

FIFTY LITTLE GREEN "FROGMEN"

M. Spingler

We are indebted to the Editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit** for permission to reproduce this report, which was published in LDLN No. 160 (December 1976).

Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

HERE are the details of a remarkable report made by an eyewitness, Dominique Menuge (born 1955), a butcher by trade, residing at "Maisons Ardennaises," Carignan. M. Menuge is interested in the subject of UFOs and has read books about them; he plays football and rides a motorcycle, and appears to be entirely sane and of good character.

It should be noted that this investigation was made with the collaboration of the gendarmerie at Carignan.

The site is on a forest path in slightly marshy meadow land close to the Franco-Belgian frontier. The district, Le Banel, lies between the woods known as *Le bois de Rappes* and *La Fontaine de la Noue des Planes* in the Ardennes Forest Region of North-Eastern France.

It was semi-dark at the time of the incident, and the prevailing weather conditions were overcast sky, warm and stormy.

The incident

On Sunday, May 2, 1976, between 9.00 and 9.30 p.m., the eyewitness was driving along in his car, a *Renault R15*, on the road from Matton to L'Etang du Banel. He arrived at the cross-roads where his route intersects the road linking Fontaine de la Noue des Planes with Deux Villes (see Sketch No.1) and was just passing over into the arm leading on to Etang du Banel. Night was coming on, and it was already half-dark, and he had his side-lights on.

Suddenly, just as his car was about ten metres before the left-hand turn-off to Fontaine, he caught sight of about fifty little men in the beam of his lights (at point A) on Map). The little men were quite close, to his left, in the field, which is level with the road. They were green and froglike (see sketch No. 2), standing erect and quite still. Some were facing him, and some in profile.

Although they were green, they did not appear to be wearing overalls. If indeed they were in overalls, then these were tightly fitting. They had long arms hanging down as far as half way down their legs. They had webbed hands. Their legs looked normal, but the feet were also webbed, like the feet of frogs. Their heads appeared to be covered with masks or helmets, with two big red eyes 10 cm. or so in diameter and resembling highway traffic lights. Their

height was about 1 metre 15 cm. and their bodies were fairly corpulent. Their eyes emitted no luminous rays or beams, and they were simply standing there stationary, doing nothing.

The creatures did not appear to have seen the witness. They appeared not to be carrying or wearing any objects or any ornaments of any sort, and had nothing in their hands or around them, and there was no machine on the ground or in the air. They made no gestures. What had caught the eyewitness's attention was in fact the "red lights."

Dominique Menuge took fright, and at once turned into the left-hand road, backed his car, and made off again in the direction from which he had come. His engine was functioning perfectly, and so were his side-lights, so that, as he reversed the car he was now able to see (point (B) on Map) yet another little man, who was standing in the bushes on the other side of the cross-roads (and so now on his left). This little man was identical with the others, and likewise stationary. He was only three or four metres from the eyewitness.

Dominique made straight for his brother's house and told him what he had seen. He arrived there with his nerves very badly shaken, and spent an extremely bad night indeed, unable to sleep. He did not notify the Gendarmerie straight away, for fear of being taken for a madman.

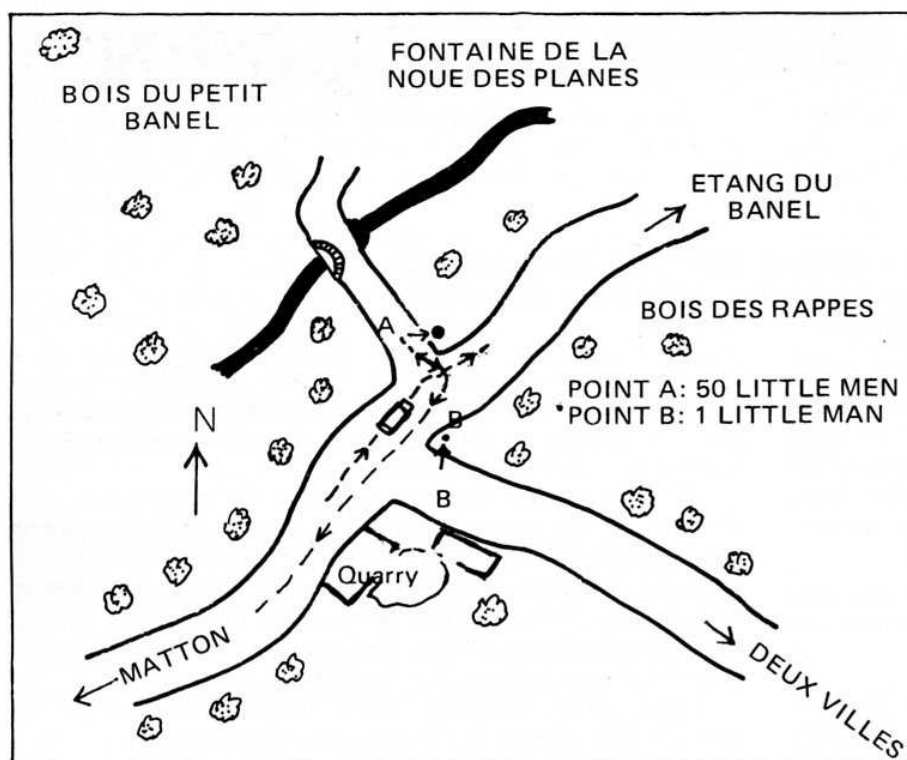
He was wearing no watch at the time.

