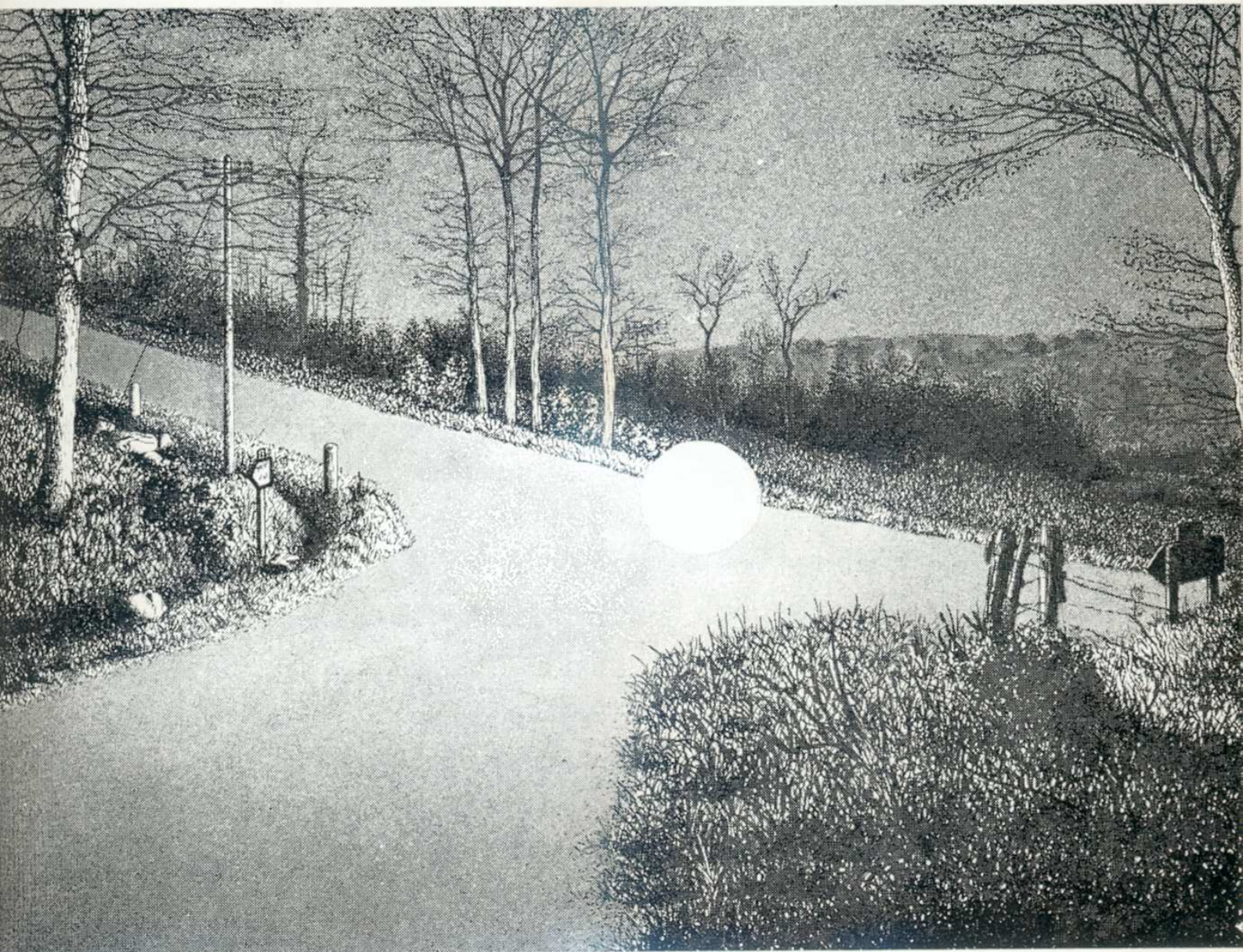


FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

FSI

Vol. 17, No. 1 January/February 1971 30p.



**Auto-chase; auto-stop; saucer and occupants;
wave of heat; physiological effects.**

GRAND FINALE AT AVEYRON



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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol. 17 No. 1
 January/February

COMMON SENSE

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1971

◀ Flying Saucer Review

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AS welcome as a zephyr breeze on a sultry day are the conclusions of a study subcommittee of 11 engineers and scientists set up by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). The Subcommittee's appraisal of the UFO problem was published in the November 1970 issue of *Astronautics and Aeronautics*, an AIAA publication.¹

As a part of their studies, the Subcommittee examined the Condon Report, and, noting that 30% of the 117 cases included therein could not be identified, found no basis for Dr. Condon's prediction that nothing of scientific value would come from further studies. Indeed it is pointed out that "... the opposite conclusion could have been drawn from the content of the report, namely that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study."

This common sense approach on the part of a team headed by Dr. Joachim Kuettner of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of Boulder, Colorado, is encouraging, to say the least. It is worth noting, too, that the AIAA includes among its 30,000 members such distinguished personages as Werner von Braun, Secretary of the Air Force Robert Seamans and astronaut Neil Armstrong, although it is not suggested that they were in any way concerned with the study project.

