

# The Landing at Franois—2

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This contribution is the continuation of an article which was published in the April 1969 issue of *Lumières dans la Nuit*. Translated by John C. Hugill.

THE first part of this report contained the accounts of five witnesses, or groups of witnesses, in and around the village of Franois (Doubs), of an event on the evening of Tuesday, December 12, 1968. The logical sequence of events led to the evidence of the Froidevaux family which indicated that the experiences took place between 18.04 and 18.15; to deal with the remaining witnesses I must now go back a few minutes.

## Witness T.6

M. "X", at just about 18.00, was on the D.11 road, waiting at the bus stop. He is something of a simpleton, and I only mention him because, having questioned him, his evidence cross-checks with other witnesses. He says he saw, in the direction pointed out by Witness T.3, "a big three-coloured ball".

He is the only one to mention three colours. T.2 and T.5 spoke of yellow and white, and we shall see that T.8 mentions yellow and red.

## Witness T.7

Still at the bus stop, a girl who got off the bus told a lady next day that she had seen "something extraordinary". She was unwilling to go into detail about what she had seen, merely saying she had been mistaken, and had seen nothing.

Her evidence may be of prime importance, and it is a great pity she continues to adopt this attitude.

## Witness T.8

Bernard Perruche, 23, and Mlle. Perruche, 21, farmers at Franois, were to the south of the village at about 18.00, working in their stable near the junction of the side road linking the D.11 and the D.108.

They were both formal and categorical when they told me what they had seen, and guaranteed its authenticity.

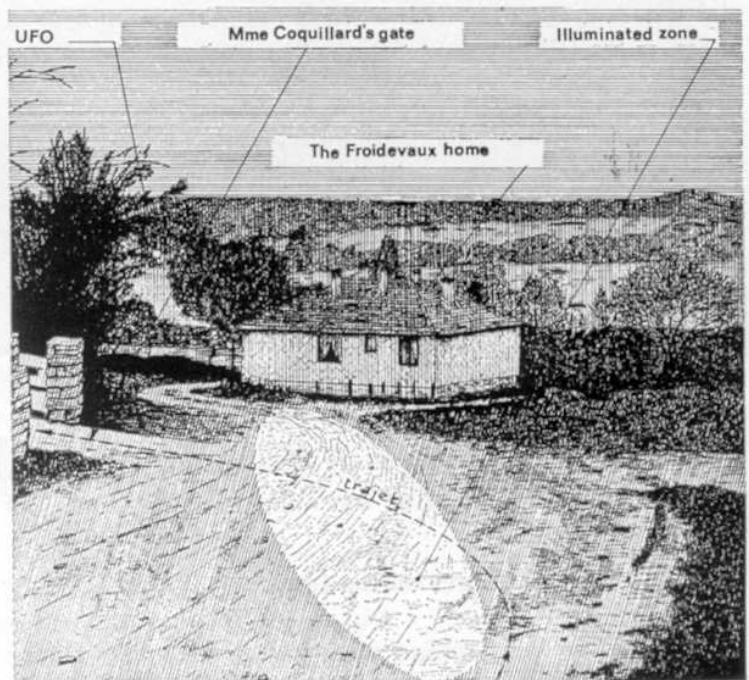
I should like to add that they are thoroughly trustworthy, sober and responsible members of the French Young Farmers Movement. These are no practical jokers or leg-pullers, and they enjoy the general respect of the whole population.

So, arrived at the road junction, they saw one pretty bright light, which they took to be from a car which might have pulled up on the side road with its headlights on.

Puzzled by this, since it was not usual at this spot, their curiosity made them pause for a few moments. They then realised that, although the light was very strong, they could only see one "headlight". To explain this, they imagined that they were seeing the "car" from the side; and thus that it was across the road. Further considering the immobility of the light, and to find a plausible reason for its being there, they thought it was

a case of a courting couple who would have sought solitude in this way, in a lonely bit of countryside.

However, they could not see why, if they wanted to be hidden, they had left the lights on. Looking at it anew, they were convinced that there was only a single light, and no trace of a car. Despite the very dark night, and their desire to find the vehicle, it seemed to them that they ought at least to be able to make out a vague



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shape . . . but nothing could be seen in the way of a structure, nothing which could satisfy their curiosity.

Perplexed, they were deep in reflection when they saw "some people moving about in front of the light, as in a magic lantern show."

How many did they see? They could not be precise about this, two or possibly more, who seemed to pass to and fro in front of each other.

They were quite definite that these were "people" but, placed as they were, facing the light, and still a good way off, they could say no more than, as they said to me, "there was a good deal of movement."

Still thinking in terms of a courting couple, they found it more and more odd that these events should be going on in the open, in the light of a headlamp, in a temperature of 5° below. Intrigued, but cautious, they left "them" to their own devices, and went on with their work.

Being in no way UFO minded, such a possibility never occurred to them, and so they missed the chance

of a lifetime, when one thinks that barely 250 metres separated them from the machine, and a road led straight towards it.

