

# FALSE REPORT FROM LOCH NESS

*Stuart Campbell*

IN an article dealing with various phenomena at Loch Ness<sup>1</sup>, the late F. W. (Ted) Holiday related the report by a Swede, Jan-Ove Sundberg (Fig. 1), that he had seen a landed UFO and occupants (CE3) at Foyers in 1971. The article was accompanied by a sketch map and sketches by Eileen Buckle. The latter were based on Sundberg's original drawings. The article claimed that Sundberg had actually photographed the UFO (with one occupant stepping back into the craft), although this picture did not accompany the article. Apparently it had been sent to Dr. Harder of APRO.

The incident was unknown in Scotland. Hence it was necessary to ask Ted Holiday for further information, and I was indebted to Mr. Holiday for his cooperation.

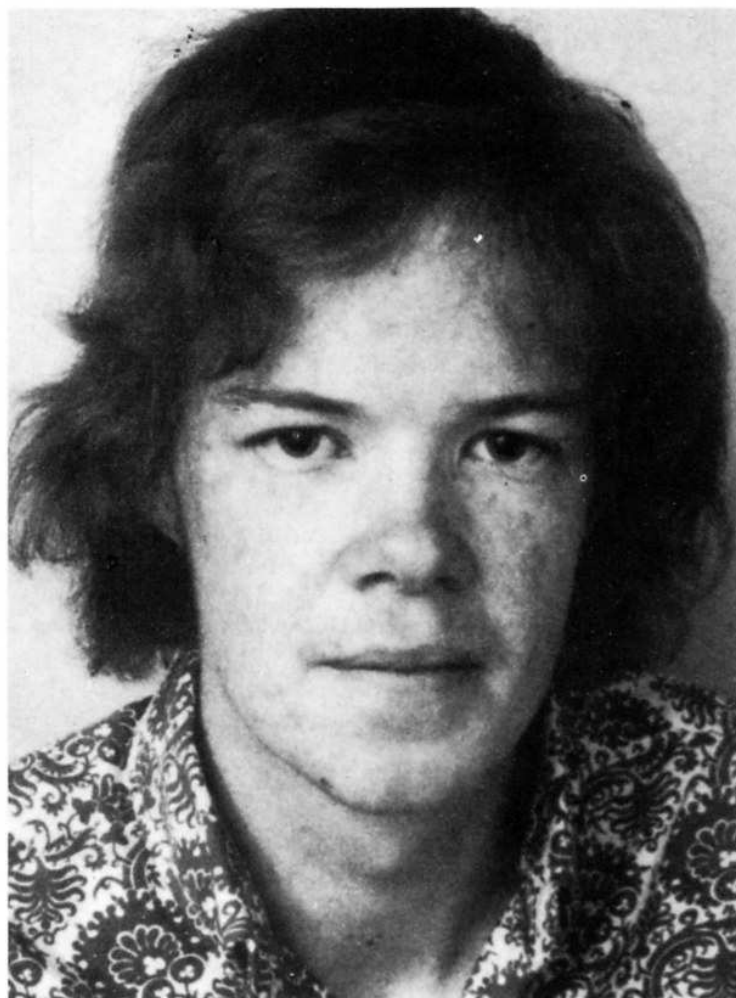
It seems that Sundberg (23 at the time) had first reported the alleged incident to John Keel in the USA. Keel, who in turn had told Holiday, had no details, but thought that Sundberg was "diligent and professional," and stated that he had provided reliable information in the past. Holiday provided me with Sundberg's address in Sweden.

Sundberg confirmed that he was the witness. But, because he believed that he was being persecuted on account of his experience, he would tell me no more of the incident. He claimed that, after his return to Sweden, "mysterious men" visited him, telephone callers told him to forget all that he had seen at Loch Ness, a "black figure" walked at night in his garden leaving strange dumb-bell shaped footprints, poltergeists plagued the house, and he had experienced "bad dreams" about flying saucers. He preferred to write to me about the Loch Ness monster, sea serpents, unidentified submarines, phantom helicopters and ships, holes in the ice, and mysterious craters. He revealed that, for some time, he had been editor of UFO-Sweden's *Special Report* (an English language UFO news-sheet) and, consequently, that he had been interested in UFOs for many years prior to his UFO report. He was a member of the Motala group of *Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige*, the Swedish UFO Identification Organization. He told me that I could obtain all the information I needed from Holiday, to whom he had written in 1973.

