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NORDIC  
UFO  
NEWS LETTER

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UFO GROUPS





## FINLAND

### A CLOSE ENCOUNTER FROM THE YEAR 1944

Date: Between 26 July and 2 August

Time: During the evening

Place: Impilahti, by the Lake Ladoga

Witness: Jaaku Kivistö

Nature of sighting: Cigar-shaped object at close range

When The UFO Research of Finland was investigating the Loimola case (see this magazine no. 1 1983 pp. 8-10), we sent accounts of Sgt. Kylliäinen's observation to several newspapers and asked for other observers. But to this date we have not got contact with any other observer who could have observed the phenomena in Loimola in 1944. Needless to say, this was expected, while it happened 40 years ago, and a lot of the veterans are already dead. However, we received a letter Jaaku Kivistö, who had observed a strange craft in Impilahti in 1944.

Before we go to his observation some background information could be useful. During July 1944, Finnish troops retired from Eastern Karelia to the so-called U-positions in Pitkäranta, some tens of kilometres east from Impilahti. In these positions, the advance of the Russian troops was stopped and their assault thrown back with heavy casualties on both sides. The front was stabilized in the end of July and did not move further during the war.

Kivistö's letter is, somewhat shortened, the following:

"The case took place during the last part of the war, in the retiring phase. I was serving in the 15th Car Unit as a non-commissioned medical officer. Our company was placed in Impilahti, which is in the northern part of Lake Ladoga. I was living in a building where the corn was dried, and had also my reception there. The building was built on the slope of a hill, so that it would be easy to drive in the corn. From this building a path was leading to the haybarn, where the truck drivers used to sleep. After a while, I chose to sleep there, to get some chatting company. Once, when I had slept there, I woke up quite late and found that the drivers had already gone to service. I started to walk slowly towards the drying building, which was about 300 m away and not visible from the haybarn. I had walked for sometime when I got sight of the drying building and noticed that there was some large object by the side of it. At first I thought it was a truck and greatly wondered who had driven his car there, because it was difficult to park the car on the slope. Then I thought it could not be any of our company's cars, because it was painted reddish, like a carrot; the cars of our company were painted dark green.

After having walked a little bit further, I noticed that the object was hovering in the air. It is possible that it had been doing this all the time, but due to my lower position I hadn't been able to see it. I also got a feeling that the object tried to conceal itself, so I pretended not having noticed it at all, while still walking slowly forward.

The craft was now nearly right over my head at an altitude of some 50-70 m. When I reached the door of the drying building I stopped to observe it better. It was moving very slowly, about walking speed. There were many windows located on its side, but I did not count them. It is difficult to estimate its length, I guess it was about 30 m. In any case it seemed to be rather large. I could see it very clearly; it was a bright summer evening. The contours were sharp and all the windows black. It came to my mind that I could shoot some of the windows broken with my rifle, but then I thought I couldn't do this because I didn't know what it was. There were no markings belonging to any country, nor were there rudders, wings or propellers, and the object was completely silent. During my observation, I saw it from the front, from the side and from behind.

Then it went towards Lake Ladoga and vanished from my sight. I ran

quickly up to the hilltop to look for it, but the object had already vanished.

I thought I should report my observation, but then I figured that it would be wiser not to speak of it to anybody.

It is a strange thing that I forgot the whole incident during the rest of the war, and a long time afterwards. Yet it was such an interesting case and I could remember all the details when it came to my mind again".

Kivistö had also made a drawing of the object in his letter (see fig.1).

I wrote a letter to Jaakku Kivistö and asked for complementary details. From his answer I learned that the colour of the object was actually some kind of metal-looking, greyish colour. The reddish colour he had seen first was probably a reflection of the red colour in the walls of the drying building. When the craft was in the air it was greyish. Kivistö was not sure if the craft, when first observed, was lying on the ground or hovering above it. Later on he could not observe anything special at that spot.

The object was moving in the following way: first it rose slowly upwards and a little to the right from the observer (e.g. eastwards). When at an altitude of 50-70 m it ceased to rise and rotated slowly some 90 degrees to the east (horizontally), and vanished very slowly - walking speed - to the east-southeast over the Lake Ladoga. It did not accelerate.

The windows on the object were rectangular, and their contours sharp. No doors were visible.

I made some research in the Finnish war archives in Helsinki of this and the Loimola case. I got through several war logbooks to find some notice of these cases. From the war logbook of the 15th Car Unit I learned that it came to Impilahti 17 July and moved forward 3 August. It was located in the Metsäkylä area in Impilahti. (see map).

Then I checked the weather. During the observation it had been a clear and sunny morning. In the Impilahti area, the weather was clear and sunny from 17 to 23 July, then it rained for two days, and it was clear and sunny again from 26 July to 3 August. Due to the fact that Kivistö had been sleeping several nights already before the observation, I think we can exclude the first week, so the observation was made sometime between 26 July and 2 August (the 15th Car Unit moved early in the morning of 3 August).

Now I knew the approximate time and place of the observation and started to read the war logbooks of nearby units from the actual period. However, not a single notice was made of anything unknown or unusual during the time in question. Yet they all had sentries 24 hours a day and a duty to report any special event which had happened.

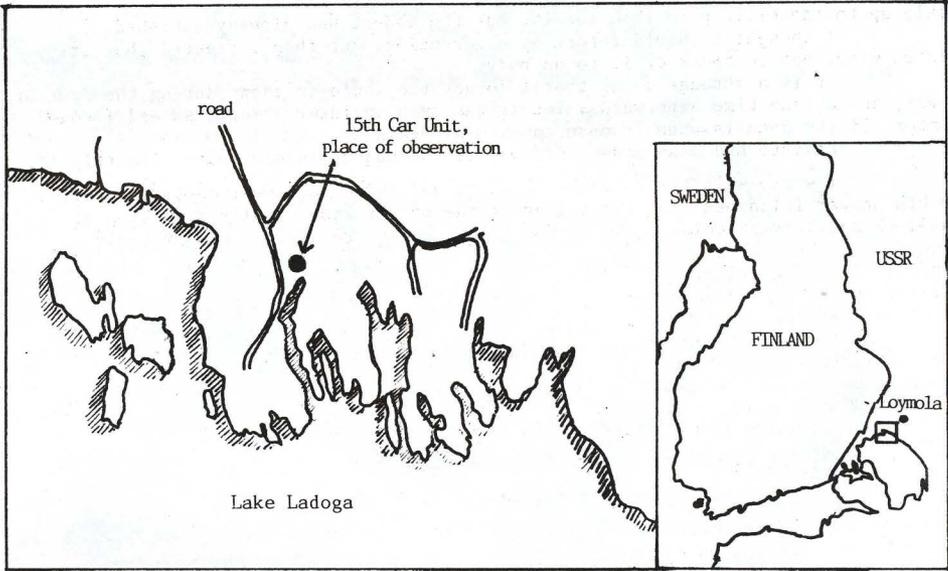
This, I think, does not mean that Kivistö's account isn't true. We may remember that he wrote in his letter that he had ran up to the hilltop to see the object again, but it had already vanished, despite of its slow speed! Instead, I believe that the object somehow vanished "into thin air" or moved to fast to be observed, both common features from other UFO reports all over the world.

