

theoretical work on relevant subjects (e.g. energy manipulation), it is clear that this case is not only complex, but that the implications inherent in its solution are vitally relevant to the whole puzzling field of close encounters.

This case and its investigation also point up the fact that investigators of such cases *must* be widely read, and *must* be able to call upon expert knowledge in a variety of apparently unrelated fields. Though we do query the statement that there is a Celtic goddess by the name of Ana (p.146). The nearest name we could locate is Anu, which does not really come very close to Gaynor's entity friend "Arna," and we feel this is a false trail. Also it is a pity that neither editor nor copy-editor nor proof-reader picked up the numerous spelling errors (like the non-existent "cooperative" — presumably "corroborative" was meant — "jepordise" for "jeopardise," "Dr. Cal Jung" for "Dr Carl Jung,"

"theorem" for "theorem," and so on). Occasional infelicities of language notwithstanding, we have no hesitation in recommending this book as vital reading for all ufologists.

In FSR Vol. 27 No. 1 we mentioned the *Zetetic Scholar's* dialogue on UFO theories. Issue 8 of ZS continues the dialogue with 29 pages of J. Richard Greenwell's "Replies to his Commentators."

The same issue also contains Ron Westrum's report on "UFO Sightings Among Engineers and Scientists," as well as an open letter to Carl Sagan from Robert K. G. Temple on the Sirius Mystery, and interesting material on Peter Hurkos and psychic surgery, with much else besides. (ZS costs \$12 p.a. in U.S.A. and Canada, \$18 elsewhere, and is obtained from 'Zetetic Scholar,' Department of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197, U.S.A.)

HUMANOIDS IN THE FOREST OF MARSOIS

Another French close encounter of 1956 comes to light

Lionel Danizel et al.

We are indebted to the Editorial Committee of *Lumières dans la Nuit* for this interesting report — prepared by L. Danizel, Roger Thomé and Christine Zwygart — taken from their journal, issue No. 205 (May 1981) in which it first appeared. Translation from French by Gordon Creighton.

THIS close sighting of two small humanoids—took place in broad daylight, at 7.00 a.m. during the summer (June, July, or August) of 1956. The place was a broad path in the Forest of Marsois, not far from the hamlet of Mauvaissant, in the district of Nogent-en-Bassigny, in the Département of Haute-Marne, East Central France. The spot is quite close to a well-known local prehistoric monument, the dolmen called *La Pierre Alot*.

The witness was a local woman, Mme. L—, of Nogent, who was aged 52 at the time. This lady's identity is known to the LDLN investigative team, but she insists that it shall not be divulged.

The Encounter

Mme. L—, was in the habit of making long early-morning excursions on foot through the woods and fields to gather mushrooms, and also fodder for her rabbits. The weather was fine, the sky clear, and the temperature mild.

Arriving at the Marsois Forest, she set out along one of the broad straight tracks. When she had

reached the vicinity of the dolmen, which stands beside the forest track, she noticed that two small individuals were coming towards her down the track. They seemed to be walking along quietly, in Indian file, and when she first caught sight of them she thought they were at a distance of perhaps 80 or 100 metres from her. Her first thought was that they were children, so she carried on towards them with no feeling of apprehension.

But, when she had gone a few metres or so past the dolmen, she halted. And the two entities at once halted too, and began to eye her fixedly. By this time, they were no more than 10-15 metres from her, so that she was able to take pretty clear note of a good many details about them.

The two small beings were about 1 metre 20 cms in height, with stocky, thick-set bodies. Their legs were short, thin, and bandy. They were dressed in a sort of close-fitting white one-piece suit, on which she could detect no seams or buttons, at any rate from where she was. Their hands were covered by black mittens, with no fingers showing. On their feet they had half-boots, likewise black, and round their waists they had broad

belts of this same colour. On their heads they had round black helmets, "bulged-out" towards the top, and their faces seemed to be covered by a transparent vizor, the witness being unable to make out any facial details at all, apart from a few glints or reflections on the vizor itself.

After standing there for a few moments in surprise, Mme. L— spoke to them. "Who are you?" she received no answer, the two beings simply standing there and eyeing her in silence and moving their heads up and down. They showed no signs of hostility or perturbation but rather, so it would seem, curiosity combined with a certain degree of indifference.