Next day, when they heard what had been observed by others, they realised their mistake and understood that they had stumbled on a mystery, and that *their courting couple indeed came from a very long way off.*

#### Witness T.9

This witness, speaking of what he saw from Chemaudin, made it known that he did not want to be quoted. It is a great pity that I was unable to interview him personally, but I will make a report on what I have been able to pick up.

#### Witness T.10

M. and Mme. Belot were at home in La Félie, a little after 18.00, when through their south-facing window they saw red and yellow lights crossing the sky. They did not realise the source of such lights on such a dark night, but simply said to each other: "*what funny weather!*"

They did not notice how long the phenomenon lasted, but simply its direction, which was towards Besançon.

#### Police

To avoid possible error, we consulted the Besançon-Tarragnoz police: no operations were carried out at Franois on the day of the sighting.

#### Besançon Observatory

Night very dark. No stars visible.

#### Co-ordinates of sighting

Longitude  $3^{\circ} 98'$  east of meridian of Paris, Latitude  $52^{\circ} 48'$  north.

#### Notes on the terrain

##### (i) Soil

No sign of a machine was found over the whole possible landing area. The terrain hardly lends itself to such a thing; it is either muddy, or marshy, dotted with holes and grassy knolls, and moreover rutted with tractor tracks where manure has been brought into the fields.

No abnormal radio-activity was found, and infra-red photographs do not appear to reveal anything particular in the soil.

##### (ii) Apple trees

Witness T.5 stated that he thinks he saw the machine reach the line of apple trees about 80 metres from the verandah.

On examining one of the trees in the direction of the sighting, it was found on the following morning that one of the principal branches was broken. It normally grew upwards, but had been twisted and torn off, and its tip was touching the ground.

The owner stated that it had not been in that condition earlier. Although covered with mistletoe, it was apparent that it was healthy enough not to fall of its own accord. There had been no wind during that night, nor on the days preceding it.

Chance, or confirmation?

#### (iii) Faults

We state once again that a machine came down within 60 metres of a geological fault, and moreover flew over it several times.

#### Detection

M. Froidevaux is interested in UFOs and owns a magnetic detector which he keeps in the bedroom next to the living room. It does not seem to have functioned on this occasion.

#### Size of the object

Measurements taken by M. Froidevaux, 15 mm. at arm's length and distance of 400 metres, which we were able to establish from several witnesses, allow us to make a calculation. Taking 0.60 metres as the distance from the eye of an object of 15 mm. measured at arm's length, we get  $0.015 : 0.60 = X : 400$ , from which we see that  $X = 10$  metres.

We may say that this light measured 10 metres plus or minus  $1\frac{1}{2}$  metres.

#### Photographs

These authentic photographs, which have been connected to a chain of related events by most rigorous enquiry, are the most exceptional documents in this affair. Certainly no document could ever have been produced, at least in France, which has been supported by so many guarantees.

Unfortunately, only one exposure was usable, because in his haste, and in the excitement of the sighting, M. Froidevaux did not take all the precautions which he would normally have taken.

Whilst waiting for an enlargement of the colour photo, we offer you an enlarged drawing of the object as exact as possible. It appears as a clear spot delicately tinted with pale colour. It was mainly circular in outline, with the base somewhat indented to produce a sort of nipple. From this nipple there emanates a very tenuous ray of light which is visible for  $1\frac{1}{3}$  diameter of the object. Nearer the nipple the contour is more blurred, without one being able to distinguish whether it is a matter of self-luminescence or of a concentration of light.

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#### Postscript: Further details

##### (A) New witness

Mme. Carmille was going to visit her mother, Mme. Maurivard, and was passing along the D.108 towards the village between 17.30 and 18.00.