#### About the Loimola case

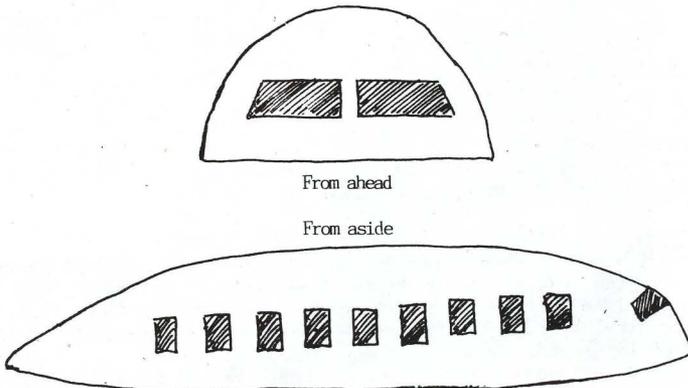
I also investigated the war logbooks of several units which were in the Loimola area. I think that now I am able to date the Loimola observation exactly.

Firstly, I am certain that the change of cabinet which Sgt. Kylliäinen was referring to in his letter, actually was the resign of president Ryti 1 August 1944. It was noted in some war logbooks that this had caused a lot of discussion and speculations after it had been announced in the radio. Furthermore, it was not mentioned that the cabinet changed. The old one resigned automatically together with the president, and not before 8 August a new one began to work, after Marshal Mannerheim was elected to president 4 August.

This will give us two possible days for the observation, 2 and 3 August. I checked the weather during this time in the Loimola area and found that it was clear



Jaakko Kivistö's drawing of the object he saw in 1944.



Kivistö's comment to his drawing: There were probably more windows.

and sunny weather only 2 August. All the other days it was either very cloudy or it rained. Even if we suppose that Kylliäinen referred to the installation of the new cabinet 8 August, we must admit that the weather does not respond to his description. So I think we can quite surely date the observation to 2 August 1944.

As with the Impilahti case, no notices were found of any such formation that Sgt. Kylliäinen observed. The AA-units reported only usual Reconnaissance flights during 2 August. As a matter of fact, there was nothing reported during the entire time Finnish troops were in Loimola that could have explained Sgt. Kylliäinen's formation of UFOs. One may wonder if the formation was seen but not reported, or if it was visible only from the area where Sgt. Kylliäinen and his unit were located? It is also a little surprising that the two cases The UFO Research of Finland knows from wartime, both took place, if not the same day, in the same week and only 50 km apart from each other.

(Investigation and translation by Heikki Virtanen.)

Sources:

1. Three letters from Jaakku Kivistö.

2. War logbooks from the following units:

AA-units: 37 Rask. Ptri, 24., 38., 39. Kev. It. Ptri

Other units: IV/RTR 13, III/15 PR., II/15 PR., HK/15 PR.,

ATP/15 PR., 5,9,10,11 K/15 PR, TYK. K./15 PR., 25. TR, I/JR 56,

II/JR 56, 5., 6., 7., 8., K/JR 56, I/JR 8.

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## NORWAY

UFO OBSERVED FROM BODØ AIRPORT

Date: Sunday 16 January 1983

Time: 1.40 pm

Place: Bodø airport

Witnesses: Asbjørn Borge together with six other persons

Nature of sighting: Cylinder hovering in the sky

On Sunday 16 January meteorologist Asbjørn Borge was on routine weather observation at the met office at Bodø airport, a large military Air Force base in Northern Norway. At about 1.40 pm he suddenly caught sight of a strange object low in the southern sky. The object, a slim, black-grey cylinder, was hovering motionless in the air in the direction of a nearby mountain top called Sandvikfjellet. The elevation was about 40-45 degrees.

Two flight-controllers and four officials at the met office were immediately notified. A total of seven witnesses, three equipped with binoculars, were watching the object which now turned in such a way that they could see it aslant - "from behind". The cylinder moved SSW-wards with a dense tail of smoke or steam. Some of the observers noticed that the object reflected the sun. The structure gradually grew smaller until it vanished in or above a cloud to the SSW. All of the witnesses,

who should be experienced observers, remained puzzled by the phenomenon. The duration of the sighting was to about 5 minutes. The object was not registered on radar.

(Excerpt from a report made by Leif Normann Solhaug, northern division of UFO-Norge.)

