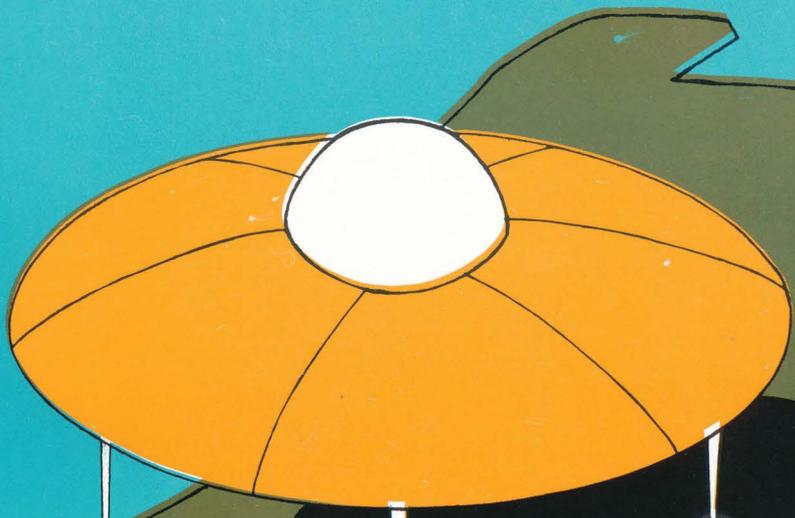


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NORDIC
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NEWS LETTER

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UFO GROUPS

NORDIC UFO NEWSLETTER

No. 2 1982

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Nordic UFO Newsletter is published by Nordic UFO Groups, consisting of UFO-Norge, Norway, Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige, Sweden and Suomen Ufotutkijat r.y. - The UFO Research of Finland (which has recently joined the other two organisations). The newsletter is a biyearly periodical and available on an exchange basis.

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A new organisation joins Nordic UFO Groups

Nordic UFO Groups have expanded, while in this last issue The UFO Research of Finland has contributed with material from the UFO-scene in Finland. This connection is to be permanent and in future issues of the newsletter we will bring more information from this country.

A short representation of the organisation is necessary: It was founded in 1973 as an cooperational institution serving Finnish UFO research. Today it consists of 40 research-members, who represent several UFO associations and clubs throughout Finland. In addition, there are about 30 subsidiary members.

To be a research-member, some basic knowledge of ufology is required, especially of phenomena that are usually mistaken for being real UFOs. Their main task is to collect data about and report UFO

observations; and also to read and collect newsclippings about UFOs and related phenomena, for example balls of lightning, astronomical events/anomalies etc.

A concluding report containing these informations are published 4 times a year (The Quarterly Report from The UFO Research of Finland) and is distributed to members, mass-media, foreign UFO organisations and so on.

Every year a direction is selected, whose main responsibility is to administrate the organisation and also to investigate each report thoroughly trying to judge what kind of phenomenon which could have initiated it. A final classification relates the reports to 3 types: 1)UFO, 2)inconclusive (insufficient information), 3)IFO. Subsequently, the report is filed, easily accessible for eventual later reference.

Additionally, this direction also approves new members (who have to apply for their membership); they take care of the contact with local and national authorities, mass-media and other UFO organisations.

Once a year, in the summer, a more informal meeting is held where other UFO related topics are discussed; among other things: Recent foreign research, new working methods, interesting UFO-cases and so on.

Although being different in organisational structure and having different working routines, the main aim of UFO-Norge, Riksorganisasjonen UFO-Sverige and The UFO Research of Finland is: To build up a scientific and effective research activity, mainly to study reported sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige is publishing two tidings: UFO-Sverige Aktuellt (4 times a year) and the internal periodical Internt UFO-Sverige. "UFO" is UFON's sole publication.

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FINLAND

THE WONDERS OF IIJOKI

From Ultra Magazine no. 7-8/1980

Date: 19 March 1979

Time: From midnight to 5.45 am

Place: Pahkakoski power-station

Witness: Teuvo Kovalainen (among others)
 Nature of sighting: Many luminous objects

During the past few years relatively little has been written and talked about UFOs in Finland. However, the material has steadily increased, including some remarkable cases.

The sequence of events that took place at Pahkakoski power-station on 19 March 1979, might possibly be the greatest UFO phenomenon in Finland, when one considers the length of observation, the number of objects and their brightness.

Teuvo Kovalainen, 50, an excavator driver from the village Pahkala in Yli-Ii, was the main witness of this event. He is very familiar with the Pahkakoski power-station and its surroundings, but he doesn't - nor does anyone else - know of any other similar event around the power-station. Teuvo Kovalainen's revised account is as follows:

"I was in the night shift on 19 March 1979. The shift began at 10 pm and ended at six in the morning. We were working on pumping away ground water in a well, where I took measurements at intervals of about an hour. My place of work was situated near the Pahkakoski power-station, about 300 or 400 metres south west of it. The weather was very clear, there was no fog or mist.

Around midnight I went for a cup of coffee in a hut which was on the northern side of the river. When I was crossing the dam bridge, I noticed a reddish light (larger than the moon) in the eastern sky, which was landing behind a wood. I thought the Russians were landing one of their spacecrafts. I had my cup and went back to my place of work.

We had a hut in the wood and there was a heater to keep the instruments free from ice, the temperature being 30 degrees C below zero. I set out to measure the height of the water level in the marsh, 50 to 100 metres away. I was returning from the farthest point, crossing a wood ditch, which flows almost at a straight angle to the river Ii, when I saw a bright reddish light advancing at a brisk walking pace to the west. I wondered about the light, but couldn't find any explanation. The time was about 1.35 am. The light was some 400 metres away.

Then I went for a lunch break and had just reached the end of the bridge, when I noticed a bright reddish light below the power-station, about 400 metres away. The time was around 1.45 am. At this point I shouted to the engineer on duty that there were strange lights here. He joined me.

This light was close to the ground at a height of less than 10 metres. The ship itself was not seen at that time, but the light made its form clear. There was a reddish light on one side and a bluish one on the other. The ship was spinning slowly for half its axis and then back again. At the same time it was advancing towards west. Sometimes the reddish light faced us, and the bluish one disappeared.

The very special thing about the light, was the lack of coneshape and that it glowed for two or three metres. We had been watching for about half an hour, when we noticed that there were similar lights higher up, though they were much dimmer.

Then we went to Kierikki power-station, six kilometres away, but they hadn't observed anything. When we returned to Pahkakoski dam bridge (the time being 2.55), we saw two ships above the wood, some 600 metres to the south west of us.

After that, judging by the lights my companion noticed many other ships out on the marsh; situated a bit to the left of the two ini-

tial ones. We tried to count them, but they kept moving very close to the ground so it was difficult. However, we reached a figure of 14-15 in all.

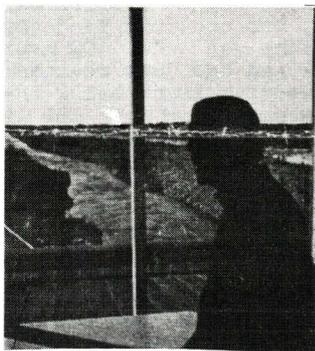
We went by car from the bridge down to the power-station, where my companion had to stay and watch the gauges, while being on duty. I returned to the bridge and watched the two objects that were closest. I could also see the rest of them, but they were further away.

The two nearest ships had lights, one towards the illuminated bridge, the other one towards Oulu. They seemed to be quite stationary. When I had watched them for a while, the one with lights towards the bridge moved about 200-300 metres to the left. It took about a second, and it remained in the shelter provided by the wood.

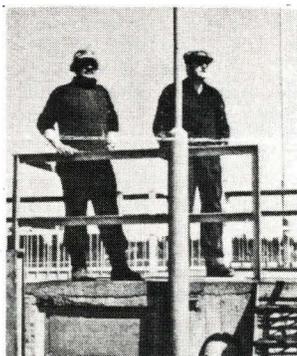
The one with lights towards Oulu landed close to the snow, causing the whole ship to become visible, its lights being reflected from the snow-covered trees next to it. The diameter was about 30 metres and it had a discus-shape. The upper deck had two illuminated openings, whose diameters were two to three metres and mounted almost opposite to each other. The bottom of the lower deck was smooth for an area of 10 metres.

