



CASE HISTORIES

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CONTENTS

The Strange Force that moved a car Driver's encounter with unusual lights, dense black cloud and kite-shaped UFO in Northern Sweden	1
Gnomery down on the farm <i>Gordon Creighton</i>	3
Humanoids and Craft seen at Rosedale <i>W. K. Allan</i>	4
Low-level UFO at Haydock <i>R. P. Knowles</i>	6
South American Round-up, 1971—part 1 <i>Gordon Creighton</i> ..	8
A close encounter in Tatebayasi <i>Takao Ikeda</i>	10
A "Delta-winged" oddity <i>Mrs. M. L. Till</i>	12
The Winged Lady in Black A weird episode from Vietnam <i>Don Worley</i>	14
Readers' Reports	16

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Case Histories

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TWENTY PENCE

CASE HISTORIES

SUPPLEMENT 10

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Vertical beams of light that heralded the

STRANGE FORCE THAT MOVED A CAR

see page 1

The strange force that moved a car

Driver's encounter with unusual lights, dense black cloud and kite-shaped UFO, in Northern Sweden.

A translation by Miss Carole Thomas of GICOFF* from an article published in the September/October 1971 issue of the group's magazine.

"WHAT on Earth was the object I saw in the sky that Monday evening on the E4 road near Öjebyn?" This is the question that engineer Sten Sture Ceder has continually asked himself after the evening of September 20, 1971, when, at 10.45 p.m., he suddenly found himself surrounded by an intense, glaring light and after which unusual experience he saw a square black object race past him in a northerly direction. In a letter to GICOFF, Herr Ceder describes the incident as follows:

"I was on my way home after visiting a friend. We had talked a long while and it was therefore rather late when I left. Near the crossroads between Alvbyvägen and the E4, at some 200 metres distance, I noticed a strong light, similar to a northern light, with vertical beams that shone to the ground from an estimated height of between 10 and 50 metres (the height was rather difficult to judge). Approaching the crossroads, I glanced in the back mirror and saw that even behind the car there were beams at a distance of about 10 metres. In other words, I was encircled by beams of light to a diameter of about 200 metres. Immediately afterwards I felt an unnatural force from behind and even though I had put my foot right down on the brakes, the car continued to move forward. Then everything became black around me, completely blue-black.

"The blackness seemed to be a dense, floating mass of smoke that lay around me so that it was impossible to see anything. There was no light coming from the headlights despite the fact that they were switched on at full beam. Either the mass was so dense that it completely absorbed the light, or there was no current reaching the light bulbs.

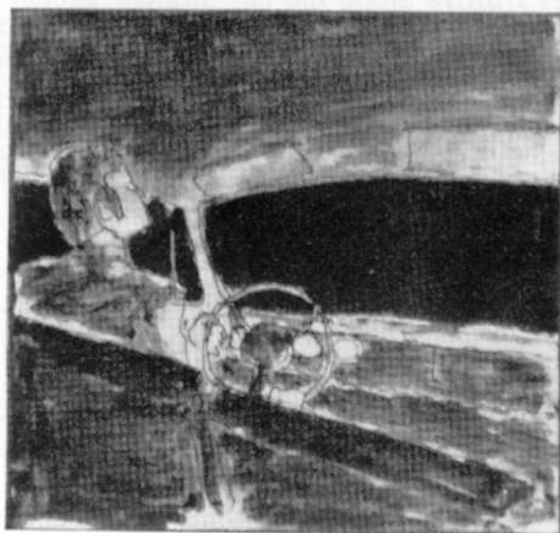
"I had no idea whether I was still at the crossroads or not, but I automatically swung left in first gear in the usual direction. When I perceived the lights again I found myself on the E4, about 200 metres from the crossroads. Almost simultaneously I noticed a black mass that began to rise from the ground, outlining itself against the horizon. I can say nothing about the shape—it was shapeless. I drove on northwards and accelerated to 80 kilometres an hour, keeping the object in sight. It seemed very large."

* Gothenburg's Information Centre for Unidentified Flying Objects. This article was forwarded to us by Sven-Olof Fredrickson, who is well-known to FSR and *Case Histories* readers.

1



2



3



Swedish artist's impressions of
1 Light beams.
2 Blackout.
3 Dark mass rising.

