

PUY-DE-DÔME "UFO SOLDIER"

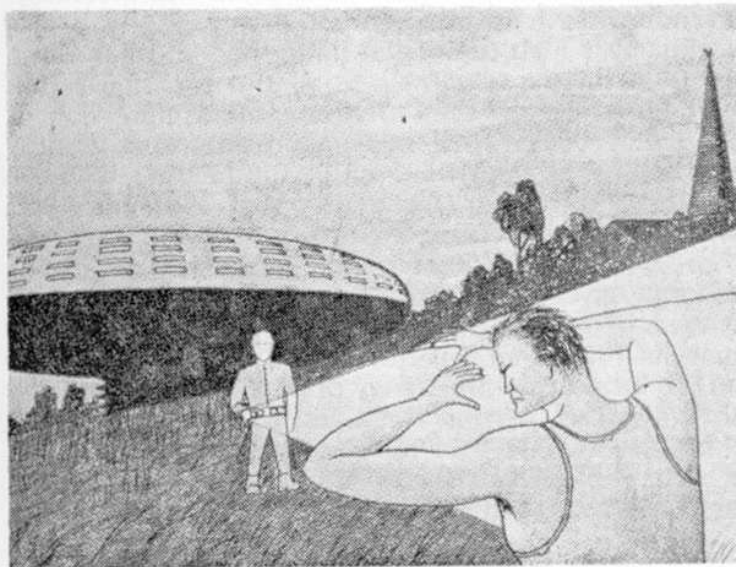
Joël Mesnard

Translated by Gordon Creighton from G.E.P.A. journal *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 21 September 1969. We are indebted to René Fouéré for permission to reproduce this very interesting account.*

A MAN who is today in his sixties seems to have been the sole witness, 10 years ago, of a brief landing of a being from a flying saucer.

Monsieur Germain Tichit, of modest circumstances, is a man who received only an elementary education but he nevertheless had no difficulty in giving me a very precise account of his recollection of the experience which has remained very clear in his mind. He is a man who has faced danger many times in his life—dangers as remarkable as his notable physical strength is remarkable. (It was because of these personal characteristics that he was picked in 1940 to be a member of a small special unit of the French Air Force, consisting of eight officers and two enlisted men, who were charged with the task of endeavouring to capture agents working at night for the Germans by firing rockets and displaying light signals.)

Monsieur Tichit is thus a solid, fearless type of man. His frankness and honesty are self-evident; so too is his



Sketch taken from *Phénomènes Spatiaux*

care to express himself precisely. He is quite clearly not the sort of man who would concoct a story, and his desire is to describe what he saw precisely as he saw it, simply and directly. He has never sought publicity over it. Feeling instinctively that nobody would believe him and that he would only be the recipient of mockery on all sides if he told his experience to everyone around him, he in fact only told four people about it in 10 years (his wife, his son, his son's wife, and one colleague at his place of work). Anxious not to be regarded as a crackpot visionary, he nevertheless remained convinced that his strange experience would interest serious investigators if he could find any. For years he had no

idea to whom to turn, until one day he read in a newspaper of the existence of G.E.P.A.*

The case occurred during the night hours in April or early May of 1960. Monsieur Tichit was at that time a baker in a village in the Puy-de-Dôme region of France. On the night in question, as every night, he was engaged in kneading his dough in the bakehouse near the upper part of the village. The highest building in the place—the village church—lies close by, separated from the bakehouse only by a large sloping piece of open ground formerly used for fairs. (We shall not reveal the name of the village, so as to preserve a little privacy for the witness.)

The incident

It was about 2 o'clock in the morning, and he was working away at his dough, when he suddenly heard an unusual noise and coloured lights of every description shone through the window into the bakery. In a matter of seconds he was outside, for he already had the door open. And there before him, right in the middle of the old fair-ground, uphill from him and below the church, was an enormous object standing right on the ground. Beneath this object was an undercarriage which he likens to the bellows portion of an accordion and which began to expand on its left side so that the enormous object—which had at first been lying at the same inclined angle as the sloping terrain—now assumed a horizontal posture. He heard a metallic noise which cut sharply into the powerful noise coming from the machine, and a step-ladder was now lowered from the right-hand side of it.

A creature of humanoid appearance, of very small stature, descended the three steps of the ladder, stepped on to the ground, and began walking in a direction slightly more towards the right of the witness than towards the bakehouse. Meanwhile a sort of veritable tornado was blowing from the machine. It was a kind of powerful wind, warm and pungent, felt by the witness chiefly on his left cheek, which seems to indicate that the machine or some part of it was rotating in an anti-clockwise direction.

Germain Tichit at once grasped that he was seeing something extraordinary. He immediately recalled the famous tales about flying saucers of which there had been so much talk in the newspapers a few years before. Not a second did he hesitate in deciding what attitude to adopt. Despite the powerful blast of wind from the object, which was quite a handicap, he began walking straight towards the intruder with the firm intent of capturing him. "I wanted to catch the little chap."

