

Now I have a few specific questions for Michel, which he artfully avoided answering in his reply. Why did you plot the sighting for September 24 on the map for September 23? Why did you claim that the September 24 BAVIC line involved 6 out of 9 sightings, when it should have been 6 out of 10? How do you know that the sightings on September 24, made "about 11 p.m." did not occur until after midnight? Why did you plot two observations on both the maps for October 3 and 4? If you did not

make a special search for sightings along the BAVIC line, what did you mean by the statement: "studying very closely the cases of landings reported along this line?" Such searches for special observations along a given line can make the statistics altogether meaningless.

In Part II I shall go more closely into the statistics of alignments and reveal further mistakes made by the orthotenists.

REFLECTIONS OF AN HONEST LIAR

by *Aimé Michel*

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PEOPLE say that they have seen certain things. One wants to know whether or not the things in question are located along straight lines. What does one do? One marks the location on a map. But—the location of what? Of the witness? It is not the witness who is significant, but the *thing*. And if the thing has been seen at some distance, and in an uncertain direction? Then one speculates as to the mean distance, or the maximum distance, of the thing that the witness supposes he has seen, and the position marked on the map becomes, instead of a point—a circle. After that, everyone proposes his own method for calculating the matter, and the statistics that seem to him to be the most logical.

Dr. Menzel is very pleased with his, and finds mine deplorable. It is true that I am an amateur statistician—and, incidentally, so is Dr. Menzel. Now, along comes Dr. Avez, who *is* a professional mathematician. And what does he say? If I have fully understood his article, he says this: that Dr. Menzel's method entails no error; but that it does not apply to the problem being studied. This problem was, it seems, more difficult than Dr. Menzel and I had thought. It will be necessary to begin again, right at the start, with Dr. Avez' method or some other equally precise method, *if we want to solve the problem by statistics*. But is statistics the only solution to the problem? That is the question.

Let us start again then at the beginning. People say they have seen certain things. Are these things, or are they not, situated on straight lines? At what point in our reasoning are we going to be forced to appeal to statistics? Clearly it is at the moment when we are obliged to speculate as to the *probable*, or *mean* distance of the object with regard to the witness. If we can eliminate this speculation, that is

to say if we can locate the object *exactly*, with a precision superior to the errors of cartography, then we no longer have any statistics. We have only cartography. For example, two points, A. and B., being defined, *on the ground*, with *absolute* precision, and *on the map* with the maximum precision of that map, then the problem of finding out whether a third point, C, defined in the same manner, is or is not on the straight line A–B is resolved by extending this straight line A–B. The map then answers our question. We don't encounter statistics again unless the theoretical cartographical error reaches the magnitude of the phenomenon studied: in which case I think that we shall never know whether we need to menzelise Michel or michelise Menzel, hence this is what we must avoid.

Now, as a matter of fact it happens precisely that the particular case of the BAVIC line (and there are several others in the autumn 1954 wave) meets this requirement. And this is what I am going to show in answering the questions of the worthy Dr. Menzel:

Question: *Why did you plot the sighting for September 24th on the map for September 23rd?*

Answer: The worthy Dr. Menzel wants to make me say that I entered this sighting on the map for September 23rd because it was on a straight line of September 23rd, and not on BAVIC. *It is true*. I stick to my belief that, for the actual investigation of the phenomenon, I was right, for the sighting in question was shortly after midnight. But statistically speaking, *I was wrong*. One point, then, to Dr. Menzel.

Q. *Why did you claim that the September 24th BAVIC line involved 6 out of 9 sightings, when it should have been 6 out of 10?*

A: If you say 6 out of 10, and not 7 out of 11, it is

because you reject the Sierra Gardunha case as a "hoax". What is the objective criterion that permits you to say here that a flying saucer is or is not "a hoax"? You state what it is in your text—that it is an opinion of Jacques Vallée. Very good. And what objective criterion permits you to determine, among the opinions of Jacques Vallée, which are the ones that you find valid? From reading what you say, I fear I am to understand that only those opinions of Jacques Vallée are valid that rescue your own statistics when these statistics would result in demonstrating the opposite to your preconceived opinions. For what is the probability of 7 sightings out of 11 in *your* corridor? Speak up, we can't hear you very well.

