

cant factor, in view of the UFOs' well-known electromagnetic effects.

4. The film was Kodachrome II, ASA speed 25.
5. No electric cables, geophysical prospecting, etc., are present in the area to act as a source of magnetic field disturbances.

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR

Many of our readers will remember the Australian investigator Colin McCarthy, who was working for EMI in London for some years and built UFO detectors for us. (He is now married and, so far as we know back at Kilkenny, South Australia, with his wife and family.)

I recall that Colin McCarthy gave me a full and graphic account of the extraordinary case listed as B in the article above, and, if my memory serves me aright, I think he told me that he was himself one of the young men involved in this bizarre episode. He said that they were driving through an uninhabited great tract of the Australian Outback when they saw the UFO, and took a great number of still photos and (I believe) also filmed it with ciné camera. Then very shortly afterwards, while they were still driving along, an aircraft of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) suddenly appeared and landed not far from them. They were called upon to halt, and a member of the crew of the aircraft stepped across to the car and confiscated everything!

McCarthy told me that what puzzled him and his companions most at the time was this: *how on earth did the Royal Australian Air Force KNOW that they had just had an encounter with a UFO in such a very lonely and uninhabited tract of the country?*

There is of course no proof whatever that the light aircraft in question did belong to the RAAF, or that the individual who came over and confiscated the films was a member of the RAAF. Indeed, there have been plenty of cases in the USA and elsewhere where impersonation would appear to have occurred, with individuals, wearing uniforms to which they were not entitled, stepping out of aircraft or vehicles bearing insignia or number-plates which on subsequent investigation have been found to be fraudulent.

If impersonation, then impersonation BY WHOM? Speaking for ourselves, we can only say that, as firm disciples of William of Occam, we usually go for the simplest explanation. Our vote is therefore for the whirlwinds or the hedgehogs. (Maybe both hedgehogs and whirlwinds are involved? Maybe the hedgehogs from the Cosmos produce the whirlwinds, and maybe they then go to these great lengths to intercept films and photographs because they don't want us to know that their whirlwinds are clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and anti-clockwise in the Antipodes?)

G.E.P.A.N. QUIETLY DELIVERS THE GOODS!

"Sextus Empiricus"

As a follow-up to Dr Jean. F. Gille's article, *The Bankruptcy of the French UFO Research Body, G.E.P.A.N.*, which we published in FSR Vol. 28, No. 5, our expert political/ufological commentator in Paris has now sent us this latest remarkable comment on the French scene. — EDITOR

I AM writing to keep your readers abreast of the developments here in G.E.P.A.N., which seem to be acquiring a more and more secretive or 'occult' character.

The French Government, or, to be more precise, its Minister of Defence (Ministre des Armées), Monsieur Charles Hernu, has decided that the research work of G.E.P.A.N. should continue, under the direction of two engineers of the French National Space Centre (C.N.E.S.) — the French equivalent of N.A.S.A. These two specialists will have the job of collecting all the UFO reports that come in through the official Press agencies, and have them studied by private laboratories. *The results of such study will not be published.*

First Results

The most remarkable result of this, up to the present date, is a bulky (66-page) *internal memorandum*, NOTE TECHNIQUE NO. 16 (PROVISOIRE) (TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 16 — PROVISIONAL) submitted by G.E.P.A.N. to the C.N.E.S. on March 1, 1983, and dealing with a 'landing' that took place near Nice. Various laboratories have studied samples of soil and samples of plants taken from the site and from round about it. These laboratories, *working quite separately from each other, without collaboration*, have found: (1) anomalies in the soil; (2) biochemical anomalies in the plants; and, (3) they have found that these

anomalies decrease logarithmically with the distance from the site. They conclude therefore (4) that a phenomenon of a powerfully energetic nature has occurred at that site and (5) this energetic phenomenon has not been identified.

We see that G.E.P.A.N. is thus to follow a method of samples analysis unrelated to and unconcerned with statements from witnesses. These analyses can be repeated by other laboratories. Let us hope that in due course such samples will be submitted to foreign laboratories, and that in this way an international scientific consensus on the UFOs will develop."

* * * * *

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Editorial comment

Spectacular findings at another French landing

Although we have no specific statement to this effect, I think we can take it as highly probable — if not indeed certain — that this landing case "near Nice" referred to above by our French correspondent is "the Nicolai case of January 8, 1981" mentioned by Dr Pierre Guérin in his *Postscript* which we published on page 8 of FSR Volume 28, No. 6.

