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"FORCED FEEDING" BY UFO ENTITIES

J. M. Bigorne et al

Translation by Gordon Creighton of report by investigators Bigorne, Chappat and Fourtoul published in No.139 (November 1974) of *Lumières dans la Nuit*, to whose Editorial Committee we are indebted for permission to use this material.



AT 5.35 a.m. on Thursday, February 28, 1974, the witness (whose name we are not at liberty to divulge) was riding as usual to work, on his moped, along French Departmental Highway 38 and then along RN (Route Nationale) 363. He is a very simple man, in the broadest sense of the term, aged 59, but aged prematurely by the very hard and arduous nature of his employment, which is as a forge-worker at Hirson.

He is a close, uncommunicative sort of person, speaking very little. His environment is essentially the proletarian, working-class milieu, with all the features and the mentality that are quite special to small villages. Before his sighting he had no credence whatever "in all that twaddle about 'flying saucers'," and knew nothing whatever about the UFO phenomenon. No importance is attached in his family to the subject of UFOs, and proof of this is to be seen in the fact that, even after he had experienced the extraordinary adventure which is related below, his wife and his two sons did not so much as take the trouble to go to the spot and see for themselves the marks on the ground.

Nevertheless, despite such bleak indifference, the whole family has been marked by this unwonted event and, above all, every one of them fears a repetition of it. The witness himself has been left in a state of shock by his experience. On the day on which it took place he did nothing about it; he did not even report it in official quarters (and he never will). When he arrived at his place of work his colleagues - observing his strange and abnormal behaviour - questioned him, and he, innocent that he is, revealed the facts to them. The consequences of this disclosure were very unfortunate indeed for him: he was mocked, ridiculed, the butt of the nastiest sort of scoffery. Whereupon he fell into a deeply depressed state.

Because of this, our task in conducting our investigation was very difficult, particularly at the beginning, with him refusing to speak to our investigators and even fleeing from us. It was only after an exchange of correspondence and after we had come to an arrangement with his wife and his son, that we were able to have a meeting with him. He struck us on that occasion as very disturbed, totally disorientated, not only by the experience he had undergone but also, and indeed more particularly, by the general reactions with which his disclosures had been received.

We would point out that he has little talent for observation, which explains the paucity of the details noted by him during his strange encounter.

The facts of the case

It is 5.30 in the early morning. The witness has set out from home and is driving along the Departmental Highway which will bring him to Origny-en-Thierache¹. He has just passed the last houses of the village of Les Routières and he is coming round the bend just before the bridge over the river Thon (a tributary of the Oise, which it joins at Etreaupont). So far, he has no idea of what awaits him, for he has seen nothing, observed nothing.

Suddenly, as soon as he is over the bridge, he finds himself pulled up short, face to face with two "cosmonauts" (his own term!). He is dumb-founded, unable to grasp what is happening to him, and wonders how it is that he has been able to pull up, seeing that, as he claims, he had neither slowed down nor applied his brakes. Above all, what he finds most amazing is this sudden meeting with the two beings, for he had seen nothing whatever, right up to the last moment!

And then he catches sight of a large, dark, circular mass at 35 metres on his left in the field below (one metre below the level of the road). At once he thinks that this must be "their machine". He notices nothing else; no light, nothing flashing, no sound, absolutely nothing, except for that dark, circular mass.

The witness emphasised that the night was dark, very dark. We asked him whether this degree of darkness was abnormal, but he was unable to give us an answer. Maybe this in fact is the reason why he has given us so few details...

So there he was, on the road above the level of the field, and he had put one foot down on to the ground to keep his balance. Immediately on his left was the gate leading into the field, but he was unable to see whether it was open or shut. Meanwhile the two ufonauts are there, standing facing him, one on each side, grasping his handlebars, and they seem to be peering at him. And he is very frightened.

