

flying South at staggering speed. The engineer, who holds a civilian pilot's certificate, was struck by the low altitude (between 4,000 and 7,000 metres he said) and the staggering speed, which he estimated at 30,000 km.p.h.

In the Gard area, at 8.15 p.m., M. Pierre Pont, farmer, and his employee, a man named Ibañez, were going into a vineyard near Fournes when they saw a greenish object flying at staggering speed, North-South. Both swore it could be no airplane. All these sightings were around 8.15 p.m. yesterday (Dec. 28) and all the objects were going towards the sea. At the Nimes-Garons Air Force base they denied that anything abnormal had been picked up on the radar.

This paper states, in conclusion, that the whole population of the Montpellier area is talking nothing else but UFOs, and calling up the papers constantly to report sightings.

Midi Libre December 29, 1973

Martigues, December 28, 1973: A luminous object was seen in the sky over Martigues. Yesterday morning, at 9.15, a bright object was seen over the petrol-port of Martigues-Lavéra. It came from the direction of Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, and vanished towards Ponteau. It was a big yellow ball with a touch of purple and was leaving a long white trail.

Le Provençal December 29, 1973

Aix-en-Provence, December 28, 1973: A Manosque businessman, M. Jean Delattre, going to Aix last Friday morning, saw a strange flying object, like a banana or a cigar cut in two. It was white, remained stationary a few seconds, then flew on again. Its route was from Apt towards Nice. What most struck the witness was its odd way of travelling, slightly sideways, "like a crab."

Le Provençal December 31, 1973

Further reporting on the same case described the object as like the two halves of a banana or cigar cut in two, one part pointing upwards and one pointing horizontally. The place where it was seen was between the Mirabeau bridge and Venelles.

Le Méridional and *Le Provençal* of January 1, 1974

Lille, December 31, 1973: Yesterday morning, near the mining region, between La Bassée and Lens, a grocer, M. Jean Liefoghe, of Haisnes, said that, at 7 a.m. he was driving along National Highway 347, to visit the market at Lens, when he saw, 80 m from him to the right, two

stationary lights. He thought at first it was a vehicle but suddenly it shot right across the road at staggering speed and was gone. But, 200 m. further on along the road, he again saw a great light, some 400 m from the road. It was a cigar-shaped object, red, surrounded by a reddish-orange glow. "I thought at first I was having a hallucination," he said, "or seeing the lights of some great store reflected in the sky." When coming back from the Lens market, he stopped at the spot to examine it. It had been freezing. And he found there little footprints. Also circular marks about 10 cms wide and several cms deep. Also three big holes in the ground, forming a triangle, the base of which was 8.90 metres and the other two sides 4.40 metres. Said M. Liefoghe: "No doubt about it. There were two craft. One was on patrol, and the other was the mother-ship, waiting for it, before starting off. What struck me most of all was that when the cigar flew off it was totally silent. I told the Pont-à-Vendin gendarmes, and they found the same marks as I did."

Le Méridional of January 1, 1974

Another report states that the gendarmes confirm they did find these marks and are investigating very carefully. The marks were very fresh, in the frozen earth, and no explanation can be found.

Le Soir of January 2, 1974

Tours, January 1, 1974: Last night, near Tours, at Saint-Pierre-des-Corps, at 10.20 p.m., M. Jacques Baugé was driving in his car with his wife and son when, just as they were entering the village of Mettray in Indre-et-Loire, they suddenly saw two shining balls, almost incandescent, about 30 metres or so ahead, quite low, and zigzagging to and fro from left to right.

Le Soir of January 2, 1974

Luberon, January 6, 1974: Last Sunday, in the Luberon area of Provence, at about 8.30 p.m., M. and Mme. Gérard Volot were driving in their car on the road from Goult to the village of Les Cordiers when they saw a luminous red object in the sky which was flashing and flying very fast, at a height of about 1,000 metres. They stopped to watch it. Unlike anything known to them, it came from the South and flew towards the Mont-Ventoux mountain. At one point it stopped for over a minute, pivoted on its axis, and then turned towards NW and vanished behind the Vaucluse mountains in the direction of the village of Lioux.

Le Provençal, January 10, 1974

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