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APPENDIX

From Phénomènes Spatiaux (Paris), No. 8 (June 1966), page 15:— (EDITOR: RENÉ FOUÉRÉ)

(Translation from French) Flavigny-sur-Ozeroin, (Précis) Flavigny-sur-Ozeroin, Côte d'Or May 4, 1966

Dear Sir,
In April 1954, my husband and I were coming home at about 5.00 p.m. from a botanical outing in the mountains. The sky was very clear, and the Mme. Georges Desplantes

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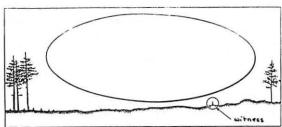
THE "STEEL AIRSHIP" AT BOIS-DE-CHAMP (APRIL 1954)

Joël Mesnard, LDLN, France (Translation from French)

This extremely interesting report is published in the latest issue of our fine French contemporary (Lumières Dans La Nuit, No. 275/276, May-June 1987) and we proffer here our usual credit and thanks to Monsieur R. Veillith, Monsieur F. Lagarde, and to their Editorial Committee. Our thanks too to the author, Monsieur Joël Mesnard, who is by no means unknown to our readers, as they will remember several of his extraordinarily interesting reports that have appeared in past issues of FSR, including, in particular, the Algerian case of "The Tranquilizing Visitation at Bouahmama" (FSR 19/3, 1973.) — EDITOR

Readers of Lumières Dans La Nuit will already know something of this case, which was reported briefly in François Dioliz's Catalogue of Vosges Sightings in 1954 (on page 44 of LDLN 261/262). However, I had an opportunity to go over the case again and interview the chief witness, Monsieur Roger Mougeolle, in February 1976.

The episode in question occurred on an afternoon towards the end of April 1954 (the year of France's



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fantastic great "UFO Wave". ED. FSR) in a clearing in a huge forest area at Bois-de-Champ, near the town of Bruyères, in the Département of Vosges, North-Eastern France. (Bruyères lies at Lat. 48° 10 N., 06° 40 E.)

Roger Mougeolle, then aged 37, and a younger work-mate named Gilbert Doridant, aged 19, were engaged in logging in the forest. It is a very sparsely inhabited area. (Gilbert Doridant died in a terrible logging accident two years later, crushed by a heavy load of tree-trunks which fell on him, so he was not available for me to interview when I re-opened the case in 1976.)

The two men were lopping off branches and burning the small stuff, when suddenly, from the sky above them, they heard a tremendous noise "like the sound of a train passing over a metal bridge." After which all was quiet again, but three huge objects shaped like cigars came over the hill towards them. Two passed over in total silence but the third, equally silently, slowly descended over the clearing where the two men were. Its surface was quite smooth, devoid of any structural appendages or protuberances, and its general aspect was metallic and its colour grey.

Its size was absolutely enormous. Over 200 metres long, Mougeolle thought, and perhaps 80 or 100 metres wide and equally high, though he thought the

height was a bit less than the width.

The monster came to a halt with its base just a few tens of centimetres from the ground. Gilbert Doridant, terrified, fled from the spot, and never again dared enter that part of the forest.

Roger Mougeolle, feeling sure that this was an air-ship, felt not the slightest fear, and stepped boldly forward and soon found himself right beneath it — and this proved to be an unwise and rash mistake. Continuing to approach the stationary, silent monster, he put up his hand and touched it. It was smooth, cold, and hard like steel. (Maybe in that moment he had already begun to realize that this was no dirigible.)

He raised his woodman's axe, not — as he explained to me — with any aggressive intention of attacking the thing, but rather in order to strike it with the flat of the axe, "just to see what would happen..."

And he saw what happened! For, as he struck, he was instantly hurled a distance of six metres or so. The flat surface of the axe had made a dull sound such as you get when you strike a great piece of steel. Lying where he had been thrown, against the foot of a rock, Mougeolle found himself unable to move. What had hurled him was no blast of air or anything like that, but something totally unknown to him, something that seemed to act uniformly upon every part of his body. And now, as he lay there, he realized that what was keeping him pinned down there was the monster itself, by its very presence.

