

# YOUNG SWEDISH SCIENTIST'S UNIQUE SERIES OF UFO PICTURES

*Sven-Olof Fredrikson*

This article first appeared in the Swedish journal *GICOFF Information*\*, issue number 2 of 1974, and a translation of Marie Palmer of GICOFF (Göteborgs Informations Center för Oidentifierade Flygande Föremål), was sent to FSR in December 1976. Many readers will recall that Mr. Fredrikson has been a frequent contributor to FSR since 1970, and we are delighted to receive this new item from him.

**D**URING the morning of November 11, 1973 Åke Lejon borrowed a camera from his niece in order to go out and take some photographs. The weather was beautiful and he had intended to take a few good nature photos.

As he was standing in the courtyard of his home in the village of Pönttjäjä, he suddenly saw a triangular object flying from NW towards NE. He swung up his camera and took two pictures of the object as it passed. This happened at about 11.10 a.m.

Åke Lejon didn't think over much about the kind of object he had photographed, but shortly afterwards he went to a meadow, about 180 yards SW of the village, where there is a fine view of the beautiful landscape. He took a picture in the direction of the woods, and the little lake below him.

Then, suddenly, he caught sight of a strange object that came floating, so it seemed, about a mile from him. It was now about 11.30. During the following two or three minutes nothing special happened, and Åke Lejon was convinced he was watching a balloon.

Suddenly, though, the "balloon" became oval, and then gradually flattened until it finally resembled an angular "loaf." After that, there was a slight increase in speed, and the "loaf" began to lean forwards and then accelerate even more. (The facts indicate that what Åke probably saw was a round, disc-shaped object that was turning around its own axis,—S-O.F.)

During the observation a triangular object suddenly detached from the disc and made a wide curve below the horizon and then turned upwards in a SSW direction, roughly in the direction he'd first seen the larger object. Meanwhile, the larger object had disappeared among the clouds in the NE.

During the observation Åke took four more pictures: the first one shows the disc- or "loaf"-shaped object. The second shows the triangular object and the last two again show the disc-shaped object. Altogether a series of seven pictures was taken, and not five, as was incorrectly stated in newspaper articles.

Åke Lejon himself has no explanation as to what kind of phenomenon it was he saw and photographed, and facts about the event were not known until journalists in northern Sweden visited him on account

of his prosperous hunt for minerals; they were asked if they possibly knew what the pictures represented.

It should be added that the observation that was made outside the village lasted about five minutes, and that the disc-shaped object had a very dark centre, while the rest seemed steel-grey or aluminium-coloured. When it rose a yellowish light could be seen underneath. It seemed to be a solid object. The smaller object seemed more luminous, and had a silvery-white, shining colour.

## Comments

As always, when one has observations and pictures from a single witness, one ought to be a little careful with one's comments. As researchers know, it is rather easy to falsify UFO-pictures.

In this case, however, we have made an investigation of the negatives as carefully as possible, and we haven't found anything remarkably wrong about them. It is, consequently, a real object that can be seen on the pictures, but whether this is a real UFO, or an object of some kind that was thrown up in the air, is hard to decide. The negatives have been analysed in A-Kopias laboratory in Gothenburg. More about this analysis further on.

There is, in my opinion, no reason to doubt Åke Lejon's information, but as mentioned earlier, the situation of the observation is such that no unambiguous comments can be made. We leave it to the reader himself to decide the reliability of the report in the light of the information we have gathered.