Then they made a light movement with their arms, did a half-turn in normal sort of fashion, and calmly plunged into the shrubbery bordering the track, making their way through it in a completely ordinary manner, their gait that of normal men. The witness heard the sound of their footsteps and heard the breaking of branches.

When they had disappeared, Mme. L— went back to gathering her mushrooms. She had felt no physical effect of any kind during the encounter, apart from a certain *malaise*, due to a mixture partly of surprise and partly of anxiety. Her heart was beating rather fast, and she felt tense, but at no point had she been overcome by panic. She had been aware throughout of being in full possession of all her faculties.

Could they have been children playing a practical joke? It is possible of course. But what would children have been doing in a wood, at seven o'clock in the morning, even though the hamlet of Mauvaissant was not far away? (The other villages were distant several kilometres.) Moreover, the two beings did not react at all in the way that one would have expected from children, who generally give themselves away in such circumstances, being unable to keep a straight face (running away, laughing, shouting, etc.).

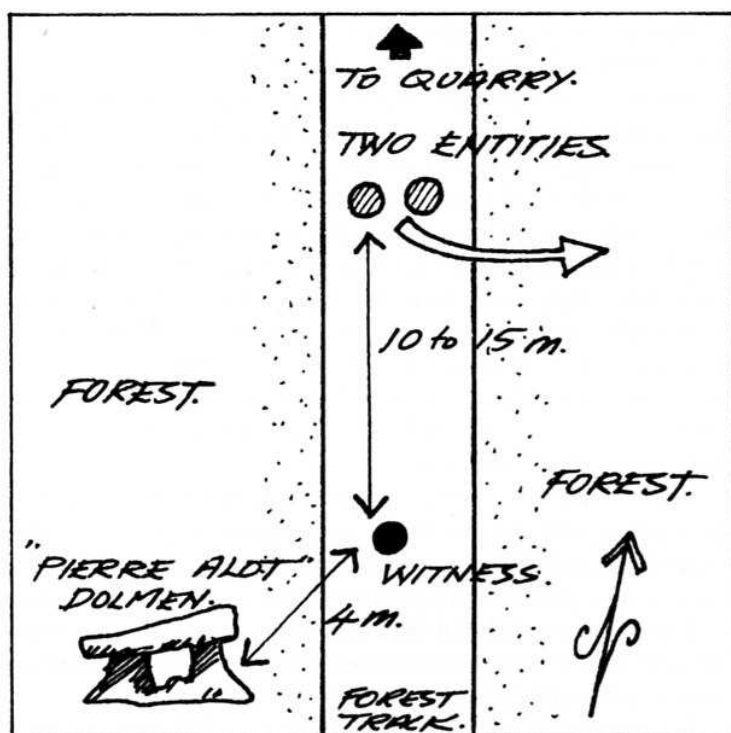
Further Notes on the Case

Mme. L—'s reaction to these two beings, who at no moment were in any way menacing (they appeared to be carrying no weapons or objects of any sort) is explained by the fact that she now realized at once — on account of their shape and their dress and their silence — that these were not normal, usual sort of folk.

We would mention, by the way, that the *Pierre Alot* dolmen lies on a ley line which runs towards Vitry-le-Nogent.

Be it noted likewise that this case falls in the category of sightings of humanoids without any visible object or craft in the vicinity. But maybe there was a landed craft standing in the stone quarry to which one comes if one carries on for a further 400 metres or so along the forest track.

We would add finally that Mme. L—, a very sick



woman at the time of our investigation of the case, is a trustworthy and well-balanced person whose sincerity we have not found it possible to doubt.

Additional comments on the case after further investigation

These small beings seen on a forest track in the summer of 1956 at Marsois (Haute-Marne) correspond very well with the general characteristics of entities seen in the vicinity of landed UFOs, particularly in respect of their height and their humanoid aspect. (The height of the witness herself is 1 metre 62 cms.)

Their gait and manner of walking are normal. They make no stiff movements, but bend their knees and joints normally. Consequently Mme. L— never thought for a single moment that they might be robots, since she had had the idea, right at the start of the sighting, that these were children coming towards her.

