

RECENT OBSERVATIONS OVER SOUTHERN SWEDEN

Sven-Olof Fredrickson

During July this year we had the good fortune to meet Mr. Fredrickson when he was on vacation in this country. Among many things that were discussed were the two cases which are dealt with in this article, and which had been investigated by the Göteborgs Informations Center för Oidentifierade Flygande Föremål (GICOFF). The author is Secretary of this group which operates from Kjellmansgatan 9, 413 18 Göteborg, Sweden.

HUGO ABRAHAMSON, head of a manufacturing firm, his son (19) and daughter (10), made a very good observation of a flying saucer on April 30, 1971. It was 7.45 p.m., and they were watching television at their home in Åsenhöga, Guosjö, a little place a few kilometres to the south of Lake Vättern.

Suddenly the daughter exclaimed excitedly: "Look . . . out there! What's that?"

Looking up, they perceived something quite unusual in the air. They rushed to the window. We'll take up their account as given during our subsequent investigations.

GICOFF members Erik and Anders Wahlström were the first to make contact with the witnesses. Later Björn Högman and I paid them a visit. Here follows a summary of the interviews with Hugo Abrahamson:

GICOFF: *Where were you when you caught sight of the object?*

H. Abrahamson: We were sitting watching television when my 10-year-old daughter saw something going past the window. We rushed to the window and saw the object.

G.: *How did it look?*

A.: It was like a disc with a flat bottom. On the upper side there was a dome which seemed to be transparent, as if it was made of glass, or perspex. I estimate it to have been about 2-3 metres from top to bottom, and its diameter to have been at least 10 metres. From the upper side, or dome, I'm not sure which, came a powerful green light which was rotating, one revolution every 5-10 seconds.

G.: *How did you estimate the diameter?*

A.: I watched it pass behind some treetops about 100 metres away, and as I saw the object as clearly as a car going by, it can't have been

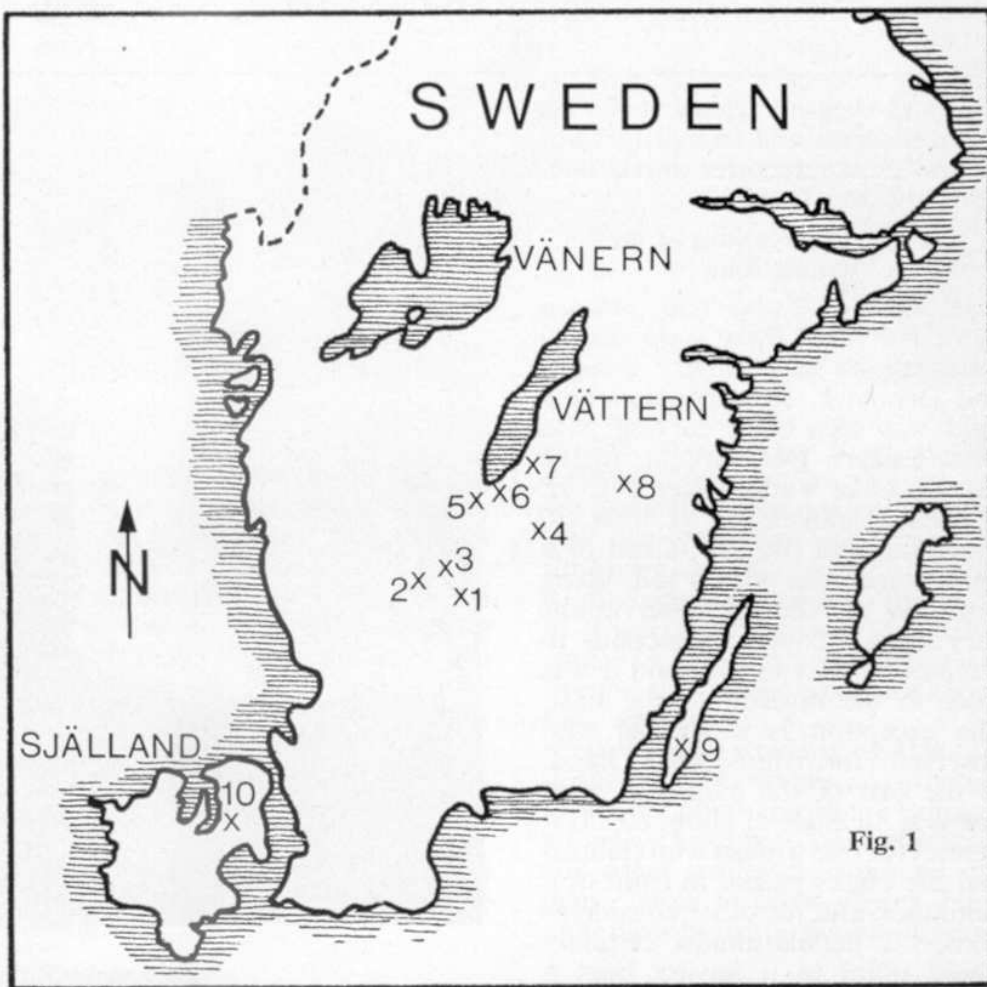


Fig. 1

far beyond the trees.