Meanwhile I had already visited the Foyers area twice, and had attempted to locate the alleged landing site from the sketch map published in FRS. This proved unsuccessful.

Holiday provided me with the correspondence and sketches which he had received from Sundberg. These were copied and the originals returned to Holiday. Figs. 2 and 3 show the two sketches which accompanied Sundberg's letters ("Loch Mohr" should read "Loch Mhor").

Sundberg was in Scotland on a ten-day visit (11-21 August), assigned, so he claimed, by the Swedish magazine *Lektyr* to write an article about the Loch Ness monster. At Foyers he was on his way down to the site of the construction of a new hydro-electric power station on the shore of Loch Ness. He hoped to interview the men working at the station. Leaving public transport near the



**Figure 1: Jan-Ove Sundberg in 1971.**

Foyers Hotel on the B852 (see Fig. 4), he was walking down a side road that led to Lower Foyers and the lochside.

The following is Sundberg's own account of the alleged incident, as related in his two letters to Holiday. The grammar and spelling have been corrected where necessary to improve comprehension.

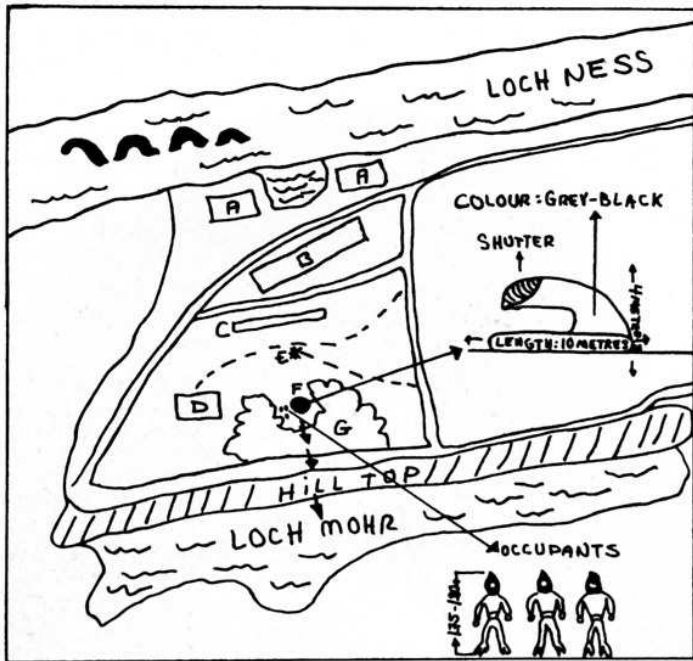
"I had my sighting the 16th August some time between 0830-0930 in the morning, lost in the woods on the south side of the loch. On my way to a power-station construction located near Foyers Bay I took off from the 'main road' and I thought I could walk straight onto it by going over a woody area, it was there I was kind of lost. I went through the woods because I was trying to take a 'short cut' to the power-station. But in the woods, strolling around in the beautiful morning, I kind of went lost, and I cannot say how. Walking around in the area I suddenly saw an extremely strange machine in an open spot in the woods, a machine that looked like a 'smoothing iron'! I was not frightened when I first saw the UFO, I was merely surprised to find a strange machine like that up in the woods, and I can still remember me asking myself: What the hell is that? At first I thought it was some machine connected to the power-station.

"Close to the UFO were three creatures coming out from some bushes near the open spot. They looked like ordinary

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**NOTE: Figures 2, 3 & 4 overleaf.**

SKETCH OF LOCH NESS AREA CLOSE TO FOYER'S BAY



Sundberg's text reads:  
on August 16, 1971, I watched an UFO with occupants on the ground at Loch Ness in an area close to Foyers Bay.