I watched the ship for about half an hour while it rose and descended with heavy wobbles. A bright coneshaped light was directed to the ground from the lower deck. Gradually, all the ships moved westwards. No gas, fumes or noise were emitted.

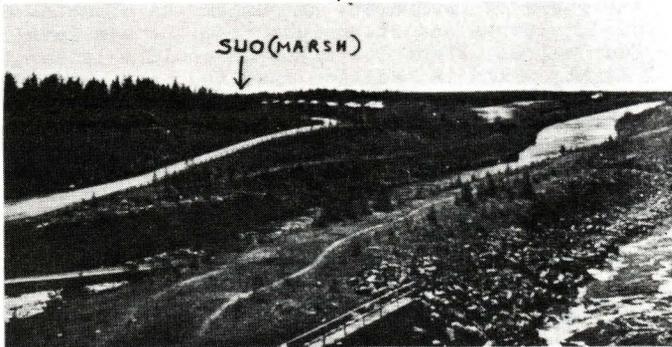
The light on the marsh was tremendous and we didn't dare to go any closer. I watched the objects until dawn. One of them was still visible at 5.45 am, in broad daylight. It had advanced quite far, and it was big as a house".



This is where Teuvo Kovalainen watched a UFO for a long period of time. It advanced very slowly away above the left bank of the river.



Both witnesses watched more than 10 UFOs from the dam bridge, moving slowly away from the power-station.



This picture presents the view from the bridge, where UFOs were seen for more than four hours.

A UFO OFF VAASA

Date: A Sunday in September 1980

Time: 9 pm

Place: The sea off VÅsterhankmo in Mustasaari

Witnesses: Åke Hurin, Kurt Bergfors

Nature of sighting: Saucer shaped glowing ball at sea

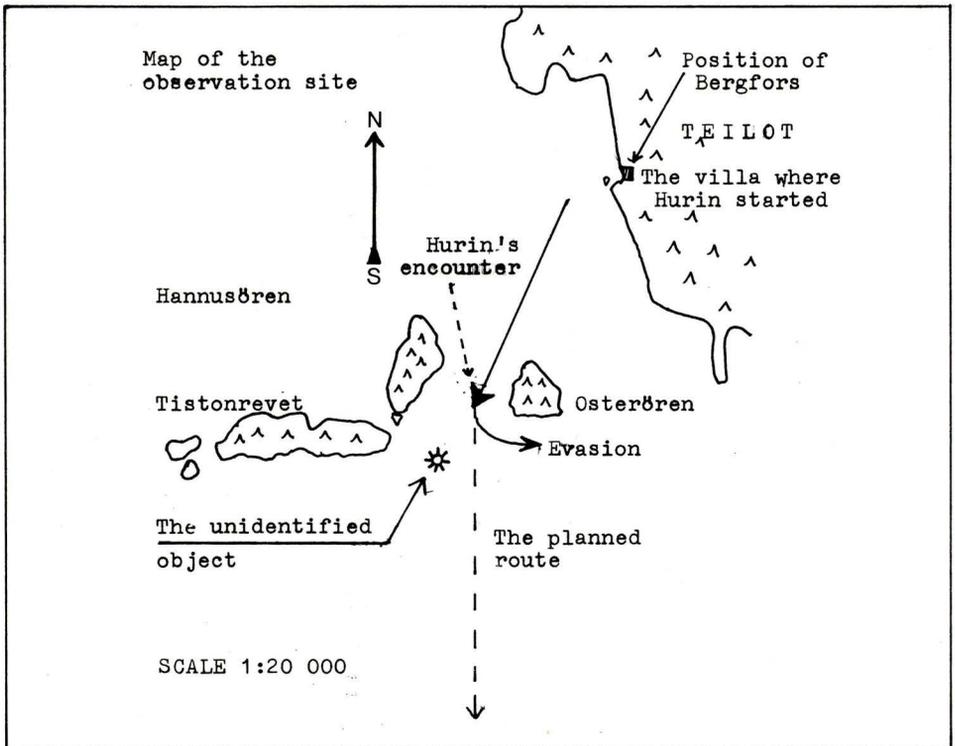
This incident took place on a Sunday evening in September 1980, but so far the exact date is unknown. There were two witnesses, one close to the object, and the other one about a kilometer away. The time was a few minutes past 9 pm, the evening was dark with a clear and calm weather and with a temperature of +10 degrees C. The site was the sea off VÅsterhankmo in Mustasaari.

Åke Hurin, a car mechanic, had been on a Sunday evening fishing trip with a friend, Kurt Bergfors. After they had finished fishing they went for a cup of coffee in Bergfors' villa. At about 9 pm Hurin decided to head for home in his boat, and Bergfors watched his journey from the shore. As it was dark, Hurin switched on the two strong headlights he had in his boat. After driving a kilometer or so, while passing the Osterören point he noticed a bright light closing in from the right. He thought it was a tug, a big boat or the like with a headlight on top. He slowed down to about three knots in order to give the boat right of way. He went on in this manner for three or four minutes, but the light was still coming straight towards him, although he was unable to see the usual sidelights of the "boat". Now he began to be afraid of a collision and turned off his lights, stopped his engine and at the same time turned the boat heavily to the right.

The object (or light) was at that time so close that he bent his body away, as he thought "it was coming straight at him". He felt heat radiation, but there was no audible sound in the glowing object. Though he had turned his lights off, the object was shining so brightly that he could see the gallon paraffin canister in the bow of his boat

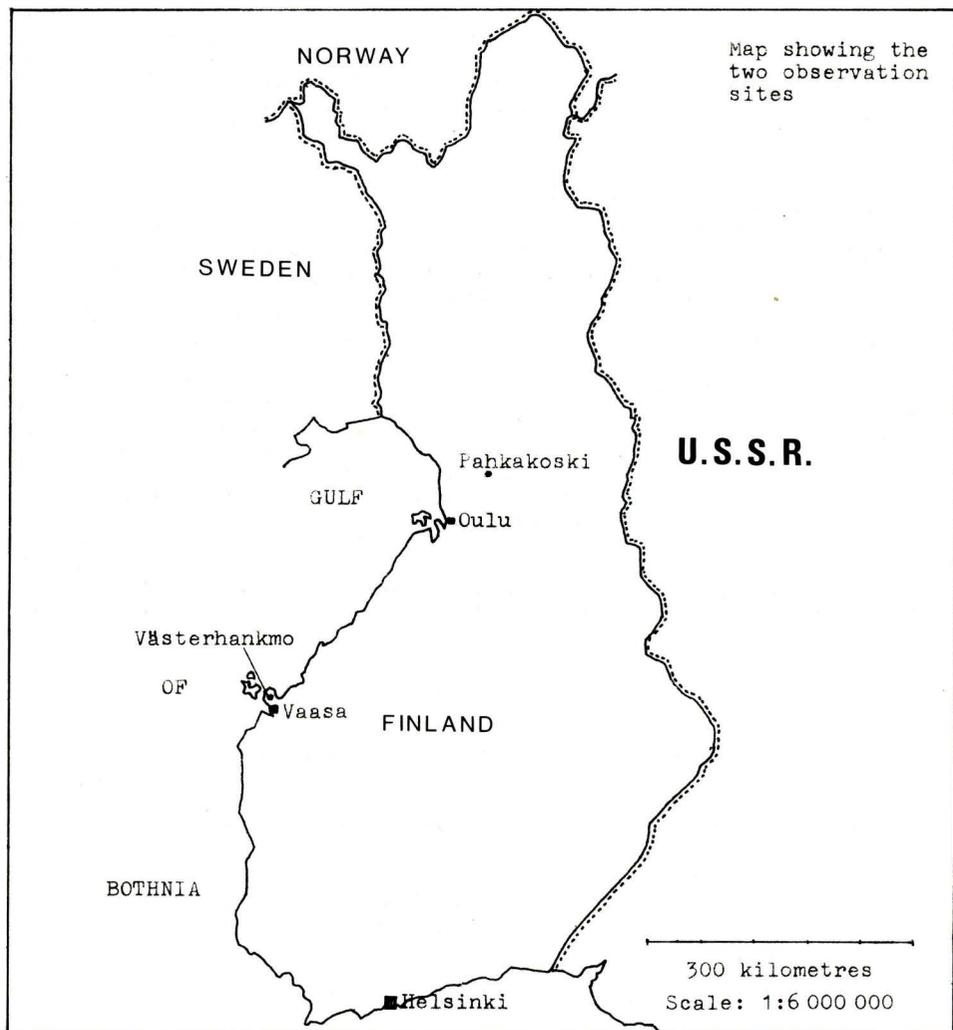
and also the piers of Osterören. He judged the diameter of the object to be about 1.5 metres and its height from the sea level to about three or four metres. About its shape he could only say that it was a circle of light, which in addition radiated heat, and sort of vibrated. It had an orange colour. The object was never directly above, but at an angle of maximum 70 degrees.

