

Disappearing motorcyclists

From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 100 (July 1969) we learn of the remarkable account, sent to that journal by a Mme. Porta, of a "non-UFO" incident alleged to have occurred more than thirteen years ago:

"At 11.50 on the morning of August 22, 1956, I was riding my moped along Route No. 115 from Le Boulou to Céret when I was passed by an enormous and absolutely silent nickel-plated motor-bicycle. It was carrying two passengers lavishly dressed in blouses of a sort of fawn-coloured shiny satin-like material or watered silk. They were wearing gloves, closely sealed helmets, black or dark blue trousers, and tight stiff-looking half-length boots up to the middle of the calf.

"Then I was overtaken by another motor-bicycle absolutely identical with the first. Then, at a point about 500 metres further on the two machines stopped, right in the middle of the road, behind a bend, and blocked my way. I hooted to them to let me by. But in vain. I was obliged to pass them on the extreme left—a very tight squeeze, for their machines were enormous, of absolutely unusual size.

"The two pairs of riders were turned towards each other, as though they



Sketch by P. Lacroix

were talking, but as I came up level with them all four turned round to stare at me.

"Their faces were totally hidden by big smoked glasses, and neither their cheeks nor their chins were visible. The helmets did not have the usual chinstrap.

"I was very shaken. About ten metres further on I looked back. They had vanished without a sound.

"I remained shaken by it all that day. In the evening, at 7.25 p.m., as I was returning, a very bright point of light, with a metallic gleam and of the size of a distributor cap, seemed to be on the slopes above Le Perthuis. Some

motorists stopped to look at it. It remained there for 4 or 5 seconds and then disappeared. When I reached home, my son told me that green balls had travelled through the sky at Le Boulou at about 5.30 p.m."

(Witness interviewed and report written by Mr. Vidal. Sketch of entities and their "motor-bicycles" by M. Philippe Lacroix for LDLN to whom we are indebted for permission to reprint this case.)

[Note by Editor of FSR: This report calls to mind the curious case of the mystery vehicle, with no windows, no lights, no number plates and no reflectors, said to have passed Mr. Ian Hann on the Bath-Stroud road in the West of England at over 60 m.p.h. one night in the autumn of 1965 and to have vanished ahead of him in a cloud of yellow smoke. (See FSR, March/April 1966, p.35, "UFO takes to the Cotswold roads").

Various writers, including John Keel and Coral Lorenzen, have mentioned evidence that, perhaps as a disguise, alien beings may be developing aircraft or ground vehicles very similar to our own existing types of machines.

Le Boulou: in the extreme S.E. of the French Pyrenees. (Lat. 42° 33' N., Long. 2° 50' E.).

MAIL BAG

Can You Beat This?

Dear Sir,—Library users will be encouraged to hear that many librarians are beginning to stock up on UFO material. When I checked the records of Erith public library recently I was delighted to find the following titles listed for borrowing: "The Case for UFOs", M. K. Jessup; "Flying Saucers From Outer Space", Donald Keyhoe; "My Contact With Flying Saucers", Dino Kraspedon; "Flying Saucers Have Landed", Desmond Leslie and George Adamski; "Flying Saucers", Donald H. Menzel; "Flying Saucers & The Straight Line Mystery", Aimé Michel; "Flying Saucers & Commonsense", Waveney Girvan; "Space, Gravity & Flying Saucers", Leonard G. Cramp, and "Uninvited Visitors", Ivan T. Sanderson. Anne Dooley, Southend Close, Eltham, SE9.

[That's just about the best I've encountered. If Mrs. Dooley will see to it that they acquire "The Humanoids", "Anatomy of a Phenomenon" (J. Vallée), "Challenge to Science" (J. and J. Vallée), "The Flying Saucer Story"

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

(B. le P. Trench) and "The Scoriton Mystery" (E. Buckle) the list will be almost complete, and very good publicity for the subject too! At my local West Byfleet Library they have "Anatomy", but pressure is being brought to bear to improve on that. At Woking, three miles away, they used to have Waveney's book, but that's disappeared; I'll see what my friends can do. We can't let Eltham win as easily as that! But, perhaps there are some libraries even better stocked on the subject than Eltham.—EDITOR.]

That cloud-like UFO

Dear Sir,—I refer to your January/February report of a South African Cloud-Like UFO—said to have been seen over South Africa in July 1968.

I think that it was a cloud, yet there are one or two features that I should like to think could be explained further.

It was first seen by several others and myself at about 6.30 p.m. (I write from memory and not from notes made at the time). It attracted attention because it appeared luminous, and came overhead with what could have been the

speed of a drifting cloud, moving from the south-west, staying in view for some 10 to 15 minutes. It was not noticed by us until it was fairly high above the horizon and expanded as it came over. Clearly transparent (stars were visible through it). No other clouds in the sky (typical for this region in July). When almost overhead it measured approximately the span of my hand at arm's length. One had the impression that it was not so dense at the centre—rather as though someone was blowing gigantic smoke rings, yet it was not American doughnut shape. I do not think the apparent expansion was due to the way in which an object grows in size as it nears one; even when nearly overhead it seemed to be growing. But not knowing its literal size it was impossible to make any estimate of true height. One was left with the impression of a cloud drifting across at 20,000-25,000ft. (or less), but not natural since the object was definitely circular.

Explanations came in papers some days later—and what was seen by us

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