



CASE HISTORIES

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Case Histories

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FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW



CASE HISTORIES

TWENTY-FOUR PENCE

SUPPLEMENT 16

AUGUST 1973



THE HUMANOIDS SEEN AT ROSEDALE

Further details on page 6

Belgian UFO Sightings During July 1972

By SOBEPS Investigators*

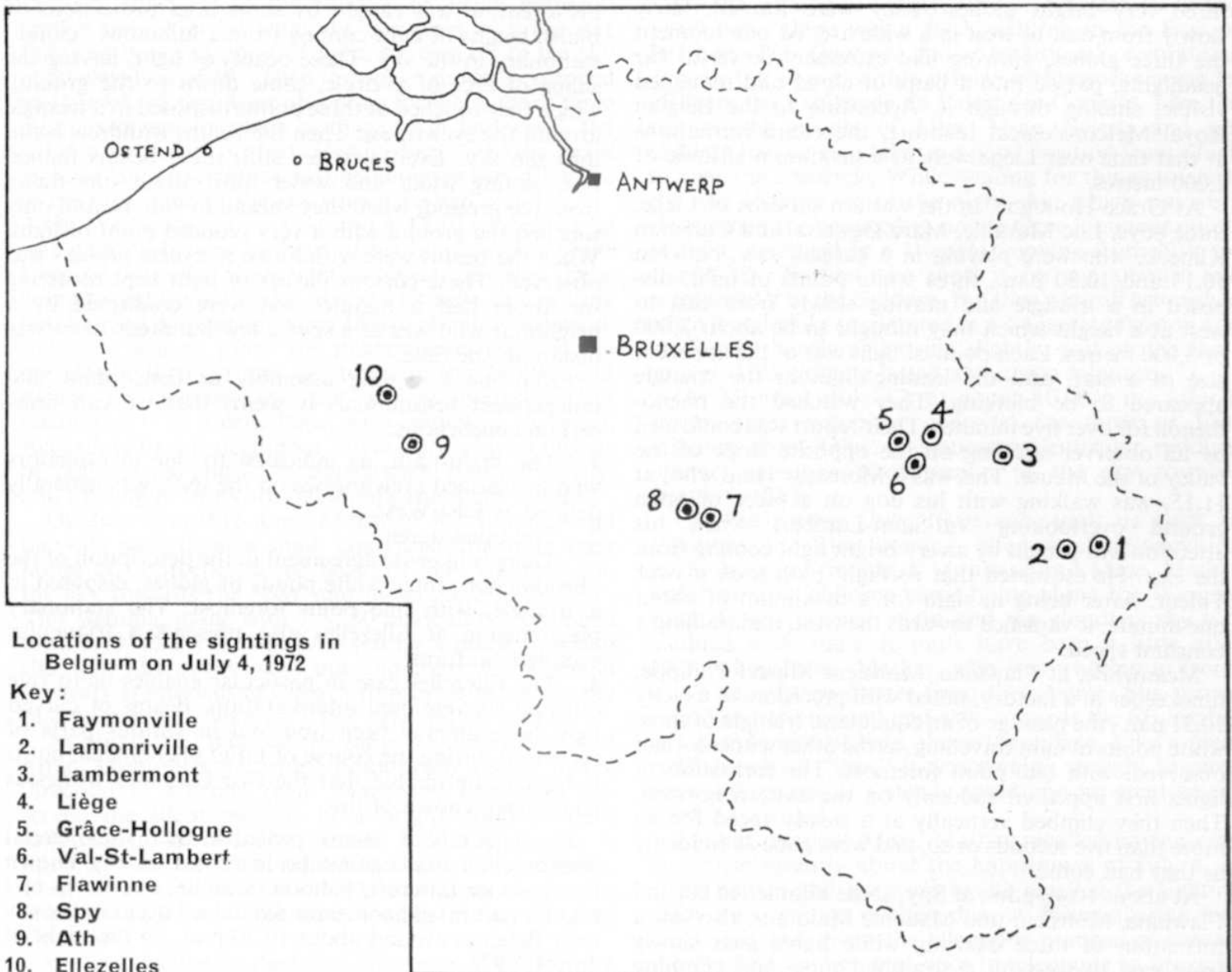
FOR some time there had been a great lull, the Belgian press carrying no reports of UFO activity until, on July 6 and 7, 1972, the newspapers suddenly erupted with reports of objects seen by scores of eyewitnesses on the evening of the 4th, and in all parts of the country. Our researches have shown that there were interesting sightings for some days thereafter, and also again in October 1972 (which we hope to publish on a future occasion).

