



Drawing of the object according to Ole Birkeland

Strange object over Southern Norway

Richard Farrow

THIS account consists of stories of two similar happenings in the same area at an interval of 24 hours. It seems that the same object was involved in each incident, which occurred only a few miles apart over the Tronstad Moor a short distance to the northwest of Kristiansand on the southern coast of Norway.

The reports of the incidents were investigated by UFO-Infomasjon of Norway, and accounts on which I have based my translations were published in the magazine *Vi Menn*.

The first report

It was almost 9.30 p.m. on an evening in January, 1970, when Ole Birkeland, workshop employee and farmer, got into his car to drive home across the moor to Tronstad. He had driven barely a kilometre from the built-up area when he noticed a brightly-lit object which had come over the rise at the side of the road. The object stopped abruptly, changed direction, and

then flew slowly in front of the car.

Ole Birkeland said the object looked like an illuminated baking tray, with insect-like legs—only there were seven of them—each ending in a knob. From these knobs came flames, similar to those of welding torches. He could hear no sound from the craft, but conceded that any noise it may have been making could have been drowned by the noise of the car's engine.

The road and surrounding area were illuminated like a sports stadium, the light being so intense that Birkeland was temporarily blinded, and had to ease the throttle. The car's headlights were completely out-shone by the light from the object. For three kilometres the weird object stayed above the car at an estimated altitude of 80-100 metres. Just short of Greipstad, where the road bears down to Tronstad, the craft gave up the pursuit and disappeared behind a hill in a westerly direction.

A Kristiansander, who has a summer house at

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and FSR CASE HISTORIES

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In the forthcoming May/June, 1971, edition of *Flying Saucer Review*:

UFO on the sea near Rio

Port Monmouth landing

UFO activity in relation to Night-of-the-Week

Trancas, after seven years

The Perfect Apparition

by Dr. W. Buhler

by Dr. B. E. Schwarz

by Dr. Jacques Vallée

by Oscar A. Galindez

by John A. Keel

Tronstad, drove along the same route a little while after Ole Birkeland. He too saw the strong light over the moors, but did not see the object itself.

The second report

The following evening Arne and Gudny Åsene, their three children and their son-in-law, were driving over the Tronstad moor. None of them had an inkling of what had happened to Ole Birkeland. As they came over the top of the hill from Tronstad they were met by an intense light which, at first, they thought came from another car. They drove past two cars which had stopped by the roadside. Getting the impression that the passengers were looking at something in the air, they also drove to the side of the road and stopped.

When Arne Åsene and his son-in-law got out of their car, they saw a "cigar-shaped object with three lighted points" which sent a strong beam of light down to the road not far from where they had parked the car.

They then continued their journey, but stopped several times, and switched off the car lights so as to observe the UFO. At Sjøvatn the object went back and forth over the road, then followed the car for a few more kilometres until they reached the junction where the road turns off to Finsland. The light beam then followed this road and the family thought that was the end of the phenomenon.

A little further on, however, near Høyevannet Lake, the object popped up again, and by the time they reached Høye station on the southern railway, they noticed that the light was once again almost over them.

Suddenly it began to blast out flames which came down on either side of the road, and in the bright light it looked as if the snow was melting where the flames reached down.

The object now appeared to be about 200 metres above the road and the family, having become very alarmed, stopped the car under the railway bridge. They waited several minutes before venturing forth, but the object still followed them for another four kilometres. When they reached Oyslebo, the object finally disappeared. It had followed them for a total of 13 kilometres (8 miles).

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For six months Ole Birkeland and the Åsene family remained silent about their experiences for fear of people thinking they were mad. Only after the publication of reports in the press of the Danish policeman Maarup [see *FSR Case Histories Supplement 1—ED.*] did they feel they could tell their stories.

None of these witnesses had read much about UFOs, nor had they any particular interest in the subject. They know what they saw but have no idea what it was. Indeed they would prefer that someone could give them a simple explanation.

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[After a lapse of six months it was still known that the incidents took place within 24 hours of each other, so the dates were known. What a pity these dates were not given.—EDITOR.]

Readers' Reports

Flying object over Seoul

Sir,—A mysterious flying object which appeared over the Blue House (the president's official residence), Seoul, South Korea, and hovered for some minutes, was fired at by anti-aircraft guns at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 1970.

The headquarters of the Capital Defence Forces in Seoul announced on the Wednesday morning: "The object was a JAL (Japanese Air Lines) plane which had taken off from Kimpo Airport and flown in the forbidden area over the Blue House by mistake. An anti-aircraft battery fired warning shots for about 2 minutes. Any aircraft flying in the area in the future will be shot down."

Meanwhile, the Secretary of State, Po, reported at a conference of the Audit Committee that the aircraft was a JAL plane flying from Kimpo Airport to Japan. Prime Minister Ting asked the Minister of Transportation, Fai, who ought to make the forbidden area known to the persons concerned.

However, officials of Japanese Air

Lines positively denied the incident, because the JAL Convair 880 air cargo plane took off from Kimpo Airport at 7.16 p.m. and did not fly to the area, but turned left over the airport and went away from Seoul. According to the track record of the JAL Convair 880, followed by radar at the Kimpo Airport Control Centre, the plane, when it took off from the airport, flew to Inchon, on the opposite side from Seoul, then turned to the east and over Anyangni and the Sea of Japan. It was the normal course of the JAL plane, and thus the Convair 880 air cargo flight was proved not to have flown over the Blue House.

The *Mainichi Shinbun* correspondent, Mr. Nakano, reported by wire: "Nobody saw or heard the JAL aircraft and its roar. It was a very clear evening and anyone who looked up at the sky could easily distinguish JALs and others."

Finally, the Minister of Transportation, Fai, concluded: "I could not prove it to have been the JAL plane." Then what was it? Was the object

hovering over the Blue House and disappearing without sound a *real* UFO? **Kunimoto Ohishi**, Japanese Universities Students Aero-Space Research Group Union (JUSARGU) Overseas Department, 1-49 Ohyaguchi, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

UFO over Tokyo

Sir,—An unidentified flying object was sighted over the central district of Tokyo by eight engineers of Japanese National Railways (JNR) on the afternoon of August 20, 1970.

According to NTV-TV (Tokyo), Mr. Katsumi Yonezawa who works for the Planning Control Office of the First Construction Department of JNR, witnessed a strange flying object from the sixth floor of the JNR Centre Building in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

"When I casually looked out of the window," explained the engineer, "I noticed a vague diamond-shaped object in the sky. At first I thought it was just an image, but I found that it was a real object. I moved to the other