

THE CYRUS CASE

G. Cattiau et al

Monsieur Cattiau, and his colleagues R. Gayral and D. Lacenal are members of the Toulouse Research Group. Their report appeared in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 153 of March 1976. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

THIS case occurred in August 1975 in a country district near Muret in the Département of Haute-Garonne (S.W. France).

Monsieur R. Cyrus is aged 48, a man with a sound head on his shoulders, and no nonsense about him. Formerly a gendarme, he is now in business and his mind is more likely to be on his shop than on "queer goings-on." If he considers himself to have been successful in his life so far, it is precisely because of this direct, realistic, even materialistic, side to his nature, for which indeed his wife takes him to task from time to time as he laughingly confessed during our investigations. However, Monsieur Cyrus is not known in Muret simply as a reliable and responsible businessman, but also as the president of the town's group of majorettes. So the witness is well known, and very honourably regarded. He even went so far as to confess to us later that it wasn't the first time that he had seen this sort of "thing", that it had not worried him over much except perhaps on this latest occasion, when he had been pretty close to the "thing."

The facts of the case

As stated, it is August 29, 1975, and the time is 10.45 p.m. The witness, at the wheel of his car (*Peugeot 404* — petrol engine type) is on the departmental route D 10 which runs from the village of Longages to National Highway (Route Nationale) No. 125 to the south of Noé.

When three-quarters of the way along the D 10, the witness suddenly perceives — about ten metres distant on the right hand side of the road, in a field slightly above the level of the latter — a dark mass, an aluminium-grey coloured "machine." (It was a moonlit night, and the moonlight seemed to be reflected by the "machine," giving it a metallic appearance.)

M. Cyrus estimates the object to have been about seven metres long, a bit more than that in width, and about three metres high. At this stage the body of the machine is dark, emitting no light.

Just as he arrives abreast of the machine, however, the underpart of it lights up (up to about one-third of its height), with a phosphorescent glow, and it



The dark mass glides towards the car at bonnet level, and then there is a blinding flash.

Illustration taken from the cover of *Lumières dans la Nuit*.



The object seemed to tilt backwards and display its underside, emitting the vast flash of light. Illustrations from *Lumières dans la Nuit*.

“glides” towards the car at the level of the bonnet, and then shoots forth a dazzling light which the witness describes as being as bright as the Sun. Monsieur Cyrus pulls up, takes his hands off the wheel, and instinctively throws up his arms to protect his head. The car ends up in the ditch, which very fortunately is not deep at that spot (about 20 centimetres).

The whole thing has been a matter of four seconds or so. Then the “object” shoots straight up into the air directly above the car and, without the slightest sound, takes up a stationary position there. At this stage it is emitting an irregular light: gradually its intensity diminishes, and then it starts to shine more brightly again. This fluctuation happens several times. Its light is now reddish. It is to be noted that the sky was clear, the temperature mild, and a gentle S.E. wind was blowing.

Meanwhile, Monsieur Cyrus does not get out of the car immediately. He seems to have a gap of half-a-minute or so in his memory. He remembers getting out of the car only when another motorist, who has come from the other direction, starts to open the door for him. This other motorist is a direct witness of Monsieur Cyrus’ adventure, since he was only about 150 metres distant when the object swooped at Cyrus’ car and poured the flood of blinding light over the bonnet. As this second motorist explained later, he thought that Cyrus’ car was exploding.

So now Monsieur Cyrus gets out of the car, and the first thing he does is to touch himself, feel himself. He recalls precisely this gesture, and recalls saying, as he did it, “Good Heavens — is this it!”

The fact that this is Monsieur Cyrus’ first action puzzles him greatly: touching himself in fact to see whether he is still alive! But he remains in a state of severe shock, and when people urge him to go straight away to the Gendarmerie to make a statement, he says: “Look, fellows, you all know me. I’ll go to the Gendarmerie tomorrow. Now, I’m going home.” When he arrives there his wife finds him distraught and manifestly in a state of shock.

The object

Monsieur Cyrus only noticed the object when he came abreast of it. All he saw at first was a dark metallic mass (effect of the moonlight). Then the object lit up suddenly and glided towards his car at bonnet level, and as it did so it seemed to tilt backwards and display its under-face like a vast lightning flash, so that Monsieur Cyrus now thinks that when we see a fireball in the sky we are seeing its under-side!