- KEY
- A) House close to power station construction.
  - B) Workers' camp.
  - C) House connected to power station construction.
  - D) Power Station.
  - E) Where I was standing.
  - F) Where UFO was on ground.
  - G) Woods.
- Additional information: I watched the UFO and the occupants (3) some time between 08.30 and 09.30 in the morning. I noticed that the creatures looked 'human' besides the strange clothes that looked like divers' suits to me.

Figure 2

humans to me besides the fact that they were wearing some clothes that looked like diver's suits. First I thought I saw divers from Foyers. And then I thought that it could not be, because of the strange looking machine (the UFO) near them, I had in mind to call them, asking for the road, but I kind of could not do that, there was something inside me telling me that they were not human! If you can understand what I mean. I think they were at a distance of 75-100 metres from where I was, but I could be wrong about the distance.

"When I realised that they were not human I just stood there and looked upon the strange scene trying to remember details. The UFO was formed like a cigar at the base, it was some 10 metres long and 4 metres high, the colour was grey-black. It had a shutter at the top, and when it opened it slid back. The creatures were some 1.75-1.80 metres high, and so far as I could see they were 'normal' beside the strange clothes that looked like diver's suits. I could watch them for about 5-6 minutes. After some time the three creatures came forward from the bushes, and it was then that I kind of understood that I was looking at a UFO with a crew or what it was. When the creatures came out of the bushes, they stood together like they were talking to each other. I do not know if they could see me, but if they could I do not think they cared about me, because they did not leave in a hurry; as you can read from other UFO sightings with occupants involved they walked like normal men, as far as I could see. The creatures' dress was grey in colour. And what made me notice their dress, was that their heads were covered with the suit.

"When I stood there watching the UFO and the creatures I had a camera with 20 pictures in. . .but I could not take any

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF THE UFO-SIGHTING AT LOCH NESS.

