

# A French landing in 1944

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This article has been prepared from a translation, by Gordon Creighton, of a report, with commentary, that was published in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 118 (June 1972).\*

THE statement of the eyewitness, Madame Madeleine Arnoux, is as follows:

"These happenings date back to the summer of 1944. I was 13 years old then, and I used to go on my bicycle every week to a farm several kilometres from my home in order to get some provisions. Leaving Toulon-sur-Arroux (71) (Michelin map No. 69, sheet No. 17) I was riding along the pleasant road RD 42, which is lined with woods, towards the village known as Le Verger.

"Shortly before arriving at the village, I dismounted to pick some wild berries that I knew I would find there. At that point there is a dirt-road that forks off from the highway and runs away to the right through the woods. It was along this dirt-track that I was walking, slowly, looking for berries as I went. Quite mechanically, I looked up . . .

"A few hundred metres further on, the road climbs a bit and takes a pronounced curve to the right and disappears in the woodland. And it was precisely at that spot that the *thing* was standing, stationary. I recall that it was a very warm day, thundery, and that the sky was pretty overcast.

"Well, then, up there ahead, something was standing beside the trees, and there were some beings quite near it. Looking back on it now, I think the machine must have been of about the size of one of our small cars today (Volkswagen class), and it was of a dull metallic grey colour. I don't remember whether I noticed any openings in it. The beings that were beside it must have been less than 1 metre in height, and were dressed in a sort of brown-coloured overalls. They made no motion or gesture in my direction, and I, for my part, was rooted to the spot.

"How long did this mutual observation of each other last? I can't say, but I remember the oppressive atmosphere and the thundery state of the weather, and I remember how I had the feeling that I was unable to move . . . Then suddenly I was able to do so. I wanted to get my bike, which was lying a few metres from me. It took just the time needed for me to bend down as I got it, and then, when I looked up again towards the strange apparition, there was nothing there . . . All there was to be seen, at the spot where it had been, was a violent wind blowing the trees about. I didn't think of looking up in the air, where, if I had done, I should no doubt have still been able to see the machine as it was flying away.

"I was terrified and made off at full speed to the farm, where, needless to say, I didn't say a word about it! And nor did I talk about it when I had got back home either, for I felt sure I would be called a liar and a hoaxer. For a long, long time I thought about the weird encounter, and then I forgot about it . . . And it was only when people began to talk about "flying

saucers" that I put two and two together and began to think that without doubt what I had seen was one of these mysterious UFOs.

"After all these years, the picture is still very clear in my memory and I know perfectly well that I wasn't dreaming and that what I saw that day in the woods wasn't anything that is "known". It couldn't have been any vehicle existing at that time—and they were pretty rare on the roads anyway—for I would certainly have identified it as such.

"The scene of the encounter was a lonely place, the road leads into the woods, and the nearest farms are a kilometre or so distant. It was 1944, and the Maquis people of the Resistance were quite plentiful in the area, but it couldn't have been any of them. Nor could it have been German soldiers, and had it been either Maquis or Germans, unquestionably they would have challenged me. So one can only think that I must have been a witness of one of the earliest UFO visits.

"I attach two rough sketches of the place, but in order to be more precise I should have to go back there again."

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We are grateful to Mme. Arnoux for her report. The important facts remain, even if the sketches are made from somewhat imprecise memories. How many of these important events there are that are still unknown to us! And no doubt the responsibility is ours, because *Lumières dans la Nuit* does not circulate widely enough.

Incidentally—although of course Mme. Arnoux does not know this—the delightful Highway D 42 runs right across a *geological fault*, 110 km. long, which is to the west of Toulon-sur-Arroux and consequently quite near to the landing site.

She is no doubt equally unaware of some other very interesting cases from the same area. For example, the sighting over the wood at Chazey, 14 km. to the south of the site of her observation, where the engine of a car cut out and the lights failed (Aimé Michel: *A Propos des Soucoupes Volantes*, p. 214). Then there was the other incident at Montceau-les-Mines (Aimé Michel, *ibidem*, p. 213), 20 km. to the East from her sighting point, where it was the motor of a powered bicycle that cut out. Finally there was the case at Ciry-le-Noble (Aimé Michel, *ibidem*, p. 213), 18 km. to the South East, where the eyewitness was blinded by a saucer. And many other cases there are too that we have published, cases which show that the region in question is one much frequented by UFOs, which fact, together with that of the geological fault there, does much to lend additional credibility to this present report from a solitary and unsupported eyewitness.

