

entities' statements. or at least he was unable to distinguish which facts he was receiving, and had received, were true and which were false. He still maintained, however, that the translator in his brain does exist and that it was implanted at the time of his 1971 encounter in Dapple Gray Lane.

As a follow-up, a check of Hodges' hypnotic statements regarding the inability of nuclear warheads to detonate if delivered from an altitude above 550 feet ground level was discussed with a MUFON physics consultant. The information, as suspected, proved erroneous, as were also his statements regarding the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It has proved impossible to this date to attempt verification of Hodges' statements regarding his single-cell translator, because of the expense of an EMI brain scan. However, I am continuing efforts to find a source for an EMI scan on Hodges' brain. If the translator cell can, indeed, be found and verified, this would add greatly to our knowledge of

the UFO phenomenon and of the nature of psychic talents.

At present, Hodges is still deeply involved in UFO research in Southern California.

In spite of the erroneous nature of some of the facts brought out with the aid of Hodges' "translator," this case has been presented in detail because it is an excellent example of how witnesses and particularly UFO "abductees" can be deluded and even harmed by their experiences. Many cases exist of seemingly reliable witnesses who report encounters and then experience disintegration of personality and disruption of their lives. Is it possible that Hodges' claim of synaptic translator implantation is factual? Is it possible that some witnesses, after undergoing this brain mutation, are incapable of effectively handling the flow of information received? Hodges luckily realized the UFO entities are capable of misleading and deluding witnesses, and was able to catch himself before becoming a fully-fledged Messianic contactee.

ANOTHER CLOSE CONTACT ON RÉUNION - Part 2

Lieut-Colonel Lobet

Concluding the account of the traumatic after-effects experienced by a witness after encounter with UFO and occupants. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

IN Part 1 of this article Antoine Séverin's personal account of the incident of February 14, 1975, was given, together with a declaration by his mother, and statements by his fiancée, neighbours, employer and colleagues. All testimony pointed to the fact that Séverin is a steady and reliable young man who doesn't smoke or drink, and who is not the type to invent stories to draw attention to himself; a young man who reads little and knows little or nothing about either science fiction or flying saucers.

Furthermore a psychiatrist stated that (after the encounter) Severin was in a state of crisis after suffering intense emotional shock, and that he had previously shown no symptoms of a neurological or psychiatric nature.

X - The gist of the Réunion Gendarmerie's reports on the Case

The object seen by the eyewitness was on the slopes of the Calvaire Hill, 300 metres to the west of Petite Ile.

On February 15, two gendarmes went to the home of the witness. He was in bed, in a state of unquestionable prostration. His eyes, wide and staring, were fixed on the unknown. He was unable to reply orally to the question put to him. With intense eagerness, by

This extraordinary case occurred on the slopes of Le Calvaire, a hill some 300 metres outside the township of Petite-Ile near the southern coast of the island of Réunion, lying between Madagascar and Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. Lt. Col Lobet's excellent and very detailed account was published by *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 147 (August-September 1975). We are indebted to LDLN's Editorial Committee for permission to reproduce it now in full in *Flying Saucer Review*.
- EDITOR

means of gestures, he describes, with his hands, a round, shining shape. To explain the brightness, he puts his hands horizontally to his eyes a number of times. Then he extends four fingers, indicating that there were four occupants, dressed in white. To indicate the latter feature, he points to the white sheet on his bed. To indicate the height of the beings, he extends his hand at a height of about a metre above the floor. Then he draws a sketch of the machine. He concludes his mimed demonstration by putting his hands first to his ears, then to his forehead, and finally to his eyes. He makes a grimace, and manages to bring out a sharp whistling - rising from very low to crescendo - at the same time twirling the index finger of his right hand, with it

pointed upwards towards the ceiling, thus indicating how the machine rose up and disappeared. Prior to that, when describing the entities, Séverin put his two index fingers up vertically 20 cms. above his head, indicating that they had short antennae, and that the antennae of the third one had moved. By the time the interview was ending he was very worked up, and no longer aware of the presence of the two investigators from the Gendarmerie.

Enquiries were in due course made of the personnel of the Gillot-St. Denis airport. Their reply was that no aircraft or helicopter had been air-borne over the area between 1200 hrs and 1400 hrs on February 14, 1975. The weather at 1300 hrs on that day had been fine, the sky clear, and the Sun was fully visible, quite free of cloud, approximately right overhead. There was no wind, and there had been no rain since February 10. No weather balloons had been released that day.

