

EXCLUSIVE REPORT TO FSR

A STORY ABOUT THE SCIENTISTS OF THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF SUPPLY, AND ABOUT THEIR FILM OF TWO UFOs

By Denny Densham

Former Adviser on Films to the Ministry of Supply. (Now retired.)

DURING the 1950s I was attached to the British Government's Ministry of Supply as their Adviser on Films (AOF). (I had originally been designated as the "Film Adviser", but somebody in the Establishment Section realized that when my office was listed in the directory it would read "D.H. Densham FA", and he thought that a little impolite!)

I am now a retired 68-year-old, and as I did not keep a diary I cannot now be absolutely certain of the exact date of this occurrence, but I think it was probably in either 1958 or 1959.¹

One afternoon, a Security man came to see me, and presented a 100 ft. roll of standard 16 mm. *Kodachrome* film. He asked me to project this, and give my comments. The film had been shot by a "boffin" who was a member of a group of scientists who had flown from Scandinavia to observe an eclipse of the Sun.

The roll started with shots of a group of scientists boarding a *Constellation* aircraft in rainy conditions. Then there were scenes from the ground after their take-off, and a lot of grey rainy cloud as the plane climbed.

The next shot, however, shook me to the core, for suddenly the man with the camera switched it on while it was resting on his lap. He panned it up and around to his window, and a 'Flying Saucer' suddenly came into view at a direct right-angle to the plane's direction of flight. It came from starboard to port, and flew in line along the wing, and it was followed almost immediately by a second machine.

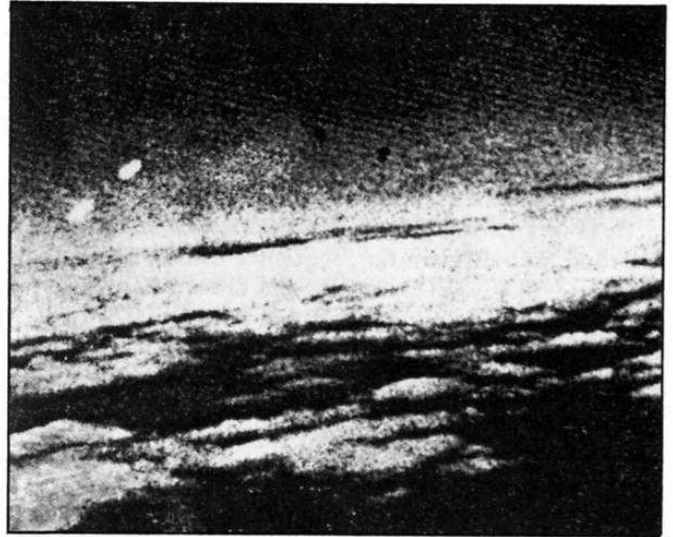
It is always difficult to judge distances and heights, but the two saucers seemed to be only about 20 ft. above the *Constellation*. As the saucers reached a distance of approximately 200 ft. or so, they both shot forward at a tremendous speed and vanished out of sight.

The Security man said that the cameraman had been alerted by a companion seated at a starboard window; hence the reason why the cameraman had switched his camera on as it lay in his lap.

The remainder of the film contained shots of an eclipsing Sun.

The two saucers were rotating, and had portholes. They were what I would describe as 'traditional' saucers, similar in detail to the alleged "Adamski" machines.²

The Security man left the roll of film with me, and, after he had gone, my assistant Mr Gulick and I set up an Aldis slide-projector and pulled this section of the film through by hand. By doing this we were able to enlarge the frames. We knew that the film had been exposed in a Bolex camera, because a cut-out mark in the gate was exposed on every frame. We found that the frame lines were absolutely sharp, so there was no possibility of the film having been double-exposed, and as it was a *Kodachrome* master it could not have been tampered with during or after processing.



THE DATE: 30th JUNE 1954

THE TIME: 2.17 p.m.

THE LOCATION: Lifjell (Telemark)

THE ALTITUDE: 15,000 ft.

THE SPEED: 340 mph.

And there are the two u.f.o.'s just outside the shadow of the eclipse.

It was quite genuine — a fact that was subsequently verified by Kodaks.

Because 16 mm. frames are exposed at approx. $\frac{1}{30}$ th of a second, the images were slightly distorted.³ The portholes on the saucers showed up as egg-shaped, but we could see the Sun glinting on the metal of their construction.

I duly sent the roll of film to Farnborough, where the Ministry of Supply had a team who studied film records of rocket-firing tests from the Aberporth Range. They were as astounded as I had been, and they pointed out something that I had failed to see.

Namely — as the two UFOs lined up with the *Constellation* aircraft's window, some scratches on the perspex of the window obliterated the detail at that point. This meant that the saucers were definitely outside, and were not superimposed upon the aircraft's window.

Somehow, by using their graphs, the Farnborough scientists calculated the yaw, pitch and roll of the flight-path of the two UFOs, their size, and even their approximate weight and speed of acceleration.

When the film was returned to me, I took it to Brigadier Jihu (now deceased), who was the Chief Information Officer for the Ministry of Supply. I fully expected him to censor it, but, despite all the stories I had heard about "Government cover-ups", he said: "We'll release it to the Newsreels".

I expected that the film would therefore 'make the headlines', for here was photographic proof that flying saucers existed. But to my great astonishment only one newsreel — UNIVERSAL NEWS — used

the material, The others were not in the least interested, and not a single newspaper covered the story.⁴

The only other people interested, however, were the BBC. They had the pictures of the UFOs blown up to 35 mm. black-and-white (this was of course before colour TV came in), and they arranged with Kays' Laboratory to duplicate the shot with step printing, so that, when projected, the saucers were seen in a sort of jerky slow motion as they revolved. This material was used by the BBC in a TV programme which they transmitted on Flying Saucers.