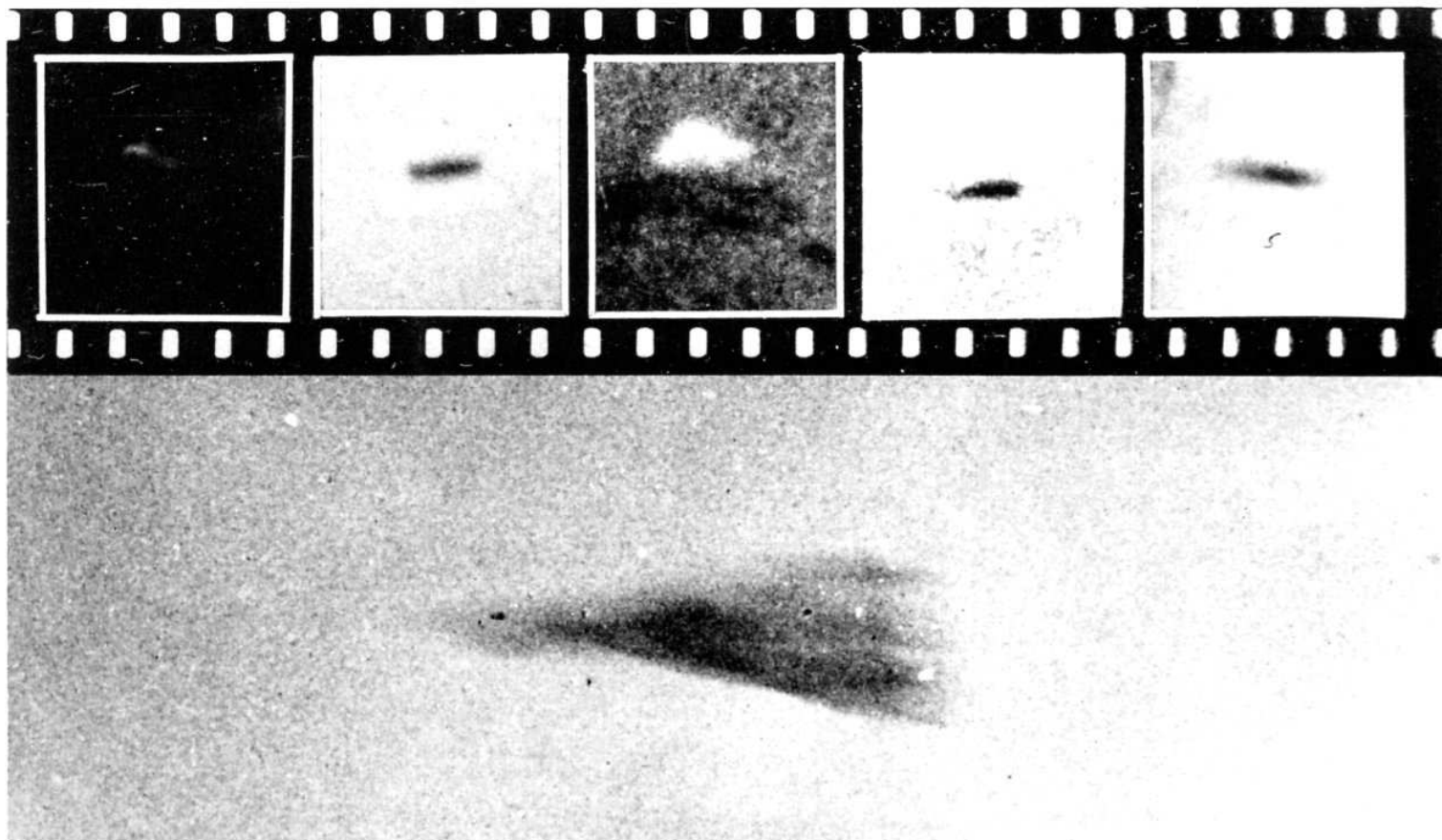
Concerning Åke Lejon's own report, there was, from the beginning, some uncertainty that has now been removed. He himself was, for example, not quite sure when the first pictures (the triangle) were taken. Later on, though, he remembered having taken these pictures at home in the courtyard.

It is only the first picture of the triangular object that is really interesting. The quality of the pictures is not of the best since the pictures were taken with a simple Instamatic camera and GAF colour-film. This combination doesn't allow for the enlargements to be sufficiently distinct.

The larger object appears as an obscure dark line on the pictures.

Picture No. 5 shows the triangular object but is very indistinct and has, furthermore, just below the UFO in the picture, a sprinkle of some kind of acid.