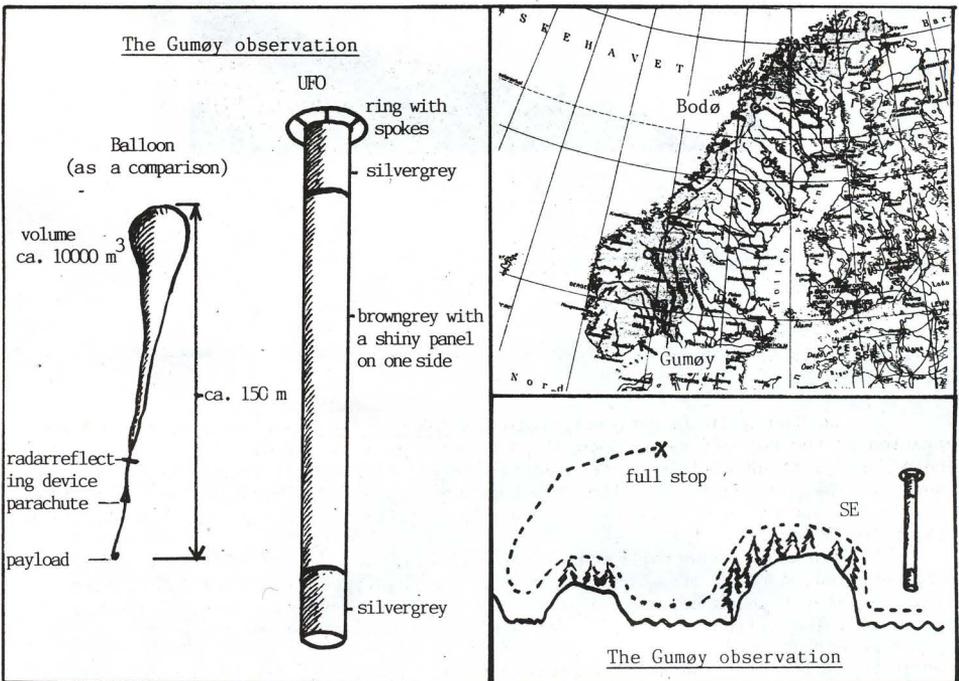
Several UFO-observations were made over Sweden on the same date. Among other places, in the Kristineberg area in Northern Sweden, situated some 350 km east of Bodø as the crow flies.

Incidentally, it should be mentioned that a similar object was observed above Østre Gumøy, in the southernmost part of Norway. The date was 7 September 1975, time 12.30 to 1.30 pm (i.e. one hour). The event was witnessed by a total of five persons, one of them an inshore boat captain.

A slim cylinder, some 30 m high and greyish-brown in colour was slowly flying over the fjord. It followed the terrain at an altitude of about 15-20 m. The uppermost part of the object made a slight wobble when, at a moment, the thing seemed to be hampered by a tree-top. Afterwards it ascended to an altitude of some 300 m where it made a halt. Later on, it disappeared towards NE. The distance to the object was estimated to be about 600 m. In a 7x50 binocular one could easily recognize details on the object (see figure). When the object was at a high altitude a shiny panel on one side reflected the sun. The observation has never been explained.

Source:

"UFO" no. 1 1984, p. 23.



## UFO OVER NORDMØRE



Her er «UFO-bildet» som overrasker luftforsvarets staben — Dersom dette er en forfalskning, er den uhyre dyktig utført, sier oberstleynant Einar Smedsvig. «Bilskuddet» er tatt med et svært enkelt amatørkamera av Pål Kristian Vaag fra Aure på Nordmøre. I dag vil Luftforsvarets spesialstab på Rygge forsøke det underlige fotoobjektet. © SIDE 8

## UFO ? Unknown Photo Object

- \* Daylight photograph of a UFO is presented on the front-page of the newspaper "Verdens Gang" - without ridicule!
- \* Air Force officers at the Supreme Command at Husebye, Oslo are stunned; - state that the picture cannot easily be explained as a hoax.
- \* Neither the Air Force's photographic analyzers at Rygge, nor technical experts at the Norwegian Institute of Technology, can discredit the picture as being a hoax!

On Monday 7 August 1984 the newspaper "Verdens Gang" (VG) featured a photograph of a classical "flying saucer" covering the entire front-page. It was a daylight photograph, apparently showing a clearly outlined saucer-shaped metallic object with good definition.

The picture was allegedly taken by Pål Kristian Vaag on 19 August 1983 outside his home at Aure, Nordmøre, some 100 km SW of Trondheim in Mid-Norway. Says Air Force Staff Lieutenant-Colonel Einar Smedsvig: "If this turns out to be a fraud,





## "Experts are amazed"

This was the headline in VG 8 August in an article covering an entire page. We find it interesting and important to quote the newspaper, to show how the case developed:

"The Air Force's picture analyzers at Rygge airport didn't manage to discredit the UFO-picture, taken by Pål Kristian Vaag, when VG brought it for closer examination yesterday.

- Technically, we cannot find any flaws, says Captain Kåre Kvamme. Everything seems to be correct. The light is falling on the flying object in a proper way. Proportions and angles look correct. The sharpness of the picture is amazing. A photo-montage is excluded.

- No, I can't say that it is a hoax, not from the picture itself. Photo-technically, I think it is totally impossible either to prove or disprove it, Kvamme says. Nevertheless, he doesn't conceal that he is still sceptical regarding the picture's authenticity.

The only possibility is that something was thrown into the air and that the photographer followed the object perfectly when the picture was taken; otherwise it would not have been sharp. However, a feat like this demands a highly skilled photographer, or unbelievable luck.

Kvamme says that he himself has made a UFO-picture with the same quality as that of Vaag. - But I had to use a lot of advanced photographic equipment in order to accomplish it, he says.

Captain Kvamme and his colleagues at Rygge won't completely rule out the possibility of the existence of real UFO-phenomena. On several occasions unknown aircraft have been registered on military radar systems. It has been confirmed that the objects have nothing to do with conventional planes or helicopters, but their true origin has never been revealed, Kvamme says.

VG Lørdag 11 august 1966

# ULØST UFO-MYSTERIUM



SEKSPITISK: Forsker Jarle Hjeltn ved SINTEF i Trondheim forsøkte å avsløre UFO-bildet ved hjelp av landets beste elektronmikroskop.

## Testet med 20 000 volt

Scanning med elektronmikroskop er en helt ny og meget avansert teknisk metode for å finne forskjellige sammensetninger av metaller.

Et negativ av et fotografi be-  
stir også av en rekke metaller  
i tillegg til farvestoffer. Denne  
metoden kan derfor avsløre  
et og annet om fotografier.  
Selve avlesningen av foto-

graffet - eller scanningen på  
fotopapiret - gjøres med et  
elektronmikroskop, som har  
evnen, et de fungerer med  
svært spesielle egenkapar

Spenningen i rørene er  
20 000 volt med 200 volt i den  
vanlige hjemme i stua. Her  
gjøres raske analyser av med-  
stør hastighet - metalle

regneres for å være på bevis  
ingen og en elektronmikroskop  
et bilde av gjensvender  
å se også side 12

### "Unsolved UFO - mystery"

This was the headline in VG's article 11 August, where the readers were told about the newspaper's presentation of the picture at the Norwegian Institute of Technology (NTH) in Trondheim.

