

GHOST ROCKETS: A moment of history

by Jacques Vallée

ON Friday, April 24, 1964, the alleged landing of a flying saucer in Socorro, New Mexico, shows that the UFO phenomenon is still with us. The Socorro incident was no hoax and no weather balloon: the witness, a policeman, has been known for 16 years by scientists at the University of New Mexico, and has favourably impressed the special consultants of the Air Force immediately sent to investigate. This is another sighting added to many thousands; but this continuous accumulation of incidents shows that we are faced with a phenomenon of a formidable sociological impact.

Yet, no survey of this phenomenon has been made by historians or sociologists. No complete documentation is available, and only very few scientists have had an opportunity to see the really meaningful reports: the majority of them have been discouraged by the "sensational" interpretation of the facts presented in the newspapers, and by the number of obvious misinterpretations and hoaxes, among which the true nature of the phenomenon seems to be very difficult to find. These intelligent reports, however, do exist: about 10 to 40 per cent of the 8,000 American sightings kept up-to-date in Dayton by the Air Technical Intelligence Centre are, if not always inexplicable, yet truly intriguing, to say the least. It is the opinion of this writer that their accumulation constitutes a true phenomenon in itself, well worth a detailed and extensive scientific study.

A detailed analysis

Everyone seems to consider the famous sighting by Kenneth Arnold over Mount Rainier in June 1947 as marking the beginning of the UFO legend. But a more detailed analysis shows that reality is very much different. The point remains to be decided whether or not UFOs were seen, or imagined, during preceding centuries, the Middle Ages or even in Biblical and legendary times. Their modern epic seems to have started some time during the war, with numerous pilots reporting strange lights, apparently under intelligent control. But the first great peak of sightings took place after the war, one year before the Mount Rainier incident and the 1947 wave in the United States. This first wave reached its maximum by mid-July 1946, and affected the Northern regions of Europe.

The object of this article is to help clarify the incidents of that period, from reports in the French Press, and kindly communicated by the active French researcher Aimé Michel.

The first account we have been able to find comes from the newspaper *Resistance* of July 19, 1946. The article said:

"During the last few months the populations of the Southern part of Sweden, and those of the Northern part, have been somewhat disturbed: from time to time, especially at night, bright meteors, travelling at fantastic speeds, cross their skies. Within fractions of seconds, these bolides appear and disappear, vanishing into the deepness of space with an infernal roaring . . ."

This first description evokes immediately the idea of ordinary meteors, misinterpreted by people still very much under the stress of a terrible war. But *L'Aurore* of July 27 gives more precise details:

"More than five-hundred rocket-propelled projectiles are said to have been seen over Sweden since the beginning of July. According to some sources, the projectiles that streak across the Swedish sky look like jet planes, but make less noise than usual aircraft. Others describe them as like 'sea-gulls without heads'. On the map, the projectiles do not show uniform trajectories. They go towards the west as well as the south and so leads to the idea that they are guided by remote control of some sort. It has been impossible to get hold of any of these 'V-1s': all of them have fallen into the lakes."

A complex situation

We are already far from the meteor explanation: the objects are interpreted by the witnesses as material and as products of human technology. The reference to the German V weapons is very indicative of the psychology prevailing in Europe at that time: we will see that at no time during the whole "wave" will the hypothesis of the extra-terrestrial origin of the objects be made by the witnesses or by the newspapers. It seemed evident to everybody that the observed objects were a new type of aircraft or rocket. It is interesting to remember that this opinion was also the official reaction of scientists in the United States in the period 1947-1950; however, the situation will soon

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ANO 1964
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GHOST-BOMBS OVER SWEDEN

Björn Överbye

Our contributor, a regular correspondent of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in Norway, prepared his article in English.

DURING the Summer of 1946 numerous strange objects were seen in the night skies of Sweden. Their origin was certainly not earthly, because the highly technically developed countries find no explanation for the phenomena, and those who might have known said nothing. The objects appeared suddenly and disappeared as mysteriously as they had come, leaving people wondering. . . . The first time anybody saw one was, as far as I know, in the very beginning of July.

July 2; Gevle: At 20.00 hours an object of unknown origin was seen in the sky. The altitude was estimated at 30,000ft. "The body was greyish and at the rear a bright light was seen." (*Svenska Dagbladet*.)

July 8; Norrköping: This time a sphere-like object appeared, moving eastwards. "The object was like a sphere, diameter about 2ft. The colour was grey. No sound was heard." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 9; Norrby: Something surrounded by fire fell from the sky. Nothing more was said about the incident. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 9; Bjorklund: At 14.30 hours several people observed a luminous sphere travelling towards the North-East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 10; Orebro: At 14.30 hours a new sphere appeared, moving towards the North-East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 10; Stockholm: At 14.30 hours a similar object was seen, but this time the size was bigger and its body was more like a cigar. . . . "its breadth was a half-moon diameter and its length was ten or perhaps twelve times the diameter of the moon. It was bluish like a comet." The object was travelling in a westerly direction. (*Svenska Dagbladet*.)

July 11; Orebro: In the middle of the day a triangular-shaped "thing", about 60ft. in breadth, fell into the sea towards the East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 11; Otterslettan: At 7.30 p.m. "a

shining object was seen in the sky. Somebody said it was about 3ft. long. It left a trail of smoke." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

July 11; Lindköping: "Late in the evening a rocket-like thing was observed by numerous people. At the rear one could see a line to which a copper-like sphere was fastened." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

Until then there had been just a curious interest in these "meteors" and nobody considered them to be anything of special interest. However, on this particular day a meteor fell to the ground at Njurunda and left the witnesses wondering, for it was nothing like any meteor seen before. In fact it was unlike anything seen before. . . .

"We were just having our tea, when a luminous object like a sphere, so big that it nearly overshadowed the sun, came from over the treetops at about 40 degrees and hit the ground just a few feet from some children playing on the beach. The object emitted a fiery trail at the rear, which extended for some 100ft. or so. This was very much like a welding torch flame. This happened at 2.30 p.m. Naturally we both hurried to the hole which the 'bomb' had made on the beach. It was just a few inches deep, but about 6ft. across. We started to gather up bits which were left of the bomb. They looked like some kind of porous slag. The colour of the stuff varied from brownish to black. Some of the bits were almost like dust, and when touched, our fingertips started to ache as if the dust were acid. These pieces also left a peculiar smell. . . ."

This is a part of the story the Swedish pilot, Linden, told the Norwegian newspaper, *Arbeiderbladet*. Later the bits were sent for analysis to Dr. Becklund of Cellulosebolaget at Kubikenborg, who found that the material contained some carbon and a considerable amount of organic matter. In addition he found a small metal cylinder, just an inch long, which contained something not unlike a tiny chessboard. Conclusion: Just some

driftwood and iron-slag commonly found on beaches.

Organic matter? Was it, I wonder, some kind of advanced civilization conducting a survey that had lost one of their pilots that day? The general opinion was that it might have been a secret Russian weapon since there existed real evidence that something very material was "up there". An article in the distinguished Norwegian newspaper, *Aftenposten*, carried the heading: "New fireballs seen over Sweden". The article dealt broadly with the phenomenon:

"The fireballs seen in the sky are becoming a growing mystery in Sweden. Some people believe them to be meteors, while others believe them to be bombs of unknown nature directed towards Sweden. . . ." (July 11, 1946.)

The following day the same newspaper carried a new story:

"The Swedish Army informs our correspondent that some of the observations may be explained. *Aftenposten* has been in contact with bomb experts who can tell that the phenomenon has been observed so regularly that meteors can certainly be excluded. . . ! However, one cannot be quite sure. . . there is much to indicate that the objects may be guided missiles that do not contain explosives."

But why should anyone have been interested in despatching secret weapons over Sweden? Better to have gone to a deserted place to test them. In addition one might ask who was capable of making such weapons at that time? The German experts had fled to the U.S.A., and those few who had been captured by the Russians were known not to be capable of making such weapons, a fact known to the Swedish Army.