* G.E.P.A. address: 69 rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e, France.

Description of the entity

The creature, described by him as a dwarf, was well-proportioned, indeed handsome. He was wearing little boots, tight-fitting trousers, a sort of greyish-green jacket buttoned up in front, and a helmet of the same colour. On the right side of the creature hung what looked like the scabbard of a curved sword, its hilt plainly visible. This detail (not too reassuring on the person of an extraterrestrial visitor—"but aren't nearly all our own astronauts military men too?") did not scare Monsieur Tichit in the slightest and he continued to make for the small being. As soon however as the dwarf perceived him, it pointed a long tube at him . . . "a tube like a fireman's torch" said Tichit. This tube emitted an intense beam of light which struck Tichit on the chest and head, and all of a sudden he found it very difficult to breathe. Already dazed by the hot blast striking his left cheek and now blinded by this beam of light, he felt as though his lungs were almost paralysed. Instinctively he threw up both hands in front of his face and, head down, continued to advance towards the creature.

Was the creature scared at this point by the sight of the baker coming straight for it, his face and arms covered with flour and dough? However that may be, the creature now did an about-turn and went back up the ladder and vanished inside the saucer. The small step-ladder vanished in the twinkling of an eye and there was again a metallic sound "like a metal door banging when a big bolt is shot." With great rapidity the machine rose up vertically to a height of 30 metres or so and then, starting with a whistle, it shot away at great speed towards the south in slightly undulatory horizontal flight. By the light of the moon Monsieur Tichit saw it rejoin a group of similar objects in the sky, after which all of them moved off together.

The object

Monsieur Tichit's description is precise enough. The general shape of the object was like a child's spinning-top, 10 to 15 metres wide and about 5 metres high, having, in the place where a top would have its centre pin, a sort of bellows-like apparatus. Being slightly downhill from the machine, the witness did not get such a good view of the upper portion of it, but he could see quite clearly that the upper and lower halves were quite different. The top half seemed to consist of a transparent surface, in rapid rotation, on which he could see four rows of fixed luminous tubes, each about 50 centimetres long, like neon tubes, and set at distances from each other equal to their own length. These four rows of tubes were not all of the same colour. One row was yellow, another was red, and a third was blue. This arrangement of luminous tubes threw a field of multi-coloured light all around the machine.

The entity's appearance

The face of the small being had a human appearance but, hampered as he was by the blast of wind and the beam of light, the witness was unable to see the component features of the face or its expression.

He described the creature's helmet as being like a fireman's helmet, with a flange and a chin-strap. The little creature was wearing a belt with four boxes on it

which Monsieur Tichit saw as cartridge pouches. He was even surprised at having seen no firearm corresponding to these "cartridge pouches". For a flying saucer pilot to carry a revolver would be rather unexpected, although there is indeed already one report to that effect (eyewitness account of Monsieur Ujvari in 1954) and several cases are known in which humanoids were wearing little boxes on their belts.

The most curious and the least endearing feature in M. Tichit's description of the little being is that curved sword scabbard, with visible hilt and worn on the right side of the creature. But was it *really* a sword as the witness thinks? While with us nowadays the sword no longer has any great military value, it still possesses a symbolic—one might almost say an ornamental—value in armies all over the world, such as neither the bludgeon nor the ballista nor the blunderbuss possess. Perhaps the little creature was wearing his full-dress uniform?

Comments

If indeed it *was* a sword, the bizarre little soldier did not have to use it to protect himself from the approach of Monsieur Tichit (whose intentions were admittedly not exactly the most hospitable!), for all he had to do to impede the approach of the Earthman was to use the tube he was carrying in his right hand. The witness says the beam of light, white in colour, was dazzling, harsh, with sharp contours. Here, once again, it seems that we have to do with the beam of non-dispersive light that has been reported so often. "The beam was absolutely straight; there was no light lost from it," said M. Tichit. This light suffocated him, but it did not inflict a true paralysis, since he was able to protect his face with his hands and even to continue walking.

Certain features of this case recall other saucer sightings. The whirlwind effect around the machine recalls in particular the marks seen at Prémanton,* where the grass was found flattened in a circular fashion. The description of the entity should be compared with the account given by Mme. Deshais, who was the sole witness of a landing at Tonnerre in the Yonne département of France on September 4, 1953.

The locale, the low density of population in the area, the advanced hour of the night, as well as the short duration (three to four minutes) suffice to account for the fact that, despite the noise and the light, there was only one witness of the landing.

As regards the noise made by the machine—even while on the ground—it is difficult to form a precise opinion. M. Tichit, at a loss to describe it, ended up by using the word *rumbling*, like the noise made when a rail-car starts. But it seemed to him that the noise was continuous, without breaks.