Note here that Herr Ceder later added that it could have been as large (apparent size) as the moon. At an estimated distance of 1,000 metres from the car, one can calculate the object to have been about 10 metres wide. The witness's account continues:

"The object crossed the E4 about 1 kilometre beyond the crossroads. It was now on my left-hand side and outlined against the sky like an angular kite. The outlines were very clear except at the lower corner where the edges were blurred and where there appeared to be a 'tail'. The object was much darker than the sky, the northern sky always being somewhat lighter than elsewhere at that time of the year. I could quite clearly see how it hid certain stars which later reappeared from behind it.

"I was driving the car in a course not quite parallel to that of the object, the difference in our directions being about 15°. Its speed was twice as fast as mine—which was about 80 kilometres an hour or more—and as I drove along the last straight stretch of road, the object disappeared below the horizon to the left of the E4. On my arrival home, I got out of the car and studied the sky closely around me. There were no clouds at that time. The weather was clear and quite warm for that time of year (around 4°C). The moon lay below the horizon and the stars were shining intensely. There was



4

4 Keeping object in sight.

no reflection in the sky from the lights of Piteå to the south, as there sometimes is."†

After some personal debate as to whether the credibility of his account would be accepted, Herr Ceder contacted the Piteå newspaper the next day, mainly in the hopes of finding out if any other person had witnessed the same phenomenon. The day following, a woman from a local village rang to say that both she and a friend had seen the light. They too had been on their way home and had noticed the light moving in the same direction from which he had come, but at some distance before the crossroads. One of Herr Ceder's neighbours also mentioned seeing a dark object earlier in the evening.

* * * * *

GICOFF telephoned the witness personally in order to ask a few more detailed questions. The conversation between Björn Högman, spokesman for GICOFF, and Sten Sture Ceder was recorded as follows:

B.H.: You say the beams of light shone to the ground from a height of 10-50 metres. Can one compare this phenomenon with a column of light sharply contoured against the rest of the landscape?

S.S.C.: No, you couldn't. It looked like a steady northern light. However, the strange thing was that it had no inner light, so to speak—only around its edges. I am absolutely sure about this.

B.H.: Like a big circle of light?

S.S.C.: Yes, exactly.

B.H.: What did the inner part look like?

S.S.C.: It was completely black, an eerie, rolling blackness.

B.H.: You said that the circle of light had a diameter of 200 metres. That sounds very large, if you think that a football pitch is 90 metres between the goalposts!

S.S.C.: No, I'm not sure exactly. Perhaps it was smaller.

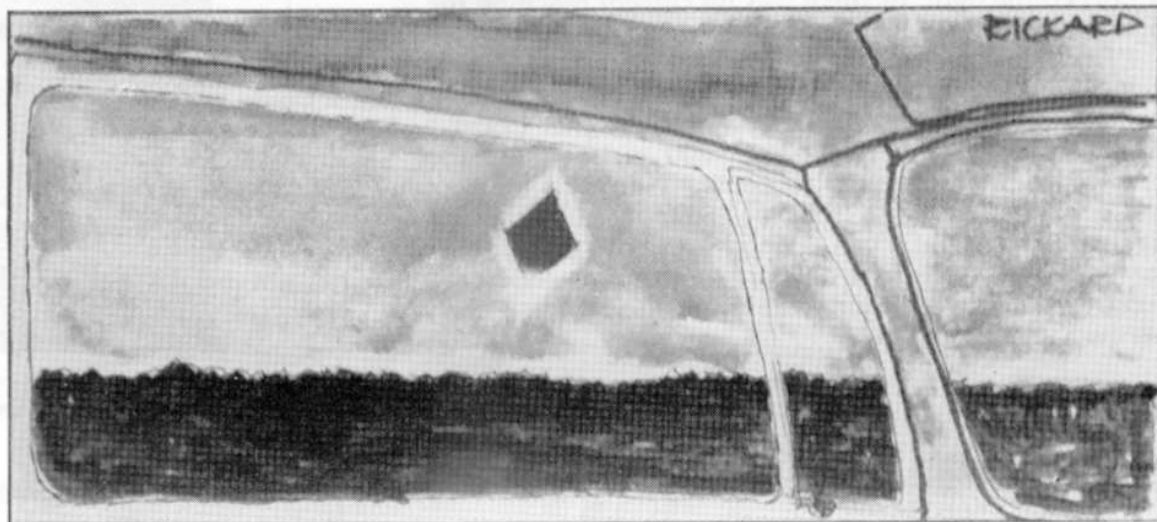
B.H.: Am I right in saying that you drove into the light and passed through the circle, so to speak? At that moment you braked hard and as you did so it became pitch black around you?

