

A LANDING NEAR LAKE ANTEN?

A new case from Sweden, with burn marks and analysis of soil samples.

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THE occurrence you will read about below happened the night between August 29 and 30, 1970, at a place west of Lake Anten,† 40 kilometres north-west of Gothenburg, Sweden (see map, fig 1).

We, GICOFF, became aware of it on Wednesday, September 2, and, the day after, four of us went up to the place. First we talked to an inspector at the police station in Alingsås, the neighbouring town. He told us the occurrence had not really interested them. They had reported it to the military authorities, but they did not seem to be interested either.

We then went to the place where it had happened, a little farm or rather a croft called Enebacken. On arriving at the croft we found another car standing there. The owner of the house, Mr. Richard Johansson, 81 years old, was being visited by his daughter and a friend of hers. She came out to meet us and showed us a corner of the garden about 25 metres from the house.

"There they are," she said—something she had probably done several times, because we soon learned that a lot of people from around about had been there. We went to the corner as directed and saw three burned marks that had been reported in the newspapers.

We took a lot of photographs, we measured the marks and the sur-

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† In the GICOFF index this case is designated: 300870 Anten, Alingsås, Sweden.

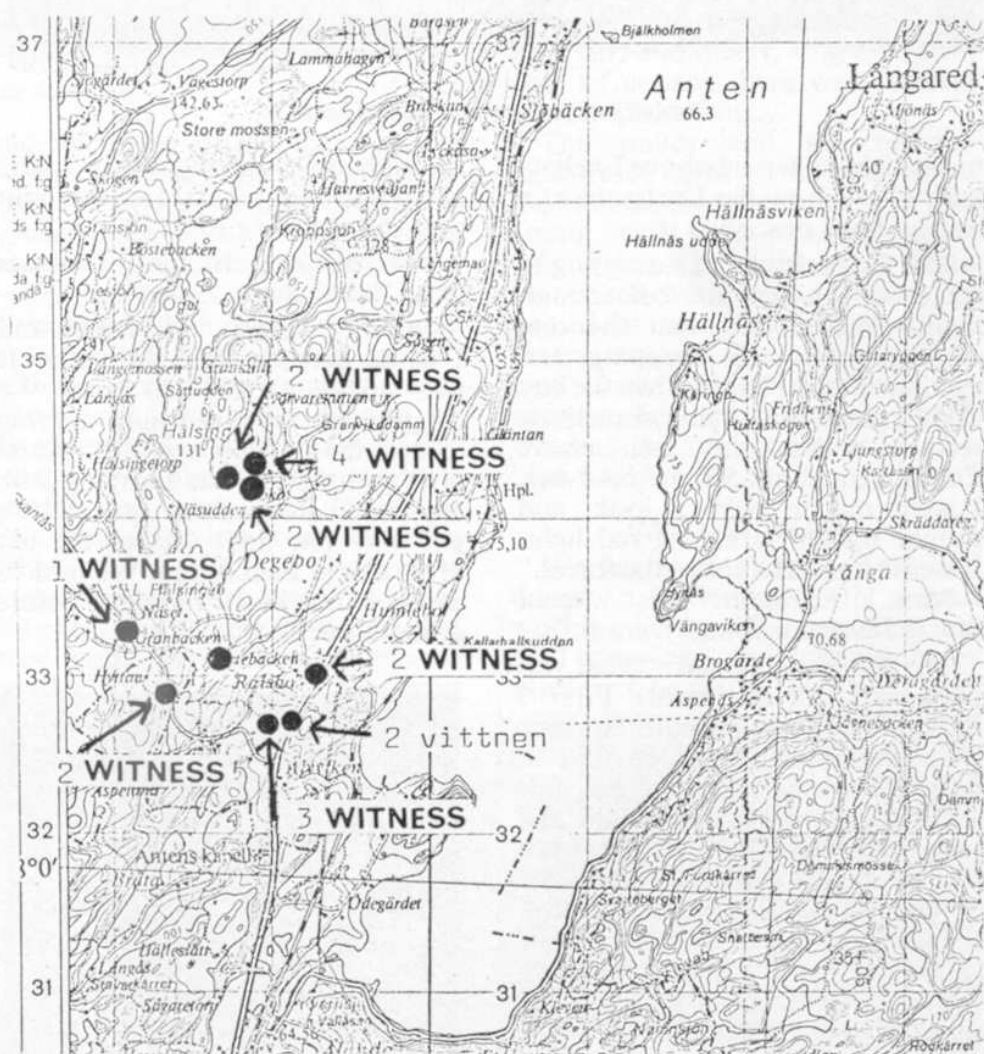


Fig. 1. Lake Anten, Alingsås, Sweden—location of witnesses around Enebacken

roundings and we took a couple of earth samples, one from the marks and one from a place 4 metres away (more about this later).