As regards their faces, the witness was unable to see anything. The helmets which enveloped the heads of the beings bore some sort of semi-transparent opaque vizor that reflected the morning rays of the Sun shining through the trees and coming from the witnesses' right, the Sun being in the East at this early hour of the day. In their general appearance, according to the statements made by the witness, these helmets somewhat resemble the helmets worn by our present-day motorcycle police. While, on the other hand, one might also compare the helmets of the entities with those worn by the humanoids seen on two occasions by Monsieur Marius Dewilde at Quarouble in the North of France (September 10, 1954, and October 10, 1954).

Did any contact take place between the witness and the entities? In the present case it is very difficult to pronounce an opinion. Let us not forget that the incident occurred in broad daylight, and that, when Mme. L— was at a maximum distance of no more than 10 to 15 metres from the small humanoid creatures, she had the distinct impression that the latter were gazing at her fixedly and intensively for a certain duration of time. We may note that the two entities had halted, seemingly purposefully, and that they moved their heads up and down when Mme. L— asked who they were, but that they nevertheless remained silent. Can we perhaps interpret this as some sort of response on their part? It is possible.

After making slight movements with their arms, they plunged into the thick undergrowth, pushing the branches and bushes aside in normal fashion with their arms just as a normal person would have done.

The witness did not feel any bad effects seeing that, despite this strange encounter, she went on her way in search of mushrooms and food for her rabbits.

No hostile action from the entities (and none on the part of the witness either) suggests an attitude of curiosity on the part of the entities, combined with a relative degree of indifference. Nevertheless, we would be inclined to say that there was gestural contact between these entities and Mme. L—, and to classify the case as a close encounter of the third kind. (Professor J. A. Hynek's CE III.)

No object (UFO) was seen at the time, either stationary in the air, or on the ground, or subse-

quently. So maybe there was a UFO standing in the open quarry? We have no way of knowing. Be it noted that the forest itself is much too dense to permit a UFO to attempt a landing there. The open quarry (today used by the local motor-cycle fans as a trial ground) remains the only possibility, though this is of course merely a hypothesis.

At the date when the encounter took place (1956) the undergrowth flanking the forest track was much thicker and much closer than it is today and the trees formed a veritable tunnel above the track, so that nothing could have landed on the latter from the air.

For those who are interested in these types of correlations, we note once more the close proximity of the witness to the Dolmen (only four metres from her at the moment of the encounter, and located on a ley). Furthermore this is not the only time that this sort of close encounter has been reported from a place right inside a wood. On the banks of a lake called Le Lac du Der Chante-Coq, in a forest, also in the Département of Haute-Marne, at the end of January 1975 and the beginning of February 1975, several witnesses observed a white humanoid form over two metres in height, and luminous globes moving about near the ground. At one point two of the witnesses found themselves at a distance of three metres from an opalescent globe emitting a powerful beam of light just above their heads.

We would also mention another case that took

(Concluded opposite)

POOLE "HAMBURGER"

(Continued from page 20)

interviewed each boy separately and all appeared most sensible, honest and anxious to recall the details of their experience as accurately as possible for our benefit. Vincent Jones, however, although giving his version of the events to the best of his ability, appeared somewhat disinterested in the affair and our interview with him was the least productive of information. Why, if they had fabricated the story, should his attitude be so less enthusiastic than the others, yet telling basically the same story?

Our opinion is that no deliberate hoax was perpetrated, but that the boys witnessed a phenomenon totally outside their normal experience and therefore had difficulty in relating the details without inconsistencies in their reports creeping in. We see these inconsistencies as confirmation rather than denial of the presence of a true unknown.

Editor's note: An account of the incident was published in the *Poole & Dorset Herald* for the week-ending November 29, 1980. In it Abdul Shahid was reported as saying — when interviewed by the reporter at his school — that he would not like to see a UFO again.



Photo courtesy of Poole & Dorset Herald

From left: Abdul Shahid, Richard Gillson and Lee Perkins, three of the UFO spotters.

place in the same area of Haute-Marne and in the same year, 1956. Between 7.15 and 7.30 p.m., local time, on September 27, 1956, at Darmannes, Monsieur Pierre C—, resident at Chaumont, was travelling along the Route Nationale No. 65, when he was paralysed with astonishment at the sight of an enormous blue disc-shaped UFO with a dome and portholes emitting a bluish light of the brightness of magnesium. The eyewitness experienced a number of physi-

cal effects: he felt as though being immersed in a "bath of frying oil," and his hair stood on end. The engine of his car cut out and his lights failed.

