

# REPORT ON A LANDING AT UZÈS

*Charles Gouiran, et al*

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THE ancient ducal city of Uzès, in the Department of Gard in the extreme South of France, lies some 25 kilometres or so to the north of Nîmes, on gently rolling moorland. At the end of a long steep track outside the town, where other human habitations are few, lies the villa of the Fernandez family.

At about 6.00 p.m. on November 19, 1974, Christophe Fernandez, aged 16, was about to set off for the town to see his friends. He was alone in the house at this time, so would make sure of locking up all doors and windows before leaving. And, as he was closing the shutters to the kitchen windows, which face westwards, he noticed a luminous ball partly hidden behind the top of the surrounding garden wall of the villa. His next visit was to the bathroom, the window of which faces north.

Arriving in the bathroom, he beheld (at a distance which he subsequently determined as about 35 meters) a brightly shining ball of a colour difficult to define except perhaps as opalescent. It did not appear to be metallic and, despite its great brightness it did not illuminate the area round about it. It was stationary beside the road. Its diameter he estimated at somewhere between a minimum of 1 metre 80 cms. and 2 metres 50 cms., and it now seems that it can be set at 2 metres 20 cms. The ball was either touching the ground or very close to it. Despite the pretty strong *mistral* (cold wind from the N.E.) which was blowing at the time, the globe or ball was absolutely motionless.

This astonishing sight alarmed the boy, as may be imagined and, to bolster his courage rather than with any actual plans of aggression, he went and got his gun. The mere thought of having a weapon was reassuring.

Returning to the window, he watched the phenomenon attentively for the next ten or fifteen minutes.

Then he remembered that his camera was loaded. So he got it, and went out and approached the UFO until he was 23 metres from it (he established this distance afterwards). Arriving there, he could just detect a modulated but continuous sound which it is difficult to describe, but which he likens to the *glou-glou* of a bottle being emptied. At certain places on the luminous globe he could see circular patches — there seemed to be three of them — "... where the colouring was deeper and more uniform than the

The "Veronica" Investigation Group, of 3 rue Folco de Baroncelli, 30000 Nîmes, France, inform us that they are a local association of some fifty members who work in close collaboration with our friends of *Lumières Dans La Nuit*. They aim to make in-depth studies of selected cases arising within their region of France, and when sending us this interesting and well prepared report they were so kind as to inform us that, so far as publication in the English language is concerned, this as well as future material, is made available exclusively to FSR, for which collaboration our warmest thanks! EDITOR

rest." These circular patches, or "circular shapes," as he described them, were slowly moving about "...as though looking for something," and they put him somewhat in mind of the bubbles of soft paste that are to be seen rising and falling in certain illuminated gadgets.

But by now Christophe was trembling so much that he found it totally impossible to operate his camera.

He went back into the house, pulled himself together, and got his tripod and lightmeter. Then he went outside again and took two series of photos: three at 35 metres and 2 (of which one was no good) at 23 metres.

After that he went back to the house, put a record on his record-player to cheer himself up, and carried on watching the UFO.

A few minutes after that, the globe rose slowly to a height of four or five metres in the air and then stopped again, and a cylinder emerged from the under part. Blinded by the tremendous brightness of this cylinder, he had to put up his hands to protect his eyes. The cylinder seemed to him to be about 80 cms — 1 metre in length, with a diameter that he thought about 40 cms.

Then the UFO suddenly shot straight upwards, with the speed of lightning, and was out of sight in a tiny fraction of a second.

After so extraordinary an experience, Christophe nevertheless decided that he would still go to Uzès as he had planned. It was now about 6.30 p.m. as and his observation had thus lasted half an hour. He mounted his moped, and as he passed the spot where the thing had been he got a strong sensation of heat.

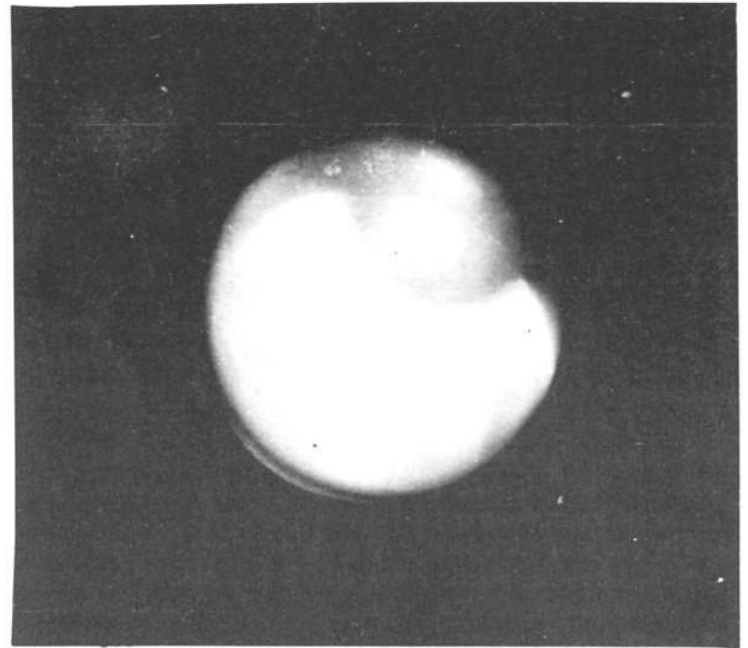
He does not mention having smelt anything at any time.

