

Strange Norwegian Encounter near Helleland

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THE case of Reidar Salvesen, reported briefly in *FSR*, has been one of the highlights of the recent Scandinavian UFO "flap", which started last autumn (1970). It has affected all the Scandinavian countries, and produced an increase in public interest in the matter. Other highlights of the autumn/winter flap are the cases of policeman Maarup (Denmark), the landing marks at Lake Anten (Sweden), the observation from a Finnish airliner of a UFO with subsequent radar "blip", a UFO photographed over Helsinki, Finland (possible fake?), a brilliant red object which landed on a Norwegian islet, a light phenomenon that damaged the wall of a house in Medelpad (Sweden), a UFO that stopped a car near Ramsele (northern Sweden), a UFO that landed at Kuusamo (Finland) and transformed snow to deep-green coloured ice, the sighting of 16 objects at the same place (Kuusamo) one week later, and so on. Many of these reports have already appeared in the columns of *FSR*.

I have collected newspaper and magazine clippings on the Salvesen case, and I have also been in contact, by letter, with Mr. Halvor Toreskaas, a journalist with the *Christiansands Tidende*, and Mr. Reidar Salvesen, the witness. The following case report has been adapted from these sources (readers will find a full list at end of article) and put into proper sequence.

Sequence of events

On October 29, 1970, Mr. Reidar Salvesen was driving on road E-18 from Stavanger to his home at Vågsbygd, Kristiansand. Reidar Salvesen is a 35-year-old salesman (marketing consultant) with the Norwegian "Butcheries Sales Central". He had been on a business trip to Stavanger and was glad to be on his way home to see his family (wife Synnøve and children Karsten and Gerd); he had not had much family life during the last few weeks.

He had passed the densely-populated area of Helle-



Reidar Salvesen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our thanks are due to **Nils Jacob Jacobsen**, a correspondent of *FSR Case Histories* in Norway, who sent us an earlier, but less detailed account of the alleged event at Helleland. Mr. Jacobsen also sent the photograph of Reidar Salvesen which appears on this page.

land (in the province of Rogaland) and was now about 3 kilometres east of that district. It was about 16.40 hours when his Hillman *Sunbeam** sped up a little slope. He passed a transformer station close to the road on his right. His parking lights were on. There was no traffic on the road. Mr. Salvesen takes up the story:

"Suddenly, I was blinded by a very strong light, blue-white, like the light from a welding flame. It hurt my eyes and I had to stop the car (some 10-12 metres past the transformer station). The intense light-body, maybe 20 metres in diameter, came down the slope and hovered over my car. The light lasted only for a few seconds. I opened the door and looked up. I will never forget what I saw. About 10 metres above, an object, round, shiny and smooth, was hovering, which resembled descriptions I have seen of flying saucers. It stopped there in the air, without any motion or noise at all.

"I stopped the motor and got out, standing by the side of the car. Then the object moved some seven or eight metres forwards and stopped almost as though sliding in front of the car.

"Instinctively I took my note book from its place between the front seats and started to sketch the object. Now I was convinced it was a flying saucer. I thought: This is something important and I will hardly get another chance to see it. I was not afraid, maybe because I hadn't the time to be afraid.

* Possibly the Hillman *Minx* is exported under this name—
EDITOR.

“By comparison with the size of the car, I estimated the diameter of the ‘machine’ to be about 10 metres. The width was hard to judge (seen from below or at a slight angle—AL), but I think it was 3-3½ metres at the centre and about 50 centimetres on the rim. On the underside was a shallow cylindrical section about 2 metres in diameter, and on the upper side a cupola of the same diameter. The rim of the object was marked by a ‘wave belt’, shining like gold. The material was completely smooth, with a glint of steel-blue.

“The hull had neither doors, port-holes nor joints. No signs of flags, letters or numbers—just a smooth and shining surface. No signs of life. No noise. Not even a vibration.

“Some 50 seconds later, without experiencing any form of violence, pressure or physical pain, I suddenly fell on my back. I simply couldn’t stand on my legs. By putting out my right hand I broke my fall fairly well. At the same moment I heard the sound of the front screen going to pieces. Most of the pieces fell inside the car.

“As I was rising from the ground the object lifted straight up into the air. Within 2-3 seconds it was small, like a 10-öre coin (about 15 mm.). I estimate it was at an altitude of 1 kilometre. Once again it was surrounded by an intense light, and it disappeared in the next second. The clouds were rather low.”