It seems therefore that the object deliberately made for his car and there, at a height of less than 50 cm. from the bonnet of his *Peugeot 404*, tilted back sharply. Then it shot straight upwards till it was no more than a point of light which seemed to keep fading and then becoming brighter again. He stood there watching it for about fifteen minutes. The light beam directed down from it still seemed to be aimed solely on to the spot where his car stood, without lighting up the rest of the countryside (as a searchlight would have done.) And all the time it was emitting pulsation flashes.*



On emitting the flash, the object shot straight upwards into the sky, where it remained visible for some time afterwards as a small point of light.

The effects

1. Effects on the Witness:

Seeing the object right on top of his car, he abandons the wheel and instinctively throws up his arms to protect his head.

1-1. He no longer remembers whether he was paralyzed by it, but he does remember “that he still had all his mental faculties, but that his throat was jammed up.” His voice was also “jammed up.” He was unable to speak. The ability to speak only returned to him suddenly when the other motorist came up to his car door.

1-2. Disturbance to his watch (it has gained five minutes daily since the occurrence.)

1-3. Increased sleepiness, even when at the wheel of his car. So soon as he stops any activity in which he

* One of the photo captions in the LDLN article mentions that the UFO was still visible, as a point of light, hours later, but there is no discussion of this in the text—G.C.

is engaged during the day, he drops off to sleep in a fashion that is not habitual for him.

1-4. Troubles with his eyesight: two days after the UFO sighting, he woke up in the morning with black patches before his eyes. They gradually faded away and vanished after he had had his dinner.

The car

Peugeot 404 (petrol engine). No anomaly has been noted in the car. No scratch marks, no signs of burn, or changes in the paintwork.

The engine did not stall.

The lights remained on.

No signs of over-heating on the body of the car or on its interior.

(It is to be noted incidentally that no steps were taken to test the car for radioactivity.)

Eyewitnesses

There were other witnesses who came forward later and confirmed the statement made by Monsieur Cyrus.

The first was Monsieur L. Gain, a night watchman at the CUMA-SICA plant, who lives at Longages, and who saw a bright glow which vanished suddenly.

Madame G. Tegedor, a lady residing on the route de Noé at Longages, says she saw the glow over in the direction of the spot where Monsieur Cyrus experienced his "happening", and then later, at about 1.00 o'clock in the early morning, she saw another intensely bright glow, close to the ground, in a field quite some distance from the scene of Monsieur Cyrus' experience, and consisting of two big lights bigger than car headlamps. The glare was blinding, and her eyes were painful next morning. The light seemed to illuminate the whole countryside around as though it were daytime.

Finally, there was also another witness — namely the motorist who came and helped Monsieur Cyrus, but apparently he is unwilling to make any statement.

Then there is the Gendarmerie at Carbonne too, but the gendarmes on this occasion showed themselves very unwilling to co-operate with our investigator.

The site

No marks were found in the field where the UFO had presumably landed, despite the efforts of several people who went there to investigate. Aerial photos of the place were also taken, but these showed no marks.

Monsieur Cyrus makes a confession

Needless to say we were astonished when Monsieur Cyrus all of a sudden informed us that the episode had not greatly astonished him, seeing that it was the *third time* that such a phenomenon had been good enough to manifest itself before his eyes. The details of his two previous episodes are as follows...

First sighting

This was in the Quillan district of the Département

of Aude, in 1957, at the time of the grape-harvest. It was about 8.30 one evening, in mid-September. While the other vineyard workers are all still sitting at their dinner, Monsieur Cyrus steps outside to answer a call of nature, and sees two elongated objects (orange-coloured cigars) at a distance of about 200 metres or so from him, just as though "sitting there" above the vineyard while a cart was passing below them between the rows of vines. He called to some of the other workers, who came and also saw the objects. Then they decided to approach the "objects," but when they had gone half of the way towards them the "cigars" departed silently and without changing colour.

Second sighting

This occurred at the village of Ox, in the same region, in September or October of 1974. The witness, who was with his wife, was driving along the main national highway linking Noé to Muret. The time was about midnight, the weather was clear, and they were headed towards Muret.

They were travelling along at a moderate speed when, after passing through Martres-Tolosane, they spotted a light to their left. They paid at first little heed to it. It seemed to take the form of a series of low flashes, seemingly "vibrating", almost at ground level. After they had passed through Noé the real phenomenon started, when the flashing lights were succeeded by an enormous orange ball which lit up the whole countryside around. The fact that it did not seem to them to be moving suggests that it was in fact travelling parallel to the car, away out to the left from the road.

For a distance of eight kilometres the object continued to accompany them in this fashion. When they arrived at the village of Ox, they became aware of the extent of the phenomenon, for they saw the village church, situated some two kilometres from their road, silhouetted against the glow as though "on the screen of a Chinese shadow-theatre."