During the next few days he used up the rest of his film by taking some pictures of his younger brother, and then he developed it in the laboratory of the Uzès Youth Centre, in the presence of two secondary-school teachers.

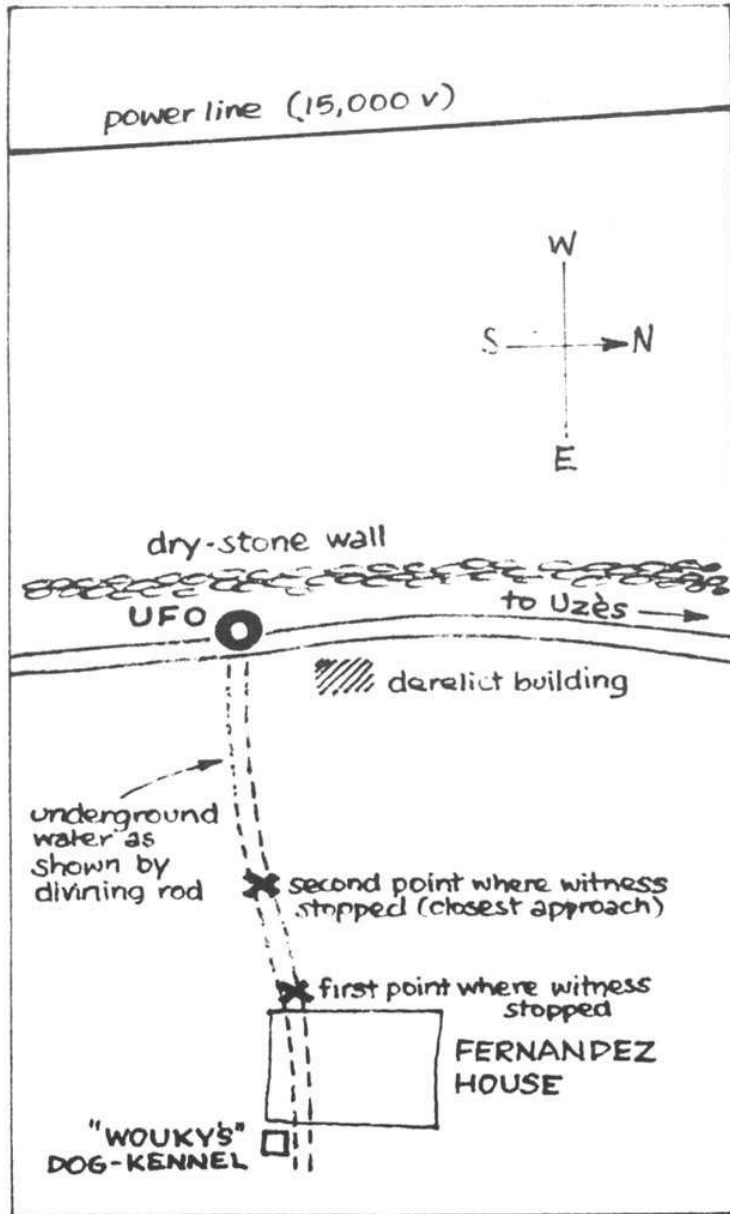
We of the "Veronica" Group only learned of the landing through the account in the newspaper *Le Midi Libre* of December 20, 1974, and arrangements were at once made for us to interview the witness on December 26.

Our investigators were able to examine the negatives, which are very interesting indeed, for it was possible to observe, from one picture to another, how the circular marks had indeed moved. The film had not been cut up, so that all the pictures of the UFO and of Christophe's brother were clearly shown on the roll.

We tried to have the film sent to Monsieur Claude Poher for examination and immediate return to the owner, but quite in vain. Subsequently, the film was



**Photo 1:** After the theft of the negatives, Groupe Veronique made this print by re-photographing the best of the proofs which were in the possession of the witness.



Details of Camera used by Christophe Fernandez, Film, etc:

Camera: AGFA Vitoret, Lens = 2.8/50

Speed: 1/60 Sec.

Aperture: Not noted, but set according to indications given by photometer.

