

can never solve the riddle through speculation. Our science is too limited. If the objects are composed of a matter radically different from our own, then we cannot hope to unravel the problem through sciences based upon the physical properties of our known universe. We know that many of the objects are able to move at fantastically high speeds through our atmosphere without displacing the air and producing sonic booms. This, in itself, is a strong clue that the objects could be composed in such a manner that they can pass *between* the molecules of air, just as the entities seem to pass through solid walls in so many cases.

The objects may also take advantage of the magnetic currents and deviations of this planet, riding these currents as a glider rides the updraughts of air surrounding hills. Such a propulsion system is also far beyond our present scientific framework.

As the objects traverse these magnetic currents, they may cause a displacement, as a ship displaces water, and it may be this displacement that our compasses and instruments have been detecting.

The more sophisticated manifestations . . . the car stallings, power failures, and so on, may have nothing to do with electro-magnetism and may not be as accidental

as we have led ourselves to believe.

Suppose there was a UFO beyond the hill where General Jackson's wagon halted? And suppose that the entities felt he had to be stopped until the area could be cleared? Just suppose. . . .

NOTES

- 1 *Haunted People* by Hereward Carrington and Nandor Fodor, pp. 142-172.
- 2 *Popular Science Monthly*, January 1967.
- 3 Personal communication.
- 4 Personal investigation.
- 5 Personal investigation. Also investigated by Ivan T. Sanderson who lives in the region.
- 6 *Haunted People* by Carrington and Fodor p. 45.
- 7 *Mysteries of the Skies* by Gordon Lore and Harold Deneault, p. 24.
- 8 Personal communication and investigation. Detailed reports on these cases will appear in the author's forthcoming book, *Operation Trojan Horse*.

STRANGE ENCOUNTER IN VAR

By Lyonel Trigano

IN the course of recent investigations, I came across the following very interesting case:

Mr. S. is a businessman who runs an important garage in Hérault. Physically, he is a solidly-built man in his fifties, who is quite the opposite of an impressionable person! He told me of the adventure of six years earlier, as I have transcribed below.

"One evening in November 1962 I was driving along a minor departmental road in Var. It was a dark night, and raining in torrents, so that I was driving with my lights full on. Rounding a bend, I saw, 80 metres ahead, a group of figures clustered in the middle of the road. I slowed down to avoid the group, and at the same moment it split into two parts, suddenly and jerkily. My window was down and I leaned my head out slightly to see what was the matter; it was then that I saw beasts, some kind of bizarre animals, with the heads of birds, and covered in some sort of plumage, which were hurling themselves from two sides towards my car.

"Terrified, I wound up the window, accelerated like a madman, and then stopped 150 metres further on. I turned round and saw these things, these beasts, these nightmarish sort of beings, which were heading, with a sort of flapping of

wings, towards a luminous dark-blue object which hung in the air over a field on the other side of the road. It resembled two plates upside down, and placed on one another. On reaching it, these 'birds' were literally sucked into the underpart of the machine as if by a whirlwind. Then I heard a dull sound (clac!) and the object flew off at a prodigious speed and finally disappeared."

I should add that the author of this story has told it to a strictly limited number of people, simply for fear of being thought mad. He told me that at that time he had never heard of UFOs, and had never thought of relating these events to the UFO mystery. In spite of the fantastic nature of this story, he swears he did not dream it.

In spite of all my efforts, the witness cannot remember either the exact date or place of the occurrence. Consequently, what I have

transcribed is merely a rough recollection.

(Translation by John C. Hugill)

[M. Lyonel Trigano is a young researcher from the southern part of France, who told me of this alleged encounter when, acting on the suggestion of Aimé Michel, he called on me during a recent visit to England. It is a pity we are unable to pinpoint the time and place of the incident, and that M. Trigano's recollection is only "rough". Nevertheless, I feel that this account is important—especially in view of the "Mothman" incidents of West Virginia reported by John Keel in our July/August edition of 1968, and the Sandling Park, Kent, case of November 1963 (see *FSR* March/April 1964, and "Few and Far Between" in *THE HUMANIDS*). I therefore asked the author to set down the details for the record.—EDITOR.]