The Machine

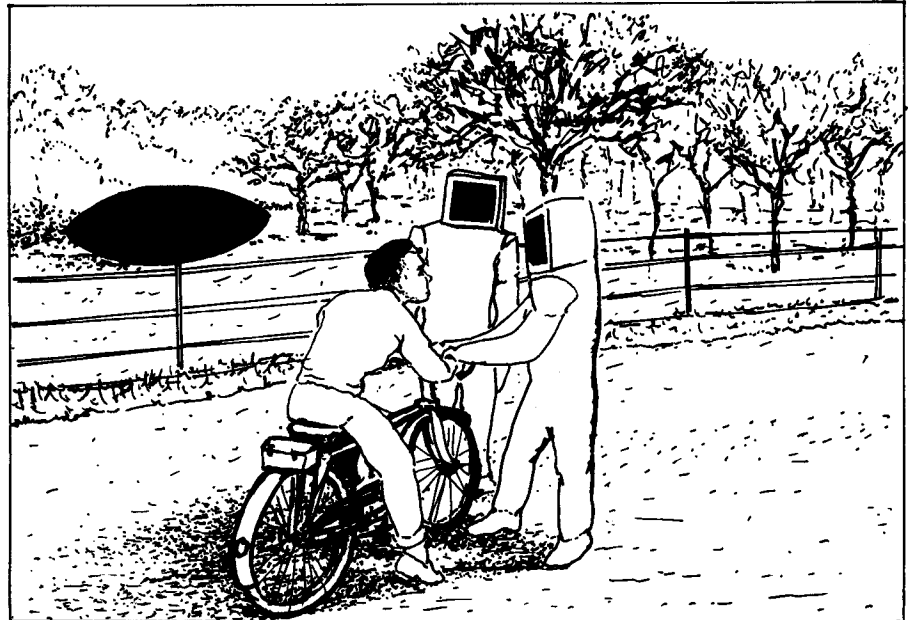
He estimated the height of the machine at around 1m 80 to 2m, and said it was as big as two cars. Dark, completely circular, it gave out no sound. It had no legs and seemed to be standing directly on the ground. It had no antennae or protuberances, no portholes, no luminosity so far as he could observe.

The Contact

The two "cosmonauts" before him now began to

FSR VOL 21N #5
ANO 1975
MES APRIL-76

A motorcyclist's terrifying encounter



make gestures, very expressive, "quasi-human" we might even say, indicating to him that he should eat something. He was panic-stricken. The two beings no doubt exchanged a glance, for the two helmets turned to face each other, and maybe they communicated with each other in some fashion, for then the one on the left gave a sign to the one on the right, and the witness saw the latter put his hand behind his back and grope about in something (a pocket? — a bag?) which he could not see. Then, forthwith, the entity produced a piece of some substance, about one sq. cm. or so in size, on the tips of the fingers of his right hand, and once more made signs to him with the left hand, seemingly to intimate that he should eat this substance he was offering.

Completely terrified, our witness took the substance ("this piece of chocolate"), to use his own words, raised it to his mouth and ate it. It was a substance which seemed to be of the brown colour of chocolate, with no detectable taste, and of a consistency somewhat softer than chocolate. He insists on the fact that the two beings patiently waited until he had quite finished eating the substance, before they let him go. In fact, as soon as he had eaten the substance, they moved away from his moped and so permitted him to depart, which he did so with the utmost speed, terrified, without waiting for anything else to happen.

May we emphasise that the poor fellow was not even able to tell us whether or not his engine had stopped during this extraordinary encounter. Nor does he recall whether or not he had to pedal in order to start it up again for his departure. He says he noticed no misfire from his engine and no effect on his headlamps. He was so scared that he did not look back again to see what his two "interceptors" were doing, and so we have no details on that score.

The Sequel

We conducted our investigation two months after the episode, during which period certain details may have dropped out of the witness's memory.

He noticed no abnormal effects on his organism as a result of his incredible "limited diet" meal — no headache, no stomach-ache or diarrhoea, etc. As regards his mental and emotional state, there was no detectable change, if we are to believe those around him, except that, nevertheless, his experience has marked him profoundly.

The notable fact is that he is now even more uncommunicative than before, speaking less and less. As he fled from the scene of his encounter and continued on his way to Hirson, his only thought was "I'm well out of that!" At the plant he had a disturbed day and was unable to work normally.

He did not consult his doctor after his dubious meal. We have ascertained that the family doctor was informed of the facts and was indeed himself interested in the UFO phenomenon. However he paid no visit to his unusual patient. Was this due to apathy, or to the desire to conform with the routine of ordinary daily life. As a result it has been impossible to do any serious investigation in the medical domain such as might have enabled us to grasp what the unknown beings did to him, and to know whether the affair was physical, or purely psychic, or maybe again something else?