Distance: (as shown by camera.): 15 metres.

Actual Distance, UFO to camera: 23 metres.

Film: KODAK PAN "X" (125 ASA)

unwisely left at the Youth Centre in Uzès, despite our warnings, and it was stolen.

We have therefore had photographs made of the best of the prints.

The Fernandez family are people held in very high esteem in the region. Monsieur Fernandez is a technical teacher at the Uzès Lycée, where Christophe himself is a student in the 2nd class. (The father being an atheist, Christophe has no mystical tendencies.)

Christophe appears to be thoroughly well balanced, calm and level-headed. He is tall, very well developed for his age, and a successful practitioner in two particularly virile sports: Motorcycle rallies and karate.

Results of Investigation of December 26, 1974:

At the spot indicated as the place where the UFO had been, we were unable to detect anything unusual.

*Radioactivity:* The Geiger counter registered no residual radioactivity, however slight.

*Magnetic anomalies:* None found.

*Effects on power supply:* The witness observed no drop or interruption of power.

*Effects on witness's watch: and on clocks in the house:* No disturbance of function noticed.

*Geological faults:* The dowsing rod reacts very



**Photo 2: The landing zone. The poor quality may be due to use of infrared film.**

strongly along the line linking the site to the house. There must consequently be a big underground flow of water there. Monsieur Fernandez confirms in fact that he has a well which lies right on this line and which yields a steady flow of five cubic metres of water per hour.

*Examination of Vegetation:* When examined more than a month after the event, the vegetation at the site seemed unaffected.

*Attempts at planting:* Given the appearance of the existing vegetation it seemed unnecessary to carry out any tests of germination.

*Soil Analysis:* A thin layer of soil covers the calcareous slabs of this typical moorland terrain. Examination of the soil at the landing site showed, at a depth of a few centimetres, a few spots which suggested that they might bear signs of having undergone a considerable rise in temperature. Samples were taken, but the analysis revealed nothing of note.

*Photographs: black and white film:* No results owing to a mistake, the film having failed to engage properly.

*Colour film:* We took some good colour films of the spot and surroundings (Kodachrome II), and these accompany our report.

*Infra-red film:* As is well known, infra-red films do not last long, and must be used very soon after being purchased. Our Group had an infra-red film: we took some photos with it, primarily in order not to let the film be wasted, but there was no hope of our getting anything on it anyway since over a month had elapsed since the landing.

*Effect on animals:*

a) *Dog:* the Alsatian dog "Wouky" was tied up behind the house at the time. He did not react in any particular way, did not bark, and was not disturbed either that evening or on the following days. This might suggest that there were no ultrasonic or infrasonic emissions. "Wouky" does not however react to light, as he is blind.

b) *Birds:* The birds frequenting the area do not seem to have been affected. Their numbers remain appreciably the same.

c) *Rabbits:* On the other hand the rabbits, which

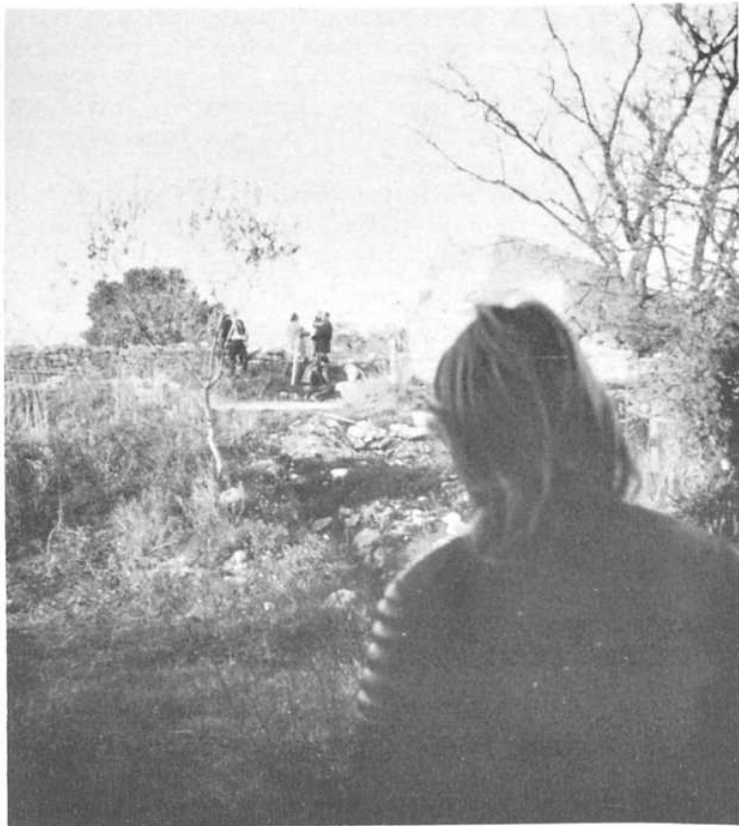


**Photo 3: Suspected landing trace: infrared film.**





**Photo 4: Christophe Fernandez at the landing site. The "1 metre" pointer denotes height of object above ground**



**Photo 5: Christophe at 35 metres from the site, in the position where he took his first series of photographs of the object**

usually were in the habit of gambolling about at the site and in the vicinity soon after night had fallen, had not been seen again up to the time of our investigation, namely more than a month after the event.

