

UFO Chronicle

Who Were the "Michelin Men" of Reunion Island?

The logo of the French tire company Michelin is a cute little man made out of tires of different sizes—an image which also looks like a person in a spacesuit. (This type of spacesuit was depicted in the late '50s in the popular comic series *Tintin*, when he and his companions went to the Moon.) Despite these cultural considerations, the two close encounters with "Michelin Men" reported by French residents of Réunion Island were real enough, with documented physical evidence and physiological effects. Both were investigated by the French Gendarmerie, a state police agency which is charged by law to receive UFO reports from the public. The Gendarmerie conduct all the interviews with witnesses and any necessary follow-up. The files are then passed on to SEPRA (the French UFO agency) for statistical analysis or further investigation.

The location of the two CE-IIIs was Réunion Island, a remote French outpost in the Indian Ocean. This volcanic island covers 969 square miles and has 705,000 inhabitants. Annexed by France in the 17th century, it is now an overseas department.

The first case, that of farmer Luce Fontaine, occurred in the morning of July 31, 1968, while the second incident, in-

volving 21-year driver Antoine Séverin, took place on February 14, 1975. The remoteness of Réunion is an important factor in ruling out sociological contagion, particularly in a period long before the global culture of the Internet and satellite television. Séverin, for instance, had not even heard of Fontaine's case, though it was reported in the press.

The First CE-III on Réunion Island

Although we don't have the actual police dossier of the first CE-III, we do have a good summary of the case in the massive book by Michel Figuet and J.-L. Ruchon, *OVNI: Le premier dossier complet des rencontres rapprochées en France* (UFO: The first complete dossier of close encounters in France), published in 1979. We also have the November 1968 article published in the French journal *Lumières dans la Nuit* (Night Lights, usually referenced as LDLN) translated in England's *Flying Saucer Review*, as well as the beautiful color reproduction of the aliens made long ago by the defunct French UFO group GEOS.

At 9:00 a.m. on July 31, 1968, 22-year-old farmer Luce Fontaine was in an area known as La Plaine des Cafres, picking some grass for his rabbits. "I suddenly saw a sort of oval-shaped cabin in the clearing," Fontaine explained later. "It was 25 meters

J. Antonio Huneus



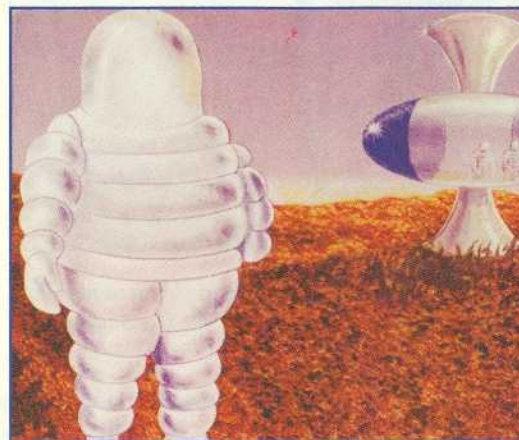
from me [about 75 feet], and as though suspended at a height of four or five meters [12 to 15 feet] from the ground. The extremities of it were dark blue, the center part lighter, more transparent rather like the windscreen of a [Peugeot] 404. Above and below it had what looked like two glass feet of shining metal."

The GEOS painting puts the Michelin man outside the saucer, probably to highlight its funny shape since it was part of a set of slides of different types of aliens. But in the real incident at Cafres no such thing occurred.

Basically, Fontaine described two humanoids about 90 centimeters tall (less than three feet) inside the transparent cabin, dressed in the so-called Michelin gear and wearing a shiny metallic helmet covering their faces. One of them was standing with its back to him, but the one on the left turned and faced him. Fontaine's statement continued:

"Then both turned their backs to me, and there was a flash, as strong as the electric arc of a welding machine. Everything went white around me. A powerful heat was given off and then as it were a sort of blast of wind, and a few seconds later there was nothing there any more."

Fontaine rushed to the site but couldn't



The GEOS painting showing the 1968 CE-III with "Michelin" aliens in Réunion Island.

A. Huneus

find any noticeable landing traces. He first told his wife, a local teacher, and then reported the encounter to the Gendarmerie. The inquiry was conducted by Captain Maljean of St.-Pierre, and Captain Legros of the Civil Protection Service. Luce Fontaine's reputation was excellent, and so everyone—including the police—believed the story without any doubt. But there was more.

Capt. Legros checked for radioactivity in the landing area ten days later, and found eight radioactive spots on grass and pebbles measuring up to 60 thousandths of a Roentgen. This count is rather low, but it was surmised that it might have been far higher right after the incident, given the



Capt. G. Kervendal shows a map of France marking UFO incidents investigated by the Gendarmerie.

time elapsed and the heavy rains on the days in between. Radioactivity was also found on Fontaine's clothes—precisely on the side which faced the UFO.

All this led in the following months to a series of bizarre rumors that Fontaine had been flown in secrecy to the Curie Foundation in Paris and treated for radiation sickness. All these stories were false, as often occurs even in good UFO cases. According to Figuet and Ruchon, Fontaine experienced abundant nosebleeds and had to recover at home on the days immediately after the incident, but he soon recovered fully.