The Marks on the ground

Two months later, at the time when we made our investigation, the marks had disappeared. The witness and his family did not even go to look at them. It was neighbours and colleagues who, without believing greatly in the story, went out of pure curiosity to the spot in the field where the circular

mass had stood at a distance of 35m. from the road, and who found the marks and confirmed that they were there. Those of them with whom we spoke were honest, reliable people, who said the marks were precisely where the witness had said the object stood, "near the fourth apple tree from the road". They said there was a whole circular area there, with the grass all squashed and flattened - details which put us in mind of the case at Les Nourradons given in LDLN No. 118.²

Here once again, in the case at Origny-en-Thierache, we were informed of the affair too late, and no samples could be taken for analysis.

The Beings

They measured about 1m.70 in height and were dressed in a dark one-piece suit, like astronauts. They were wearing a sort of square³ helmet over the area where the head would be, with an opening where the face would be, but the witness could see nothing whatsoever in this opening apart from an even darker veiled area, their faces seeming to be, as it were, "masked." Their movements were normal, without anything particular such as hopping, etc. etc. Their one-piece suits were quite lustreless and did not shine. He noticed no pockets etc., on the suits. One single detail struck him however: the beings were wearing five-fingered gloves, and these gloves came up very high indeed on the arms: to use his own expression, "like the gloves worn for the artificial insemination of cattle." He said these gloves were not an integral part of the suit, but seemed to terminate at the shoulder.

The Site and the Surroundings

The landing took place in a field through which the river Thon flows (some 4 - 5m. wide here). The dark mass standing 35m. from the road was in line with the entrance to the field and was 45m. from the river Thon. There are a lot of apple trees there and, some 50m. before the bridge, there are a calvary and a chapel. The nearest farms lie at a distance of some 120m. So far as we are aware, there were no other witnesses, owing to the hour at which the incident happened (5.35 a.m.) and also owing to the fact that the object in the field was totally dark and gave out no light.

As far as the geology of the area is concerned, no fault is known to exist in the vicinity. Within a radius of one kilometer of the spot there are four or five power-lines to be noted and there is the TV relay-transmitter at Landouzy-la-Ville. Then another feature to be noted is the Saint-Alexandre spring, known as "the fever-spring," near the Abbey of Foigny (founded in 1121) in the valley of the river Thon. An incredible number of people come there to fill their bottles with the mineral water. This water has the power to expel fevers.

The region consists of a deep, narrow valley a little over one kilometer wide and seven or eight kilometers long. The subsoil is limestone and marl. There are lots of inaccessible subterranean springs. It is the region of the river Thierache, with its verdant pastures, its forests, and its pools. The area forms the first outlines of the foothills of the Ardennes.

We might mention also that the area has already had its UFO visitations, with cases at Fouronnes, Macquenoise, Hirson, etc. (See Michelin Map No.53, sheet 6.)

Other Sightings

1. Les Routieres, February 1974

Over a period of 1½ weeks which included the date of this remarkable case, three other people in the hamlet of Les Routières claimed to have seen luminous red balls which appeared on the top of the slope opposite their house and then shot down at great speed towards the valley, rose up over the slope opposite, and disappeared finally behind the woods.

2. Foigny and Les Routières, March 5 1974

Monsieur Theeten and his wife (a professor) were driving in their car along Departmental Highway 38 and were just approaching the last turn before entering the hamlet of Les Routières, when they perceived, on their right-hand side, at a distance of some 50m and below them, a sort of yellowish-orange cigar flying at a height of about 50m. above the meadow. The time was 8.25 p.m., and the sighting lasted a few seconds. The driver pulled up. Twenty seconds later they saw the cigar again, this time in a different position. It was now inclined at an angle of 45° whereas, just before, it had been completely horizontal. This second sighting also lasted about ten seconds. They estimated that the cigar was some 15m. or so in length and about 1m.80 thick. They heard no sound from it, detected no odour, and detected no effect from the machine upon them or their car. They reported the matter to the Gendarmerie, who came and conducted an investigation on the spot.