Early on in their appraisal, the AIAA Subcommittee emphasised that they were perturbed by the "paucity of thorough scientific and technological analysis applied to practically all observations before the Condon study. The few, often courageous, efforts by individuals to come to grips with this problem should be viewed more from an aspect of focusing attention on the problem rather than on solving it, since there is little doubt that it takes more than a personal effort to investigate fully a problem of such complexity."

The Subcommittee point out that not all conclusions contained in the Colorado University Commission's report are fully reflected in Dr. Condon's summary, and they cite briefly the 1956 Lakenheath case² and the Colorado Springs case of 1967. However, they add that "Condon's own conclusions have been widely misquoted" and repeat his lines: "... Scientists are no respecters of authority. Our conclusion that study of UFO reports is not likely to advance science will not be uncritically accepted by them . . ." and "If they disagree [with those conclusions] it will be because our report has helped them reach a clear picture of wherein existing studies are faulty or incomplete . . ." The AIAA Subcommittee then demonstrate that they are among those who disagree, for, after detailing the well-known figures about insufficient data, and explanations due to "known phenomena" with relation to reports, they state: "We find it difficult to ignore the small residue of well-documented but unexplainable cases which form the hardcore of the UFO controversy."

It is of interest too that the Subcommittee should find that the statement, in the Condon Report, that "*clearly defined, specific studies*" (which include "*important areas of atmospheric optics, including radiowave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity . . .*") "*should be considered and supported,*" is a better

criterion for support of UFO-related studies than the claim by "some extraterrestrial hypothesis exponents." This claim, that "... UFO research deserves maximum support as long as there is a ghost of a chance that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles" is considered just as unwarranted as is the opposite claim "that proof for the extraterrestrial hypothesis must be provided before serious consideration of the UFO problem is justified." They also disagree with Dr. Condon's views about ILE (intelligent life elsewhere) and its inability to visit Earth.

Concerning possible future studies, the Subcommittee suggests "a continuing moderate-level effort with emphasis on improved data collection by objective means, and on high-quality scientific analysis. Underlined is the fact that the recommended approach to the problem "requires not only the attention of the scientist and engineer, but also a readiness of government agencies to consider sound proposals in this field without bias or fear of ridicule and repercussion"

* * * * *

It remains to be seen whether or not anything specific in the way of a continuing study will result from this good, common sense approach to the problem.

Good advice that we can heed is that data should be objectively collected, and, as far as *Flying Saucer Review* is concerned, be put on record. To further this aim we have launched *FSR Case Histories*, and have urged readers themselves, where possible, to get out and about to follow-up and investigate all reports, and to send us the results. Which, we are sure you will agree, is also good common sense.

NOTES

¹ We are indebted to Dr. J. Allen Hynek for sending us a copy of the AIAA article, and also to Mr. Stanton T. Friedman who sent another, with additional notes. Thanks are also due to Mr. Julian Hennessy of NICAP who alerted us to the publication of the article.

² See also: Dr. James E. McDonald, *UFOs over Lakenheath in 1956* in *FSR*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (March/April 1970).

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THE AVEYRON ENQUIRY—3

F. Lagarde

Investigated by G. Canourges, J. Chasseign, F. Dupin de la Guérivière and F. Lagarde of the "Lumières dans la Nuit" organisation. This report, of which the dialogue is a transcription from tape recordings, gives some idea of the patient in-depth investigation carried out by the team and it should serve as a model for all other investigators. Our contributor is one of the editors of the journal "Lumières dans la Nuit," and we are indebted to him and his colleague Monsieur R. Veillith for their ready collaboration with FSR. Our thanks are conveyed also to John C. Hugill for his excellent translations.

THE evening of Thursday, January 6, 1967, has already been described and commented on. It was, as it were, the prologue to a series of sightings which reached its culminating point on the following Wednesday, January 11, 1967.

We were able to establish that on Saturday, January 7, on Monday, January 9, and on Tuesday, January 10, the "shell" and the "balls" were seen again some way off to the west, but with no particular incident of note. It seems too that the affair of the two dogs may have taken place on Sunday, January 8, but this is not certain.

* * *

We resume our conversation with the son on the subject of Wednesday evening (January 11), and incidentally we uncover a new fact in that, on that evening, the "shell" changed its position, or else that there were two of them.

The Son: "That Wednesday, I saw the 'shell' down there by the house . . . I don't know if it was the same one, because before I got in the car, I saw it down there to the west . . . and then when I'd got the car, it was over here to the north . . . I don't know if it was the same."

"Well, let's have that in detail. On that Wednesday you saw the object in approximately the same place where you saw the others?"

"Yes, at any rate I went out each evening and I saw them every time during that period."

"That's it, yes. You saw them more or less always in the same place?"

"Yes."

"Except the Wednesday."

"Yes, on the Wednesday too I saw it . . . that day I went out and there was one of the balls coming up that there side road . . . down there . . . and it stopped on the main road, right in the middle. Then I came back to the house, and went upstairs, and I saw the ball still in the middle of the main road. Then I had the idea of getting the car . . ."

* * *

Before going on to the story of that evening's wanderings, we should note a point made by the son. In that countryside, at that time of year, people go to bed early in the evening. Here and there one saw lights piercing the darkness, which then went out one after the other. According to the witness, the balls only

began to appear after the neighbouring lights had already gone out.

* * *

We got into M. Chasseigne's car to follow the route of the son in his vehicle, which covered a distance of some three kilometres.

