

The clipping concerns the sighting you reported in FSR, Vol. 23, No. 4, page 7.

Now, I know stories can get distorted, but *The Sun* version is so inaccurate that it could, to a casual reader, give the impression that your report and their version are of completely different incidents.

The differences are:—

1. *The Sun*' story says a gang of boys alerted the girls to the UFO. Your report makes no mention of other witnesses except for the mothers hearing the noise.

2. *The Sun* story states that the saucer had a bump on the top which flashed orange/red; your report says the saucer had a red light which was steady and *didn't* flash.

3. *The Sun* story states that the witness, Karen, forgot about the incident until the next morning, and it was then that she reported it to her mother. Your report states that Karen immediately informed her mother and she phoned the police then and there.

I have no reason to doubt the facts in your version of this particular incident, as all of your reports and investigations are of a very high standard and are always verified by numerous sources.

I don't know where *The Sun* got their information on this incident as it's totally inaccurate, and if this is the best they can do in informing the public about the UFO phenomenon,

where precise facts are essential, then they shouldn't bother, and leave the reporting to specialised publications such as yours.

Keep up the good work in FSR.
Yours sincerely,
S. Chetwynd,
39 Albany Road, Old Windsor,
Berks.
February 20, 1978.

[*The Sun* learned the story from *Flying Saucer Review*, for it was in one of the magazines given to Miss Sue Freeman when she interviewed me. Miss Freeman was later in touch with Jenny Randles, who had conducted the investigation in a series of telephone calls to the mother and girls. The police were also consulted, and UFOIN and FSR stand by the facts as obtained by them. The newspaper obviously sent a representative to meet the witnesses; whether or not some "embroidering" of the facts took place is hard to say—EDITOR]

Time travelling UFOs?

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Would you be so kind as to allow me a few words in reply to reader S. Brighton's letter re Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity in FSR Vol.23, No.4?

Yes, I have read the Special Theory, although it would be presumptuous of me to say I fully understand it, but I cannot quite see its precise connection with Time-Travelling as such.

Astronauts leave Earth, reach a speed near to that of light, and then return to find that their three-months' voyage has taken, say, three centuries of Earth time. They have landed back on future Earth but they cannot go back to their own natural times. As Dr. Carl Sagan puts it in his book, *The Cosmic Connection*: "According to Special Relativity...there is no possibility in this way of travelling backward in time; we can merely make time slow down, we cannot make it stop or reverse."

All the same, it would again be presumptuous of me to assume that the Special Theory may not eventually lead to a fuller understanding of the "mechanics" (for want of a better word) of real Time-Travel.

The main justification for suggesting that UFOs may be Time-Travel machines, as stated in my article in FSR Vol.21, No.6, is that the invention of such a machine is inevitable at some point in the future. Technological achievement in the last hundred years has been quite phenomenal; who can guess what wonders even the next one thousand years will produce?

I am,
Yours sincerely,
S.E. Priest,
136 Palatine Road, Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6JN
February 13, 1978

FROM OUR CORSICAN NOTEBOOK..1

J.C. Dufour & P de Lormont

Specially prepared for *Flying Saucer Review* Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

THE island of Corsica, with its rugged relief and a population that is concentrated principally in the coastal towns, could not fail to be a terrain of predilection for the UFO phenomenon.

The Corsican inhabitants are like their own soil — proud, rugged, gruff, and suspicious of the stranger. This explains how very difficult it has been for us for us to secure the few sighting reports which we give below.

1: Over the gulf of St. Florent

One of the first of the Corsican sightings, one that has been well described, and the witnesses of which it has been possible for us to trace, is the case in the Gulf of St. Florent (No.1 on the map.)

The date is June 18, 1966; it is 4.00 a.m. and the clear, limpid sky gives promise of a lovely day.

Two fishermen from the coastal village of Saint-Florent are out in their boat on the Gulf of the same name, and are engaged in taking in their net. This is delicate work, calling for sustained attention if you don't want to see a whole working day lost, as well

as some expensive equipment. Behind them, towards the south-east, the bare crests of the Bastian Range of mountains stand out against the sky.

