

NEAR-LANDING IN HERAULT

A recent case from southern France

Lumières dans la Nuit investigator, Monsieur Delphieux, collected details of this case, and his account is taken from LDLN No. 100 of July, 1969. Translated by Gordon Creighton. LDLN is published by Monsieur R. Veillith of "Les Pins," 43 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire), France.

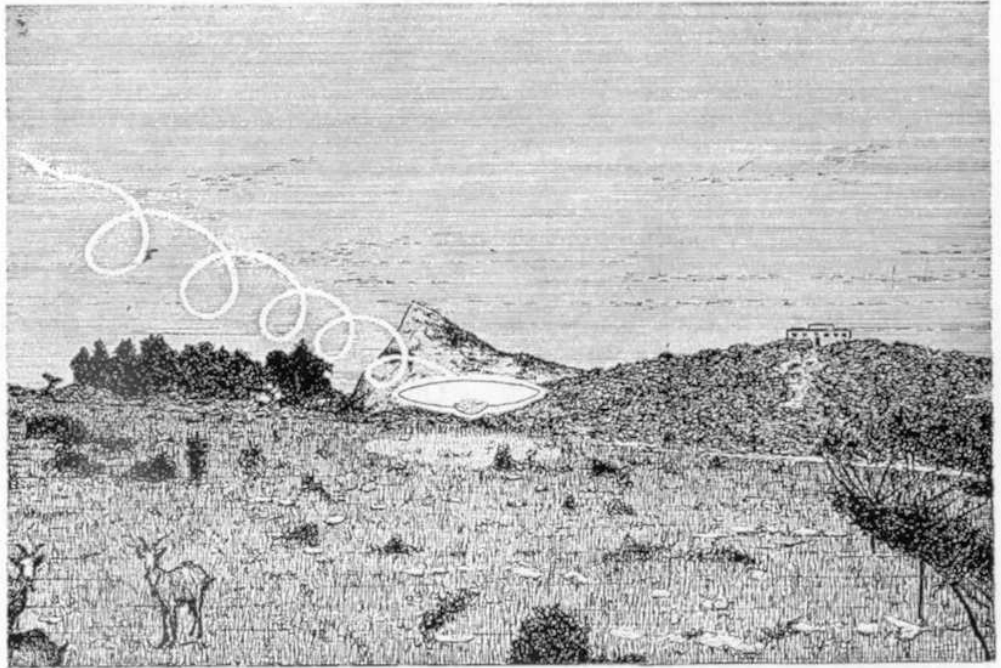
THE witness, 26-year-old Monsieur X . . . , who wishes that his name be kept confidential, is a former long-distance lorry driver, and, as such, well experienced in peering into the night darkness. He is now engaged in the production of goat cheese and has a herd of 40 of these animals as well as a country restaurant. There were two other witnesses of the occurrence.

The account given by Monsieur "X" is as follows:

"For some years past I have kept goats at my farm on a plateau some few hundreds of metres from the national highway No. 586 that leads to Montpellier. The farm is 2 kilometres from the commune of Saint-Martin-de-Londres, and is surrounded on all sides by stunted scrub growth. There are no houses anywhere near. In addition to my little farm, I have a rustic restaurant. To the east of my house, at a distance of some 300 metres, there are high tension power lines running north-south through the scrub area. About another 150 metres further east, beyond the power line, on a hill, there is a water-tower.

"At about midnight (1.00 a.m. French local time) on Sunday, February 9, 1969, I set out in my car from my house to run my assistant Robert 'Y' back to his home in Saint-Martin-de-Londres. It was a moonlight night (last quarter on February 10).

"We were driving down the road leading on to the main Montpellier highway. This local road runs at first at right angles towards the main road, but after 50 metres or so it makes a right-angle turn to the left, and then, after a further 100 metres, another right-angle turn to the right before meeting the main road.



Sketch based on the eye-witnesses' accounts and on a photograph of the spot taken by Monsieur Delphieux. The scene shows: (centre) the Pic Saint-Loup mountain (633 metres), (right) the water-tower, (below) the scrub terrain with its scanty bushes and the goats

"Just before we came to the first turn, a very powerful light lit up the fields behind us. I rounded the left-hand turn and stopped a few metres further on. *What I then saw, some 400 metres or so to my left, filled me with terror.* My assistant and I both saw, perfectly clearly, a long cigar-shaped object, stationary at the height of the power lines. In the moonlight its whitish colour was clearly visible. A cold shiver ran through me, and the only feeling I had was to go back home, so I turned back and drove to the farm. One of my friends was asleep there, and he got up and came outside with us to look at it.

"The three of us then stood there watching the thing, which was about 500 metres from the house. It was

between the power lines and the water-tower, and at a height of about 15 metres from the ground.

"On the under part of the cigar-shaped object we could see a sort of bulge which was much darker compared with the whitish shade of the rest of it.

"Calculating on the basis of the distance between two pylons of the power line and noting that the length of the object was about a quarter of that distance, we concluded that the object may have been about 20 metres long and 3 metres in diameter.