"Tell us, what happened exactly on that evening?"

"Well, I got the car, and I could see the ball coming out of the side road. It was slap in the middle of the main road . . . and then it began to move. It followed the car, keeping the same speed as my own."

"It followed, or went ahead?"

"It was in front."

"It preceded you?"

"It preceded me, that's right."

(the car sets off)

The size of the "shell"

"Then it was opposite that post up there that you can see that I saw the 'shell'. So I stopped on that exact spot. I stopped the engine . . . and I watched the 'shell' . . . I saw it there . . . just to my left there . . . it was . . . it seemed enormous to me."

"Was it before the pond?"

"Not just there! No, say ten metres from there."

"From where?"

"Ten metres from . . . from that post there . . . ten metres or thereabouts, a little bit further down there."

"Was it bigger than that tree?"

"Oh, it was . . . it was very big . . . and the ball that I was following had stopped up there . . . almost at the end of the main road."

"Do you see that tree down there beside the pond, and the three others in front?"

"The three trees, yes . . . and I saw the ball down there . . . there was a ball . . . a white ball . . . the same one seemingly that I was following . . . it was above the pond down there . . . and after a few moments, there it was, and I got the impression that it was re-entering the 'shell'."

"Where would you place the 'shell' in relation to the three trees and the solitary one over there?"

"It was . . . well now . . . from where I am, in front of that lone tree, see?"

"Beside the lone tree?"

"No, in front."

The hesitations in his answers came from the fact that we did not know at this stage that the 'shell' was in fact very close, as we shall see for ourselves, and that the questions we asked were related to distant landmarks.

"That's the tree in front of us, between here and the pond?"

"Yes—yes."

"Was it as high as the tree?"

"Oh, much higher . . . much higher, yes!"

"Was it touching the ground?"

"I had the impression that it wasn't touching the ground . . . and it was just when I was opening the car door that it suddenly got very bright . . . it started to make a whistling noise, and then it pushed off."

(All this time we were on the edge of the main road, in the position occupied by the witness, to get an idea of what he could have seen from there. Then we went into the meadow, and the witness halted us at the spot where the 'shell' was supposed to have been.)

"There were two or three metres between the 'shell' and the ground?"

"Oh no! . . . wait a bit . . . say about two metres."

"The height of a man?"

"Yes."

"But then it was only 30 metres from the car! As close as that?"

"Oh, yes!"

"That means something between 25-35 metres, or thereabouts?"

"That's about it, yes! . . . it went off in that direction, down there, see?"

"Oh, fine! But then it went over all those tree-tops down in the bottom there?"

"Oh yes! . . . Oh! . . . oh my goodness!"

We made various measurements in evaluation, and reached the following approximations:

Distance from the car: ± 35 metres

Width of the machine: ± 2.5 metres

Height above ground: ± 2.0 metres

"As close as all that, could you still estimate its height?"

"It seemed huge to me."

(We went back to the edge of the main road. A tree stood on the verge about 35 metres away. The witness estimated the height of the object in relation to the tree, and by measurement we concluded that, according to the witness' recollection of what he saw, the "shell" was ± 13.6 metres high.)

Armed with this additional information, we resumed our questions.

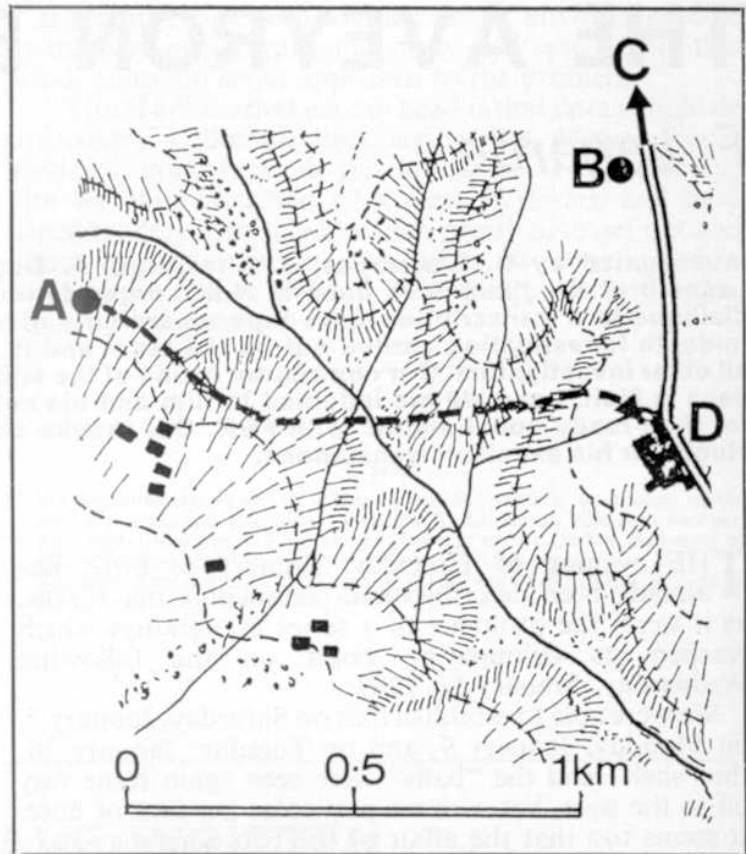
Features of the "shell"

"So then, give us a description of this 'shell' which was 35 metres from you, and which you saw at this moment. Just before you opened the door." (M. Chasseigne established the time more precisely.)

