



# CASE HISTORIES

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## CONTENTS

<b>The investigations at Draguignan</b> <i>Jean Chasseigne and François Moll</i> .. .. .	1
<b>Low-pass UFO over the A5</b> <i>G. Geldard</i> .. .. .	6
<b>Chance Interception of Communication between Extraterrestrials?</b> <i>Dr. Walter Buhler</i> .. .. .	8
<b>UFOs over the Caribbean</b> <i>Salvador Freixedo</i> .. .. .	9
<b>The Humanoids at Tres Arroyos</b> <i>Jane Thomas</i> .. .. .	11
<b>Sindbad the Sailor</b> <i>LDLN Investigators</i> .. .. .	13
<b>Readers' Reports</b> .. .. .	15
<b>Further details about the "Hitch-hiker" from Space</b> ..	iii

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Case Histories

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SALUCER  
REVIEW

**51**

# CASE HISTORIES

TWENTY-FOUR PENCE

SUPPLEMENT 14 APRIL 1973



## UFO OVER THE A5

A recent report from the Midlands

See page 6



J. CHASSEIGNE

## The Investigations at Draguignan

*Jean Chasseigne and François Moll*

Translation by Gordon Creighton.

THIS sighting occurred near an unoccupied house near Draguignan, and not far from the hamlet of Les Nourradons, in the commune and arrondissement of Draguignan. (Michelin Map No. 84, sheet 7. Also see our map in text.)

The two witnesses, André Bouchaud, aged 23, and Pierre Calafat, aged 25, run a dance band in their spare time from work, and, for their rehearsals (which, as everyone knows, are pretty noisy) they found an old isolated house.

On the evening of March 29, 1971, at about 9.00 o'clock, the two young men and their companions were going out to the house for their rehearsal. They were driving up the little approach road leading from the main highway. Pierre Calafat was at the wheel. Suddenly his attention was caught by a vivid light in front of and above the car. He alerted his companion Bouchaud, who had already seen it, but thought it was an aeroplane, and pulled up.

A name that has been constantly cropping up in French UFO reports is that of Draguignan, in the Département of Var (far S.E. of France, near to Valensole and not very far from the home of our good friend Aimé Michel). The following article comes from *Lumières Dans La Nuit (Contact Lecteurs)*, November 1971. Our thanks to LDLN Editor Robert Veillith and to MM. Chasseigne and Moll for permission to reproduce this extremely interesting material. In a later article, specially written for FSR by Monsieur J. C. Dufour, another member of the LDLN research team, we shall go on to describe some of the extraordinary further developments in and around Draguignan, which has proved to be one of the "UFO repeater sites" and which, as is now established, has a very ancient connexion with "monsters" and still has, today, some places regarded as "haunted."—EDITOR.

Then both of them saw, the one through the wind-screen and the other through the right-hand side-window, a bright object, seemingly stationary, of a more or less round shape, emitting a dark red light, and of a diameter which they estimated at between 10 and 15 metres. Their opinions diverge slightly on the exact shape of the object observed. André Bouchaud says he saw a lens-shaped form, like one plate superimposed upon another. Pierre Calafat describes it as close to a hemisphere, a bit like a plate seen from underneath and from a three-quarters view, with a lighter luminous edge, visible along two-thirds of its circumference. Calafat says furthermore that a triangular-shaped luminous gleam was clearly visible beneath the object.

Bouchaud, who had already seen a UFO a few years before, asked Calafat to switch off his lights. Calafat, not being too familiar with the type of car, a 403 Peugeot, did not manage to turn them off straight-away, and went through the following sequence: full headlights; dipped; and then dimmed, which might have been interpreted as a signal. Was it this signal, or was it pure coincidence, that determined the subsequent behaviour of the object? Unfortunately we shall never know, but anyway it began to move as follows: first a very rapid vertical movement, for about fifteen metres or so, followed by a less rapid and less extended oblique descending movement, and then again a rapid vertical rise, though less prolonged than the first, followed by an oblique descent slower and shorter than the previous rise (see figure 2).

The witnesses observed three "Z"-shaped movements of this kind, and then the object moved away on a regular oblique descending trajectory as far as a vineyard about 150 metres distant, where it again halted at a height of ten metres or so above the ground. During this descent, which took but a few seconds, the object performed the pendulum movement.