G.: *Can you say what material it seemed to be made of?*

A.: The sun was still up, so I saw it quite clearly. The material was like aluminium which has been lying out for a while—a dull surface. The edge of the disc was not sharp. Instead, there were small portholes close to each other, and from these, or from the underside, there came small green "puffs of fire". These were 30-40 cms. long, and 10-15 cms. wide, and they emerged at regular intervals.

G.: *What was the duration of your observation?*

A.: It's difficult to say, but I can

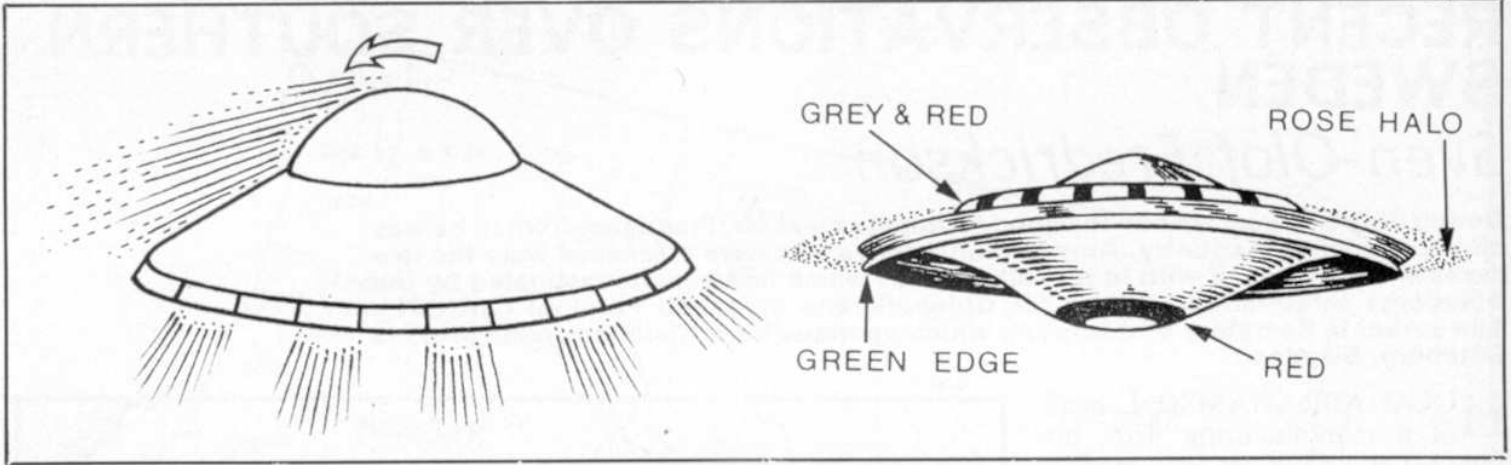
tell you it went by as fast as a car at a speed of maybe 60 km/h. (about 37 m.p.h.) at that distance.

Further details

When the witnesses first saw the object it was tilting its upper side towards them, but as it went by it turned sufficiently for them to see its underside prior to its going behind the trees.

The direction of "flight" was SW-NE. The house stands on a little hill, with the window in question facing east, so the UFO went by at approximately the same level.

We have spoken to several persons who know Mr. Abraham-



son, and they all regard him as a very moderate and straightforward person, a manufacturer who is well-known in the district.

Other observations at the same time

Between 7.40 and 7.50 p.m. on April 30, 1971, there were several observations in Southern Sweden and Denmark. A swiftly-travelling light was seen on a curving path from Eastern Denmark up to the east of Lake Vättern (see Fig. 1). We have spoken to at least 10 witnesses, and they all talked of a light, sometimes with a tail, going from SW to NE. The observations vary from a couple of seconds to 2 minutes. They mostly said it was close to the horizon to the East. The exception is a witness who observed it from the island of Öland, to the east of the mainland, who saw it at an angle of about 60°. If it weren't for one witness who claimed that the object passed in front of a mountain, and for other considerations, the details almost certainly would point to it having been a bolide somewhere above the sea between Sweden and the USSR. The "other considerations" are questions raised by the two-minute observation, and by the weather: according to weather stations there should have been 5/8 cloud above some of the places.