"The shell was very bright, pointed at the end . . . and it had a maroon halo . . . or a maroon light . . . all around it."

"At the top?"

"At the top, yes."



Location of the various places.

(a) Position of the "Shell" and path taken by the balls of fire, Part I of article; (b) Position of "Shell", Part III of article; (c) Route taken by car, Part III; (d) Farm.

"Were there 'balls' around it?"

"Um . . . no there weren't . . . weren't any arms around it either . . . and there was that ball which was over the marsh which I saw coming up very fast, and I have the impression . . . it gave me the impression that it was re-entering the 'shell' . . . but I couldn't swear to it."

The witness is forgetting another "ball" which he described in two previous statements, and which, like this one, seemed to "melt" into the "shell." We ourselves forgot to remind him of this at the time; the weather was abominable, and it would have been unwise to expose our papers to it. Elsewhere than in this interrogation he is to tell us that the "shell" had a perfectly smooth surface, with no visible openings.

"This maroon halo you noticed . . . was it there when you arrived, or did it light up afterwards?"

"Oh no, no! It was there when I looked at it, the maroon halo, it was round the end, that's right."

"The 'shell' was white in colour?"

"White, yes."

"Like the 'balls'?"

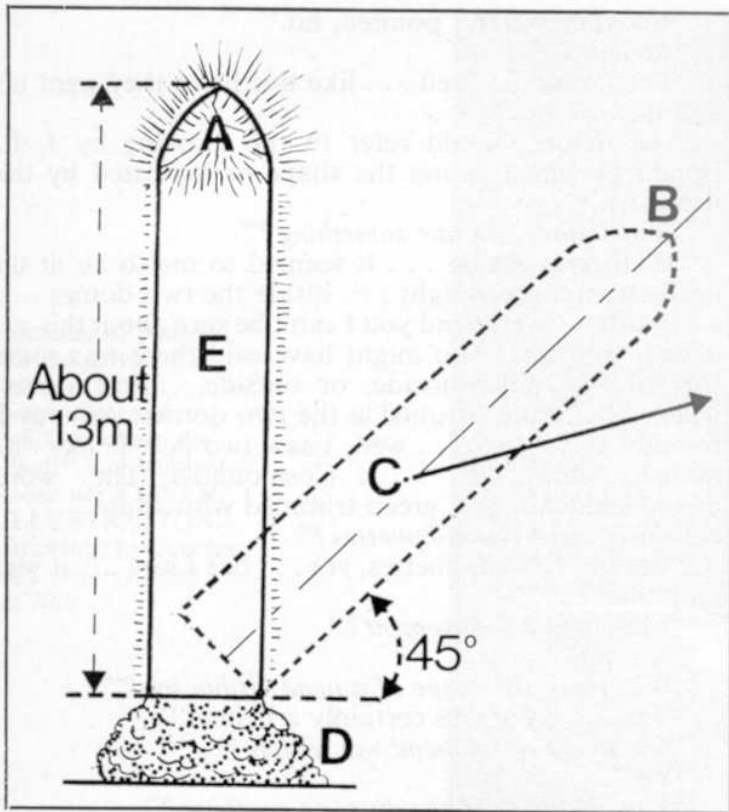
"Yes . . . but much more brilliant . . . much more brilliant it was."

"And at the base? Did you notice anything around the base?"

"When it went off, yes."

"Nothing before that?"

"Nothing before. When it went off, it seemed to me



The "Shell" takes off

A—maroon-coloured light; B—angle of tilt before take-off; C—take-off trajectory; D—like greenish steam before take-off; E—very bright white.

like a mist . . . a mist that was greenish, or maybe blue."

Mode of departure

"When it went off, was it upright, vertical?"

"A light mist . . . then it was just exactly at the moment when I opened the door . . . it became very bright, and it began to whistle, like a car's tyres squealing, a noise like that . . . and at the same time it became very very bright, and went off at speed . . . an incredible speed."

"And how did it go off down there?"

"Well, it leaned over!"

"It leaned over? Did it go off vertically at first, and then lean over?"

"No, no, it didn't go off vertically, no. It leaned over and it went off like this, climbing like that . . ."

"On a straight trajectory?"

"Yes."

"You were able to see it lean over?"

"Yes, yes. It leaned over first. I saw it when it was leaning over."

"Did it rock?"

"Yes, it rocked. I saw that, and it turned round on itself (pivoted on its base). It—it rocked to one side. I saw it, it went off, see . . . like this . . . like this!"

"It was stationary like that, on the ground at an angle of 45°?"

"Yes, it was like that. It did like this . . . not like this."

"In other words, it wasn't aligned on its trajectory."

The accompanying sketch makes a synthesis of these explanations of the take-off. Analysing a detail of this

phase of flight in one of his letters, M. Chasseigne pointed out to us the interest of this story for, he said, "there was no possibility of reference in relation to other earlier evidence." He added, "everyone knows in this day and age that a rocket takes off vertically, and then at a predetermined altitude, rocks over to place itself on the proper trajectory." What is more, the axis of the rocket merges with its trajectory. However, the witness makes no reference to these matters, but really seems to describe what he actually saw.