Despite all the speculation:

July 12; Rasunda: At 7.00 p.m. a really strange object was seen. "It was very much like a huge soap bubble with drops on its brim. It sailed slowly towards the North-West." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

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I think this indicates rather new principles of propulsion and construction. Said *Aftenposten* on July 17, 1946: "A large number of rockets have been observed during the past few days. They have been seen all over Scandinavia, and even from Finland we have received stories about objects moving with tremendous speed in the night skies. It is now believed that they are rockets constructed on entirely new principles."

Norway too

In the morning edition of *Aftenposten* for July 20: "Is someone experimenting with a flying-X in Norway?"

In the middle of Norway there is a big lake called Mjösa. At a small farm at the southern end of this lake a farmer and his family had witnessed a strange object at short range. He and his son were working outside the barn, while his wife and daughter were working at a small hill-top just near the farm. It was 12.00 noon, the sky was clear, the lake completely calm, and everything as it should be on a warm summer's day. Then suddenly his wife heard something:

"A strange sound was suddenly heard in the air", continued the newspaper account. "Perhaps an aeroplane was coming at low altitude. The sound, however, was not like the noise from an aeroplane. Instead, it was more like a mighty wind blowing. Soon afterwards they saw two rocket-like things that passed over their heads at such high speed, and so low that they threw themselves to the ground. They

could see the treetops swaying from the air pressure.

"In the yard, Sigvat Skaug and his son were standing and watching the flying-X from a somewhat greater distance, perhaps 150ft. Skaug says that they were very much like the V-1 that he had seen in pictures. Ordinary aeroplanes they certainly could not have been. They were cigar-shaped and appeared to be about 7ft. long, with wings extending 3ft. from the body and fastened 3ft. from the nose, almost at the middle. *The wings fluttered as if they had been made of material.* They did not see any kind of fire. The missiles passed overhead close together, one just a little ahead of the other, on a parabolic course. They then fell simultaneously into the lake, throwing the water several feet up in the air."

There were still those who maintained the objects must have been meteors. A professor claimed they were only a *fata morgana*, and that such things usually do not fall from the sky. The Army was serious about it, but like the majority they could say very little.

More objects seen in Sweden

July 22; Norbotten: "The Swedish Army was searching for an object which fell into a lake. The thing had left a large hole in the mud at the bottom, which should indicate it had been something real." (*Göteborg Handel & Sjöfarts Tidning.*)

July—Norrland: "A silvery-coloured torpedo was seen in the sky. It moved

at an almost uncanny slow speed, and its altitude of flight was very low. After a time it disappeared behind some clouds." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

July 23; Melaren: "A ball of fire left a bluish light in the sky . . . it was very much like a swan without a head." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

July 26; Oslo, Norway: "At 00.53 hours an explosion was heard all over the town, and some saw a light. The police believed it came from the air." (*Aftenposten.*)

July 29; Övrekälix: "The Army reports that a ghost-bomb had entered the lake, Kölmjersjön. The object was rocket-like, about 9ft. long, and some painted letters had been seen on its side." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

The Army, having made a semi-official investigation during July, promised at the beginning of August to produce a report on the observations. This report never materialised, possibly because of so-called "national security"; or perhaps the investigation led to results that they did not dare publish either for fear of not being believed, or of creating mass hysteria. The theory that the objects were comets or asteroids had been rejected by so many scientists that it was no longer of interest. All that remained was wild speculation mingled with the feeling that these things were not of earthly origin.

[*Mr. Överbye's article will be concluded in our next issue—EDITOR.*]

DESIGN FOR A FLYING SAUCER

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Mr. R. H. B. Winder's brilliant four-part article *Design for a Flying Saucer* (see FSR, Vol. 12, No. 6; Vol. 13, Nos. 1, 2, 3) has now been issued as a single reprint.

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GHOST-BOMBS ÖVER SWEDEN

Part II

Biörn Överbye

THE aerial visitations which during July 1946 had caused much speculation in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries—and indeed in the rest of the world, where there were some who for want of a better description called them *Ghost Rockets*—continued through into August. If the Swedish Army had discovered anything during the hastily-arranged investigation, they weren't telling, so speculation remained rife.

August 2; Norrland:

"Two cigar-shaped objects were seen exploding in the sky. The following day, two similar objects were also seen exploding." (*Göteborg Handel & Sjöfarts Tidning.*)

August 3; somewhere in Sweden:

"The Army has found something of celestial origin. The object found was rather like a barrel to which a 150ft. long wire, probably of copper, was fastened. The whole thing was approximately half a pound in weight. There was no doubt of the fact that the object had come from above." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

Place of observation not specified:

"An object that resembled a flashlight was seen by several people, passing at very high altitude. While they watched it, the thing started to increase in brightness, altering its direction by 90 degrees. The sky was absolutely clear." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

August 5; Skåne:

"A mysterious space craft was observed at about 11.00 p.m. on Sunday. The object was circular and glittered in the sun like silver. It moved with high speed, but no sound was heard. Its position was somewhere midway between the zenith and the horizon, the direction of flight being towards the South-West." (*Göteborg Handel & Sjöfarts Tidning.*)

August 8; Gotland:

"Teacher John Persson observed a space craft of unknown origin. The altitude was judged to be 1,500ft. and the speed estimated as 800 km/h. A

faint bluish light was seen at the nose of the rocket." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

The same day a Norwegian dentist observed another rocket, but unfortunately no place is mentioned. This was cylindrical in appearance and its speed, according to the observer, was "tremendous". No sound was heard.

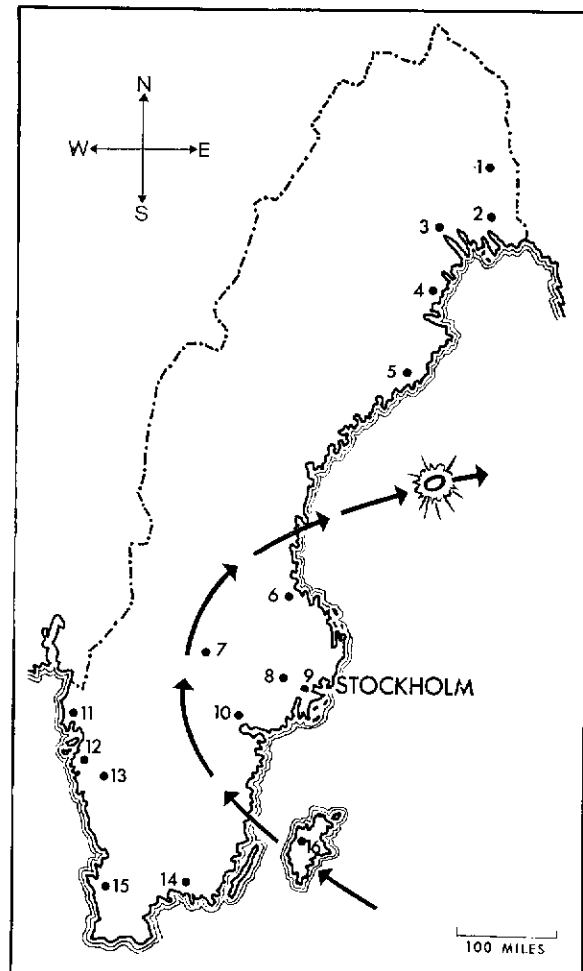
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"During a visit to Central Sweden

last Monday a person, whose name is not known, heard a high pitched sound and soon afterwards saw an object which passed his car with great speed, just 10ft. above the ground. This passed him at a distance of only 30ft. and disappeared in a southerly direction. He could not tell whether the thing hit the ground or simply went through the wood. Another witness was with him at the time." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

KEY

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2. Kalix
3. Pitea
4. Skelleftea
5. Umea
6. Gevle
7. Örebro
8. Melaren
9. Stockholm
10. Norrköping
11. Uddevalla
12. Göteborg
13. Boras
14. Karlskrona
15. Skane
16. Gotland



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the Committee's rationalisation in this matter. The Committee felt that the children would be educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material on UFOs currently available in sensationalised presentations. There has been a virtual inundation of this type of literature on American news-stands since 1966. Paperback and pulp productions by overnight experts were the rule, not the exception. This readily available and cheaply produced material would naturally find an eager audience in children who had become interested in the subject.

