

IV

The Villas Boas Encounter*The Reported Abduction of Antônio Villas Boas, Minas Gerais, Brazil — October 15–16, 1957*

DATE	LOCATION	WITNESS	DURATION
October 15–16, 1957	São Francisco de Sales, Minas Gerais, Brazil	Antônio Villas Boas, 23, farmhand	approx. 4 hours
MEDICAL INVESTIGATION	CLASSIFICATION		
Dr. Olavo Fontes, 1958	CE4 — First documented case		

IV.01 // BACKGROUND *Antônio Villas Boas and the Farm*

Antônio Villas Boas was twenty-three years old in October 1957, the son of a farming family in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The family farmed land near the small town of São Francisco de Sales, and Villas Boas worked the fields — often at night during hot weather, when the air was cooler. He was, by all subsequent accounts, a straightforward young man with no prior history of unusual claims and no particular interest in the subject of flying saucers, which had attracted press attention since the American wave of 1947.

The night of October 15–16, 1957 was his second encounter with an unusual object in the sky in as many days. The first, the previous evening, had been a bright light that moved erratically over the field and disappeared. He dismissed it and said nothing to his family. The second would not be so easily dismissed.

IV.02 // THE ENCOUNTER *The Account as Reported*

While working the fields alone in the early hours of October 16, Villas Boas reported that a large egg-shaped craft descended and landed in the field near his tractor. The craft's upper section rotated. He attempted to flee but his tractor stalled; he ran on foot and was apprehended by several figures in grey suits that covered their heads, leaving only their eyes visible through wide goggles.

He was taken aboard the craft. Inside, he was stripped, covered in a liquid substance, and had blood samples taken from his chin. He reported being placed in a room where a gas was pumped in that made him violently ill. Subsequently, he reported contact with a female figure of small stature with large, widely-spaced eyes, high cheekbones, and white hair. He understood the encounter to be a deliberate biological procedure.

Before he was returned to the field, he described attempting to take a piece of equipment from the craft as evidence. He was prevented from doing so. When he was released, he found that four hours had elapsed. He was returned to his tractor and the craft departed.

"I was not dreaming. I know the difference. What happened to me that night was real — I was taken, and I was afraid, and it was real."

— ANTONIO VILLAS BOAS, INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALIST JOÃO MARTINS, 1958

Villas Boas did not immediately report the encounter. He told journalist João Martins months later, who in turn arranged an examination by Dr. Olavo Fontes, a physician at the National School of Medicine in Rio de Janeiro who also had an interest in anomalous cases. The examination was conducted in February 1958, approximately four months after the incident.

Fontes found several findings of interest. Villas Boas presented with two small nodular scars on his chin, consistent with the blood-drawing he had described. He also showed symptoms consistent with mild radiation exposure: abnormal lesions, minor scarring, and blood abnormalities that Fontes documented in a formal medical report. Fontes concluded that the physical evidence was consistent with Villas Boas's account and inconsistent with any conventional explanation he could identify.

CHIN SCARRING	RADIATION SYMPTOMS	TIME ELAPSED DURING EVENT
Two nodular scars consistent with described blood extraction	Lesions, scarring, blood abnormalities documented by Fontes	approx. 4 hours
MEDICAL REPORT FILED	PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	PHYSICAL EVIDENCE RECOVERED
Yes — Dr. Fontes, February 1958	No pathology identified	None

The Villas Boas case was not widely known outside Brazil until years after it occurred. It was reported in Brazilian periodicals in 1958 but was not published in English until the 1960s. When it was, researchers recognised it as the earliest formally documented case of what would later be classified as a Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind — direct contact between a human being and non-human entities reported to involve physical examination.

The case's significance lies partly in its timing: it predates the American Hill abduction case by four years, establishing that this category of experience was not an American cultural

phenomenon but was being reported internationally. Villas Boas had no knowledge of Betty and Barney Hill — their case would not occur for four more years — and no access to American abduction narratives when he made his report.

Villas Boas later completed a law degree and practised as a lawyer. He never recanted his account, though he was reluctant to discuss it publicly for much of his adult life. He died in 1992. His account remains the foundation case in the study of reported abduction phenomena.

CASE NOTE

The physical evidence documented by Fontes remains the most medically substantive element of the early abduction record. Whatever produced the radiation-consistent symptoms and scarring that Fontes documented, those findings were made by a qualified physician four months after the event. They have not been satisfactorily explained.

"He became a lawyer. He never changed his story. The scars were real. The medical report is on file. Whatever happened in that field in Minas Gerais in October 1957, Antônio Villas Boas was not the same afterwards."

— UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA ARCHIVE · CHAPTER IV · ABDUCTION CASE SERIES