At this time Salvesen noticed he was bleeding from a scratch on his right hand. This must have come about when he put out his hand when falling to the ground, although he cannot fully understand how he came by the scratch.

He started the car and drove over to the lay-by on the other side of the road. There he got rid of the broken pieces of the windscreen. Then he realised he had to hurry to be in Ualand before closing time to get a piece of plastic to replace the broken windscreen.

While driving to Ualand, he noticed a strange feeling in his tongue and mouth, like the post-anaesthetic numb-

ness after a visit to the dentist. Exactly at 1700 hours he stopped his car outside a co-operative shop at Ualand. There he got a piece of plastic and also dried the blood from his hands. He said nothing about an experience with a “flying saucer” to the man in the shop.

At 23.30 hours the same evening he arrived at his home and was greeted by his wife, Synnøve.

“Synnøve,” he said, “I have had a remarkable experience. I cannot explain, I must draw it for you. . . .”

Credibility of Witness

Halvor Toreskaas, journalist with the *Christiansands Tidende*, was the first press man to hear about the incident. The story “leaked” through a mutual friend. At first, Salvesen was reluctant to release his story. At the end, and after talks with the local superintendent of the police, Toreskaas was able to print the testimony in the November 2 issue of *Christiansands Tidende*.

Toreskaas: “I have undertaken extensive investigations to check the witness’ credibility, and all has been positive in his favour.”

To check Salvesen’s story, Toreskaas rang up the co-operative shop where Salvesen said he had obtained the plastic cloth. Ragnar Risa, the manager, confirmed the story about Salvesen’s visit in every detail.

“Did he seem excited?”

“Now that you say so, I remember he seemed to be either very cold, or to have a chill. I thought this was not surprising after driving a distance without a windscreen. By the way, it couldn’t have been such a long distance, because there is gravel on the road only 5 kilometres from here.”

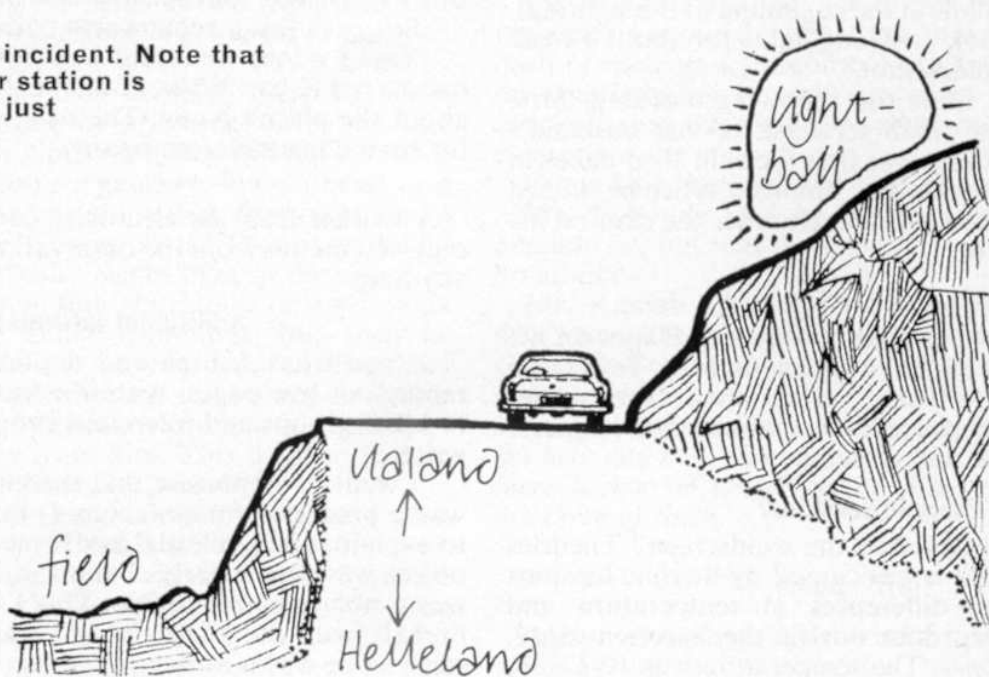
“In fact, the incident occurred 12 kilometres from Ualand.”

