**UFO investigator**

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| This transcript will help you to understand the podcast. Many of the “ums” and “ers” have been removed to make for easier reading. |

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| Alain is French and you will notice that he made a few mistakes which are highlighted in red. Can you correct them? You will find the answers at the end of the transcript. |

Sue: Hello Alain.

**Alain: Hello, good morning.**

Sue: Good morning to you. So I’d like to ask you a little bit about your, is it a hobby or a job that you have?

**Alain. Both. Because it’s a hobby, because when I was a child I was very interested by the(1) phenomenon.**

Sue : Oh right, just to say, that your hobby is, you chase UFOs.

**Alain: Yes, ok. Yes, but it was a hobby only, I read a lot of books about the phenomenon and now it’s a job. I’m retired now, but it’s a job. I am a volunteer to lead investigations about UFOs.**

Sue: Investigations into the UFOs, oh my goodness me. So, how often do you do this? Is it like a full time occupation you have or just part-time?

**Alain: No, it’s not a full-time occupation. Because in France, we are(2) 18 members, free members and I wrote about 3 or 4 reports in the(3) last year.**

Sue: Ok so when, I imagine that people have sightings about like phenomena and then they contact, I don’t know….the government about this?

**Alain: So, the first thing they have to do is to contact the French Gendarmerie. The French Gendarmerie send a report to GEIPAN.**

Sue: Ok, sorry, what is that? GEIPAN, in English?

**Alain: A study group, and information about aerospace and phenomena.**

Sue: Ok, so, these are the kind of secret guys that try to investigate strange things?

**Alain: No, it’s completely public.**

Sue: Oh yeah, it’s not secret, no?

**Alain: It’s published on a website.**

Sue: Ok.

**Alain: In 1977 the French government asked a panel of scientists to study and make their findings to the public. So, and it’s not secret at all.**

Sue: Ok, so let’s imagine, I’ve seen something in the sky, I go to my local police station and then they send a report to these scientists and then they contact you?

**Alain: Yes.**

Sue: Right, ok.

**Alain: Yes, me or another person.**

Sue: And then, what do you do?

**Alain: So I contact the eye witness,**

Sue: The witness, the eye witness,

**Alain: The eye witness,**

Sue: That’s if he hasn’t been abducted by aliens in the meantime.

**Alain: I interview the eye witness and after that I have to write a report and I send my report to the GEIPAN department. If it’s ok, the report is published on their website.**

Sue: Ok, ok, and so, do you come across people who are just plain crazy or do you come across people who are really quite scared, or they think they’ve seen something. Yeah?

**Alain: A lot of people are very scared by what they have seen. But the aim is to understand what they have seen, because they have no knowledge about the sky, and phenomena in the sky, meteors, satellites, remains of satellites, something like that. We have to explain writing a report**.

Sue: Yes, so if they see a flashing light, it’s not an alien spaceship. It could be anything.

**Alain: No, not at all. There are a lot of confusions, for instance Chinese lanterns,**

Sue: Oh really.

**Alain: You know, when you have a wedding or a feast, you have a Chinese lantern, it’s a kind of globe, with a candle inside, so the air is warmed and the balloon goes up.**

Sue: Yes, it floats up into the sky.

**Alain: The colour is red, so there is a confusion.**

Sue: Then it’s the hotline to the Space agency!

**Alain: Sometimes there are 3, 4, 5 balloons. So people are very surprised.**

Sue: Are very worried. So in your experience what is the percentage of things that can be explained and things that cannot be.

**Alain: Cannot be explained, 22%,**

Sue: So 22%,you haven’t got a clue. You don’t know what it is.

**Alain: We don’t know what it is.**

Sue: 22% that’s a lot.

**Alain: Maybe in the future we will be able to understand what happened.** **There are, I explain, there are 4 categories, yes, A, B, C, D. Category A is surely identified, sure, B there is a light doubt,**

Sue: A light doubt,

**Alain: A light doubt it’s identified, C 41% we don’t know what happened because we lack of(4) information,**

Sue: You lack information, you haven’t got any information at the moment.

**Alain: The witness is alone.**

Sue: 41% where the doubt is quite high I suppose, and then 22%.

**Alain: We can’t answer at all. The D category is 22%. We don’t know what it is.**

Sue: Well, how very, very interesting. Well, the next time I see a light shining in the sky, first of all I’ll check, is it a Chinese lantern, is it a plane, is it a meteor? If not, I’ll contact you.

**Alain: On the GEIPAN on website there are explanations about what you have seen.** **It’s to earn(5) time.**

Sue: To save time. Well, I hope that I will see you again, and you won’t be abducted by aliens. Ok Alain, thank you very much for your time.

**Alain: Thank you very much, bye bye**.

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Answers

(1) Interested in phenomenon

(2) There are 18 members

(3) Last year I wrote

(4) We lack information, we don’t have enough information

(5) To save time