

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

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.<sup>5</sup> 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

searched for a while, the other cameramen urging him to hurry. It was only then that we realised that we were watching something which none of us believed in — so-called “Flying Saucers”.

We were still discussing, shouting at each other — and when the objects began to disappear pandemonium broke loose as everyone tried to get their camera ready first. By then Mr. Bjørnulf trained his object finder on the discs and began filming.

The objects were clearly revolving and showed “stern-lines”. I am not certain whether these “lines” may have been a kind of exhaust fumes.

It was impossible to estimate their speed, or their size. I assume, however, that as the objects were about 15-20 miles away, the speed (and their size) must have been far beyond anything achieved by man-made aeroplanes.

I am basing this assumption on the fact that the objects *were out in the sun, while we were still in the shadow of the eclipse*. The shadow extended at least 15 miles north of our position. I cannot offer any opinion as to what these objects were, or where they might have come from.

Waveney Girvan writes:

Flying saucers would, I believe, lose much of their fascination if it were not for the sceptics, bless them, who bring an element of cosmic humour into what is essentially a most serious subject. At the private showing in London recently of the Swedish Travel Bureau film, there were a number of newspaper-men present, and it was most instructive to hear their comments when the show had ended. In spite of the commentary, spoken by Mr. E. Graham, one of fifty who were present in three planes which had been sent up to record in colour the eclipse of the sun over Norway on 30th June, 1954, the sceptics devoted their whole attention to the film.

This, after all, was only part of the evidence that had been presented. Ignoring the positive statements made by Mr. Graham, the “will-not-to-believers” suggested that the objects might not have been flying saucers, but something else. “Could they have been reflections in the windows of the planes?” (Mr. Graham had stated that there were no window-glasses, for they had been removed to avoid any such reflections. Also, the objects were seen from each of the three planes.)

Momentarily baffled, the sceptics then suggested that the two objects could have been seagulls, even though Mr. Graham had clearly stated that they appeared to be perfectly circular, glowing and revolving; indeed a close inspection of the film as it was being shown proved that they pulsated in the now familiar manner — this effect could be produced by a circular object revolving slightly off its true centre. Your sceptic is a tough customer, however, and I now suspected that the eye-witnesses would all be accused of fraud or insobriety, but politeness restrained such accusations from being made in the presence of a member of the expedition.

There were only two explanations left. The true one, of course, was that here was yet another proof of the existence of flying saucers, the film confirming the reports of fifty trustworthy witnesses. Rather than admit this, however, one of the sceptics suggested that the two aircraft — by inference he admitted that they must have been aerial machines — were Russian. He was prepared to admit to the terrifying thought that Russia was between fifty and a hundred years ahead of us in aeronautics. He preferred this gloomy speculation rather than admit that apparently harmless visitors were coming to us from outer space. His fear of the unknown must be truly great, and I think is the real explanation of the sceptic’s fight against the persistent evidence that the flying saucers are real.

#### The Astronomer Royal

In the same week as the film was being shown the new Astronomer Royal arrived in England and announced that the flying saucers were “bilge”. As I have always held, this is the correct way to deal with the subject if you are an unbeliever. Refuse to listen to eye-witnesses and arguments and, above all, keep away from films like the one under review. If once the objective reality of the saucers is accepted, you are forced to adopt the only working hypothesis that they are aerial machines not made on this earth. Dr. Woolley is probably aware of the truth of this statement, and “bilge” was, from his point of view, an excellent word for dismissing the whole subject. *I think it would be most unwise, however, for readers of this review to accept too readily that the words spoken by the new Astronomer Royal represent his innermost thoughts on the flying saucers.*

Extract from *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* Vol. 18, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1972)

## DOUBTS ABOUT THE LIFJELL FILM

*Charles Bowen*

ON June 30, 1954, three Scandinavian aircraft, carrying between them some 50 people, including scientific observers, cameramen and journalists, took off with their parties who were to observe and film the eclipse of the sun. One film, taken at 2.17 p.m. while travelling at 340 m.p.h. at 15,000ft. near Lifjell, Telemark, Norway, included a sequence on which two glowing discs were seen.

This film has been looked upon as one of the reasonably interesting items of “evidence” since an account of the incident was published in an early number of *Flying Saucer Review*, yet it now appears there have always been doubts about the authenticity of the film. Apparently the story — that here was a moving picture of two UFOs — was denied emphatically at the time by three members of the expedition. An

article under their signatures appeared in the newspaper *Aftenposten* on October 14, 1954, before *Flying Saucer Review* came into existence. Our account appeared in the issue for January/February 1956, and at that time we had few, if any, readers and correspondents in Norway, so it does not surprise me that a copy of the *Aftenposten* item never reached us. Our version of the incident came from a London source which we had every reason to believe reliable.