The "leader" and the "led"

"So then the 'shell' leaned over, and took off. Then you still had the 'ball' waiting there in front of you?"

"Oh yes, the 'ball' . . . it was . . ."

"How far away?"

"Oh! Well let's see . . . about . . . you see that milestone up there? It was just about there, by the milestone . . . at the side of it, see? And then I started up again—I don't remember now whether I'd cut the engine myself—anyway, I started off again . . . and that ball . . . I'd gone 10 metres or so, and the ball began to move off again."

(M. Chasseigne drove on again, checking the trip-meter, and when we reached the milestone, it registered 150 metres.)

The "ball" therefore was ready to move off, some 150 metres from the witness' car. The latter continues:

"I kept on going, and on that bit there I was doing 70 km.h. [approx. 44 m.p.h.—ED] . . . it was at night."

"This ball was 1.2 metres in diameter, was it?"

"Yes, 1.2 metres at most."

"It didn't change colour?"

"No, no."

(we are still driving along)

"Whereabouts did you touch 100 km.h.?" [approx. 62 m.p.h.—ED].

"Further up, I'll show you . . . it was between 100 and 105 on the speedometer and the ball always kept the same distance ahead."

"Now, this was on Wednesday the 9th?"

"Yes, on the Wednesday . . . now then, it's about there that I reached top speed with the car . . . and the ball always stayed the same distance . . . about here I was doing 100 easily, in my car."

"Some acceleration! You couldn't have held that speed for long?"

"Oh no, a few seconds . . . and when I slowed down, the ball slowed down as well."

"And it always stayed in front, always at the same distance?"

"Always the same distance, yes."

"Always 150 metres?"

"150 metres, yes."

(We reached the main road.)

"Auto stop"

"Now here, here's where I'd got to when the engine stopped . . . and I saw the saucer down there—coming from down there."

"So you stopped where? On the lower side of the junction?"

"Yes, there's where I stopped."

(We were 25 metres from the junction with the main road.)

"Now the engine stopped up there, and I rolled back to this point with everything dead."

"Your lights were out?"

"Lights out, yes . . . you see, everything went out all at once, engine, lights, everything . . . I tried the starter, but nothing happened."

(In an earlier account, he said he tried to switch on the roof-light, but without success.)

"And the 'ball' was still in front?"

"The 'ball' was bang in the middle of the main road, see, down there, almost in the middle . . ."

(From his earlier account the 'ball' later jumped the ditch and stopped in the field to the right of his car, and about 4 metres away.)

Saucer and "occupants"

Then he started to feel panicky because:

" . . . and then I saw the saucer! It was coming down, down . . . and then it fell over there."

We think it came from the north-west, heading south-east. In an earlier account, the witness writes in fact that he had opened the right-hand window and saw an object the form of which was unknown to him, and which he described as an oval dish. It would have passed to his right, and would have gone off to the south-east. If the basis of the story is similar, the details vary here and there. We will deal with this again later. The witness had a cold sweat on his back, and was perspiring freely.

"This saucer, where was it?"

"Let's say 20 metres to the right . . . over the meadow . . . it stayed about 3 or 4 metres from the ground . . . it was about the size of a Peugeot 404 . . . perhaps a little bigger. And then it had a light . . . behind."

"It had a light behind it? In the way it was facing?"

"Yes."

"In other words, when you saw it arrive the light was on the other side?"

"On the other side, yes."

"What colour?"

"Red."

"Then on the upper side facing you . . .?"

"On the upper side, there were two domes."

"Facing you, were they side by side in the line of flight, or one behind the other? In tandem, or . . .?"

"Well now, these two domes . . . um . . . well put this way if you like: one was in front and to the right, and there was another one behind, and to the left."

"On a diagonal, then?"

"Yes, that's right, yes."

"They were placed diagonally relative to the overall oval shape of the machine?"

"Yes."

"In relation to the domes, so to speak, the rear light was between the two?"

"Yes, if you put it like that, yes."

"Now then, you showed these domes in your sketches as being pointed; were they pointed? Or perhaps . . ."

"No, they weren't pointed, no."

"Rounded?"

"They went . . . well . . . like this here; they went up and down a bit."

(The reader should refer to the drawing by J. L. Boncoeur which shows the shape as indicated by the witness.)

"And inside, you saw something?"

"Well now, inside . . . it seemed to me to be lit up inside with a green light . . . inside the two domes . . . and I saw . . . well mind you I can't be sure about this . . . it was very dark, you might have said there was some sort of fog, either inside, or outside, . . . don't know which . . . inside or outside the two domes. Anyway I thought I saw two . . . well, I saw two people like . . . human beings see? . . . Cosmonauts. They wore overalls like aircrew, green trimmed with white."

"There were two silhouettes?"

"Yes . . . two silhouettes, yes . . . but I saw . . . it was very blurred."

"There was no movement?"

"No, no."

"Was there the shape of a head visible too?"

"Yes . . . there was certainly a helmet."

"The shape of the head was visible?"

"Yes."

"You couldn't see the eyes, or anything?"

"No."

"And you saw the overalls?"

"It was blurred . . . oh yes! yes, yes, they were green trimmed with white, and the interior was . . . it seemed to me it was lit with a green light."

