like an immense ball of fire.⁴

(C) The "Train" at Lavalle (Santiago del Estero).

On Saturday, July 8, 1972 (eight days before Brunelli's and Porchietto's phenomenon at Arroyitos) Sr. Carlos Altamirano, sub-manager of the "Bonafide" branch in the city of Tucumán, was travelling by car to Frías (Province of Santiago de Estero) accompanied by Señorita Aurora Bracamonte, secretary of the Normal School at Frías, and Señorita María Angélica Bracamonte, both of them residents of Frías.

They had started out at shortly before 11.00 p.m. from Santiago, the Provincial Capital, and when they had gone a short way and were crossing over the Sierra de Guasayán (mountain range) they saw a fiery ball of the size of a football falling ahead of them. They took it to be a flash of lightning, and it exploded before reaching the ground.

Some distance further on, when they were on highway No. 157 and near Colonia Helalcó, between Tapso and Frías and close to Lavalle, they saw something unwonted. It was 11.45 p.m., and as they came round a bend in the road they saw, at some 800m. to their right, an object standing on the ground. Sr. Altamirano described it later as "*a train among the trees*." There were a row of greenish windows of the height of an ordinary door, and disposed along an object, about 50 metres in length, which was standing there.

The driver—clearly greatly shaken by the phenomenon (there are no railway lines in that part of the country) decided to accelerate, and made off at high speed. Señorita Aurora Bracamonte told us that there were no populated places and no houses anywhere in that sector of the country, and that consequently the powerful light emitted from the windows of the object could only have come from something alien, seeing that the district has no electricity.⁵

VII—CONCLUSIONS

IN view of the scientific seriousness which must preside when we are considering these phenomena, we have thought it opportune to set down in this account the most significant aspects of the Brunelli-Porchietto incident, while refraining from entering into discussions that could contribute nothing towards a clarification of the problem.

There is however one interesting distinction which should be pointed out in connexion with the individual effects and with the common effects as suffered by the two protagonists as a consequence of their sighting. Thus:

(a) **Common Effects:** Both Brunelli and Porchietto saw the flash and saw the object, neither recalls covering the following 81 kilometres of the journey, they both felt no curiosity to enquire as to the nature of the object, and they were both overcome by a strange sensation of placidity.

(b) **Individual Effects:** Sr. Brunelli was the only one who was to feel certain other curious psychophysical sensations in the form of a circular numb patch in the right lumbar-dorsal region, amnesia for 33 hours

regarding the incident, and the stabilisation of his arterial pressure.

We have the impression that something really strange did happen on that stretch of 81 kilometres, and something by which—if we are to judge by the individual results—Sr. Brunelli was the more affected of the two. How? And by what? We do not know.

We believe however that this investigation is not over, and indeed far from it. We have taken the liberty of suggesting to the two eyewitnesses the possibility that they might be prepared to submit themselves—separately—for some sessions of hypnosis. They promised to talk to their respective doctors with a view to evaluating the desirability, for themselves, of having the matter verified, while taking into consideration also the fear that the hypnotic trances might have prejudicial *sequelae* for them. We have not had an opportunity for further interviews with Sr. Brunelli and Sr. Porchietto because, in the last week of September 1972, there happened here in Santa Isabel (Córdoba) a series of phenomena which may possibly constitute the best sequence of episodes ever reported from Argentina involving anthropomorphic manifestations of an unknown nature which obviously have necessitated an extensive investigation by our Society, CADIU. This enquiry has been going on for three months and has absorbed our resources to such an extent that we have been obliged to forego the study of other episodes of lesser importance. During this interval we have completed our examination of a few of the details of the Brunelli-Porchietto affair, but we have postponed the discussion of the proposed hypnotic regression for a later occasion. As soon as we have finished our investigations at Santa Isabel (the results of which we shall make known in the near future) we plan to get in touch again immediately with Sres. Brunelli and Porchietto and find out what decision they have come to. Any further developments of interest will be issued for publication through *Flying Saucer Review*.

O.A.G., Córdoba. January 1973.