The two young men drove on and reached the terrace in front of the house and, still in their car, continued to observe from there the object which was

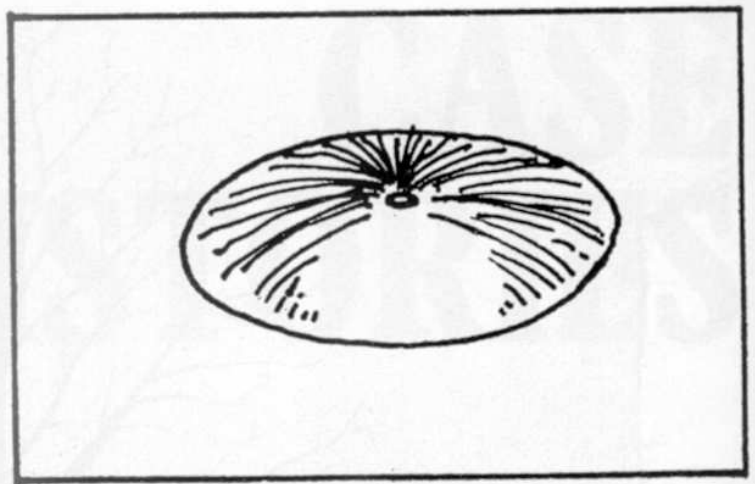


Fig. 1 Object as seen above and in front of car by Pierre Calafat

now only 50 metres or so from them, but with a big tree in between.

The object had the appearance of a lenticular-shaped machine, some 12-13 metres in diameter, and around 2 to 2.5 metres high. Its outlines were sharp, its colour "a dark red, like the cellulose mastic used as a primer before the bodywork of cars is painted." The underpart of the object was darker than the top and a circular rim diffusing a clearer light was plainly visible. The witnesses are not in agreement in their descriptions of this: Calafat saw the light as yellowish-white and scintillating, while Bouchaud compares it to the reflected light of a catadiopter, but confirms that this light was scintillating or rippling.

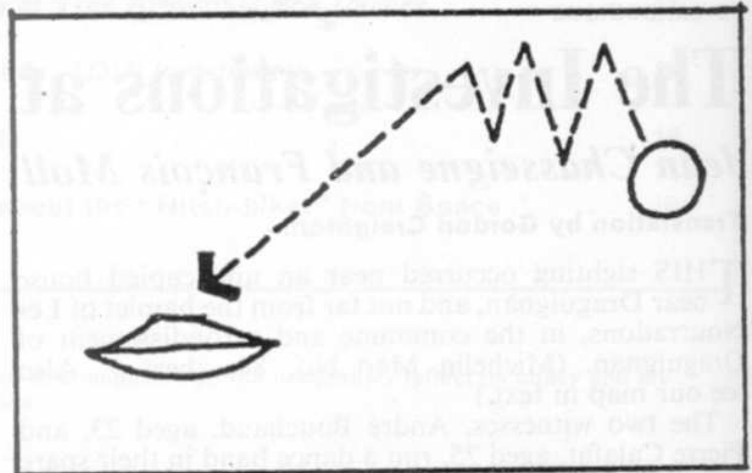


Fig. 2 Zigzag movement of UFO towards vineyard

On the upper part of the machine three sources of light were clearly visible, which led them to think that the machine possessed a rotary movement.

The accounts of the shape as given by the two witnesses also vary, but less sharply than their impressions of it at their earlier viewing of it a few moments before (see figure 3).

No sound was heard from it, and in the silence of that

place, in the middle of the night, the least noise would have been detected. They saw no antenna or external projection on the thing. No position-lights, no port-holes, no salient luminous area.

The craft remained there over the vineyard for about two minutes and then it performed a roll, and was away instantly, like a flash, towards Flayosc, and at an angle of 60° to the horizon.

André Bouchaud felt nothing during the sighting; Pierre Calafat however felt a certain sort of oppression, as though having difficulty in breathing, and later on, after the UFO had gone and their friends had all arrived for the rehearsal, he was still very pale. Moreover, he was more tired than usual throughout the whole of the following week.

Bouchaud was not wearing a wristwatch, but the one that Pierre Calafat was wearing *has gone badly ever since, stops frequently, and has since been shown to be strongly magnetised*. No effects were noticed on the working of the engine of the car.

### Local Conditions

On March 29, 1971, the weather was fine, the sky clear, and the stars visible. It was a dark night, there was a new moon on the evening of the 26th, which set about 11.30 p.m.

A summary study of the geological map of the Draguignan area reveals a dense network of faults to the South-West of the town. The sighting was near one of them, which in fact extends towards Flayosc.