"And the saucer remained motionless?"

"It was hovering, like this . . . from right to left."

"Was it pitching?"

"When it arrived . . . when it was coming down . . . it came down like this."

"With a rolling movement?"

"Yes, and backwards and forwards also, like this . . ."

"Pitching and rolling both?"

"Yes . . . and it stayed there . . . I don't know . . . a few seconds maybe."

Immobilisation, and other effects

"Did you have the car doors shut during this time?"

"Yes, yes . . . I must have opened the window, I think . . . or perhaps it was afterwards, when it went off, that I opened the window . . . and then I felt a wave of heat, and I felt myself almost . . . I couldn't move, hand or foot, for as long as it lasted, maybe several seconds."

"Was it paralysis?"

"A sort of paralysis . . . oh, I don't know if it was funk or what, for I was certainly scared at that moment."

"And this heat, was it from radiation?"

"There was that sign that you can see down there, I heard it . . . it . . . I saw it move that sign down there."

"That signpost?"

"Yes."

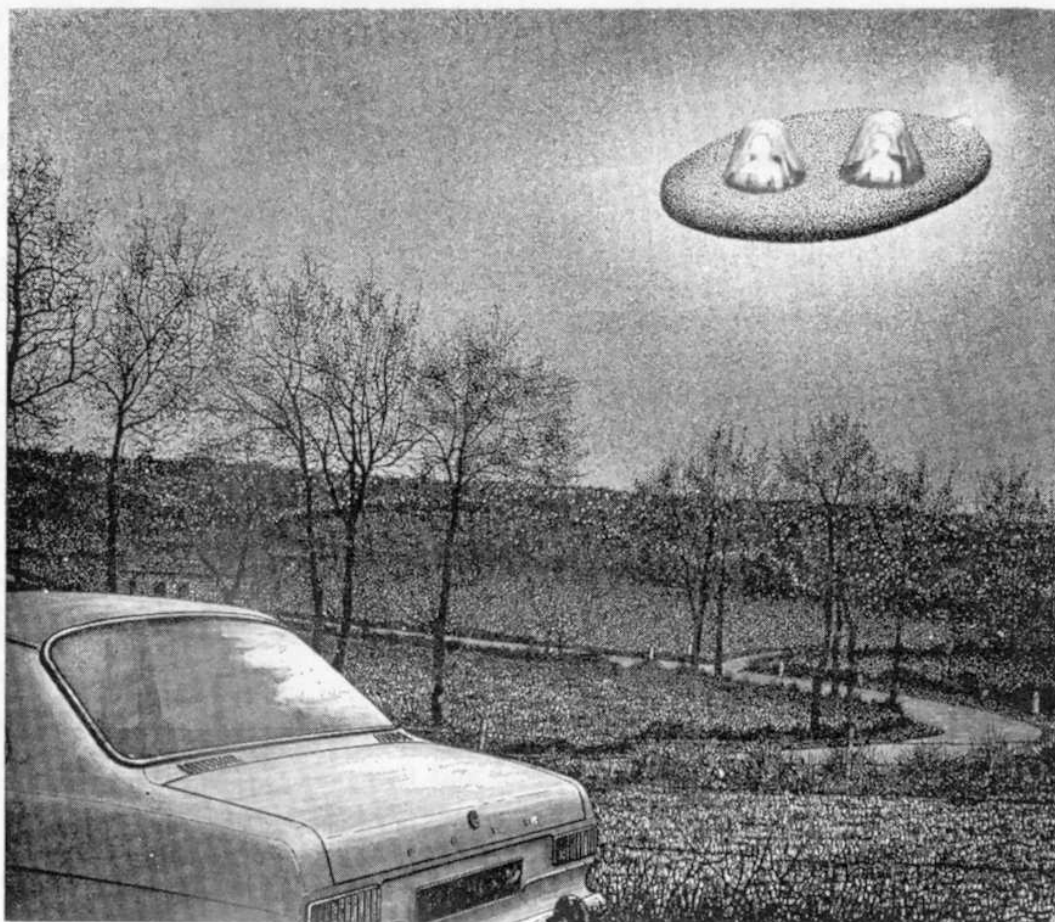
"It vibrated, did it?"

"It vibrated, yes, that's it!"

"And what about this one?"

(There were two signs, one opposite us on the same

Moment of panic for the driver! The car was halted below the road junction where the "ball" had stopped—see our COVER ILLUSTRATION. Drawings by courtesy of *Lumières dans la Nuit*



side, the other to the left on the other side of the main road. It was the one on the left which was vibrating.)

"I don't know . . . I saw that other one . . . I thought I saw that signpost down there move."

"Did you hear any sound?"

"A whistling when it took off."

"A whistling of the same order . . . of the same frequency as the 'shell'?"

"Not so piercing."

"Less piercing?"

"Then before, when it took off, it climbed to maybe 40 or 50 metres, and then came down again, in one swoop . . ."

"Was it modulated, this whistling? Was it always the same frequency, or perhaps . . .?"

"No, it started softly, and then it got louder!"

"And when it came down again, did the sound increase?"

"As to that, I can't say . . . but anyway, before it went off, I saw it . . . it climbed up to maybe 50 metres, and then it came down in a single swoop, as if it was falling . . . and it stopped suddenly two or three metres from the ground . . . and then it went off again to the east at a terrific speed."