Here the picture was scrutinized with the help of one of the best electron microscopes in Norway. However, even this method couldn't establish the truth about the famous picture.

The method in question, used by researcher Jarle Hjelen at NTH, employs a so called scanning electron microscope. This kind of microscope is able to operate in several modes and can give valuable information about film surface and structure together with its component elements.

A somewhat similar method (according to VG) had been employed to discredit a UFO-picture taken in Denmark. A shining object in the sky was explained by this technique as being a drop of chemical which had etched into the surface of the negative.

"Unfortunately, I can say next to nothing about the picture, even with the use of the microscope - sorry, but I can't come up with anything further", says researcher Hjelen. Personally, though, he is rather sceptically inclined to all kinds of paranormal phenomena.

### A weather-balloon is ruled out

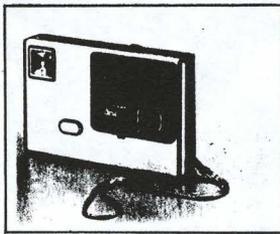
The theory that the object might have been a weather-balloon has been put forward by several interested persons, - VG writes. But the possibility that Pål Kristian Vaag has taken a picture of a weather-balloon adrift is very small, according to assistant meteorologist Thor Bretting at the weather station at Ørlandet (a military airport 50 km NW of Trondheim). At this station they regularly launch such balloons; the only place in that part of Norway.

### The camera

The camera which was used by Vaag is a simple "pocket-camera", of the type Kodak Disc 4000, which costs about Nkr. 400,- (US \$ 40). It doesn't need any adjustments before taking the picture and double or multiple exposure is impossible. These facts diminish the possibility of any form of photographic manipulation.

And by the way, - only a few days passed before the Kodak Company in Norway made the following advertisement for their disc-cameras: "Buy the UFO-camera now!"

Later on it surfaced that Kodak payed Nkr. 4-5000 (US \$ 4-500) for this half-page advertisement, whereas Vaag earned 50%; the other 50% given to the copyright-holder (Mr. Alf P. Buer).



### Vaag's reaction

There is no reason to doubt that the event made a deep impression on Pål Kristian Vaag. He realised at once that he had observed an unusual phenomenon, and - according to his own report - "I was sitting totally petrified".

However, Vaag possessed the presence of mind which enabled him to do exactly those two things "a good UFO-observer" ought to do, namely, first to fetch a

camera and take a picture, and in addition to attempt to obtain another witness (he called for his mother who was present in the house, but probably she didn't hear him).

Later on Vaag remained totally silent about both the event and the picture, - he didn't even tell his closest family. Personally, he believed he had photographed a UFO, but feared - as many witnesses before him - ridicule and distrust.

More than 6 months passed before Pål Kristian Vaag casually mentioned the event to some of his friends. At that time he was on duty as a soldier in Northern-Norway. The story then became widely known and resulted in great interest. In his home village at Aure he has received innumerable phone calls and certainly he has received much attention. He now says he regrets showing the picture to his friends.

### Newspaper reactions

There were only 8 newspapers (of about 160 published in Norway) which wrote about the event during the following days. The reactions were mostly negative with typical headlines such as: "UFO fraud" and "A practical joke" ("Sunnmøre Arbeideravis" 7 August). "VG-UFO only a joke" ("Nationen" 8 August); "Clever UFO hoax" ("Sarpsborg Arbeiderblad"); "Hat became a UFO" and "The Air Force states: only a joke" ("Tidens Krav" 8 August). Only a few articles were neutral or positive in their attitude.

In the article "A good joke" in "Nationen" the before-mentioned Captain Kåre Kvamme is cited: "As we can see the shadow of a roof on a house in the periphery of the picture one can most probably speak of an object thrown away from a roof..."

"- Qualitatively the picture isn't good enough that one with full certainty can maintain that the picture is part of a practical joke. (Underlined by the author).

"- It's a pity that the photographer didn't take two such pictures. Then we could establish the authenticity of the picture with full certainty.

The following day (8 August) the newspaper "Nationen" had these headlines: "VG-UFO only a joke": Captain Kåre Kvamme is cited in the following way: "I don't believe that the UFO-picture published by VG on its front-page yesterday is real". - and - "Certainly, I can only guess and not prove my allegation, but there's nothing to the picture which makes me believe that this is anything more than a good joke". (Underlined by the author.)

### Investigations

Arne Børcke, journalist at the Norwegian Telegram Bureau (NTB) and affiliated with UFOs (leader for the organisation UFO Report\*) made the first contact with Vaag after the publication in VG. Talking with Vaag in a long phone call (8 August), he got the impression that Mr. Vaag was sober and straightforward, telling about the event without any tendency to exaggerate. It also seemed evident that he didn't want publicity and appeared almost uneasy considering the commotion aroused by his picture. The same uneasiness applied to his mother, to an even greater extent; she was unwilling either to see the picture or to have anything to do with the whole affair. "I don't believe in this story" she stated, according to the newspaper "Bergens Tidende". Furthermore it is evident that - according to the same newspaper - his mother knew nothing at all regarding the event. However, she revealed that Pål Kristian Vaag had been interested in UFOs for a long time, and it can be confirmed that he was a subscriber to our journal "UFO" (!).

A representative for UFO-Norge has also talked with Vaag on the telephone, and he made a seemingly positive impression.

UFO-Norge did send a representative to the place of observation - Aure -

\*) According to Mr. Børcke, this organisation is a small group of dedicated amateurs cooperating in the registration of UFO-sightings in Norway. It is not possible to obtain membership in common organisational terms.

in order to make an interview with Vaag, but unfortunately the meeting didn't fit with his leave from Setermoen, a military camp in Northern-Norway.

Pictures were taken at the observation site, but what would have been an important personal interview had to be postponed due to long travelling distances.

It has to be mentioned that Vaag already at an earlier point of time had sold his rights to the picture to a friend, Mr. Alf P. Buer (during the military service), for the amount of Nkr. 500,-. This person wanted to sell the picture to newspapers and magazines, even abroad. First he went to VG and they evidently paid him several thousands Nkr. Vaag did only receive 10% of that amount.