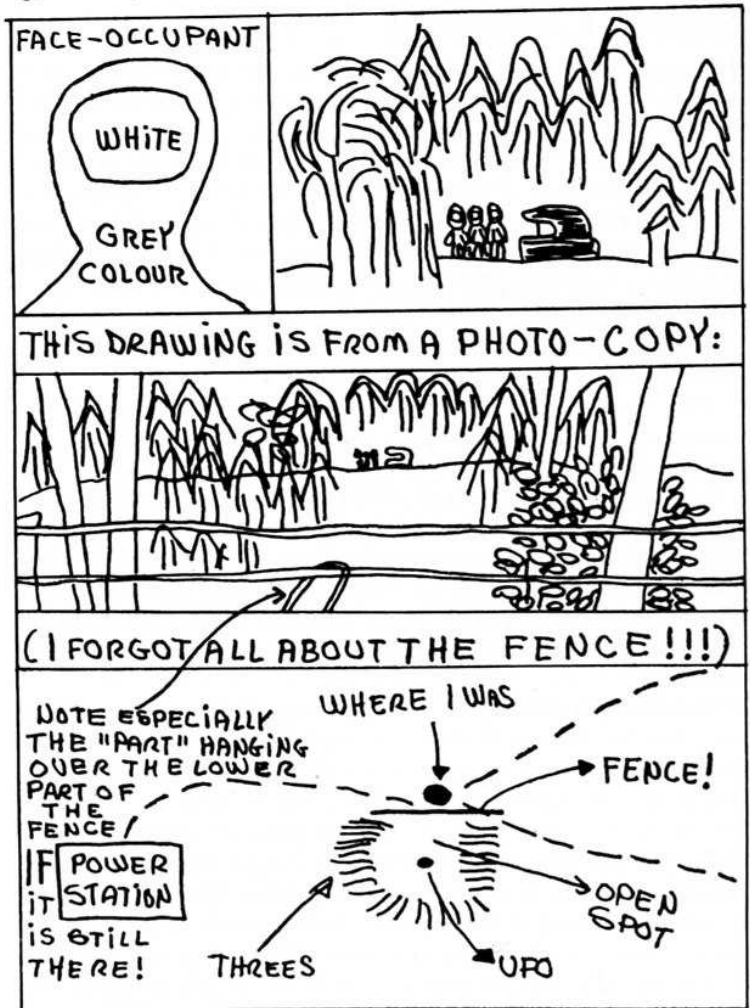


Figure 3

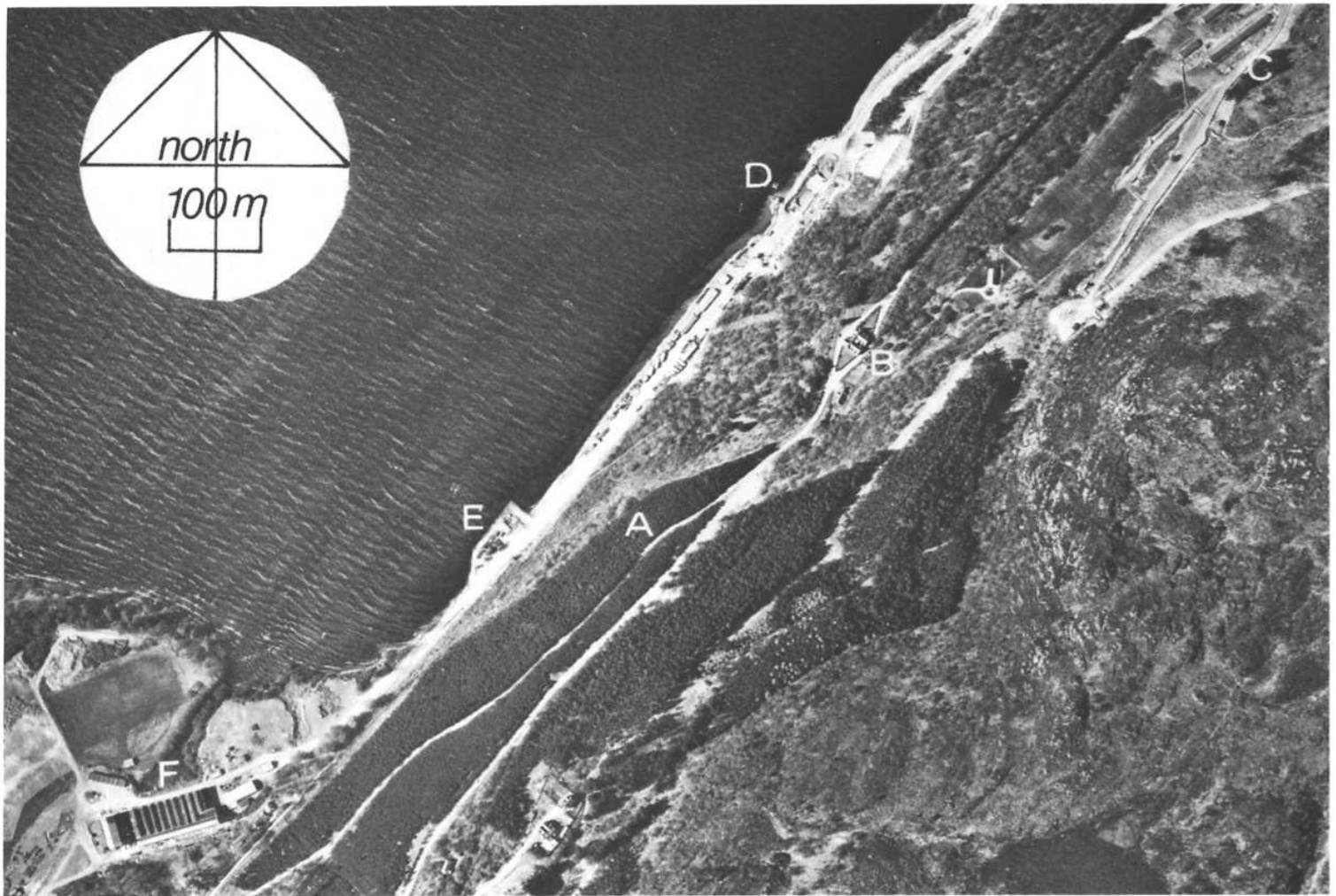
picture at that time. I was kind of paralysed by what I saw. I had my camera in my hand ready for pictures, but something made me not to take any photos. I think you can understand what I mean, there I was at Loch Ness, sent by a Swedish magazine to, as the editor of it said: Get a picture of the Loch Ness Monster! But instead a UFO with creatures parked in front of my camera! That was too much for me.

