

Mysterious Force That Twisted Trees and Hurlled Stones Was UFO, Say Villagers

By JACK KELLEY

A mysterious force that cut through trees like blades of grass and tossed around boulders as though they were pebbles, has baffled French scientists.

But villagers in the little town of Montauroux, France, say the unexplained damage can mean only one thing — their town was visited by a UFO.

"Nothing in the arsenal of my knowledge enables me to explain this phenomenon," said Professor Guy Turco, a mineralogy expert from Nice University, who investigated the peculiar incident.

Turco said he went to Montauroux after a local farmer reported the bizarre damage in September.

The farmer, Rene Merle, told the ENQUIRER: "I own about five acres of green oaks and pines. It happened there.

"I walked into my woods one morning and found many of the trees cut and twisted.

"A line of them had been sliced as though by a giant blade that would not be stopped.

"The height of the cuts rose progressively from 18 inches to 6 feet above ground level.

"Tree trunks 18 inches thick had been violently twisted, as though by some huge spinning force. And a 6-foot section of stone wall was demolished.

"Many of the stones in the area weighed upward of 40 pounds, but had been hurled 100 feet through the air, hitting trees and scarring them. In living memory, no one here had seen anything like it."

Local Police Chief Paul Monnier said he had no explanation. "All we can say is that there took place in the woods a sort of vertical suction of unimaginable force," Monnier wrote in his official report.

And scientists dismissed the idea that a natural windstorm might have created the mystery.

"A tornado or whirlwind destroys everything in its path," said Marcel Raoul of the French Atomic Energy Commission. "But the devastated area

at Montauroux — several hundred square yards — is too small for that and some of the trees are undamaged.

"Besides, a tornado always turns in just one direction. And at Montauroux, some of the trees were twisted clockwise, some counterclockwise."

Turco told The ENQUIRER that after he had searched the area he took soil and rock samples back to his university laboratory for scientific tests.

"There was nothing to indicate traces of the impact of a meteorite on the spot. People who say the damage may have been caused by a meteorite are wrong," he said.

Villagers, like retired Dutch astronomer Joseph Damen-Sterck, had their

own explanation. "It seems quite probable to me that beings from another planet landed at the spot to take away samples of rock and soil.

"That is the only interpretation I can put on it," he said.

Gabriel Pascal, a local farmer, and Jacques Herault, a philosophy student, agreed.

"A few days before the incident, I saw a glowing light in the hills near the woods," said Pascal. "The light was burning, part golden, part orange, part red. Other villagers saw it, too.

"But the fire brigade investigated and found nothing."

Said Herault: "I am certain that only a power strange to man and nature — such as a UFO — could be responsible for that kind of damage."



INVESTIGATING: Policeman shows Professor Guy Turco (holding hammer) the area where trees were strangely twisted and stones were thrown 100 feet by a strange force.