

# THE ROBOTS AT WARNETON

A Belgian "repeater" case with landed entities (the "Robots"?), which was part of last winter's wave in Western Europe

THE date was Monday, January 7, 1974, and the witness, Monsieur "X," Belgian, aged 31, was driving in his *Ami 6* from Comines towards Warneton, on the Franco-Belgian frontier. It was about 8.40 p.m., and he had nearly reached Warneton. The road surface was wet, for it had rained recently. The sky was clear, with stars, and there was virtually no wind. There was a fine Moon (it would be Full Moon on the following night, January 8). His Schneider car-radio cassette player was playing. He was doing a moderate speed: 60-70 km. p.h.

Suddenly his headlights go out and practically simultaneously the car's engine cuts out after a few misfires. The car radio goes dead too. Surprised, Monsieur "X" puts the gear into neutral and the car goes on running for 100 metres or so (the gradient at this point on the road is around 1:20.) Then he uses the hand-brake to pull up. A good car mechanic himself, he thinks a fuse has gone, and as soon as the vehicle is stationary he gets ready to step out and see to the trouble. He has his left hand on the door handle on the driver's side and with his right hand he presses down lightly on the passenger seat to aid himself in getting out.

But he gets no further: for, turning his head slightly to the right, he sees, through the front door-window, something about 150 metres distant in the field bordering the road, which stands slightly higher than the road at this spot. He thinks at first that it is a load of hay, but then he notices areas of orangish-white light on the object, and finally he perceives that it is standing on three legs. A few further moments of inspection bring him to the realization that he is not looking at a cartload of hay but at an unknown object, the shape of which, slightly silhouetted against the horizon, is reminiscent of the type of "tin hat" worn by the British "Tommies," — the soldiers of World War I.

And then his attention is caught by something else . . .

He sees, through the windscreen, two figures about thirty metres from his car, in the field. A farmer and his son, he thinks. But very soon he realizes that these two peculiar customers have nothing whatsoever to do with agriculture. They are approaching his car, walking in a rigid, slow fashion, and they come to a halt at fifteen metres from him and then, after a few seconds, come on again towards the car. Now he is able to see them in far better detail: one of them, the smaller, has the appearance of the man in the French "Michelin" advert, but with the rings scarcely delineated, and with a round helmet on his head, with quite a large "window" in it, allowing the witness to see a considerable part of the face. In his right hand this being holds a strange object (quite short, like a short,

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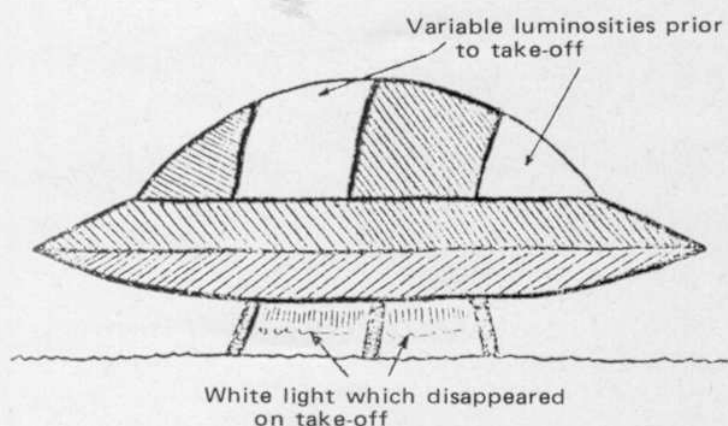
EDITOR

thick ruler with a pointed, pyramidal tip). He holds it somewhat in the fashion that one carries a revolver, and he points it at the car.