By now they can see that the disc is enormous, lighting up the whole countryside. The tower of the church is thought to be about 35 metres high. The vast ball was bigger than that. Still moving along parallel to their route, it now vanished from their sight behind a service station beside the highway. The service station's lights blinked three times and then remained extinguished. Then the ball reappeared again and came back towards the church tower and passed behind it. The ball flared up brilliantly and suddenly, and then died down. The transformer situated near the church appeared to explode in one vast arc of light. Then, with the explosion in the transformer, all the lights in the village went out. Monsieur and Madam Cyrus meanwhile continued on their way to their home in Muret.

Next day, they asked the electricity authorities in Muret whether anything extraordinary had happened in Ox. [It turned out that the Ox transformer's circuit-breaker had indeed tripped for some unknown reason that night. [However, the EDF (French Electricity Board) would not let us have a copy of their report on the matter.]

Remarkable as it may seem, the "ordinary extra-

ordinary" adventures of Monsieur Cyrus were not to end there. For he, along with two other persons, was to witness a further curious phenomenon which — this time — was to puzzle him vastly.

This next episode took place in the summer of 1975, and prior to the happenings of August 29 described at the beginning of the article.

The first manifestation of the phenomena was at 11.00 p.m. on the square in Muret. Monsieur Cyrus had just sat down in his car in order to put it away in the garage for the night when, to his astonishment — since his car radio was not switched on — he hears sounds coming from it. He could not believe his ears; surely, he thinks, this beats everything! The sounds from the radio lasted about half a minute. He checked three or four times and made quite sure that the radio was definitely not switched on, and he also established positively that the voices were coming from its amplifier. (As an indication of the wave-length, he told us that he always kept his radio tuned to *Radio-Andorra*.)

The sounds from his radio

These seemed guttural, and do not appear to be identifiable with any known language. The pitch was flat and monocordant. Several "voices" seemed to be present, and taking part in a "discussion."

Despite the fact that it bore no resemblance to any language, Monsieur Cyrus insists on using the words "speech" and "phrase" in describing it. And he does however make one comparison: he has been in Africa (where he served in the Gendarmerie) and he tells us that it could conceivably be likened "to the language of apes." It had the same sort of abrupt, jarring sounds. This comparison returns several times later, and most cogently, to his mind. (It should be noted incidentally that he knows one foreign language, German, and so is able to cut out categorically any possibility that it can have been that.)

Once his initial astonishment had passed, he went on with his job of garaging the car, and meanwhile the incoherent conversation began again from his radio, leaving him in a state of the most utter bafflement.

Moreover, there was to be a second manifestation of this voice phenomenon. The next time, it occurred on the road to Saint-Gaudens, when he was driving to that place from Muret. His wife was with him, and they were just passing the little place known as Marquefavres. This time, it started with a noise comparable to that of a continuous, drawn-out sounding of a klaxon (like the way country bakers sound their horn in France, for example). Thinking that they were being hooted by another vehicle behind them, they looked back, but there was no sign that any other driver was doing it. Then it began again, and this time with the same voices mingling with the noise of the klaxon. They checked to see where it was coming from, and once again there was no question about it: it was definitely coming from the loud-speaker of the car radio, and with the radio well and truly switched off. The phenomenon continued for about ten minutes, until they got to the village of Cazères. And that is the end of Monsieur Cyrus' remarkable adventures!

Corroborative evidence

It seems that at the moment when all this was going on, there was a burst of intensive UFO activity over the whole region around Muret and Cazères. The case of Monsieur and Madame Cyrus with the voices was no isolated phenomenon. At least two other investigations conducted in the area mention similar phenomena happening to other persons, all quite unknown to each other.

At present we feel that a thorough investigation in the whole area is likely to show that we are by no means done with our surprises from that quarter.

So far the following cases have come to light:—
Cazères, 1974: an object was seen, plus humanoids.
Aspet, 1975: two women report that over a period of ten days an object was seen in the midst of a herd of cows.

Auterive: There was a sighting in 1972.

Further reports are still arriving, and this encourages us to push on with our project for an intensive study of the whole Département — indeed even of this whole south-western region of France. We have just formed our group, the Toulouse Régional UFO Investigation Group (Groupement Régional de Recherches sur les OVNI's) in Toulouse. So it seems that as the reports flow in we shall secure a clearer picture.

Points to be borne in mind in any investigation of this area include the following:—

- a. There is a radio transmitter at Muret.
 - b. There is a Herzian Wave station at Venerque.
 - c. There is a military installation at Venerque.
- All these are within a radius of thirty kilometres.

We must express our thanks to Monsieur Cyrus for his good-natured collaboration and assistance to our members in their task of investigating — not always an easy one.