When this author made contact with Vaag in order to get permission for presenting the picture in "UFO", he reluctantly gave it. He made clear that the rights to the picture were given to another person. But we were given a copy for use in our journal - from which we wouldn't earn any benefits.

Additionally, when our editing staff made contact with VG to use parts of their published material - pictures included - we obtained their permission to do this. At the same time we learned that VG had bought all rights to the picture.

BUT!

# -Jeg lurte hele verden

■ — Ja, jeg må nok innrømme at jeg jukset, sier Pål Kristian Vaag (21). For et halvt år siden kom han til VG med et usedvanlig skarpt «UFO-bilde», som selv ikke Forsvarets eksperter greide å avsløre. Bildet gikk verden over. Nå innrømmer han at han dreide gjenstanden av en trestokk, og festet den i en line til menet på huset før han tok bildet.

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On Wednesday 20 February 1985 VG once more made "war headlines" about the case, quoting Pål Kristian Vaag:

"I deceived the whole world"

- Yes, I have to admit that I was hoaxing, he says. A half a year ago he came to VG with an unusually sharp "UFO-picture" which even the photo experts in the Air Force weren't able to discredit. The picture went around the world. Now he admits that he made the object by turning a wooden stick on the lathe and mounted it on a thread on a ridge of a roof. Then he took his famous picture.

## Slik fikset jeg

# UFO-bløffen

Torsdag 21. februar 1985

Av MORTEN AASBØ og JANNE MØLLER-HANSEN

**AURE (VG) Et to meter langt avsgd vannrør. En gråmalt bokstøtte formet som en flyvende tallerken. Et tynt fiskesnør. Det var alt Pål Kristian Vaag (21) trengte for å bløffe eksperter og lekfolk verden over med sitt UFO-bilde.**



«UFO»: En hjemmedreid bokstøtte (innfelt) festet til et avsgd vannrør på vedskjul-taket hjemme. Slik arrangerte Pål Kristian Vaag sin verdenskjente UFO-bløff. Men nå vil nordmøringen helst glemme hele affaren. Nylig meldte en seg ut av UFO-forening...

I går kunne han vise VG hvordan han gikk frem da han en august-formiddag for halvannet år siden knipset det farnese UFO-bildet.

### Enkelt

Han festet det avsgde vannrøret til taket på vedskjul-taket hjemme. Slapp senere med den dinglende bokstøtten ut over mønet, og gikk ned og knipset det hele med sitt nyinnkjøpte kamera til 400 kroner.

— Det var såre enkelt. Det hele tok meg fem minutter en formiddag, jeg gikk og kjedet meg, sier Norges største UFO bløffmaker.

Tirsdag ble bløffen avslørt. Et amerikansk forskningsinstitutt kunne ved hjelp av såkalt digital teknikk avsløre at UFOen han i et øyeblikk...

— Jeg hadde ikke noe valg da de ringte meg og fortalte meg om resultatet fra undersøkelsen i USA. Bløffen måtte innrømmes, sier Pål Kristian.

### Predikant ga ideen

Ideen til UFO bildet fikk han av en gatepredikant han traff under en København-tur. Predikanten viste han et arrangert UFO bilde. Vel hjemme på Nord-Møre lagde han sitt eget UFO bilde.

Bokstøtten hadde jeg engang fått i julegave av min bror, Geir Magne (17). Han har selv laget den ved dreiemaskinen hjemme i utbuset, forteller Pål Kristian. Fiskesnøret og det avsgde vannrør fant han i utbuset.

— For å gjøre bildet mest mulig profesjonelt, sørget jeg for at bokstøtten pendlet frem og tilbake mens jeg knipset bildet, forteller han.

### Fremkalt senere

Først etter at han var kommet i det militære et halvt år senere, ble filmen med UFO-bildet fremkalt.

— Jeg snakket om bildet sammen med kameratene på brakka. Bildet måtte legges fram for at de skulle tro meg. De ble så imponerte, at jeg måtte kopiere bildet opp i flere eksemplarer. De fleste betalte ti kroner for en kopi, men en Sandefjordgutt ga meg 500 kroner for bildet en dag, jeg var blakk, forteller Pål Kristian.

Sandefjordguten gikk til VG med bildet, og det nærmeste halvåret gikk fotoet verden rundt. Bildedydere i det norske luftforsvaret var forbløffet over bildet. Og UFO-interesserte verden over kastet seg glupsk over fotografi- et.

This was the first part of the two articles in VG (published 20 and 21 February respectively) in which the whole affair was explained by Vaag. The reason for his confession was that the picture had been sent to Ground Saucer Watch for a closer analysis (by means of computer-processing techniques). The results of these investigations showed that a thread could be seen going vertically from the "object" and up to the top of picture. Since this suggested an obvious hoax, the findings were forwarded to Mr. Vaag Tuesday 19 February (according to the editor's information).

The real story goes like this:

The entire "arrangement" consisted of a saucer-shaped wooden piece (originally made for supporting books) painted grey, with a diameter of some 12-15 cm. This piece was connected to a fishing line, which in turn was fastened to a 2m long, cut waterpipe. He fixed the waterpipe to the roof of the woodshed at his home. Then he let the "saucer" swing on the fishing line just beyond the ridge; a few seconds later he went down and took the picture of the object with his newly purchased Kodak Disk camera. To make it appear professional, he let the object swing like a pendulum during the exposure.

The operation was easily performed in just five minutes, a morning in mid-August 1983 when he was feeling bored, - all according to Norway's greatest UFO-hoaxer. Originally he got the idea from a preacher in Copenhagen on a holiday tour, who showed him a fake UFO picture. At home in Aure he eventually made his own picture.

Half a year later, after having been enlisted in the Army, the film was developed. Then he talked about his picture with the other boys at the barrack. He had to present a copy of it in order to make them believe the story. Being very impressed, they ordered several copies of the picture, paying some Nkr. 10,- each. One of them, however (the before-mentioned Alf P. Buer), paid him kr. 500,- one day Mr. Vaag was broke, evidently buying all rights to the picture. He went to VG with it and the now infamous photo with accompanying story was presented in early August 1984. Later on, UFO-freaks almost "engulfed" it, making the report go around the world presented as authentic.