Thereafter the object disappeared, but Hurin cannot tell in any specific detail how this came about. It just disappeared. After it had left, he tried, after some time had passed (how long, he could not say), to start the engine, but he had difficulties with this. When it finally did start, he went on his journey, but he seemed to have been in a state of mild shock, as he believed he was far away from his real position and wandered about for a long time until he knew where he was. Normally he should have been at home at about 9.30 pm, now he arrived as late as 11.30.



He did not tell anyone about the matter until a few days had passed. His friend, Kurt Bergfors, discussed the incident when meeting Åke Hurin the next time. He had not been aware of the fact that Bergfors had been watching the incident on the shore.

Bergfors had remained on the shore in front of his villa to



watch Ake Hurin leave. He noticed the light which approached Hurin. The object was coming from the direction of Värilax-köklot. Bergfors saw the object approaching, and he also noticed that it was a glowing object moving quite high. When it reached Hurin it descended to about 150 metres and remained stationary. The object remained there for about five minutes. It was glowing and vibrated (heat vibration?), having a saucer-shape. Bergfors judged it to be about three metres in diameter. He also saw Hurin switch off the lights of his boat and heard the engine stop. Bergfors began to be afraid that the object also might

approach him, so he turned off the lights in his villa. When the object left, it first ascended turning into a zeppelin-shape, and then it returned in the same direction as it had arrived. When the object had disappeared, he looked at his watch, and the time was 9.15 pm. He thought there would be something written about it in the newspapers. Later on he was surprised to hear how Hurin got perplexed of the sighting.

The investigator's comments:

The investigator heard about the incident indirectly in autumn 1980, but it was impossible for him to contact the witnesses at once. The first interview with Hurin took place on 30 December 1980, and the same day he interviewed Bergfors through telephone. He re-interviewed Hurin 2 January 1981, when he discovered some further details. No newspaper stories of the incident were found.

Åke Hurin's boat is open, 6 metres long, and has a petrol-operated inboard engine. The engine develops 40 hp, has four cylinders, and is four-stroke, water-cooled, which results in a very low noise. With this engine the boat runs six to seven knots. The lights are extra headlights of a car. In addition to the paraffin canister there was a power saw and a box used for storing nets in the bow of the boat. The heavy evasion left the canister jammed between the power saw and the net-box, which left marks in the canister. No other visible marks of the incident exists. The following day Hurin had difficulties in keeping his balance, which he at first could not connect with the incident. Being terrified of his experience, he got a gun in order to be able to defend himself in future incidents, if there should be any.

Translation from Finnish by Veikko Rekenen.

NORWAY

SHINING BALL IS FILMED OVER THE LÅGENDALEN VALLEY

Date: 20 February 1976

Time: In the evening

Place: Steinsholt, Numedalen valley

Witnesses: Mary Anne and Kåre Berg

Nature of sighting: Reddish glowing ball

Investigator: Odd-Gunnar Røed (among others)

Steinsholt (VG) - It came gliding as a shining ball through the evening darkness, illuminating the valley with a reddish glow. It was completely soundless with no sound of engines. Its course was steadily northwards through the valley, maintaining the same altitude during

its entire flight. Then, just before it disappeared, this is what happened: In a flash red lights were emitted, resembling welding flames pouring out in the darkness. The lights flashed in a series around the light-ball, until it disappeared completely.

In this way the newspaper Verdens Gang (VG) begins its coverage of 19 May 1976, about a UFO-observation dated 20 February the same year. A married couple, Mary Anne and Kåre Berg, described a shining flying object which they observed one calm, dark evening gliding above their farm at Steinsholt and disappearing northwards along the Numedalen valley in the direction of Kongsberg - a small town situated about 65 kilometres WSW of Oslo. Steinsholt itself lies 45 kilometres further south from Kongsberg.

UFO-Norge (at that time NUFOC) division East immediately made contact with the Berg couple and borrowed a movie they made of the object for a closer examination. UFO-researcher Elbjørg Fjeldberg got in touch with the Department of Astrophysics at the University of Oslo 26 May, and submitted the film to observer Rolf Brahde (known as a leading UFO sceptic in Norway). Also present were university lecturer Truls Ringnes and radio-astronomer Øistein Elgarøy. Rolf Brahde claimed that the film showed the solar eclipse of 29 April 1976, but he didn't win full support from all those present.

The following is an excerpt from a written statement from the Solar Observatory, Harestua, of the Department of Astrophysics, Oslo: "We have measured the blackening of the film with our microdensitometer. This shows that the camera was out of focus, while all the pictures have a light ring just inside the edge of the light area. This is also apparent on copies (negative) of the movie.

"If one examines the report of the witnesses, the apparent size of the object is said to be about 0.5 degree (a pea), but the film shows it as about two degrees. This indicates that the camera adjustment must have been out of focus, which is also indicated by the accompanying diagram". (Unquote).

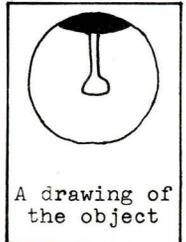
The film was also submitted to captain A. Knutsen and captain A. Brandtzeig, both from the Kjeller photographic laboratories. They made the same observation as did the Solar Observatory; the camera had been out of focus. Additionally, they noted the absence of reference points on the movie.

The complete movie was handed to the newspaper Verdens Gang, where it was cut in order to make prints.

A team from the Alarm section of NUFOC in Tønsberg, consisting of section-leader Odd-Gunnar Røed with Arne Foss and Jan Snekestad, took a trip to Svarstad 23 May in order to interview the Berg couple. According to Røed, the article in Verdens Gang, 19 May, correctly reports the events, but the photo shown of the object is tilted 90 degrees: The dark spot should be at the top.

The report of the couple was based on their visual impressions and telescope observations, but it is clear that what they saw visually varies somewhat from what they later saw on the film. It is natural that some details, regarding features seen on the object, would be more clearly apprehended when watching the film afterwards than at the time of the sighting.