The facts, it seems, do not interest you. But here they are, nevertheless. Having written to his newspaper and described his sighting, the Portuguese witness receives a visit from the Police, who "interrogate" him. He then retracts. He has consequently lied, at one moment or at the other. Is it when he is writing unrestrainedly to his newspaper? Or is it when he receives the benevolent and paternal visit of the Portuguese Police? Vallée thinks the former. As for myself, while refraining carefully from introducing any personal opinions into my reasoning, I nevertheless find that the testimony given by this Portuguese is a fact, and the situation, on the BAVIC line, of the place indicated, is another fact. If your personal statistical methods authorize you to select in advance from among the facts those facts that agree with your prejudices, then I wonder what strange sort of Astrophysics you teach at Harvard.

Q: *How do you know that the sightings on September 24th, made "at about 11 p.m.", did not occur until after midnight?*

A: Dear Dr. Mönzel, there is only one man in this world who knows by special revelation, where, when, and how, Flying Saucers occur or do not occur: and that is you. As for myself, I refrain from all personal opinion when in the course of an objective piece of research, and I accept the eyewitness accounts just as I find them. The witnesses say "about 11 p.m." Only a Harvard astrophysicist can be so bold as to take the liberty of supposing that "about 11 p.m." means "after midnight".

Q: *Why did you plot two sightings on both the maps for October 3rd and 4th?*

A: For reasons of honesty, if you see what I mean. I did not know whether the Calhanel and Concarneau sightings were of October 3rd or October 4th (note that on my map, No. 8,

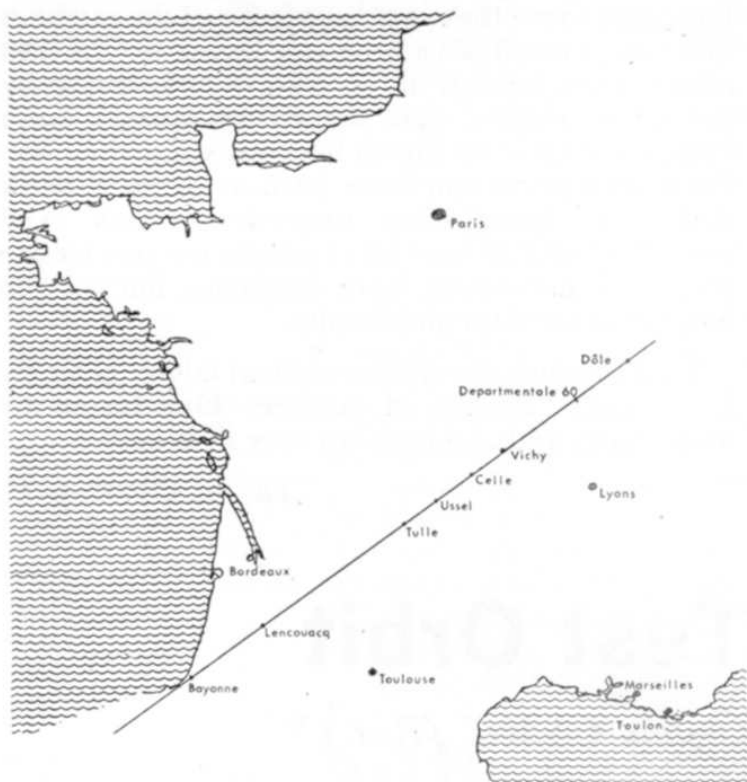
there are two question-marks). Not being a professor of Astrophysics at Harvard, I did not think myself authorized to give an infallible decision in a doubtful case. Pray be so good as to note that my alignments would have appeared far more beautiful if I had pruned out these two "Virgilian" cases.