However, during the autumn of 1984, the Danish UFO-organisation Skandinavisk UFO Information (SUFOI) got hold of several copies of the picture (VG wouldn't send the original negative), and sent them to Ground Saucer Watch, USA for a thorough computer analysis\*. Due to postal delay, the results didn't emerge before 5 January 1985 when SUFOI received the "final verdict". GSW had the opinion that the object was a small model mounted to a wire!

These facts were finally forwarded about Tuesday 19 February, forcing Mr. Vaag to admit his deed.

What can we learn from this story? Unfortunatley, this affair isn't the first which has happened in the history of ufology, and it certainly won't be the last. Evidently it shows that many of us in this business have to be very careful in assuming that such pictures are real, presenting the image of something obvious "extra-terrestrial". And it shows that classical photoanalysis is not adequate for the disclosure of such photos, even if the conditions of the hoax are the simplest possible. Only a thorough electronic image-processing analysis is sufficient, although even this method isn't absolutely fool-proof.

However, Mr. Vaag himself hoped that his act should initiate a greater scepticism to UFO-pictures presented in magazines and literature as being "real". In that context, he should not be condemned for his hoax, but in a sense be appreciated

\*) UFO-Norge does have access to a similar image-processing equipment to that of GSW. This is situated at the Department of astrophysics, University of Oslo where one of its daily operators has connections with UFO-Norge. The intention was to make an analysis of the picture with this equipment, but due to a heavy workload with other, professional tasks, the analysis was postponed. Finally, the picture was sent to GSW instead.

if this can teach ufologists to be a little more sceptical. In any case, the case is now definitely closed and no more discussion should emerge.

Sources:

1. "UFO" no. 4/5 1984 pp. 4-10, no. 1 1985 p. 8.
2. Articles in the newspaper "Verdens Gang", Oslo; 20 and 21 February 1985.
3. "UFO-Nyt", tidning published by SUFOI, Denmark; no. 2 1985 pp. 8-13.

PROJECT HESSDALEN, PART II

The extension of last year's "Project Hessdalen", "Part II", was carried out from Sunday 13 to Sunday 27 January 1985. Due to the relatively many well documented observations made during the first part of the project (in January and February 1984, - see NUFON no. 1/2 1984 pp. 12-30), it had been decided at an early date to continue this work.

This time we had obtained more support and help from the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment (NDRE) together with help from the universities in Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim, with which "Project Hessdalen" had already had connections during the first part. However, this year's operations involved a firmer cooperation between us and the Establishment, resulting in a somewhat fuller instrumentation and other facilities we couldn't have managed without.

Manning

This time, a total of three observations sites were in use permanently throughout the entire investigation period.

1. Headquarters, Hammarkneppen (700 m above sea level); situated at the northern side of Aspåskjølen, about 1 km from the HQ of last year's project. Here a little barrack was set up, giving protection to the main instrumentation and communications equipment. The facilities were very much like those of Part I.
2. Fieldstation 1: Finnsåhøgda (1046 m)
3. Fieldstation 2: Rognefjellet (917 m)

On Sunday 13 January the project was ready to start and various equipment was transported to Finnsåhøgda and Rognefjellet by snow-tractors. During the first week of the project 6 persons were on duty at HQ (Hammarkneppen), 6 persons at Finnsåhøgda and 4 at Rognefjellet. The next week (from 20 to 27 January) the corresponding number of persons were 4, 5 and 5, respectively. Hence, a total of at least 30 people devoted a week of their lives to the investigation of these phenomena. Most of the persons on duty were from Sweden (from UFO-Sverige), 4-5 were from Finland and only a few were from UFO-Norge. In this connection, we have to thank the people from Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige and The UFO Research of Finland, for spending so much time with this project.

Instrumentation

The following instruments were in use during the 14 days Part II was in progress:

1. Spectrumanalyzers, 1) Tectronix 492 P. (10 kHz - 22.0 GHz). Mostly used on the frequencies 10 kHz to 1.86 GHz. Coupled to a dipole antenna.  
2) Hewlett-Packard (10 kHz - 110 MHz).  
141 S Display Section, 855 L RF-Section and 8552 A IF-Section. Coupled to an active antenna covering the band from 1 MHz to 32 MHz. The antenna was specially built to such measurements, with a complete flat frequency response in the band.
  2. LF - electromagnetical fields, Brüel & Kjær (400 Hz - 100 kHz).  
Level recorder type 2304; potentiometer type 2347. This unit was coupled to a wire which acted as an antenna.
  3. Radar, Decca Radar RM 916.  
Max. range 48 nautical miles (ca. 90 km). Usually adjusted to 3 or 6 nautical miles. Aperture covering 22 degrees.
  4. Seismograph, MEQ-800 Portable Seismic System. W.F. Sprengnether Instrument Co. Inc.  
The seismograph was installed at Leif Havik's home at Rognes, some 45 km NW of Hessdalen.
  5. Magnetometer, Fluxgate Magnetometer Model FM 100, Serial 73. EDA Electronics Ltd.  
This instrument was able to measure the magnetic flux in at least two channels continuously.
  6. Videorecorders, 1) U-matic Portable Videocassette recorder  
2) JVC (system VHS) recorder  
3) VCC 2000
  7. Videocameras, 1) Sony Video Camera AVC-3450 CE  
2) JVC GZ-S3  
3) Philips 2000
  8. Laser, a Helium-Neon laser, 633 nm wavelength, 8 mW effect.
  9. IR-viewer, FJW 80045 (range 700 - 1100 nm)
  10. Printer, TOA Electronic Polyrecorder, Model EPR-200 A. Dual-pen type printer coupled to the magnetometer.
  11. Camera equipment, about 20 different cameras (SLR) and more than 10 tripods.
- To know why and how the different instruments were used, see NUFON no. 1/2 1984, pp. 17-21.