When Røed on a later occasion mentioned that experts had suggested that the movie showed an eclipse of the sun dated 29 April the same year, the Bergs became very angry, and said if so-called "researchers" could not see the difference between a film taken in a dark afternoon during the winter,

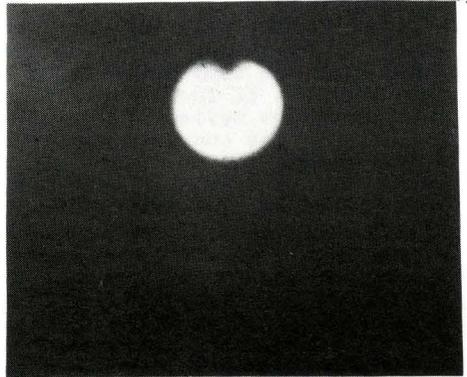
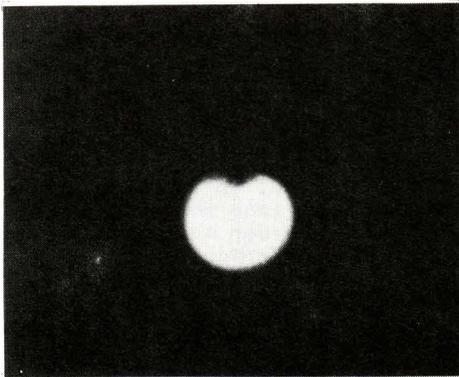


and one taken at daytime of the sun in the spring, then they had little respect for science and researchers! Moreover, Røed says it could not have been the eclipse, because immediately after the UFO-recording on the film there are scenes showing their son with a new motor-cycle, which, according to the sales-agreement, was bought on 9 April! Røed himself inspected this agreement.

On their return, the team of researchers spoke to County Agronomist Kjell Herlan, representative in Svarstad for the Institute of Meteorology, Oslo. Herlan was contacted because the Bergs, who hadn't paid too much notice to the affair, until after the film was developed, were uncertain of the exact date of their sighting. The Bergs and Mr. Herlan had earlier had a chat about the observation, and when Mr. Berg mentioned that it happened on a Friday evening with snowfall later in the night, it was easy for Herlan to pinpoint the date. Immediately and without spontaneously he gave full credit to the honesty of the Berg couple. It was only a pity that - as Herlan put it - they didn't dare to talk much about the event, since the people in the valley are hard to convince about such matters.

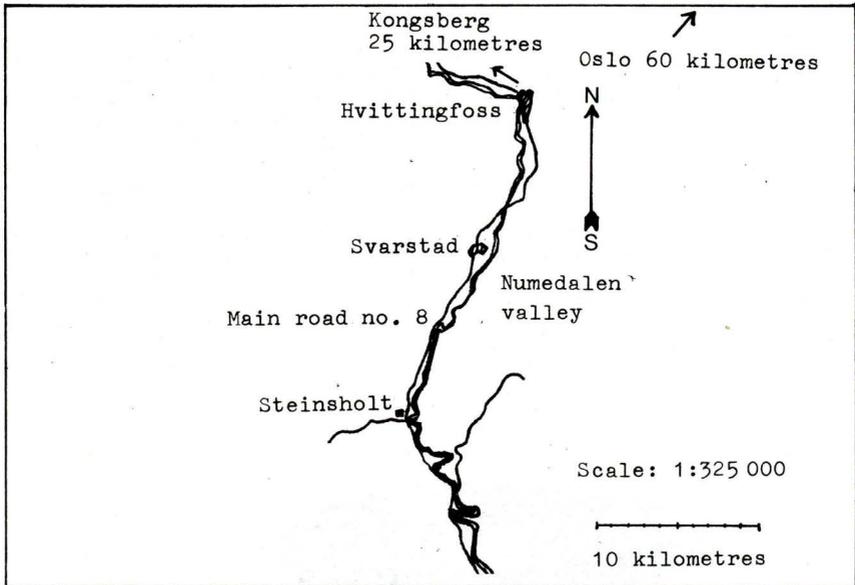
According to Herlan's records the weather that day was identical with Berg's account: Clear weather at mid-day, fairly cloudy in the afternoon and a snow-fall at night.

On the movie there is a "jump". The reason for this is that Mrs. Berg, shooting the film, moved a bit when the UFO glided behind a tree on the estate. Today she regrets that she didn't shoot the UFO through this tree. That would have supplied a point of reference!



Above: Two picture frames of the object.

Right, next page: Map over Steinsholt and part of the Numedalen valley.



WAS IT A UFO THAT BROUGHT THE ENGINE TO A HALT?

Date: Thursday 26 August 1976

Time: 9 pm

Place: Lake Målsjøen by Selbu (near Trondheim)

Witness: Steinar Langeland

Nature of sighting: Dark oval object with "shaft", probably causing motor-trouble

Investigators: Kolbjørn Stenødegård and Elbjørg Fjeldberg

Could it have been an "Unidentified flying object" - a UFO that so many people in Trøndelag saw on Thursday 26 August 1976? The chief witness, Steinar Langeland from Klæbu (near Trondheim), doesn't know what to believe, but the story he tells former NUFOC representative Kolbjørn Stenødegård, is strangely enough indeed.

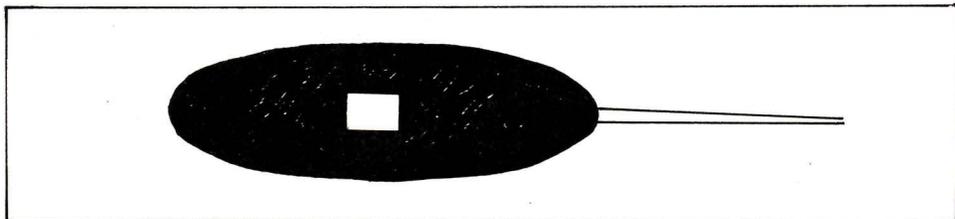
Langeland, who usually works as a caretaker at the hotel Gildevangen in Trondheim, was staying at lake Målsjøen by Selbu (a village 40 kilometres ESE of Trondheim) on Thursday evening, when the aerial phenomenon appeared:

"It was about 9 pm. I had been fishing out at lake Målsjøen during the day, and was sitting waiting in the car for Mr. Mork, a goldsmith from Trondheim, who was to accompany me back to town".

The engine was running, but suddenly it stopped - and even after 4 - 5 attempts to start it, it was completely dead. Langeland was surprised - he had never before had any troubles with his new

Mazda. He got out to take a look under the bonnet. As he bowed his head he happened to look over the car-roof, and caught sight of a shining object approaching over some steep hills near Målsjøen. The object seemed to be moving slowly downwards along the hillside, and Langeland emphasizes that it maintained a constant altitude over the treetops: He is not sure how high, but as far as he could estimate, not more than a couple of metres. No sound could be heard, and there was no other noise nearby which might have drowned any possible sound from the phenomenon. The object levelled its flight parallel with the terrain and headed towards the witness.

Just at the same moment as the object passed him - not far from the car and at an estimated altitude of about 30 metres - Langeland heard a crack from the car engine. He didn't have time to react to this, because in order to keep the object in sight, he had to run along the road. The light now turned out to be rectangular and with completely sharp contours, like a lighted window. Some distance outside the luminous rectangle he could clearly glimpse a dark shape, that of a larger oval. (See sketch).



Questioned, he estimated the size of the shining rectangle to be about 1.5 by 2 metres (the longest sides being the horizontals). The colour of the light reminded him of a window lit by a paraffin lamp, as in former days.

From the rear of the dark object extended a rather long tail which resembled a bar, or rather a "shaft" of light, with sharply defined contours.

Then the object disappeared soundlessly in the fog and Langeland said he could detect a smell of sulphur.

When he opened the bonnet and took a look at the engine he discovered that two of the sparking plugs had burst. On his way back to Trondheim he had severe difficulties with the engine. There an engineering workshop looked at the car, but they couldn't give any explanation regarding the burst plugs. The same workshop had installed new plugs a fortnight earlier. The interviewer got the plugs from the witness, and sent them to NUFOC division East at Lillestrøm for a closer examination.

Stenødegård talked with Langeland for a long while, and also on later occasions when additional details were added. He always answered calmly and thoughtfully to every question, with no tendency to dramatise or overdo the story. The sum of Stenødegård's impressions is quite simply that he was speaking with an ordinary man, who was doing his best to describe an event which for him was real, and for which he could find no logical explanation. He seemed surprised by his observation and interested in obtaining an explanation.

Langeland had not previously been particularly interested in the UFO enigma and he drew no conclusions as to what the object could have been. On one point, however, he could not be moved: It was a constructed and purposefully steered flying object that he had seen. Stenødegård questioned him very carefully about this, but he maintained that the object appeared clearly enough at a relatively short distance that he could be so sure about it.