A week later, Monsieur Theeten had a second sighting. At 6km. from Etreaupont he watched, for a duration of 15 minutes, a big red light, flashing very regularly, in a field beside the road. He went towards the light several times, retreating again, and each time that he tried to get near it, it stopped flashing. After that, the witness drove on.

Conclusions

A cigar is seen. Then it disappears and reappears at the same spot. Did it go away and come back again, or did it become temporarily invisible to the eyes of the witness?

We understand from the newspapers that a "cigar" identical with the one seen by the Theetens had been seen ten minutes earlier, on the same evening in the nearby Ardennes.⁴

After making a thoroughgoing investigation of him and of those around him, we have reached the conclusion that our motorcyclist, the forge-worker who encountered the entities at Origny-en-Thierache, is telling the truth. In the first place it is clear that this man is incapable of making up such a story. And secondly, we have found him, when we interviewed him, in too deeply depressed a state for hoax to be possible. Furthermore we must bear in mind the other sightings in the same area during the same week.

What strikes us as a very serious matter is this

desperate eagerness to ridicule the witness. The explanations for it may lie in the fact that mankind likes to employ this oldest and most simple of all forms of escape, namely to laugh at what he cannot comprehend! Our witness in this case is the very image of the typical ordinary man of simple tastes, the everyday man, who is born and lives and dies without seeking to know the great human mysteries — the enigma of why he exists. And then, suddenly, after a lifetime spent without knowing that there are fantastic phenomena occurring on earth, he experiences this sort of thing, at the age of 59.

We hope to continue to follow up this case very closely.

Comment by F. Lagarde, Editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit*

THIS is a fascinating and well-written account by our friends in the North, who seem to have overlooked nothing. The only addition one might suggest could perhaps be to say that the site in question (if this fact be of any importance) lies 7 km. to the N.E. of the Southend — Po di Gnocca orthotonic line.

Another point might also be noted (and this is also a geological fault-zone effect) — namely the recurrence of phenomena on several successive days. It is probable that, had there been informants already in the area, alert for all that was being whispered to and fro, our investigators would have received reports of further sightings.

The compulsory mastication of the mystery substance presents a problem. Whenever I hear of mastication or teeth in UFO reports I am reminded of the case of Betty and Barney Hill (see Dr. Hynek's *The UFO Experience*). In the course of one

“amusing” episode in that case, the entities removed Barney Hill's false teeth. A similar attempt was made by them on Betty's teeth, which failed lamentably, her dentures owing nothing to artifice. If we place ourselves in the shoes of our visitors, maybe we shall find that, to these latter, human mastication is a mystery and so they wanted to know, by actually seeing it, how it is performed!⁵ As will be noted, there are two stages. First the witness is invited to eat. Then, as he does not perform for them, the “others” think that maybe the witness lacks the necessary foodstuff so then (stage 2) they supply him with it and then watch the operation. As an explanation this is perhaps a little simple, but at any rate it fits the story as related.

Notes by Gordon Creighton

1. Origny is at 49° 50 N, 3° 30 E, in the department of Aisne, and to the north-east of Paris.
2. See my translation, *A French Repeater Case: Events at Les Nourradons*, in FSR Vol.19, No.3 (May-June 1973).
3. Reports of “square” helmets are very rare. Compare however the similar case at Warneton, on the Franco-Belgian border and not so far distant from Origny, in which a Belgian motorist twice encountered creatures about the same period (January 8, 1974, and June 6, 1974). One of the creatures was described as wearing a “cubic” helmet. (This case appeared in FSR Vol.20, No.5.)
4. The Ardennes, scene of the “Battle of the Bulge” in World War II, lie due east of Origny.
5. This may indeed be possible, but is it not far more probable that the “piece of chocolate” may have been intended to produce some kinds of results in the witness, perhaps long after? If the LDLN investigators watch him carefully, they may one day have something extraordinary to report!

Continuing the work of Charles Fort

in collecting and studying the ignored, anomalous and just plain curious phenomena things seen in, and falling out of the skies; land and sea monsters; poltergeists, ghosts and ‘wild talents’; objects dug up that “shouldn't be there”; strange fires that eat people; feral children; pre-Columbian contacts; “mass hysteria”; ‘anachronistic’ technology; studies towards an inclusive phenomenological science; — and who knows what else?

THE INTERNATIONAL FORTEAN ORGANIZATION

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