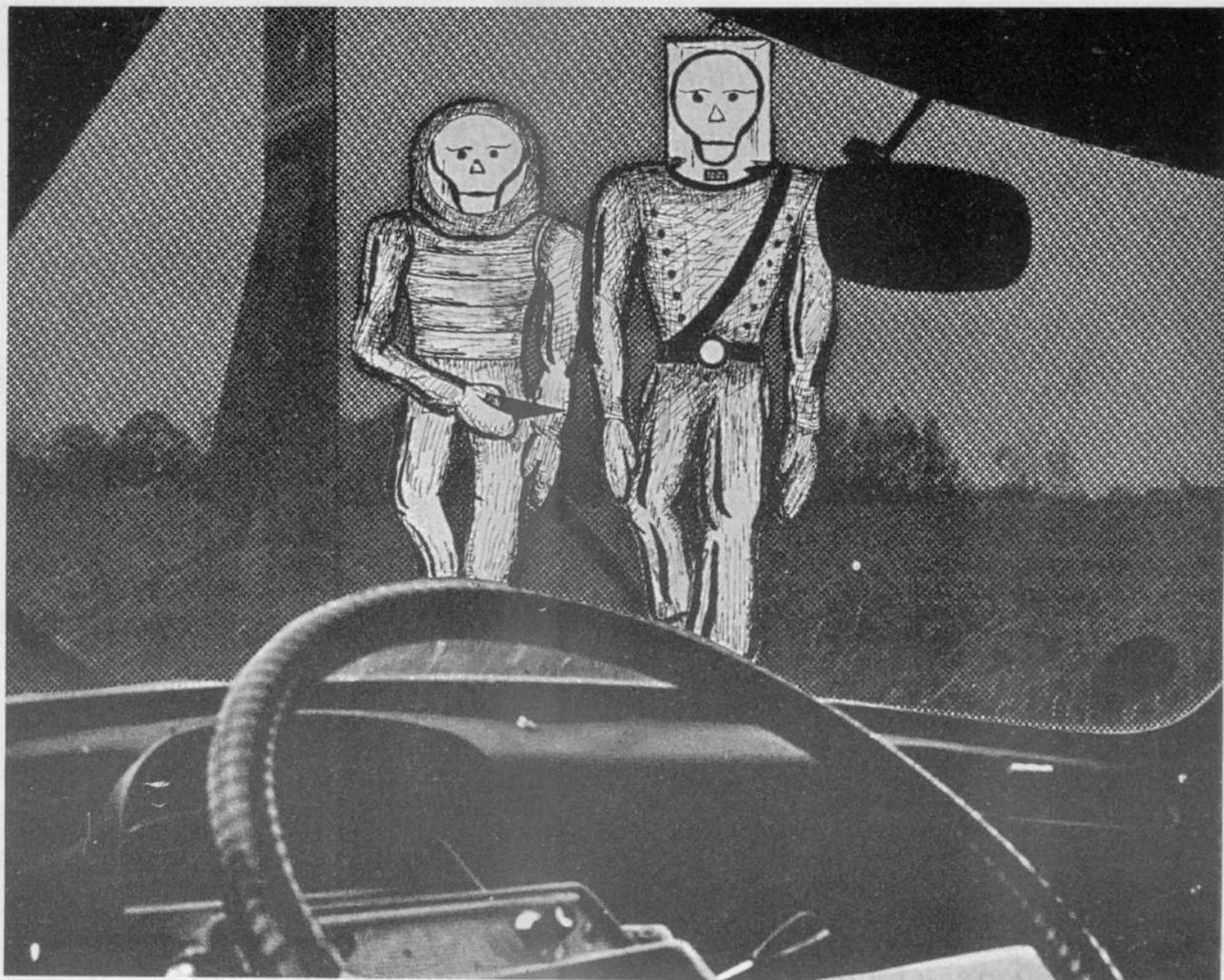
The second character, slightly taller than his companion (who is about 1m. 20 — 1m. 30) is walking slightly in front of the other. The silhouette of this second one is different. On his head he has a cube-shaped helmet, the sides of which are opaque except for the front, which is transparent like glass and reveals a weird face (their faces are identical, like twins). The shape of his head is like a pear, of a uniform faintly greyish shade, with two perfectly round eyes like agate "marbles" which are slightly sunken, in relation to the rest of the face, in what might be reminiscent of the eye sockets of a human face, and with a scarcely detectable arch to the eyebrows. The nose is small and shows up but faintly against the face, the mouth is simply a horizontal slit with no lips to be seen, and when, at one particular moment, the being opens its mouth, the witness sees in it neither tongue nor teeth.

In the cube-shaped helmet, beneath his chin, the being has a black rectangular "box." The overall suit is a dull metallic grey and seems to be made in one piece from the helmet down to the fingertips and down to the footwear too.

The two beings continue to approach, and the witness can now establish all these details and also take in others — in particular that the boots are



The drawing of the Warneton UFO as it appeared in LDLN



The two "robots" as seen by the witness from his car (based on a pictorial reconstruction in LDLN).

heavy and pointed. Above the cube-shaped helmet there is a sort of tube which suggests the existence of a breathing device (?) or which perhaps is a handle of some kind.

The silhouette of the humanoid in the cubic helmet is very different from that of his companion. Slightly taller than entity No. 1, he also has an athletic sort of build, broad shoulders, narrow hips in the fashion of a toreador, and a black belt at the waist with a luminous, or rather phosphorescent, oval — almost round — at the spot where the buckle of a belt lies. A sort of oblique black "Sam Browne" runs from the belt to the left shoulder. Starting from the base of his helmet, a row of buttons — at least this is what the witness supposes them to be — runs down on each side.