To the North-West of the town, there are several faults running parallel, and perceptibly along a W-E alignment. A quite old sighting, of July 1966, occurred near the village of le Lentier, immediately to the south of one of these faults, on the hills lying along the left bank of the river Nartuby.

This sighting of 1966 had remained unknown until now, and one of the witnesses to it was, incidentally, André Bouchaud. We are at present engaged in research concerning the three companions who were with him that night in July 1966.

One thing at any rate is certain, namely that the Haut-Var region is particularly rich in sightings of all sorts.

### SOME OTHER INCIDENTS IN THE HAUT-VAR REGION

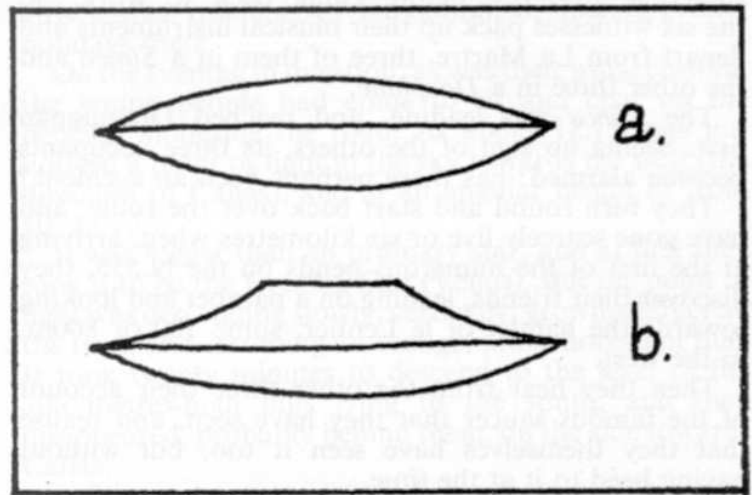
**1. At Draguignan, September 20-27, 1945** (investigation by Jean Chasseigne). The witness, Monsieur F—, a 62-year-old shepherd, wishes to remain anonymous.

He was watching his sheep, at night, in a field not far from the road to Lamothe, 800 metres to the east of Draguignan.

About an hour before dawn, he suddenly saw a yellow glow in the sky, circular in form, and of the apparent size of a football.

It descended vertically and increased in brightness, and came to a halt about thirty metres above him. Then a powerful beam of light came on beneath the object, illuminating the ground below with a dazzling yellow brightness.

This beam lit up the ground over an area some fifty metres in diameter, the witness at the centre, terrified,



**Fig. 3 a: Bouchaud's version of the UFO as seen over vineyard**  
**b: Calafat's version of UFO as seen over vineyard**

and hiding under a bush. The light was very intense. "You could see as clearly as in broad daylight," the witness told us.

The sheep fled in terror in all directions from the illuminated zone. Even long after this phenomenon of the light, they were still disturbed, and F— finally decided to take them back to their pen. The dogs did not move during the episode, remaining in the area lit up by the beam, but displaying evident signs of fear.

Our shepherd was completely dazzled. The light seemed to penetrate him, though without any definable physical sensation. He was not paralysed, and he had to cling to the stem of the bush so as not to fall down. He admits that he was very frightened indeed.

He does not know how long this light remained there above him. Suddenly he became aware of a throbbing or humming sound coming from the object, and then it rose straight up into the air again and a few seconds later the light was extinguished.

It took some minutes for him to recover from his dazed condition, and he was then able to see the luminous ball vanishing high in the sky.

The atmospheric conditions were excellent. He could see the stars, but does not remember having seen the Moon.

The descent of the object had lasted several minutes. It had no other movement of its own (rotation, oscillation, etc.) and did not change shape or colour. As it was coming down he was able to see a sort of stem protruding on the upper part of it.

**2. On the N.555 Road, N.W. of Draguignan**, communicated by Monsieur P. Billet. (Free extract from the *Revue d'Etudes et d'Information de la Gendarmerie Nationale*, year 1967.)

Sunday, July 17, 1966, was still a continuation of the National Holiday, July 14, and there was dancing in all the villages. The six witnesses had gone up to La Martre, a Haut-Var village 50 km. from Draguignan, to put on a dance for the young folk.

The party was over, and it was already Monday, and now they needed to return to Draguignan to

snatch a little rest before going back to work. So the six witnesses pack up their musical instruments and depart from La Martre, three of them in a *Simca* and the other three in a *Dauphine*.