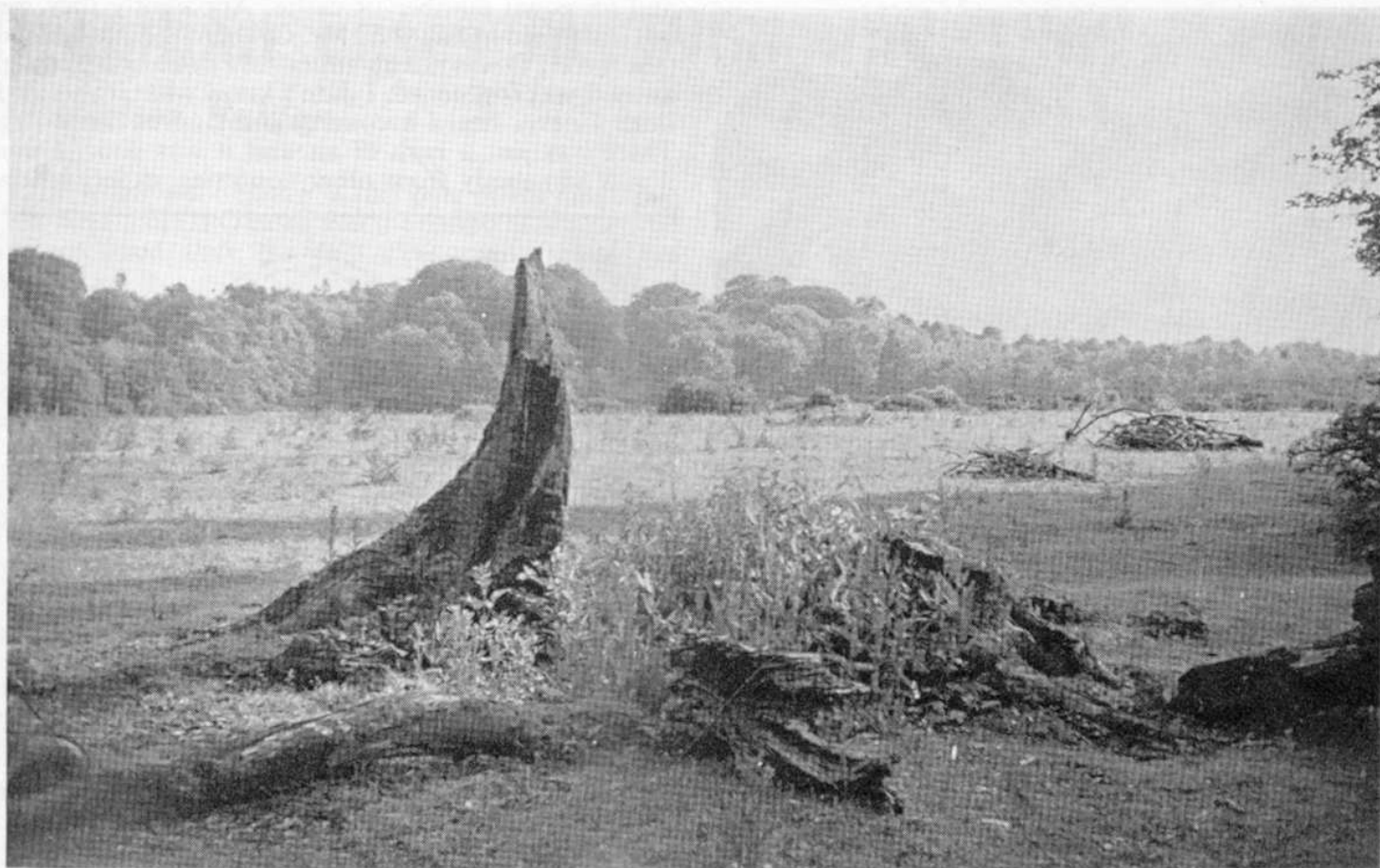
She had her attention drawn by a light which was close to the ground in the fields on her left. This unusual light made a strong impression on her. She noticed that it was apparently on the ground, and its size "was like a plate, or perhaps the disc of the sun," very bright, but not illuminating its surroundings. The position indicated by the witness was the same as that given by the others.

##### (B) M. Beaulieu's tractor lights

Mme. Maurivard chanced to notice the lights of the tractor in question, under the same conditions as on December 12.

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View from the spot where Mr. Graham was standing

# Farmer sees UFO take off

*Ron Toft*

This article is taken from the July-August issue of *Pegasus*, the journal of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP)\* which is edited by our contributor.

FARMER George Graham stood patiently at the edge of the copse, gun in hands, waiting to pick off the marauding foxes as they emerged from their dens for another night of plunder.

Suddenly his attention was riveted to a strange glow about 100 yards distant in the field which opened up in front of him. "At first I thought it was a neighbour tending to his lorry," said 75-year-old Mr. Graham, who runs a farm in the village of Woodmansterne, near Banstead, Surrey.

After coming to this conclusion Mr. Graham paid no more attention to it and resumed his search for foxes. Then he heard what he can only describe as a loud "whoosh" and, looking instinctively in the direction of the glow, Mr. Graham could just about make out a dark circular shape rising silently into the air. It gathered momentum and, in a matter of seconds, was lost to view in the night sky. Next day Mr. Graham found evidence in the field that something out of the ordinary may have parked there the night before.

This incident took place in the summer of 1968, one night either during the last week of August or the first

week in September—Mr. Graham cannot remember which. Details of this sighting have not come to light before simply because Mr. Graham did not report the matter to the police or press. He was afraid, as so many witnesses are, of being ridiculed.

With SIGAP Secretary Dick Beet, I recently interviewed Mr. Graham at his farm. Elaborating further, Mr. Graham, of Hilltop Farm, said he had seen the object between 10.00 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. He was standing at the fringe of a copse which crowns the summit of a small hill. The hill is surrounded on three sides by open grazing land. The field from which the UFO took off is bounded on three sides by a thin belt of trees. On the fourth side is a fence which marks the boundary of Mr. Graham's farm. On the other side of this fence is more grazing land, belonging to Mr. Graham's neighbour.

Mr. Graham said he had been looking for foxes "quite a little while" prior to seeing the glow, which he described as being dark-blue and "acetylene-like". This glow was under the base of the UFO. The UFO took off "ten to fifteen minutes" after Mr. Graham