"After some 2-3 minutes the shutter at the top slid back and the creatures began to step inside one by one. I had no thought of raising my camera, I do not know why. When the first man stepped into the UFO, he lifted one leg and actually stepped inside, I said to myself that I should be quick to take a photo of the scene, but then, believe this or not, I forgot about that, it was not until there was just the last one left I raised the camera and managed to take the picture. I raised my camera and took a picture of him and the UFO. **But one only picture!** I can't understand that still this day, I took only one picture when I was able to take all 20 and get a real 'scoop' on the UFO sighting!

"When all were inside the strange-looking UFO, it took off straight up in the air like an elevator. I could not hear any sound from it at the time. And when the UFO was at 15-20 metres up in the air, it accelerated like a speedboat on the water and disappeared over the hill in south direction, apparently the UFO went down on the other side where Loch Mhor is located, because it did not go straight up in the air, it went up until it was over the hill top, and then it began to go down again!

"When the UFO was gone I did not believe what I had seen, yet I was connected to UFO research groups in Sweden. I did





**Figure 4: An aerial photograph of Foyers, Loch Ness and adjacent countryside, taken in 1970.**

**KEY A. Site of Sundberg's photograph.**

**B. Foyers Hotel**

**C. Construction workers' camp.**

**D. Power Station construction.**

**E. Foyers Pier**

**F. Former Aluminium Works.**

not go over to see if there were any ground markings, because I didn't believe my own eyes when the UFO was gone. And then, like I had never been lost in the wood, I found the way to Foyers Bay and I could begin my work for the magazine. I didn't tell anybody in Scotland about what I had seen in the wood because I thought that nobody would believe me. Ten days later I went back to Sweden.

"Back home I developed the film and looked at the picture. There was a picture but it was in bad shape. One of my friends at a local newspaper made an enlargement of the picture and then I could clearly see the strange UFO and the creatures beside it. At first I sent the negative to a Gothenburg UFO group, GICOFF, but they sent it back and told me that they were not able to clarify it. Then it was 'forgotten' until last year when I got in touch with APRO and the Lorenzens in Arizona. I sent the negative to them on August 21, 1972. The Lorenzens had it examined by Dr. Frieden at the University of Arizona in Tucson, but he could not clarify it so they sent it on to Dr. James Harder from the University of California."

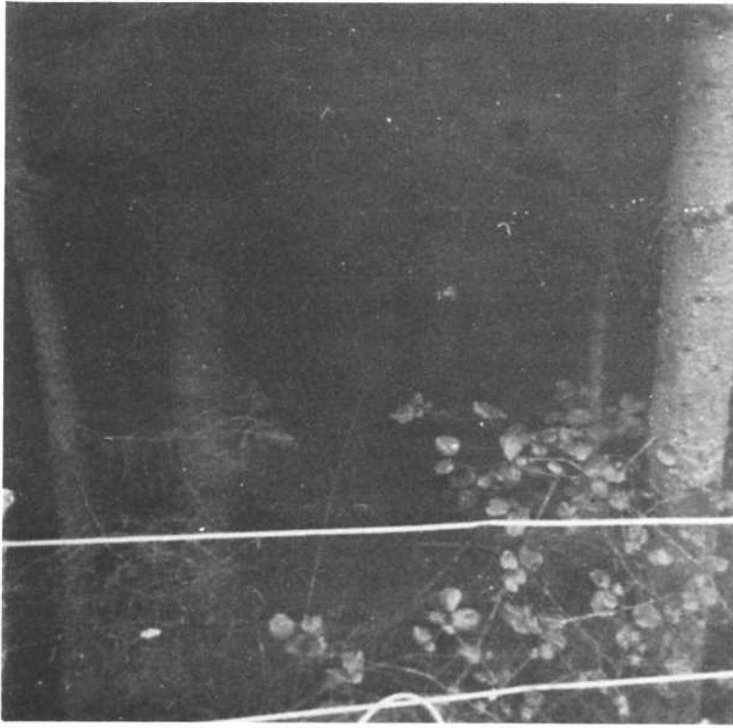
In these letters, Sundberg also revealed that about 1960 he faked a UFO photograph by taping two coffee saucers together and presenting the result to a north Swedish newspaper. He was very ashamed of this. He also stated that the object he photographed was very similar to that shown in a photograph taken by Guy B. Marquand Jr. at Riverside, California.<sup>2</sup> He stated that after May 1972 (when he first thought that he was being terrorized by