The *Simca* was leading, and reached Draguignan first. Seeing no sign of the others, its three occupants become alarmed: has there perhaps been an accident?

They turn round and start back over the route, and have gone scarcely five or six kilometres when, arriving at the first of the numerous bends on the N.555, they discover their friends, leaning on a parapet and looking towards the hamlet of le Lentier, some 700 or 800m. to the west.

Then they hear from the other three their account of the famous saucer that they have seen, and realise that they themselves have seen it too, but without paying heed to it at the time.

What did the party in the *Dauphine* see? They had been quite a long way behind the *Simca*, and had been coming down the road through the Chateaudouble gorges, a very winding route cut in the mountainside and overlooking the river Nartuby. As they arrived at a fork road leading off to the hamlet of Rebouillon, the youngest of the party, aged 18, cried out to the eldest, aged 25:

“Stop. There’s a flying saucer!”

In the *Dauphine* they all laughed and joked about it, but, the young man insisting, the driver finally decides to stop, and all three look out. Over the valley, to their right, and slightly above the level where they themselves are, two great lights emitting a diffused glow are moving along parallel to the route of the car.

They start off again and, through the trees, they continue to watch, intermittently, the movement of this light. Suddenly it disappears, but then, emerging from a bend, they perceive the machine, now stationary, on their right and at a height of about 200 metres above the valley. The driver switches off his lights, finds a convenient spot to park, and all three get out and go to lean on the parapet of the low wall flanking the road. It is 3.45 a.m.

At a distance of some 200 or 300 metres from them, they observe an egg-shaped form which they estimate to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times or twice the length of their car. At one end, which they take to be the rear, so far as movement is concerned, they see, pointing upwards, a sort of lighted stem. On the side of the machine, four port-holes, faintly lit, do not permit them to distinguish whether there are any occupants.

After remaining there stationary for a moment, the craft seems to turn on its own axis, one port-hole disappearing on one side while another appears on the other side. Then it moves again, coming lower, and again halts, at about 50 metres from them, and at 20 or 30 metres from the ground.

At this point various lights on the underside of the craft are switched on, their beams illuminating the ground vividly; towards the rear one or two of the beams are intermittent. Then the beams of light vanish and the witnesses see the craft start off again in the direction of Draguignan.

Getting back in their car, the three men catch a last glimpse of the UFO as it veers off towards the left, climbs, and vanishes over the hamlet of le Lentier. The

thing that has struck them most forcibly about the whole business is the total silence with which the machine moves.

On the road ahead of them they see lights. It is their friends in the *Simca*, looking for them. And it seems that the party in the *Simca* had also seen something at the same place: a circular object “like a Camembert cheese box,” lit by an opaque white light, moving about in silence at a distance of some 250 metres from them.

Subsequently we were to find a seventh witness, at a place 8 km. further north. He was a 65-year-old shepherd who was watching his sheep, at an altitude of 1,000 metres, on a level region in the Beau-Soleil Mountains. He cannot read, and he tells the time by the sky. He says it was nearly midnight, and the first stars were starting to appear. The machine was at about 300 metres from him, just above the ridge lying between him and an old abandoned shooting-box towards the south. The shape of the object was oval and its diameter was like that of the Moon when it is rising; almost immediately after that the thing assumed a spherical form and vanished beyond the ridge. It was quite silent, and the dogs and sheep remained calm. The time in this report was not the same, and the actual date is uncertain. Was it the same object? Could there have been confusion with a sonde balloon? The article in the Gendarmerie’s journal does not say.)