A terrifying apparition

One of the fishermen, Volelli, straightens up for a moment to take a breather. And then he perceives, above the saddle in the mountains known as the Col de Teghime, three aluminium-coloured discs flying in a triangular formation towards the north-east. They have passed the crests of the range and, while travelling at the speed of a jet aircraft, they are all the time changing places in the formation; the one on the left moves into first place, the one on the right moves to the left, and so on... Dumbfounded, Volelli shouts to his companion, Scotto: "Look! What is it?"

And as the second fisherman stands and observes this unwonted sight the three discs change course and begin to head straight for the witnesses. The discs are very low now — not more than 200 metres above the water, say the fishermen. They both throw themselves flat in the bottom of the boat and utter a

prayer to the Madonna to save them. Volelli is the first to look up again, and sees, to his vast relief, that the formation of UFOs are changing course again and now heading towards the north-west.

Landing in the French Maritime Alps

A few minutes later, some of the residents of the village of Bar-sur-Loup (near the town of Grasse, in the Maritime Alps, on the French Mainland, just north of Nice), including Monsieur Barbier, the mayor, see a disc land on the top of a hill covered with scrub. The mysterious object leaves burn-marks there on the vegetation. While it is of course not possible to affirm as certain that this disc is one of those that had just flown across Corsica, nevertheless the coincidence in time is worth noting, for Bar-sur-Loup lies right on the prolongation of the course on which the UFOs were last seen to be travelling.

2: Gavignano ... Physical and Physiological Effects

At about 9.00 p.m. on July 21, 1973, Monsieur Yves Rinaldi, aged 35, manager of the firm *A Casa di L'Artigiani* in Bastia, is driving in his car along departmental highway No. 139, a route little frequented at this hour of the day, even though it is a Saturday evening.

It is a winding road, running through mountain terrain covered with scrub, with only a few deserted shepherds' huts along it, and leading to the village of Saliceto, where Monsieur Rinaldi's parents live. They are the keepers of an inn.

About 2½ km before reaching the village, he overtakes a *Citroen 2 CV* labouring up the slope, which is pretty steep here.

About 20 seconds later he feels himself "paralyzed" by an unknown force; his car stops instantly, his lights go out, and his radio dies. He is unable to move; an intense sensation of cold overcomes him. His eyes begin to water, and he is sure that his final hour has arrived.

A disc as bright as the Sun

At this moment he perceives, right ahead of him in the scrub, and seemingly rising from the ground, an extremely brightly shining object — "as bright as the Sun" he calls it — shooting upwards and spinning at a fantastic rate as it does so. Rinaldi, unable to turn his head, nevertheless "sees"(!) the UFO pass over his car and continue on its way behind him.

When we recorded and reported this case we had not yet heard of similar reports.