On February 16, a second visit is paid by the Gendarmerie. Antoine Séverin is still in a "secondary state." He still has not yet recovered the power of speech and, moreover, his sight has become considerably weaker. He is able to take only a few steps and make a few explanations by means of gestures. It seems now, from what we learn from him, that there were *two*⁵ portholes on the upper part of the machine, and that he first became aware of the presence of the saucer when he looked about him to find out where the *beeping* noise was coming from.

By February 17, Séverin, still very disturbed, has lost the faculty of both speech and sight. He wants to take us to the place, but on condition that we take armed men with us. Because of his handicapped state, the trip to the spot is put off.

On February 18 he was questioned again. He was still in bed, and still unable to see. Gendarmerie Commandant Legros tested him and his clothing for radioactivity; Results: negative. Dr. Henri tells us he has examined Séverin during the course of today. His diagnosis is not alarming; general condition of the patient: good, but showing anxiety state which may last anywhere from three days to three months and which is due to some strong emotional shock.

On February 19 Séverin was found to have recovered his voice. (No details of this visit are given now, as there was little that was new.)

On February 20 came his first visit to the spot in the jeep driven by Gendarme Cravero. (See full account already given in part 1; Séverin collapsed at the spot and was taken home unconscious.)

On February 24 Séverin agreed to go to the spot once more, this time with a journalist from Saint-Denis, the Island's capital. The minute he had reached the spot and got out of the car, he was overcome by some inexplicable trouble. He waved his hands parallel to the ground; his eyes turned up into his head; his pulse slowed down; the extremities of his limbs turned cold. He was taken back home, and only recovered consciousness half an hour later.

On February 25, we interrogated him again. He is totally at a loss to explain why he falls unconscious whenever he revisits the spot. When he falls unconscious when he gets there, he still hears the *beeping* noise and has to try to plug his ears. He

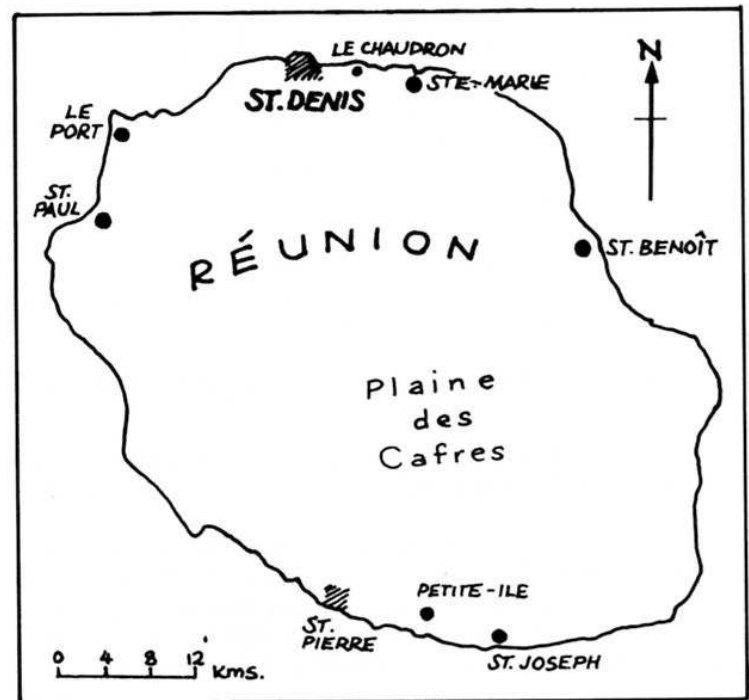
states that he had never heard anyone mention the flying saucer that was seen on the Plaine des Cafres in 1968, and says he never reads or looks through science fiction magazines.

XI – Further Supportive Material

A: Monsieur Guy Pothin testified that at about 10.00 p.m. on February 10, 1975, at Petite Ile, he had seen a very bright object come up out of the sea⁶ and fly overhead very fast. He had watched this object for a considerable time, and had spoken to his brother about it, but he had never mentioned it to Antoine Séverin (with whom he worked).