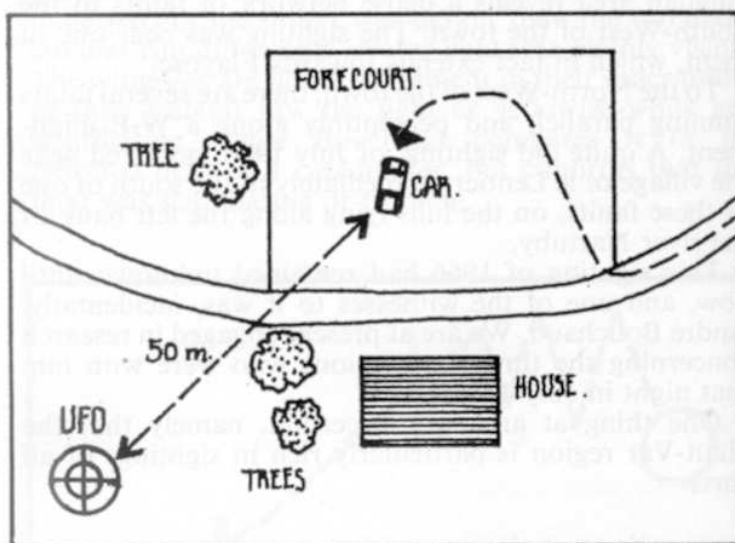


Fig. 4

4. At Draguignan in March, 1968, investigation by MM. Chasseigne and François Moll.

On the evening in question, in the middle of March, 1968, at about 11.30 p.m., Christian Fabre, aged 16, was returning from a meeting of a Draguignan model railway club to his parents’ house on the route de Grasse, in the upper part of the town.

He had taken a short cut via a flight of steps, and, turning back to look out over the town, his attention was caught by an orange glow over the hills to the South.

This glow was cigar-shaped, and its thickness was comparable to the apparent diameter of the Moon. The “cigar” was travelling towards the centre of Draguignan, and its colour was changing to bright red and its apparent thickness was increasing. It continued to approach, and he could now distinguish its shape better.

Its contours were sharp, and its form lenticular, like a soup-plate upside down, its rim cambered on the underside.

Arriving approximately right above the Draguignan clock-tower the object became stationary and then began to rotate on its axis for about fifteen seconds, turning orange again as it did so. Then it dropped vertically, rapidly and abruptly, a long way, at the same time rocking to and fro. The witness estimated this drop in altitude at about 1,000 metres, and the object's apparent size had now increased by at least one-third. The angular height had diminished by 15° during the descent, and the object's colour had again changed, this time becoming a very phosphorescent pale green.

The descent ended suddenly, and the object started to rotate again. It remained there for some 15 seconds or so, then rose rapidly again, once more turning bright red.

After another pause of 15 seconds or so at the top of the climb, the object made off very fast westwards, towards the Seyran Hills (Flayosc direction). The speed of its departure was twice that of its arrival.

The witness made a sketch for us (see figure 0).

### Comments

The weather conditions were excellent. It had rained during the day, but the Mistral wind had started to blow, and had cleared the sky entirely. The Moon, new on March 17, was perfectly visible.

We have noted that in three sightings made at Draguignan (July 16, 1966; March 29, 1971; and this present report of mid-March, 1968) the objects observed have all departed towards the West or North-West (direction of Valensole).

In his *Soucoupes Volantes, 20 Ans d'Enquêtes (Flying Saucers: Twenty Years of Investigation)*, Charles Garreau gives several orthotenic lines passing through Valensole. One of these lines passes close to Draguignan.

*So far as local history and legend are concerned, one tradition tells that a dragon haunted the place where the town of Draguignan later arose, and that this was how the town, built on marshes, got its name.*

### Comment by Editor of Lumières dans la Nuit

*Let us note that this report presents an interesting symphony of colour-changes linked with the movements of the object.*

*The old Roman name for Draguignan was Dracoenum, and popular etymology associates the latter name with drac, which everywhere means dragon. But, 1 km. from the town, along the road to Castellane, there is also a dolmen: Pierre de la Fée (The Fairy's Stone). It consists of three raised stones, covered with a slab 6 metres long, 4 metres wide, and 50 cms. thick. The dolmen is guarded by three symbolic trees: a nettle-tree, a juniper-tree, and an oak, and has provided the setting for a nice legend, in which a great flame gushes out of the ground.*

The witnesses in this case were about twenty boys and girls, either residents of Bargemon, or spending their holidays there.

On the evening in question, as was their usual custom, the young people had come to sit and chat on the benches alongside the road. At about 11.15, one girl noticed a point of light in the sky towards the west (the direction of Callas), and at an angular height of from 10° to 15°.

It was bigger than an ordinary star, and at first they took it to be the Evening Star (Venus). But the point of light was descending slowly, vertically, growing larger all the time, and assuming an orange, phosphorescent hue. It took twenty minutes to descend to the level of the 700 metres-high hills lying to the south, and then disappeared, probably behind them, on the side towards Callas.

A few minutes elapsed, and then it reappeared, very low, just above the hills. Its apparent size had again increased, and its trajectory seemed changed. Whereas previously it had been moving vertically, its flight was now oblique, and it was moving towards the source of the river Doux, down in the valley, less than 1 km. from the witnesses.