Unfortunately, there were no other known witnesses to this close encounter, but the burst plugs were examined a couple of weeks later by NUFOC, Lillestrøm. The final report, made by division leader Elbjørg Fjeldberg, is as follows:

The plugs were submitted to the central engineering workshop of the manufacturer (Bosch). The persons I made contact with had never seen such a break. However, they believed it could have originated due to incorrect use of a plug-spanner. A well-known Formula V driver and former car electrician stated that he had never seen such clean breaks caused by incorrect handling with a plug-spanner and suggested there could be other causes. On the other hand, a close acquaintance of mine (at Lillestrøm) deliberately broke three plugs with a plug-spanner to show that such breaks could result from misuse of such an instrument. All three new ones had breaks similar to those on Langeland's car, moreover with clean gap surfaces. Both the former Bosch plugs are still conducting electricity and are somewhat bent above the break.

An electrical engineer stated that if external forces caused the breaks, then the car itself would have been smashed to pieces (considering the fact that the plugs also were bent).

Is it possible that the plugs were in a state of stressed bending before Langeland's experience and that the breaks were easily induced - as indicated by the crack from the engine - by some unknown force from the observed object?

This was the content of the final report from NUFOC (now UFO-Norge). Langeland's story has remained unexplained since that time; no other explanations for the broken plugs have been put forward, so far as the editor knows.

A NEW YEARS EVE OBSERVATION AT LEIRSUND, LILLESTRØM

Date: 1 January 1978
 Time: 0.20 - 0.28 am
 Place: Lillestrøm (near Oslo)
 Witnesses: Elbjørg Fjeldberg among three others
 Nature of sighting: Little orange ball emitting sparks
 Investigator: Elbjørg Fjeldberg

The year 1978 was only 20 minutes old when a UFO was observed over Leirsund at Lillestrøm, about 25 kilometres east of Oslo. The four witnesses, among them our leading investigator for NUFOC/East, Elbjørg Fjeldberg, saw an orange object drifting across the sky for eight minutes. This is her account:

"The object was noticed above our neighbour's house. At first I believed it to be a signal-rocket because the size was about the same, but there was no corona round it.

The object had a darker orange core, around which was a diffuse fog-like glow in a lighter orange. At the first glimpse with binoculars (10x50) through a window, it looked like two ellipses standing edgewise very close to each other inside the core, but later I was unable to see that feature again.

The object shone with a constant light during the two first minutes. My husband and I ran outside on the steps; its altitude now was about 35 degrees. Then it abruptly began to pulsate slowly, without any change in its apparent size. At that moment my husband was busy trying to photograph it, and he did not observe the pulsation. The interval was 2.5 seconds and seemed to increase somewhat as the object approached the horizon.

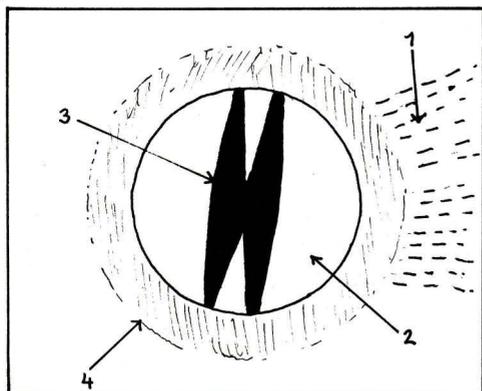
When the strange phenomenon passed us I saw, through the binoculars, a shower of sparks coming out of the rear part of the object. The sparks came out at an upwards angle. Somehow or other, I got the object too close when I watched it through the binoculars, so instead I took a flashlight and "answered" each pulsation, hoping perhaps to provoke a response, but without result.

When it approached the horizon several odd events occurred, which were not easy to follow. Small white flickers appeared, then suddenly a single very strong one; then came orange ones with small, irregular flickers. As the object disappeared over the wood, once again there was only a white light which spread out. It is impossible to describe this last phase more accurately. If there had been any witnesses in its vicinity at that time, the light from the object would have dazzled them completely.

If it was a joke being perpetrated this New Years Eve, it was an extremely sophisticated one, with so many variations in its light-glow; but we don't believe that it was.

According to officials at the Fornebo airport (just outside Oslo) there had been no flights over the area during the period of the observation, nor had they received any reports of UFOs. Personnel at the airports of Gardemoen (40 kilometres north of Oslo) and Kjeller (at Lillestrøm) did not report anything unusual, nor did the local police authorities at Åsnes and Lillestrøm receive any UFO-report on New Years Eve.

One should add that the size of the object was that of a signal-light, or close to three times the size of the planet Jupiter".



Left: A drawing of the object.

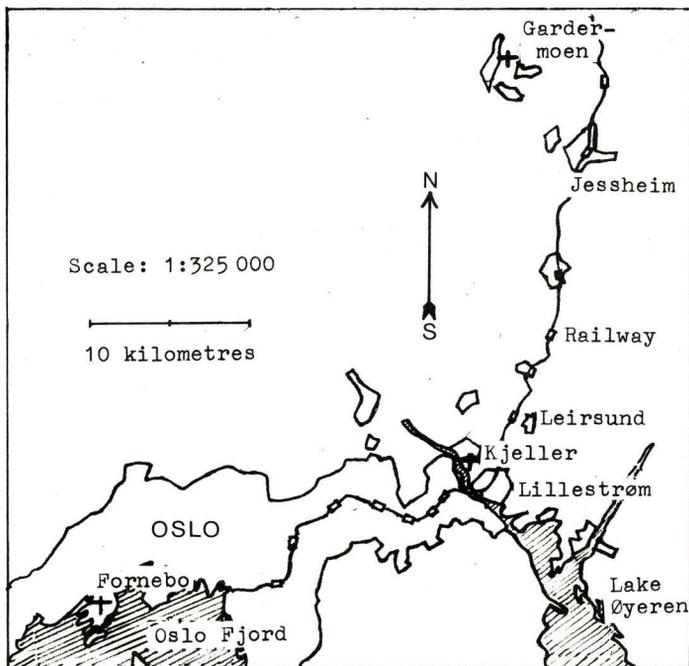
1. At an altitude of 35 degrees a shower of sparks was spe-wed out from the object.
2. Deep orange colour.
3. Was this an optical delusion?
4. Diffuse light orange.

Size of object measured on the slide original was 0.2 millimetres. This implies the following dimensions at various distances:

Size of object at 8 kilometres:	1.6 metres
" " " " 10 "	: 2.0 "
" " " " 15 "	: 3.0 "
" " " " 20 "	: 4.0 "
" " " " 40 "	: 8.0 " etc.

"On a starry night like this without a cloud as a reference point, we cannot come closer to an estimate of the object's size," says Fjeldberg in her report. "None of the four photos show any solid object, but they confirm that the core was pulsating, varying between lemon and orange colours. The area round the core was deep-orange on all the photos.

This phenomenon has nothing to do with the signal-rockets customarily launched at New Years Eve, because it followed a level course from one horizon to the other. In addition, we possess a series of slides taken of signal-rockets over the Kjeller area during New Years Eve 1976/77. None of them shows any resemblance to the colours we saw on this object. This was circular both from the front, the side and also partly from the back. Three of the slides show a sausage shape with a core, perhaps because the cameraman was a little shaky while shooting.



According to air traffic control at Fornebo airport, a 3 ton rocket, which was to have been launched from Egerdal (a place nearby) this night, never got airborne nor ever will be".

EXCEPTIONAL UFO-PICTURES FROM NORWAY

Date: Last three weeks of November 1981

Time: Nightly observations

Place: Arendal

Witnesses: Several

Nature of sighting: Various light forms together with cigar- and saucer-shaped objects

Investigator: Arne Thomassen

Around the little town of Arendal in southern Norway, there was a tremendous UFO "flap" during the last three weeks of November 1981. Strange aerial phenomena were observed night after night in several areas of the city, and five films of transparencies were taken with a telephoto lens, showing many bizarre light-forms.

