

THE FAMOUS SALANDIN SIGHTING

Reference was made on page 9 of FSR No. 29/5 to the "classic" case of Flight-Lieutenant J. R. Salandin, which was Editor Derek Dempster's lead-story in FSR's very first issue, Vol. 1, No. 1, of Spring 1955, and because so many of our younger, newer, readers will not be familiar with it, we now reprint it below, precisely as it appeared in our pages almost thirty years ago. (Moreover, there is an interesting new tail-piece to it, which we shall add.)

LET'S TALK SPACE WEEKEND PILOT IN NEAR COLLISION WITH FLYING SAUCER

IF Flight-Lieutenant J. R. Salandin, a week-end pilot of No. 604, County of Middlesex Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, had not been sceptical about Flying Saucers before his near-collision with one last October (1954), the Air Ministry might have had one of the first authentic ciné records ever taken and been closer to solving the riddle of the unidentified flying objects than ever before.

Reporting for duty after lunch on October 14, 1954, Jimmy Salandin climbed into a *Meteor Mk. 8* jet fighter and at 4.15 took off from North Weald, Essex.

The sky was blue and cloudless, and as he climbed in a southerly direction towards the Thames Estuary he spotted two *Meteors* in formation high above him leaving vapour trails behind them.

As his aircraft climbed, Salandin kept his eyes on the two fighters and every now and then checked his instruments and position.

The altimeter was reading just over 16,000 ft. and Southend was just looming up beneath him when he saw two circular objects streaking between the two *Meteors*, travelling in the opposite direction.

He watched them until they reached nine o'clock high — a position high on his port beam — when they disappeared beyond his range of vision. Reporting the incident later, Salandin said: "One was silvery and the other gold in colour."

But the shock was yet to come. When he turned to look through his windscreen he was horrified to see another object coming straight for him at his own level.

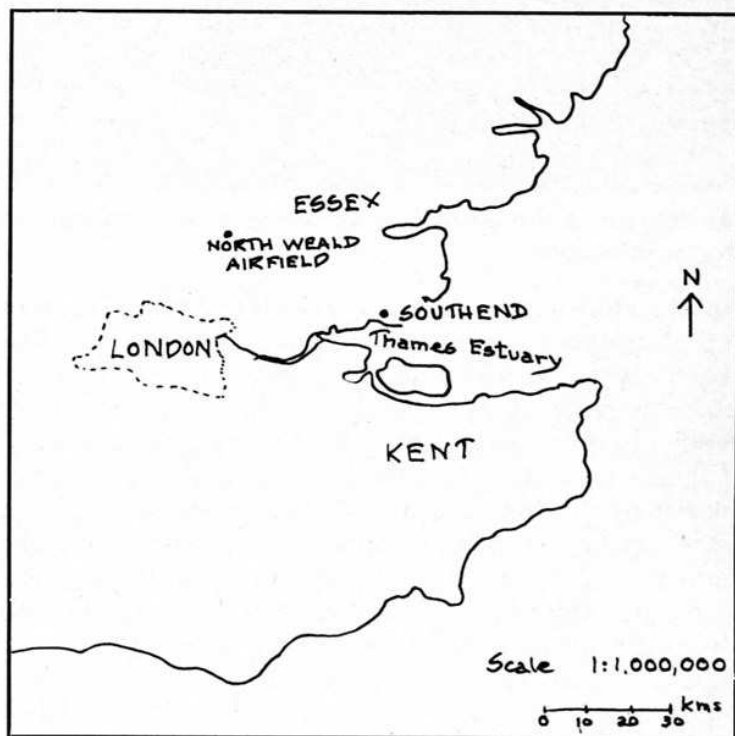
"The thing had a bun-shaped top, a flange like two saucers in the middle, and a bun underneath", he said, describing it later. "It was silvery in colour and could not have been far off because it overlapped my windscreen."

A *Meteor* fighter's 37-ft. span wings just fill the windscreen at 150 yards.

As it closed in, the object changed direction and passed Salandin on his port side.

"It was travelling at a tremendous speed", he reported, and added: "I was so shaken I had to fly around quietly for about ten minutes to recover. I told Control over the R/T (radio/telephone) what had happened."

What gripes Jimmy Salandin now is that he did not



press his camera-gun button. "The thing was right in my sights", he says wistfully. "Next time, I'll be on the ball."