We will begin with the sightings of the famous July 4.

At Faymonville, to the East of Malmédy, at 9.50 p.m., a man named José Ledur, aged 18, was the first witness. From his home, for a period of six minutes, he observed

a luminous white object, very bright, "like a big car headlight," travelling at an altitude which he estimated at some 5,000 metres. Of an apparent size equal to about one-fifth of that of the full moon, the object arrived from the south-east, described a wide sweep almost right above the witness and then vanished towards the west, where it was soon hidden by the houses.

* Monsieur Lucien Clerebaut, Chief Secretary of SOBEPS, informs us that this report is a collective work by the whole of their team. The Society's journal is *Inforespace*, and the address is: Boulevard Aristide Briande, 26; 1070—Bruxelles, Belgium.



Some kilometres further west, the Reverend Father Quertemont, a Belgian missionary active in Uganda, was with 44 girl guides from Dison around a camp-fire at Lamorville (Bellevaux-Ligneuville commune) when, at about 10.10 p.m., the Guide Leader, Claudine Dieupart, aged 19, drew the attention of everyone to a triangle of white luminous points flying silently overhead from SE to NW. Each point of light was of the size of the Pole Star. The witnesses felt that they were "very high," and the total duration of the sighting was about five minutes.

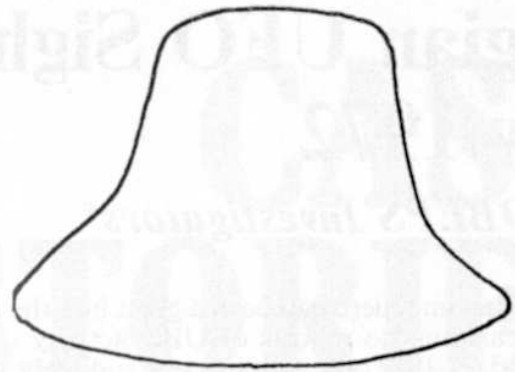
Meanwhile, at Lambermont, a suburb of Verviers, shortly after 10.00 p.m., three people observed the passage of a luminous shape "resembling the lens of a pocket torch," moving slowly across the sky at an estimated altitude of 2,000 metres and on a SE-NW course. The duration of the sighting was a little under two minutes. At one moment the object passed beneath a bank of cloud and illuminated it from below.

In Liège, at about 10.30 p.m., one observer (who desires to remain anonymous) informed the newspaper *La Meuse* that he and several people waiting with him at a bus stop at the intersection of the boulevard d'Avroy and rue Darchis saw a triangle consisting of three very bright globes. They were moving fairly slowly from east to west in a wide arc. At one moment the three globes, glowing like extremely powerful car headlights, passed into a bank of cloud and remained visible, shining through it. According to the Belgian Royal Meteorological Institute, the cloud formations at that time over Liège were at a maximum altitude of 2,000 metres.

At Grâce-Hollogne, in the western suburbs of Liège, three boys, Luc Muraille, Marc Dewaha, and Christian Klineck, who were playing in a garden, saw, between 10.15 and 10.30 p.m., three white points of light, disposed in a triangle and moving slowly from east to west at a height which they thought to be about 2,000 or 3,000 metres. Each point of light was of the apparent size of a star, and the leading light in the triangle appeared to be blinking. They watched the phenomenon for over five minutes. Their report was confirmed by an observer strolling on the opposite slope of the valley of the Meuse. This was a Monsieur Haid who, at 11.15, was walking with his dog on a piece of open ground overlooking Val-Saint-Lambert when his attention was caught by a very bright light coming from the east. He estimated that its flight path took it over Tilleur. After being in sight for a maximum of about one minute, it vanished towards the west, maintaining a constant speed.

Meanwhile, at Flawinne, Monsieur Marcel Philippe, timekeeper in a factory, noted with precision, at exactly 10.31 p.m., the passage of an equilateral triangle of three white points of light travelling, as the other witnesses had observed, with one point foremost. The formation of lights first appeared suddenly on the eastern horizon. Then they climbed vertically at a steady speed for no more than five seconds or so, and were gone as suddenly as they had come.