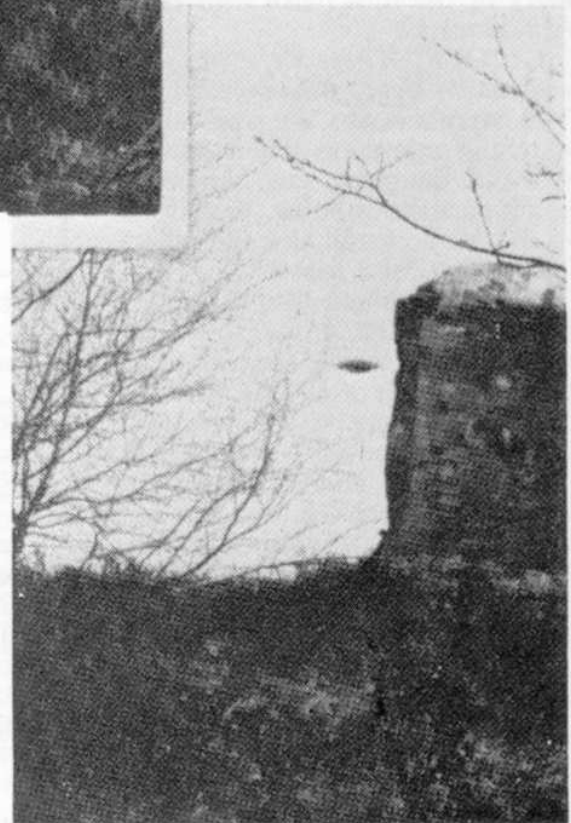
It is difficult to say if the close-range observation (H. Abrahamson) was connected with the others at about that time. If we disregard the Öland observation it could have been the same UFO all the time, but one must not dismiss observations just like that.

Flying saucer photographed

At 9.55 a.m. on May 6, 1971,



The two photographs taken by Lars Thörn arranged to demonstrate the slight variation in the position of the photographer. Photograph 1 (left) taken in haste . . .



and less clear than photograph 2 (right). The stereoscopy fortuitously obtained enabled investigators to deduce that the object was probably well beyond the wall

Lars Thörn (25) was travelling, together with his son Stefan (4), on his moped on a minor road at the gunnery range 5 km. NE of Skillingaryd. This is another place situated just to the south of Lake Vättern.

He states that he suddenly saw something odd towards the north-east. He stopped his machine and ran some 20 metres up a rise to get a better view. He then saw an aerial object which descended and stopped for one minute or so, before continuing southwards at a good speed, similar to that of a J-35 fighter plane.

During its brief spell of hovering Mr. Thörn snapped it twice with his camera, a small Minolta 16 mm. (also known as a "spy camera").

The witness says the first photograph was taken in great haste, which explains the lack of sharpness. To the right of the UFO is a grenade shelter, 225 cms. high. The witness was 11.5 metres from this wall.

Lars Thörn described the object as follows:

"Although it was stationary, it wobbled, or rocked to and fro all the time. On the upper side there appeared to be a dome, and below the disc there was a section which projected slightly. Just below the dome there was something grey and red, and again, below that, I could see what looked like a green ribbon. At the very bottom it was red. There came from it a 'whizzing' sound at intervals of 10-15 seconds."

On arriving home Lars Thörn



made a drawing of the object (see Fig. 4).

As there was nothing but sky and clouds beyond the object, neither we nor Mr. Thörn can suggest anything about its distance.

The negatives have been examined at a laboratory in Göteborg (Gothenburg). Prints, enlarged 120 times, were taken, but no evidence was found that the image was a laboratory-made hoax. It was also attempted, by making light and dark copies, to discover whether or not there were any wires or other attachments connected to the object. Nothing of this nature was found.

It will be seen that the two photographs were taken from slightly different positions. In view of this the two photographs were mounted side by side and were studied through a stereoscope, in an attempt to discover whether the object was in front of, or beyond the shelter wall. The result indicates that it was beyond the shelter, and probably a long way beyond it.

We are still working on this case in the hope of establishing whether or not the photographs are genuine. So far we have been unable to trace any other witnesses, although one man claims to have seen a UFO quite close by on the same afternoon.