#### Recapitulation

Waveney Girvan represented the *Review* at a private press showing in London of the Swedish Travel Bureau film. This was introduced by the Bureau’s London Press Officer, Mr. E. Graham, who stated that

he had been one of the observers. We published a description of the incident which we took from Mr. Graham's report on the eclipse. He said:

"I was about to put a new film in 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 searched for a while, the other cameramen urging him to hurry. It was only then that we realised that we were watching something which none of us believed in — so-called 'Flying Saucers'.

"We were still discussing, shouting at each other — and when the objects began to disappear pandemonium broke loose as everyone tried to get their camera ready first. By then Mr. Bjørnulf trained his object finder on the discs and began filming.

"The objects were clearly revolving and showed 'stern-lines'. I am not certain these 'lines' may have been a kind of exhaust fumes.

"It was impossible to estimate their speed, or their size. I assume, however, that as the objects were about 15-20 miles away, the speed (and their size) must have been far beyond anything achieved by man-made aeroplanes.

"I am basing this assumption on the fact that the objects were out in the sun, while we were still in the shadow of the eclipse. The shadow extended at least 15 miles north of our position. I cannot offer any opinion as to what these objects were, or where they might have come from."

Waveney Girvan reported that there were, at the conference, some who suggested that the objects seen in the film were reflections in the windows of the plane... regardless of the fact that Mr. Graham had stated that there were no window-glasses for they had been removed to avoid such reflections. Also, the objects were seen from each of the three planes."

That, in brief, is how we have known the story of the Lifjell film for more than 15 years.

### The other side of the coin

Mr. Julian Hennessey, NICAP representative in this country, told me a few months ago that he had decided to probe into the history of this film. I asked him to keep me informed, and suggested that he should tread warily — in view of the fact that so much time had elapsed since the incident. He did keep me informed: indeed it would seem, from the dates of the letters he had received in answer to his probing, that he had already done his re-investigation when he got in touch with me. First of all he had written to the "Norwegian Astronomical Society", and his letter found its way to Dr. Eberhard Jensen of the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Oslo.

Professor Jensen, who had been a member of the 1954 expedition to photograph the eclipse, wrote on March 31, 1970, to explain that he had not been in the aircraft carrying Mr. Bjørnulf, but in one flying on a parallel course. He said that the *Heron* aircraft in which he was travelling had open hatches, but that Mr. Bjørnulf took his film through a closed window and that the UFOs were "reflections". Mr. Hennessey

was recommended to write to Mr. Rolf Brahde, associate professor at the University of Oslo, who had also been a member of the expedition.

In a letter dated April 13, 1970, Mr Brahde told how, after the eclipse party had returned, Mr. Bjørnulf announced his flying saucers to the press and *Aftenposten* published a 4-page article on the affair. At that point an American member of the party, Dr. Garwick, proposed that reflections satisfactorily explained the phenomenon, whereupon Mr. Bjørnulf announced that the windows of the aeroplane were open during the flight.

Mr. Brahde further revealed that he, Dr. Garwick, and another member of the expedition, Mr. H. C. Christensen, went to Førnebu airfield and arranged for a similar aeroplane to be wheeled out and "... placed in the same direction as regards the position of the sun. Then we saw..." he continued, "exactly the same pattern as was shown on Bjørnulf's film".

Mr. Brahde also revealed that the man who shot the film was *not* Bjørnulf, but a man named Conradi. When Mr. Brahde tackled Mr. Bjørnulf about the UFO story when it had appeared in the press, he was told that Mr. Conradi was away on holiday. Nevertheless Mr. Brahde telephoned, and spoke to Mr. Conradi, and later met him when the latter confirmed that the windows had been closed as it was impossible to be in the cabin with open windows.

Dr. Garwick also wrote to Mr. Hennessey. His letter was dated April 12, 1970, and it contains the following passage:

"The original of the film shows the 'elliptical lights' referred to by you as being blobs of light with two extensions going out at right angles. If the pictures were taken through a window with panes, the effect would be completely explained as a reflex from a window behind the photographer, partially blotted out by a man's shoulder. This was accepted by Mr. Bjørnulf and his attorney. The two last windows on the port side of the plane had been removed and everybody, including the photographer, were of the opinion that the pictures had been taken through window No. 2, i.e. through a window without panes so no reflections could appear.

"The team (Brahde, Garwick and Christensen — C.B.) took pictures out of the last three windows with the same camera which was used on the flight. These pictures were superimposed upon the pictures showing the light spots, and it was found that the wing perspective fitted exactly for the picture from the third (paned) window, and no others."

An article signed by Brahde, Garwick and Christensen in which Mr. Bjørnulf's claims about his film were refuted, was published in *Aftenposten* on October 14, 1954, together with a statement by Mr. R. Conradi.