At about 10.40 p.m., at Spy, some kilometres beyond Flawinne, Monsieur and Madame Malotiaux also saw a formation of three dazzling white lights pass slowly from east to west on a straight course and climbing



Mme. Mathar's sketch of the hat-shaped UFO as it appeared to her

slightly. They added that each of the three luminous points appeared to be rotating and to be surrounded by bluish sparks.

From the platform of the railway station at Ath a conductor of the Belgian National Railways saw three luminous discs, disposed in a triangle, and with hazy contours, travelling from ESE to WNW.

Finally, at Ellezelles, near Renaix, at 10.45 p.m., a young farmer was in a field adjacent to his farm when his attention was caught by some brief projections of bluish beams of light coming from a luminous "cloud" stationary in the sky. These beams of light, having the shape of arcs of a circle, came down to the ground, which they touched at three points disposed in a triangle around the eyewitness. Then the beams withdrew again into the sky. Even stranger still, these beams fanned out, getting wider and wider until about one metre from the ground, when they shrank in volume and only touched the ground with a very reduced point of light. When the beams were withdrawn a reverse process was observed. These curious flashes of light kept recurring for about half a minute, and were confirmed by a neighbour who was at a spot a few hundreds of metres distant at the time.

From the foregoing assembly of concordant and independent testimonials it seems that we can draw certain conclusions:

1. The flight-path, as indicated to our investigators who questioned eyewitnesses on the spot, was generally defined as East-West.
2. The times agree.
3. There is likewise agreement in the description of the phenomenon: three white points or globes, disposed in a triangle, with one point foremost. The stationary phenomenon at Ellezelles also presents a triangular symmetrical form.
4. The Ellezelles case in particular enables us to rule out one conventional interpretation. Beams of curved light have already been observed in various parts of the world during the course of UFO phenomena, but it is highly improbable that the two Ellezelles witnesses could have known of this.

Consequently it seems probable that some aerial phenomenon that cannot be identified as any known flying device (aircraft, balloon, satellite, etc.) or as any regular natural phenomenon did indeed occur in the sky over Belgium around about 10.30 p.m. on the night of July 4, 1972.

But in the course of our investigations during the days that followed, it soon became clear to us that not all the unusual sightings recorded on that day could be attributed to the same phenomenon, and, moreover, that strange things had also been going on on other days in that remarkable month of July. The investigation in depth by SOBEPS gradually established the existence of a sort of Belgian "miniwave."

We discovered that, at about 10.15 p.m. on the same day, July 4, a lady residing at Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont also observed the passage (though from S to SE) of three white points of light travelling silently on a straight course. In the same commune, at a distance of some kilometres from her, her daughter confirmed the passage of the same phenomenon, flying on the same trajectory indicated.

At Uccle, at about 10.55 p.m., a Mme. Devillers and her children observed a big flashing "star" coming from the South-East. The "star" remained stationary in the sky for a few minutes and then vanished upwards into Space.

Early on the night of July 5, a Mme. Trenteseau, residing at Overijse, observed from her bathroom a vivid white light moving slowly from NNE to SSW. Puzzled, she went to the window to watch more intently, and observed what she describes as a big star followed by a red point of light, moving off in the sky at an elevation of 40°. Then the object suddenly stopped and grew brighter. After observing for the space of three minutes or so, in which nothing fresh happened, the witness went back to bed. Her husband, waking again an hour later, found that the phenomenon was still there in the same area of the sky where she had seen it.

On Wednesday, July 5, at about 12.10 (noon), as he was parking his car in front of his house, a Monsieur Legrand noticed a dozen whitish objects of vague shape flying to and fro in the sky, at a low altitude, and putting him in mind of sheets of paper blown about by the wind. *But there was no wind.* The phenomenon was moving noiselessly through the air towards the NNW, and rising. The witness was not greatly interested, but mentioned it to a neighbour, who continued to watch. According to this neighbour, there were whitish objects of vague shape and fleecy appearance, rotating slowly, and moving in turns around a dark triangular object.

On July 8, at 0.15 a.m., Monsieur R. Alquinne and his wife saw, from a small courtyard adjoining their house at Courcelles, a red beam of light stationary in the sky towards the SSW and at an elevation of 50°. This sighting, made with 7 × 50 binoculars, continued until 0.40, and was then followed by a phase in which the light alternately went out and flared up again in intensity at intervals of three or four minutes, no change of colour being observed. They detected no sound.

