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FINLAND

FIRST KNOWN ABDUCTION CASE IN FINLAND ?

By Heikki Virtanen

Date: Between January and Easter 1917

Time: Several days

Place: Jyrinvaara, 6 km west of the town of Kurkijoki, Northern Karelia, Soviet Union (formerly Finland)

Witness: Anni Lattu

Nature of sighting: A possible CE-IV (abduction case)

This case was first mentioned in the newspaper Kurkijokelainen, which is mainly read by persons who formerly lived in the little community of Kurkijoki in Northern Karelia, nowadays in Soviet territory. The newspaper understandably contains a lot of memories of life in Kurkijoki before the war (and during the war). One of these was a short article written by the signature "Latomaen Aino", in no. 23 (9 June 1978) of Kurkijokelainen.

The signature tells a story from the time just before Finland declared independency, e.g. 1917. Anni, a widow, was living in her little house in Jyrinvaara, about 6 km to the west from the Kurkijoki church. She disappeared for some days, and the villagers thought she had gone to visit her daughter. But when she came back, she had an amazing story to tell.

A large machine, like a big wash-basin, had landed beside her house and from it, small creatures, which Anni later called devils, came down by the ladder. Somehow she could understand a little of their language. She was not willing to follow them, but she was taken aboard by force, and they travelled very fast, everything (in the world?) was shown to her and there was a lot of wonder. The machine was shining inside and made no noise as in the train. Anni told that the devil flew her over the world and even between the stars. Anni retold her story many times, also in our place, but everybody said that she had a fever and hallucinated or just dreamed, but Anni did not agree. She was then already past the middle-age.

The signature wonders if the machine was a UFO and the devils could have been humanoids; or did Anni only have a fever, after all?

Further investigations

Because of this article, one of the investigators in The UFO Research of Finland, Mauritz Hietamäki, detected and interviewed Mrs. NN. (born 1910), who was a little girl and one of Anni's neighbours when the event took place. During the years that followed Anni's experience, she had often told about it in NN.'s home, so Mrs. NN. could remember the details.

Anni's full name was Anni Lattu (1873 - 1930) and she was not a widow, even if it is probable that she lived alone. Actually, her husband Juho died 11 years later than herself. Mrs. NN. recollected that Anni was always alone when visiting the other villagers, so it was quite natural that NN. as a little girl took her for a widow. She lived in a little house on the eastern shore of the Kankaanlampi Lake, in the village of Alho.

The event took place, according to Mrs. NN., between January and Easter in 1917. Anni was doing her everyday work, when the machine, which she described as wash-basin-shaped (the usual wash-basin in those days was like a big soup plate). It had ladders, by which Anni was taken aboard against her will. Inside the craft, there were a lot of small men, who were moving quickly. Anni never spoke of their clothes, and it sees that she did not have any ideas of what the small men were. As the religious people in the village thought they were devils, Anni accepted this

Witnesses: Karl Axelsson, Elna Axelsson, Linnea (surname unknown), Håkan Forslund
 Nature of sighting: Hovering craft seen for several hours

Caretaker Karl Axelsson (53) with his wife Elna, their neighbour Håkan Forslund and their mother-in-law Linnea, shared the same frightening experience late one evening in March 1986:

A shining spaceship slowly gliding above the water and landing on a nearby mountain!

"After this event, I don't know what to believe. My experience seems so unreal". Karl Axelsson, living in Brunflo, Jämtland in Mid-Sweden, recalls this strange event which occurred the night of 17/18 March 1986. Never before in his life has he seen anything like what appeared that night. "I was terribly frightened. It was some sort of a craft not coming from the earth. It must have originated from another planet, I am fully convinced of that that", he concedes.

Elna, his wife, adds: "Just the thought of being visited by vehicles and creatures from another planet is terrible and frightening. But that's the way it is. We surely did see the craft, both of us. I was sitting beside Karl in the car when the craft appeared. Our neighbour, living further down the road, and my mother, who lives somewhat further away, both observed the same thing. And certainly, we can't have hallucinated or just imagined all of it, either".

A powerful lamp

The house of Karl and Elna stands on a hilltop with a fantastic view to the lake Locknesjön. In clear weather they can see many prominent mountains to the north, scores of kilometres away. On the far side of the lake the spire of Lockne church can be seen, pointing upwards over the treetops. On the evening of Monday 17 March, Elna had made a delicious soup and invited her mother, Linnea, to join them. She lives some 400 metres away and was met by Karl in the doorway. "Our neighbour, Brådessons, has put up a powerful lamp behind the pigsty", was her first remark that evening. "I was rather surprised" Karl says, "It was an odd place to mount a lamp, so I wondered if maybe my mother-in-law was mistaken, and that the neighbour had mounted the lamp in front of the pigsty. But she insisted - it was behind the house.

By 8 o'clock they had finished their meal. The wind had increased and the weather was cold and unpleasant when the time came for Karl to drive his mother-in-law home. When they had driven only a short distance, Linnea pointed towards a powerful shining light at the far side of the lake. It was the same strong light which she had seen earlier behind the neighbour's pigsty.

"Neither my mother-in-law nor I could understand what kind of light this could be. At first we guessed it might be some sort of modern wood-processing machinery with a light high up on a mast; however, after a short while we rejected that idea. The light was too high, and it was too late in the day for workers to be out in the wood. We sat in the car for some 10 minutes and discussed the strange light before I drove my mother-in-law to her house".

The light moved

Karl saw the light again when he returned home. He had intended to hurry inside to watch TV, but this light haunted him. There was something very strange about it!

Throughout his entire life, Karl has had a keen interest in astronomy. Since his schooldays he has known the constellations, and can find his way about on the celestial sphere. This, however, was certainly no star, - and neither could it be a machine in the wood. But what could it be, then? he asked himself. He fetched his powerful binoculars and drove a distance down the road. He pulled down his side-window in order to get the best possible view.

The strange light was yellow-white and powerful. It pulsated permanently,

- changing output from strong to weak.

"The light was fixed in the sky like the evening star, but its light was so much stronger", Karl recalls. "I observed it in the same direction as the constellation Orion. The odd thing was that it apparently shone right through the fog and vapour which lay above the terrain. I sat there, wondering if I should fetch Elna and drive towards the other side of the lake at Lockne. From that viewpoint I should be able to see what this phenomenon could be, I thought. But then the light began to move. It glided slowly above the water towards the side where I was. I was sitting fascinated in my car and just watched how the light hovered in over the landscape upwards against the nearby hilltop of Fårskinsberget".

"With my binoculars I saw it was some kind of a craft. It was composed of some 20 squared sections. Each section appeared as a large window with a light inside. The craft was some 150 metres long and almost 10 metres high, I calculated. It was about 1.5 km from the mountain where it was hovering, to where I was".

"I ran inside and fetched Elna, and at the same time phoned our neighbour and told him what I just had seen", Karl relates. "Elna followed me out and we sat in the car for a long time. We had only one pair of binoculars and being very eager to observe, we nearly quarrelled, both of us fighting to use it".

"Yes, I got angry with Karl", Elna admits with a smile. "I just got the binoculars to see the object for a short while, then he almost forced them away from me again. After a while I got so bored I went in to bed".

When Karl was left on his own in the car, something very strange happened. From one side of the craft another object appeared, sliding away. It was saucer-shaped and also shone brightly. It descended slowly between the trees and landed somewhere on the mountain. A moment afterwards another saucer appeared, but this one disappeared soundlessly at an unbelievable speed, in the direction of Fröson.

At 9.45 pm an airplane from Linjeflyg (a national air carrier) came enroute from Stockholm. "When the airplane appeared, it seemed as if they tried to hide", Karl says. "Suddenly a thick, white smoke was pumped out of the object and soon afterwards it was invisible, looking like a cloud when the plane passed. A few moments later the smoke was sucked into the object again, and once more I could see the craft clearly in the binoculars".

"I just gave up. The whole event was so unreal. My neighbour, Håkan Forslund, just came by and we discussed what this object could be. Then the object took off soundlessly and flew outwards over the lake in the vicinity of Lockne church. Here it hovered motionless for a while. Suddenly the lights went off and the object was gone. "There go the fuses", my neighbour commented, rather laconic. He was feeling cold and a short while after the disappearing of the ship, he went home. I sat once more alone in the car".