MIBs) he spent two months in a "mental hospital" for what he called a "nervous breakdown."

### The investigation

It was to be expected that the fact that the witness lives in Sweden would complicate the investigation. I did not visit the witness, nor did I ask any Swedish investigator to visit him on my behalf. It seemed unlikely that Sundberg would cooperate any further, although subsequently he did assist me in locating the site of the photograph. He declined to acknowledge any requests for copies of his photograph.

However, although he had sent the negative of the photograph back to Sundberg, Dr. Harder still had a print. He was kind enough to send this print to me (see Fig. 5). Harder stated that enlargement of the picture showed no more than can be seen on the original print, and that while the blurred spots at the centre might be what Sundberg claims, this was not demonstrable. When I saw the picture I knew that it had been taken pointing directly into one of the many dense spruce plantations. Clearly it was taken from just outside such a plantation where the latter was bounded by a stob-and-wire fence. In particular the position might be located by the loop of wire visible at the bottom of the picture. I recognised the fence



**Figure 5: Sundberg's photograph. He claimed that the patch of light just right of centre was a UFO with occupant.**

as similar to that which bounded the west side of the road down which Sundberg had walked to Foyers Bay. This road is bounded on both sides by dense spruce forest.

Consequently, another visit was made to Foyers in an attempt to locate the scene. The fence was searched until a point was found where, not only was there a similar loop of fence-wire, but the shape of the fence post and the positions of the nearest trunks matched those shown in Sundberg's photograph. This point, and my photograph of it, is shown in Fig. 6. (See also photo position marked on Fig. 4.) The view was taken looking north-west into the plantation parallel to the slope of the hillside, which is downwards at an angle of about 30° to the horizontal. There can be no doubt that I found the exact location of Sundberg's photograph.

Comparison shows that the two photographs are almost



**Figure 6**

identical, and that Sundberg's contains no more information than does mine. The blobs at the centre of Sundberg's picture are now revealed as daylight, which shows some 50 metres away at the other side of the plantation. Due to the fact that the trees are planted in exactly parallel rows, and the fact that they have grown sufficiently to close the canopy over, daylight can only be seen when one looks straight through parallel to the lines of trees. At the other end there is another fence opening on to a more open natural woodland of birch trees. However there is no open spot within the plantation, nor any really open ground beyond it. The separation of the patch of light on both photographs is due to another fence post which falls just left of centre. This post, and the situation at the far end are shown in my second picture (Fig. 7). There were no unusual marks on the ground either within the plantation or on the path the other side of the fence. Beyond this path the ground falls away steeply towards Loch Ness.

Sundberg's account gives the impression that he left the road and walked through woodland. But his photograph is taken from the only road down to Lower Foyers. He could hardly have become lost on this road, especially since there are no obvious short-cuts that could lead him astray. He would not have been tempted to enter the plantation, partly because of the fence, and partly because walking through a dense pine forest down a 30° slope is no easy matter.