B: On February 14, 1975 (date of Séverin's experience) Monsieur Maxime Assaby, a hairdresser in Saint-Denis, claimed to have seen, between 7.00 and 7.30 p.m., three lights high in the sky over Sainte-Marie, which lies 8 kms to the east of Saint-Denis. At first the lights were stationary. Then they moved away westwards, towards Cape Bernard (3 kms to the west of Saint-Denis.) The colour of the lights was white, the third one, which was apart from the other two, being brighter. Witness, who was accompanied by his 17-year-old brother, concluded: "I cannot be mistaken, because I am quite used to seeing aircraft arriving and departing. Those lights were abnormal on account of the height they were at, on account of their intense brightness, and on account of their immobility when first observed by us. They were constant, and did not flash."

C: At 7.15 p.m. on the same day – February 14, and consequently at the same time as the observation reported under B above – Mme. Colette Dayde and her husband were with their friends, the Royera family, at the meteorological station at Le Chaudron when they saw some lights, which seemed to resemble search-lights, moving from east to west, i.e. from the direction of Sainte-Marie towards Le Port. The colour was vivid and slightly yellowish. Two of these lights



were on the same alignment, in front, while the third light was separated from them. The craft bearing the lights was travelling slowly and passed over the mast of the meteorological station. It gave out a dull, scarcely perceptible sound.

D: At 8.00 p.m. on February 16, according to statement of witness Jocelyne Vitaline, aged 16, she was at Saint-Benoit, on the east coast of the Island of Réunion, and 30 kms as the crow flies from Saint-Denis, when she saw, low in the sky, a luminous ball moving slowly towards the north.

XII – Conclusions

To begin with, this “tale” sparked off a good deal of hilarity in the neighbourhood, since it seemed obvious that the statements of Antoine Séverin could not possibly be taken seriously.

From the information subsequently gathered about him, it turned out however that he is normally a well balanced, well behaved individual, of excellent character, and not given to the perpetration of hoaxes. Several people from whom we took statements said that, while they were not actually convinced of the existence of flying saucers, they nevertheless did not categorically reject the possibility of such apparitions. None of the persons who have testified believe Antoine Séverin to have been hallucinated, and they all take his statements seriously.

By March 6, 1975, the date on which the Gendar-

merie closed its enquiry into this case, Antoine Séverin seems to have recovered all his physical and mental faculties. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that he fainted three times⁷ when taken to the scene of his experience, we have thought it better not to make a fourth attempt, as this might still prove to be very harmful for him.

References (by Translator)

5. Despite this reference in the text to “two portholes” the sketch drawn by Antoine Séverin himself shows *five* rectangular windows visible on the dome of the UFO. Another investigator, named Baret, also sent in a report to *LDLN* from Réunion, and his sketch apparently showed *four* rectangular windows. I think we must conclude that, as so often happens, nobody knows precisely how many portholes or windows there were on Antoine Séverin’s UFO – a detail which is of no importance, anyway.
6. Here, on the contrary, is a detail that *is* of the greatest conceivable importance and interest! Réunion lies away out in the vast Indian Ocean. And here is a witness claiming to have seen a UFO come up *out of the sea* and fly over the island. (Compare with the many reports in *FSR* in past years about UFOs seen leaving or entering the sea, most especially around the coasts of South America and in the Mediterranean, as well as round the shores of the British Isles.)
7. See Note 4 (Part 1 of the article in *FSR* Vol 25, No. 2).

* Lumières dans la Nuit address: Mons. R. Veillith, 43400 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France.

THOUGHTS ON THE RÉUNION LANDING

F. Lagarde

Monsieur Lagarde was editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit* at the time of Lt. Col. Lobet’s investigation. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

AFTER so detailed and thorough an investigation by the authorities of the Island of Réunion, the reader will be in a position to judge for himself what degree of credit to allocate to this report. So far as I myself am concerned, I will say that I am completely convinced of the reality of the sighting.

From the other supporting statements given in Col. Lobet’s report (which, though few in number, would suggest that the actual number of eyewitnesses was probably very considerable) it is clear that the UFO phenomenon was already present on the Island as early as February 10, a fact which renders Séverin’s dream during the night of February 10–11 both credible and remarkable. We might in fact advance the hypothesis that, being highly sensitive to this type of phenomenon, Séverin was already affected by its close proximity during that first night, February 10–11.

We may deduce, furthermore, that the phenomenon was still present on the Island on February 16, and maybe even after that, since it was only on the 17th that Séverin was able to talk once more.