### Note by Editor of Lumières dans la Nuit

*This remarkable sighting once again puts the emphasis on one special feature: a "machine" is seen which, arriving from the sky, heads straight for one precise point, the source of the river Doux, which, moreover, is situated on a fault. Geological faults and sources of rivers are in fact precisely the features to which we are now devoting all our attention.*

The object now loomed large in the sky, and seemed to them the size of a car. It was disc-shaped, with a dome on the top. The upper-part was orangish in colour and very bright, while the underneath seemed grey. Its contours were very sharply defined.

It moved slowly, at a height of about 100 metres, and came to a halt right over the source of the river. It remained there for about ten seconds, and then made a quarter-turn as though taking a bearing on where it wanted to go. Then it shot off instantly at great speed towards the North-East and towards the witnesses. They had a very clear view of it as it passed over them, at no great height, and totally silent. The edge of the craft was still emitting the same orangish light, while the under-part was grey, of metallic appearance, smooth, and polished. They estimated the diameter of the machine at between 15 and 20 metres.

The witnesses were extremely frightened when they saw this unknown body heading straight at them in the most total silence. None however experienced any physiological after-effects.

**Geology:** The southern hills consist of jurassic dolomitic terrains, forming a transitional zone between the sub-alpine calcareous aspect, of Provençal type, and the dolomitic aspect of the eastern part of Basse-Provence.

(Continued on page 7)

# Low-Pass UFO over the A5

G. Geldard

I VISITED Mr. John Spencer of 61 Newland Road, Baddesley Ensor, Near Atherstone, Warwickshire, on February 28, 1973, to discuss his sighting of a craft on Friday, February 16. The report of the sighting was published in our local newspaper *The Tamworth Herald* on February 23. There were no other reports of a sighting by other people in the next issue of the paper on March 2.

Mr. Spencer is married and has a family. He lives approximately 1 mile from the A5 trunk road. Before the event he did not believe in the existence of UFOs, but his wife did have an interest in the subject. On returning home from work that evening he told his wife about the events of the morning. Mrs. Spencer telephoned *The Tamworth Herald* to see if there had been any other reports of the incident, and related details of the event, hence the report which appeared in the newspaper.

Mr. Spencer told me that he works at the Dunlop works in Birmingham and, since the report had appeared, he has been subjected to quite a bit of ridicule and leg-pulling from his work mates. He said he wished his wife had never mentioned the subject to the newspaper.

With reference to the report in the *Herald*, there is an error inasmuch as the garage is in fact the "Kinsall Green Garage" and not the "Tinkers Green Garage."

## The Incident

Mr. Spencer left for work, as usual, at approximately 5.00 a.m. in his Ford *Escort* and made his way from his home down onto the A5, travelling in the direction of Wilnecote. It was dark at that time of the morning, and the weather conditions were fine and clear as he bypassed Dordon, travelling along a dual carriageway section. Shortly after the road leaves the built-up area,

the street lighting ceased: over to the right at this point there are two or three houses standing opposite Birch Coppice Colliery entrance. Mr. Spencer stated that he was just throwing a cigarette end out of the side window when he noticed something strange in the sky over to the right. The time was approximately 5.05 a.m., and the witness estimates that he was travelling at about 40 m.p.h. There were no other vehicles although the road normally carries a very large amount of heavy traffic.

The witness states that he is not easily frightened, but he realised that this was something unusual and he said that he really started to sweat as it seemed that the descending object was going to crash down onto the A5 in front of him.

When he observed that the object was apparently coming across the road in front of him, he dropped down to second gear and proceeded at approximately 20 m.p.h. The object, which had come across a small line of houses to the right known as Birchmoor, and, after that, about half-a-mile of open fields, crossed the A5 at treetop height. Mr. Spencer estimated that the nearest he approached the craft as it passed in front of him was about 200 yards. He said he did not stop the car at any time, but he did lower the window to listen for noise, and could hear nothing. The object did not pass directly over the garage, but over the road between that building and the approaching car.

The witness said that the craft was oval in shape, and was approximately 150 feet in diameter—it could have been even bigger. When asked what had attracted his attention, he said that the whole craft was a vivid orange in colour. A cone-shaped flame was ejecting from the lower centre part of the UFO. The flame

Map showing the flightpath of the UFO and the route taken by Mr. Spencer

Our cover illustration shows our artist's impression of the scene as Mr. Spencer approached Kinsall Green Garage.

