

Riedisheim, June 25, 1971

Landing in Mulhouse (Haut-Rhin)

Investigation by J.-P. Schirch

Joël Scheweitzer [erroneously called "Schweitzer"] of Mulhouse-Riedisheim and his friend (who requested anonymity) had visited a friend living in the suburbs and returned to their home around 11 p.m.

The place where they came from is located on a hill, 283 mt. high, overlooking Mulhouse. The descent is quite fast and, before reaching the railway tracks, it covers a large meadow basin surrounded by newer buildings with the exception of the East side, where fields still are extending to then forming the vast forest of the Hardt.

The night was quite dark, in the evening a storm broke out, the weather was heavy, dark clouds passing in the sky, no moon.

The two young people came down a vague path on the edge of the meadow, when they saw a distant light in the North East. It looked like a flashlight and seemed to come closer. They were very intrigued by this strange thing, and kept on observing the phenomenon.

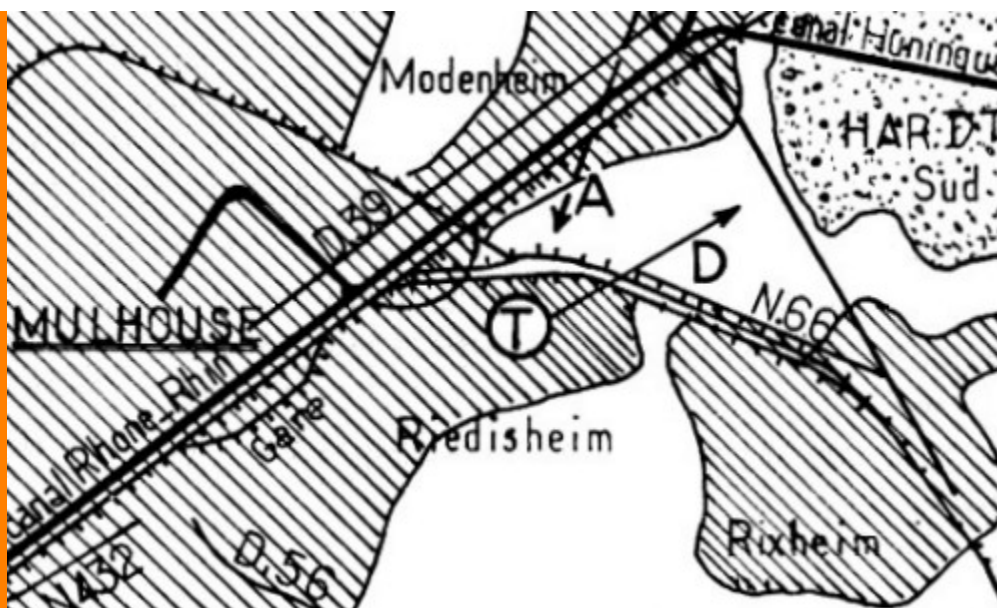
It was very clear, they said, like an electronic flash, and gave them the impression of swirling while approaching more and more. Finally, it took the shape of a disc. According to the statement collected by Mr. Schirch from the 2 witnesses, this disc had a flat section and another round section, and it moved ahead more or less perpendicularly to this flat section.

The object descended hovering at the high of about 15 mt. (in their opinion) by the two witnesses, vertical to the meadow. At that moment, it stopped its progression hovering on the spot for 2 to 3 seconds, and then appeared to loose its brightness (without otherwise disappearing during the entire period of observation). Both witnesses saw perfectly such light (described as very white) and they noticed that the ground was lit below it because they were able to distinguish the grass of the meadow.

While hovering, the object performed a turning upside down maneuver: the flat section tilted towards the ground, and the disc definitively changed its shape from round to spherical, giving the impression of turning on itself very quickly, like a top. One of the witnesses saw the light located above the machine, realizing that it was that light giving the object that type of flickering appearance. The witnesses could not explain the cause of the flash.

