

French authorities are baffled by story about a vanishing man

CERGY-PONTOISE. France (AP) — Authorities in this small town northwest of Paris are trying to decide whether to charge Frank Fontaine and his friends with criminal mischief or launch a search for a mysterious glowing unidentified flying object.

"This is just too fantastic," said Police Chief Roger Courcous after listening to the testimony of Fontaine, 19, and his two friends, Jean-Pierre Prevot and Salomon N'Diaye, both 25.

Fontaine, who had been the object of a police search since last Monday, reappeared today in the exact spot where he disappeared a week ago, his friends reported. They said he was wearing the same clothes and had exactly the same amount of money as the day he vanished.

Police said the three have consistently repeated this same story under long questioning:

At 4 a.m. last Monday, the three young men had just finished loading a station wagon with clothes they were going to sell at an open market when they saw a brilliant light about the size of a tennis ball to the right of the car.

The ball became larger and larger and came to a rest on the hood of the car, causing their eyes to burn. From that moment, until his reappearance this morning, Fon-

taine says he remembers nothing.

Prevot and N'Diaye left Fontaine to watch the car as they ran home to get a camera. When they returned, they said, their friend was gone. According to them, the car was there with the door open and a halo of light surrounded the car. The halo suddenly disappeared.

Just as mysteriously as he vanished, Fontaine reappeared at 4:30 a.m. today, in exactly the same spot, the story went. When he saw the car was gone, he thought it had been stolen and rushed to the house of N'Diaye.

Seeing his friend in his pajamas, he said: "What are you doing in your pajamas? Five minutes ago you were ready to leave for Gisors."

Police checked the young man and the spot where he supposedly disappeared with a geiger counter but found no trace of radioactivity. Nor was there any trace of mud on Fontaine's clothes or shoes.

Courcous said Fontaine has not varied his story one bit and his tale conforms exactly with the testimony of his two friends. But police remain skeptical and have called in experts from the Group for the Study of Non-Identified Aerospace Phenomena, a section of the French National Space Agency.

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'ON COLLISION COURSE'

STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Nov. 15, 1979

Red Flying Objects Chased Plane: Pilot

Las Palmas, Canary Islands (UPI) — The pilot of a Spanish jetliner that made an emergency landing after being "pursued" over the Mediterranean island of Ibiza said Wednesday he was forced to dive 14,000 feet to avoid collision with unidentified flying objects.

The Spanish transport ministry opened an official investigation into the Caravelle jet's emergency landing at Valencia airport in eastern Spain.

The plane, carrying 109 passengers, mostly German and Austrian tourists,

was on a flight from Mallorca to Tenerife in the Spanish Canary Islands when bright red flying objects appeared to buzz it Sunday.

PILOT FRANCISCO Lerdo de Tejado said he asked permission to land in Valencia "because my plane was in danger of colliding with an unidentified object."

Technicians said the plane was in perfect working order.

Lerdo said he was climbing from 23,000 to 33,000 feet shortly before mid-

night Sunday when he saw "two parallel red lights so strong that they hid their ship, or whatever it was, from sight."

"They were on a collision course with us, traveling at a speed no conventional aircraft has, when they suddenly stopped very close to the Caravelle."

OTHER MEMBERS of the crew confirmed his description of the encounter.

Lerdo said the objects "played with us for some 10 minutes" as the nearest control tower reported the objects did not

show up on its radar.

When the objects appeared to start on a second collision course "much more precise than the first," Lerdo said he dove from 29,000 to 15,000 feet and radioed for permission to land at Valencia's Manises airport "because of pursuit by an unidentified plane with risk of collision."

Sources at Valencia airport said the red lights could be seen around and over the airport until several hours after the plane's landing.

INFORMATION, DATA, COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION

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