There are no bushes within the plantation. The only bushes visible would have been a few in the more open area the other side of the plantation over 50 metres away. One would have needed an optical instrument to see these bushes.

Although divers had been working at Foyers, they had ceased to do so two months before Sundberg's visit.

Sundberg's map bears only a superficial resemblance to the true layout of the area. Working only from the map (and the plan in Fig. 2) it was impossible to identify the alleged landing site; the road pattern, the marked buildings and the scale are so completely incorrect.

Regarding the UFO itself, it should not be thought that Sundberg has invented a new type of smoothing iron. While British smoothing irons tend to have a handle that connects with the iron at both front and rear, one popular



**Figure 7**

Swedish iron has a handle which is connected to the flat iron only at the rear end (see Fig. 8). Clearly Sundberg would be familiar with this shape of iron. Marquand's picture does indeed show a UFO of a similar shape.

It must be recorded that there was no independent witness to the events reported by Sundberg. No reports of unusual activity reached either the local police or the newspapers in the area.

When Sundberg told a well-known Swedish journalist about his visit to Loch Ness he did not mention his UFO experience. This journalist knew of Sundberg's enthusiasm for UFOs, but considered his attitude too 'imaginative'.

In further correspondence with me, Sundberg has stated that he believes that UFOs are hostile, that they are preparing to 'invade us', and that they come from inside the Earth.

### Conclusion

It must be evident that Sundberg's account cannot be true. Not only does his own photograph not show the UFO and occupant, it demonstrates that the scene of the alleged landing is a dense forest with trees at about 1 metre spacing. There is no clearing as he describes. He photographed a perfectly normal Scottish pine forest. Without the photograph, I might have concluded that, although the landing site could not be found, the report could be true. But the photograph demonstrates the falsity of the story.

How such a false story came about is quite another matter. It may be concluded that the report is due to either a hoax or a hallucination.

Since Sundberg admits a previous hoax, it might be concluded that this report also is a hoax. However, in that case he would hardly have admitted the previous fraud to Holiday. Nor would he have reported the alleged incident in such a circuitous manner, provided a photograph that



**Figure 8: A smoothing iron manufactured by Husqvarna AB of Sweden.**

demonstrated the falsity of his claims, and assisted me in locating the scene of the photograph. The evidence does not appear to support the hypothesis that the report is a hoax.

This leaves us with the theory that the report is the product of an hallucination. It would be of great importance to ufology, to say nothing of psychology, to know whether or not such an hallucination is possible. I am not qualified to comment further on this explanation, but readers will note that there are features of the account, and of Sundberg's character and behaviour, which appear to support the hypothesis.

### References:

- 1 "Exorcism and UFO Landing at Loch Ness," *Flying Saucer Review* Sept/Oct 1973 pp. 3-7/13.
- 2 Frank E. Stranges, *The Stranger at the Pentagon* (IEC Inc Book Division, Van Nuys, California, 3rd ed. 1972) p. 110.

## **2nd INTERNATIONAL U.F.O. CONGRESS** **24-25 May, 1981, to be held at** **MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL, LONDON W.1**

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# FSR BOOKSHELF — 8

New UFO books reviewed. . .

*Janet & Colin Bord*

**A**LTHOUGH a large number of abduction cases (nearly 250) are on record in the United States, cases of this kind are rare in Britain. In *The Janos People* (Neville Spearman hardback, £5.25, 198 pages) Frank Johnson describes in great detail a Gloucester family's encounter with people from "the distant planet Janos" on 19 June 1978 near Faringdon in Oxfordshire. Their experiences differed from those reported by most other abductees: the physical examinations were not too distasteful, the aliens were friendly and communicative, the visitors were given a conducted tour of the spaceship, and shown films of Janos and its destruction.