After few seconds, the object began to descend to the ground. The maneuver was effected very slowly and the descent was vertical. The ground was now well lit up and the object took 3 or 4 seconds before reaching the ground: no particular movement was observed during the descent. The boys told that no sound or noise came out of the craft, and they heard no barking dogs in the area.

The two friends who sat down during their observation were a little frightened, close to flee when they saw the object stopped in its descent and remain stationary at 25 meters from them. The brightness was



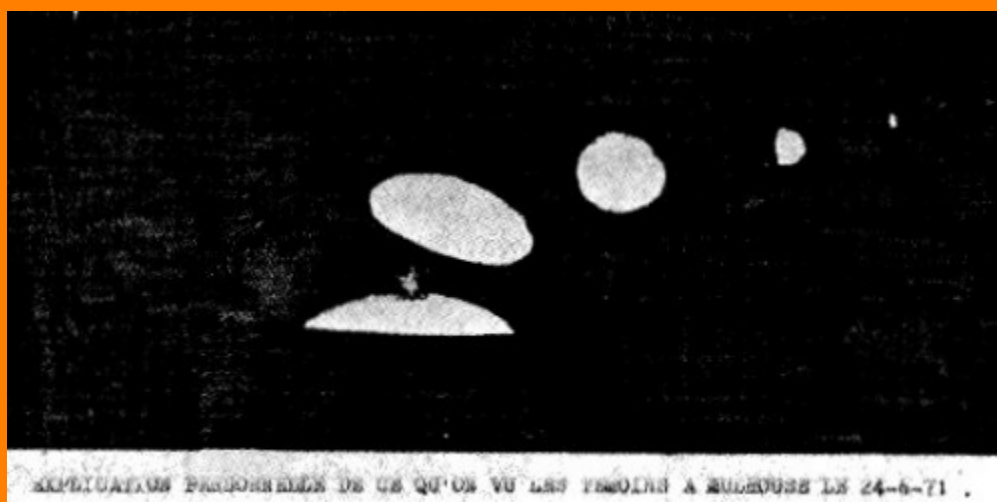
LOCATION MAP (F. Lagarde)

T Place of the landing

A Direction the object came from

D Direction the object departed to Mulhouse: 47° 45' N - 7° 20' E

Riedisheim: 47° 45' N - 7° 22' E



increased during the descent, and then it faded, always blinking some.

The object appeared to have landed; anyway, it stood close to the ground. It was not moving at all, and the light illuminated the grass. One saw a gray area under the object where it was impossible to distinguish anything. The area around was highly illuminated.

It was impossible to see whether the object was on a landing gear or on the ground, and if it had legs, since the contrast between the gray area and the illuminated outer part was too strong.

The object remained in that position for about a minute and a half. Then it rose vertically, always very slowly, and resumed for a moment its position before the descent to 15 mt. above the ground, the flat section facing the ground. It then began to swirl and went away slowly. The light illuminated the

ground just like when it came, to then become very weakly for slowly disappearing as its distance increased; meanwhile the ground was darkening progressively.

One last motion and then it went away at very high speed, almost horizontally, and vanished in the night.

THE OBJECT

We don't know much about the object except what reported. It looked like a spherical cap, but shaped like a disc with a segment. No appendage was noticed, even if the craft showed a sort of beacon at the top, which seemed to be self-directing or at least to tilt.

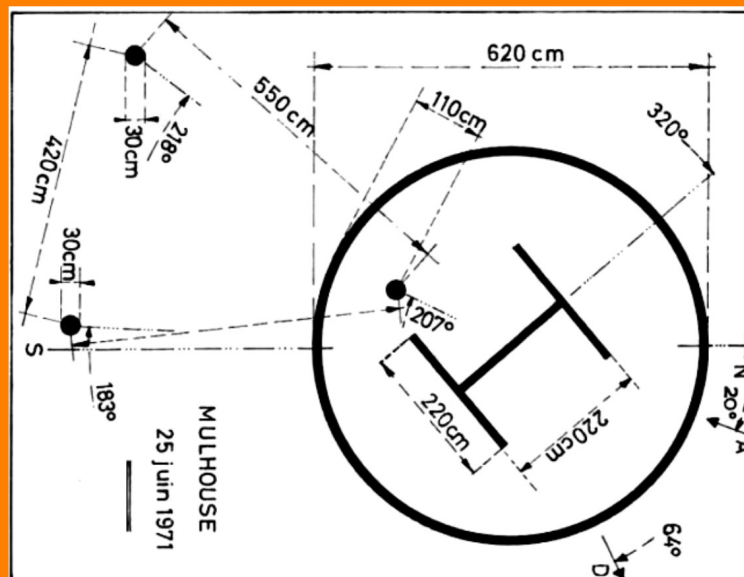
The dimensions may have been 8 meters in diameter and 2 meters high. It is difficult to define its color;; some parts were shining as made of metal, its edges in patycular.