A total of 78 pictures were made. Only 25 were good enough to reproduce, but they clearly show the light-forms of the UFOs and other strange phenomena in connection with them. Many of the pictures contain beautiful colours.

It all started when a young family saw several UFOs night after night in Strømmen at the west side of Arendal. On Sunday, 8 November, however, one of these objects came quite close.

About 3.45 pm this Sunday the husband, his wife, a brother and a niece were standing on the veranda looking towards southwest where the UFOs usually appeared, coming in from the ocean and moving northwards. At this particular moment all lights in the apartment were turned off.

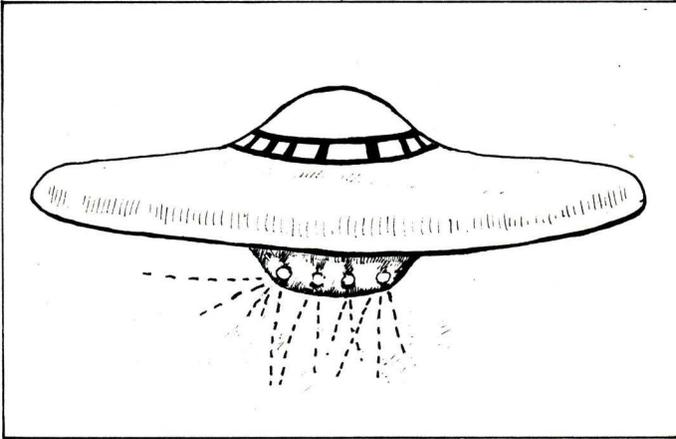
Venus stood low in southwest and the first UFO came up a little to the right of the planet. The object flew up, down and in every possible direction, performing some sort of irregular dance and flashing with a blueish quivering light. Sometimes the light flashed strongly, sometimes it was weak. The light varied from blue to green and yellow-red. The flashes of light were mostly weaker than those from an aeroplane, but sometimes, often after 6 or 7 small blinks, they were so bright that great parts of the clouds were lit up and even the ground below was illuminated by flashes which resembled those from a flashgun. After a little while the UFO went towards the south and disappeared.

A little later it came back from south east, and the first occurrence they noted was a very strong flash, much brighter than usual, and then it came right towards the veranda. The object passed them at a distance of 500-800 metres, as they guessed, and was then clearly visible: On top was a dome which seemed lit with a yellow-white light from inside. Below the dome was a row of squares which seemed to be 1.5 times as high as they were wide. They looked like windows since light shone out of them, but they could see nothing inside at this distance.

Below the row of squares was a circular or oval body, and below this again was a ring of lights (red, green and blue) which

seemed to be rotating. The sight was both beautiful and repulsive at the same time.

During the few seconds when the strange object was at its closest, they could see a cone of light emitted from the side tapering down and backwards in a curve. Naturally, the witnesses were quite alarmed.



A drawing of the object as the witnesses saw it.

At last they telephoned UFO-Norge representative Hans Aass who lives on the east side of Arendal. He immediately started to climb a hill behind his house to see if the UFO was visible from this point, 8 kilometres east of the observers. After a while he reached a suitable observing place and he could now see the UFO with his bare eyes, as well as through 7x50 binoculars. This evening there were several sightings and Mr. Aass could follow them from his observation site as small light points dancing in the sky, sending out violent bursts of light in different colours. It was his first UFO-sighting: Being very upset, he ran home to phone me, Arne Thomassen (leader of division South - UFO-Norge), and also some people living west of Arendal, to find out the position of the object which seemed to be a few kilometres west of the city.

On Monday night, the day after these incidents, Harald Færnes on his farm, at Vegårdshei northeast of Arendal, observed a saucer-shaped object at an estimated distance of about 300 metres. Together with his wife, he witnessed its flight, in which it emitted a powerful white light and travelled in jumping movements and sharp angles (90 degrees mostly).

Thursday, 12 November was a very special day. Four young men, at Blakstad north of Arendal, saw a UFO about 100 metres above a nearby hill. It moved soundlessly and at the lower part were four lights in a square; two big lights in the back and two small lights in the front of the object. The time was 11.30 pm.

The same evening Hans Aass, Alf Thomassen and I drove out to the young family in Strømmen with binoculars and a good camera, and there I shot my first 15 UFO pictures.

When the film was developed a few days later, the UFOs were clearly visible with two small lights in front and two big ones in the backside. The pictures returned from development two days after the Blakstad-story had appeared in the newspaper. I had much work in my business at that time, and had little energy left for UFO-hunting under the bright autumn stars, so I instructed the husband at Strømmen how to take good pictures and left the equipment in his care.

In the course of the following days he shot 63 UFO-pictures. All of them were time exposures (5-10 seconds) with a solid and firm tripod and triggered with a cord. No pictures were shot random, but aimed towards blinking lights dancing in the sky that was first seen with the bare eye. A third of the pictures were quite good, a third had a wrong aperture, and about a third showed no lights at all. The UFOs often moved swiftly out of the frame just as the photographer was squeezing the trigger.

Five films were shot:

The A film was shot by me in Strømmen, 12 November, at 7.30 - 8.00 pm
 The B film was shot by my friend at Vik, 18 November, at 7 - 8.00 pm after a very exciting UFO-hunt with his car.
 The C film was taken in Strømmen, 21 November by my friend
 The D film was taken in Strømmen, 28 November by my friend
 The E film was taken in Strømmen, 1 December also by my friend

Some of the pictures were really good, and contained a number of interesting details. The UFOs with their sharp flashlike blinks had flashed themselves onto the films so to speak. Clearly visible were also a number of seemingly cylindrical clouds surrounding some of the weaker blinks in blue, orange and green colours.

Camera data:

The camera was a Minolta XG-2 (SLR).
 The lens was a Vivitar 400 mm f/5.6. (Most pictures were shot at this aperture).
 The film was a Fujichrome 400 (slidefilm).
 The tripod was a Slik Master Standard (with "rubbershoes").
 Lens and accompanying UV-filter were multicoated to prevent reflection.
 All pictures were taken outdoors and not through windows. The slides were later enlarged with a slide duplicator in order to enhance details.

In addition to these observations, there was also another, truly remarkable one, involving a huge cigar-shaped object with a big red light in both ends. It seems that this object may appear on at least some of the pictures. The report is as follows:

The observers, Mr. and Mrs. Bjørnsen and their daughter, live at a little farm 4 km northwest of Arendal, about one kilometer off the roads. On Thursday, 19 November at 6.20 pm, the man went outside the house to check the water supply. They had only moved in 4 days previously, and had heard about the many recent observations of blinking objects, so they looked up in the sky now and then. It was a calm and cold evening with bright starshine.

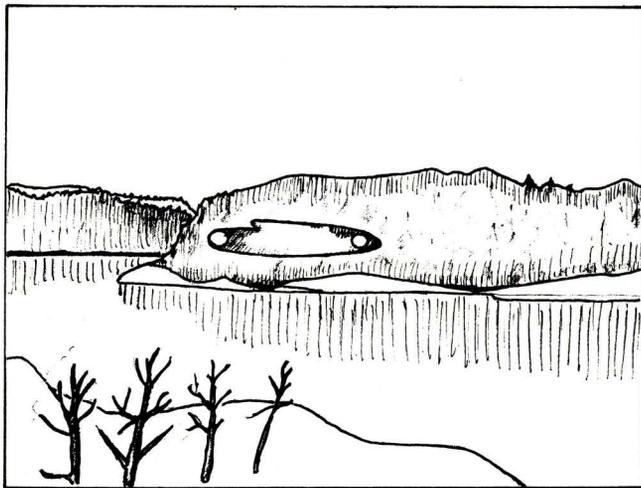
Suddenly he became aware of a light in the eastern sky blinking and pulsating fast and irregularly. The light moved up and down with a blue blinking, sometimes weak and sometimes very strong, and after a little while it disappeared towards the east. Now and then the blinks were so powerful that the ground around the house was lit up as if someone was using a big flashgun out in the woods, far

from roads and from any electric outdoor light. They also stated that it did not resemble the distinctive flashes of distant lightning as can be seen in the autumn.