It is now accepted practice in ufology that the potentially important abduction cases should be investigated by a team with varied skills and outlooks, who will question the witness from different viewpoints, and will provide a cross-check for one another. It is also accepted that in multiple witness cases, such as this one, the witnesses are not questioned in one another's presence nor, when hypnotic regression has been used, are they made aware of their reported experience while the investigation is still in progress. And finally, although the investigators should provide reassurance and be sympathetic listeners, they should never become personally involved with the witness's story. None of these criteria appear to have been observed in this investigation, and therefore the results are, regretfully, of little value to UFO research.

In the "Author's Preface," Frank Johnson writes that he investigated the case "solo" (p.viii), hardly a wise procedure in view of its "sheer size and complexity" (p.ix). The outcome of his investigation, and the erratic reading list on pages 193-4, suggest that he carried out the work without the benefit of investigative experience or a comprehensive knowledge of the UFO phenomenon. And also it is very evident that he fell under the spell of the Janos people, to such an extent, that he eventually spent hours studying an atlas of the world to help him decide where some 10 million of the emigrating Janos people could come and live!

Whether anything of value can be salvaged from this contaminated case history is doubtful. There may well be a genuine abduction case (whatever they are) at the heart of this tale, but it is now probably too late to disentangle the real facts from the story as now published. *The Janos People* embodies the innocence of the contactee stories which were current in the 1950s. The difference is that then the benevolent space people were promising to lift off from our stricken planet those earthlings who were deemed worthy; now they want to move in with us! But it was instructive to read this naive piece of UFO reporting alongside the far more mature *Encyclopedia of UFOs* reviewed later in this column. The contrast between the two books brought home to us just how much ufology has changed in the past 25 years.

The abduction of Betty and Barney Hill on 19 September 1961 is probably the best-known abduction

case in ufology, but until now U.K. readers have not had an opportunity to read the full details because *The Interrupted Journey*, the book in which John G. Fuller tells the whole story, was published in the United States in 1966, but not in the U.K. Now, somewhat belatedly, a U.K. hardcover edition has been issued (Souvenir Press, £6.95, 340 pages, illustrations), presumably as a result of Fuller's success here with his later books.

Although this case has been well publicised during the years since Dr. Benjamin Simon put the Hills under hypnosis and retrieved the events of the missing hours, this account still makes gripping reading. The verbatim transcripts of the hypnosis sessions will be of value to some researchers, and this new edition also includes a transcript from a later session (1973) attended by Fuller and Dr. J. A. Hynek. Fuller has also added brief details of a few other abduction cases and some general UFO information. Unfortunately he seems to equate UFOs with extraterrestrial machines, judging by his stated conclusion concerning the Betty and Barney Hill affair: "this is either one of the most unusual cases in the history of psychiatry — or the possible historical event of the first extraterrestrial visit to be heavily documented in detail," (p.vii). And the book's closing sentences repeat the idea that the extraterrestrial theory is the most important in ufology. There are of course other possible explanations for the Hills' experience, some involving aliens, some not. And if aliens were involved, they were not necessarily extraterrestrial, even though they may have wanted Betty and Barney (and us) to believe that.

UFO abductions are also the subject of *Direct Encounters* by Judith M. Gansberg and Alan L. Gansberg (Walker and Company, New York, price \$11.95; 178-page hardback). The book is subtitled "Personal Histories of UFO Abductees," which is slightly misleading because not every witness discussed here has been abducted. The Gansbergs aim to tell the inside story of what it's like to be an abductee, especially after the event. This is an interesting idea, but the book fails in many respects. The authors are uncritical and take too much on trust. For example, they seem to accept the story of the 1897 Aurora crash and corpse, apparently unaware that it is now considered 99% certain to have been a hoax. Their attitude is one of newcomers to, not of involvement with, what they strangely call "UFO-ology," so they do not speak with authority, and also make some strange, basic errors (for example — p.90 — that FSR is published by "the British UFO Research Organization"!)

They do not have much to say about the phenomenon of abduction by UFO entities, seeming to accept an extraterrestrial origin for the latter. A little interesting insight is given into the personalities of the abductees and the harassment they invariably face if they "go public," but many opportunities to develop vital aspects of the abduction experience have been ignored, and instead the book contains repetition and padding (in the form of well-