The car starts up again on its own

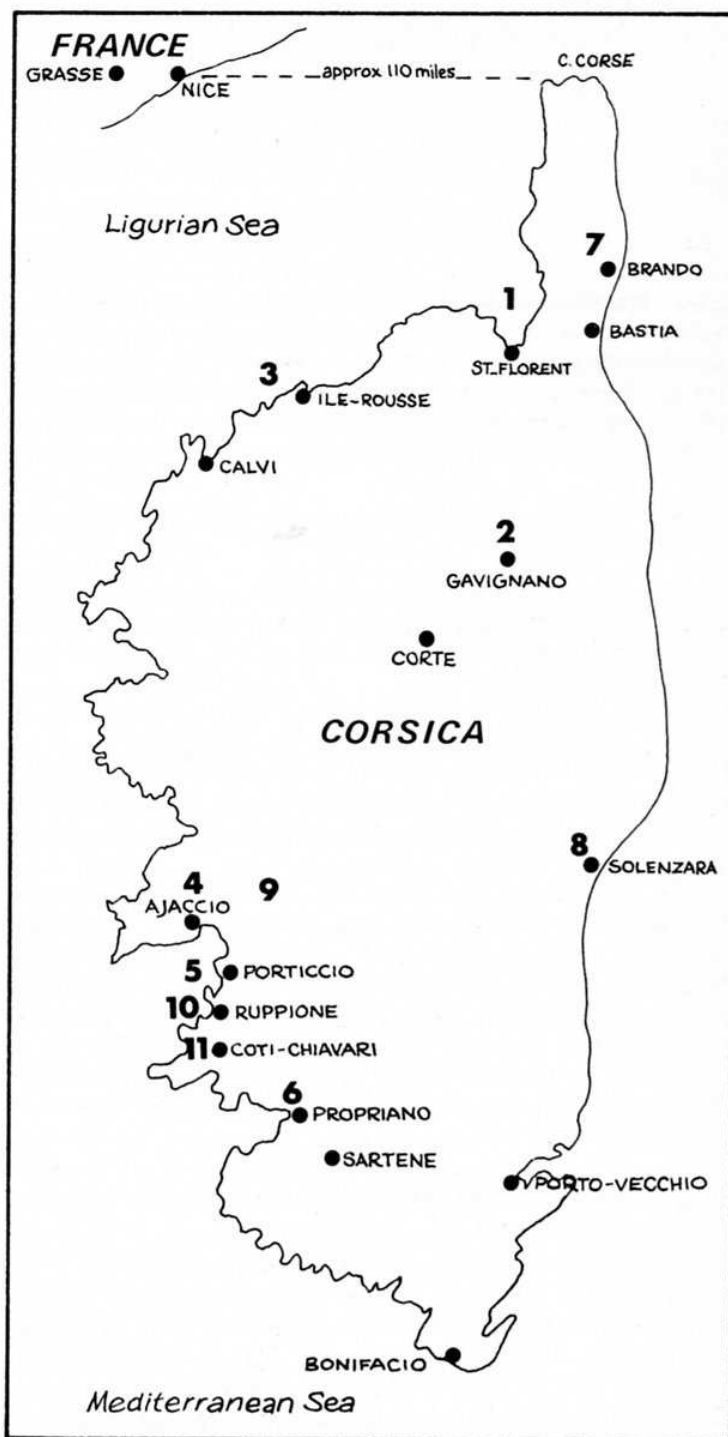
As soon as the UFO is out of sight, the engine of the car starts up again without the witness having any recollection of having activated the ignition. His lights come on again, his radio starts to work again, and the car moves forward once more.

Let us just consider for a moment: when the driver is immobilized and the engine stops, the car is in second gear. When, for example, a car is going downhill, the weight of the vehicle alone can start up the engine, the ignition key already being switched

on. This is what occurs sometimes when we want to spare our battery and we "coast" downhill. On the other hand however, when you are going uphill and a gear is already engaged, the car would have to remain stalled on the spot, whatever the position of the ignition key. The least unreasonable hypothesis that comes to mind is as follows: Monsieur Rinaldi did in fact execute the movements that every trained driver performs instinctively: disengage — neutral — switch on — into first — handbrake off, and go... but his conscious mind was temporarily switched off due to the proximity of the UFO.

Understandably upset

Half an hour later, Monsieur Rinaldi arrived at his parents' home and, still upset and suffering from



the effect of an understandable shock, told them about his experience. The driver of the 2 CV that he had overtaken arrived, and he confirmed what Rinaldi had said. This other man however had not experienced the "physiological effects," and his vehicle had functioned normally, but this was because he had been more than 300 metres behind Rinaldi.

3: Ile-Rousse... the cone-shaped object

The date is December 23, 1973, at 5.00 o'clock in the morning. It is still dark, and an icy little wind is blowing down from the mountains. A resident of Calvi, Monsieur Folacci, a seafaring man, is out hunting with a friend. The stars are shining overhead in a cloudless sky.

Let us hear Monsieur Folacci in his own words: "Suddenly we noticed, in the direction of Ile-Rousse, a cone-shaped object twice the apparent size of a full moon, with three sparkling antennae disposed fan-wise. I think the thing was at a considerable distance from us, but all the details on it were very clearly visible and the antennae showed up quite distinctly.

"The body of the object was of a vivid yellow colour, with red and green flashes on the sides. It was moving around over a definite, determined area, describing spirals, and then stopping. There was no sound from it. Believe me, it was no aircraft, no sonde-balloon, nor anything natural! I am a navigator by profession: I have much experience of the sky and of its phenomena. I was not scared — just slightly uneasy... you know, I think it was a 'flying saucer'.

