

this world, and of lesser fry like Patrick Moore (when he is allowed to interrupt and rudely shout down people, as when he appeared with our own Gordon Creighton on a BBC TV *24 Hours* programme last August).

Here and now we make a plea for more sense and less nonsense. Far, far more will be achieved by conducting serious and probing investigations into cases, by collecting the facts and reporting and recording the details and publishing them in the serious journals. Once on record these facts and details will amass, and will aid the debate

and encourage the sensible, necessary speculations.

Quietly, behind the scenes, more and more interest is being displayed in UFO reports by scientists, engineers and medical men. Often they are attracted to the subject by new ideas about it that are being discussed in FSR and elsewhere. Inevitably this will lead to publicity for ufology in the right places. So please let us have responsible behaviour and with it, less publicity of the wrong kind. Above all, let there be more genuine effort, and more collaboration "in the field".

THE STONE COLLECTORS

R. Eraud

THE witness, Monsieur D.L.V., is not anxious for publicity, and has never spoken to anyone about this episode until quite recently, when he gave the details to me.

At about 3.00 p.m. one Thursday in the summer around about 1954-1956 he was on the slopes beneath the chateau of Buron, which is 4 kilometres from Coude.

With his companions, Monsieur V.—then a boy—was taking part in a young people's outing. One group of them had installed themselves below the castle, which they were "defending", while the other group, to which the witness belonged, was "attacking".

Half-a-dozen of them are moving along up a path and looking towards the castle, which is on their right. Suddenly, dumbfounded, they freeze in their tracks. Just ahead of them, at a distance of no more than 25 or 30 metres, are two beings about 90 centimetres or 1 metre in height. They are wearing bright shiny "divers' suits", and their heads are encased in enormous helmets about 50 centimetres wide. The helmets have a flat circular

visor (as on an old style British Tommy's helmet, but wider). The helmets seem to be of the same material as the "diver's suit".

The witness was able to make out no features; his only recollection is of a reflection of something there, a bit brighter than the rest of the helmet.

Near the two dwarfs stood a square box without a lid, seemingly made of the same material as the "divers' suits". The two little beings were taking stones from a section of wall made of stacked unmortared stones (the local basalt, commonly found in the region). The stones they were selecting seemed to be around 1-2 kilogrammes in weight. They were lifting the stones with both hands, carrying them a few paces, and bending down and placing them in the box (without bending their legs) and then returning to the wall for more. To this fantastic sight, add the fact that the beings were moving very slowly, somewhat as though they were subjected to a weight that it was difficult for them to bear. "Just like in a slow-motion film," said the witness.

After they had watched for about two minutes, one of the boys was seized with panic and fled, followed immediately by the rest.

Monsieur D.L.V. was unable to say whether any force other than astonishment had prevented the boys from approaching more closely. The boys felt nothing, and it is possible that the dwarfs did not see them.

The boys saw no machine on the ground or in the air. The meadow which was the setting for the unwonted episode is however bordered with groves of trees.

Visiting the site some 12 or 14 years after the alleged occurrence, we found it precisely, though it is rather more overgrown with vegetation now than then. We took two photographs and also some samples from the crumbling wall.

NOTE: There is a geological fault-line about 300 metres to the south-west of the site.

*Translation by Gordon Creighton from the original article which appeared in *Lumières dans la Nuit* for February 1969 (No. 98). [see page 25]*

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