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Above, the UFOs in the photographs are shown enlarged and in the sequence in which they were taken. Note that the third picture was just of a landscape and so is not included. Pictures 1 and 2 are of a triangular object; 4 is the balloon-shaped object which came over the sea and floated slowly whilst changing into an oval shape; 5 is the only picture of the triangular object seen to leave the larger object; 6 is another picture of the larger object; 7 shows the larger object going away.

Unfortunately negative No. 2 has also been exposed to the affect of some kind of acid.

Negative No. 6 is completely destroyed. (This probably has something to do with Åke Lejon's investigation of minerals, and doesn't have any decisive importance to the pictures,—S.O.F.) Concerning negative No. 6 there is, fortunately, still a paper-copy left of this picture.

Åke Lejon himself has estimated the size of the object at about 22.5 yards. This estimate, though, was based on a real distance of about a mile, which is very hard to prove as the object never was below the horizon. If the estimate of the distance is correct, the size of the object would have been between 66 and 130 feet in diameter, which can be decided with a simple triangulation. The smaller object, however, was below the horizon, but there is no information about possible distance or size.

Concerning the weather, it was stated to have been very good. Excellent visibility with especially high clouds at an altitude of about 20,000 feet. A few clouds at an altitude of about 8,000–10,000 feet could have existed, in this case clouds of the Lenticular type. The winds were very light and variable. The temperature was about 5–10°C below zero and the ground was covered with snow.

Åke Lejon stated in his report that the larger object disappeared among the clouds and that F21 in Lulea had reported the cloudbank at 2,600 feet.

This 2,600 feet was probably correct for Luleå, which is situated south of Overtornea. On the pictures, though, one can see easily that the clouds are not so low. It is more than possible that the object rose very fast to a height where it could no longer be seen.

Furthermore, it must be added that the articles published in the newspapers of northern Sweden are not at all correct. For one thing they have placed the pictures together in the wrong order, and for another, the drawing that Åke Lejon shows is not one of the object that he photographed, but is instead made up from ideas of what it could have looked like.

#### Authorities' comments

The pictures were given to F21 in Luleå where flying experts looked at them. They actually considered the pictures so interesting that they were sent on to FOA (the Swedish Defence Research Bureau) where they were carefully examined. They didn't come to any credible conclusion, which, considering the quality of the pictures, isn't too strange. Much more strange, however, are the theories that Associate Professor Tage Eriksson of FOA presented.

Associate Professor Eriksson stated that it wasn't possible to say anything about the images in the pictures. Again, he said that it could possibly have been a torn weather-balloon on its way towards



**Above: the oval-shaped object (picture 4) is seen in a picturesque setting. Inset, above right: Åke was photographed with a drawing made up from ideas of what the disc-shaped object could have looked like for the Swedish newspapers**

the ground. He pointed out that a weather-balloon that is torn can behave very strangely on its way down. It can fall in pieces with its wireless transmitter and other equipment falling down first. It can have so much gas left that it floats through the air, tossed around by the wind and sometimes standing still.

Tage Eriksson added that at FOA they neither have the time nor the economic resources to do a closer investigation of UFO cases.

The first and the last opinion one can understand, but it is remarkable that FOA, after studying the pictures, puts forward such foolish theories as the balloon version. Whatever it was that was photographed it wasn't a balloon.

**Photoanalysis by analyst G. J. Bunker**

First, let me say that these pictures are sensational.

I have examined many photos in connection with UFOs. Of the American ones there are, no doubt, some that are convincing as far as authenticity is concerned. A handful of others can also be classified among those which are somewhat puzzling.

Åke Lejon's pictures have gone through all sorts of laboratory-tests. Together with the usual methods of investigation I have tested the actual colour-negatives from the point of view of reflection, and material defects. Reflection in this kind of camera-construction can exist, but in these pictures it is quite excluded.

The granular structure has also been examined under a microscope; the negatives have been scrutinized with the utmost care. Certain dust-particles, fragments of skin, slight scratches and friction-discharges have been proved. The emulsion on two of the colour-negatives has been slightly damaged

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# ITEMS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FLAP, 1909-1910

*Paul Norman*

WE are aware that the policy of officialdom is to keep UFO reports swept under the carpet. Well, that is where Mrs. E.D. Hunt actually found a sixty-six year old report. Mrs. Hunt sent me the details from Albany, telling me how she discovered the news item.