THE TRACES ON THE GROUND

The object left traces that were very visible, observed the next day when the two friends returned to the site. The meadow was mowed several days before the incident so the grass was 5 to 10 cm height. I noticed it was mostly alfalfa mixed with grass and growth had not resumed since the last cut; the ground was very dry. On the traces this grass had a curious appearance, like blackened without having been burned by a heat source, ie without being consumed, maintaining its grass appearance.

There was a circle of 6.20 meters in diameter, three circular marks of 30 cm in diameter, triangle shaped, and finally a small square hole in the ground.

In the central part of the circle was visible (very well designed) a sort of capital H: the height of the branches of the H is 2.20 m. See the drawing below for more details.



(sketch by F. Lagarde)

THE TRACES IN MULHOUSE

North South direction: the direction of the traces was spotted relative to the north in the direct sense, A: arrival - D: departure.

The traces of 30 cm, like the letter H, were formed by crushed grass, flattened and lying almost at ground level. They still appeared quite visible in September and the letter H was well evidenced in photos. The three circles were spread apart 5.1 4.2 and 5.5 meters.

A POSTERIOR NOTE

The two boys did not notice anything in particular other than this machine. One may wonder why, in a populous place surrounded by many houses located almost in the city. No other witness came forward. This is a frequent note in these incidents. It is possible that circumstances did not lend to a particular alarm. The craft made no sound, it came rather late: about 9:30 p.m., after a storm, few people actually had their eyes turned outwards during the short sequence of time when the craft appeared.

The observation conditions of inquiry were not the same of the day of the incident, and we must consider that it is hard for other probable witnesses to make their observation public?

Investigators did not explain the exact cause of the noted traces. The center trace brings reminiscent of those of San Jose de Valderas in 1967 (Spain) and the H was like the one found in Aluche (Spain), on February 1966. These observations confirm each other in some way, but the mystery remains unsolved.

Editors Note. - Mulhouse is located on a geological fault. BAVIC is at 10 km in the North West. Mulhouse is moreover on the geodesic line of 1100 km of observations across borders of five countries cited by A. Michel (Southend to Po di Gnocco) in his book "About the Flying Saucers". It is in Kembs-Niffer that an observation was made on October 15, 1954 (8 km). On 07/23/68 it was a Mr. Bouaziz who watched a huge luminous pale orange colored disc (Contact 96 bis for November 68). On May 26, 1970, it was Miss Chantal Denis who observed from the park of the University City, at 11:45 p.m., an object coming down and going back up three times, following the 8 of a roller-coaster in the sky (Contact No. 4, November 70).

If we go back in history, in Ruelisheim (6 km North), according to the legend, young people lost in the forest would have seen a venerable oak suddenly darkened, and from the charred trunk a statue of the Virgin reportedly rose up, intact resplendent: a chapel was built in 1704 by subscription.

For the record: on the walls of the town hall in Mulhouse is suspended the "stone talkative." A chain is riveted in the earlobes like a pendant. It was an instrument of torture: the "Klapperstein". The good burghers of the city always managed in case of crime for the guilty one to go get hanged elsewhere, no fault was found to be more serious than slander. Whoever was convinced saw himself condemned to wear the stone to his neck through the streets of the city while riding a donkey backwards.