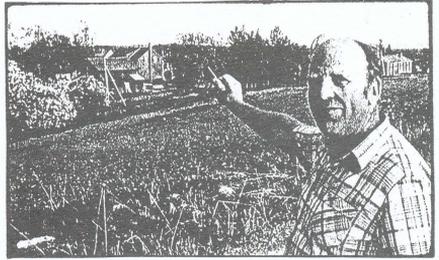
Sheer terror

After a rather long period of time Karl observed a glow on the hillside of Fårskinsberget. It grew stronger and after a while he saw the same ship, with a powerful light, hovering in the air.

"Possibly they had returned with their lights off. Now, a powerful light beam shot out from the object, making it probable that they were searching for something in the terrain. The light was very intense and scanned to and fro on the ground. The cone of light stopped intermittently by a house or something else. At this point there was no doubt that they were looking for something or someone. The light steadily came closer to me, and suddenly the car was hit by it! The light was almost unbelievably powerful and I became filled with terror. When looking out to the other side of the car the shadow was black as coal and seemed very threatening. It was impossible for me to escape that way, I felt. Inside the light, I could glimpse as it were a long, long tunnel and I was on the verge of being pulled through

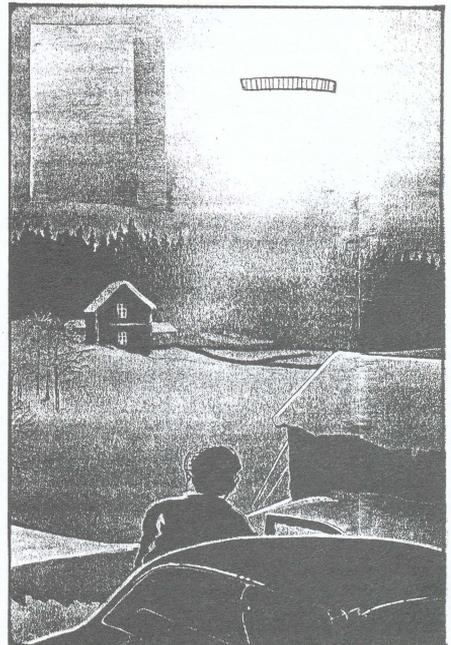


Both Elna and Karl Axelsson saw the strange, intense yellow-white light. Their sighting was confirmed by several other observers. The same evening and the following, several persons called the UFO-group in Østersund and told that they had seen the mysterious light. Elna and Karl are living in Halle in the outskirts of Brunflo.



"I saw the spaceship at that spot", Karl explains and points towards the Fårskinnsberget which can be seen behind the building at left. When the object sent out a powerful light beam, and began searching the ground, Karl became very scared. "I wrenched the car door open and ran home".

With his binoculars Karl Axelsson could see the unknown craft in detail, with its shining windows. From the "mother-ship" two smaller "saucers" appeared and seemed to land on the Fårskinnsberget, about 1.5 km from where Karl had parked his car. Neither military nor civilian authorities can give any explanation for the mysterious visit.



"The next evening (18 March) the object first observed by Karl Axelsson, evidently returned", Kurt Persson relates. That evening he and his wife worked in the center of the town and therefore he didn't observe anything himself. However, there were quite a few incoming reports from other individuals, indicating that strange things were happening in the area.

- 1) A man living in Lockne reported that during the night it was as bright as day in the town, due to some unknown lightsource. He couldn't see where it came from; however, it was a powerful, yellow-white light, he says.
- 2) A woman living in a community center south of Tandsbyn (30 km SSW of Brunflo) observed a powerful yellow-white light, which moved along the horizon as if it was an airship.

The UFO-organisation has been in contact with both civilian and military authorities. None of them was responsible for any airplanes in the area at the time Karl and the others had their sightings. The plane from Linjeflyg was the only exception, and this machine was recognized by Karl. Then it cannot be a matter of confusion, Kurt Persson explains. However, the other plane that Karl heard that evening, poses a problem. He assumed that it was the Air Force or others who were out, searching for the shining object. However, allegedly, noone knows anything about it. The Air Force, who have a shooting range nearby, definitely denies having anything airborne that evening. The same holds true for everybody else who might be able to fly there. But the most important question remains: what kind of shining craft was observed by Karl Axelsson and the others? Where did it come from and what was it looking for?

"I hardly dare think about it", Karl says. "But one thing is for certain: this craft didn't originate from our planet!"

Source:

Hemmets Journal no. 31, 30 July 1986.

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NORGE

WE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING UNEXPLAINED

Date: During late July 1986

Time: Between 10.30 and 11 pm

Place: Tydal valley, Sør-Trøndelag county, Southern Norway

Witnesses: A married couple (anonymous)

Nature of sighting: Brightly shining object at close range

A construction-worker from Stjørdalen (near Trondheim) and his wife observed something really unexplained in the Tydal valley during the summer of 1986. They won't reveal their proper names, and the story is taken from the weekly magazine Hjemmet (no. 43, 21 October 1986). Having very few "hard facts" at hand, the story may seem quite worthless as a UFO report. However, we include it, because it is exciting and describes very well what other witnesses have observed during the UFO-era.

"This observation, which I am about to describe, and to which my wife is also a witness, we haven't told to a living soul. We are afraid of being ridiculed, and perhaps worse, being looked upon as fools. Revealing our names and addresses in

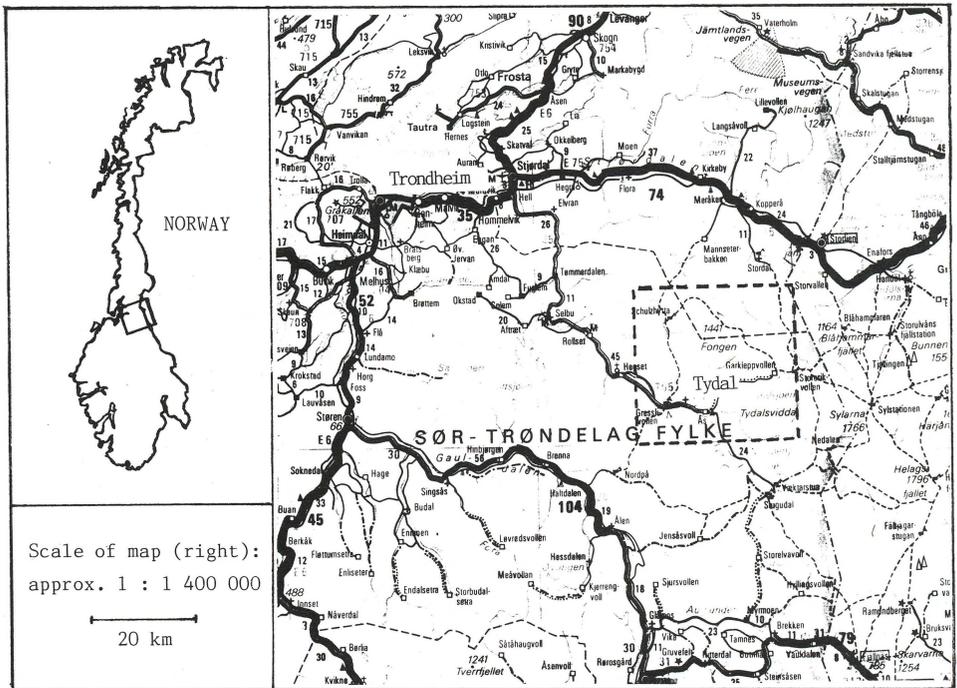
public is out of the question. Why, then, do we print this story? Because it is a relief to us to get it onto paper. It means we are no longer totally alone with our experience, and at the same time it could help and support other persons who may have observed something similar. If I had observed this alone, I would have questioned my own sanity. But luckily, there were two of us sharing the same experience.

What my wife and I observed during half-an-hour in late July, near our cottage in Tydal, we did really see! Tydal is a valley in the county of Sør-Trøndelag, some 60 km southeast of Trondheim, in central-Norway. It was fairly cloudy and the weather was nice in the mountains when we left the cottage at about 10.30 pm in order to make our customary 10 to 15 minute evening walk. We had walked only a few metres, when we caught sight of a blinding, blue-white light below the cloud cover to the northeast. We stood observing the light. Was it a plane? No, - it didn't move. Slowly, it began to move towards us, then passed overhead, still looking like a shining star high above in the sky. Then the "star" came to a halt to the south. It remained in this position for a long while before beginning to descend in large circles. It became stationary some 100 metres above a mountain-ridge at a distance of almost 1 km. Due to the blinding light, we couldn't possibly see the contours of the object, although we were almost certain that it was a helicopter. A helicopter searching for missing persons? - Yes, it had to be! Or it could also be some sort of a military exercise. Strangely, we couldn't hear the customary "flop-flops" from the rotor blades, nor any engine roar. The silence was almost total in this part of the mountains in the beautiful summer evening. The ground beneath the helicopter was illuminated as if it was a clear, sunny day. - Yes, they had to be in search for missing persons. We sat down on a little rock to follow the act.