\* \* \* \* \*

The emergence (in English) after 17 years of these completely different versions of the circumstances under which the Lifjell film was taken, does not prove that the original version was wrong. However, even without the backing of the photographic evidence, the second version sounds convincing enough (as also, no doubt, would a version put out by someone wishing to debunk the film just for the sake of debunking it!). The very existence of this second version throws serious doubts on the validity of the film, and therefore on its value to UFO research.

# MR DENSHAM'S SECOND REPORT TO FSR ON UFOs

"A few years earlier, during the 1940s, my wife and I had had a curious sighting. This was before Flying Saucers were in the news.

We were in the lounge of our house, at Welwyn Garden City, in Hertfordshire, when my wife said 'Look at that Moon!' Quite low on the horizon was a very large white disc, but it was quite blank. We talked about that, for the Moon has markings which can be seen by eye.

Then, as we watched, we realized that this "Moon" was moving, from right to left — a strange thing for the Moon to be moving at such a rate!

Then it began to be obscured by the clock tower of a school opposite our house, so we went upstairs to a front bedroom, where we could continue to see it. We

did so, but after several minutes it suddenly shot away at high speed and vanished.

It had scared the hell out of both of us, and we fully expected some terrible disaster would happen, for we believed that the Moon had gone out of orbit!

This was on a summer's evening, about a couple of hours after sunset. Later that evening we observed the actual Moon, of course, and it was crescent-shaped.

Some years later we were talking to another couple in Welwyn Garden City, and somehow or other we happened to tell them about this experience of ours. To our amazement they replied: "Oh — we saw that too — It frightened the life out of us".

Once again, I cannot find a logical explanation for this."

## MORE ON THE MOSJØEN ENCOUNTER

IN our account of the Mosjøen case (FSR 34/2, foot of page 5 and page 6) we mentioned the well-known "official refutation" story which was put around, namely that the two young ladies had met an American helicopter pilot who was working in that area on behalf of the Norwegian authorities.

FSR reader Erik Midtgaard of Vissenbjerg, Denmark, has now been good enough to send us the original Danish text, plus his own excellent English translation, of an "explanatory" item which appeared in the Copenhagen newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* of July 27,\* 1954, so we are reproducing the translation below. (See also Erik Midtgaard's letter in our *Mail Bag* section.)

It should not be overlooked that we did also see and hear reports, at the time, to the effect that the American pilot in question had stated categorically that he had never been in the vicinity of Mosjøen and consequently had never met the two Norwegian ladies. The account of the pilot's craft, as given by the two ladies, is so utterly and totally at variance with any kind of "helicopter" of which we have ever heard, that we still experience a very great deal of doubt about this "helicopter" story.

However, if we continue to discuss the case for a while, it may be that further conclusive evidence will surface somewhere in Scandinavia and will be channelled in our direction. — EDITOR

\* \* \* \* \*

From *Berlingske Tidende*, Copenhagen, July 27, 1954.  
(Translation from Danish by Erik Midtgaard)

### HE WAS NOT FROM MARS

For once a prosaic exposure of one of the many stories about "flying saucers".

An American helicopter-pilot made a much profounder impression on two Norwegian ladies than he had realized.

From our correspondent.  
Oslo, Thursday evening

an unusual adventure during a stay in Norway, causing a sensation by unknowingly playing the part of a man from Space on a visit to planet Earth.

On Tuesday evening a sensational report was received from the small town of Mosjøen in Northern Norway: a so-called flying saucer had landed on a mountain in the neighbourhood, and two ladies, picking blueberries, had met the crew of the "spaceship", "a dark man with long hair, but, apart from that, of the same height and looks as most men on Earth."

The two ladies were characterised as very trustworthy, and one of them, who knew French, German and English, tried speaking to the man from Space. He did not understand one word, however, but beckoned them to follow him a short way and showed them a "flying saucer", which he entered, whereupon it disappeared up into the air.

The police launched a major investigation, and the two ladies were interrogated. They gave very detailed information about the "spaceship" and about the man. Next morning all newspapers in Norway carried the fantastic story, most of them, though, under humorous headlines.

Now, it so happened that, during the interrogation, one of the two ladies had mentioned that she had just finished reading "*Flying Saucers Have Landed*", the fantastic account by Adamski, and several points told by the ladies were similar to what Adamski tells about his meeting with the man from Venus.

And then the chief of the Norwegian Air Force released a piece of information that cooled down the sensation-seeking: the Air Force had for some time had an American with a large helicopter engaged to do a job in just those parts of the country where the ladies had come upon the man from Space.

And today the "*Aftenposten*" supplied the further piece of information that the American, who left Norway today, had confirmed that he had actually met two ladies up in the mountains. However, he had not had the slightest inkling what kind of consequences his meeting the two ladies was going to have.

The ladies firmly stick to their conviction that the man they met was, in fact, a man from Space. — (signed) H-d.

\* NOTE BY EDITOR FSR

This probably should read *August 27*, as all the reports say the girls met the stranger on *August 20, 1954*.

The American helicopter-pilot Bailey Faurot had