The house is situated on a high spot surrounded by low hills and forests. In front of the house grassy fields run down towards lake Blågestad. To the northeast there are small islands and hills with low pinetrees.

The family now turned off all lights in the house and sat down behind the windows watching the sky. After an hour of patient waiting, the UFOs appeared again.

Suddenly a shivering yellow light appeared over the southern hills. The object rose and fell and the light shifted from yellow to blue. After a little while, it soared rapidly to an altitude of 45 degrees and at the same time another object came in from the northeast and stopped at the same altitude.



A drawing of the object over lake Blågestad

Then a huge greyish object came in from the south and passed within 50 metres of the house and glided silently towards the lake along the edge of the fields. Over the lake it descended slowly, so it was possible to observe it with the island and pinetrees as a background. The distance was then about 200-300 metres. At both ends they could see a very big red light, and on top of it they claimed there was something like a bridge. (See drawing by the witness.)

The light from the two red spots was very unfamiliar, and they had difficulties in describing it. (In the south-eastern part of the country this cigar-shaped phenomenon had been seen a few years ago, and then too the witnesses noticed the very odd red lights and reported that there seemed to be something rotating inside them.)

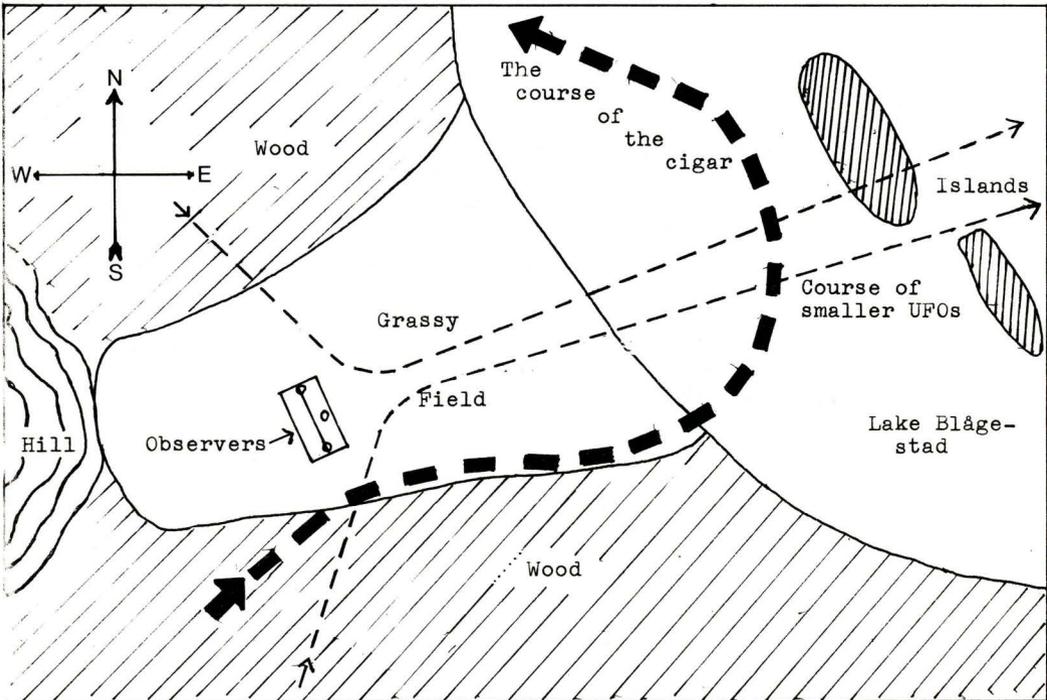
It was a great shock to the family to see this strange, huge UFO with its dark and silent body and clear red lights; they thought for a while that it was an invasion, and turned on the radio for the kind of short message that one would expect to get under such

circumstances.

Over the water the cigar changed course and headed slowly towards the northwest, and at the same time the two UFOs on each side of the house started to move; they flew side by side out over the lake and disappeared behind the islands in the northeast. This led to the conclusion that the three objects were in contact with each other, moving in a united formation. (See sketch).



Sketch made by Mr. Bjørnsen



Mr. Bjørnsen had not previously believed very much in what he had heard about UFOs, but apart from that, he had an open-minded attitude to the phenomenon in general. Mrs. Bjørnsen had been very sceptical, but now they both said that their lives would not be the same after this event.

The same evening at about 8 o'clock the huge cigar (or something very like it) glided towards the center of Arendal. A driver told me this at the same time as a friend of mine got the first telephone report from the family north of the city. The object seemed to be identical with that seen by the Bjørnsen family 40 minutes earlier. In order to rule out the possibility of reflections, the driver rolled down his window and then saw the object move over a factory. It was of the same length as the building and headed right towards the center of the city. The witness wanted to be anonymous, which one can understand under such circumstances.

In close connection with this last observation, there was also a lady located elsewhere in the city, who had seen the strange object coming towards her veranda. Just before reaching her, it seemed, the cigar disappeared in another direction. She doesn't believe in flying saucers, but it was impossible for her to figure out what this phenomenon could have been.

A short description of the pictures

First one has to consider the fact that none of the pictures actually show any clear-cut physical object. All that is seen (although remarkable and bizarre) are colourful light-forms jumping and flashing to and fro in the sky. Nevertheless, these pictures add new material to the UFO-evidence, and to interpret the meaning of this information could be very valuable to ufologists.

Because we are not able to reproduce the many beautiful colours here in this newsletter, I will only give a short description of some selected examples with accompanying black-and-white drawings.

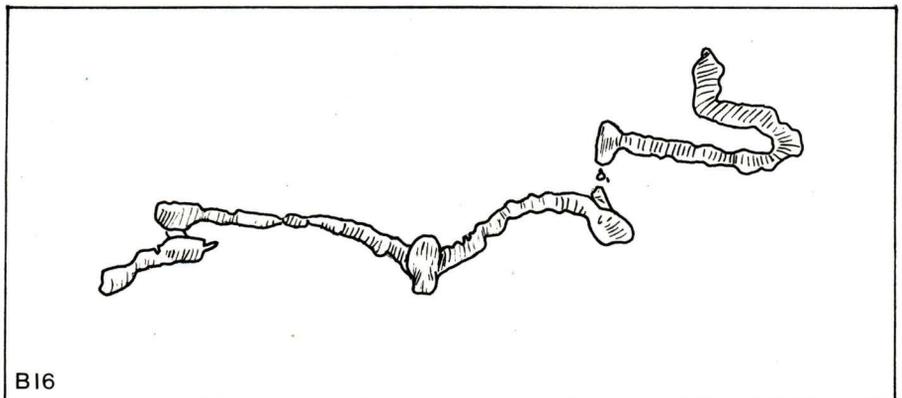
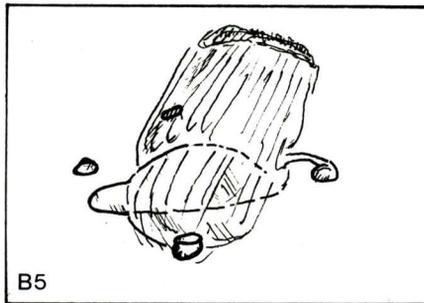
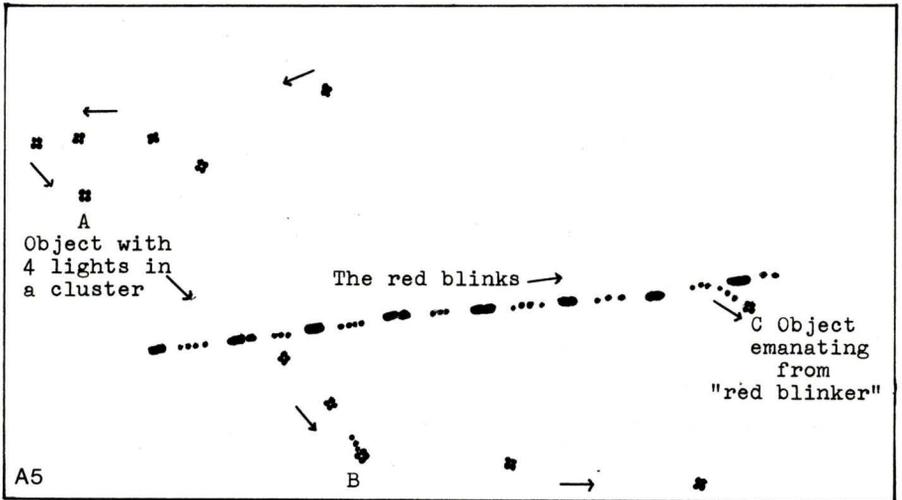
All the pictures are designated in the following way: A, B, C, D and E refer to films no. 1 to 5. Additionally, there is an extensive alphanumerical code to each copy. Example: A5x128b means picture no. 5 in the A series, enlarged 128 times, object no. 2 from the left (b) on the original slide.