"When it went off, did the colour change?"

"It became . . . it became very bright all over . . . bright as flames."

"It became very bright at the moment of take-off, and what colour?"

"White . . . whitish yellow . . . white tending towards yellow."

"Underneath?"

"All round . . . the whole saucer."

"A halo which surrounded the saucer, so to speak?"

"Yes."

"And your lights? Had you left them switched on? Did they light up of their own accord?"

"Yes . . . and the starter worked, and the car started up normally."

"When you set off again, the starter worked properly?"

"Yes, everything worked fine."

"You must have had a terrible scare."

"Yes."

"And what happened about your watch afterwards?"

The witness did not answer on this occasion, but at an earlier interrogation he said it was functioning normally. We noticed that he often became lost in his own memories, and in the effort to remember, to forget nothing, and he returns to a different subject, perhaps for fear that we shall not come back to it.

"And I felt a wave of heat too . . . as if it was hot weather."

(It was a January evening.)

"Now this radiation, compared for example to the mid-day sun—was it of the same intensity, or greater?"

"Oh, it was very intense, a very intense wave of heat."

"Did you feel it was penetrating? Was it an inward heat, or was it the air about you that seemed hot?"

"My skin . . . the skin on my face . . . there . . . it seemed as if my face was on fire."

"It wasn't the air then, but some sort of internal heat. Was it not the air? Did you not feel a blast of air? Was it then the skin?"

"The skin, yes."

So it was radiation? A radiation of heat? Perhaps electro-magnetic? An internal effect, but on an external surface, like the effect of certain waves.

Departure of Saucer

"Then when it climbed up to 50 metres, and came down again, I thought it was going to . . . land on its nose, like . . . I said here we go, she's had it . . . and then it stopped suddenly 3 metres from the ground, and off it went again."

"Suddenly? Or slowing down gradually?"

"No, no! It stopped suddenly in a single instant, bang!"

"There's no moment of inertia with these machines. It's extraordinary."

"Yes, and then me, I thought she was going to fall, and I said this time she's really had it."

"And at what moment exactly did your lights come on? When it had gone? When you could see it no longer?"

"Oh, no! It was a fair way off . . . it took off, I saw it go off down that way at a fair speed, and then it climbed . . ."

"So it came, if you like, from a north-northwest direction . . ."

"It went off, see, it was like that, see, and then it leaned over a bit like that, and went off like this . . . as if it was sliding sideways . . ."

"Sideways, the domes moving sideways?"

"Sideways, yes (a lengthy explanation followed). When it climbed to 50 metres, there was no pause at the top of the climb, it went down again without stopping. It started up again while turning . . . turning to the left. It went off towards the east there at a terrific speed."

"And as soon as it went, the wave of heat disappeared?"

"Yes, everything came back to normal at that moment."

"What were your feelings at that moment? Relieved?"

"Relieved, yes . . . and my lights came on again . . . I pressed the starter, and the car started up first go."

"Did you try to see where it had gone? Or did you decide to pack it in?"

"Oh no, I went off home."

"This sign made a metallic sound, you said?"

"Ah . . . that vibrated . . . I'm sure of it . . . that sign vibrated."

(We went to examine these signs more closely.)

We are at the spot where the witness was halted on the right of the road. About 20 metres ahead the main road crosses, climbing slightly from right to left. The road we are on is signposted as usual with panels of enamelled sheet-iron, about one metre high (these are rectangles with an arrow pointing in our direction). The panels are not particularly easy to see from where we stand. The one on our side is partly hidden by a grassy bank. The one which vibrated is set at the bottom of a ditch against the embankment of a meadow. On examination, we find that it is supported on a single upright post of galvanised iron. The two supports are fixed with bolts, with washers, giving a certain amount of play to the sign, and it is possible to impart a slight movement to and fro, by hand. The vibration theory is thus perfectly acceptable.

On the contrary, the one on our side, nearer the witness, but harder to spot (it has a black back), is fixed to the ground by two metal posts instead of one, and it was impossible to detect any lateral movement. To study magnetic effects, mandatory in normal circumstances, was not feasible after a lapse of three years. However, we asked the witness, who had remained in the car:

"Are these the same signs which were there at the time? They haven't been changed since?"

"I don't think so, no." (He passes the spot very regularly.)

* * *

We set off again. As we drove, we tried to clear up the puzzle of the "shell" which was in two different places, and managed to fix its position from the following narrative.

"If there had been two 'shells' would you have been able to see both of them from your window?"

"Oh yes, perhaps, but I only saw one of them."

"When you set off in your car, the 'shell' was not positioned here? Or was it?"

"Um—m— . . ."

"When you drove off to chase the 'ball', you had previously seen the object, had you not?"

"Yes, yes, yes."

"In this position?"

"It was over there."

"Then it was not in the same position as on previous days?"

"Oh no."

"But on the Wednesday, you did not at first see it in its usual position?"

"Oh no! I saw it arrive on that day too."

"You saw it arrive?"

"I saw it arrive, yes."

"You saw it arrive, and was it also leaning over in the same way?"

"Leaning over, yes."

"Relative to the vertical?"

"Yes. I saw it arrive, yes . . . very slowly it was."

"And to settle, what did it do?"