Mr. Johansson, 81, told us: "I did not see or hear anything. You see I went to bed at 9.00 p.m., but my room is on the opposite side of the house. I am not particularly

bothered about the incident, but it has been amusing to see people around this place. Whoever landed there has taken care not to destroy anything."

Several witnesses of strange light

Then we had to find witnesses



Photographs copyright GICOFF

Garden and house; location of holes

to the light observed above Enebacken. This is how the Karlssons at a nearby farm described it:

Mr. E. Karlsson: "I was going to go to bed—it was just before midnight—when I saw that the cars on the road were stopping and putting out their lights. Then the boy came running in saying something red in colour was seen above Enebacken, about 500 metres away. I went out to have a look, and caught sight of a strong red light. It went to and fro above the forest."

Mrs. I. Karlsson: "Just when I saw it I heard a sound from it."

Mr. Karlsson agreed: "That was what puzzled me most. First I thought it was an aircraft, but then I realised it could not be that. It behaved so strangely, and not only that, it was round and bright and very red. It went both up and down and to and fro above Enebacken. Sometimes it disappeared below the treetops only to reappear after a while. The speed varied, sometimes it glided slowly only to accelerate very fast. Once it was almost down at the meadow in front of the forest only 200 metres away. Then I saw some beams of light coming from it. They were yellow-white in colour and seemed to come from the side of the red sphere, which had the size of about half the moon."

Mrs. I. Karlsson: "We were standing outside for a while but then we went in and watched it

through the window. When going to bed at about 2.00 a.m. the light was still standing there."

We managed to find witnesses from three cars:

Mr. P. Nilsson: "My friend and I came driving from Alingsås. It was about 11.15-11.30 p.m. We caught sight of a red light moving to and fro and up and down, and now and then it was standing still. My friend stopped the car, and we got out. The light was to the left of us above Enebacken. We looked at it for maybe 10 minutes, before going home."

Mrs. Olsson: "My husband and I were returning from a visit to friends. We saw something which resembled a rear lamp on a car, red-yellow in colour. First we thought it was an aircraft, but we soon realised that it was not. We looked at it for 3-4 minutes. The time was then 12.25 a.m."

Mrs. E. Aronsson: "Shortly before 11.30 p.m. I saw, together with a friend, a bright illuminated ball just above the treetops. First I thought it was the moon, but this was red and it was so bright."

All these witnesses were located south or east of Enebacken. We found a further eight witnesses who had been to the north of the incident. One of them indicated how she had seen the light between two trees. When checking with a compass we found it to be precisely in the direction of Enebacken. Another, a Mr. E. Johansson, told us: "I caught sight of the red, bright ball above Enebacken at about 11.45 p.m. I was together with my wife and another couple. We estimate its size to be a little less than that of the full moon. It moved to and fro and up and down above the forest. We could also see something like a beam of light coming from the ground going up to the light. It was very beautiful to look at. The light was constant in brightness and created an illuminated streak on the surface of Lake Haslingen."



Closer view of holes



Hole viewed from above

The distance between Enebacken and these witnesses is about 1,100 metres. At 12.15 a.m. Mr. E. Johansson and the other man took the car to try to find out what the light was. When turning into the side road leading to Enebacken they found another car, a blue SAAB, standing there. In it were two young men, who said that they too had tried to find out what the light was. While they were standing there the light went out, or disappeared.

Mr. E. Johansson and his friend thought someone at Enebacken was using a balloon, or something like that, so they turned the car and went back. After coming home they caught sight of the light again. At about 1.00 a.m. they tired of it and went to bed. What happened to the blue SAAB they do not know. It was still standing there when they left. (We have not been able to trace it.)

The next morning Mr. E. Johansson and a couple of others went over Lake Halsingen by boat, went up to Enebacken and found the round marks.

We also found one witness west of Enebacken. A woman had seen the light from her house.

For the locations of all these witnesses see fig. 1.