Dr. Hynek has voiced his opinion of this recommendation "I don't believe that schoolchildren would be quite able to detect the 'signal' from the 'noise' in this subject. The investigation of a UFO report, properly carried out, would be a good lesson in scientific method. I would have to agree with the Condon Committee unless the study involved a critical investigation of an actual occurrence."¹¹

* * * * *

Saunders traces the history of Edward Uhler Condon's career from newspaper reporter in 1918 to Director of Colorado's Scientific Advisory Commission before tackling the subject of UFOs. We learn that considerable tension exists between Condon and newly-elected President Nixon stemming from the hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee (1947-54) in which Condon was maligned and persecuted.

Condon's emotional explosions when he learned of the release of the now-famous "trick" memo, written by Low, are vividly described by Saunders. In John Fuller's introduction to the Saunders book he notes that neither Condon nor Low had any comments when he gave them the opportunity to present their side of the matter before he published his exposé in the May 14, 1968, issue of *Look* magazine. The memo and the subsequent firings are merely glossed over by both Walter Sullivan and Condon in the Report itself,¹⁴ and we seem to have a much clearer picture of the entire affair from Saunders' book without being unduly critical of Condon.

Saunders devotes a chapter to describing those cases in which Condon took a personal interest. They are without exception the most obvious hoaxes and delusions examined by the Committee.

This shows Condon in a very bad light. From this summary it seems as if Condon had never grasped, or possibly never even attempted to grasp, the magnitude of the Phenomenon. Since Condon wielded such a heavy hand in the direction of the project (he was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying "I raise a little hell when I run things") the whole investigation might have been titled "Condon's Folly" had it not been for the more

serious efforts by some of its members.

One receives the distinct impression that Condon may not have been quite "up to" the task of heading the high priority investigation (he devoted only half of his time to the study). One might wonder if the time has come when the good doctor is giving serious consideration to ending his colourful professional career.

The End of an Era

The Condon Committee Report will take its place alongside the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy as an official document that attempted to dispel (justly or unjustly) the fears and probing questions in the public's mind. As such, it will probably trigger many more counter-documentaries just as the Warren Report has.

It is my considered belief, after examining the Condon Report quite thoroughly, that "history" will not treat it, *as a whole*, too harshly. I believe that when it is placed in its proper perspective as the *first* "official" attempt at scientifically evaluating the UFO Phenomenon, and when consideration is given to the pressures, both social and political, which were brought to bear on the study, it will become the *last* such "investigation". It will also signal the end of an era.

The Report is a "gold mine" of controversy. Condon himself has apparently realised this and has written a significant passage declaring that the Committee's conclusion that the study of UFOs has not enhanced scientific knowledge will not be uncritically accepted by scientists. He also states that if these scientists should come forward with ideas for a more accurate study, it will be because they have learned from the Committee's mistakes. This view may be open to question.

Saunders and Harkins' book is a fascinating in-depth critique that gives us a personal insight into the mechanics of the investigation.

I was most intrigued with Dr. Saunders' discussion of orthotony, a study of which he conducted while still a member of the Committee. We should certainly hear more from Dr. Saunders and others like him.

NOTES

- ¹ *UFOs: They are not dead yet*, D. Zochert, "Chicago Daily News", January 28, 1969.
- ² *While we wait*, Editorial, FSR, November/December 1968.
- ³ *Flying Saucer Occupants* by Jim and Coral Lorenzen, 1967.
- ⁴ *UFOs Over the Americas*, page 197.
- ⁵ FSR, July/August 1968, page 18.
- ⁶ *APRO Reporter* (Gribble), April 1968.
- ⁷ *APRO Bulletin* (Lorenzens), September/October 1968.
- ⁸ "UFOs? Yes!" Saunders and Harkins, page 61.
- ⁹ *ibid.*, page 77.
- ¹⁰ *ibid.*, pages 140-141.
- ¹¹ Interview with Dr. J. Allen Hynek over WCFL radio, January 26, 1969.
- ¹² "UFOs? Yes!" page 131.
- ¹³ *Scientific Study of UFOs*, pages 5-6.
- ¹⁴ *ibid.*, xi and 341.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND BOOKS ON UFOs

There must be scores of thousands of people in this country who haven't an inkling that good, serious books on UFOs have been written. You and your friends can help enlighten them by asking the librarian to obtain any of the best titles that are missing from the shelves, or card indexes. How about the following, for a start . . . ?

Anatomy of a Phenomenon, Jacques Vallée (*Neville Spearman Ltd.*)

Challenge to Science, Jacques and Janine Vallée (*Spearman*)

Unidentified Flying Objects, Robert Chapman (*Arthur Barker Ltd.*)

The Flying Saucer Story, Brinsley le Poer Trench (*Spearman*)

And, as real surprises for them, when published later this year . . .

The Humanoids, Edited Charles Bowen (*revised and enlarged, to be published by Neville Spearman Ltd.*)

Uninvited Visitors, Ivan T. Sanderson (*Neville Spearman Ltd.*)

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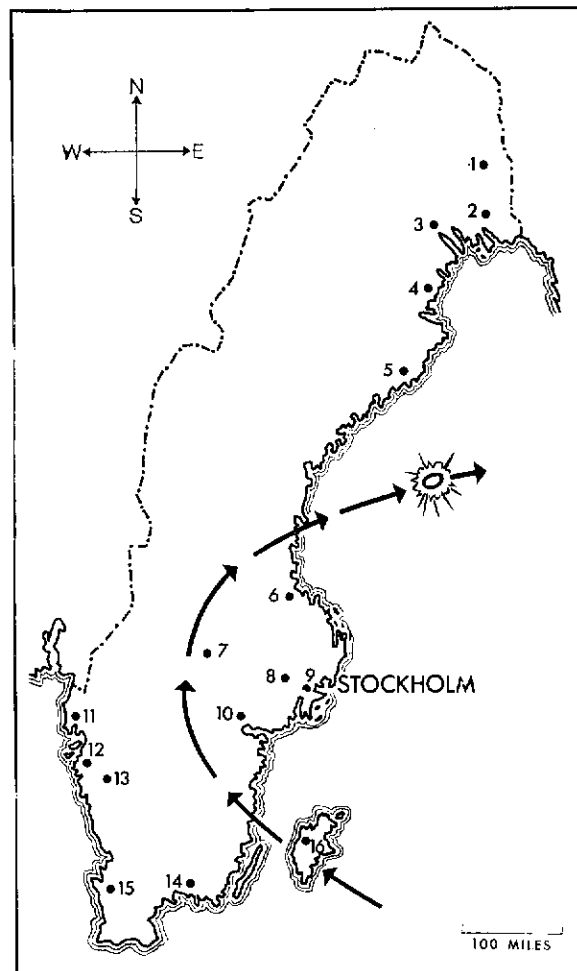
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12. Göteborg
13. Boras
14. Karlskrona
15. Skane
16. Gotland



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MES MAY-JUN

August 9; Gelve:

"A yellow fireball was seen travelling eastwards at a height of approximately 1,500ft.

"North Sweden: Another fireball of the same type, also travelling eastwards.

"Stockholm: Yet another of those yellow fireballs, this time seen twice during the day. On the first occasion the object was seen only as an intense light." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

An article in the same newspaper reported an interesting observation the following day:

"On the 9th a rocket-like object was seen somewhere in Central Sweden that produced a whistling sound as it crossed the sky at high speed. The object had a triangular nose and its colour was almost black. There were no appendages and no light was seen.

"Late that night a fireball fell to earth in Stockholm, and a little later another passed the town in a westerly direction."