*High Tension Power Lines:* A line (15,000 volts) passes in the vicinity of the landing site.

### Follow-Up

We kept the witness under observation for several months afterwards. At no time did he ever show the least sign of any physiological disorder.

Meanwhile, while it is not possible to establish any link with Christophe's case, it should be noted that, on numerous occasions over the month following his experience, as the evening was coming on, luminous flashes, at times assuming the form of "electrical" bluish-green circles, appeared inside the villa, at floor-level, *and at the very spot where Christophe had stood.* The duration of these flashes has never been more than a fraction of a second. His father has made a systematic study of the phenomenon. No connection has been established between these flashes and anything to do with Christophe's clothing, for example, nor has any relation been established between them and the furniture in the room.

During this follow-up period, we made a systematic enquiry in the district with a view to finding corroboration of Christophe Fernandez' experience, and two new pieces of evidence were found.

The first of these pieces of evidence concerns a person residing on the northern outskirts of Nîmes



**Photo 6: Christophe at 23 metres from the landing site where he shot his second series of photographs**



Photo 7: The Fernandez home, as seen from the landing site. The bathroom window can be seen, while the kitchen is to the right. As will be observed, even when leaning out of the kitchen window Christophe could not see the whole of the UFO, due to the angle of the house. That is why he had to move to the bathroom window for better viewing.

who, in the early afternoon of November 19, 1974, "saw a spherical UFO travelling towards Uzès."

The second report comes from Madame Clutien, whose home is situated some 150 metres from the site of Christophe's luminous ball. On the evening in question, Mme Clutien, her two little girls, and a nephew, all saw the UFO towards the west, between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. Owing to the lie of the terrain they did not manage to observe its actual landing, after its slow descent. The site of the landing is in fact invisible from their house.

#### Comments on the Witness by Charles Gouiran

The witness displayed a great deal of *sang-froid* in his cool handling of the situation, and showed himself to be a remarkably good observer. His sincerity is beyond all question. In fact fear of being accused of exaggeration induced him to keep silent on certain points - particularly as regards to the way in which the UFO departed -- when talking to the journalist from *Le Midi Libre*.

It is right to point out that it was a member of Christophe's own family who informed the press, otherwise the whole thing might very well have remained unknown. And that would indeed have been regrettable, for here we have a close encounter sighting, with photographs, something that is exceedingly rare in the annals of Ufology.

Being at ease with us, he told us how puzzled he had been by one extraordinary feature of the globe: **at some moments it seemed to be transparent.** He said: "I thought I could see the dry-stone wall through the body of the globe... it didn't seem possible... and I just don't understand a thing about it."

It is difficult to accept that a complex machine capable of reaching very high speeds could have a structure that at times could be transparent. Translucence and transparency are features that, unconsciously, the human brain associates with a

certain degree of fragility that would be quite incompatible with high speeds.

However, this unusual feature has put us in mind again of the case of Onilson Paterno in Brazil\*, who "could see the blades of the fan turning through the hood of his car."

Comparing the two cases of Onilson Paterno and Christophe Fernandez, we note in fact:

- (1) a certain similarity in shape: in both cases the UFO was a ball, with a tube below.
- (2) one of the properties of Onilson Paterno's ball at Catanduva was that by means of a beam it could make things transparent.
- (3) one of the features of the ball at Uzès was that at times, it became transparent.

It may perhaps seem hazardous to put forward the following hypothesis: namely that the ball at Uzès was equipped with a device that generated "translucidizing" beams, the same as the ball at Catanduva, but that it did not have to employ it within the framework of its "mission" at Uzès. This generator however being kept ready charged in the machine may have momentarily released pulsations that made it possible to see through the UFO?

This does not strike us as an impossible idea, and it seemed worth mentioning.

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\*Note by G. Creighton: For the case of the UFO at Catanduva, Brazil, which turned Onilson Paterno's car "transparent," see my article on page 14 of FSR Vol. 21, double issue 3/4 (1975). As I stated therein, I had not yet had time to give more than a very brief résumé of this case which Dr. W. Buhler has dealt with at very great length.

The account used by Monsieur Charles Gouiran was different from mine in details, and longer, and was taken from the report published in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* for September 1973.