A little more to the North, in Ensisheim (on BAVIC) the parish church owned a 140 kg meteorite that fell nearby on November 7, 1492.



From the magazine

Science Et Avenir



Photographs of the alleged UFO landing area, near Mulhouse.

Date: June 25, 1971. Time: 11 p.m.

Two witnesses, who were returning to Mulhouse by a path that descends from a hill overlooking the city, saw a "light" in the sky, which approaching them, soon appearing to them as a disc.

It stabilized at a height of fifteen meters above a meadow located 25 m only from the witnesses, who evaluated the diameter of the object to a little less than 10 meters.

Then the disc, which seemed to turn on itself, slowly descended to the ground, increasing its brightness.

A minute and a half later, it rose and then went horizontally very quickly.

This type of testimony, considered in isolation, would be in no way conclusive of the UFO's reality, if it did not include ground marks discovered the next day, at the location of the alleged landing, by the alerted investigators.

These marks may not have been made by any known craft and any possibility of fraudulent manufacture by witnesses is also excluded.

The grass (mainly alfalfa) is scorched (but not burned) on a circumference of 6.20 m in diameter, inside which there is a kind of capital H of 2.20 m on one side.

Other smaller traces, 30 cm in diameter, form an eccentric isosceles triangle.

The grass is flattened at the place of all these marks.

(courtesy of L.D.L.N. magazine)

Comments

by Henry Durrant

These traces, recorded and photographed, are well connected to a UFO sighting by the testimony of two young people who are obviously not the authors of those. The index of strangeness of their testimony, separate but concurring, is extremely high and perfectly supports the sincerity of their statements.

- The circular traces, 30 cm in diameter, arranged in a triangle, are making one think of a contact to the ground by a tripod landing gear system; but in this case the circular trace of 6.20 m in diameter would be redundant. Perhaps there was an approach maneuver with palps and an actual landing. Anyway, how could these traces be explained other than through the intervention of a UFO.

- F. Lagarde noted that Mulhouse is located on a geological fault. The activity of this UFO therefore would attach to the theory of this researcher, the study of the seismic activity of the earth by UFOs. The Incident is also on the line Southend (England) to Po di Gnocca (Italy) of 1100 km indicated by Aimé Michel; the observation could therefore be inserted, possibly in Michel's orthoteny, certainly in the Dohmen theory of the UFO traffic lanes. You may find about these theories in the File IX, "Coincidences".

- Finally, the "H" trace left in the center of the circle vaguely recall the sign that the UFOs observed in Spain on 6 February 1966 in Aluche were showing, on June 1, 1967 in San Jose de Valderas, although this sign looks more like the capital letter of the Cyrillic alphabet corresponding to the "J" in the Latin alphabet (LDLN Document).

We wish to thank most sincerely the direction of the Lumières Dans La Nuit for their fraternal cooperation so amiable and efficient.

Report written by

Michel Figuet & Jean-Louis Ruchon

T 25061971 1 p.m. Mulhouse Riedisheim 68400 C5.

WITNESSES. Joël Schewitzer [sic, "Schweitzer"] and his friend Mr. (XX).

OBSERVATION. A disc, like a a spherical cap 8 m in diameter and 2 cm high. It has a white light at its top.

EVENTS. The night is quite dark. Joel Schweitzer [sic] and his fellow come back down from a hill peaking at 283 meters, from where one oversees Mulhouse. The descent is quite steep toward the railroad tracks, the two young people borrow a path beside a meadow basin surrounded by newer dominant homes except on the east side where fields extend to the vast forest of the Hardt. Suddenly, they see far to the NE a light comparable to that produced by a flashlight. It is very bright and approaches giving the impression of swirling. They compare it to an electronic flashlight.

It then takes the form of a disc having a planar face and the other convex. It moves perpendicular to its base in the direction of its path. It is at the vertical of the meadow, and at an altitude of about 15 m. At this point, it stops its advance and stays put for 2 to 3 seconds, its brightness seems to dim. The meadow is lit under the machine and witnesses fail to distinguish the grass of the meadow.