"I saw it arrive; it came from the northward, or maybe the north-west, and it zig-zagged from right to left."

"Zig-zagged?"

"Yes, it zig-zagged like—I don't know—like a fly."

"To that point there?"

"No, although . . . one would have said . . . oh I don't know . . . from time to time it moved off to left or right."

We shall never know whether the "shell" moved to the edge of the main road without the witness noticing that it had moved, or whether there were two of them on that particular evening. On the other hand, the recollection of how it arrived returned to him, and he was able to describe the slow, almost hesitant approach before it settled. The actual phase of settling was not described.

Physiological effects

"Now let's talk of what happened after these sightings."

You told me that soon afterwards you had trouble in sleeping?"

"That's right, a few days afterwards."

"A few days afterwards? The sighting was early in January, so when did you begin to have trouble in sleeping?"

"Let's say . . . I don't know . . . a week later maybe . . . perhaps the following Tuesday . . . I don't remember exactly."

"How did it happen?"

"Well, it didn't happen all at once . . . it seemed to come on gradually, I think."

"I see, fine!"

"And it went off gradually as well, about mid-March it went off . . . but then, well . . . I'll tell you . . . I must have slept at least . . . I don't know . . . perhaps 20 hours in the 24. At any rate, it must have been at least 18 hours in 24."

"And you never consulted a doctor?"

"Oh, my parents told me to, but I didn't want to."

"Your parents must have been worried?"

"They were worried, yes . . . at the end they were worried, yes . . . but then I just needed to sleep, there was no use to fuss . . . when it hit me, I had to . . . I couldn't stay on my feet."

"And when you woke up, how did you feel?"

"Quite normal."

"Normal? Not weak at all?"

"No, no. Not weak."

"Just normal, eh? The only difference being that you slept more?"

"Yes, normal. I slept all right . . . I slept . . . like a log, yes . . . that never happened to me before, like that."

"And this went on from January 15 to March 15—two whole months! That's a tremendously long time!"

"All I know is, I **had** to sleep, I just had to sleep."

"Did you ever try to resist this sleepiness?"

"Yes, once, on a Sunday . . . I resisted until 7 or 8 in the evening . . . not later . . . I would have gone to sleep on my feet . . . oh dear yes . . . even drinking coffee."

It should be noted that the farm is some distance from any large town, and it was the son's habit on a Sunday to go out, only returning home very late at night. To retire at 8 in the evening is entirely out of character.

* * * * *

The son continues his story:

"There's something else which . . . it's something I don't know how to explain . . . it seemed to me . . . how can I put it? . . . I remained conscious and yet could not move hand or foot, not even a finger . . . for several seconds at a time."

"Was this during the night?"

"Mostly the early morning, between 4 and 5 a.m."

"While you were asleep, or after you had woken up?"

"When I was awake . . . suddenly I talked like . . . I don't know . . . I let myself go . . . I talked . . . then after a moment or two I couldn't move . . . not a muscle . . . but I remained conscious, my mind alert."

"Good, good!"

"This happened three or four times I suppose . . . I could see absolutely nothing, but was conscious and mentally alert . . . I seemed, I don't know, I seemed to be floating off to . . . I don't know . . . it's difficult to

describe . . ."

"You were wandering?"

"No, it was as if my soul was outside my body—I don't know how to explain it to you, it's difficult . . . I tried to control my movements, but I couldn't, it was as if I was dead. Yet I was conscious, and mentally alert."

"Your limbs no longer obeyed you?"

"That's it, yes . . . and the second time it happened I was scared. I said to myself, this time you're paralysed!"

"Did you try to call out?"

"But I couldn't, couldn't even speak, couldn't move, nothing. I remained conscious, and my mind was alert, that's all."

"Your body . . ."

"It seemed to me as if I was floating above my body. It's difficult to explain, that is."

"You didn't have the impression of seeing yourself . . . stretched out?"

"Oh, no!"

"So there was no question of a splitting in two, eh?"

"It's hard to explain . . . I lived it . . . but to explain it is very difficult . . . I don't know how to put it into words."

Comment

This unvarnished tale is a faithful account of the sequence of events in the third part of our investigation. The witness has told the story three times, first in a letter, then to Mr. Dupin de la Guérivière, and finally to ourselves.

Though the essential facts, and the basis of the story are identical in the three versions, there need be no cause for astonishment if there are sometimes differences in detail. These have no bearing on our understanding of the facts, or of how they developed. Taking into account that the facts were three years old, that the witness took no notes, and that he saw so many happenings that we ourselves in the same circumstances would have forgotten some of them, we do not propose to make a list of the inconsistencies. They lie essentially in chronology, orientation (once only), and above all forgetfulness.

We always got the impression that the witness was re-living what he had seen, and that events were welling up in his memory. Often, lost in his recollections, he failed to hear our questions. We never had the feeling that he was embellishing his tale, but rather that he had forgotten parts of it. The arrival of the "shell", the vibrating signpost, and (an important fact confirmed by his parents) his difficulty in sleeping, all came to light in this way.

He was frank in admitting this. Our investigation, conducted with great care and in the light of known facts, is the most complete and detailed so far. There still remains a great many things to be gone into more deeply, and outside witnesses to be sought, and it is with these matters that we and our colleagues will now be busying ourselves.

* * *

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