Other nations must have started to take an interest in what was happening, for in the newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* (7-8), there was an affirmation from the USA that they had nothing to do with it. This information came from Marquis Child, who further pointed out that the opinion in higher circles was that Sweden had become a test-area for secret weapons. However, it was known that no nation besides the USA and USSR were capable of producing such things, so one wonders what the informed circles in the Army really believed at that time.

August 12:

All names were censored by the Army, but I think all these observations must have been made in Central Sweden.

At 9.00 p.m.: Three fireballs in formation were seen by several people; just afterwards two were seen exhibiting the same manoeuvres, and to make the whole performance complete a third one appeared, taking the same course.

At 9.00 p.m.: A fireball was seen splitting into four luminous rings that fell to the ground.

At 8.45 p.m.: An object shaped like a torpedo was observed.

August 12; Göteborg:

"At 9.00 p.m. a 'fish-like' thing was seen that silently fell from the sky." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

August 13; Uddevalla:

Three persons, who were out fishing, witnessed something which experts did not believe to be a meteor. "The thing rotated while emitting a continuous stream of sparks. Suddenly it lost speed and fell into the water

KUALA LUMPUR UFO

Our cover photograph is one of three taken of an aerial object over Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by Mr. P'an Ch'en Hsiang on May 27, 1968, at 6.50 a.m. This photograph appeared in the *Malaya T'ung Pao* on May 29, 1968, and the incident was described by Mr. Yip Mien Chun for FSR (World Round-up, September-October 1968). I have since translated the full text of the *T'ung Pao* article in which I came across the Chinese for UFO: "lai-li pu-ming-ti fei-hsing wu-t'i". Our thanks to Mr. Yip for obtaining the prints. We expect to publish the second photograph, and the text of the article, in our next issue.

GORDON CREIGHTON.

* Denotes adjectival ending.

來	Come
歷	origin
不	not
明	clear
的	—*
飛	fly
行	going
物	object
體	body

near the three men." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

August 13; Karlskrona:

At 8.00 p.m.: "The object passed the witnesses at a distance of only 150ft. It was cigar-shaped and only 5ft. long. The body emitted a faint green light and smoke was seen issuing from the rear."

August 13; Stockholm:

"The rocket produced an intense purple light and, as far as the witness could see, was cylindrical. The observation lasted only 10 seconds." (*Göteborg Handel & Sjöfarts Tidning.*)

August 14; Skåne:

Three rockets were observed at intervals of only five minutes. They all emitted some kind of light.

August 19; Laxå:

At 8.00 p.m. six persons saw an object passing over the roof-tops. "It was shaped like a 9ft.-long cigar and at the nose we could see some small spheres; a bluish light was produced at the rear. No sound was heard." (*Dagens Nyheter.*)

August 24; somewhere in Sweden:

As mysteriously as these heavenly visitors had come as mysteriously did they disappear, leaving but occasional traces which nobody but a few had seen and that probably nobody knew how to interpret. On this date, as far as I know, the last 'ghost-bomb' was seen. A Norwegian student and his friend, a Swedish engineer, were out boating on a small river near the latter's home. It was about 8.45 p.m. when they became

aware of a strange light approaching the boat:

"Suddenly, as if shot out of nothingness, I saw a light appearing in the South-East, coming towards us at tremendous speed. As it came nearer we could see that it resembled the full-moon, perhaps a little more elliptical. The light emitted was very intense and rather like that which the incendiary bombs used to produce when exploding; however, this light was bluish on the brim of the object. As it passed immediately overhead it grew so bright you could see as well as on a sunny day! The fireball, or *eldklotet* as it is called by the Swedes, had until now approached us in a parabolic trajectory. When passing us it released four "stars" which fell silently to the ground and on landing grew dark. As these "stars" were released the fireball too grew dark, and after a few seconds when we were able to see in the dark again, we could observe an oblong rocket passing us in a perfectly horizontal trajectory about 900ft. above the ground. As far as I could tell it was about 10ft. long. At the rear we observed some glowing points, and these points were the last things we saw. The course was towards the North-West during the whole of the observation."

"The engineer, who knew the surroundings well, estimated the speed to be in the region of 2000 km/h!" (*Aftenposten.*)

SOURCES

Of the newspapers quoted in parts I and II, *Dagbladet*, *Arbeiderbladet* and *Aftenposten* are Norwegian. All others are Swedish. Other sources: *Scandinavisk Astronomisk Tidsskrift*, *Monthly Notices R.A.S.*, *Naturen.*

THE ÄNGELHOLM LANDING REPORT

Sven-Olof Fredrickson



Our contributor, well known to readers of this Review, is Secretary of the Göteborg Information Centre on UFOs, and one of the editorial team of the Group's publication GICOFF Information, of Ahrenbergsgatan 14 a, 416 73 Göteborg, Sweden.

THE Swedish magazine *Allers* carried, in its issue No. 44 of 1971, an article about a fantastic UFO-observation made in May 1946. The only witness, Mr. Gösta Carlsson, is well known in Sweden. He is an industrialist, and at the same time sponsors an ice hockey team. We have not been able to speak to him, but we have been in close contact with Mr. Eugen Semitjov, the man who wrote the original article. Mr. Semitjov is prominent as a space-science writer, and is one of the few who has seen both the NASA and Soviet space activities from the inside.

The report, as presented here, is a summary of both his, and the GICOFF investigations. When reading this, one must bear in mind that the famous "ghost rockets" over northern Europe did not appear until July 1946.

Mr. Gösta Carlsson's account

"It was an evening in May 1946. I had been out walking, trying to find pollen for my bees* and was resting for a while close by the shore. By the time I started to walk back home it was almost dark, so I used a forehead lamp.

"When I saw a light among the trees I thought at first that someone had made a fire. The light was coming from an open space in the forest a short distance away. When I reached the place, however, I saw that in the farthest end of the open ground there was a disc-shaped object with a cupola. The cupola seemed to be a cabin with oval windows. Above it there was a mast, almost like the periscope of a submarine. Beneath the disc there was a big oblong fin which stretched from the centre to the edge of the underside. There were

also two metal landing legs. A small ladder reached to the ground from a door beside the fin.

"The object was approximately 16 metres in diameter and 4 metres from top to bottom at the middle. I know this because I measured the marks on the following day. There were a lot of holes around the edge of the disc, like those of a turbine, and it was from these that jet-beams came which burned the grass when the object departed. The light came from the mast. It was about 5 metres in height, and three antennae were suspended from its top. Lower down something like a lampshade was hanging. It was shining with a strange purple light which covered not only the whole object but also the ground a couple of metres beyond it. The light was flowing and pulsating from the "lampshade" like water from a fountain. Where the light hit the ground I could see a sparkling effect.

"On the ground, beyond the area of the light, a man in white, closely-fitting overalls, was standing. He seemed to be some sort of a guard. He raised his hand towards me; it was a gesture that could not be misunderstood, so I stopped. I was less than 10 metres

* Anyone who is ignorant of the habits of apiarists might feel inclined to ask: "Don't bees find their own pollen?" In his original version Mr. Fredrickson translated the phrase as: *to find pollen for my bee-keepings*, which is a little puzzling. The point seems insignificant, however, and I hasten to stress that Mr. Fredrickson's translations from his own language into English are always very good: without them much of what happens in Scandinavia in our field would remain unknown to us, and we are greatly indebted to him—EDITOR.

ITAPERUNA AGAIN

(Continued from page 14)

before reaching the target. A second salvo was fired, with the same result, after which the smaller discs swooped down over the missile sites and stalled the whole of the electrical apparatus.

We shall very probably never know whether this Russian report is entirely true, but it must, I think be conceded that, in the light of all that we have heard in the ten years that have gone by since then, such a happening does not now seem to us at all unlikely.

Finally, the moment is opportune to mention a mysterious case which has been on my files for some years, and which may possibly also have involved a UFO's force-field, though no UFO was actually seen.