During this hovering, it performs a reversal: the flat face is inclined to turn to the ground. It is then in the form of a spherical segment and gives the impression of turning on itself very quickly, like a top. The white light that overcomes it gives a flashing appearance. After a few seconds of stop the object slowly descends vertically to the ground, without noise.

The two friends sit during their observation and distinguish no particular movement during the descent. At no time do they hear barking of neighborhood dogs. The object appears to have landed, or stands close to the ground.

It does not move at all and witnesses perceive a gray area below where it is impossible to distinguish anything. The surroundings are illuminated. After having been parked for a minute, the craft rises again upright slowly, resumes for a moment the position it had before the descent, 15 m above the ground, the plane face facing the ground. It starts to swirl and slowly goes away. Finally a last movement, it goes away at a very high speed, almost horizontal, and vanishes into the night.

The next day, the two witnesses discovered traces on the grass mown several days ago. On the traces, the grass had a curious appearance, like blackened without being burned by a heat source, ie without being consumed, maintaining its grass appearance. First of all, one sees a circle of 6.20 meters in diameter, three circular traces of 30 cm diameter (one in the circle and the other two at 5.50 m apart) arranged in a triangle, and finally a small hole square in the earth. In the central part of the circle, one can see very well drawn, like a kind of capital H letter: the height of the branches of the H is 2.20 m and the spacing of the same size. The 30 cm traces, like the H, are formed by the crushed grass, flattened and lying almost at ground level. The three rounds are separated by 4.2 and 5.5 meters. The traces still appear significantly in September 1971. The H is sharp in the photos.

(Courtesy of L.D.L.N., No. 117, p. 10-11, Mr J.-P. Schirsch investigation)

Observation

by Luc Chastan of BASE OVNI FRANCE

Two witnesses, by a rather dark night, very cloudy after storm saw at a meadow beside a path down a hill (283 m) overlooking Mulhouse. [sic] A spherical cap object, bright like polished metal, equipped

with a kind of powerful beacon, white, tilted at the top. Diameter estimated at about 8 m, height 2 m. Here is the testimony: Both witnesses saw in the NE, a very white light, flashlight type, coming toward them. By approaching it took the form of a disk rapidly rotating on itself. One side was flat, and vertical to the direction of movement, the other convex. The object stopped above the meadow, 15 meters, for two to three seconds. Its brightness then weakened but still allowed to see the grass. Its flat face bent parallel to the ground and above the flashing headlight. Stopping rotating, then the object went down to the ground, very slowly, always silently for three to four seconds, it was 25 m from the witnesses. It seemed set on the ground and stayed there for a minute and a half. Then it rose vertically, slowly, up to 15 m above the ground, began to turn on itself and slowly went away; Finally, suddenly, it went away at great speed, without gradual acceleration. The witnesses came back the next day and found very visible traces. Alfalfa and grass, mowed several days ago, having only 5 to 10 cm in height, the ground being dry. One noted a large circle of 6.20 m diameter; in its center a capital "H" with branches of 2.20 m long spaced by 2.20m; three circular indentations 30 cm in diameter set in eccentric isosceles triangle; a small square hole. Inside the large circle, the grass was blackened but not burned. On the large circle, the capital "H", the three circular marks, the grass lay flattened, crushed.

*(Source: Le dossier des OVNI by Durrand [sic, "Durrant"] Henry ** Laffont 1973)*

Quoting

Christian Valentin

Former journalist Christian Valentin published in 2012 a very interesting book tracing the history of sightings of UFOs and other flying saucers in Alsace, from the origins until 1980.

In this book, he tells that on June 25, 1971, in Riedisheim, there was a landing that received wide media coverage, more important at the national level than the local level. The case has been cited in several ufology books such as Figuet and Ruchon [fr1].

Christian Valentin remembers having personally learned of the observation at the time thanks to the photo of the landing traces published in the magazine "Science et Avenir" in September 1972. He notes, however, that all these sources were based on the investigation report by Jean-Pierre Schirch published in "Lumières Dans La Nuit" [ld1] No. 117 in April 1972 [ld1], which he reproduces in his book.