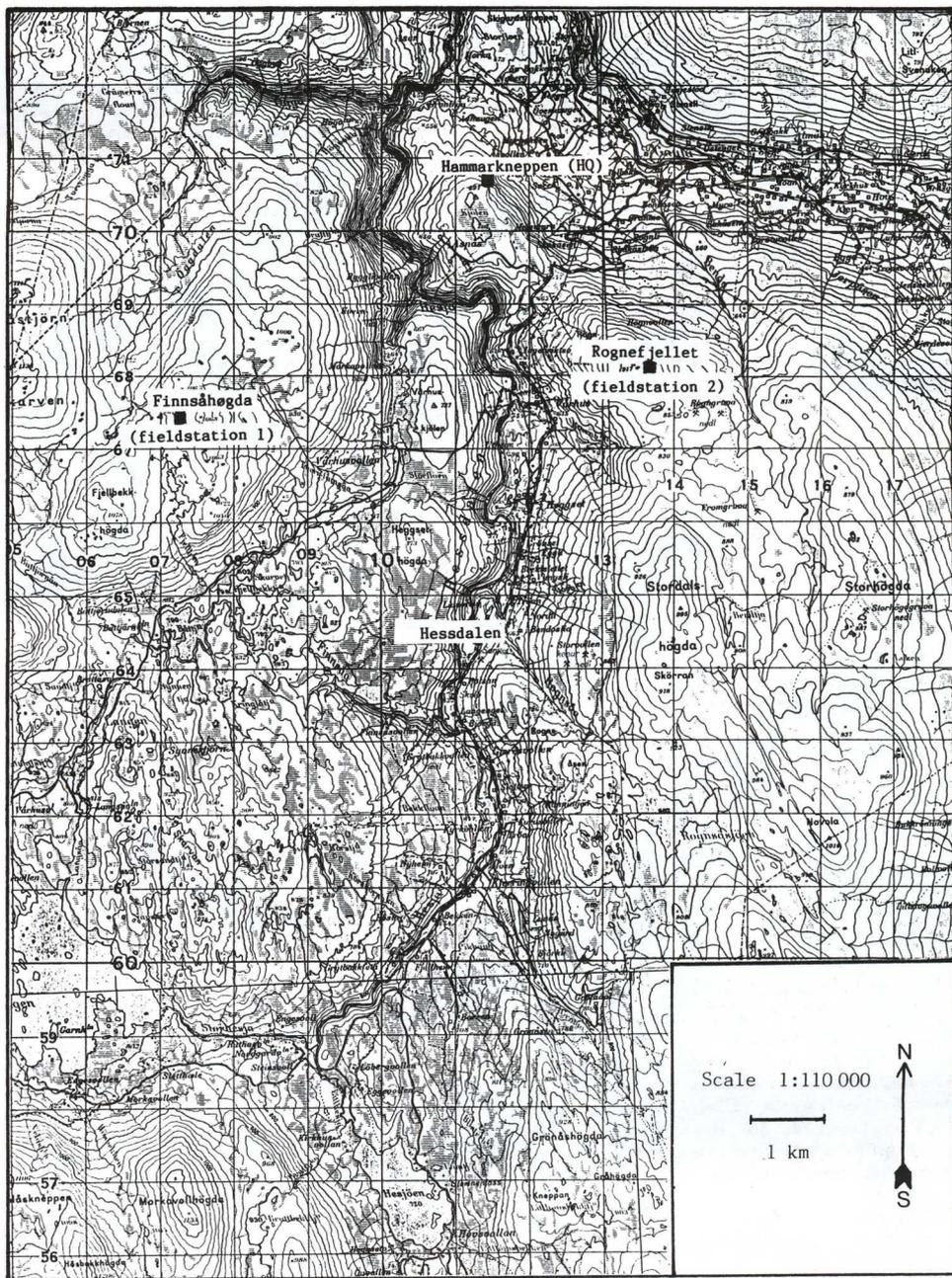
### Observations

During the entire period (from 13 - 27 January), the following types of observations were made:

- 1) About 55 sightings of uncertain origin (i.e. possibly airplanes without any corresponding sound, etc.).
- 2) About 220 sightings which were identified (i.e. airplanes, helicopters, satellites, shooting stars, etc.).

As one may see, no affirmative observations were made enabling us to find a definitive answer to the phenomenon. Due to rather bad weather during parts of the period (severe gales, fog and snowfall) the number of sightings was fewer than in Part I. However, one may say that the quality of the observations was better this year, so all in all, the result is roughly the same. A short listing of some selected sightings is presented below:

- 1) Wednesday 16 January 1985: 01.34 am (visual) - Björn Lagesson and Leif Havik observed a strong flash of light while sitting inside their tent (at HQ). Although not being able to see the



sky and the light-source, the tent's interior was lit up as it were broad daylight. Cause unknown (← light-ning?).

2) Saturday 19 January:

06.59 pm (visual) - A warm-yellow ball of light appeared to the north of HQ, i.e. above the Haltdalen valley. No pictures were taken. Time of observations: some 3-4 seconds.

3) Sunday 20 January:

08.19 pm (visual) - A yellow and red point of light was casually observed by Leif Havik while it passed northwards with a wavy motion. No pictures were taken because the distance was too big, and due to bad visibility in the heavy snowfall.

One may mention that in periods the conditions were very bad, not only for observation, but even for staying at the various observations posts. At least by one occasion the weather was so bad that the HQ personnel had to abandon their tent (living quarters at Hammarkneppen) and almost crawl to the small barrack where the main instruments were situated. The tent was in great danger of collapsing in the storm and heavy snow. Earlier the same day, the observation post at Finnsåhøgda had to be evacuated for the same reasons. All in all, it must be said that the weather was much better the previous year, though the investigators' will to maintain their watch was not diminished.

Photographic record during the project

38 B/W still films were taken; 20 movie films (super 8 mm) were also shot. Although each (still) photographic film had a capacity of 20 pictures, very few observers had managed to utilise this capacity. Though several cameras were equipped with gratings (for spectral photography) like those used during last year's project, we probably still lack a proper record of this kind. However, not all the films have yet been developed (up to 25 April), and hence they haven't been scrutinized for such images. We will return to the results in the next issue of NUFON.

Generally speaking, it is evident that the recordings made by the spectrometers are much better documented this year. The radar equipment, however, didn't live up to expectations, recording very few registrations. The registrations made by the seismograph are yet to be analysed. The laser was not directed towards the phenomenon this time, so we didn't get any response as was shown last year. All observations will be checked against informations provided by the military radar station at Gråkallen outside Trondheim. Then hopefully we'll be able to rule out sightings of aircraft, a major source of potential error. At present, there are 184 recordings/observations that have got an FI-rating (F/G index; FI means that the sighting is very possibly of known origin)(see NUFON no. 1/2 1984 p- 26).