It happened in or around 1947 at Newnham Park, just outside Oxford, which was at the time a Royal Air Force Camp. The place had the reputation, so it seems, of being "a bit spooky", to use the words of my informant, who was in the RAF and was at that camp at the time. What happened was that one of the sergeants was riding his bicycle in the grounds of Newnham Park when suddenly he seemed, as it were, "to have hit a brick wall" and was thrown violently over the handlebars on to the ground. Despite the most careful examination of the bicycle and of the site, so my informant tells me, no conceivable cause for such an accident could be found. There was no question of any hoax.

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Aerial photograph of the site, taken in 1963

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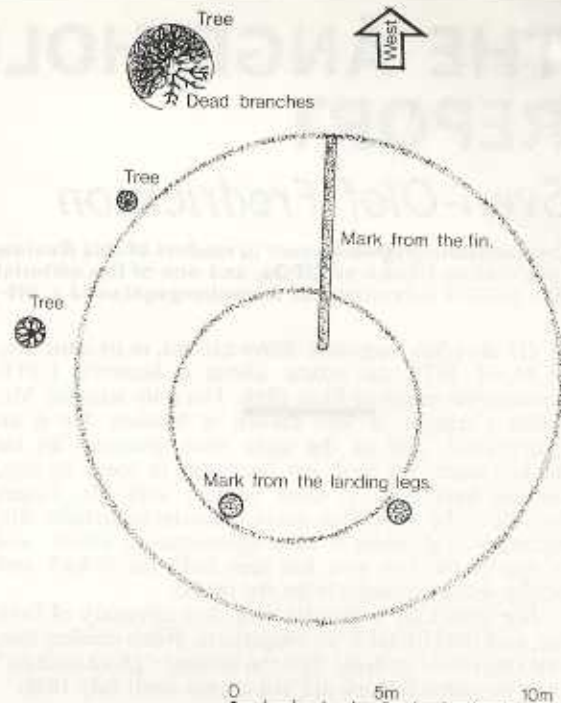
from him. He was approximately as tall as I am, maybe a few centimetres shorter, but he was thinner than me. There were others like him, but the strange thing was that nobody said a word. It seemed as if they had just finished repairing a window, because they put their tools away and looked at me. Everything was silent. The only thing I heard was the sound from the guard when he walked on the grass. There were three men working at the window, and two more were standing alongside. There were three women as well, and one more came out of the object later. On the far side there was another guard. In all I saw 11 persons.

"They wore short black boots and gloves, a black belt around the waist, and a transparent helmet. The women had ashen-coloured hair, but I could not see the hair of the men as they wore black caps. They were all brown-coloured, as if sunburned."

"I went a few steps closer, but then the guard raised his hand again. After that I stood still. The guard had a black box on his chest which was suspended by a chain around his neck. It looked like an old black camera. He turned it towards me and I thought he was going to take a picture of me, but nothing happened, except that I thought I heard a click from my forehead lamp. The lamp did not work after that, but that may have been purely coincidental. When I returned home I found that the battery had run out, although it was a new one."

"It seemed as if the 'cheese-dish cover' of light stood like a wall between us. I think it was created to isolate them from our world and atmosphere. One of the women came out of the cabin with an object in her hand. She went to the edge of the wall of light and threw the object beyond the area of light. At the same time I heard her laugh. (Mr. Carlsson later retrieved the object. An investigation in 1971 showed nothing exceptional. It was composed, among other things, of silicon. Its shape had been changed by the witness, and it looked like a staff.)

"Afterwards it is difficult to explain what one does,



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and why one does it. I thought the disc-like object could be some sort of military device. The whole scene seemed so strange. I never take alcohol, and I knew it was not an hallucination, but nevertheless I decided to go back to the seashore, and from there return to the opening to see if the object was still present. I was aware of a smell like that from ozone (O₃) following an electrical discharge."

* * * * *

Mr. Carlsson was away for something like 30 minutes. Then he says he set off to return to the site, but by another route so that he could see the object from the other side. Before he had time to leave the shore, however, he suddenly saw a bright red light. With a whining sound the object slowly rose above the tree-tops. It went up with a corona of red lights from the "turbine holes". At 400-500 metres its ascent slowed and it wobbled a little. Suddenly the red light became brighter and turned to purple: the object accelerated away at a tremendous speed and disappeared.

GICOFF investigation

The preceding account was the story as presented in *Allers* by Mr. Semitjov. He believes the witness was telling the truth, or the truth as it was after 25 years. During all those years a lot of details may well have become distorted.

The place where the incident is stated to have taken place is just outside Ängelholm, a town 100 kilometres to the north of Malmö in southern Sweden. After contact with our representative there, Mr. Nils-Erik Lind, we decided to look at the place ourselves.

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The opening, or glade, is located 100 metres from the nearest road, but is accessible by tractor. It is between 30 and 40 metres in diameter, with only a couple of very small trees. We could see a big circle, two small ones, which, presumably, were caused by the "landing legs", and a straight line, caused presumably by the "fin" (see diagram). What was strange, however, was that the marks had been made recently: someone had dug a circle 10 centimetres deep, 10 centimetres wide and 16 metres in diameter, and then filled it in with sand. The same had happened with the marks of the supposed "landing legs" and "fin". Mr. Semitjov assured us that this had not been done by him, and that there were no signs of digging when he was there two months earlier. The original marks were still visible without digging them up, he said, so who had done it and why? We discovered that a reliable witness was at the place the day after the *Allers* article was published on October 30, 1971, and by that time the marks had been dug up.

While we were at the site we saw something else. Inside the big circle, but not in the middle of it, there was a smaller one (see diagram). Nothing was said about this in the original article. If Mr. Carlsson knew about it, why did he not tell Mr. Semitjov? If he did not know about it, then why not? According to his own testimony he has been to the place several times, so he should have noticed it, even if it was difficult to see. We also noticed that the mark indicating the fin, re-cut by our strange "someone", pointed exactly towards the west. By chance?

We had taken with us, from the Chalmers University of Technology, a sensitive GM-counter. The result was negative, as was expected.

Could the marks have been made recently? No, because they appear in aerial photographs which have been taken over the area. The series of aerial photographs were taken in 1939, 1947 and 1963. In 1939 and 1947 the photographs were taken from an altitude of 3,000 metres, and on both occasions the same type of camera was used. In 1963 they were taken from 900 metres. We have been able to check all of them, and have in our possession copies of the photographs of 1947 and 1963. On them can be seen the inner circle



The witness, Gösta Carlsson

as well as the outer one, but not the marks of the "fin" and the "landing legs", which is understandable because of the great distance between camera and object. No circles are visible in the 1939 photographs. If they existed then, they would have been seen.

Our investigation has thrown some more light on this case, but we have also uncovered a few problems. Who for instance dug up the marks? Why were we told nothing about the inner circle? Why is the mark of the "fin" pointing due west?

One thing we do know for certain: the two circles were created between 1939 and 1947, and Mr. Gösta Carlsson says he had his fantastic experience in May 1946.

TRANSLATORS NOTE ON CERVANTES

(Continued from page 6)

ever have been a slave of the Moors seems highly improbable. It must however be borne in mind that in 1605 (the date of his mysterious "disappearance"), the dread terror of captivity among the Moors must have still been very much present in the minds of all the peoples of Western Europe, so Saint Vincent would not

have been at all unlikely to think of the "slavery" theme when casting around for a good "excuse" for his absence.

In the *Captive's Tale* Cervantes tells us that no less than 15,000 Christians, Europeans, were liberated from the slave-galleys of the great Turkish fleet after that mighty day of Lepanto. And during the reign of our own Elizabeth the First of England, it happened more than once that Moorish sea-raiders, just like the Vikings before them, landed on a Sunday morning on

the coasts of Cornwall and Devon, caught the local populace at their church services, and carried them off, able-bodied men and comely women, for the slave-galleys and the harems.

With the political changes now occurring in the world, and particularly in the Middle East, it is interesting to reflect that history could repeat itself, and such terrible things could well happen again. But that is another story, and not for *Flying Saucer Review*.

Trust the French to find a name for it . . .