Christian Valentin then gives the content of his interview of Wednesday, November 19, 2008 with "J.-S.":

The latter indicates that the exercise of memory is perilous 37 years after the events, which were extraordinary to say the least. He was then 18 years old and remembers what was a fascinating experience.

He indicates that the object came from the direction of the PSA ["Peugeot"] factory in the north-east, and that it first went down to the building of the Sainte-Ursule girls' school before approaching their location, while continuing its descent to the ground. He and his comrade were about thirty meters from where the craft seemed to have landed.

He remembers the intermittent presence of a blinding light that was like a kind of beacon. Then the craft rose vertically, then spun like an arrow to the northwest. J.-S. is formal: it went to the southwest when it departed. The landing was about 200 meters from St. Ursule and about 200 meters south of the railway.

The next day, he went back to the scene place and then saw the ground traces at the observation site. He remembers the circle and the recesses that were about the size of a large plate, but not the H-shaped trace. He indicates that the pictures of the place were taken later, at the beginning of the school year.

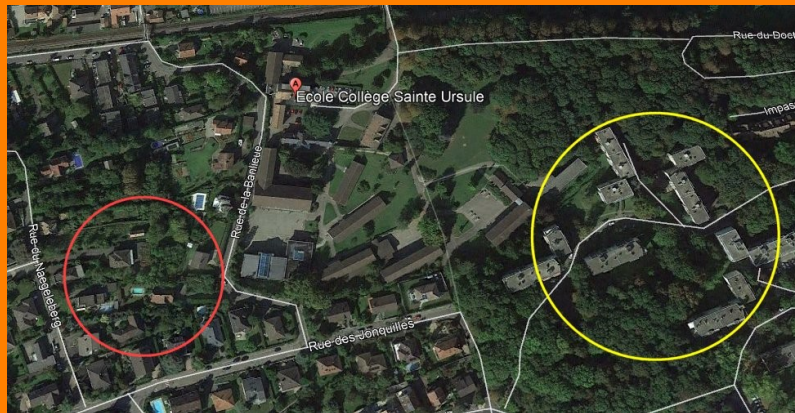
He does not remember how the sighting became known to the magazine ["Lumières Dans La Nuit" [Id1]], he remembers that the sighting was published in a book at the time, but he had not talked much about it "because of people's reaction."



It turns out that I spent my childhood and youth in Riedisheim, about 2 km from the place of the alleged landing, that I knew this place throughout these years. The place has never been a heliport as such. There is no hospital or military ground there. This obviously does not exclude that this had been the case provisionally. If one wants to argue that the case was a hoax, one could imagine that the witnesses found a helicopter landing area marking there, did not know what it was, and then invented a story of a saucer. It's not impossible, but nothing proves it is so, so far.

More strangely, there is this information by Christian Valentin that the main witness did not remember in 2008 the presence of the "H". It is however very visible on the photos. Bad witness memory? Or an addition of the "H" by jokers between the moment of the discovery of the trace and that of the taking of the photographs?

In my summary, I mentioned the problem of the light color of the trace that should have been dark colored. If one believes Barthel and Brucker who, without them telling us where this came from - its very usual to them to do so - they ensure that the trace was "soot" - so dark, or black. It thus seems that the trace has been altered. I believe that it was not impossible that the investigators made the trace more visible, in order to mark the contours on their photos, by using plaster or any other white powder. But that remains a pure conjecture.



It is obviously not "Mulhouse", but Riedisheim, next to Mulhouse.

The locals, like me, know that the hill (yellow circle) is called "Entremont" since at least the mid 70's. There are several residences there. I know where the famous meadow is, but I must say that it is no longer a meadow, houses have been built there since, in addition to the "recent houses" evoked by Mr. Schirch. The place is between the current Naegelberg Street and Jonquilles Street (red circle).

VALUATION: LOW

Too many doubts; maybe a hoax; Aluche (Spain) landing of a craft was a verified prank