At about 9.30 p.m. on the same day, Monsieur and Mme. Leempoels, returning home from a walk in the direction of Chéoux (near Marche-en-Famenne) observed the silent passage of a bright point of light following a NNE-SSW course. Thinking it was a satellite, they were astonished to see it halt suddenly. Then, after a pause of some 15 seconds or so, it continued on its course in the same direction but accelerating abruptly.

We were feeling by then that the events of July 4 were

about to repeat themselves, when a new sighting report came in from the troop of girl guides on holiday at Lamonrville. This time what they saw was again an equilateral triangle formed of three white points, which was moving silently southwards. The time was 9.15 p.m. precisely. After they had watched for three minutes, they saw an aircraft cross the line of flight of the object, which then turned red and at once climbed away into the sky and vanished. There were 23 eyewitnesses.

On Tuesday, July 11, between 7.20 and 7.30 p.m., Monsieur Paul Licour of Ath observed, towards the north, a group of eight whitish balls arranged in an octagon. They looked like cottonwool, gave out no light, and were stationary, quite high in the clear sky. After five minutes they suddenly vanished in less than one minute, like snow melting away in the sunlight.

On Thursday, July 13, a Madame M.B. of Brussels observed for several minutes, from the dyke between Knokke and Le Zoute, and at about 10.10 p.m., a round object coming from the direction of Zeebrugge and moving at a steady and not very high speed towards Holland. The object was luminous, yellowish-white, and surrounded by a mat halo of the same colour.

On the evening of Friday, July 14, between 10.30 and 11.00 p.m., there was a fresh sighting in the East of Belgium. The *Quatorze Juillet* traditional celebrations were in full swing, with a display of fireworks being let off from the Esplanade du Palais des Congrès. Like the rest of the people of Lille, Mme. Swerts and her children had gone to take up a good position from which to view the spectacle. While waiting for things to start, she was looking up at the night sky, which was very clear, when she chanced to notice three luminous points of light, arranged in a triangle, moving from NW towards SE. At first she took it for an aircraft and mentioned it to the children. But they were all astonished when it suddenly accelerated in a staggering fashion and made off, silently and rising slightly, still on the same course. This sighting lasted about two minutes.

On Monday, July 17, at about 10.00 p.m., after a storm, three witnesses observed for three or four minutes, from Olne, a stationary lenticular reddish-orange luminous phenomenon in the sky towards Beaufays (SE).

On Wednesday, July 19, events took us back to Faymonville. That evening, after watching television in the home of friends, a Monsieur and Mme. Mathar and their two children came home along the Wévercé road. It was a warm night and the cloudless sky was studded with stars. It must have been a little after 10.30 when Mme. Mathar, who was walking in front, was a few dozen metres from their home. She turned round to her husband and saw, towards the SE, on her left, a red point of light above the village. Like a great reddish-orange "star," it was coming straight towards their little party, at a steady speed and no great height from the ground.

At that moment Mme. Mathar recalled having read an article recently about the happenings of July 4, as given above, and particularly she recalled the sighting made by a woman of their district. Remembering that the article had given the telephone number of SOBEPS, she ran into the house at once to telephone to Brussels.

As she entered she looked back once more and saw that the thing was much nearer, and she could now make out a precise shape which, as her son said, looked like a hat. (See Fig. 1.) Its contours were very clear and its colour now lighter than at first. Darker nuances on it gave the impression of considerable volume and its light, although diffused, did not illuminate the surroundings. She stopped watching it and rushed to telephone us. Her eight-year-old son, not happy about the phenomenon, remained outside no longer but joined her in the house.

Monsieur Mathar remained outside. Soon he saw the thing come to a halt. Called by Mme. Mathar, his nephew came running out from the house, and his description to us of the object tallies. He said the apparent diameter of the object was now about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that of the full Moon, and estimated its angular height at about 5° or 6° .

Meanwhile Mme. Mathar had contacted our Secretariat. We asked her at once to try to take photographs. Monsieur Mathar ran into the house to get his camera. The other witnesses, watching outside, now suddenly saw the light of the object grow dim and its outline grow vague, until finally it had completely vanished.