While she and her husband were taking up old linoleum from a very old office floor in Albany, preparatory to its being renovated, they found many curiosities among old newspapers, together with sheets of early pay-rolls of the P. & O. port men here during the 1870s. However the following report fascinated them, as they belong to the section of the public who desire more intelligent assessments of strange sightings than they are getting. Unfortunately the day and month were torn off. The year was 1910.

## Copy of a report in "The West Australian", during 1910

Captain Nelsson of the coastal steamer Wookata, Second Engineer S. Arnold and Helmsman G. Rudd are at a complete loss to explain the meaning of curious lights which they witnessed when the vessel was passing Althorp Island on her way to Port Adelaide, early the other morning. Lights as distinct as the masthead lights of a steamer but high up in the air, were observed by the trio, and the strange thing was that they circled around the Wookata in a tantalising way.

"It was about 1 o'clock," said Captain Nelsson today, that the man at the wheel remarked, 'Do you see these lights flying around?' My reply was, 'Yes, there are a great many more lights about than I have ever seen here.' Just then I saw a mysterious light off Cape Spencer, which disappeared as suddenly as it came into view. Presently, the helmsman said, 'It is strange, but I have seen lights on the port bow, then right ahead, and then on the starboard side'. I stepped inside the wheelhouse, and on coming out again saw two lights just over the starboard bow no distance away, but high up. They seemed to pass us. They were not a steamer's lights. They were as bright as our masthead lights, and as far as I could judge were from 200 to 300 yards distant. They were not high in the air. The lights appeared to be ten yards apart, one a little above the other. I could not make it out. I said to the man at the wheel, 'Did you see them?' He answered, 'Yes, they were like German airships flying around.' I did not know what to think. I feel sure I saw something unusual — something which in my 45 years experience of the sea I have never observed before."

Second Engineer Arnold also declared that he saw the strange lights.

The above account is most interesting. There seems to have been a "down under flap" in the early years of this century, including perhaps the first sighting of humanoids, one of which not only waved (as in Rev. Gill's case) but also shouted. This incident occurred near Waipawawa, New Zealand, on August 3, 1909. A man was almost thrown from his horse when a cigar-shaped object hovered overhead. The man reported three humanlike figures standing on a deck. One of the occupants waved and shouted.

On July 30, 1909, a boat-shaped object was reported by the crew of a dredge near Waikaka Valley, New Zealand. Two occupants were standing looking out of a large window in the craft.

In August, 1909, an object was reported to have appeared over Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand, from which were ejected, downwards, strange missiles making fizzing sounds as they struck the water.

A newspaper man reported a UFO and heard a strange hissing noise as it flew over. The object was cigar-shaped with two wide wings. This sighting was reported August 5, 1909 at Wanganui, New Zealand. During the same year other objects were reported which were saucer-shaped, cigar-shaped and cone-shaped, long before the years when they were reported as flying saucers or UFOs.

Perhaps other sightings of many decades ago would come to light if more people would take note of old newspapers in their attics and other storage spaces.

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## SWEDISH PHOTOS (continued from page 14)

by sprinkles of chemicals, but this has nothing to do with the objects reproduced on the photographs.

The fact remains: the UFOs existed.

I even dare to state that, according to my investigations, it could just as well have been myself who had taken the pictures. Of course, the technical quality leaves a great deal to be desired but one cannot ask more from an inexperienced photographer with simple equipment.

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## Points of comparison

Among the comments it is worth mentioning that as late as on October 17, 1973, several school children in Vittangi, not far from the actual place, were shocked by an object that floated over the oze of the Torne River.

Besides, the triangular phenomena are not new to Norrland, as they have already been photographed.

A flying triangle was also chased by a Lansens aeroplane on June 20, 1971.

In the summer of 1970 triangular phenomena were also seen and photographed over Jämtland.

Abroad, in Spain and Jugoslavia, triangles have been photographed, so they aren't exactly news. But one has never seen them come out of a larger, saucer-shaped object.