

Frenchman back to earth with a bump

From Ian Murray **TIME**
Paris, Dec 3 1979

A week, almost to the minute, after he was reported missing, M. Frank Fontaine returned to Clérgy Pontoise early this morning. For someone who might claim to have spent the past seven days as the guest of creatures from outer space it was not a particularly happy homecoming.

M. Fontaine disappeared after becoming separated from two friends when they spotted a light in the sky over Clérgy Pontoise (Val d'Oise) last Monday. He spent most of his first day back at Pontoise police station being interrogated by hard-headed French policemen. It would be difficult to come down to earth with a harder bump.

So far, M. Fontaine, aged 19, has not confessed himself to be a hoaxer. Nor has he, on the other hand, been able to tell anyone what life he has met at the outer edges of the galaxy. M. Fontaine simply says he cannot remember what has happened to him.

What he says he can remember is similar to what his two friends, M. Jean-Pierre Prevot and M. Saloman N'diaye, told police under intensive questioning a week ago.

He says he remembers helping to load up their shooting brake to go to Gisors market at 4 o'clock last Monday morning, when they noticed a bright light in the sky, descending to earth. While his friends went to find a camera he says he drove towards the light.

Then, he told police, he saw the light, as big as a tennis ball, to the right of the car but getting closer until it landed on the bonnet. Then, he said, he felt a strong tingling in his eyes and everything went blank.

He said he had no knowledge of his friends' story that they saw the light engulf the car and then disappear upwards.

Instead, he says, he found himself in the road today at the very spot to which he had driven. Seeing no car, he said he thought it must have been stolen while he was unconscious, so he walked to M. N'diaye's flat nearby.

Two hours later the three friends went to the police, saying they had waited for M. Prevot.

Commandant Roger Courcoux, in charge of the Pontoise police station, said: "We are swimming in fantasy."

If the three admit their story was a hoax they could be charged with insulting the law and the forces of order.

It would be an interesting case. Watch this space.

Did a UFO grab Fred?

SURVEY HANTS NEWS
30 SEPT. 1980

PILOT Fred Valentich called up the air traffic controllers and reported: "There's a strangely-lit object moving beside me."

Fred reckoned it was playing a game with his light plane.

Workers in the control tower at Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne, kept in touch with the excited pilot.

But within minutes he had vanished.

And the controllers believe that he was taken aboard an alien spacecraft.

Strange lights had been seen in the sky for six weeks before Fred vanished. Many people claimed they were UFO's.

Fred, 20, had called the airport control shortly after he had taken off.

He gave his height but was unable to estimate the speed of the "light" that was buzzing him.

Suddenly he shouted: "There's something the matter with my engine. It's idling. Now it's rough and coughing."

"I'm going to try to put down..."

Then came a long, drawn out metallic noise from the radio of Fred's Cessna-182.

Fred and his plane were never seen again.

A search of the area failed to locate any wreckage.

And the dazzling light in the sky vanished.

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