A4 and A5 were the first pictures which were shot and they show a lot of interesting details. A bright red light came blinking and pulsating in from the south and moved northwards. The object went slowly and without a sound, tossing slightly. It had an irregular blinking, not like any aeroplane, and on its lower side there was a shivering red light. Maybe this object was the same as the cigar seen by several people 7 days later. In addition there are also two other objects. (See drawing).

A10 to A13 show an aeroplane shot as a reference light source for comparison. Here one can readily see the red, green and yellow-white lamps flashing regularly, moving in a straight line during the 10 second exposures.

On B5, a really good one, there are four blinks. The first blink is green with some illuminated form in the middle. On the next blink - double blink - the UFO is totally shaded by the cylindrical cloud. (See drawing).

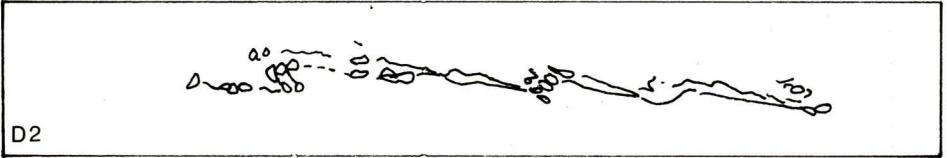
B16 will certainly become a classic. A yellow-red shivering light has travelled swiftly in all three dimensions and made a number of 90 degree turns. On each sharp change in its course there has been a big blast of light indicating that a considerable amount of energy was consumed during the 5-10 seconds exposure. Such odd behaviour was observed by many eyewitnesses during this November month. No plane, balloon or helicopter could move so fast in this manner. (See sketch).



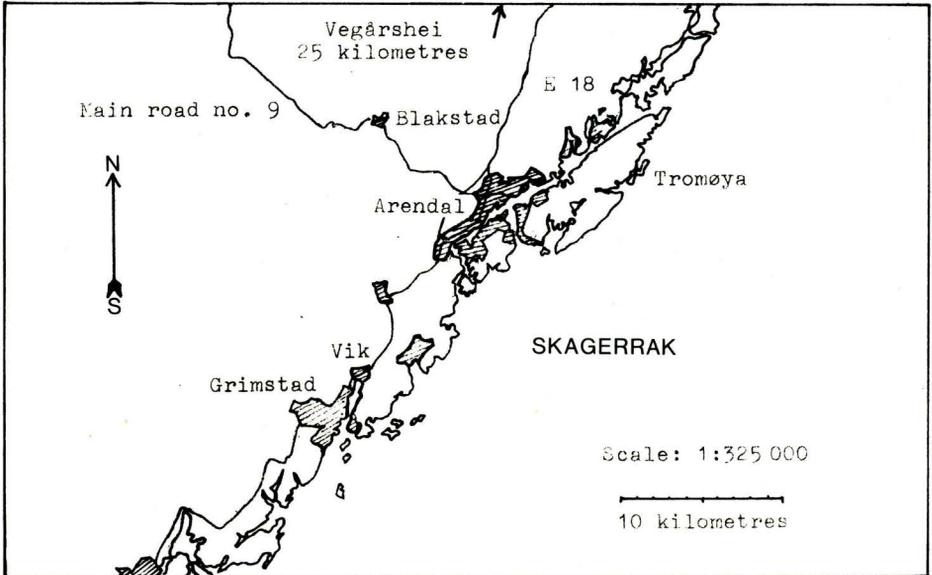
C3 is a good picture showing a seemingly oval object with a dome, a green ring at the base of the dome which is located a little closer to the round than to the flat end. This oval shape can be traced in many other pictures too, such as A5 and many of the B, C and D films.



D2 shows an object much like that of A4/A5 and possibly C1/C2. It moves rhythmically, tossing and turning in very sharp angles. A star can be seen as a point of reference on the D2x4 enlargement.

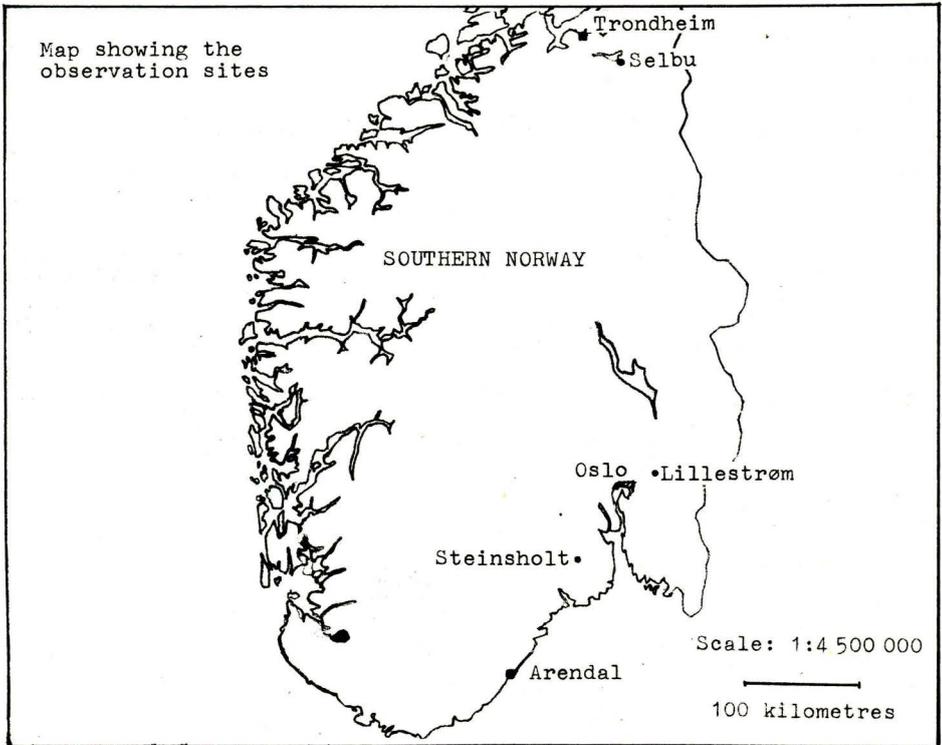


Some of the objects (or to be exact - light-forms) captured on these films show certain resemblances to similar pictures taken at Lillestrøm, east of Oslo, some years ago. Also pictures taken later in the now famous Hessedalen valley (report to be included in a future issue of this newsletter) show quite similar patterns.



Many speculations can be made regarding these pictures and the additional observations made by people around the Arendal district. Whether Arendal was "visited" by aliens in their spaceships or there is a more down-to-earth explanation (perhaps several) one can only guess. One thing is for certain, however: The UFO "wave" over Arendal is not yet explained in terms of natural and/or man-made causes. Until this happens, we must suppose that yet more circumstantial evidence has been added to the growing complexity of the UFO-enigma.

Translated from Norwegian by Mentz kaarbo
with the help of Hilary Evans.



Unfortunately, we have no material from Sweden this time. In the next issue, however, we will bring the latest news also from this country.