Coming out again with his camera, M. Mathar was much chagrined to find himself too late. But fortunately his regret was of short duration, for a few moments later they were astonished to see the phenomenon re-appear, although this time its shape was more hazy, like an elongated spot of light. The duration of this second

apparition was only about ten seconds, after which the phenomenon faded away. Two photographs were however secured.



Enlargement from photo 1



Enlargement from photo 2

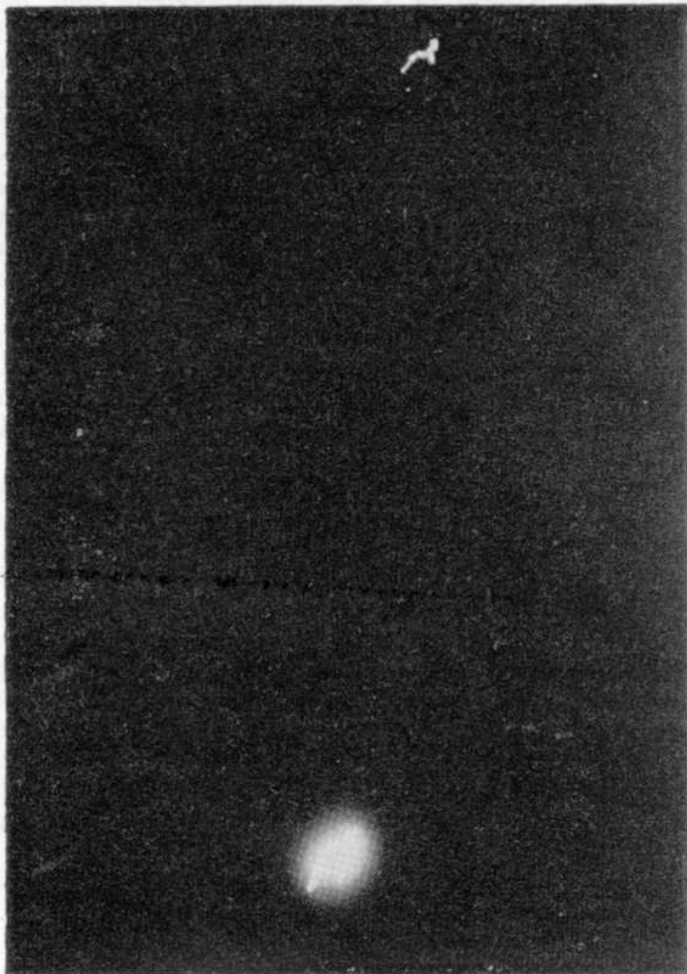


Photo No. 1 in full, sideways (top to the left).
[Hand-shake?—Ed.]

THE FAYMONVILLE PHOTOGRAPHS

These two photographs were taken by Monsieur Mathar at about 10.45 p.m. on the night of Wednesday, July 19, 1972, at Faymonville, a place lying to the east of Malmédy in the Province of Liege, Belgium.

The camera used was an Agfa Color-Agnar, 1:3.5/45, loaded with 20 DIN black and white film.

A curious point is the great discrepancy between these pictures and the descriptions given by the various eyewitnesses, as well as the sketch made by Madame Mathar.

Seemingly the camera did not capture the same image that was seen by the eyewitnesses.

In the right-hand part of photo No. 1 is moreover a trail registered on the film which was not seen by any of the eyewitnesses. Only the camera has caught it. Enlargement of this trail is shown on page 25 of the magazine *Infoespace* No. 7/1973.

The most striking thing to bear in mind about the pictures is their remarkable similarity to the three photographs of precisely the same "luminous" kind which were taken at 4.00 a.m. on September 3, 1969, at La Souterraine in France by a Monsieur Laguide and which are reproduced on pages 10 and 11 of *FSR Case Histories No. 1* (October 1970).

The La Souterraine photos were seen by Mr. Percy Hennell, and his comments upon them appear on page 12 of *FSRCH No. 1*. We hope he will be able to examine the Faymonville photographs when the pressure of his business commitments permits.

GORDON CREIGHTON.

At this point we should also give the testimony of a neighbour whom the Mathar family had met as they were walking along the road. This man was sitting outside his house when he caught sight of the object, far off. At the time when the object drew nearer and became stationary, he reckons that its elevation was about 30° or 35°. He describes the object as rather vague in shape, of a red colour, and he estimated the duration of the first sighting at three minutes.