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# Preliminary Catalogue of Type 1 cases in Argentina

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THE documentary material in this Preliminary Catalogue has been arranged according to the four classic subdivisions of Type 1. But for reasons of systematization various sub-classifications have been made in each of Dr. Jacques Vallée's basic groups.

In this connection we feel that we should explain moreover that the initial figure given for each case refers to the serial order of the event within the class to which it belongs. On the other hand the figure in parentheses denotes the chronological position of the case within the total context of all the classes. This last-named arrangement is the one followed by Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez in Table V of his complementary work, to the terms of which we also refer in connection with the specification of methodology and the criteria of selectivity used for the present compilation.

The place-name given in brackets is the name of the Province.

## SUB-CLASS A-1: Visibly abnormal body or phenomenon situated on the ground

1. (2). 1950, March; Las Catalinas farm (near Bahía Blanca, Prov. of Buenos Aires). 20.25 hrs.

Six people (including the owner of the farm, Señor Juan Girotti and his wife) observed the landing of a luminous object, shaped like a half-moon, which remained on the ground for 20 minutes.

Vogt, C: *El Misterio de los Platos Voladores*, Buenos Aires, 1956, p.77.

2. (7). 1957, January 18; Campo Quijano (Salta). Morning. A flying body of metallic appearance and of oval shape, vividly reflecting the rays of the sun, descended slowly on to one of the slopes of the peak known as El Cerro Negro. Numerous people observed the phenomenon (some with binoculars) over a period of seven hours, until it became obscured by clouds.

Riitti, A. C. and Vogt, C: *El Enigma de los Platos Voladores*, Buenos Aires, 1959.

3. (14). 1959, April 17: Dawney (La Pampa).

Workers at the La Carlota farm stated emphatically that an aeroplane of a strange shape had landed in the vicinity, but that it had immediately taken off again and moved away at high speed.

*La Razón*, Buenos Aires, April 26, 1959.

4. (15). 1959, May 20; Tres Lomas (La Pampa). 17.30 hrs. Two hunters observed a landed disc-shaped object. It appeared to be a machine of aluminium or silvery metal. It was 2.50 metres high and had a cupola 1 metre in diameter. The grass at the landing-site was left flattened.

*La Razón*, Buenos Aires, May 24, 1959.

5. (18). 1962, January 9; Cuesta del Totoral (Catamarca) 03.00 hrs.

Sr. José A. Filipín and Sr. J. Navarro, returning in a truck to Catamarca, perceived, just as they reached the crest of the Cuesta del Totoral, two powerful lights which were in the sky and were following the truck at almost identical speed. Surprised, they halted, but the lights at once vanished. The phenomenon recurred however at Amadores and this

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time the eyewitnesses were able to perceive a strange cupola-shaped device, similar to the upper half of a bus, which was standing on the slope of the mountain, at a distance of some 100 metres from the road. Beside the UFO there was a second and similar object. Both moved away in a zig-zag fashion and finally vanished behind a small hill. Subsequently, the members of a police commission sent there from Catamarca observed a luminous object which touched down gently on the high point known as Loma Brava.

*La Nación*, Buenos Aires, January 1, 1962; Review 2001, Buenos Aires, No. 17, December 17, 1969, p.28.

6. (19). 1962, January 22-25; Villa Dique Los Molinos (Córdoba) 21.00—24.00 hrs.

A "squadron" of 15 UFOs, flying above the vicinity of the Dyke, were seen by many local inhabitants. Some of the objects landed on the banks of the lake, while others even moved around on the surface of the water, at no more than 200 metres distance from the eye-witnesses. The diameters of the objects varied between 5 and 10 metres.

*Córdoba*, Córdoba, January 29, 1962; *Manual de Informaciones*, vol. 4, fol. 2/3, 1962, p.22, published by the Information Service of the Argentine Army).

7. (20). 1962, May 9; National Highway 35, near Bahía (Buenos Aires). 03.30.

José Carlos García, an employee of the Naval Base at Puerto Belgrano, was out on a hunting expedition with several friends. Before they had gone far they saw a glow which they took to be due to the lights of some nearby town; but it proved to be a luminous object, resembling the glow of mercury gas, which rose into the air and emitted two other similar objects. One of them flew along the road above the eyewitnesses' jeep; the other two objects rose vertically into the sky and disappeared. For eight minutes the hunters pursued the third UFO, until it increased speed and disappeared also.

\* Our congratulations to Oscar Galíndez on the securing of his Doctorate.