

#43186 seems to be a stolen car of Michel Dovaz #43158

In August we had on his birthday in August a small talk with Michel Dovaz. Michel told us, that there has been an article in *Rétroviseur* 258 of summer 2010 about his T43. Michel told us, that there were mistakes in the story. For example the chassis number wasn't right. We didn't pay much attention to the story at that time and just advised Mr. Dovaz to contact the magazine for a rectification.

Than just a week ago Kees Jansen asked us about the same Dovaz car, the #43158. He wanted to know if this car was the only T43 that Michel owned. We answered, that this car was indeed the only T43, that was stolen on the 17th of February 1975 from a garage in Paris. Than Kees mailed us the article of *Rétroviseur*. We were shocked. A bigger part of the article was right, but there were – just as Michel Dovaz told us a few months ago – some remarkable mistakes. In the article was clearly stated, that the #43186 was a former Dovaz car. Dovaz never had a car with that chassisnumber.

We decided to ask Michel Dovaz. Here some remarkable mistakes in the article:

- In the article it says, that the chassisnumber of the car was #43186. That is not correct. Michel just owned one T43. #43158.
- In the article it says, that the car was in bad shape. This is not correct. The car was in good shape at the garage where it was stolen. It was there for some minor repairs.

On the 15th March 1999 David Sewell had inspected the "43186". In this report the following facts are written:

- The chassis is a authentic example of a T43 chassis.
- "The frame number inside the rear cross-member is made up of three digits, the first two both being deeply stamped '8's whilst the third is a '6' presuming that, as usual, the number is stamped upside down. It is not clear on this evidence alone whether the true number is '88' and the '6' has for some reason been added later or some attempt has been made in the past to confuse the identity of the true number"(Sewel, 1999)
- The number '86' has found in no less than five other locations on the car.

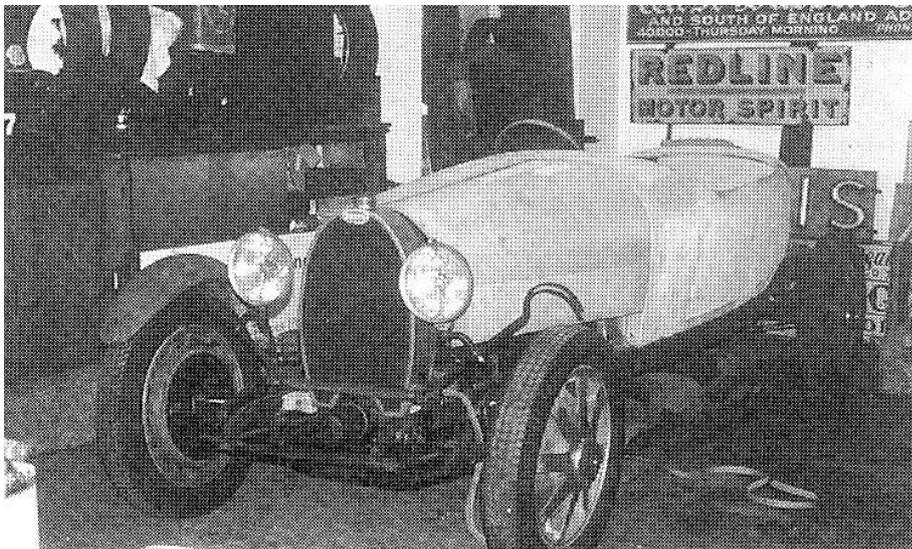
According to David Sewell this is not the Bugatti T43 with chassis number #43186, but a T43 with a different number.

The following picture is taken in the garden of Robert Cornière after the theft in 1975.



It is confirmed by Michel Dovaz himself that this picture is taken after the theft. The picture is taken in the garden of Robert Corniere. Michel Dovaz is never been in this garden with his Bugatti T43

In 1999 with the current owner:



In 2010:



Now it seems that the original chassis from the T43 #43158 is somewhere in the south of France. We know the place as many other Bugattists do. This is confirmed by a reliable Bugattist. On this chassis there is stamped also another chassis number. Dovaz has still his "carte gris" thus in fact the original chassis is still his ownership. And he still has the report of the police of 1975.

It is also confirmed that the Bugatti T43 consist from a couple of parts from the Bugatti from Michel Dovaz.

In the 70's Dovaz already tried to get parts back from his dismantled car. But it didn't succeed. It is a shame that this wonderful car is stolen and broken up in pieces.

Thanks to a wonderful meeting by mail this weekend with the following participants:

Jaap Braam Ruben (Fine Automobiles). He gave many advises how to proceed.

Kees Jansen (Bugatti Club Netherlands). He did a great job finding out the history of the car.

Kees Ploeg

Benny Graf

Jaap Horst

Herman Brouwer

Kay Hottendorff

Arnoud op de Weegh

Ard op de Weegh

The so called #43186 is to be auctioned in Switzerland this weekend. A few days ago it was known as a replica. Now we know that – although mixed of several car – the car is not a replica but an original Molsheim car.

Only justice has to be done to Michel Dovaz. We will keep you informed

Our book “the fate of the sleeping beauties” is starting Friday 26 November available at our publisher Veloce. info@veloce.co.uk

Arnoud and Ard op de Weegh