Two enlargements of photograph 2. Above: Lars Thörn and camera

MONSTERS AND UFOs

Some observation on Loch Ness

F. W. Holiday

THE enigma of lake-monsters has interested me since 1933. This interest developed into an intensive field study which I described in detail in *The Great Orm of Loch Ness* (Faber & Faber, 1968).¹ From 1966 onwards, however, doubts arose about the intrinsic nature of the phenomena which subsequent events have done nothing to diminish.

To broaden the data-base relating to monsters, a study of religion, folklore and archaeology—particularly the Bronze Age—was undertaken. Not only did water-monsters turn up in the material but they turned up in juxtaposition to such classic UFO configurations as spherical and discoid vehicles with tripod landing-legs, supposed “crew-members” in “space suits”, the footprints left by such “crews” and even such weird objects as the “jellyfish saucer”² described by Michel, Vallée and others. Was it therefore justifiable to suspect that water-monsters existed on a plane with UFOs and shared a similar quality of reality, whatever this might be?

The Loch Ness Investigation Bureau has used two main tools for establishing the objective existence of monsters—sonar and photography. Sonar operated by scientists from Birmingham University,³ The Atlantis Scientific Foundation (in conjunction with Chicago University)⁴ and the Massachusetts Academy of Applied Science⁵ have each determined that very large, apparently animate, objects do exist in Loch Ness. Visual observation by Dr. Neil Bass,⁶ a marine biologist, confirms that similar objects exist in Loch Morar.

Photography over the last seven years, however, has been curiously unsuccessful in supplying a reasonable image. Teams of volunteer cameramen, armed with 35 mm. cine cameras fitted with 20in. or 36in. telephoto lenses, have failed to film a monster even though the objects are visible during every watching season (May till October). By 1968 it was becoming obvious, at least to me, that there were factors involved of which we knew nothing.

Similarity of psychological effects

Increasingly, I began to take note of the unusual psychological effects on witnesses, including myself, of seeing monsters. At first I was quite unaware that similar effects have been noted amongst UFO witnesses. In the case of monsters a frequent reaction is the tendency to minimise or even to dismiss what one has just seen. This often provides a brief interim in which the phenomenon escapes further observation. Here are some examples of this effect:

1. The late Gavin Maxwell,⁷ in a TV programme in which the writer took part, described how he once saw three black humps projecting out of Loch Ness

and thought they were boulders. A moment later he found that they had disappeared.

2. His brother, Major E. Maxwell,⁸ told me how he once saw a huge hump projecting out of Loch Fyne and, *while he looked at it*, thought it must be a sandbank. The car moved behind trees before he remembered that this is a deep loch. When he reversed to the original spot the hump had gone.

3. On January 15, 1970, Mr. M. K. Smithers, B.Sc.B.E.,⁹ the site engineer at Foyers power station construction, saw a great black mass in Loch Ness he estimated at 30-40ft. long projecting 5-10ft. out of the water. Hurrying to get nearer the object he removed his eyes from it momentarily only to find that it had disappeared leaving a wake. Soon afterwards, Mr. Smithers resigned from the project.

4. On August 4, 1970, Mr. A. Butterworth,¹⁰ a zoology student working with Dr. Neil Bass at Loch Morar, was on watch with camera and binoculars. He saw what he imagined was a small rocky islet opposite the camera-station. Continuing the sweep he saw a second islet. Returning to the first object he then saw that it was a dark hump about 15ft. long and 3-4ft. high. He ran to the camera but then found that the hump had disappeared.

5. In a letter to the writer dated May 8, 1970, Dr. Kenneth MacLeod, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of Public Health, Cortland, New York, described how he saw a Loch Ness monster while motoring with his father in July, 1968. Dr. MacLeod, who was driving, was between his passenger and the loch and the latter failed to see the large, moving, grey-black object. In italics, Dr. MacLeod writes: “I did not even mention it to him.” Thinking that his own reticence over such a thing was odd, he repeats: “It was curious that I did not even mention it to my father as we partook of our afternoon tea in Fort Augustus.”

6. In August, 1968, after several days of observing Loch Ness, I saw a large black object undulated into three humps. Mr. Pickett, a Yorkshire schoolmaster, his wife and their children also saw the object as did a 19-years-old student working as petrol-pump attendant on the opposite shore.¹¹ The object, which was moving, was about 35ft. long at the waterline and projected about 5ft. I held this object in view for about 10 seconds before running to the camera. It submerged before I could take film. To me, this sighting had a strange dream-like quality to it. However, the upsurge of water and foam at the point of submergence—which I watched through 10 X binoculars—and the fact that the witnesses were on both shores argued against a purely mental event such as an hallucination.¹²