Antoine Séverin, the witness of the second CE-III on Réunion Island, wasn't so lucky. His physiological effects were quite traumatic.

Blinded and Struck Dumb

We do have the complete police dossier on the second CE-III with "Michelin" men

on Réunion Island. It runs into dozens of pages, featuring interviews with the witness, his family, neighbors, the doctors who treated him, his boss, and so on. The inquiry was conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Lobet of the National Gendarmerie, and it was published by French journalist J. C. Bourret—together with many other official documents—in his 1976 book, *Le nouveau défi des o.v.n.i.* (The new challenge of UFOs). We also have an excellent

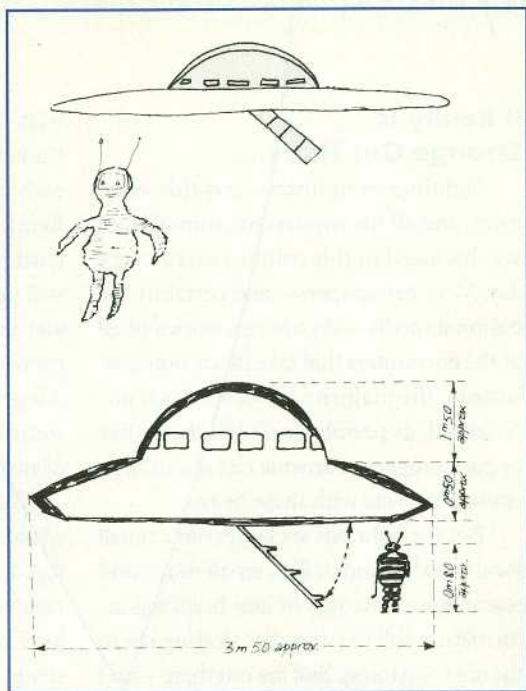
summary of the case written by Capt. Guillaume Kervendal, the Gendarmerie's top UFO expert, for the official military journal *Armées d'aujourd'hui* (Armies of Today) in September 1975, just a few months after the incident itself.

While very little known, this case should be a classic of that very uncomfortable but at the same time convincing category of UFO incident: the physiological injury cases, which have been documented by John Schuessler, Bob Pratt, and others.

Let's quote from Captain Kervendal's summary:

"It all started with a dream during the night of February 11 to 12. But was it a dream? Antoine S., a young 21-year-old delivery chauffeur, heard or believed to have heard a persistent 'bip-bip,' at times near, at times farther. That noise, which broke his ears, continued until the 14th, at 12 hours 5 [minutes]. After buying some candy, he was walking home. Without a

n, he started running; he
ed, as if impeded by a sut-
atural force. His eardrums
eally bothering him. He left
ad and advanced into a corn
He then felt a strange heat
panied by a burning sen-
. Paralyzed by this force that
uldn't conquer, he saw an
with aluminum color, sta-
d about 1.5 meters [4.5 feet]
the ground, emitting always
erating 'bip-bip.' A ladder
three steps appeared in the
t at a 45 degree inclination.
all occupant with brilliant
ing emerged from the ob-
He had on his hand some
f stick. A second character
satchel plus a third one
d the first as they scraped the
They had antennas on both
of the head. A fourth oc-
nt stayed inside the con-



Sketch of the UFO and occupant made by Antoine Séverin, and a reconstruction of the incident by LDLN.

on and it could be seen through the
r's translucent dome. The third man
nly became aware of the presence of
g Antoine. A powerful flash came
the object and projected [sic] the
g man to the ground. He could nev-
ess see the beings returning quickly
craft. The ladder retracted and the
rose with a very strong whistling
How long did Antoine remain on
ground? He couldn't say."
uring the next few days, until Feb-
19, the witness was in such a state of

shock that he was both blind and mute. He
tried to explain what had happened to the
gendarmes, gesturing wildly but unable to
talk. Everyone in his family, his neighbors,
and his employer vouched that he was a
reliable and responsible individual. No
solid landing traces or radioactivity were
found on the site, but there was still one
more troubling detail duly noted in the po-
lice reports and in Capt. Kervendal's sum-
mary of the case:

continued on page 110

the so-called elementary particles to yield
up the world we know of in juxtaposi-
tion and sequence. If this were not true,
then there could be no prophetic dreams,
as there would be no sequence to follow.
There must therefore be a past, present,
and future.

Since ancient times, the world of dreams
and predictions has been the realm of
the Gods and their prophets. The two-
slit experiment shows in basic form the
world and how the Gods make the world
we live in. The Gods live upwind or before
the photon interaction. Perhaps that is why
light was created close to the beginning in
Genesis.

Since so many things play out against
this light background, the weather for one,
light itself must have magical properties to
it. Read Goethe's color theory for a good
description of this. We do not see light it-
self, but it seems to influence many things.
Not only color, but it has electromag-
netic properties so the world of radio
also plays in this realm.