Suddenly, the blue-white light turned into red, then in the next moment returned to the blue-white hue again. The helicopter raced at an enormous speed towards north, then came back again. This time it made an abrupt halt, somewhat closer than the previous time. We stared open-mouthed at each other. This couldn't be any sort of a helicopter! Again the red light came by and blended with the blue-white in the same way as the northern lights. The light went to and fro in a wavy fashion and the "craft" descended towards a small marsh area. There it made a halt just a few metres above the ground. Still, it was impossible for us to glimpse anything through the enormously powerful light. The shining object held this position for several minutes. Our eyes got sore and ran with tears, but we had to watch! Then suddenly the colours surrounding the object began to flicker, and the light slowly faded. When the light brilliance gradually got dimmer, we glimpsed the contours of an object. It hurt our eyes to look directly onto it. Its shape resembled that of a flat ball or a mushroom. What kind of material this "mushroom" consisted of, or what colour it had was impossible to determine against the blinding light. Neither of us was able to say anything. We sat there, totally stunned and just stared at the strange object, very confused and incredulous.

The oblong object seemed enormous. The underside was flat and the top was curved. We looked at each other before we once more concentrated on observing the colour-sparkling mirage being presented, soundless and totally motionless. Suddenly the entire object ascended some metres and stood edgewise! In this position it moved slowly towards some small rocks in the outskirts of the marsh. There it stayed closely to the ground, still in an upright position. The colour shimmering increased and grew to enormous power; then the light suddenly faded. The strange object appeared like a whale standing in an upright position, with an "ocean of light" underneath and beside. We both had a feeling of hearing a weak "metallic" whistling when the object suddenly tilted top to bottom, at the same time the intense blue-white light increased in strength once more and surrounded the craft.

What happened in the next moment, happened enormously fast. The craft approached us like a projectile. It passed overhead and we lost our breath when we plunged to the earth at our observing site. At the same time we lost our hearing.



My wife clinged to me with a sprained arm, being white as sheet and in a state of shock. I have to admit that I wasn't too happy myself when we stumped along on our way back to the cottage. After one hour the hearing began to return, but still I am very bothered by buzzing in the ears. We didn't sleep very well either, neither that night nor the following nights. We considered leaving the cottage almost immediately and journey home, however, we decided to remain for a couple of days. We would not risk getting any extensive questioning from friends and neighbours. In our mental state, we could accidentally reveal the true cause and perhaps be looked upon as nuts. We only do know that we saw what we saw, and that it is a relief to us to have got it onto paper. What we saw, we don't know; however, a plane, a helicopter, weatherballoon, ball lightning or a star - it certainly wasn't any of these!

We don't want any sort of financial reward or the privilege to become "public persons". Hence, we are not willing to sign this letter. The very reason for us to write, is the positive feeling in sharing this experience with others. We do hope that it can encourage and comfort individuals with similar experiences, and who in fear of ridicule keep it secret".

As stated in the preface, the strangeness of this observation and the circumstances under which it was made, makes it a proper report for presentation in this magazine. We will certainly return to the case if new information should surface in the future.

Source:

Hjemmet no. 43, 21 October 1986.

FANTASTIC UFO-MOVIE FROM HALLINGDAL

By Odd-Gunnar Røed and Mentz Kaarbø

Date: Sunday 13 July 1986

Time: From 0.50 to 3 am

Place: Breiset mountain farm, Torpo in the Hallingdal valley

Witnesses: Tove, Christer and Torfinn Tonning together with some friends

Nature of sighting: Lights seen and filmed at a distance

The night between Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July 1986, the married couple Tove and Torfinn Tonning together with their son Christer and some friends were enjoying the fine nordic summernight. The location was the Breiset mountain farm near Torpo in the Hallingdal valley, Southern Norway. Suddenly, at 0.50 am, they realized that Mrs. Tonning was staring at the window, and asked why she was so astonished. "Look at the light up there!", she exclaimed. "Now it has ascended from the horizon and moved above two crossbars in the window!"

They all move outside the house, and Torfinn Tonning takes his videocamera with him. However, he discovers that the batteries are powerless, so he must use the cigarette-lighter in the car. With the camera firmly fixed on top of the car roof, he directs the lens towards the phenomenon, which is located in an easterly/northeasterly direction somewhere in the distance.

The first object

In addition to using the camera they also have the time to scan the phenomenon with a pair of powerful binoculars. With it, they can observe clearly discernible details. The object is oval at the top and bottom. In the middle, three clearly separable circular lights are situated. The object appears as if it is illuminated by these three lights, which has a blue-white colour. Simultaneously, Mr. Tonning observes some flashes of light coming downwards to the ground from the object. 10 to 12 flashes can be seen in each burst, evenly distributed in time. These blinks resemble that of a flashgun. Furthermore, the object spews out rapid sparks of light on each side; this particular phenomenon being especially clear and distinct.

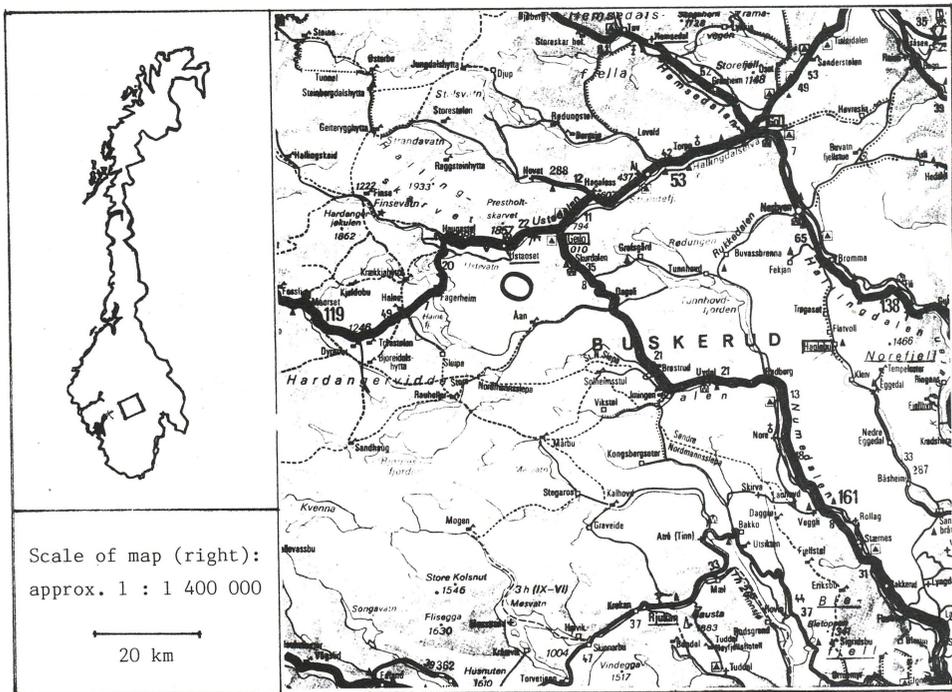
An important feature regarding the object's movement, is the tilting to an angle of ca. 45° (with both sides alternately shifting position), together with the apparent manoeuvring towards and away from the witnesses. Moreover, ups and downs, more or less combined with sideway sliding, altogether give a complicated pattern of movement.

After some time, it descends to a hill permitting both the object and parts of the landscape to be visible in the same videoframe (although this feature couldn't be recognized in the subsequent analysis). After a short while it ascends so abruptly that Mr. Tonning is unable to keep pace with his camera. Certainly, no helicopter would be able to ascend that fast!

The second object

Gradually, Mr. Tonning becomes aware of a second object just as he and the others are observing the first one. The latter is located just opposite of the first, in a west/southwesterly direction and has a stronger (i.e. more colour-saturated), red-white hue. However, because this object seems to be at a much greater distance (it is considerably fainter), the appearance on the video is of a rather limited duration and quality. It is observed for a relatively short time, leaving the witnesses to study the first object more closely.

The videofilm lasts for about 10 minutes. The actual observation



lasted to around 3 o'clock am, i.e. for more than two hours. Both objects disappeared at a great speed in a skewed angle to the horizon. Before disappearing, the main object became smaller and smaller, thus indicating a gradual withdrawal along the line of sight.