As I see it, the episode can be divided into two phases. Subconsciously drawn towards the UFO (of which he is already aware, at a deeper level) Séverin nevertheless behaves completely as usual, following his normal route homewards. It is the *beep-beep* that attracts his conscious attention. And then he sees the object. Whether it had been there a long time already we can of course never know. Séverin only saw it when he looked at it. It seems as though, up until that moment, nothing had yet happened. Then the “*cinema film*” commenced:— the ladder, the small beings, their movements with feet together, the flash of light, his flight, etc... And, finally, the very real state of shock which resulted from it.

If Antoine Séverin's premonition or straight clairvoyance that the phenomenon was present (a premonition or clairvoyance often noted by other investigators) can be explained by his possessing a particular sensitivity in that direction, the actual presence of the object there can be taken as a real fact. The reality of what happens immediately after that is however more suspect. He is close to the object — maybe 20 metres or so from it — when he begins to go towards it. He is thus under the direct influence of his environment, and it is at this point that the "improbability factor" makes its appearance, and causes even Séverin's best friends to doubt his claims. "Yes," they will say, "he has seen something. The question is: WHAT?" This is public opinion speaking, and maybe public opinion is not so far wrong.

In the present case, the eyewitness is sincere. He is not hoaxing. And there can be no doubt about the shock he has suffered.

Additional information received by *Lumières dans la Nuit*

Antoine Séverin did his military service in the Air Force.

He had never had any other premonitions prior to this experience of February 14.

A study of the photographs and plans shows that although the scene of the sighting lies on a comparatively gentle slope, the terrain is very open, and one might ask the question: why did not Séverin see a large, shining object — at least three metres above the ground level of the field and consequently easily visible — sooner than he did?

The investigators have replied to us on this point as follows: "It was after the *beep-beep* sound that Séverin saw the object. Either it had landed there after Séverin had passed by the spot, or Séverin simply had not been paying attention. (At that season of the year it is extremely hot on the Island of Reunion in the middle of the day. Séverin was wearing a hat, and he was walking along with his head down.)

Of the two hypotheses, the first one seems the more likely — namely that Séverin had not seen it earlier because it had only just landed, and had not been there earlier.

Personally, I feel that an object of such a size is easily seen from afar when descending from the sky, and I feel that it is bound to be noticed if it is standing on the ground 15 or 20 metres distant even if one is not paying much attention to the surroundings, for the brightness of such a mass ought to catch the eye.

Another possibility however is that the UFO may have *materialized* at that precise moment when Séverin felt that some "irresistible" force was halting his advance.

In such a case, of course, we are faced with a problem which will be clear to all. It offers several solutions to the problem of "materialization." Either it is real, and is part of the whole phenomenon, or it is itself a product of the eyewitness's own *psi* faculties.

All the investigators, and all the doctors who saw Séverin, are in agreement that he definitely saw something, just as are all the other witnesses who know him well. So the materialization theory remains a valid one. But, all the same, everybody seems surprised that he should have noticed so much detail.

If Séverin's *psi* faculties played a role in the affair, then this would have been after the contact had already taken place. Which brings us back to the whole thorny problem of contact.

All in all a highly interesting case, from every angle, and perfectly researched, in conditions permitting us to have the maximum confidence in the investigators.

Finally, as regards the previous sighting of a UFO on the Plaine des Cafres, it is to be noted that this place lies some 15 kms., as the crow flies, from the township of Petite-Ile.

Incidentally, the latest information received by us indicates that the Séverin case has started to loosen tongues, so that it now becomes evident that Réunion, after all, has been having plenty of UFO visitations, despite the apparent lack of reports about them.

UFOs AND SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

- CREATURES OF THE OUTER EDGE**, by Jerome Clark & Loren Coleman, What lies behind the Bigfoot mystery and other mysterious animals? £1.10
- THE FIRST THREE MINUTES: a modern view of the origin of the universe**, by Steven Weinberg £1.45
- PARALLEL UNIVERSE**, by Adi-Kent Thomas Jeffrey. UFOs, mysterious disappearances, anti-matter etc. £1.00
- STRANGE STORIES OF UFOs**, by Len Ortzen £1.20
- MORE UFOs OVER WARMINSTER**, by Arthur Shuttlewood £5.95
- OUTWITTING TOMORROW**, by Valiant Thor. Pyramid prophecies and advice on future survival £2.00
- SUNGODS IN EXILE** (Secrets of the Dzopa of Tibet) by Karyl Robin-Evans. Edited by David Agamon MA £4.25
- THE PARANORMAL**, by Stan Gooch. Makes us look anew at the world of reality £1.85
- UFOs — A BRITISH VIEWPOINT**, by Jennie Randles & Peter Warrington £5.60
- UFOs, CRITTERS & OCCUPANTS**, by J. Musgrave £3.80
- THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT**, by Charles Berlitz & W. Moore £5.50
- UFO PROPHECY**, by Arthur Shuttlewood. American version of Warnings from Flying Friends. £3.30