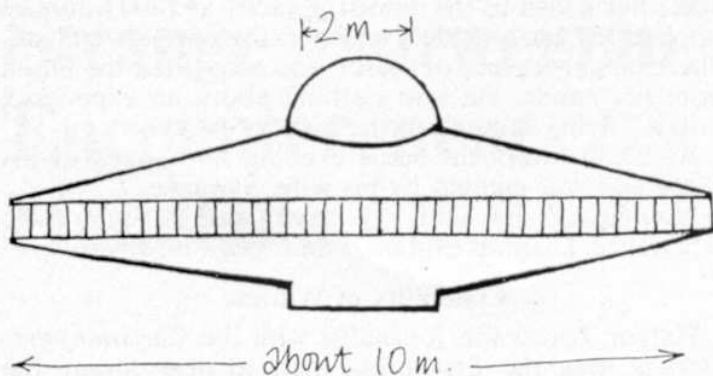
“That’s impossible. It was a stone, wasn’t it?”

“No. It was a flying saucer.”

Risa, in his surprise, was quiet for quite a while. (He still does not believe it was a “flying saucer” Salvesen saw.)

Phase 1 of the incident. Note that the transformer station is approximately just off frame to the right





The object according to Reidar Salvesen

Police investigation

The observation took place on an asphalt road, so the chance of a stone having smashed the windscreen is remote. The district superintendent at Helleland paid a visit to the observation site on November 2 and found pieces of the pulverised front screen, exactly on the spot Salvesen indicated. At the end of November Salvesen wrote:

"I have not been in touch with the police lately. The case has been turned over to Oslo. The police regard the sighting as 'interesting', but they offer no official explanation as to what the object was."

Superintendent Eckhoff of the Kristiansand police (where Salvesen first told his story on October 31) says: "I have known Salvesen for a couple of years; not a near relationship, but I have had some contact with him. I regard him as a sensible and credible person."

Physiological effects

As reported above, Salvesen felt a numbed feeling in his mouth and tongue immediately after the incident. He looked in the car's mirror but noticed nothing and the feeling was soon gone.

Salvesen had trouble with his eyes: "I was so blinded for 2-3 days that I could hardly see (due to the strong light during 2-3 seconds at the beginning of the sighting). It was difficult to look at strong lights for about a week and my eyes were bloodshot."

At the breakfast table the following morning, Mrs. Salvesen noticed the small scratches on her husband's hand. The strange thing was that the skin shed flakes in the same way as it would after sunburn. When he rubbed the flats of his hands against each other the skin on his right hand "rolled off".

Car's paintwork dulled

After the incident Salvesen noticed a dull spot on the car. It was on the roof above the windscreen. Tests from this spot, as well as from neutral spots, showed no radioactivity. The same can be said about tests on pieces of glass from the broken screen.

Thermic tensions?

What was it that smashed the windscreen? Theories are many. One is that it was caused by thermic tensions arising from great differences in temperature and altitude. This theory does not fit the Salvesen story, according to *Hjemmet*. The temperature was 10-12° C, and it was cloudy with a light rain.



Phase 2

Phase 3

The windscreen was made of hardened glass which fragments into small pieces when hit by a stone.

The alarm clock

Salvesen's alarm clock (which he uses on his travels) performed in an erratic manner after the incident. This was strange as it had worked properly before the incident. A check, three weeks later, by a watchmaker, revealed no faults, or magnetism, etc.

Doubts about the case

Testimony by Mrs. Sigrun Skipstad of Egersund: "On Thursday, November 29, at about half past five, I was driving westwards towards Helleland on my way home to Egersund after a visit to my mother. Three hundred metres east of Helleland I met a red K-car with a broken windscreen. Poor man, I thought, who has to drive all the way to Flekkefjord to get a new screen."

"Are you sure of time and place?"

"Completely. The car was red. It looked like a Ford *Taurus*, but it could have been of some similar type."

Salvesen owns a red Hillman *Sunbeam*, registration number K-52102.

Says Salvesen: "The red K-car wasn't mine. My windscreen was smashed on the place I have stated. But what it was that hit it, I can't tell."

"But isn't this a remarkable coincidence?"

"Yes, I admit that. But I'm not the only one who owns a red K-car. What would be the point in telling lies about the place? None. The new windscreen was paid for by the insurance company."

* * * * *

A worker from an electricity company was working only 600 metres from the observation site, but didn't see anything.

Additional information

Salvesen has written and duplicated an "additional report" of five pages, with illustrations, which he sent to UFO groups and interested people. In this report he writes:

"I want to emphasise that there is no doubt that this was a produced (manufactured) thing. It is impossible to explain it as a celestial body, meteor, and so on. The object was seen clearly. I think it is impossible that it was a non-manned vehicle. This I base on the way the fireball (with the 'thing' inside, I suppose) followed the steep slope down at the beginning. It also stopped with precision right over the car, and 'slid' a few metres so

that I had an ideal position from which to view it. (Compare similarity with the Maarup case where Police Officer Maarup saw the object move forward a little so that he, Maarup, could have a better look.) Later I realised that any 'individuals' who may have been inside the vehicle could have had an equally good chance to look at me.