Critics of That Report who delve into *Soucoupes Volantes: vingt ans d'enquêtes* by Charles Garreau (see p. ii of cover), may find their worst fears realised when, in the Table of Contents (p. 212), they read of *Le rapport Condom*, which, of course, was prepared by the *Commission Condom* (cover flap). Misprints which could cause the English to doff their caps?

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PROJECT 1946: THE "GHOST ROCKET" DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE SWEDISH DEFENCE STAFF

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ALMOST exactly one year after the end of World War II a series of remarkable reports concerning unexplained aerial phenomena started to pour in to Swedish editorial offices and to the Defence Staff. During the May-December period of 1946 the Swedish defence headquarters received, according to official statistics, 997 such reports, but that figure is an underrating of the real number of sighting reports from Sweden and the Scandinavian countries during that year.

In about 100 incidents rocket-shaped objects — or luminous phenomena — were seen as they crashed towards the earth's surface. In many instances it seemed as if the phenomena were remote-controlled to crash into lakes and other water surfaces. Despite lengthy and extensive searches of the bottoms of several lakes the defence forces did not succeed in securing any metal, or similar wreckage parts, which with certainty could point to any kind of rocket construction. These new experiences were in sharp contrast to the territorial violations of the immediately preceding war years, when concrete evidence was secured through numerous airplane wreckages and other heaps of metallic scrap in several places.¹

"The ghost rockets" (or "ghost bombs"), as the phenomenon was christened by the media,² has for 40 years been an area of interest to UFO researchers, private citizens who try to investigate and document sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Lacking the support of the direct documents and observation data from this era, the phenomenon has been an object of wild speculation in books and magazines, not the least in the USA.

These writings have, of course, their background in a natural interest in what really happened over Sweden and Scandinavia in 1946. During 1947 reports of so-called "flying saucers" created an enormous sensation in the American press and finally forced the U.S. Air Force to start a more than 20 years long series of investigation projects. A search through 140 American newspapers has since revealed that the American sighting wave of 1947 had greater proportions than what was generally believed. For the summer months of June and July, alone, there are more than 850 sightings on file in American archives.³

There was a striking resemblance with the Swedish

phenomena a year before, although the two sighting waves described objects of completely different shapes. In both waves thousands of unprepared witnesses saw objects which neither they, nor their governments, could explain sufficiently. In Sweden, as well as in the United States, interest was primarily focussed on the Soviet Union, which was believed to be responsible for the strange occurrences. *Wild speculations on spaceships from other worlds were almost non-existent in those years (1946-48).* Such theories were introduced during the summer of 1948 within the U.S. Air Force Project Sign and in the public media during 1949/50 through magazine articles and a book by aviation journalist *Donald E. Keyhoe*.

Swedish UFO researchers, who have attempted to locate the primary material from 1946, have been frustrated by statements from the Research Institute of National Defence and the Defence Staff that the documents were "lost" in the bureaucracy.⁴

Strong circumstantial evidence of secret documents

In 1976, thirty years after the incidents, an American researcher succeeded in finding some very interesting documents in the library of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum. Aviation and UFO historian *Don Berliner* was writing an article on the Swedish ghost rockets and made contact with the Museum to check their archives. Two important documents were found: one from the British Air Force Intelligence, the other from the Swedish Defence Staff...⁵

The British document, of five folio pages, is a detailed compilation and analysis of what British Intelligence had learned from Norway and Sweden. The SECRET British document takes a rather sceptical position regarding the phenomena. It was duplicated in at least 150 copies and distributed to British and American defence organisations. The distribution list points to a wide interest in the Swedish incidents. As early as 1958 the SECRET classification was cancelled by the U.S. Air Force, and the document ended up in the Smithsonian's open archives, where it probably remained for many years.⁶

Although the British report is interesting, the Swedish document is far more significant. It details the Swedish defence forces' own, direct experiences from

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six months of investigations. It also gives clear and direct indications of the existence of a very comprehensive investigative file. The report was drafted within the Air Administration and the Defence Staff in December 1946 and sent as a letter to the Swedish Supreme Commander *Helge Jung* on the day before Christmas Eve. In September 1947 an English translation was made and sent to the USA via the Assistant Military Attaché in Stockholm, Lieutenant Colonel *S. H. Connelly*. The document had a main report of three pages plus seven appendices and also included the Swedish originals.⁷

It is reasonable to assume a connection with the investigations of "flying saucers" which had just started with the Air Material Command (the U.S. equivalent of the Swedish Air Administration) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. It is probable that the Swedish report was communicated to the U.S. after a specific request from AMC and its Project Sign.

The world's first UFO investigation group?

What first becomes apparent from the Swedish document is that *Sweden was, as far as we know, the first country in the world to appoint a special committee — or delegation — to investigate phenomena of a UFO character.* This committee included representatives of the Defence Staff, the Air Administration, the Research Institute of National Defence (FDA), the Defence Radio Institute (FRA) and the Naval Administration. The Air Defence department of the Defence Staff collected all the reports from military and civilian sources. The committee's analytical work was co-ordinated mainly by employees of the Air Administration.

Chairman of the committee was Colonel *Bengt Jacobson*, head of the Material department of the Air Administration and directly subordinate to General *Nils Söderberg*, a legendary builder of the Swedish Air Force during the war years. Secretary and chief investigator was Air Engineer *Eric Malmberg* of the Material department's Equipment Bureau. Another regular participant at the committee meetings was Air Director *Henry Kjellson*, head of the Equipment Bureau, well known for his successful analysis of the remains of a V-2 that crashed in 1944 in south Sweden, an analysis entirely confirmed by the British as they later took over the work. (Kjellson also became well known in UFO & Fortean circles for two of his books where he speculated on the possible use of advanced technologies by ancient civilizations).⁸

The committee was formed on July 10 and started immediately to analyze about 250 reports received concerning an aerial phenomenon at 14.30 hours on the day before. Up to July 8 about thirty other reports had reached the Defence Staff, mainly since a HQ order had been issued by the Staff on June 12 to all military units. Sightings were to be reported immediately according to a special form and sent to head-

quarters.⁹

The first, more substantial, sighting was made only three days after Gösta Carlsson had witnessed a landed disc-shaped object and its occupants, in a glade near Vegeholm in south Sweden. "The next day I wrote a report to the Defence Staff, but I never sent it off. If I had they would have put me in a mental hospital," Carlsson revealed twenty-seven years later to a Swedish reporter.¹⁰

Without going into details it can be said that the Swedish document, discovered by Berliner, describes the committee's futile attempts to explain the mystery of the ghost rockets. Don Berliner published the document in an American magazine,⁵ despite information from the Swedish embassy in Washington that it was still considered SECRET in Sweden. In the United States, however, the document had only been classified CONFIDENTIAL. This low-rate classification was removed in June 1958. As late as in 1982 American researchers got the message, from Swedish authorities, that "portions of the documents dealing with witness reliability, radar trackings, and geographical plots, are still classified "secret".¹¹

The documents surface...

Berliner's article was cited in a German book and by UFO historian *Loren Gross*.¹¹ In this way the existence of the documents came to my attention. In August 1984 I wrote the Defence Staff. My theory was that 1,000 reports, or more, must be contained in at least 3 or 4 ordinary office files. The single file photographed in the Defence Staff offices in 1965¹² *could not possibly hold all of the rich material that Berliner's Swedish document spoke of!*

The Staff immediately confirmed that four volumes of secret documents concerning "space projectiles" (as the project was coined) had been retrieved. The documents surfaced at the Staff in May 1983, when old documents were re-evaluated for archival purposes.

We — the author, and *Clas Svahn*, a north-Swedish journalist — have now had the opportunity to work with these documents for almost two years. There is still a certain amount of secrecy that surrounds them, but this has been no obstacle to us since I had a previous permission from the Swedish Secretary of War to view similar secret documents on the 1930s ghost-flier phenomena. It has even been possible to make copies of about 1,000 pages.

Archives for UFO Research has been permitted to publish the documents, the secrets of which are of very little military significance after 40 years... The intention is first, however, to supplement the Defence Staff archives on a number of points. Some thirty Swedish newspapers have been checked. Witnesses who experienced sightings are contacted and interviewed. Often there are more details to uncover than what is immediately apparent from contemporary military investigations.