4 and 5: Luminous objects in the skies over Ajaccio and Porticcio

We are only mentioning these sightings for the sake of the record, because they present no great interest as regards details or as regards the behaviour of the objects observed.

At 9.00 p.m. on January 3, 1974, a number of persons residing at Porticcio, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Ajaccio, observe a "luminous white ball" moving about at 30° above the sea, in a due westerly direction. The duration of the sighting is for about four or five seconds.

At 9.15 p.m. on January 5, 1974, an Ajaccio businessman, Monsieur Guignonis, sees a "luminous banana" pass over the Gulf and then back again. He said the object came from the west and departed again towards the west after having remained stationary for a few seconds over Ajaccio. It gave out a humming sound, like the noise of an electric motor. Its movement was slow, about the same as that of a dirigible balloon.

6: UFO-festival over Propriano

This time it is some amateur fisherman who are the observers of an unwonted phenomenon.

Monsieur Sylvain Gozes and Monsieur Claude Blan are businessmen from Monaco. On Monday, March 18, 1974, they had set out on a fishing expedition to the river Rizzanese at the Capo-Lavoroso Beach (a name to remember) 2 km to the south of

the town of Propriano.

Here is Monsieur Sylvain Gozes' story:—

"At 10.45 p.m. we saw a sort of green rocket fall from the sky towards the sea, to the west. The object had a luminous trail behind it, also green, composed of little green points of light. We were surprised at the sudden apparition, but we were soon equally intrigued when a great luminous globe appeared in the sky which — and we emphasise this — was perfectly clear, without a cloud. The sphere was of considerable size — say, comparable to the full Moon, and changed colour from yellow to red and then from red to green. We think the thing would have been at a height of between 6,000 and 10,000 metres. It was flying in a zigzag fashion, making sudden lateral leaps of 500 metres or so at a time. Its trajectory was in the shape of a reversed "Z". When it started to climb, its trajectory took the shape of a vast "Z". We watched the phenomenon for over an hour, and then returning to Propriano. When we left, the thing was still performing its evolutions in the sky."

Next morning, the two witnesses went to the Gendarmerie to make their statement.

Not a distress signal

No distress signal (which might have explained the 'green rocket') had been fired that night by any passing ship. As for the luminous sphere, both its type of movement and the length of the sighting rule out the "reassuring" explanations, such as: a signal rocket; an artificial satellite; or a meteorite. It is a pity that our two amateur fishermen did not stay there longer to observe the further course of events.

7: The dazzling UFO over Cape Corse

Unlike the six cases given above, the ballet dance of a UFO in the skies over Cape Corse (extreme northern trip of Corsica) was seen by some twenty witnesses, who observed it from different angles.

On Sunday, July 7, 1974, Monsieur "R", a teacher living in the village of Partine, in the commune of Sta. Maria di Lota, was on the terrace adjoining his house, together with his wife, his son, and his daughter-in-law. Four witnesses, all trustworthy people.

This is what Monsieur "R" told us:—

"It was about 8.50 p.m. Our attention was drawn to a luminous yellow spot which was moving over the sea towards the Isle of Elba (i.e. towards the N.E.) It could not have been an aircraft, it had no flashing lights. Moreover it was travelling far more quickly than any jet 'plane.

"When right over Elba it halted for a while, climbed vertically some hundreds of metres, and then came back towards Corsica at a staggering speed, heading in the direction of the village of Grigione. The intensity of its brightness now gradually grew more and more powerful, from the equivalent, say, of a 40-watt bulb to the brightness of the Sun itself! It was blinding. All we could see was this intense light; no structure. It remained at this level of incandescence for about five minutes, and then the intensity of its light began to wane, and it started to move away slowly towards Bastia, in the South,

finally vanishing behind the mountain which, from where we are, serves as a screen and hides Bastia from us."

The witness detected no sound such as would be characteristic for an aircraft engine. They regularly see the airliners passing over every day towards the Bastia-Poretta Airport, and they are categorical and emphatic: this object in no way resembled an aeroplane.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain, other people picked up the sighting.