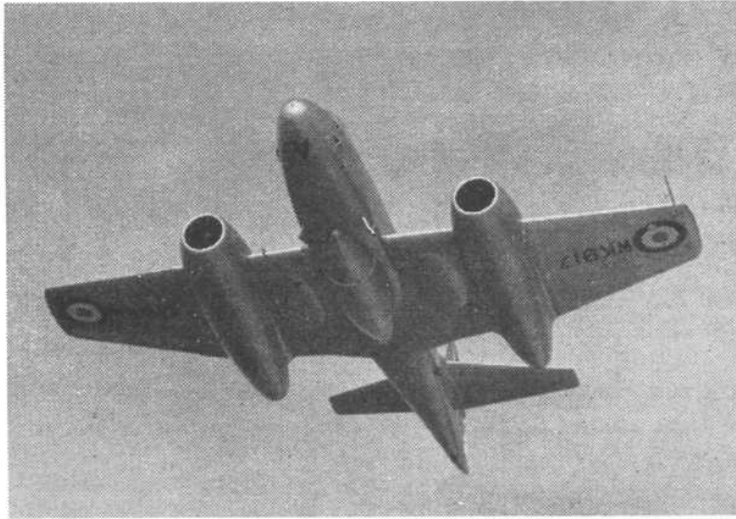
Such, then, was the exciting aerial close encounter with which FSR's first Editor, Derek Dempster (himself a former Royal Air Force pilot, who knew Salandin) kicked off, on page 2, immediately after his Editorial, in the very first number of our now famous journal. (As we all know, we have had the solemn word of Officialdom, many times repeated during these thirty years, that "flying saucers" *do not exist*. But FSR still exists, and during these thirty years, how many good journals have we not seen go to the wall and vanish without trace — *journals devoted, all of them, to subjects that do exist!*)

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And now for our delicious little tail-piece.

The Salandin case is of course well known and it has its place in the annals of British Ufology, but we had never thought that we might one day hear echoes of it.

However, as chance decreed, I was recently invited



At 150 yards the 37-foot-span wings of the Meteor fill the windscreen

by the House of Lords All-Party UFO Study Group to speak to them (for the second time), and the date had been set for November 8, 1983. After a pleasant afternoon and evening at the Lords, followed by dinner with our very kind hosts the Earl and Countess of Clancarty, my wife and I were making our way homewards by the Metropolitan Railway from Baker Street station when, through stepping into a coach just as the doors were closing, I found myself whisked away and separated from my wife. She managed to catch the following train and rejoin me further down the line. In the meantime however she had run into another passenger who, through a mix-up, was also in some trouble, because, as he explained, it was now very late at night and a bit foggy, and *his* poor wife was now



Flt.-Lt. J. R. Salandin

awaiting him, in their car, at a station on another branch-line. My wife said that there would be no problem, as we would ferry him over to the station where his wife was.

When in due course Mrs. Creighton caught up with me, she introduced me to her travelling companion, Mr ———, who lives not far from us in the County of Buckinghamshire. During our brief run with him to the other station, I did something that is decidedly unusual for me. I do not normally talk about UFOs even to my friends, and certainly not to complete strangers. But I thought that it would be fun this time to see what the reaction of this average member of the public would be if I were to tell him, quite casually, that there were Peers of the Realm who take an interest in our taboo and non-existent subject! So I told him I had just addressed a House of Lords group on "Flying Saucers." To my vast surprise, he simply commented that "flying saucers" were nothing new to him . . . "because I was a member of the same Squadron as Jimmy Salandin!"

So we talked briefly of that famous sighting, and I told him that we had published the story in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and I asked him whether he knew this, and whether he had by any chance ever heard of our journal?



House of Lords

HOUSE OF LORDS ALL PARTY UFO STUDY GROUP

On Tuesday, the 8th November, at 5 p.m., in Room 3, our Guest Speaker will be

MR. GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRGS, FRAS.

He is the Editor of the world's leading UFO magazine, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The title of his talk is 'A Fresh Look at the UFO Phenomenon'.

All Peers and MPs will be most welcome.

Clancarty.
Earl of Clancarty.



"OH YES!", he replied. "WE KNEW ALL ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW! YOU WERE THE PEOPLE THAT WE WERE ALWAYS WARNED THAT WE MUST KEEP AWAY FROM!"