Support from other witnesses

Just about a week later, UFO-Norge received a telephone call from Oslo from a woman who wanted to be anonymous. She told that she and her boyfriend had pitched their camp at a desolate mountain site called Krækkja (situated ca. 80 km WSW of Torpo) just before the actual observing date for the Tonnings. On 13 July at 2.20 am she happened to move outside the camping van and caught sight of a powerful light in the sky, which she at first believed to be the moon. The direction was ENE. However, she quickly realized that this couldn't be so, since the light moved and it wasn't as large as the moon. She looked at the phenomenon for 5 minutes and then went inside and woke up her boyfriend. Together they stood outside observing it for another 5 minutes until they both went inside in order to get warm again, due to the cold night.

A later analysis reveals that the direction of the object seen from Krækkja corresponds closely with that observed to the WSW by Mr. Tønning and his companions (the second object), after compensating for the geographical separation between the different observers (see map). Some clues indicate that the distance to the object seen from Krækkja was less than that seen from the Tonnings' place.



Map showing the observation sites together with the two objects' line of sight.

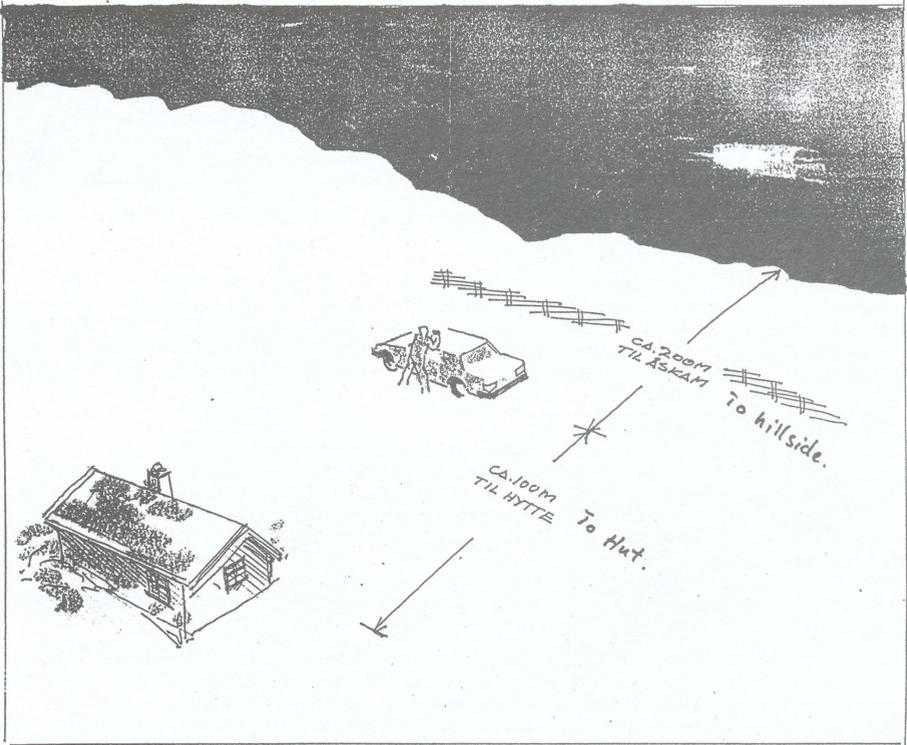
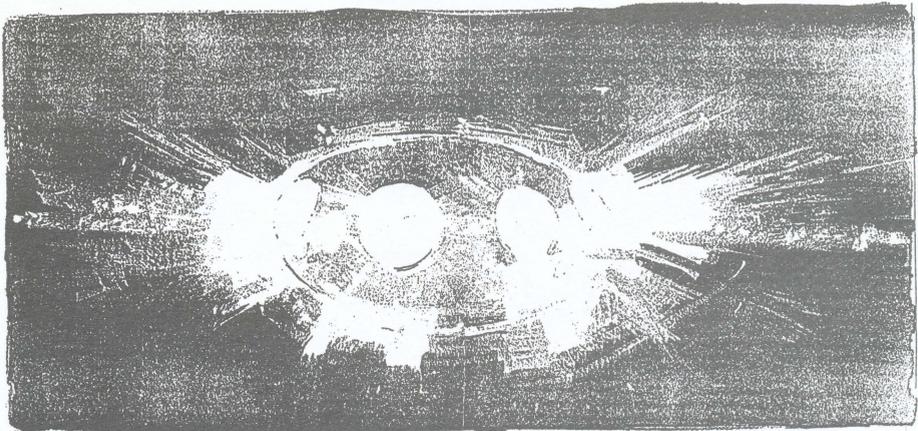
When Mr. Tonning replayed the videotape on his recorder at home, he was rather disappointed at first. The image of the phenomena captured by his camera didn't appear quite as impressive as the actual observation through binoculars. The video-camera was equipped with a zoom lens with an 6X magnification. However, when using the recorder's stationary image option, many of the details became visible again.

UFO-Norge visits Mr. Tonning

Representatives from UFO-Norge in Tønsberg paid a visit to Mr. Torfinn Tonning (living in the town of Skien, situated in the southeastern part of Southern Norway), after his case was briefly presented by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation. The investigators were highly impressed by the movie together with the accompanying report, and shortly afterwards the research began to take shape.

One might add that Mr. Tonning is in his 40's, currently holds a position in the City Council, and is considered generally as a very reliable person; this certainly adds further credibility to his report.

Meanwhile, the case began to attract wide attention and the daily life of Mr. Tonning was affected rather severely. Newspapers and other mass-media were very interested and his telephone was never silent. Considering the commotion that his observation aroused, he would hardly make such an observation public once more, given the possibility of another spectacular UFO-sighting.



A drawing of the witness' impression.

The representatives of UFO-Norge decided to wait a bit, just to let the commotion fade before the real analysis could be initiated. Our organisation was in this case especially obliged to make use of our connections, in order to prove to the public that this movie wasn't just another elaborated fake, made by a person desperately seeking attention.

Financial support

In the meantime, the advertising company TED BATES located in Oslo became interested in the case, and took a serious view of the observation and the movie. They were willing to support the analysis economically, and the cooperation between UFO-Norge and this firm ran very smoothly from the beginning. However, their further involvement in the case depended somewhat on a positive response from their foreign business associates, the German publishing house Springer-Verlag. A couple of months after the initial contact with TED BATES, some of the preliminary results from the ongoing investigation raised doubts about the phenomena being bona fide UFOs. Although the matter is still unresolved, these indications at that time precluded further direct economical support from this source.

Further analysis of the movie

There still remain some aspects of the case which have not been fully investigated. However, one of the first things we did with the movie, was to show it to a panel of selected experts at the Norwegian Industry Research Institute (NIRI) in Oslo. The members were very impressed, especially when the recording was replayed on a large TV-screen. A short time afterwards, on 17 October 1986 the video was presented to another panel of experts, namely researchers at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE), with whom UFO-Norge had a close cooperation in connection with Project Hessdalen (which is presented in several recent issues of this magazine). Principal investigator from the project, Mr. Erling Strand showed the video, together with the main witness, Mr. Tonning. The audience became very interested, and several proposals were made for further research. The next steps should include thorough investigation regarding the astronomical situation during the observation (the positions of stars, planets etc.) together with any possible connections to airplanes and/or satellites. Former, preliminary analyses should be reconsidered, being systematically compiled into the new mass of data.

Investigations by GSW

During the first months of 1987, the movie was sent to extensive analysis at Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) in the USA. Mr. Paul Norman, of the Australian-based Victorian UFO Research Society, kindly took the responsibility of a personal delivery from UFO-Norge to the GSW. During the summer of this year, the movie was analysed with the help of electronic image processing, in the way that has made GSW a leading organisation in this field.

Some information had to be collected to enhance the validity of their analysis; among them a thorough documentation of the weather situation in the area at the actual point of time. UFO-Norge representative, Mr. Odd-Gunnar Røed, made inquiries at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute in Oslo; they responded by sending computer printouts generated by two automatic weather stations near Torpo, together with general information. The papers showed that the weather conditions on the observing date were fairly good; a cloudbase of some 1500-2500 metres, varying in extent from 1/8 (a sunny, almost clear sky) during the evening of 12 July to 8/8 (completely overcast) the morning of 13 July. Visibility (underneath the clouds) was 75 kilometres or more. Together with other parameters, the data show that the phenomena very probably were seen underneath the clouds, which makes possible approximate estimates regarding their altitude and, indirectly, their distance.