Prices include postage and packing. Dollars acceptable (add bank exchange charge \$1.00) £1.00 = \$2.25 approx. Booklists sent free with orders. 25p if ordered separately. Prices and availability subject to change. All enquiries should enclose a s.a.e.

Write to:

Miss S. R. Stebbing, 41 Terminus Drive, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6PR.

THE SUNDERLAND FAMILY ENCOUNTERS - Part 1

Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall

Another UFOIN report. Classification data: July 1976 Oakenholt, Clwyd, N. Wales CE3 A, Psycho, TR Level A

THIS is, potentially, a most important case. Already it has been the subject of a 48-page report by the authors (on which this account is based). Further work is inevitable, and UFOIN is planning this (with the assistance of Peter Warrington, who is to use his talents for site analysis).

The story revolves around numerous events in a little Welsh village a few miles from the English border, and 1½ miles east of Flint. Principally these are *two* close encounters of the third kind, which are said to have happened independently to a young brother and sister (although within a short space of time and distance). Associated with these are many subsequent events, including three other close encounters. Primarily these occurred to other members of the same family (including adults), but there are also events involving a girl who was an original CE3 witness.

The story is as fascinating as it is complex, and we can do little more here than provide a survey of the major points. Indeed new events are said to be occurring continually, even this report should only be regarded as a statement of the current position.

Synopsis

In July 1976, it is claimed, both Gaynor Sunderland (then 9) and her brother Darren (then 8) had encounters with landed UFOs and occupants within less than a mile of each other, and their home in the village of Oakenholt in the Welsh county of Clwyd.

These stories were *not* related to their parents until March 1978, from which point an investigation has been under way. Since that time it has been learned that Gaynor claims several other LITS encounters (before and after the CE3), and her experiences have continued during the course of the investigation (including a CE1 with animal interference). Apparently she has also had psychic experiences, and believes that more is yet to come!

Darren, however, claims no further sightings, but his parents (particularly Mrs. Marion Sunderland) *do* claim encounters, two of which must be regarded as CE1 incidents (involving psychological and electromagnetic effects). In addition, other stories of strange phenomena have been recorded in the immediate area during the course of the investigation.

Location

Oakenholt is surrounded by farmland and is close to the Clwyd coast. The estuary of the River Dee is immediately adjacent, while to the south, in the direction of the sites of the main encounters, is a ridge of hills which rise in places to 1000 feet. To the east is the industrial and steel town of Shotton and the border with England overlooked by the ancient city of Chester. Much of the immediate area is rural and sparsely populated, and abounds with local tradition. Wat's Dyke passes by to the SSW, in the direction of the main incidents, and within a mile or so of them (see sketch map of area).

The Trigger

In March 1978 there was considerable publicity in the United Kingdom for the imminent release of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. One day Mrs. Marion Sunderland (in her thirties, a mother with five children) was reading a story about it in the local newspaper; she had no more than a general knowledge of the subject. Darren, then aged 10, asked her what a "close encounter of the third kind" was, and she told him to the best of her ability. He then announced quietly that he might have had one of these, and proceeded slowly, and in bits and pieces, to tell his mother of an experience he claimed had occurred in July 1976.

At this moment Gaynor, then 11, was out playing. She came in briefly at one point and heard her brother talking. She ridiculed him, which was apparently uncharacteristic, and made jibes about "little green men." Then she went out again. She heard only a few moments of Darren's story.

A while later she returned indoors and waited until Darren had gone out and she could be alone with her mother. She then told her, sheepishly, that she had had an experience (in July 1976), and this she related in detail. She said that she had been afraid to tell anyone about it because she knew it would not be believed, and because she had also had a deep inner feeling that she should not tell. However, when Darren was telling his story, she got a "picture in her head" that now was the time to tell her mother.

Mrs. Sunderland was unsure what to do. She had dismissed Darren's story as imagination, but she knew Gaynor to be totally unimaginative and certainly not prone to telling lies. Also, despite the fact that at