Q: *If you did not make a special search for sightings along the BAVIC line, what did you mean by the statement "studying very closely the cases of landings reported along this line"?*

A: Here we have the crux of the matter. Having read in the newspapers that people had seen certain things at Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles, and Vichy, we wanted to know whereabouts, *on the ground*, and very precisely, if possible to the nearest metre, these "things" seen by these people were. In certain cases, the local newspapers were just about sufficient in themselves by reason of their exact information: for example at Lencouacq the press said the witness had seen the object sitting on the ground in the field behind the Presbytery. The General Staff Map gave the plan of the village. We wrote to the mayor of Lencouacq, asking him to get the witness to indicate precisely, by means of a cross, the exact position of the field on an enlarged copy of the General Staff Map. Thus the position, on the ground, of the alleged object is known, at Lencouacq, to within a metre, and also its position on the General Staff Map, with a degree of precision that is of the order of that of the Paris Observatory.

At Bayonne, the eyewitnesses spoke of objects in the mid-heaven, above the centre of the town. This was not as good as a sighting on the ground, but the precision was sufficient for us to be able to see, from the extension of the Bayonne-Lencouacq line towards the North-East, to what degree the other places mentioned on that particular day, September 24th, were on the line or not.

First point established: The UFO had passed over the *southern* part of Vichy. We had consequently to find out where the sports ground was, because the witnesses, who were members of the Vichy rugby team, had seen an object fly over their field. Here we met with a set-back, for, on the map of Vichy, *the sports Stadium was to the north of the town*. This discrepancy was first spotted by Jacques Roblin, the technical director of the Arthaud publishing firm, to whom I had given my manuscript and who patiently checked all my maps. By chance it happened that the Arthaud Company's printing presses were in Vichy itself.



In the course of a trip that he was making through the town, Roblin went to the headquarters of the Rugby Club and asked if he could consult the Club's journal. He looked in the journal for the report for 24th September, 1954, and there he read that, on that particular day, as a complete departure from their usual procedure, the team had played a practice game on the field belonging to the old Pigeon Shooting Club, which is situated precisely in the South-West of the town. On the 200,000 map the line passed very precisely over the field, without any detectable error. The three points were aligned, without detectable error, on a map on which one millimetre equals 200 metres.

Menzel's argument against BAVIC is based on the assumption that the line has been calculated solely by the methods of mean errors by which, if we designate as E the mean error in a line determined by n single points with a mean error of e , we have

$$E = \frac{e\sqrt{n-2}}{n-2}$$

But, dear Dr. Menzel, the facts are there before the theory. And the facts are simple: even the exact localities are known, and (on BAVIC and on several other lines of the autumn of 1954) as a result the alignments turn out to be all the stricter. If the matter were ascribable to chance, then the contrary should be the

case. The line which—on the 200,000 map—links the meadow at Lencouacq with the old Pigeon Shooting ground at Vichy, passes right through the centre of Bayonne and through the mid-heaven of the other places. The only uncertainty relates to Ussel, where we have not been able to meet the witnesses so as to find out where the tree was that had the leaves of its upper branches dried and curled by the UFO. But on the other hand we shall see, in the following paragraph, that other sightings which it *was* possible to pin-point on the ground, all fall without detectable error on the BAVIC line on the 200,000 map. After that, Doctor Menzel is welcome to make his statistics prove whatever he wants to prove and to call for a 4,000 metre corridor. Where is this corridor? Speak up, please!

Q: Where are those "numerous sightings other than those of September 24th 1954"? "I suggest that these "numerous" other sightings simply do not exist."

A: This suggestion acquires its full flavour when it is set beside the concluding sentence of your first paragraph, my dear and most courteous Dr. Menzel. ("The mistakes he has made are those of an honest, but incompetent, statistician")—So one can be a liar, but nevertheless honest? Well, I leave to you the responsibility for that opinion. And, as regards these sightings which "do not exist", please be so good as to get the 200,000 map of France and trace on it the line defined by Lencouacq, the old Pigeon Shooting Ground at Vichy, the mid-heaven at the centre of Bayonne, etc., and then extend that line towards the North-East. Then you will see that, *inter alia*, it passes right over:

- (a) In the Department of Saône-et-Loire, the the departmental highway No. 60, between Saint Roman - sous - Gourdon and Brosse-Thillot. Then, please, be so good as to refer to page 175 of my book. There you will be gratified to find the account of a landing on that very road, and the stopping of a motor cycle engine. The line crosses the road at that precise point. The degree of error is undetectable on the 200,000 map, just as it is at Vichy, and Lencouacq, etcetera.
- (b) In the Department of Jura, to the south of the town of Dôle. Turn to pages 27 and 187 of my book, where you will find two sightings made at that place.