Meanwhile, here in Britain, several recent press items, and particularly an article in the *Sunday Express* of July 21, 1983, have referred to another, later, and highly interesting story from France which caught the attention of quite a number of our readers. This related to a French landing case in the Département of Gard (principal city — Nîmes). Gard lies quite a long way to the west of Nice and it certainly does not appear to be the same case. Owing to its great interest, we give below a summary of the various accounts of it:—

French boffins baffled by 'flying saucer' story

A team of French Government scientists who have been investigating the story of a Flying Saucer landing admit that, for the first time in over 1,000 cases, they are at a loss for a logical explanation.

While in his garden in the Gard region of south-central France, an agricultural worker heard a slight whistling noise, glanced up, and beheld a strange machine descending very rapidly. It was not spinning, he said, and he saw no flames or smoke.

After striking the ground, however, the object took off again almost immediately at a terrific speed. It was about 13ft. in diameter, he thought, 8ft. high, and in shape it was like two inverted soup plates of unequal size set together with a projecting rim.

Arriving on the spot, scientists from G.E.P.A.N., the French Government's group set up in 1979, found some strange details.

Effects on vegetation

The plant life at the spot had undergone mysterious alterations. "Although it was still summer, the plants looked as though autumn had arrived overnight!"

Analyses conducted by four separate laboratories for the French Government have yielded startling results. Chlorophyll and other substances in the plants at the site had dropped by between 30% and 50%. The younger leaves of the vegetation had suffered the greatest effect, and at times the chlorophyll had even been partially decomposed into oxides. As much as forty days later, there was still no sign of recovery of the plant life at the site.*

The G.E.P.A.N. scientists' report from the Gard case says that an analysis of soil samples indicates that an

extremely heavy object had scraped along the ground at that spot, leaving evidence of both thermic and mechanical effects, and a residue of what was possible combustion.

The G.E.P.A.N. report concludes with these words: We are in the presence of traces for which there is no satisfactory explanation, and we can find no reason to suspect that the eyewitness is deliberately lying."

Statement by Esterle

Said top French scientist Alain Esterle: "For the first time we have found a combination of factors which con-

duce us to accept that something similar to what the eyewitness has described actually did take place there."

One of the reports mentioned that, until an explanation could be found, the identity of the agricultural worker was being kept secret by the French authorities.

* * * * *

*We recall that, after the famous landing case in Monsieur Masse's lavender field at Valensole on July 1, 1965, the lavender plants did not grow again for ten years or more.

G.C.

HOW A UFO DESTROYED AN AMERICAN ROCKET. FORMER U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER'S REVELATION: "THE TRUTH IS TOO IMPORTANT TO HIDE ANY LONGER. UFO SPIED ON A SPACE MISSILE SHOT AND I FILMED IT."

Dr. Robert Jacobs

We are grateful to Richard W. Heiden of Milwaukee, Assistant Editor of the *APRO Bulletin*, for sending us the text of this very interesting report which appeared in the *National Enquirer* (USA) for October 12, 1982, and two months later, on December 9, in the *Advance-Titan*, student newspaper of the University of Wisconsin. The man who reveals the story is Dr. Robert Jacobs, Ph.D., now Assistant Professor of Radio-Film-TV in that University. He gives full details of something on which he has kept silent for seventeen years — an episode when, serving as an U.S. Air Force officer in charge of the filming of missile tests off the Californian coast in 1965, he unwittingly filmed the appearance of a UFO on the scene and its destruction of the American missile. The affair was completely hushed up by the U.S. Government and the U.S. Air Force. The text has been edited by us, but all essential passages remain as in the original articles. — EDITOR

"I WAS instructed by the U.S. Air Force to keep quiet about this incredible UFO sighting which was filmed by official cameras under my control at the time.

"An Air Force major and two mystery men from Washington, D.C., forbade me ever to mention the astonishing filming of an actual *close encounter* in Outer Space between one of our *Atlas* missiles and a UFO.

"I have kept quiet about it for seventeen years. But I am going to reveal it now, because I feel that our public has the right to know what is going on.

"At the time of the mind-boggling business, which

was on January 8, 1965, I was serving as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and was in charge of the photo-optical instrumentation side at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

"In order to have clear film records of all missile test firings over the Pacific, we had installed a TV camera, affixed to a high-powered telescope up on a mountain. We kept the telescope locked on to the moving missile by radar, and it was while we were tracking one of the *Atlas F* Missiles in this way that we registered the UFO on our film.

"We had a crew of 120 men, and I was in charge. As