Astronomically, a review of existing sources shows that the sun set

in the WNW at about 10.30 pm (Norwegian summer time, i.e. at 8.30 GMT or UT) on 12 July; rising in ENE at 4.20 on the local horizon on 13 July. During the summer at these latitudes (60 degrees North), the sky is never dark, especially not the northern part of it. Even if the sky were partially obscured by clouds, it should be relatively easy to recognise the faint twilight caused by the sun situated not far below the horizon. The moon was not visible during the time of observation, since it set at 00.10 am in the west (on the night between 12 and 13 July) and rose at noon some 12 hours later. None of the major planets were especially favourable between 01 and 03 am: Venus being above the horizon (in the south) only during daytime; Mars rising at ca. 11.30 pm. - south at 01.25 - setting at 03.13 am (being very low above the horizon); Jupiter rising at 00.00 - south at 05.40 - setting at 11.17 am. Saturn should hardly be visible due to the sun-glare during the afternoon and set just before 2 am.

Among these planets only Jupiter might be a suspect candidate for the second object seen from Torpo. This planet was comparatively high in a southerly direction during observing time, together with the fact that it shone with a clear, distinct light (astronomical magnitude - 2.6). But if the Krækkja-based observers saw the same object in the opposite direction (ENE) at the same time as that of Tonnings', this precludes such an explanation.

Regarding the air-traffic in the area, a general air-way between Oslo and Bergen lies 40-80 km south of Torpo; going in a west-east direction. This route is used mainly by jet planes, having a rather high velocity (700-800 km/h) at this stage in their flight pattern, resulting in a swift apparent motion in the sky. The altitude usually varies between 4500-8000 metres. The observed objects' stationary appearance may suggest a helicopter or some sort of a balloon, although this solution seems rather far-fetched at the moment. According to current information, no specific inquiries were forwarded to the Air Traffic Controllers of the area regarding any unusual air movements on the date in question.

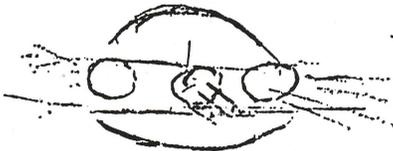
Other parameters of prime importance are listed below:

1. Videocamera: VHS Nordmende CV 155 (from 1986); equipped with a zoom lens of 6X magnification: 8 - 48 mm; f/1.2
2. Binoculars having a 12X magnification with an aperture of 50 mm
3. The relative dimensions of the primary object were estimated by Mr. Tønning as the size of a big pea at an arm's length

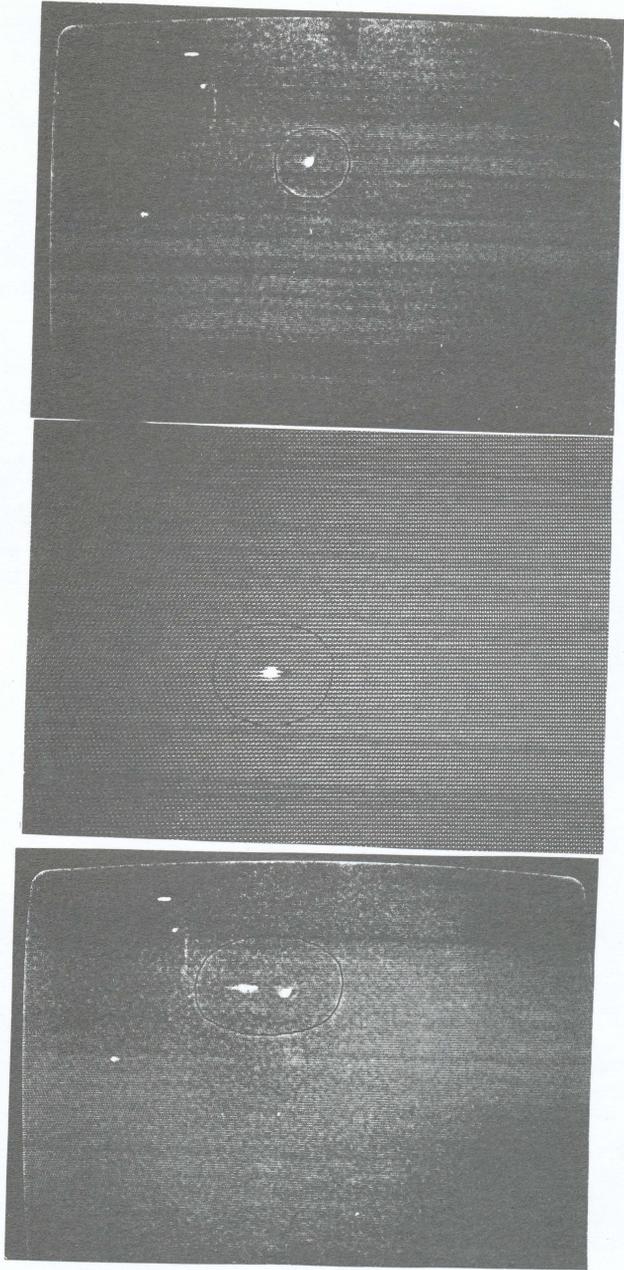
The verdict

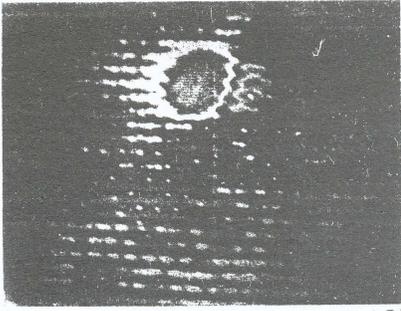
The results from GSW's analysis are shown below in a copy of the report given to UFO-Norge. Clearly, it is stated that the case deserves further investigation, while many clues indicate an unknown source. However, common to most analyses of alleged UFO-photographs/movies, there is always a lack of substantial data; - information which could have given a conclusive answer if they had been present.

On the next pages we have given the GSW evaluation in extenso, together with selected photos from the image processing sessions. Although the quality of the photos may be somewhat deteriorated during several stages of copying, we hope that at least they are of some value to our readers.

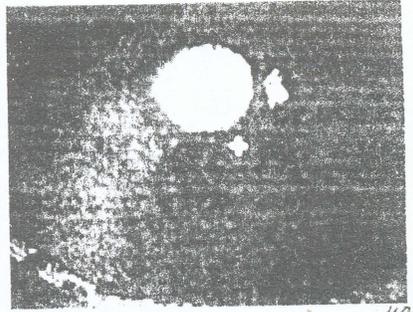


A drawing of the primary object, made by Mr. Tønning as seen through binoculars. The bright flashes which were emitted by the object are indicated.





"B"

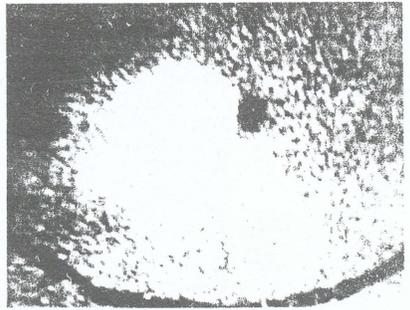


DENSITY SLICE

"A"

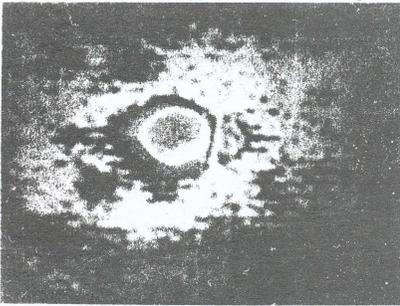


"C"



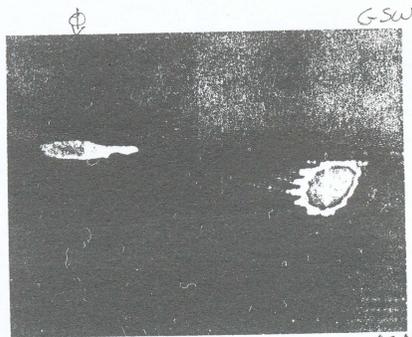
SPATIAL FILTER

"A"



CONTRAST

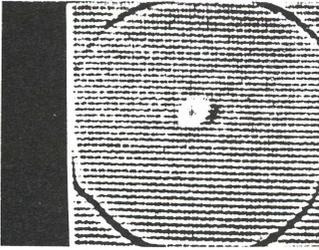
"A"



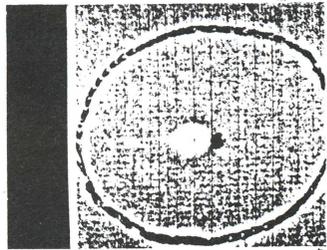
"C"