Then, after the object had "gone out," he saw the phenomenon reappear 30 seconds later and, from where he was sitting (unlike the Mathars) he says that its shape now appeared much more clearly, that it was round, and that it was surrounded by small points of light. He thought indeed that he could also discern a sort of faint smoke enveloping it. No sound was heard from it during these various phases and when the thing vanished it went very suddenly.

Frightening Experience on the London-Brighton Road

Jeanne-Marie Rivaux

Mlle. Rivaux is a member of the C.I.E.S.P.I. in Poitiers, whose President, Jean-Claude Baillon, has contributed in the past to both our journals.

TOWARDS the close of 1971 I was told of an incident that happened to two friends of a friend of mine in England. I thought it would interest you inasmuch as you might be able to link it to something else. Unluckily I lack two very essential details: the precise day and year in which it happened. All I can say is that it occurred a few days before Christmas 1967, or 1968, between 10.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. The witnesses were two French students who were to spend their holidays in London.

They had disembarked in Newhaven and were driving past Brighton, towards London. As it was late they decided to stop and spend the night in their car (a Renault 4) in a lay-by. A dark car about the size of a Ford *Taurus* was there already with all lights out (they did not bother about it, did not notice if anybody was in it, and parked their car just in front of it).

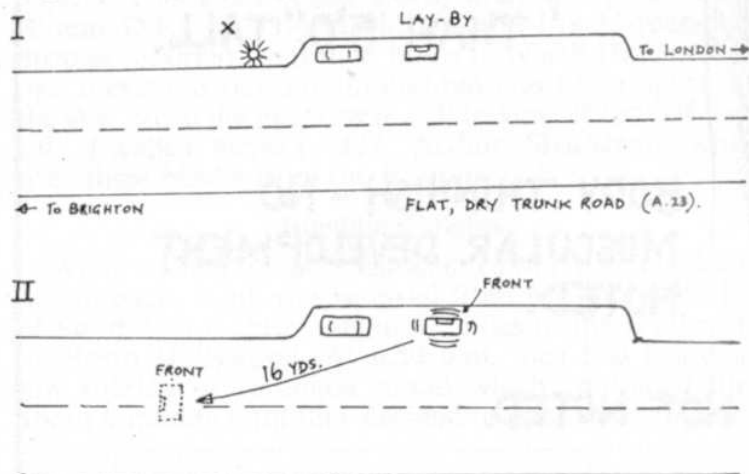
This lay-by can be approximately located between Brighton and Handcross. They said that apart from Brighton they did not drive through any other place;

it was far from any other village or town. There seem to have been no buildings around, but the road was illuminated by an orange light, probably from a street lamp to indicate the lay-by.

On stopping, the driver switched off the lights of the car, except the inside one, and put the hand-brake on. He remained in front, while the other laid down to rest on the rear seat. As soon as he had settled, the car was shaken violently in every direction, from one side to another, and up and down. At least, they had this impression, and they also felt a sensation of being pulled to the right in a descending movement. They were so stunned that they cannot figure out for how long the shaking persisted. But when it stopped, the car was found to be lying horizontally across the middle of the road and about 16 or 17 yards (15 metres) behind where it was standing originally (it must be said that the road was perfectly even and dry).

The driver realised suddenly how dangerous it was to be thus on the road, and he started the car, but the engine stalled because the brake was still on. He started again and parked the car in front of the other one, on the side of the road. Then panic-stricken (and his friend as well) he drove off very fast towards London. Up to then they had not linked the presence of the other car with what had happened to them, but on their way to London they were persuaded (only in imagination, they later said) that they were pursued.

My informant, Christian Chasseriaud, does not mind his name being published in the Review; he did not want to give me the name of his friend—the one who was driving—because he did not know whether he would approve of this. As for his sincerity, I am sure he did not invent the story. He has been a student of economics for four years at Poitiers, and according to friends who know him well, he does not show any tendency towards story-telling. He came to speak of this case very casually, and when I met him he sounded sincere. Of course this is no evidence. As for a common hallucination . . . ?



In sketch I, x denotes the position of the presumed street lamp. In sketch II the dotted outline shows the final position of the Renault 4 astride the centre line