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THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY. This society has been formed for the purpose of carrying out unbiased scientific research into various aspects of the UFO phenomenon and for investigating sighting reports. Anyone interested, or who has information which would help us build up a comprehensive picture of UFO activity in Scotland, is invited to write to: The Secretary, Mr. Leslie Vegeris, c/o The University Union, Teviot Row, Edinburgh, 8.

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La Voz del Interior (Córdoba), July 18, 1972.
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TOP PRICES PAID for any of the following books: U.S.A.F. Projects Grudge and Bluebook Reports 1-12; *Flying Saucers* by D. Menzel; *The World of Flying Saucers* by Menzel and Boyd. Write to: R. Laureys, Genkerstw., 14, B 3500 Hasselt, Belgium.

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THE CASE OF THE ONE THAT WASN'T

The history of the Ponta do Farol photograph

Gordon Creighton

AT 9.30 a.m. on January 25, 1971, an eighteen-year-old student named Gunar Gruenzner from Joinville, in the South Brazilian State of Santa Catarina, was on the beach at a place called Ponta do Farol (Lighthouse Point). He had with him his German *Beirette* camera, loaded with 35 mm. *Agfa* colour film. He was photographing the beautiful coastline and, just as he was about to press the button again, he caught a glimpse, through the viewer, of something intensely bright. He pressed the button at once and then scanned the sky to see what the brightness was, but saw nothing. He put the matter out of his mind, deciding it must have been some optical illusion, and went on with his photographing.

The speed at which he had taken the picture in question was 1/25 second, with diaphragm at 11 or 16, and focus at infinity. It is not certain what was the degree of sensitivity of the film, but it is probable it was 50 ASA.

When the roll of film was developed in mid-February, it seemed that Gunar Gruenzner had got one of the great UFO photographs of all time. A superb slender, white, bullet-shaped craft, enveloped in a "corona-glow," was belting across the sky, from West to East, with a marvellous bright-blue propulsion glow at its tail.

The optician/chemist in Blumenau (Santa Catarina) who did the developing was certain that this was a splendid UFO, and had the picture reproduced in the Joinville paper *A Noticia* of February 19. The photo became famous; many local people testified that they had recently seen just such objects in the sky, and the various technical experts who were consulted felt that the picture must be genuine, owing to the sharpness of the image of the craft, the regularity of the colours, and the well-known fact that it is very difficult to fake with colour film.

Sr. Carlos Varassin of GPECE (The Parana UFO Investigation Group, Santa Catarina) wrote a piece about it in SBEDV Bulletin No. 81/84 (July 1971/February 1972) and Dr. W. Buhler, Editor of the latter, was good enough to send us a couple of colour prints, together with Sr. Varassin's article.

In June 1972 I sent one of the prints to Mr. Percy Hennell, whose opinion was that it was almost certainly a manufacturing defect in the film, although he emphasised that it would be necessary to get the negative in order to be sure.

I therefore asked Dr. Buhler if he could procure the negative and in due course this arrived, thanks to the good offices of Sr. Carlos Varassin, and I would like to take this opportunity to express to both Sr. Varassin and Dr. Buhler our great appreciation for their cooperation in this matter. For all too infrequently does it

happen that the negative of a possible UFO picture is made available for expert scrutiny.

On August 30, 1972, Mr. Hennell was able to give me his conclusive report on the negative, and the text of this letter will be found under Mr. Hennell's signature following this article.

In September 1972 I wrote to Dr. Buhler as follows: "I now return the negative of the Ponta do Farol photo, together with Mr. Percy Hennell's report. I am extremely sorry (and Mr. Hennell, too, is extremely sorry!) that his report should have to be a negative one! But we must not flinch from telling the truth under any circumstances, and the truth, it seems, is clear. The wonderful UFO—which made me so happy, for I was sure it was genuine—now turns out to be only a defect in manufacture of the film.

"Very many thanks however to you and to Sr. Varassin and all others concerned in thus collaborating to see that truth is established. There are already so many false and phony UFO pictures. You do not desire to add to their number, and so your effort in securing this negative for us is most laudable. Alas, it is usually not easy for us to secure a negative."

My sentiments were strongly endorsed by Dr. Buhler, who has published Mr. Hennell's report and the gist of my letter in SBEDV Bulletin No. 85/89.



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