I do not feel at liberty to divulge the name of Jimmy Salandin's former colleague, for I did not request or secure his permission to do so. His name and address must therefore remain in my files. But is it not an interesting little story, and one that speaks volumes? I am sure that many will share my view that it is well worth putting on record. (And, by the way, if time and space permit, there are many other significant little tidbits and anecdotes like this that we would like to put on record here too.) — G.C.

BOOK REVIEW

John A. Keel

Mute Evidence by Daniel Kagan and Ian Summers. (Bantam Books, New York, 1984; 502 pages. \$4.95.)

This is a book that *had* to be written. Unfortunately, it should have been written by somebody else. Bantam Books, a major paperback publisher in the U.S., allegedly spent almost \$100,000 on this amateurish mish-mash that uses the animal-mutilation mystery as a springboard for libel and slander. Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Tom Adams and many others prominent in American UFOlogy are brutally and often pointlessly attacked in an astonishing display of arrogance by two totally inexperienced and uninformed authors. This book will become to the mutilation hunters what the *Condon Report* has been to the UFO investigators.

Phenomenon not new

Animal mutilations is hardly a new subject. It was a wave of mutilations 2,500 years ago that led Zoroaster into his pioneering studies of demons and angels. In that wonderfully puzzling year of 1905, according to Charles Fort, a wave of mysterious mutilations of domestic animals swept Great Britain. The late Ivan T. Sanderson, a zoologist by trade, and myself, a gadfly by avocation, began to encounter strange mutilations in the mid-1960s in the north-eastern United States. While lecturing in tandem in the state of Pennsylvania, we were approached by doctors of veterinarian medicine who soberly asked us if we knew who — or what — was slaughtering cows and horses in pastoral farm fields. In the years that followed, we both examined literally hundreds of victims of this phenomenon. On several occasions, the animals had been slaughtered while in their stalls in barns! Some

seemed to have been garroted. A fine red line around their necks suggested that a noose of piano wire had killed them. Most baffling of all, the other animals in the barn had not made a sound. Normally, just the smell of blood would cause them to create a bellowing ruckus as they tried to kick down their stalls.

The Keel/Sanderson Investigations

By the late 1960s, Ivan and I had received "mute" (mutilation) reports from Georgia to Maine, mostly through Ivan's network of zoologists and anthropologists and my UFO investigators network. Both of us had contacts within many police departments, also. Very, very few of these cases appeared in newspapers. Journalists did not regard the seemingly random deaths of farm animals as news. However, the farmers of Pennsylvania became so irate that they formed an organisation to hunt down the mutilators in 1968-69. By 1973, mutilation reports were coming in from as far south as the island of Puerto Rico. I might point out that 1973 was also the year of an artificial beef shortage in the U.S., and many farmers were wantonly destroying their cattle in an effort to drive beef prices up. Cattle-rustling, always a problem in the U.S., became more acute, too. The usual technique was to drive huge trucks to isolated parts of a cattle ranch, load them with purloined bovines and drive them to distant slaughter-houses. The rustlers always left plenty of footprints, tyre tracks and other evidence of their chicanery. *The animal-mutilators, on the other hand, left no evidence at all. They killed the animal in its home field, sometimes only yards from the house where the owner and his family were sleeping!* Another distressing feature was the mutilator's penchant for removing the animal's tongue and sex organs. This, of course, led some police departments to theorise that cultists . . . devil worshippers and the like . . . were the culprits.

In the fall of 1973, the U.S. had one of its biggest and most famous UFO waves. There were landings and contacts galore and hundreds of sightings from every state. The U.S. press began to report some of these things, then war broke out in the Middle East and UFOs were quickly abandoned. But the sightings and landings continued into 1974 without the benefit of press coverage. Animal-mutilations also increased spectacularly. Now they began to spread slowly, systematically westward.

Small local weekly newspapers began to print "mute" reports in the Mid-west but the major dailies ignored them. I was intrigued to discover that, like our wandering Big-foot reports, the mutilators seemed to follow certain highways as they traversed states so that it was *possible to predict where they would appear next*. In 1974, I wrote a newspaper column on the "mute" mystery and it was published in over 200 major daily newspapers. Many featured it on their front