GSW

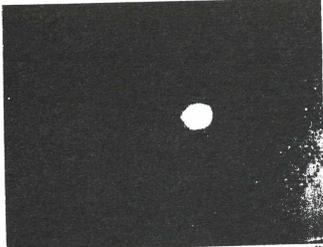
GSW



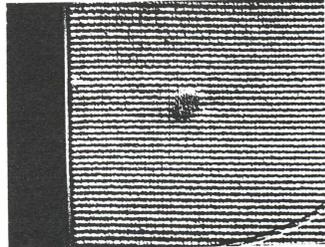
"B"
GSW



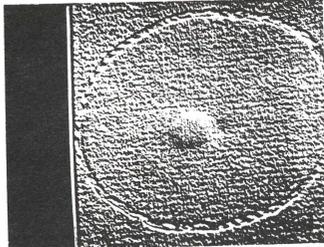
FILTERED A1 "A"
GSW



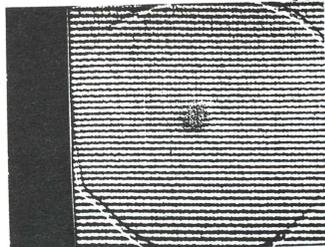
SPECIAL-PROCESS "A"
GSW



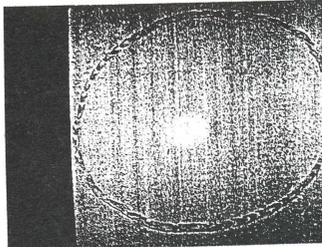
"B"
GSW



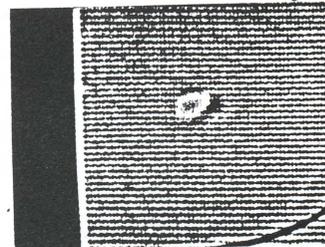
EDGE ENHANCED "A"
GSW



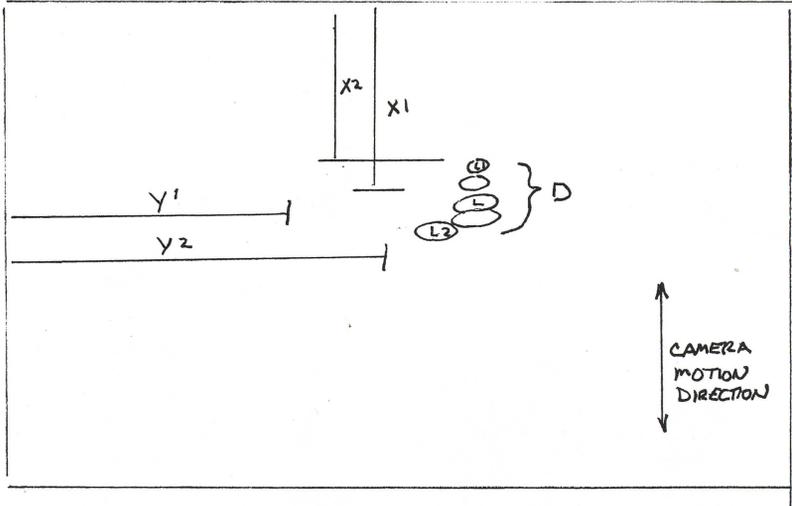
"C"
GSW



HI-RESOLUTION "A"
GSW



"C"
GSW



(Composite of frame by frame analysis.)

X_1 - Position of UI at apparent largest size (diameter)
 Y_1

X_2 - Position of UI at apparent smallest size
 Y_2

D - Diameter (average size) - L (largest size)
 L_1 (smallest measured size)
 L_2 (average size, within 10 percent of L)

JULY 13, 1986 - HALLINGDALEN UI
(UNIDENTIFIED IMAGE) CASE

Two video tapes and five (5) black & white photographs taken from the same video tape were forwarded to GSW, via Paul Norman, for computer image processing. The video tape, which runs approximately 5+ minutes, reveals a bright, ovaloid anomalous shaped image, in a featureless, dark sky. There is no visible evidence of foreground or background data points. There are numerous artifacts on the tape and photographs taken from the CRT.

To compound the analysis there appears to be considerable camera movement, since the video camera was being hand-held by the photographer.

Findings

- o The UI measures approximately .12 degrees if photographed in the zoom mode, conversely, it measures .8 degrees if photographed in the normal (non-zoom) mode, when compared to the field of view.
- o There exists no evidence of reference points in the photos or video tape.
- o There appears to be little "object" movement. The motion is attributable to camera movement caused from the photographer laying on the roof of his car.
- o At one portion of the filming the "object" is partially obscured. This could be attributable to clouds moving in front of the UI.
- o The anomalous "light streak" in Photo "C1" is evaluated as a video artifact and was observed in other frames appearing without similar location, size or intensity. This image is not reported with any consistency relative to time. Reference computer Photo "C".
- o There is no evidence of a hoax being attributable to the source of the UI.

- o Some frame-by-frame analysis was attempted to obtain information on the movement/motion of the UI and the purported light streak. There is inconsistent data relative to the movement of the UI due to camera motion.
- o The aspect ratio (physical measured size) of the UI remains constant for the duration of the filming.

Conclusions

It is our opinion that this photograph is worthy of further study to attempt to identify the origin. On the negative side, the strangeness index of the photograph is lowered appreciably because of the relatively stationary position of the UI and its constant size (at least on the VHS version of the UI filming). Critics will be quick to point out that the parameters of this sighting lead to the "object" being attributable to a bright planet. The witness stated the UI was viewed for over 2 hours.

On the positive side of the sighting both the shape and size of the "object" place it with an unknown evaluation status. The UI is not any known conventional source/phenomena.

A frame by frame evaluation has started on the image. The attachment reveals partial information about the X & Y coordinates and relative size of the UI.

Because the photographer did not image any reference points nor is a loss of UI perspective obvious, we are left with further evaluation of the images size and shape being necessary to finalize the interpretation.

Fred Adrian
GSW Photographic Consultant

William H. Spaulding
Director

The present conclusion of the video (June 1988), is that an intensive, concentrated light source with a large angular diameter has been depicted. So far, there is no evidence indicating a natural or artificial, man-made origin.

Even if it should turn out that these images do not depict any bona fide UFOs, the video may be an important contribution to illustrate how possible known phenomena appear in the sky under certain circumstances. This however, will certainly only hold true when (or if) these phenomena unequivocally are identified as such.

Furthermore, if any important information should surface, we will return to this case later on in Nordic UFO Newsletter.

Sources:

1. "UFO" no. 3 1986 pp. 4-6
 2. "UFO" no. 4 1986 p. 14
 3. Almanakk for Norge 1986 (Almanac for Norway 1986)
 4. Amatørastronomen (The Amateur Astronomer), tiding published by the Norwegian Astronomical Society; no. 2/3 1986 pp. 39-43
 5. Personal communication between Odd-Gunnar Røed and the Norwegian Meteorological Institute/ Ground Saucer Watch 1987
 6. Personal communication between Mentz Kaarbø and Erling Strand 1987
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HESSDALEN UPDATE

By Mentz Kaarbø

Introduction

During the winter of 1984 and 1985, Project Hessdalen became world famous when ufologists from Norway and Sweden performed one of the first, heavily instrumented on-site UFO investigations in history. This desolate mountain valley in Southern Norway had been haunted by strange light-phenomena for several years, causing much commotion among both ufologists and the inhabitants in Hessdalen. However, due to a recent, continuing low activity of UFO sightings in the area, the project has not been able to obtain funds for further direct research. Hence, Project Hessdalen has been inactive regarding field research and so-called "hard-core" investigation the last 3½ years.

Initially, we gained support from various scientific research institutions: the universities of Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim, together with the military research foundation Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE). The latter institute gradually became our closest collaborator, especially during the last season (1985).

However, the fact that we to some extent were supported by these institutions, must not lead people to believe that we received any sort of significant, financial funds for our purposes; it was limited to professional consultancy, in addition to kindly equipping the project with various instrumentation on our request. But many of our cooperative partners (often individuals in charge of their departments or sections at the universities) expressed a sincere (however unofficial) curiosity and interest regarding the phenomena in Hessdalen, from which we were able to profit. During the last period, we experienced an even higher interest in our research, which among other things, resulted in a brand new headquarter at Hessdalskjølen transported to the site by vehicles from the Norwegian Army. (for details see NUFON no. 1/2 1984 and no. 2 1985). This connection with the military authorities was mainly established through NDRE, giving us certain advantages seldom offered to civilian UFO-groups.