Comment

I learnt of this case through third parties. I sent word to the eyewitness that I would like to hear his own account of it, and he came to see me on May 8, 1976 and told me the whole story. I then asked him to go to the Gendarmerie at Carignan on May 10, to make his statement. On that day he duly appeared there with me and told his story. He did not give the impression that he was "living through the experience again," but rather that of a man simply reciting his memory of past events. He showed no signs of being an excitable type of person, or of being in a state of shock.

We at once set out for the scene of the sighting, together with the Gendarmes. We both went over the whole area with a fine comb, looking for traces, but found nothing: no signs of little men or of craft anywhere in the vicinity. When we arrived at the spot I noticed that he showed no sign of apprehension. I should also mention that two days later I returned to the spot with the Gendarmes (but without the eyewitness) at about 9.15 p.m. We

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Sketch 1. Map showing the crossroads at Le Banel from where the witness claims he saw fifty "little green men"

stationed a vehicle at the precise point on the road where he said his car stood, and we had its side-lights on. It seemed to us that it was difficult under such circumstances for the area where he said the little men had been to be reached by his lights. On this particular point the Gendarmerie remained extremely sceptical, and indeed I myself was too.

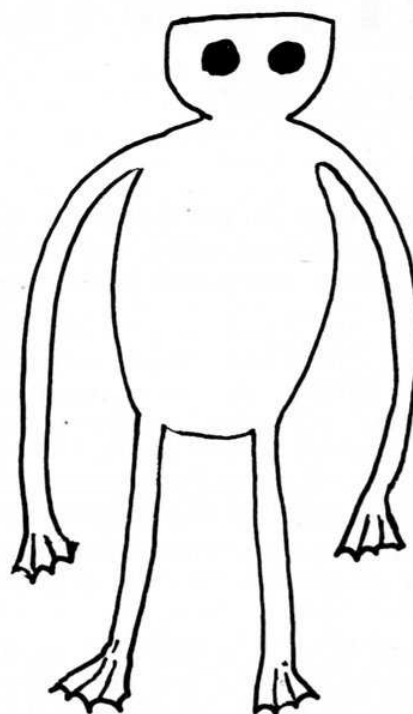
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Note by Editor of LDLN: As one reads this account the first hypothesis that comes to mind is that of a hallucinatory phenomenon. Nevertheless, we recall the investigation carried out by Monsieur Bigorne, and published in our other journal, *Vues Nouvelles*, (No. 2 of 1975), on a case in which the prints of webbed feet had been found one morning in fresh snow that had fallen during the night, and they were certainly no hallucination. We are indebted to Monsieur Spingler for sending us this case, which might perhaps have seemed to present little interest had it not been for the fact that we already possessed this other similar case of web-footed prints, thus posing a problem which every honest-minded person must face up to.

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Comment by Gordon Creighton

If I am not much mistaken, there would appear to be quite a number of cases already on record in which percipients have claimed to have seen webbed-footed, and webbed-fingered, beings. It might therefore be unwise to rule out this case on that score. Note, moreover, that the beings were described as *green*!



Sketch 2. A "frogman"

The sceptics have been making fun, for years past, about "little green men," and most UFO researchers seem only too anxious to join in the laughter. And yet, if again I am not mistaken, there have been, over the years, quite a respectable number of cases in which percipients have flatly claimed that they saw "little green men."

Personally I have never understood precisely why it is that "little green men" should have to be considered more ridiculous than the rest of the UFO scenario, the whole of which is totally absurd by any human standards!

The Gendarmerie, and also the investigator himself, were left with a powerful feeling of scepticism regarding the eyewitness's claim that his side-lights sufficed to illuminate the spots where the little creatures had allegedly stood. May I remind readers however that a constant factor in the whole UFO phenomenon is *light*, and often light that is of a terrifying brightness.

May it not be possible that there was a UFO somewhere near by the field, though not noticed by the witness, and that it was this UFO (or maybe the bodies of the entities themselves, since many reports have described them as "luminous") that made them visible to the passing motorist?

For this story rings at least as true to me as most UFO stories do. I simply don't think it is the sort of tale that your village butcher would choose to concoct. For anyone even slightly acquainted with the whole vast lore of "goblins" and "fairies" I submit that this story bears no evident features of having been invented. I see it rather as altogether "in the main tradition." Read your books of fairy tales. It's all there!

MAIL BAG

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.

A correction

Dear Mr. Bowen, — Thank you for the October issue of FSR (Vol.22, No.3) in which I was delighted to find material from the CUFOS conference, namely the articles by Ted Bloecher, Richard Haines and Al Lawson. Al, by the way, has just joined our informal group of about half a dozen workers in the Humanoid study field. His expertise in the social sciences will be very useful.