Description of the site

Enebacken is situated in pretty rough country. There are lakes, forests and mountains and hills,

and not many people living in the neighbourhood. The croft is surrounded by forest, and around the house there is a garden and a meadow. The corner of the garden where the marks were found is a little higher than the surroundings. It is an old lawn, rather uneven, with old fruit-trees standing on it. The marks were about 40 cms. in diameter and 4 cms. deep. They were not all alike but differed a little around the edges and in depth. One was a little less round than the other two. It did not seem as if something had been standing there, but rather as if three jet-beams had been used. The marks were located relative to each other as shown in



Depth and burning effect clearly shown

fig. 2. See also the photographs.

We also checked the weather at three places around Alingsås, and found that it was cloudy at the time. The clouds were at a height of about 200 metres (mist-clouds). The wind was south-west and about 5 metres/sec. This has been confirmed by several of the witnesses.

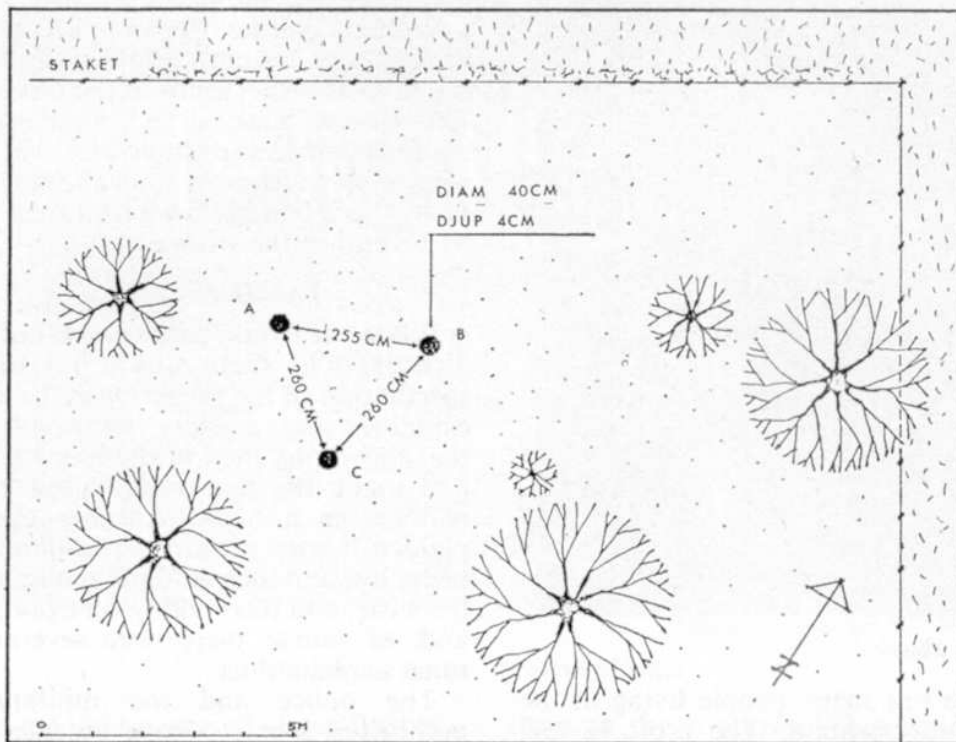
Explanations

While we were conducting our investigations there was a lot of speculation in the press. One paper explained the mystery by saying that the young men in the blue car had made the marks and used a balloon as a hoax. Another explained it with a warm-air balloon being lost and then landing, sending for a car, and then taking off again, and, of course, there were several other explanations.

The police and the military authorities seem to have accepted the balloon theory completely. Two young men were pointed out as having perpetuated this hoax. When we talked with one of them he denied it completely. We have several reasons for believing him. One is that he was pointed out because he had a green FIAT, whereas the mysterious car was a blue SAAB.

Radioactivity tests

We left some of the soil we had taken at Enebacken with a man working at the Chalmers Institute of Technology, the Institution for Nuclear Chemistry. Two men have



Sketch by GICOFF

Fig. 2. Distances measured between edges of holes

been investigating it. There have been three tests over differing periods. The following is based on the last test which took 24 hours, 8 hours with empty instrument, 8 hours with the reference-soil (4 metres from the marks) and 8 with the test-soil (from one of the marks).