If the sightings of these phenomena had continued at the same scale as initially (i.e. in the period 1982-84), the project might have benefited from significant economical support the next year (1986). The funds would be given from the Norges Almenvitenskapelige Forskningsråd (Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities), with NDRE as the recommending authority. In this way Project Hessdalen could have become a common, public research programme at the same level as ordinary university projects. However, due to a limited activity in 1985 and even lower during subsequent years, neither the project committee nor the NDRE could justify such a request for funds

from official sources. Instead, the Project Hessdalen Fund was extended with private donations (however limited) and the whole project restructured to be able to support similar research also in other parts of Scandinavia. This rearrangement was initiated at a meeting in the Hessdalen Committee in November 1985 (see NUFON no. 1 1986 pp. 3-4). Since then, the investigation in Hessdalen has been limited to registering the reports still being given by local residents, together with correspondence and presentation of the project to foreign UFO-groups and magazines. This also includes the circulation of Project Hessdalen, Final Technical Report Part I by principal investigator Erling Strand; published in 1984 after the first on-site investigation. Slides and pictures taken by various researchers during the last seven years are also presented.

Highlights from sightings in Hessdalen 1981 - 1988

In this section, a summary of the more important events in Hessdalen's sighting history will be presented. It also includes major features of Project Hessdalen after its foundation in 1983.

Pre-1981

According to various independent sources, several sightings and unusual events have been recorded in the 20th century. Notable activities have been during World War II and in the end of the 1960's. A significant observation is made in September 1980, which might be interpreted as an initial event, leading to the subsequent "flap" of the later years. Mr. August Holen observes three strange, saucer-shaped objects at close range when grouse hunting. Although he observes them for just a few seconds, the sighting makes a deep impression on him, and evidently becomes the first in a series of UFO-events. (See this magazine no. 2 1983 pp. 8-11.)

1981

During December, several local residents become aware of unusual and unexplainable light-phenomena in the valley.

1982

Transient, strange light-phenomena abound both in Hd. and, to some extent, the areas nearby. The activity peaks between January and April. Hessdalen instantly becomes famous, presented in mass-media both locally and nationally, culminating in a movie taken by the Norwegian Broadcasting Cooperation shown in late March. UFO-Norge performs the first public meeting in Ålen 26 March. The activity prevails throughout the year, although reports fall to a low level during the summer, mainly because of the luminous nights at these latitudes. By the end of the year, Hd. arouses growing attention among UFO-groups around the world.

1983

Public interest in Hd. is still high, although activity has faded somewhat compared to that of the previous year. Project Hessdalen is established 2-4 June in Sweden at a meeting between UFO-Norge and Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige. The project is presented internationally at BUFORA's Conference in London in August. Several noted ufologists become members of the Advisory Committee. The Project work proceeds during the autumn of that year, preparing for a heavy manned and instrumented field-investigation in 1984.

1984

The first thorough, scientifically based field-investigation in Scandinavia takes place in January and February. The subsequent report, presenting preliminary results is published in late 1984. During this year, general activity

fades, though not significantly. The project receives some attention in various scientific institutions and is granted practical assistance also the following year.

1985

Project Hessdalen Part II is performed in January and February. However, due to bad weather, observations are not as numerous as in 1984. This, together with the fact that the general activity falls to a low level during the subsequent years, precludes further commitment into field-research in Hd. In November, The Project Hessdalen Committee directs the policy for the next few years and extends its scope for field research to include Scandinavia as a whole.

1986

Some reports are still trickling in to the report files, mainly from inhabitants in Hd. However, due to lack of adequate resources no thorough investigation can be performed.

1987

The same holds true for this year. A small rise in activity is detected; however, it is by no means enough to spur any extensive field research. In both 1986 and 1987, the project's leaders have been busy with correspondence with a number of foreign UFO-bodies, presenting the preliminary results from the two field seasons.

1988

At the time of writing (June), no significant plans exist for further commitment in Hd. The UFO-activity is still low, and cannot justify any official funding from the scientific bodies so far interested.

A short summary of observations 1985-1988

The sum total of UFO-reports from Hessdalen in the period from January 1985 to June 1988 (excluding sightings made during Project Hessdalen Part II) amounts to a couple of dozen. However, all possible reservations must be taken regarding the quality of these reports, while just a few have been checked thoroughly. Here, some selected cases are presented to give our readers an idea of the past and prevailing activity in Hessdalen.

1. 29 January 1985; ca. 8.00-8.30 pm

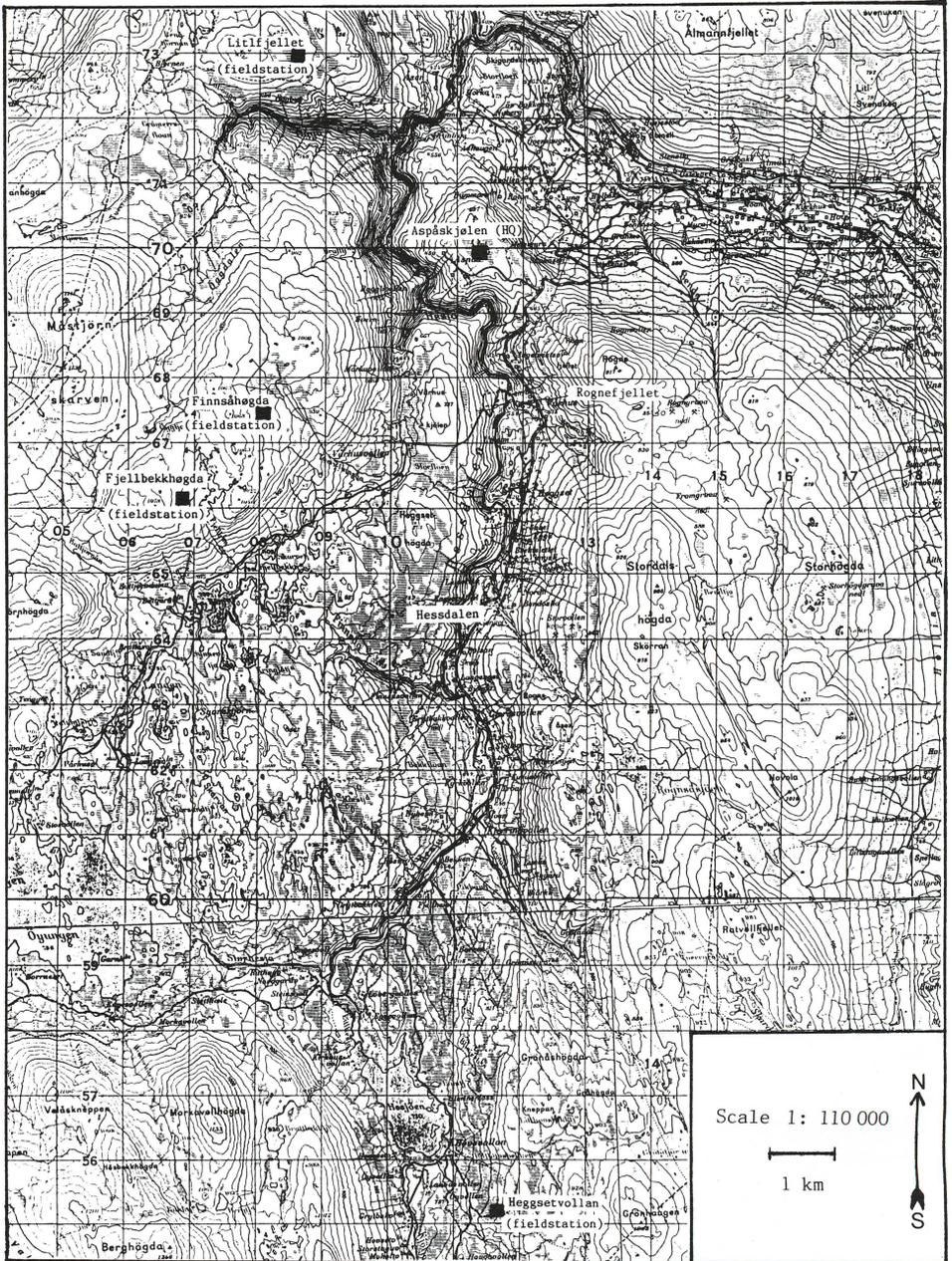
A miner in the valley observed a large and shining light-phenomenon towards the Finnsådal (see map on page 27). This event happened during Project Hessdalen Part II and there was a sighting of an unknown light at 8.13 pm the same day, made by the team members. However, this was an oblong light phenomenon passing from north to south. The day after, a similar phenomenon was seen at lake Øyungen for about half an hour, starting at 8.30 pm. The colour was yellow-white.