At Toga, a southern suburb of Bastia, some witnesses describe the following spectacle, as observed by them:

"We saw an extremely luminous object appear, moving along horizontally and resembling a big star. Five or six seconds later the intensity of its brightness began to increase, while all the time the thing was still moving away towards the south. Making absolutely no sound, it vanished from our sight behind a building. An instant later it came in sight again, between two houses, and then it was hidden again."

Monsieur Jean Marchioni, a municipal employee in Bastia, where he resides in the suburb of Cardo, described it as follows:—

"I had a very clear view of the thing. It looked like a star, and was travelling very fast. It vanished for a few seconds, and then came back from the direction of the sea towards the land. Its size was now bigger, and the intensity of its brightness was greater. It seemed to be spinning on its own axis. It vanished over the mountains towards the west, in the direction of St. Florent."

However that was not the last sighting of it. At about 10.55 p.m. some residents of Ile-Rousse saw a vividly bright object coming from the east and heading due west.

We might point out that at 8.50 p.m. in July, in Corsica, it is still daylight. Had the light been on some larger material structure the latter would have been seen by the witnesses.

8: Did a UFO pass over the NATO Air Base?

On March 11, 1974, Air Base No. 126 at Solenzara is visited by a mysterious aerial object... which nevertheless remains at a prudent distance. This airfield is a NATO base, where there are permanently stationed not only French fighter aircraft but also elements of the Belgian Air Force and German aircraft as well. Between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m. on the evening in question, some soldiers observe a bright orange object, of the apparent size of a star, slowly moving to and fro over the military airfield. The soldiers watched it for about an hour, and then it moved off southwards, heading straight towards the village of Solenzara.

This UFO — for a UFO it seems to have been — was also seen over a firing range some 30 kilometres from the NATO airfield (and a report on it was

compiled by the Airborne Gendarmerie). But the UFO was not seen by anyone over the course it would have had to follow to reach Solenzara, so one may wonder whether perhaps it "volatilized" in the interval?

UFO, or sonde-balloon? We seem to be on the borderline with this case, and it is hard to decide which to opt for.

9: Peri ... a ball of fire

We have no exact date for this sighting. We only know that it took place some time in August 1974, on the Peri plain, 15 km to the east of Ajaccio, and not far from National Highway No. 193.

The witnesses were some children who were playing near the bed of the river Gravone, by an abandoned quarry. They are supposed to have seen "a very red ball of fire rise up from the ground and disappear towards Sarrola and Carcopino" (towards the west).

10: Propriano again

Our attention was caught by an article in the Corsican edition of the newspaper *Le Provençal* for November 21, 1974.

The article described a UFO sighting at Propriano on November 19, 1974, by Monsieur J.M. Arnaud, Monsieur N. Guiddelmoni, and various other persons.

We at once went to Propriano and called upon Monsieur Arnaud who, along with various other witnesses, gave us an account of what had happened. Here it is:—

"Shortly before 10.00 p.m., Nando Guiddelmoni came to tell me that there was a luminous object moving around over Mount Capo-di-Loce, on the flanks of which the village of Belvedere is located. He had seen the thing when he was going to the beach at Capo Lavoroso (this place has already been mentioned under Case 6). Another friend and I went off with him to have a look at it, as I said to myself that you can't have too many witnesses in this sort of business.

"In order to get an unobstructed view, we took up our positions on the beach. It was a completely dark night, for there was no Moon. On the other hand however what we beheld was a luminous object at least three times the size of the full Moon, circular, orange in colour, and very bright indeed, stationary in the sky over the village of Belvedere. The glow from the object was so powerful that it lit up the whole village of Belvedere, as well as the surrounding scrubland. The object was quite silent. The object would suddenly halt in its flight, and then start off again after remaining stationary for two or three seconds. Its colour and its size remained unchanged. After fifteen minutes or so it seemed to approach us and it flew low over the hamlet of Portigliolo (on the coast, south of Propriano). At any rate we had the impression that it was flying lower, because its diameter had increased. We began to feel a bit scared."

From sphere to disc

"Then the object headed towards the sea, always