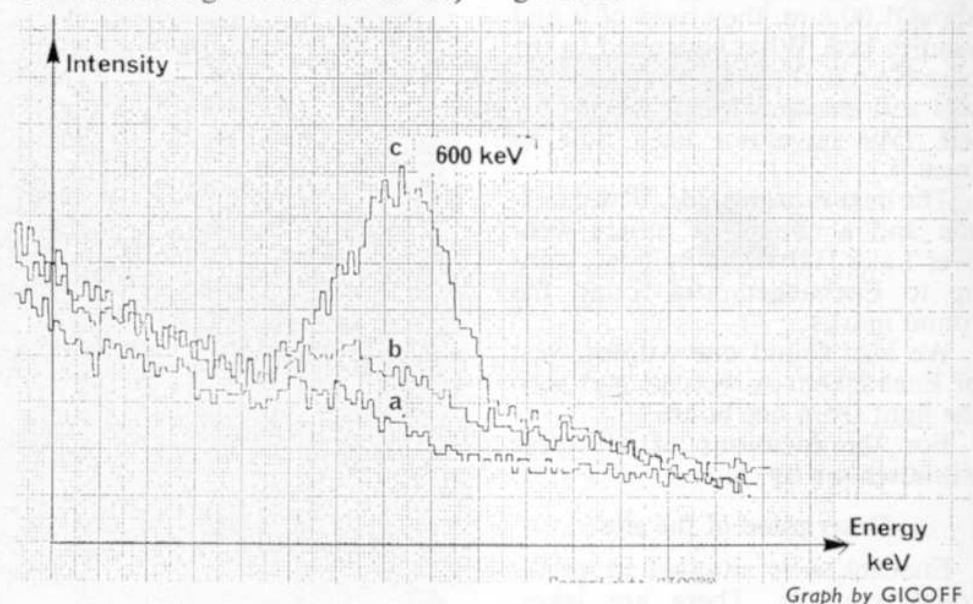
The soil samples were analysed by using a Hewlett Packard Multi-channel Analyser, 5400A. This instrument takes a gamma radiation spectrum.

In the reference-soil there was no activity, except the natural background one. The test-soil showed a weak gamma-activity at an energy of 660 keV, which had not decreased two weeks after the first test. This activity could possibly come from a barium isotope ^{137}Ba (gamma-activity at 662 KeV), which is created when a cerium isotope ^{137}Ce radiates beta-radiation (^{137}Ce has a half-life of 30 years). The measured activity is very low, less than 900 pulses in 8 hours, but nevertheless is exceptional. The man doing the last two tests has told us that ^{137}Ce , to the best of his knowledge, can only be found in certain nuclear processes. Furthermore, the fact that no activity (except the natural background one) was present in the reference-soil, seems to rule out the possibility

that the activity had come from a nuclear test in the atmosphere.

There seem, therefore, to be only two possibilities:

1. Someone has had a little fun at our expense, but he must then have used a substance to create the marks, which contains ^{137}Ce , and such substances are not common. There is no possibility that he would have put the ^{137}Ce there knowingly because the actual amount involved is too small.
2. Something unfamiliar to us,



Graph by GICOFF

Fig. 3. Gamma-activity from (a) background, (b) reference soil, (c) test soil

using something which contains ^{137}Ce had been at Enebacken on the night in question.

There might be one more possibility left: that gamma-activity is not coming from ^{137}Ce but from an even more unusual substance. But if so, we do not know from what (see fig. 3).

Other sightings

We have recorded at least 10 other sightings in this area since September 1, 1969. Most of them are described as being round and red or yellow in colour. They are often seen for long periods, and on a couple of occasions there has been more than one object. In one case, when the witness thought it went very low over his house, a whistling sound was heard. All this has happened in an area of less than one square mile (1 Swedish mile = 10 kilometres) around Lake Anten.

This case has some very interesting details, but poses a lot of questions. Let me point out some of these questions: Mr. E. Johansson says that when they came to Enebacken on the Sunday morning, they saw car-tracks on the lawn only 10 metres from the marks. Were they already there on Saturday, or did anyone go there in the night or early in the morning, or was there a hoax by a person or persons who had their car standing there? What happened to the blue SAAB? Did the lightbeam come from the object or from the ground?

Mr. E. Johansson said the light went out. Did it do that, or did it only go down below the treetops? If it went out, does that prove it was a hoax?

We do not think this is the end of this story, but we have decided to publish the results so far and we hope that some new facts will come to light in consequence.