We also attempt to contact those people who took part in the committee's work and in the various military investigations. Our list covers some 50 names, but unfortunately several key persons are dead. In a few years' time we hope it will be possible to publish this unique material in detail, in Swedish first. There is also a great interest, from foreign researchers, to know the true facts about the ghost rocket phenomenon.

Can "the ghost rockets" be explained?

The only theory seriously considered by the Swedish committee — apart from astronomical and known technological solutions to subsets of the sighting data — was the possibility of *Russian rockets or remote-controlled weapons tests*. Through aerial, marine and radio reconnaissance against the southern and eastern shores of the Baltic it was attempted to determine if the Soviet Union — aided by German technicians — was developing V1 guided planes or V2 rockets. Some intelligence measures were of such a kind that first they had to be authorised by the Government. In spite of this, there were no results that could solve the riddle.

In the historical perspective one decisive argument

against the V-weapon theory is that the German weapons, at the end of the War, had an upper range of between 300 and 370 kilometres.¹³ When Allied troops marched through France, Belgium and Holland it was no longer possible to use V-weapons against Britain due to their limited range.

In Sweden clearly metallic "ghost rockets", with spool-shaped bodies and often small fins, were seen on at least 225 different occasions during 1946 (according to statistics from the Defence Staff).⁷ Sometimes they came from the south and dived into northern lakes such as Storsjön and Kølmsjärv, at a distance of 1000-1500 kilometres from the north-German coast. Even considering *Esthonia* as their point of origin, well-observed and documented crashes — like the one in Lake Kølmsjärv¹⁴ — still means that the Russians, during one single post-war year (when great parts of central and eastern Europe were in ruins...), would have succeeded in increasing the V-weapons range *by three times*.

It is known that the small number of knowledgeable rocket and aeronautical technicians which the Soviets had recruited, on October 22-23, 1946 were hastily deported from northern Germany to Moscow.¹⁵ In spite of this, "ghost rockets" continued to pass over Sweden, although in smaller numbers

than during the summer. *As far as we know, in the West, the first Soviet launch of a V2-rocket occurred only one year later, on October 30, 1947.*¹⁶

After all, theorizing on *V2 rockets* is really to distort the general sense impressions of the Swedish witnesses. "The ghost rockets" were mainly experienced as relatively slow-moving objects. "Airplane speed" is a standard phrase in the report archives of the Swedish Defence Staff. Witnesses on the shores of the lakes Storsjön, Kölmjärv and Mjösa had the time to clearly register small, rocket-shaped objects. In contrast to this it is a well-known fact that those V2s that hit London or Antwerp up to March 1945 did so at supersonic speeds. They hit ground at lightning speed, not giving nearby witnesses a chance to see their shape or details of them.

If we go on to speculate on a further development of the V1 missile plane, which in any case is a much more probable solution, we are still in difficulties. The V1s were surely simple and cheap to manufacture (about 1/10 the cost of a V2), but still the very number of Swedish reports is a puzzle. The Soviets — who else? — must have had an immense stock of missiles since reliable sightings of spool-shaped objects — often in full daylight — happened on at least 225 separate occasions, in Sweden alone.

In the report tables from the Defence Staff, used for their statistical analysis, it is only possible to find a chronological and geographical connection between two or more reports in a few cases. The sightings most often occurred *at widely separated spots and within several hours of each other*. This is a well-recognised pattern in UFO phenomena of today.

V1 missiles in such great numbers, sent over Sweden, would undoubtedly have left *at least a handful of scrap-heaps*, mainly in the south of Sweden. According to an official British investigation 8,070 V1s were aimed at London. 7,488 reached the English coast, then anti-aircraft defence and fighters brought down 3,957. Only 2,420 reached their target area. Thus at least 1,500 missiles crashed along the way due to *functional disturbances in the plane*.¹⁷

Walter Dornberger, head of the Peenemünde base where V1 and V2 were developed, reports in his book an even greater rate of failure: 3,300 out of 9,300 V1s didn't even reach the English coast before they crashed.¹⁸

Finally: *Why take the risk of testing an experimental missile (which is implied by the dramatically increased action range) over neutral Sweden*, when the Soviet Union had vast deserted areas which, undoubtedly, would be more suitable? Such a series of tests must have been foolhardy in view of the risk of discovery through scrap on the ground.

The proceedings of the Swedish committee's meetings clearly mirror the bewilderment of these military investigators. Participants in this work were the chemical laboratories of the FDA's section I, led by professor *Gustaf Ljunggren*. Some 30 fragments and

other remains were analyzed by them, but nothing was found that even remotely resembled the remains of a metallic rocket or missile. In most cases, instead, the analysis pointed to lumps of slag that were surprisingly similar. It is striking that this slag was found in so many places with parts of vegetation melted into the lumps. This phenomenon made the FDA chemists suspect the lumps had been on the ground for a long time, a theory contradicted by the eyewitnesses' reports. The few minor remains of metallic objects FDA investigated could be given reasonable explanations without taking rockets or missiles into account.

Radio interception and direction-finding was arranged by FRA, the then newborn Defence Radio Institute, from specially equipped B18 bombers flying over the Baltic. Suspicious transmissions were intercepted. In some cases the broadcasts are similar to those that had directed the radio-guided versions of the V1, but it was not often that these transmissions were intercepted simultaneously to reported visual sightings.

Radar stations of the Air Force and coast artillery corps caught clear echoes on a number of occasions. In one case there was a simultaneous visual sighting of a luminous phenomenon. Liaison between radar and fighter airplanes was not very effective in the Swedish Air Force in those days. In the autumn of 1946 there were attempts, however, to create such a defence organisation in the Stockholm area but the rockets never appeared, or were observed when radar and fighters were on non-alert.

Project 1946

The project to collect, analyze and compile data on the 1946 incidents will continue during the coming years, and includes the following sub-projects:

1. *To locate and interview witnesses who had sightings in 1946*. A number of the most interesting cases have already been investigated, but there is still much work to be done. We invite anyone who knows about sightings from 1946, or from the war years 1939-45, to contact us.
2. *Trace and interview members of the "ghost rocket" committee*. Biographies are collected and members who are still alive are contacted for interviews.
3. *Complete the coverage of the press*. Some 30 Swedish newspapers have been combed for reports, articles, editorials. In total there were 230 Swedish dailies in 1946, so there is still a potential for new discoveries particularly concerning local reports that often did not reach the Defence Staff in Stockholm.
4. *Computer catalogue and analysis of as many reports as possible*. In total the primary data now comprise between 1,500 and 2,000 incidents. The reports are catalogued in a report file, SCANCAT. SCANCAT is intended for statistical tests and information retrieval. In the end it is expected that this file will also contain the 1930s ghost flier reports and post-

1946 reports from Sweden and Scandinavia. The file is built in a Victor 15 Mbyte IBM compatible personal computer with dBase III, a standard database program. One of the long-term goals of the project is to facilitate comparisons between different "age sets" of UFO data such as ghost fliers compared to ghost rockets. We also intend to make statistical studies of the flight directions of aerial phenomena in 1946 and during the 1930s era to see whether these data fit the Soviet or German theories of these sighting waves.