"I have heard that the thing 'attacked' me. I myself did not have the impression it was an 'attack'. I stood there, sketching it, and I was not afraid but merely astonished at what I saw. I felt no pressure when I fell, and there was no air pressure, sound or odour when it ascended.

"The object was very beautiful. It was pleasing to

study its construction—in my opinion a perfect one.

"I wish I had the opportunity to see it again, and to see it land, but the chances of that are small, I suppose."

Sources and references:

- ¹ Articles by H. Toreskaas in the *Christiansands Tidende*, 2.11.70 and 4.11.70.
- ² *Faedrelandsvennen*, 3.11.70.
- ³ Correspondence with Mr. Toreskaas of *Christiansands Tidende*.
- ⁴ Letter received from Mr. Salvesen, about a month after the incident, including his duplicated "additional report".
- ⁵ Article by P. Øderud in Norwegian weekly *Hjemmet*, No. 4/71, issued 19.1.71.

"Water-happenings" in Indonesia

Gordon Creighton

I AM indebted to Mr. W. L. Tobing of Bandung, Indonesia, for this report of what looks like another underwater UFO "base". The account first appeared in the Indonesian-language journal *Intisari*, No. 78, of January 1970 (a well-known popular science monthly published in Djakarta), the author being Mr. S. Kamah.

Is it possible that Lake Poso in North Sulawesi¹ is a UFO base? The largest lake on the Island of North Sulawesi, it is about 800 square kilometres in area and is three times as deep as the Java Sea². The pleasant town of Tentana lies beside the lake.

Not long ago, accompanied by Mr. J. Gintu, Chief of the District, Mr. S. Walenta, Member of the Poso Council, Mr. Togobu, Head of the Art and Culture Service, and Mr. Pobonde, Chairman of the Adat, Mr. Kamah made an investigation of the lake and its surroundings, for it is the belief of the local populace that something very mysterious is going on in the lake.

According to the account given to Mr. Kamah by the four above-named local officials, there has been some mysterious creature or phenomenon in the lake for the past five years. Until now they still have no idea as to whether this is some gigantic unknown beast or a ghost. What does seem certain is that, five years ago, a certain fisherman was fishing on the lake at midnight when he observed a vividly bright light in the centre of the lake. At first the man thought it must be a *petromax* lamp used by some other fisherman. But then he observed that the light was moving from one bank of the lake to the other and back again, at times extremely rapidly. Then, at one moment, it came to a distance of only about 100 metres from him. This terrified him so much that he went off home at once.

When he first told the neighbours and villagers what he had seen, they all jeered and made fun of him. Until, about a week later, the light was also seen by other fishermen. Since then the light has been seen so often that it has come to be regarded as quite customary. Opinions among the populace vary greatly however as to what the explanation of the light could be,

The local District Chief, Mr. Gintu, said: "Until 1966 I did not believe this story that the people were telling about the light in the lake. I thought it was just their superstitious talk. But, one night, at 9.00 p.m., as I myself was going home by boat, the sailors pointed out to me this vivid light in the middle of the lake. So I saw it for myself, and I saw that it moved with extraordinary speed from one shore of the lake to the other. An hour later, it approached our boat and came to a distance of only 20 metres from us. I stood watching it very attentively. The water seemed to be bubbling. It seemed to be a body surrounded by light. Although I was able to observe it at leisure, I was never able to make out its precise shape."

On another occasion Mr. Gintu and his wife both saw it, quite close to them.

Mr. Togobu also said that at first he had not believed the reports about the light, and thought it must be the flash of meteors falling into Lake Poso. But at last he saw the light for himself, and then he was forced to conclude that there must be some mysterious entity or creature in the lake.

Councillor Walenta said that he too had seen it.

Mr. Pobonde said he had no idea what it could possibly be, but that in his opinion it was no ghost and no animal.

Mr. Kamah ascertained that in the course of these five years the behaviour of the mystery light has changed. For example, *whereas to begin with it was always seen in or on the lake itself, it has now begun to be seen flying around over the fields and hills around the lake and then plunging back into the lake. Moreover, there is now no longer only one light. Sometimes there are three of them.*

Giant "fish"

About a year ago a fisherman told Mr. Gintu that, while out on the lake one day, he had seen a gigantic fish in the water. The creature had two horns about 2