This case-report has been prepared by GICOFF. All information presented is based on GICOFF's

investigation. We have not used any second-hand material. I have shortened the report a little and translated it into English.

* * *

Comment by R. H. B. Winder:

With great respect to the investigators, who seem for the most part to have done a very good job, the scientific examination, although it sounds impressive, is actually a

little weak. They ought, for example' to have considered chemical tests to confirm the presence of Cerium—my professional chemist friend tells me this—and they ought to have been more specific about the sample. If it consisted of the ashes from the mark the burning might well have concentrated material deposited from the atmosphere. The suggestion that it came from a nuclear propulsion system, or the like, is *not* supported by the evidence.

THE AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909—Pt. 2

Carl Grove

THE opening part of this survey listed 18 reports of unconventional aerial phenomena rather similar to the 1896-7 U.S. "airship." Most of the reports originated in East Anglia during March to mid-May, 1909.

The following 25 reports conclude this preliminary listing, and cover the second part of May. During this period the geographical focus of the phenomenon shifted to South Wales and extended into Ireland.

19. May 14. **North Sea.** The steamer *St. Olaf*, a Norwegian trading vessel, was a short way out from Blyth, Northumberland, when a large airship carrying five searchlights suddenly appeared. Hovering above the *St. Olaf*, it directed all its lights on to the steamer's bridge. It was within hail, Captain Egenes reported, but gave no answer to the challenge, and in the glare of the searchlights no detail could be seen.

Suddenly the airship swung off after another steamer a mile or so away, and directed the searchlights upon that. It afterwards made off at a sharp rate towards the south. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 19.)

20. May 14. **West Green, East London.** At 3.30 a.m., several railwaymen at West Green station saw a long black object, without lights, travelling northeast at a fast pace. No sound was heard, as an engine was letting off steam. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 21.)

21. May 15. **Yarmouth, Norfolk.** Mrs. Fricks, a nurse, saw a balloon-like object hovering over the northern outskirts of the town in the morning. It showed a white light, then a green, then a red. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 19.)

22. May 15. **Newport, Monmouth.** G. Beanland and A. V. Day, at the local flour mill, sighted a cigar-shaped dark object stationary over Newport Bridge, shortly after 1.00 a.m. Searchlights flashed from each end on to the bridge. After 10 minutes one of the lights went out, and the object flew off towards Stow Hill. (*South Wales Daily News*, Cardiff, May 17.)

23. May 15. **Northampton.** A policeman and others sighted an airship, carrying lights, crossing the town at 9.15 p.m. Chief Const. Mardlin reported that this was a

fire-balloon, carrying lanterns, sent up as a hoax by some young men. (*Daily Mail*, London; *Daily Mirror*, London, May 17.)

24. May 16. **Lowestoft, Suffolk.** At 1.30 a.m., Mrs. Wigg was awakened by a noise similar to that of a motor-car. Looking through the window directly opposite her bed, she saw a dark object pass fairly quickly, heading southwest. It was not very high, and was bottle-shaped, in a horizontal position, and of considerable length; she saw what appeared to be a man steering at the front of the machine. Several other people saw vivid flashes of light or heard engine sounds at that time. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 18-19.)

25. May 16. **Broome, Suffolk.** Capt. Hervey, Local Government Board Inspector for the Eastern District, saw a cigar-shaped balloon sailing towards Lowestoft at about 7.45 p.m. It was 3-4 miles distant, and a quarter of a mile high, and moving against a strong northeasterly wind. (*East Anglian Daily Times*, May 18.)

26. May 16. **Monmouth.** A well-known auctioneer, Oliver Jones, was driving from Treginach to Monmouth. "It was about eight miles from Monmouth when I first saw it. It came from the direction of Usk and Raglan, and seemed to go towards Chepstow. It then turned right round and came back towards Raglan and over the mountain.

"I continued to drive slowly on, and watched it for about half an hour. I was driving eight or ten miles an hour, but the airship seemed to go faster than that. It went up and down and around in a remarkable manner. There were lights in front and behind, and they seemed to be about 15 yards apart. I could see the cigar-shape quite distinctly, and noticed the perfect control the occupants had over the airship." There were four lights in front and one behind, and four others saw the object. (*South Wales Daily News*; *Evening News*, May 20.)

27. May 17. **Belfast, Ireland.** About 10 p.m., a bright light was seen in the direction of Colin Mountain. It was moving, and many people in the southern part of