Extension of Project Hessdalen, Part II

This extension of the project was carried out between 28 January and 10 February. The main instrumentation was dismantled during 27-28 January and together with it almost all of the personnel left Hessdalen. Only three persons were left: Leif Havik, Mariann Överström and Björn Lagesson, in order to capture the phenomenon both visually and on film. The cameras were as usual equipped with gratings.

These three persons were living in a tent at the former HQ, Hammarkneppen, struggling against unusually strong winds and heavy snowfalls. Leif Havik openly admits that he expected a higher rate of observations now when the instrumentation was taken away, bearing in mind earlier experience which could indicate such a tendency. He was probably right; at any rate this trio made the following main observations during the two weeks' period of investigation:

- 1) Tuesday 29 January, a) 05.39 pm (visual/photographic) - An orange ball of light shining intensely to the northwest, hovering motionless for about 30 secs. First they thought it was a signalling light (hanging in a parachute) estimating the distance to be rather short. Later, rifle shots were heard and one more light was observed and photographed. Conclusively, they found out that the lights originated from a HV-center (civilian guard training center) in Haltdalen som 10 km away, towards NNW. Which of course implied that the distance first assumed was grossly underestimated.
- b) 08.13 pm (visual/photographic) - An object appeared from the south at the speed of an airplane, travelling the customary airline route towards the north. However, no sound was heard, and for this reason Leif Havik took four photographs. One of them also included Venus, as the object passed apparently in front of this celestial body. Additional witnesses: three other persons situated at Aspåskjølen. Observation time: 3 minutes; meteorological cond.: a clear sky, temperature: - 9.5 °C, with a northerly breeze.
- c) 10.21 pm (visual/photographic) - An airplane (confirmed) travelling towards south was observed and photographed to be used as a comparison to the above (08.13 pm) observation.

A few days later the team at Hammarkneppen learned that observations had been made at Lake Øyungen and Lake Hersjøen (some 12-13 km to the SSW) both on Thursday 31 January and Friday 1 February. A total of three observations including sphere-shaped phenomena with yellow-white colours. They were observed on both days between 07.30 pm and 09.00 pm.

- 2) Wednesday 6 February, 06.53 - 07.10 pm (visual/photographic) - A weak warm-yellow/orange coloured light was observed on the eastern side of the Rognefjellet mountain. The object was seen by Leif Havik and Bjørn Lagesson when it reappeared four times at the same spot. The event was photographed (4 pictures), although with what result we don't yet know. Total time of observation: 17 minutes. At this time the moon was to the left and Venus to the right. Meteorological cond.: half clear sky, temperature - 10 °C, northwesterly breeze. The next day Leif Havik went to the Rognefjellet mountain to check for snowscooter tracks, but saw none in the area.
- 3) Thursday 7 February, 10.10 pm (visual/photographic) - An object travelled southwards three minutes after an airplane had passed to the north. Both Bjørn Lagesson and Leif Havik photographed it.

The above mentioned observations are the most important from this final period, made between snowflurries and in generally rough weather. The photos taken, however, showed no spectra, the light was too weak.

The watch was concluded Sunday 10 February 1985, after a total of one month's living in a cold tent.

### Conclusion

Although the Hessdalen valley was monitored even more closely and thoroughly this time, no final verdict can be made about the phenomenon's true origin. As was found during Part I, it's existence has been affirmed both with radar and with other instruments, yet the appearance still seems to be very elusive. It remains an open question whether we will be able to make any major breakthroughs with our present re-

sources; though advanced with respect to instrumentation compared with typical ufological field equipment, we still lack some resources appropriate for a fully equipped field laboratory. Major advances can probably be accomplished only with full professional aid, eventually making the "amateurs" obsolete. For the time being, however, we must maintain our efforts, both to observe the phenomenon by all possible means, and at the same time to encourage the "professionals" to undertake a full scale investigation with their more substantial resources.

Sources:

1. "UFO" no. 1 1985 pp. 11-13.
  2. Project Hessdalen Bulletin vol. 3 no. 1 1985.
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J. ALLEN HYNEK VISITS NORWAY

UFO-Norge had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. J. Allen Hynek as a guest during the last days of January 1985. He arrived at Fornebu airport outside Oslo on 25 January and was greeted by Mr. Odd-Gunnar Røed, a member of UFO-Norge's group concerned with day-to-day affairs.

Although tired after having spent 10 hours on the plane which had come directly from the USA, he decided to head for Hessdalen at once, in order to observe the final days of Project Hessdalen, Part II. He and Mr. Røed drove the 350 km leg by car, on a rather tedious trip involving several cold surprises (with temperatures down to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). However, they eventually reached Hessdalen some hours behind time-schedule and stayed overnight at Ole Lillevold in Ålen, in the vicinity of Hessdalen.

The next day he visited the HQ near Aspåskjølen and was evidently very impressed by the instrumentation and set-up in connection with the project. Here he met members from UFO-Norge and UFO-Sverige, and they discussed ufological cases (especially from the USA), with which Dr. Hynek was personally acquainted.



Mr. Hynek seen in front of the instruments at HQ.



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UFO News Flash, edited by Massimo Greco, Via Gramsci 12, 25100 Brescia, Italy. (no. 9 February 1984).

UFO Research Australia Newsletter, edited by Vladimir Godic, P.O.Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082. (no. 4 July/August 1984).

UFO Tasmania Newsletter, Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre, P.O.Box 99, North Hobart, Tasmania 7002. (no. 43 October 1984).

From our correspondent in Italy, Maurizio Verga, we have got the following offer, which he would like to announce in this newsletter:

Three series of programs about Italian UFO catalogs are available on floppy disks or cassettes for a Commodore 64 microcomputer. They are:

- 1) ITACAT - Italian Catalogue of close encounters (about 430 entries)
- 2) ITACAT N - Italian Catalogue of "negative" (i.e. IFO) close encounters (about 100 entries)
- 3) TRACAT - Italian catalogue of trace cases (about 160 cases)

Each series of programs includes an introduction, some graphic screens, the specific powerful database and its own file; a general presentation is included, too. A written presentation with explanations is supplied together with the programs. A version for Apple IIc is now available.

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