"My car was parked facing the object, so I flashed my headlights at it, and the object went dark! Then I turned the headlights off, and the cigar became lit up again, but now

with a glowing red colour. It then rotated six times, and we now perceived that *it was a disc*. It then rose up towards the north, at an angle of 45°, and disappeared at high speed, still rotating. We heard not the slightest sound from it, and the period for which the three of us had had it under observation was about three minutes.

"It should be added that, some hours earlier, one of our customers at the restaurant, who had stepped out into the bushes, said on returning to the restaurant that he had been surprised by a light like a photographer's flash. He thought it was somebody playing a joke on him (he was urinating at the time), but found it was not so.

"All the time the disc was there, my herd of goats were right under it or close by. They don't seem to have suffered any ill effects, but since that date they have "come on heat" at closer intervals, which is quite abnormal for goats. Moreover, I had an excellent male goat for breeding purposes, but I had to have him slaughtered, for he was no longer doing his job. I cannot say whether he had been affected by the machine.

"Several strange things happened before and after the sighting. On several occasions my assistant and I have seen scarlet-coloured balls zigzagging about in the air at night

around the water-tower. They seemed to be linked with the ground, and we thought they must be electrical phenomena connected with the presence of the power line.

"Another thing is that, since that night, February 9, my dogs all start barking in unison at about 2.00 a.m. practically every night, as though there was something abnormal outside. At first, given the isolated position of my farm, I didn't pay much attention, but now I'm going to watch much more closely, all the more so, because on my transistor radio I'm getting tapping signals that aren't Morse."

Comment

Monsieur J-P Othenin-Girard, who on April 7 gave us the first report about this case, points out that some of the bushes show traces of burns. Monsieur "X" has explained however that this is due to fires lit by him to improve grass growth.

Our Geiger counter registered nothing over the burnt areas, nor on the area beneath where the machine was.

Monsieur Delphieux's opinion is that the craft was just about to land—whence its whitish colour. The flashes from Monsieur "X's" car headlights terminated the operation, and led to the change of colour to glowing red preparatory

to departure.

It may be recalled that there is no need for the main body of the craft to touch the ground. The protuberance underneath seems to indicate the presence of a piece of apparatus which can be lowered to make this contact with the ground. There are numerous cases on record which point to this:

- (1) Pajas Blancas, Argentina, April 1957. "Lift" 2½ metres high.
- (2) San Casciano, Italy, April 10, 1962, cylinder 2½ metres high.
- (3) Monte Manfré, Italy, September 5, 1962, cylinder 3 metres high.
- (4) Baleia, Brazil, September 14, 1967, cylinder 2 metres high.

We have also heard of a case (not yet fully investigated) in the Ain Department of France (N.E. of Lyons) in which the size of the "cylinder"—and indeed of the whole craft too—seems to be unusually large, and which would appear to be the first known landing in France.

It would appear that some types of craft encounter technical difficulties in coming too close to the soil.

Although the area has abundant geological faulting, the maps indicate none at the precise spot of the sighting. The nearest fault mentioned is 2½ kilometres to the south. The whole region is extremely picturesque.

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the helmet.²⁶ (Unlike the beings whose voices seemed to come from their lower regions, this alien was evidently not suffering from indigestion.)

25. In addition, we have heard of a case on a Brazilian beach when two small beings were having an audible conversation; and earlier cases from the Middle Ages are on record, which have been dealt with in a number of books.

NOTES

- ¹ Doctor J. Allen Hynek once said to me that UFOs are causing most headaches, not to the scientists, but to librarians.
- ² Leslie, Desmond: in FSR (*Flying Saucer Review*) II-2, p. 9; Creighton, Gordon: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 33. (The latter publication was issued by FSR as a special issue in 1966; a revised and augmented version was published in 1969 by Neville Spearman Ltd., London W1.)
- ³ Lorenzen, C. E.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 56.
- ⁴ Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 59. See also: Schwarz, B. E., *Gary Wilcox and the Ufonauts* in FSR Special Issue No. 3, *UFO Percipients*.
- ⁵ *Science and Mechanics*, Vol. 39, No. 7, July 1968, p. 96.
- ⁶ Smith, Bernard: in FSR IV-4, p. 29; and Rodgers, Philip: in FSR IV-5, p. 20.
- ⁷ FSR VII-6, p. 31.
- ⁸ Creighton, G.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 40.
- ⁹ Rimes, Nigel A.: in FSR XV-1, p. 5.
- ¹⁰ FSR VI-2, p. 19.
- ¹¹ Ribera, Antonio: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 28.
- ¹² Creighton, G.: *Ibid.*, p. 33.

¹³ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁴ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹⁵ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 12.

¹⁶ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 12.

¹⁷ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 13.

¹⁸ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 15.

¹⁹ Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 18.

²⁰ Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 57.

²¹ Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 60.

²² Schönherr, L.: in FSR XII-2, p. 32.

²³ Michel, Aimé: in FSR XII-3, p. 24.

²⁴ Creighton, G.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 44.

²⁵ Michalak, S.: *My Encounter with the UFO* (Osnova Publications, Winnipeg, Man., 1967), p. 11.

²⁶ *Science and Mechanics*, Vol. 39, No. 8, August 1968, p. 69.

Dr. Edwards' article—including Part IV: "Cases where witnesses later attempted to imitate or describe the alien sounds"—will be concluded in our next issue.

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