Next morning he examined the landing site but found no marks of importance. The grass there was merely slightly crushed.

He experienced no indisposition as a result of his adventure, and he is today in excellent health. His only regret is that he did not manage to "catch the little chap."

* Aimé Michel: *A Propos des Soucoupes Volantes*, 4th edition, p. 118. (French version of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*.)

SPEECH OF THE ALIENS - 1

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IT is with some envy that I witness the frequent ufological publications by numerous scientists, for I realise only too well that here is a field primarily suited to men of science; we students of the humanities are sometimes out of our depth in discussions on electromagnetic radiation, space-time, gravitation, and even simple meteorology.

As the study of language is one of my interests, it has of course not yet been my lot to make any analyses, or to contribute anything to our common fund of knowledge. The ufonauts have not yet left us any data on their languages; moreover, whenever speech descriptions have been made by contactees, these have been subjective and necessarily sketchy. But perhaps some day a trained linguist will luckily happen upon a ufonaut or two, and we hope he or she will be prepared, with pertinent questionnaires, to provide us with at least some basic descriptions. Hitherto, I believe I am right in stating that the only extant speech descriptions come from witnesses with little or no linguistic knowledge; evidence of this kind can only be utilised with reservations.

However, in spite of the scanty and hopelessly disparate material presently at our disposal, it seems worthwhile to attempt a brief synopsis of most of the known descriptions to date. It is manifestly impossible to cover every single piece of evidence; not all of it has been published, and now that there exist numerous reviews and books on ufology, it is impossible for one researcher to avoid overlooking certain items.¹ In view of this, I should be very grateful if readers would kindly notify this REVIEW of any important cases which I have overlooked: later, it may then be possible to amalgamate all the material, and in due time we may finally emerge with some pieces of valuable knowledge. Till then, all we can do at the moment is necessarily speculative.

Part I—Cases where Beings allegedly spoke the languages of the witnesses

This class of evidence is extremely bulky. I shall, however, not deal with cases of this kind, since many of them belong more properly to the evangelical fringe, and no attempts were usually made to *describe* their way of talking. Exceptionally, however, I shall briefly discuss four of these cases, since a rudimentary description is given by the witnesses.

1. Between August 17 and 20, 1953, near Ciudad Vallejo, Mexico. Señor Salvador Villanueva, taxi driver, reported a lengthy conversation that he allegedly had with two ET (extraterrestrial) beings, one of whom is said only to have understood Spanish, while the other apparently spoke Spanish *with a peculiar accent, as though he seemed to be stringing words together.*² I feel

this description is naïve; for everyone, in quick speech, strings words together. As linguistic evidence, this case is unimportant, assuming it to be true.

2. November 6, 1957, Everittstown, N.J. Mr. J. Trasco *thought* the LGM (little green man) said: "We are peaceful people, we only want your dog," in *broken English*. This case, also reported *inter alia* in Aimé Michel's second book, *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, is also of only scant linguistic interest.³ It is, of course, possible that, in his sudden fear, astonishment and excitement, Mr. Trasco may have *imagined* that he heard words in his own language, dealing—as he supposed—with the then loudly-barking dog (see Case 12). It will be recalled that, in John G. Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey* (Dial Press, New York, 1966, p. 264), Betty Hill is quoted as saying: ". . . I first insisted that they were talking to me in English, with an accent . . . I think my final conclusion is that while they weren't speaking English, I could understand what was being said to me as if it *were* in English . . . When they talked among themselves, they were entirely impossible to understand." (The question as to whether a hypnotised subject can understand commands given in a, to him, unknown language, is apparently still an open one. My attempts to obtain definitive information on this score have all been unsuccessful: presumably the matter has not yet occurred to most hypnotists. I vaguely recall having read, somewhere, a story where a subject did obey commands given in a language which she did not know; however, in the absence of the reference, I am obliged to leave this question open for the time being.)

3. April 24, 1964, Tioga City, N.Y. Mr. G. Wilcox reported that two 4ft. beings spoke to him in English *smoothly and effortlessly, but that their voices seemed to come from the body rather than the head.*⁴ This slightly resembles the description from Valensole (July 1, 1965); linguistically, it is irrelevant at the present time (see Case 31).

4. December 12, 1967, near Ithaca, N.Y. Mrs. Rita Malley reported that her car was stopped by a hovering UFO, and that from that craft, she heard *voices talking in chorus*, saying the same thing, "only they spoke as if what they were saying *was being translated into English*, because the *words were broken.*" The voices, she said, were not impressions: they were external, and sounded almost as if they were using a loudspeaker. Mrs. Malley said that the voices informed her of the accidental death of a friend's brother. She also noticed that her young son seemed hypnotised on the rear seat and unconscious of what had transpired.⁵ However, this particular case *appears* to be related to a different phenomenon, known as ESP (extra-sensory perception),