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UFOs AND EARTHQUAKES

By Gordon Creighton

PEREIRO is a small town in the State of Ceará in the North-East of Brazil. It lies in a strange crescent-shaped area where, usually every 11 years, at the height of the sunspot-cycle,* devastating droughts occur, killing off large numbers of cattle and forcing the human population to flee into adjacent parts of the country where there is no drought.

Pereiro has been much in the news lately on account of the earth tremors† that have been occurring almost daily since last year both at Pereiro itself and in the nearby hills (Serra dos Macacos or Serra do Frade, both these names being used). The principal geological feature of the region is limestone and the explanation—assuredly the correct one—given for the tremors by the many Brazilian and foreign geologists who have been taking a look at the place lately is that subterranean water-courses have worn great hollows in the limestone, as the result of which settlement and accommodation are inevitably occurring. Nor indeed are 'quakes and tremors unknown to

* Scientific proof of the strange link between the droughts in the State of Ceará and the eleven-year sunspot-cycle was provided by the Englishman Lt.-Col. Francis R. Hull, R.E., Ret'd, who was my Vice-Consul for that part of Brazil some eighteen years ago. He made a very remarkable study of these matters and I know that many of the Brazilian officials were impressed with the correctness of his findings.

† Many people already realise that (as the Aztecs knew!) there is considerable evidence for a link between sunspots and earthquakes, and that the latter are therefore *probably* (at least partly) due to magnetic changes.

As it happens, we are now approaching a sunspot maximum (Feb. 1969?), so perhaps there is a case for arguing that the Ceará tremors and the Ceará droughts are also interlinked? In periods of drought the hollowed out cavities in the limestone would be more empty and thus more liable to crumble.

the region. The years 1898, 1909, 1918, were notable for them, and there have been literally hundreds since 1918.

The present spate of tremors seems quite severe. There has been great damage to buildings and a state of near-panic reigns among the 30,000 inhabitants of the region who feel totally abandoned and neglected, and who have petitioned the President of the Republic to do something about their plight. Press reports indicate that many of the local officials seem to have made themselves scarce.

New phenomena reported

But while tremors and 'quakes in the Pereiro region are nothing new, the press reports emanating from there in the period since March of this year contain some features that would appear to be new.

In the first place, tremendous detonations like thunderclaps are now accompanying or following the 'quakes. In the second place, immense bluish-green fiery balls, "twice the size of the Moon", are now being seen flying in all directions overhead. It seems that these "lights" or "balls of fire" only began three years or so ago. They do not appear to have been known during the 'quake years of 1898, 1909, or 1918. Today there must be few among the 30,000 inhabitants who have not seen them. The witnesses repeatedly describe them as "like big automobile headlights" that sometimes stay hovering, sometimes move up or down in the sky, and sometimes shoot about in straight, level flight.

According to the Mayor of Pereiro, the objects are conical in shape, their luminosity is blinding, they travel absolutely silently at fantastic speeds, performing all sorts of manoeuvres, and carry brilliant lights, like searchlights, which are directed downwards on to buildings and the countryside in general. They appear regularly every night, and are frequently seen to land, though generally in inacces-

sible spots in the dense *caatinga* thorn scrub.

Among the countless witnesses is the chairman of one of the municipal councils. While on horseback one night in mid-July 1968, in the region of the Serra dos Macacos, he saw a large greenish light. At first, unable to find any other explanation, he decided it must be a truck being loaded with cotton by the farmers, but he soon perceived that the light was coming from a huge object floating above the tops of the trees. He watched it while it flew around over several farms, finally vanishing behind a crest. Earlier in July whole groups of the fiery objects had been seen. On one occasion one of them flew low over Pereiro, shone a vivid beam of light upon the tower of the principal church, and produced a general panic in the town.

Beams of light projected before landing

There is almost invariably one object that is much larger than the rest. This larger one shoots a beam of light down on to the ground "like a great searchlight, or like a beam from a lighthouse". The other luminous objects, all smaller, remain higher up in the sky than the big one. Then the big one will land, while the smaller ones still remain overhead, sometimes moving about and sometimes dimming their brightness. Then, suddenly, all of them, big and small together, shoot away together, straight up into the sky and are gone.

By August 15 of this year the reports out of Pereiro were emphasising that it had now been established as definite that the appearance of these luminous objects overhead always precedes the tremors by a few hours. It is certain, the populace say, that "the balls of fire seem to know where and when the 'quakes are coming".

Mendoza too

The other piece of evidence which I have to give comes from