I have no idea what on earth happened to the master-copy of this valuable piece of UFO film.⁵ Likely as not it was lodged somewhere in the BBC Film Archives, which is sad, for at that time the BBC had a record for "losing" film library material.

All I can say is that I KNOW that flying saucers exist. What they are, however, or where they come from, remains a complete mystery to me.

(It is interesting to note that, some years later, I saw another, and very similar, sequence of film pictures of the two UFOs, shot by one of the other scientists who were on that same expedition to study the eclipse of the Sun. This example was, however, shot on 8 mm. film, whereas the first lot which was brought to me was on 16 mm film.)

FOOTNOTES (By Editor, FSR)

(1) The date on which the two UFOs were filmed over Lifjell, Telemark, Southern Norway, during an eclipse of the Sun, was in fact June 30, 1954 (the very same year, the *annus mirabilis* of 1954, when we had such a massive visitation of much of Western Europe by UFOs. Incidentally, the famous Norwegian close encounter case at Mosjøen was to come less than two months later, on August 20).

The Lifjell story was the subject of two reports in FSR. Two reports separated by a space of sixteen years.

Our first article, *Scandinavian Eclipse Expedition Films UFOs*, appeared in FSR Volume 2, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1956) during the editorship of Waveney Girvan (our second Editor). And, in view of its very great interest and importance, we are republishing it below. As readers will see, it makes Mr Denny Densham's story look fascinatingly true. In fact, *dangerously true*.

The second Lifjell article, sixteen years later, *The Lifjell Film Said To Be A Hoax*, appeared in FSR 18/1 (January/February 1972), under the editorship of Charles Bowen, our fourth Editor, and was the fruit of a long and patient debunking campaign which — quite predictably and quite inevitably — had been carefully mounted. And it had succeeded in quite deceiving Charles Bowen. We also republish it in full below.

Few folk, needless to say, would ever have seen the original story in FSR 2/1. Our readership then was probably no

more than a few hundreds. Nothing to worry about! And had the story never appeared anywhere else, then assuredly it would never have caused anxiety for anyone. Most sadly and unfortunately, however, there was something else to vex and disturb the authorities and the debunkers, and this was the fact that, as Mr Densham mentions, the BBC had let the cat out of the bag badly and shown the film to a large body of viewers by including it in a TV programme on UFOs which was produced by Philip Daley and which went out on BBC-1 at 9.05 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 1968, under the title "*The UFO Mystery*".

When I think back and recall what the BBC have given FSR over the years since then, this particular UFO documentary (which included interviews with Charles Bowen and myself and others) seems a curiously, indeed uniquely, "fair" discussion of "our subject". In later years, the Gentlemen of the British Media, and the MENDACIOUS BRIGADE as a whole, would go on to achieve remarkable heights in the field of ridicule and defamation.

Will readers please note especially that Mr Densham goes on to say:-

"I have no idea what on earth happened to the master-copy of this valuable piece of UFO film. Likely as not it was lodged somewhere in the BBC Film Archives, which is sad, for at that time the BBC had a record for 'losing' Film Library material."

(Mr Densham will surely be very interested to know that there was a remarkable sequel to this, as I will show below, but it only came many years later!)

(2) No wonder that the Lifjell film generated "concern"! Just recall how much energy and effort, over so many years, had gone into the job of "rubbishing" and "defusing" Adamski's dangerous and alarming photographs!

(3) As is well known, numerous UFO photographs have shown *distortion* or what even seem to be actual *changes of shape*, and the critics have always made plenty out of this. However, the more experienced of the investigators in our task realize that there is good evidence that such apparent anomalies may very likely be due to a UFO's own "field", since these craft seem to emit unknown radiations or some unknown type of energy.

(4) This certainly seems to be correct insofar as the *British* press was concerned. The affair did receive some publicity in the Scandinavian newspapers, but we do not know how much, nor how it was dealt with, and we have never seen any of the press reports from there.

SEQUEL

(5) I expect that our readers, along with everyone else at FSR, were fully satisfied by the convenient "explanation" for the Lifjell affair that Charles Bowen published in 1972, and I never heard the matter discussed again. But I did not feel happy about it myself, and I continued to wonder and to ask questions.

And then, suddenly, about ten years ago, as I recall it now, a reliable informant, who had been permitted access to the BBC Film Archives, told me in confidence *that he had actually found the film*, and that the metal canister containing it bore a label with some such wording as "RESTRICTED. DO NOT USE". — G.C.

EXTRACT from *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, Vol. 2, NO. 1 (January/February 1956), pages 6 and 7.

SCANDINAVIAN ECLIPSE EXPEDITION FILMS U.F.Os.

By FSR Editor Waveney Girvan

Just over eighteen months ago a flight of three Scandinavian airliners carrying a total of 50 observers took off from Norway to observe the eclipse of the sun. But they saw more than the eclipse. They saw two u.f.o.s. One of the observers was Mr. E. Graham, the Swedish Travel Bureau's London Press Officer. Here is a description of the incident taken from his report on the eclipse.

I WAS about to put a new film into my camera when my attention was distracted by Mr. Johansen pointing towards the Northern horizon and crying out above the engine noise "What the hell is that?".

I looked out of the porthole and observed two shiny

discs travelling across the horizon.

By now the entire party were watching the objects, nobody thinking of getting a camera on to them.

After we had studied the objects for a while Mr. Bjørnulf dashed across the floor to get his camera. He