The two "Ufonauts" have very long arms, their hands reaching down to just slightly below the knees.

Monsieur "X" was enabled to observe the faces of the two beings in such precise detail because there was a soft, uniform light inside each of their helmets,

which did not seem to radiate at all to the exterior. The witness likens this light to the light on the belt.

Shortly after the two creatures had started walking towards the witness again, and when they had halted again very near to the ditch, Monsieur "X" felt a faint shock in the back part of the cranium, at the level of the cerebellum. Then, straight away after the "shock" he heard, but, he explains, not with his ears (all the doors of the car were closed), a low-pitched, modulated sound, growing detectibly louder and louder.

We emphasise once more that the two beings had stopped at a point about four metres from the car of the witness who was just sitting there rooted to his seat with fear and amazement. Just before he felt the shock on the back of the head and heard this sound, the entity in the cube-shaped helmet had opened its mouth as though about to speak: but he had heard no sound from it at that moment. A few seconds later came the shock at the back of the head and the modulated sound, but by then the being had his mouth closed again.



Right from the outset of the encounter Monsieur "X" had also sight of a third being, identical in appearance to entity No. 1 (the "Michelin man") but this one remained all the time close to the UFO and never left his "sentry post."

Let us now return to the two "Ufonauts" standing on the edge of the field. The duration of their "tête-à-tête" with the witness is difficult to estimate for in such times the seconds tend to seem pretty long! At one particular moment during the confrontation a sort of small object, oval in shape and luminous, fell from the left side and from the level of the black belt of the entity in the cube-shaped helmet, who did not appear to notice it or to worry about it. It has not been possible to recover this "object" — if indeed it was a material object — for over two and a half months elapsed between the sighting and the making known of this happening (the witness remaining silent out of fear of ridicule and other annoyances. In the meantime, the field had been ploughed up by the farmer, who knows nothing about these events.

But the *tête-à-tête* is to be brusquely disturbed. Suddenly the two beings turn their heads, in a perfectly synchronized movement, towards their left, and look away behind the witness's car. The low-pitched modulated sound terminates — without any shock in the back of the witness's head — as, in a still perfectly synchronized movement, the two entities execute a half-turn to their left, seeming to pivot on one leg (in military fashion), turn their backs to the witness (who notes nothing further regarding the details of their appearance except for the black "Sam Browne" shoulder-belt on one of them, running down the back and joining the waist-belt) and set off again at a brisk pace towards the UFO. Their movement is almost human, their knees bending and their legs moving normally, except for one feature — they seem not in the slightest degree hampered by the wet, sticky soil of the field, as though they were in fact walking with the utmost ease across hard ground in their big pointed boots.

The witness no longer recalls in what manner the beings re-entered their "craft." What he does remember is that the tripod legs vanished, and then the machine rose about 50 cm. or so off the ground and then, after remaining there stationary for three or four seconds, began to climb horizontally, following a trajectory at an angle of 60° or 70°, and finally vanished from his sight. Just as the machine was about to take off, after retracting its tripod legs, the witness had noticed in his rear-view mirror the lights of a car approaching from behind. Overcome by the thoroughly understandable sudden release from nervous tension the witness flopped for a few minutes over the wheel in an indescribable sensation of relief, at the same time wondering whether he had not perhaps just been dreaming or been the victim of some private hallucination.

Meanwhile the approaching car (it was driven by a Belgian) was getting nearer and nearer, and finally drew up, with all its lights blazing, right in front of his own car. The Belgian got out and came over and opened the door, to find the witness slumped there

over his wheel, still convulsively clutching the door-handle.

The witness recovers himself, and the Belgian motorist asks: "Have they hurt you?"

To which the witness replied: "Did you see them too?"

Yes, said the Belgian. He had seen them, and his engine had faltered a few times, but his lights had not failed.

The Belgian took his leave and drove on. The witness, whose headlights and radio were now working again, was able to get his engine going after a certain amount of work on his starter. He made for home. As fast as he could go.

Be it noted that the Belgian driver said to the witness (who is French) that he, the Belgian, would return with some friends to look for any traces of the landing which might remain. If they found any, he said, the matter would be given full publicity. If not, they would pursue the matter no further and drop it.

The Belgian took the witness's address. Having heard no more on the matter, our witness assumes that the Belgians found nothing.

Here are a few details regarding the behaviour of the UFO throughout all phases of this sighting, from start to finish:

**Estimated size of UFO:** Height: 2.5 — 3.00 metres, calculating from the ground. Width: 7 — 10 metres.

**Structural Details:** No structural details apparent apart from the bulge on the upper side. No change of shape observed.