A little earlier on the same evening, a carpenter returning home to Chaumont in Haute-Marne along Route Nationale 67, saw an enormous luminous mass which took off and flew away, terrifying him.

Recently there has been a certain recrudescence of UFO phenomena around Nogent-en-Bassigny.

World round-up

Republic of China (Tibet)

"Saturn" UFO changes rotation

From the *Mainichi Daily News* of Friday, August 7, 1981, we learn that—

"An unidentified flying object (UFO) was sighted on July 24 in the northern part of the sky over Tibet, Peking's *Xinhua* news agency reported Wednesday.

"Quoting a meteorological official in the region, it said a bright object which appeared to be about the size of a table tennis ball, [*apparent size to observers, not actual size?* — EDITOR], surrounded by a ring of blue-white light of variable brightness, moved from east to west at an estimated speed of 120 kilometers per minute for seven minutes.

"As it moved, he said, the center of the object brightened and began rotating in the opposite direction to the movements of its surrounding rings, which began to dim and widen at the same time.

"He observed six rings during the first three to four minutes and the outermost ring grew to between 20 meters and 30 meters in diameter.

"As the center dimmed, the rings faded but then the brightness of the ring of blue-white light around the object increased, the official said.

"He added that the object emitted no sound."

Credit: Yusuke J. Matsumura of Yokohama, Japan.

India

University lecturer blames it all on UFOs!

The following item is taken from an un-named English-language newspaper (possibly the *Times of India*)

and is datelined "New Delhi, December 11th" [1981]—

"If you live in Delhi you should know that you have been a victim of the havoc wrought by what scientists term unidentified flying objects (UFO). Meet Mr. Swadesh Kumar Trikha, physics lecturer, Delhi University.

"You produce a disaster, any disaster — from tidal waves to train accidents, to power failures or even floods — and the lecturer will produce a UFO.

"Mr. Trikha has been chasing a UFO which unleashed a tornado in 1978 in the capital and was first 'sighted' by Mr. Shatrughan Shukla of model town.

"Mr. Trikha, working on the premise that the object ejected radioactive waste, investigated the path of the university tornado with a geiger counter and 'discovered that the areas of maximum destruction registered 50 to 55 per cent higher radioactivity than the surrounding areas.' The Miranda house library wall displayed a large black patch previously unnoticed by the librarian, apparently caused by a concentrated energy burst from the UFO.

"Excessively high radioactivity had been recorded in other parts of the country visited by disasters: the trans-Yamuna colonies cyclone in 1979, the ensuing destructive hailstorms, the Machu dam burst, Ganga Yamuna floods, the Andhra Pradesh cyclone and tidal wave, the U. P. mass power breakdown and even the June 1981 train disaster in Bihar where the carriages fell into the Bagmati.

"Addressing a national seminar on the UFO mystery yesterday at the department of physics and astrophysics, Mr. Trikha said in hushed tones that UFOs were being used by foreign

of news and comment about recent sightings

countries (and even other planets) for 'environmental warfare' and 'international spying.' The device is reputedly 'very clear,' as on one occasion it skipped over a three-storey building. 'Had it hit the building we would have caught it,' he said."

Credit Jal N. D. Tata of Colabar, Bombay, India.

Brazil

Did UFOs kill four hunters?

The American tabloid, the *National Enquirer*, carried a sensational story in its issue of December 29, 1981, in which claims were made that four Brazilian hunters from the town of Parnarama (p. 3000) in the northern part of the country, had separately suffered violent death meted out by a UFO, or UFOs. The local police chief, Geraldo dos Santos Magela, told *Enquirer* staff writers Muldoon and Richman, that—

"As police chief it's my job to verify these reports, to determine if the deaths were caused by a UFO or if the reports were products of the imagination. Imagination... no. It was a UFO.

"The men died while the UFO was directly above them, and the other hunters with them were terrified. They came to me asking for help.

"At first I didn't take the reports seriously. But by early November, when the entire region was in a panic, I had to take them seriously."

Details of the gruesome deaths followed.

"The first hunter was killed on October 17. The victim, Abel Boro, went hunting with a friend, Ribamar Ferreira. They saw what appeared to