2. 30 January 1985; ca. 7.30 pm

A person situated at lake Hesjøen (8 km due south of the center of Hessdalen), observed a luminous sphere-shaped phenomenon. It came into view west of the lake and moved to the east side, making a halt above the pasture meadow, where the observer was situated. It hovered motionless for some time, until it disappeared towards the south.

3. March 1985; point of time unknown

A man from Ålen drove a car towards Hessdalen. When he passed Hessdalskjølen, he suddenly caught sight of a large light passing towards south above Hessdalen. After having collected a person further into the valley, he returned to Ålen (driving northwards). However, they made a halt at Hessdalskjølen in order to look for other possible light-phenomena. After a short time, the same phenomenon returned.



4. 5 April 1985; 10.30 am

Friday during the Easter a married couple came driving up the Hessdalslia. One of them caught sight of a "wingless plane" which hovered above the northern part of Aspåskjølen. The object was stationary for a while, before slowly moving towards north. After a short time, it disappeared into "nothing". Incidentally, this object was observed right above the site where Project Hessdalen's head-quarter was situated just two months earlier.

5. Early October 1985; point of time unknown

Three persons observed an illuminated "thing" under the cloud cover. It passed on the eastern side of Finnsåhøgda towards Aspåskjølen. No sound was heard.

6. 9 October 1985; point of time unknown

An illuminated "thing" seen passing towards north. Weather conditions: a clear sky with good visibility.

7. 15 November 1985; 7.30 pm

A luminous "orange" passed from the Øggdalen valley (beside the Litlfjellet mountain) towards the Haltdalen valley.

8. 20 October 1986; during the evening

A father and his daughter, busy with their work in the cowshed, observed one of the "usual" illuminated objects towards east. The object drifted slowly in a southerly direction. After having fetched a binocular, they could recognize a spherical shape, its light being yellow-white. On its way towards south it stopped, standing motionless for at least 10 minutes. Thereafter, it drifted somewhat westwards, perhaps returning a bit before hovering motionless once more. The object now seemed somewhat stretched, probably due to a changed perspective. The observers had to return to their work, and after some time the object was gone. Weather conditions: clear sky, moderate breeze with -3°C .

9. 2 January 1987; 3.12 am

An oval yellow-white object came flying from lake Øyungen (in the south, observed from the Vårhustoppen peak) and flew above the Heggsethøgda. Thereafter, it made a turn towards the north above the eastern side of Vårhuskjølen. On the northern side of this it dived into the valley between Aspåskjølen and Finnsåhøgda. The speed was about the same as that of a small aircraft, and it probably passed below the peak of Finnsåhøgda (1068 metres above sea level). Curiously enough, at the same time two persons were situated at Aspåskjølen. However, they didn't see anything, although they were in just the right position to do so! This observation was made by Leif Havik on one of his many excursions to Hessdalen.

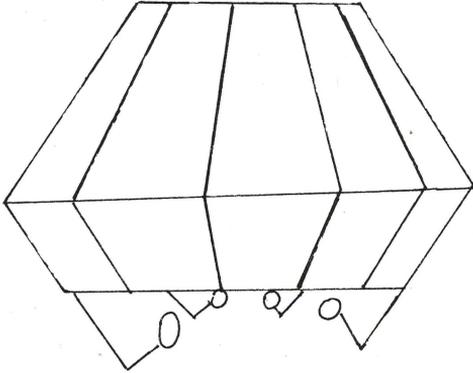
10.12 January 1987; 7.55 am

Three persons saw an object which moved slowly before Finnsåhøgda. It was oblong with a light in the forward part, and had a dark portion on the aft end. The observation was made through binoculars (or a telescope) and none of the observers could hear any sound. They are sure that the object passed in front of the mountain (i.e. Finnsåhøgda), some half-way to the top seen from their position. It moved from south to north. Weather conditions were good: clear sky, no wind and -26°C .

11. 16 October 1987; 7.20 pm

Three adults and a child were travelling by car between Tydal and Reitan (some 10-15 km east of Hessdalen). On the road between the mountains they initially saw several star-like balls of light passing overhead at a great speed. The sky was all clear and the wind intermittantly gusted up to storm. Some minutes later, at about 7.20 pm, they saw a bright flash of light which illuminated the sky towards Ålen (some 10 km to the NW). The light seemed brightly greenish, and they stopped the car and turned off the lights after another flash had appeared. Each flash lasted for about 3-4 seconds, with a period of 1 minute between them. Shortly after the last one, they caught sight of an object which came flying relatively low above the terrain from WNW. The object was shaped like a prism, equipped with four legs underneath. All details

were clearly visible; the object coming downwards in front of the car, flying slowly forward, making a brief halt and then disappearing right up into the sky. The observers stated that the object must have been large. The observation lasted some 30 seconds. All four persons felt a certain pressure in their heads both during the observation and shortly afterwards. (This symptom has also been felt by some other witnesses who have observed UFOs in Hessdalen.) The observers were also a bit frightened and none of them had seen anything similar before.



Left: A drawing made by the witnesses. The surface looked like glass; shining with a greenish clour.

The Project Hessdalen Fund

This project fund was established in June 1983 in order to finance the entire Project Hessdalen the following year. Together with private donations, it was the intention that several private firms and institutions should sponsor the project with (it was hoped) considerable amounts of money. A prestigious plan to attract possible investors' attention was launched and should be followed up by certain appointed members of the project committee. However, despite all efforts, especially during the latter half of 1983, no significantly lucrative deals were established. In that sense, the project became mainly a private economical venture more or less paid for by each participant's own pocket. Some of our foreign readers will remember that an invitation to sponsor the project was carried out already at the BUFORA conference in 1983. Interested persons could give a certain amount of money, being registered and then receive running information from the developing project. However, it soon appeared that this action (together with others) was not enough to finance a project of this magnitude.

When cooperation with various scientific institutions gradually developed, we acquired some hope of official funding. But due to reasons mentioned above, this did not become a reality.

Then, in August 1985, an invitation to join the Project Hessdalen Workshop was sent to ca. 100 ufologists around the world. A conference giving an in-depth review of the phenomena and the investigation in Hessdalen was planned for 2-4 November in Oslo. However, due to a late invitation and the fact that most of the participants had to travel very far (with no expenses covered), a very limited positive response was noticed. Instead, an alternative meeting was arranged with selected members from UFO-Norge and Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige. The future of Project Hessdalen was discussed, accepting the fact that no further, immediate funding was possible. Therefore, the scope for UFO-research was extended to geographically cover the whole of Scandinavia. If similar phenomena as those experienced in Hd. should appear at places around Scandinavia over prolonged periods of time, investigative teams and field stations should be established on the spot. However ambitious, this programme should become realistic by

gradually acquiring funds (by means of private donations) for several years. One of the first sources of income was the circulation of stickers, T-shirts etc. together with the sale of the Project Hessdalen Final Technical Report.

The present state of the project reveals that to obtain significant funds in this way (and for such purposes) is a long and tiresome process, especially when rapid action and results are called for. Our foreign connections will probably welcome news and further results from Hessdalen (and other places). Presently, however, no locations exist in Scandinavia where UFO-phenomena are sighted frequently enough to justify an expedition a la Hessdalen. Another precluding factor is the still limited resources available.

Interested persons may still contribute to the Project Fund by sending money (in whatever currency) to the following address:

Project Hessdalen Fund
P.O.Box 14
N-3133 Duken
NORWAY

Bank account no.: 2420.25.33945

Postal account no.: 402 23 56

(Postal cheques valid inside Nordic countries and Germany only. Confer with your post office.)

A book about the phenomena in Hessdalen

During spring of 1987, a new ~~book~~ about the phenomena in Hessdalen was published in Norway. Leif Havik, principal field-researcher in Hd., authored "UFOs: Kan det Umulige være Mulig?" (UFOs: can the Impossible be Possible?). Here he summarises his own experiences from Hessdalen during the previous 6 years, comparing similar events in Yakima and Missouri, USA, together with the incidents in Twende, Netherland. Altogether, a very readable account of events taken place during the last 15 years, trying to find similar features and possible explanations; although he avoids being categoric in his judgement.

Interested persons may apply for copies at the following address:

Phonovision L. Havik
P.O.Box 485
N-7001 Trondheim
NORWAY

Bank account no. 4200.41.30280

Postal account no.: 536 03 75

Price NOK 198,-

Conclusion

As our readers understand, various reasons are responsible for the present, inactive state of Project Hessdalen. Whatever the future may bring, we certainly hope to be able to conduct further research into these elusive phenomena. There are certainly no plans to bury this project, just let it gradually recover from a period with limited resources!

From time to time we will bring the latest news regarding the project, hopefully giving unique and interesting information.