My main purpose for sending this letter is to ask you if you will kindly publish a correction in the next convenient issue. In Dr. Haines's article summarizing the conference, my talk is paraphrased incorrectly. He states: "UFO-related abduction cases number over 1000..." My list of *abduction cases* presented at the conference numbered over 50. Richard (or FSR) apparently mixed up some numbers; Ted Bloecher and I have on file in the Humanoid Study Group now more than 1400 specific references to *humanoid cases in general*, and at the time of the conference that number was probably quoted as being over 1000. So you can see it was a serious and misleading error.

Ted has kept me up to date on the exciting BUFORA conference to which he was invited. I have never seen him in such euphoric mood as when he returned from his English journey! I hope we will keep up the co-operation between the U.S. groups and those in the U.K.

Sincerely,
Dave Webb,
Humanoid Study Group, CUFOS,
924 Chicago Avenue, Evanston,
Illinois 60202.
December 12, 1976.

Lens flares & "experimental" hoaxing

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I should like to assure Dr. Pierre Guérin (Mail Bag, FSR Vol.22, No.3) that it gives no pleasure to the editorial team of MUFOB when *any* UFO journal is misled into printing dubious photographs of alleged UFOs. (And now that MUFOB is litho-printed, allowing half-tone reproduction, our time may come!)

Dr. Guérin doubtless feels, along with some other ufologists, that the publication in our March 1976 issue of the article *Experimental UFO Hoaxing* was intended to dismiss all UFO reports as hoaxes and misinterpretations. This was far from the case, and

I would again point out that the hoax was perpetrated by the SIUFOP group (The 'S' stands for 'Society', not 'Surrey'), which has had no connection at any time with MUFOB (which at the time of the hoax was indeed published from Merseyside). When presented with the details of the 'experiment' in late 1975 the MUFOB editors felt that it was in the best interests of ufology that the details of this affair should be made public, and cleared up once and for all. We felt that many valid points had been made about the manner in which UFO reports were presented and analysed; and before publication we assured ourselves that the hoax was not done as a deliberate plot to 'get' at any particular UFO group or journal, and that the motives behind it were serious.

I fear Dr. Guérin is doing MUFOB less than justice if he, by implication, categorises us as 'anti-saucerites'. UFOs are a real experience (though we may argue all night about what 'real' may mean in this context) and to be anti them is as futile as being 'anti-asteroid'!

My own position on UFO photographs I have made clear — I think that they are *all* doubtful, to a greater or lesser degree, and I would certainly not disagree with Dr. Guérin's analysis of the ones to which he refers in his letter. I am however in no way saddened that this should be so.

Yours sincerely,
John Rimmer,
Editor, MUFOB, 11 Beverley Road
New Malden, Surrey.

We have had a letter from Mr. F. Gheorgita and a further letter from Dr. Pierre Guérin (see his letter in the "Mail Bag" column of Vol.22, No.3) on the matter captioned above. The two correspondents maintain their positions, and the matter is closed.

Retraction was published

Dear Sir,—With reference to Hope Alexander's letter in Vol.21, No.6 of FSR and your remarks which follow with regard to non-retraction of the Adamski/bottle cooler business. I too have found it hard to find a reason why the *Evening News* who started the story hadn't retracted, when Frank Nicolson came forward with his evidence — especially as nearly all the other newspapers did

including, I recall, the *Daily Mirror* and *Guardian*.

Your Editor's Note prompted me to contact the *Evening News* and their assistant editor Mr. Percy Trumble informed me that in fact *two* retractions had been published in prominent positions on the widely read Letters Page. One of these letters actually is in the hand of Mr. Ken Rogers!

To be fair to the *Evening News*, I think it would be right if you rectified your Editorial Note.

Yours faithfully,

John E. Jones
21 Midhurst Avenue,
Muswell Hill, London N.10.
June 7, 1976.

[The delay in publishing this letter is regretted — EDITOR].

The Travis Walton affair

Dear Mr. Bowen,—To finalize Travis Walton's misquotation which appears in your FSR Volume 22, No.2 (1976) page 32, I enclose a xerox of a letter from Dr. Allen Hynek for your perusal.

I hate to suggest that additional space be wasted on this incident, but I do feel that the remarks made by Walton slander GSW's character and that some form of clarification is warranted for your readership.

Respectfully,

William H. Spaulding
Director GSW (Ground Saucer Watch),
13238 N. 7th Drive,
Phoenix, Arizona 85029.

[The relevant extract from Dr. J.A. Hynek's letter from CUFOS dated November 10, 1976, to Mr. Bill Spaulding is appended...EDITOR]

"...Quoting out of context...as we can see from the case at hand, only causes misunderstanding.

"It seems to me that the quotation in question — 'I guess I sent the wrong man in on this one' — would be rather out of place since I, in fact, never 'sent you in' in the first place. As you remember, you contacted me before I called you for information on the Walton case. I assumed, I suppose, that you had already, or would be soon, interviewing Walton, but the Center did not commission you to do so. Since the Center did not 'send you in,' it would be quite illogical for me to make such a statement. If I did say something resembling the misquote, it must have been in a different context entirely."