I have very many prophetic dreams—
sometimes five to seven a week. No mat-
ter how hard I try to avoid the outcome of
some of them, it happens anyhow. For in-
stance, near traffic accidents, people that I
will meet, etc. What this is really trying to
say to us is that there are powers behind
the light (they used to be called Gods in
ancient times) that control the sequence
of events or time very deftly. It is this that
has fooled modern man. He thinks he has
total free will. The only free will he has is

how he responds to the sequence of events,
time itself. There is a past and a present,
but also a future. If the Gods live in the
world of the two-slit experiment upwind
of the photon interaction, then no mat-
ter what man does, he cannot overcome
this huge limitation. It is because we do not
know of the spirits or their actions that we
find this so confusing.—Tom Batorski, An-
gola, N.Y.

Michelin Man in Michigan

Having just read Antonio Huneus's
UFO Chronicle about the "Michelin Man"
(September 2003), I thought I'd share a re-
port I got about something quite similar
several years ago.

In the fall of 1992 I had just started
working for a consumer research company.
One day in the break room, Marie, one
of my co-workers, started telling me about
a strange experience she had had on the
previous Memorial Day weekend.

Marie and I both lived within two miles
of our workplace on the northwest side of
Grand Rapids, Michigan. She lived on
the edge of a relatively remote, overgrown
park which had been an artillery practice
range during World War II. On the night
in question, her small dog had awakened
her because he wanted to go outside. She
watched him race toward the park bark-
ing aggressively.

Suddenly he stopped. Coming toward
her was a three- to four-foot-tall "thing."
She told me that it looked just like the
Michelin Man or the cartoon cloud char-

a black panther. It is still in its pen.

For a number of years we have been spotting black cats (panthers) on our farm. Yet no wildlife people will accept these sightings. According to them, there are no native black panthers in North America. There were no native coyotes here until just a few years ago. When we first began to see them, we were told that we were seeing dogs. Now the wildlife people say we have coyotes. I guess they built barges and poled across the Mississippi River.—*George H. McKinney, via email*

More Ghosts in Photo

My son and I were looking at the front of the August 2003 issue to find the ghost in the tree that C. Arnold Blair had found. (See Report From the Readers, October 2003.) When we looked downward, we noticed a slight blue at the right of the soldier. It appears to be someone hanged. Also to the left of the cannon, there seems to be a blurred image in front of the barrel that has no bottom.

I've been a FATE subscriber for about five or six years now. I find your articles informative and very good reading.—*Doris Cooper, Detroit, Mich.*

Strange Photos

I was delighted when I read your August 2003 issue. One of your readers had sent a photograph of her son's car with a large snake hovering over it. (See page 97 of the August 2003 issue.) Now I know nothing is wrong with my camera.



The "snake"

The photograph I'm enclosing to you was taken sometime in the late spring of this year. I snapped the photograph at a place I frequently go hiking. I didn't see the snake at the time, and I only took the snapshot because it is very beautiful along there. It wasn't until July, when I had the roll of film developed, that I saw the snake.

The snake looks very translucent as it slithers above the grass. In the upper left-hand corner of this photo there is also a blue orb in front of the tree branches. The camera was pointing almost due west. In the upper right-hand corner you can see the day-ending sun filtering through the trees.

As if that isn't incredible enough, I also captured a ball of light in the sky on the same roll of film. This picture was taken about 300 yards to the west of where I took the photograph of the snake.

You can clearly see my shadow in the lower right-hand corner with the camera



The ball of light

up to my face as I was taking the exposure. That indicates the sun was behind me. So, what's streaking past me in the upper left-hand corner of the photograph? As with the snake, I never noticed the ball of light when I depressed the shutter button.

The two photographs are separated by three other exposures, so I can't definitely say they were taken the same day. But my hunch is that they were.

The area where I took these photos is a strange, isolated place. And on at least this day, I believe a portal had opened up.—*Charles Hamang, Fenton, Mo.*

Disturbing Dream

I had a very symbolic dream a few weeks back that ended up really disturbing me. I dreamed that there was a pine tree growing up on a high bluff. In the middle of the pine tree was a rabbit. And there were two very threatening snakes in the top of the same tree. One of these two snakes came down the tree and attacked the rab-

bit while the other snake stayed close behind the first, but did not participate in the attack. And then I woke up.

After considering how strange this dream was, I fell back into a semistate of sleep where the same dream began to reform and take on a meaning that really bothered me. The rabbit became South Korea. The attacking snake became North Korea. The remaining snake became China. And the undecorated pine tree came to represent very early in the Christmas season.

I can't help but to fear that there is a real possibility that North Korea is planning on attacking South Korea as the U.S. is preoccupied in military occupations in and around the rest of the world. This attack would also come just as America starts to prepare for the Christmas season in early to mid-December of this year.

And if you think this sounds very far-fetched, please consider one last fact that is happening as you read this: China just moved 150,000 troops to their border with North Korea, saying only that this was to deter people from North Korea from crossing the border as the coming winter approaches.

I guess only time will tell.

I don't really care if you print this in the magazine or not, but I thought that I would at least document my dream by sending it to you.—*Bill Walker, via email*

Remote Viewing Suggestions

I read with interest your remote viewing projects and want to suggest you re-