If I am not mistaken, that makes eight sightings aligned, without detectable error, on the 200,000 map. We have one sighting at

each of: Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Gelles, Vichy, Departmental Highway No. 60; and two in the southern part of Dôle. I am being generous, so I am leaving out Ussel, because that case was not checked. *And I am not quoting here any sighting not given in my book* (but there are however such cases, and "plenty of them", and they are reported in texts written down before the BAVIC line had been discovered, and they include some landings). Where is this absurd 4,000 metre corridor of yours? And what conclusion is reached by *your* statistics on the basis of such facts as these? It now remains for me to say a word or two about "sarcasms" and "insults". My dear Uncle Donald,

I am glad to see that you disapprove of the methods that you yourself have been employing for the past fifteen years against those who, not knowing by private revelation that the flying saucers don't exist, are simply trying to find out what they are. For fifteen years you have been at pains to show that we are ignoramuses, imbeciles, or liars. And behold, what a strange lot of people we are: we are not only ignoramuses, liars, imbeciles, but we also indulge in sarcasm and insults.

That reminds me of this excellent advice given by a moralist: "Beware of murder. One begins by murdering, and one ends up very ill-bred."

TRANSLATION: G.C.

A Gemini Test Orbit

*by Major Donald E. Keyhoe USMC (Ret.) **

This item is taken from the opening paragraphs of an article entitled U.S. Air Force Censorship of the UFO Sightings, which appeared in the January, 1965, number of TRUE, The Man's Magazine, by courtesy of the Editor. Copyright, 1965 Fawcett Publications, Inc.

I'M GOING to tell you an eerie story, labelled a "rumour" by the Air Force, which you haven't heard before. The fact that you haven't heard it—haven't been **allowed** to hear it—is as frightening as the story itself.

On April 8, 1964, the National Aeronautics & Space Administration launched from Cape Kennedy the first two-man Gemini capsule, a crucial step in our effort to land an astronaut on the moon. The capsule went into its planned orbit around the earth, and sensitive instruments began gathering data that would reveal flaws and point out possible improvements in the design. This first test flight was a great success. You read about it next morning in your paper.

But there was something you didn't read. This report was given to me confidentially by two scientists present at the test. The Gemini capsule was still in its first orbit when **four spacecraft of unknown origin flew up to it**. While startled radar trackers watched their screens in open-mouthed amazement, the four took up positions around the capsule—two above it, one beneath, one aft. Whoever was inside those strange craft appeared to be inspecting the capsule minutely and with care. They drew close to the capsule and paced it for a full orbit of the earth. Then, apparently finished with their scrutiny, they pulled away and vanished into the unknown.

What were these four mysterious space travellers? Where had they come from? What mission had brought them into the earth's space neighbourhood? What people, what beings, were at the controls? I fervently wish I could answer those questions. And I wish I could satisfactorily answer one other: this eerie episode, this incident so fraught with implications for all who live on earth—why was it kept secret?

This much I know: the Gemini episode was not an isolated case. For in the past three years, unknown to the general public, there has been a tremendous new wave of incidents in which unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have been sighted around the world, often near rocket test ranges, satellite orbital pathways and airfields. The U.S. Government has been aware throughout that time that enigmatic alien craft of some kind are watching our outer-space operations. The new wave of UFO appearances fully matches in magnitude the great "flying saucer" scare of the late 1940's and early 1950's, when it wasn't unusual for dozens of UFO sightings to be reported in a single week. UFO activity slowed down somewhat in the late 1950's. But now, suddenly, the UFOs are back—their numbers greater, their origin as obscure, their purpose as unfathomable as ever before.

You haven't heard or read anything about this