S.S.C.: Yes, exactly.

B.H.: How black was it? Could you see the bonnet of your own car?

S.S.C.: I cannot recall, but I do not think I could see it.

5



5 UFO finally kite-shaped.

B.H.: What kind of car do you have?

S.S.C.: A black Volvo.

B.H.: Did you see if the instrument panel was lit?

S.S.C.: I have no idea about that.

B.H.: Did you notice any heat in the car or anything else unusual?

S.S.C.: No, only a sense of discomfort. A kind of atmospheric pressure.

B.H.: About the black object—you said it was square. Do you mean like a box?

S.S.C.: I think it was flat like a sheet of paper. I didn't see its dimensions because it was like seeing the sheet from the same side all the time. I don't think it was square in the proper meaning of the word.

B.H.: You mentioned that the object had a "tail". Can you describe it?

S.S.C.: The contours of the lower angle were blurred and it was the effect of that that made it look like a tail. It was not luminous, but as black as the rest of the object.

Herr Ceder also mentioned that he and a friend drove to the place the next day to look for skid marks . . .

"I really put my foot down sharply on the brakes so there must have been skid marks on the asphalt," he said, but to his great surprise there were none to be

seen. It should also be mentioned that Herr Ceder stated that the whole observation took about five minutes.

Other witnesses

On the same day at about 5.30 p.m. Herr Ceder's neighbour had observed a light grey object for about one minute before it disappeared into the clouds. Unfortunately the two women, one of whom contacted Herr Ceder, have not been located.

Sources

1. Telephone interviews on September 25 and October 8 with Herr Ceder.
2. GICOFF's questionnaire and personal description received from the witness, dated September 30, 1971.

A note about northern lights

† The northern lights are a common natural phenomenon to be seen in the night skies of polar regions. They occur in connection with sun spots, the phenomenon depending on charged particles from the sun, drawn by the earth's magnetic field to the polar belt, colliding with the outer atmospheric layer. The resulting lights are usually seen in the form of an undulating "drapery" of varying colours over the sky, giving the appearance of beams of light that shine to earth with ill-defined contours.

Gnomery down on the farm

Gordon Creighton

I HAVE received an interesting confidential report about happenings on a farm less than a hundred miles from London. I shall visit the place shortly, but in the meantime here are some of the quite "classic" features that have been recorded at intervals over the past eighteen years:

1. Farm workers and villagers have reported, on several occasions, that they have observed "gnomes" in broad daylight, in the fields.

2. Two women of the village frequently "saw gnomes dancing on the kitchen table." They described the creatures as being about one-third of the normal human size.

3. The owner of the local farm has frequently complained that tractors (petrol-driven) and other farm machines (all also petrol-driven) constantly break down in certain specific spots.

4. He also complains that there are areas in the fields where nothing will grow.

5. During a visit by investigators in 1966, one of the party had a nasty experience, being overcome with nausea and violent trembling. The investigator had to be carried back to the car. The same investigator was also

aware of a "strong vibration" or "powerful throbbing" in the air, which caused the person's body to sway rapidly backwards and forwards. The "beating in the air" or "throbbing" was described as "suggestive of invisible wings."

6. Cars of visitors have also stalled mysteriously and one investigator, visiting the farm alone on his bicycle, was unaccountably caused to have a nasty skid which precipitated him into a ditch.

The area in question has been under human inhabitation since Roman times. There is a long-standing local tradition about *fairies*. A former vicar once tried to make a scientific investigation, but failed to achieve any progress owing to the reticence of the villagers, who feared that the "fairies" might go away if too much prying went on.

Much of the tract of ground affected seems to be old river-bottom land, reclaimed during the last 20-25 years. There seem to have been rumours of "fairy people" associated with the site at least as far back as the time of the reclamation. This reclaimed field seems to be the centre of the zone in which crops will not grow, machines break down or engines fail mysteriously, and other strange mishaps occur.