This state of affairs, with the huge thing looming over him and blocking out almost his entire field of vision, lasted but a few minutes, and then the craft lifted and disappeared, and Mougeolle's paralysis at once vanished with it.

Roger Mougeolle subsequently suffered no ill-effects that he was aware of. (When I interviewed him in 1976, in a clinic in Bruyères, he was gravely ill, almost totally bedridden, breathing with great difficulty, and with an oxygen cylinder beside the bed. But this was due to the fact that, soon after his UFO experience, he had quit the logging and gone to work in the construction business, and, over a long period, he had very unwisely been handling fibre-glass without wearing a mask, and so had gravely injured his lungs.)

This case has certain interesting features. Rarely have loud sounds from UFOs been reported — particularly sounds such as Mougeolle reports.

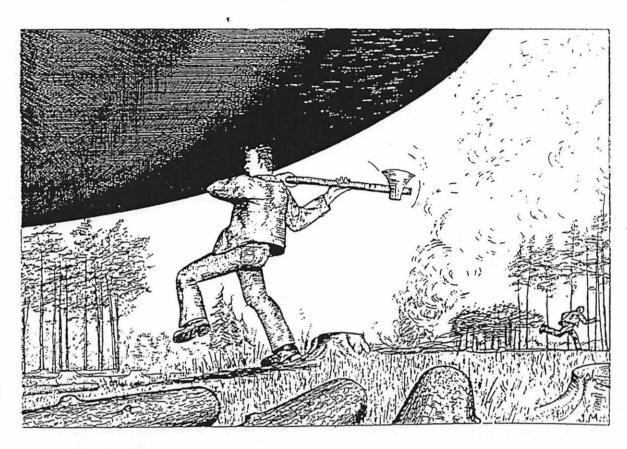
However, it so happens that in France we have one precisely similar case of a vast noise "like a train passing over a metal bridge",* and, amazingly enough, it also dates from an afternoon at precisely that same season, mid-April of 1954, and it happened at Flavigny-sur-Ozerain (Côte-d'Or), some 200 kilometres distant from Mougeolle's sighting at Bois-de-Champ! An account of it, given by one of the two eyewitnesses, Mme Desplantes, will be found in issue No. 8 (June 1966) of the now defunct French UFO review Phénomènes Spatiaux, most of the issues of which are still available from the editors and publishers, Monsieur and Mme Fouéré, 69 rue de la Tombe-Issoire, Paris XIVe. [I have given the lady's story below. — Ed.]

The estimated size of the three objects seen by Monsieur Mougeolle and his companion is truly stupefying, and it is also astounding that no information is available regarding any other witnesses.** The village of Vanénont is quite close, but the whole area around contains very few inhabitants and in 1954 the traffic on the roads would have been minimal.

Cases are also very rare in which a witness actually claims to have touched a UFO. We recall one such case early in 1966, near the town of Hamilton, in Canada, where a thirteen-year-old boy, Charles Cozems (sic), is said to have touched an object some 2.5 metres long and one metre high, which was standing in a field close to another and similar object. As the boy was touching — or maybe just about to touch — an "antenna" projecting from the object, he felt what seemed like a violent electrical discharge, and for some time thereafter there were burn marks on his hand.

Footnotes by Editor, FSR

*We have certainly seen two or three reports in Britain of this vast overhead noise "like a train", or "like



a load of coal being discharged", and I recall that at least one of these reports came from Warminster.

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Yours sincerely,

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(In the rest of the letter, she compares the huge square thing with the famous "square UFO" seen at Bolazec, in Brittany, on January 16, 1966 by a man named Eugène Coquil. The latter case is described in detail in chapter VII of my translation of Jean-Claude Bourret's first book. (See THE CRACK IN THE UNI-

of ie d, ng ieist

. I ıd VERSE, published by Neville Spearman, 1976.) What the lady claims to have seen had of course no resemblance to the huge cigar-shaped "steel dirigible" seen by Roger Mougeolle. The only features common to her case and to his are (1) the shattering noise "like a train", and (2) the fact that both took place in April 1954. — G.C.