**Colour Sequence:**

- (a) "Orangish-white."
- (b) Blue (Blowpipe dart).
- (c) Reddish (Dirty garnet).
- (d) Electric blue finally, until take-off.

From the moment that the Ufonauts started walking rapidly back to the UFO, the blue began to pulsate like the revolving strobe light of a police car. All these colour changes took place on surfaces that were an orange-tinged white at the start of the observation. These variable luminosities did not diffuse themselves outwards towards the exterior. The only one of the lights that actually furnished illumination was located beneath the UFO and seemed to come from its interior, and lit up an area lying between the three legs of the tripod landing-gear. This white light vanished at the moment of take-off.

Throughout the whole duration of the sighting, the UFO did not move and underwent no change of shape: only changes of colour. The total duration of the sighting is estimated by the witness at about 20 minutes. He had no watch but was able to estimate the duration from the amount of time by which he was late in arriving home that night.

Despite the fact that there are certain houses in the vicinity, it seems that nothing was noticed by the occupants. Those persons who have been interviewed have replied that they were watching TV at

the time, but they no longer recall whether or not there was any disturbance on their TV screens.

The radio/cassette in the witness's car remained defective after this experience.

Witness and his wife found that it was working badly thereafter. It was new, and up till then had worked impeccably. But after this experience with the UFO entities, he had to turn the volume up higher when he started the car again to drive on, and the programmes all came out distorted by disturbances and interference and background noise.

The player has been examined by experts and these have given their findings.\*

**Act 2: Again at Warneton, Belgium, Thursday, June 6, 1974**

Almost precisely five months later, the second contact occurred, and quite peculiarly too, being also at the very same spot as on Monday, January 7, 1974; at the very same time; and in the very same circumstances, that is to say while the witness was on his way home from a business refresher course. *And, be it noted, Thursday, June 6 was the very first day on which he had resumed attendance at this course since having an accident at his work during February.*

This time, at this season of the year (summer), it was still broad daylight. Sitting in his car and driving along, everything normal, the witness perceives the two beings (seemingly the same two as in January) standing right on the edge of the road just like a couple of hitchhikers! As on the first occasion, the engine sputters a few times, but there is no effect on the lights since these are not on, it being daylight. The cassette-player, which he has had turned on, also falls silent. The witness stops the car himself, pulling up level with the two beings, which are now so near that they can touch the bodywork of the car. But he does not budge from his seat: prudence and emotion dictate . . .

Once more he feels a slight shock at the back of the head, and a modulated sound, which then ceases . . . It has lasted scarcely two or three minutes, and the beings vanish instantly, suddenly, as though disintegrated, without sound, and without any other reaction!

A few seconds after this instantaneous disappearance of the two beings, his cassette-player begins to function again, just as before, without his touching it. He has no difficulty in restarting his engine, and he drives on home, pretty shaken by this second encounter, though a good deal less so than by the first.

\* **Translator's Note:** The report of the experts, occupying half a page of LDLN, is incorporated in the original text of the report. But I shall need a bit of help with some of the technical terms, in all likelihood, and this will cause delay. I have thought it better therefore to present this extraordinarily interesting story straight away. We can give the technical report when I have got it ready. Once again our thanks to LDLN for a fine report on an astonishing case.

Shortly before this second contact, he had been overtaken by a Ford car with a Belgian registration number, which was by now about a kilometre ahead of him, and which apparently did not experience any disturbance, its occupants seemingly not observing the two "Ufonauts" standing beside the road. Did the driver not see them, *or were they perhaps invisible for him?*

On the other hand it is to be noted that, as soon as this second experience started, the witness looked around over the fields to see if he could detect any object in the vicinity, but this time without result. He saw no object or flying craft, whether on the ground or near to it.

We think it right to add that we have made the closest and most thorough investigation of the witness; his good faith cannot be doubted.

Consequently we can conclude that the Warneton region has been the scene of happenings that are out of the ordinary, and that are outside the scope of our normal conceptions.

We shall not attempt to interpret them. We confine ourselves to *verifying them strictly and objectively* and reporting them.

In our view the affair is something very important, which we are going to follow up as closely as possible. Other developments can be expected . . .

## CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

This is the Institute founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, and former U. S. Air Force civilian scientific consultant on UFO reports, who is the Director.

The *UFO Center* is an affiliation of scientists from several United States universities who wish to see positive action taken to end a quarter of a century of misrepresentation and misunderstanding.

"Hynek's work has started a steady shift in public and scientific attitude to UFOs . . ." (*Nature*, October 4, 1974).

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