5. *Further research in the Swedish archives.* Many chains of events during the military investigations must be clarified through continued research in other files at the War Archives, the National Archives and the FDA archives. For instance, a study of the secret Swedish Air Force file on crashing aircraft has shown that a rumour that an air crash on August 12, 1946 was caused by collision with a "ghost rocket" has no truth to it.
6. *To document the intelligence interest in the ghost rockets.* As stated before, documents from British and American intelligence sources show a certain interest from the main powers. There were high-level contacts between Swedish military and allied intelligence people who, during World War II must have had an intimate knowledge of reports on "foo fighters". *James Forrestal, the American Secretary of the Navy, suddenly arrived in Stockholm to see the Swedish Secretary of War, just one week after the ghost rocket committee was formed. The Defence Staff answered written questions from one of the US attachés. A FBI document makes it clear that the American defence "exerted tremendous pressure on the Air Force Intelligence to conduct research and collect information in an effort to identify these sightings."*¹⁹ A newly released document mentions no less than 44 different documents on the ghost rockets in the archives of the U.S. Air Force. Unfortunately it will not be possible to see these documents since a cross-reference file has been lost while transferring records to the American National Archives.²⁰
7. *To document what happened in Sweden during the war years.* Between 1940 and 1945 Sweden organised the greatest aerial surveillance in its history. From hundreds of places there was a continuous look-out for alien aircraft. About 16,000 intruding aircraft and objects were catalogued in the defence files, but 5,890 objects still remain as "not identified".²¹ Are there any reports with UFO characteristics in this file? In any case we know, from the press, that "ghost rockets" were sighted in the north of Sweden as early as 1939.
 There are also clear indications of strange objects violating Swedish territory during the winter 1944/45. In January 1945 there were diplomatic protests in Berlin against the observed overflights of a new kind of weapon, nick-named V3 by Swedish sources.²² Some aspects of these violations

seemingly do not match with modern knowledge of German V-weapon technology.

We are also taking note of all foreign sightings during the 1939-46 period found in the international literature. For example, on May 27, 1943 the crew of a British bomber watched a cylindrical, silvery object hovering over an allied bomber fleet of 400 planes as they were attacking Essen.²³

8. *What has been published about "the ghost rockets" since 1946?* The phenomenon is mentioned by each and every UFO-author during the 40 years that have passed. The ghost rockets were used as an argument for possible as well as impossible theories. Through literature studies in the AFU library, one of the most comprehensive UFO libraries in the world, we try to map this aspect. We are also tracing parallel cases to the 1946 incidents, trying to document that these strange missiles are a continuing phenomenon.

If you have any information on the incidents of 1946, and investigations during that year, or the preceding war years, we would appreciate a word from you to:

- Anders Liljegren, P.O. Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden. Telephone +46 11 14 46 50 (home phone).*
- Clas Svahn, Mjöluddsvägen 97, S-951 57 Luleå, Sweden. Telephone +46920 279 53 (home phone).*

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. For example the V2 crash at Bäckebo in south Sweden on June 13, 1944. The remains were turned over to the British after a very thorough investigation by Swedish Air Force scientists, who exposed the new German technology before the Allies. (The Swedish scientists and experts who took part in the investigation were the same as those who formed the nucleus of the 1946 ghost rocket committee).
2. In certain works the terms "ghost airplanes" and "ghost fliers" have, unfortunately, been used for the 1946 phenomenon, causing some misunderstandings. The term "ghost flier" should — in our opinion — only be used for airplane-like objects, e.g. those airplanes reported from northern Scandinavia during 1933-37 and in the mid-1970s from the county of Varmland in western Sweden. Surely a small part of the 1946 phenomena were observed as "ghost planes" (looking like airplanes or birds), but the overall majority of 1946 sightings concerned rocket-, torpedo-, and cigar-shaped objects with little resemblance to conventional airplanes.
3. *Ted Bloecher*: Report on the UFO wave of 1947. The author, 1967. About 200pp. Contains case descriptions from the press, from the U.S. Air Force and from the files of private UFO organisations. A detailed account of 1947 is also found in: *Loren Gross*: UFOs: a history, Vol. 1: July 1947-December 1948. Arcturus Book Service, 1982, about 170 pages.
4. *K.Gösta Rehn*: Nya fakta om de flygande tefaten. Zindermans, 1969, page 50, plus a number of other Swedish books and articles.



5. *Don Berliner*: The ghost rockets of Sweden. Official UFO, October 1976, pp. 30-31 and 60-64. Also correspondence with Berliner, 1985.
6. *A.I.2 (g)*: Paper 271/46: Investigations of missile activity over Scandinavia. 9th September, 1946.
7. Intelligence Report R 63C-47. 24 September 1947, includes "Summary of Letter to Commander in Chief, 23 December 1946".
8. *Henry Kjellson*: Fortidens teknik, Nybloms, original edition 1956; Forsvunnen teknik, Nybloms, original edition 1961.
9. Försvarsstaben, avd. L nr 7:49, June 12, 1946. (The Defence Staff, section L (air defence section).
10. *Fredrikson Sven-Olof*: The Ängelholm landing report. Flying Saucer Review, vol. 18, no.2 pp. 15-17. Also numerous reports and interviews in Swedish press and books on the same case.
11. *Loren Gross*: The mystery of the ghost rockets. Arcturus Book Service, 1982, second edition. Footnote on page 59.
12. *Jan Muhr*: Flygande tefat över Kumla! Article in the Swedish weekly Se, issue nr.35, 1965.
13. *Willy Ley*: Rockets, missiles and men in space. The Viking Press, New York, 1968, pp. 207 and 499. *Walter Dornberger*: V2 — Der Schuss ins Weltall, Bechtle Verlag, Gesslingen, 1952, p. 287.
14. *Clas Svahn & Anders Liljegren*: The Kölmjärvi ghost rocket crash revisited. AFU Newsletter, 27, Jan-Dec. 1984, pp. 1-5.
15. *Werner von Braun and Frederick Ordway III*: History of rocketry and space travel. Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1975, p. 118. *MorgonTidningen* (Swedish daily), Oct. 23, 1946.
16. *Von Braun & Ordway*, p. 140.
17. *Ley*, p. 216.
18. *Dornberger*, p. 287.
19. *FBI*: Office Memorandum, from E.G. Fitch to D.M. Ladd, Aug. 19, 1947. In a volume of FBI/CIA documents on sale from Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20822, USA.
20. Letter from Lt. Colonel Douglas W. Eisemann, USAF headquarters, to "Project Sign", February 1948. In: U.S. Department of State documents on the Scandinavian ghost rocket phenomenon of 1946, published in 1985 by William L. Moore Publications, 4219 W. Olive St., Suite 247, Burbank, California 91505, USA.
21. *Sveriges Militära Beredskap 1939-1945*. Militärhistoriska förlaget, Stockholm, 1982, p. 538. (An official documentary on the Swedish military during World War II.)
22. *New York Times*, January 20, 1945.
23. *BUFORA Journal*, vol. 6, no.3, Sept/Oct 1977.

LIFE ON MARS, UFOs, **SETI**, SETA — AND SCIENTIST CLAIMS THE PARANORMAL IS FOR REAL!

Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

"Mars may be inhabited", announced an unexpected headline in a British national newspaper in July, a month which proved exciting in what some scientists had to tell us about extraterrestrials (and the search for extraterrestrial artifacts) and the paranormal.

It looked as if one sector of the scientific fraternity was going overboard in the search for ufonauts and their nuts-and-bolts craft.

The paper in question, *The Guardian* of July 22nd, didn't reveal who or what may inhabit Mars, but it did state the following:—"There may be life on Mars after all," two Americans claimed last night at a conference to mark 10 years of experiments since the first unmanned *Viking* space-craft landed on the planet in July 1976.

The biochemists, Gilbert Levin and Patricia Straat, said that no thesis had yet been able to explain the findings of an experiment which produced a "slightly better than 50-50 sign of living organisms, after radioactive organic chemicals were mixed with a sample of Martian soil to measure its metabolism."

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Two days later, the *New Scientist* reported that Mars showed a range of distinctive signs of weathering by water or a similar liquid. Remote sensing of the planet from Earth had picked up features possibly caused by water flows (for example, rivers) and areas where water may have gathered.

The report concluded that there could be a huge volume of water locked up in the planet's crust — extending tens or hundreds of kilometres downwards from the surface area.

UFOs seen by "level-headed people"

A new book that appeared in the bookshops in July was "*A Dictionary of Space*," by physicist Dr Malcolm Smart, (Longman, £7.95). It was revealing in three of its entries.

First was its treatment of UFOs. While most sightings could be explained by natural or man-made phenomena, a number could not, he said. "Inexplicable sightings have been made by experienced and