Comment by Gordon Creighton

Once more we see an interesting report with many of the "classic" features with which we are now becoming so familiar — the physical paralysis of the witness and his temporary loss of speech and shock; the overwhelming luminous phenomenon of the close approach; the EM effect and electrical disturbances (can they be so sure that the car's engine did not stall?). Highly interesting too is the resultant "sleepiness" and visual disturbance of the witness, so reminiscent of the cases of Antônio Villas Boas, Aveyrou, and others. And, last but not least, we have the zany business of sounds and voices coming from the loudspeaker of a car radio that is not even switched on (see my article *Gobbledygook*, in FSR Vol. 18, No.6, November-December 1972).

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

THE TWILIGHT SIDE OF A UFO ENCOUNTER

Brent M. Raynes

SELDOM are the paranormal mechanics of a UFO encounter as visibly demonstrated as they were in this particular incident, an incident which contained many classic manifestations.

My attention was alerted to this situation at about 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, October 28, 1975, when I received a telephone call from my associate, Mrs. Shirley Fickett of Portland, Maine. Mrs. Fickett excitedly briefed me on an interesting new UFO sighting that had taken place in the early hours of Monday, October 27, near Oxford, Maine. It involved two young men, whom we shall call P, 18, and W, 21, who shared a trailer in Norway. (To protect the witnesses from possibly undesirable feedback we do not use names or even initials.) At about 7.30 p.m. I telephoned W's mother as the young men did not have a telephone at their place. Mrs. W informed me that the young men were there at her house at the moment and that earlier in the day, when Mrs. Fickett had called them, she suggested that they check the automobile and the young men with a compass, which they did. They found that the needle spun wildly in reaction to the car, and both young men, and even seemed to register a slight reaction with her and her husband. She also told me that they had seen UFOs that evening and, when I indicated a desire to do so, encouraged me to drive up. As soon as I had directions I made arrangements with my friend James Carey of Windsor, and we decided to meet at the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department in Auburn, where the W family had phoned in a report on the event. I copied the details from their file on the call, and noted that they had telephoned in the data to Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies.

At about 9.45 p.m. we arrived at Mr. & Mrs W's residence, in Oxford. The two young men were there, quite visibly shaken and upset, and Mr. & Mrs. W. displayed concern over their conditions. Within perhaps a minute of stepping inside the house we were asked if we would like to see a UFO. Naturally we said we would. And as James Carey later wrote for inclusion with my records: "The young man, W, pointed skyward and told us that the bright light in the sky was a big UFO, another we were told was another UFO, and in another section of the sky still another, all bright and all visible to everyone concerned. I am an amateur astronomer, and I told him that what he was concerned about were in fact not UFOs at all, but heavenly bodies, and that he should not be alarmed as these would not in any way harm him since they were natural objects,

Flying Saucer Review respected the request from the author and Mrs. Fickett through Dr. Schwarz that anonymity of the witnesses should be preserved, and initial letters were used in place of names. Since typesetting was completed, one American magazine has published a less detailed version of the report, in which Mr. Raynes and Mrs. Fickett were quoted, and the name of the main witness ("W" in our accounts) was given: it is David Stephens.

EDITOR

each in its place since the creation of the universe. He was angry with me, and went into the house. I went to my car and got my star maps. I showed him that his first "UFO" was in fact Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, the second "UFO" was Betelgeuse in the constellation of Orion, and the third was the planet Mars."

I followed W. as he entered the house and quickly set up my tape recorder. I explained to him that I wanted him to describe for me everything that he could remember and that I would then review it with him. We stepped into the living room to conduct the interview. About an hour later P. joined us and I questioned him about the various things that W. had described to me. At this point I also had them both hold my pocket compass, but no reaction was registered. Also, shortly after arriving, I checked the car (1971 *Plymouth Satellite*), but again I found nothing abnormal in my readings. While we were there, Ben Twitchel of the Civil Defense in Oxford arrived with a geiger counter and checked the automobile over, but indicated that he had gotten nothing other than normal background readings.

Meanwhile the details had begun to solidify. Both W. and P. worked at night jobs (W. at a poultry processing plant, and P. at a wool mill). Hence their being up at 3.00 a.m. on October 27, when this experience unfolded, was not unusual. They had been inside listening to music when suddenly they heard from outside a sound similar to an explosion of some sort, so they rushed outside but saw nothing unusual. As they stood outside, W. suggested that it would be nice to go for a short ride, and P. abruptly recommended a drive down to nearby Lake Thompson. With P. driving, they had planned to drive about four miles south down Route 26 and just a short distance past the Oxford Plains Speedway stadium and then cut across to a road that would