

# MARIANNELUND UFO AND OCCUPANTS

Anders Liljegren

We are indebted to the publishers of *UFO-Sweden Newsletter No. 2*, of September 1970\*, for permission to reprint this account of a near-landed UFO, with Humanoids, observed in 1959, and subsequently re-investigated. The author is a member of *UFO-Norrköping* and *UFO-Sweden*, of Box 311, 591 03 Motala 3, Sweden.

GIDEON JOHANSSON is one of a handful of Swedes who claim to have witnessed a UFO landing and to have seen the occupants of the craft. Only a few stories of this kind have been published in Sweden. Of these, two of the most outstanding were the Gustavsson/Rydberg account of their near-kidnapping by two amoeba-like creatures near Domsten,<sup>1</sup> and the observations made in 1967 by two youngsters in central Sweden of poltergeist-type phenomena and of their subsequent meeting with a small monster.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Johansson is an elderly man with a reputation for honesty. He retired a few years ago after a lifetime of service with one company. During interviews with *UFO-Sweden*, he insisted that if we published his story, we were to print "only what I tell you, and nothing else!" He has carefully written down the sequence of events, an account which covers fifteen sheets of paper.<sup>3</sup> Our story has been taken for the most part from his account and from other documents pertinent to the case.

The following version of the incident, written by himself, was selected by the witness as the most correct one. It had been published in the *Sökaren*.<sup>4</sup>

## 1. The witness's story

"At about 6.55 p.m. one day towards the end of October, 1959, in the small town of Mariannelund, Småland, there was suddenly a power cut. At that time I was employed by the AB Brusafors-Hallefors works as their chief electrical fitter, and was therefore in charge of the electricity substation.

"As soon as the electricity failed, I ran out of my house to investigate the cause of the power failure. Outside the door I bumped

Photograph of Mr. Johansson taken about 10 years ago. Lower part of maple tree afterwards damaged can be seen on the left



into my 25-year-old son, Rolf. He asked me why I was hurrying.

"'Can't you see that there has been a power failure?' I asked him.

"'Yes,' he said, 'but not up there—its light enough up there!'

"I looked up; hovering above a three-storey building was a blinding white light.

"I called through the window to my wife, telling her to run out of the house because I thought an aircraft might be going to crash on to it, but the machine stopped still in the sky.

"At first we thought it was a helicopter, but we realised that it was not making any sound. The craft moved again, slowly descended, and it seemed to be heading for my garden. Rolf called out to me: 'Run, father!' Then the machine rocked three times, and it turned to the right, hitting and smashing the top of a maple tree. We heard a crackling sound, and the UFO descended almost vertically through the branches, and hovered half a metre above the street. It rocked a

little, like a small boat on a swell. I had now reached my gate, turning into the Hantverkaregatan, and was only about three metres from the craft.

"Inside it I saw an unusual white light, very compact—I have never seen anything like it. I could see it shining through what appeared to be a large glass window, and inside were two strange individuals. Their heads were very high-crowned, and they had big, very beautiful eyes; they seemed to be friendly. Their noses were long and thin with small nostrils; they had small mouths and pointed chins, with small lower jaws.

"They wore neat white uniforms with broad black belts crossed over their shoulders and chests. They were small men—about the size of a fourteen-year-old. I had plenty of time to take a good look at the craft and at the people inside it.

"One of them hurriedly loosened his belt and started work on something below the level of the window—it was probably the instrument

panel. His work was soon finished. I waved at them, smiled and tried to give the impression that I was glad to see them and that they were welcome visitors, but they didn't return my friendly gestures. One of them stared at me for a few seconds, but apart from that they took no notice of me.

"Soon the craft started to float away. I followed it up the pavement towards my gate, a distance of about 25 metres. Then it stopped, the light went out, and it disappeared in a flash. We didn't see where it went. I just felt the air pressure when the vacuum left by the craft was filled with air. The machine disappeared like a ghost in the night."

(Signed: Gideon Johansson.)

## 2. Additional information

The above version differs on some points from other versions of this sighting, and a good deal of information is omitted from it. This information is as follows:

### Time and place

There have been some discrepancies about the exact time of the incident. Mr. Rehn in his recently published Swedish book<sup>5</sup> gave the date as October 29, 1960. This is wrong, for when we questioned the witness on this point, he stated that the date published in the *Sökaren* version<sup>4</sup> is the correct one.

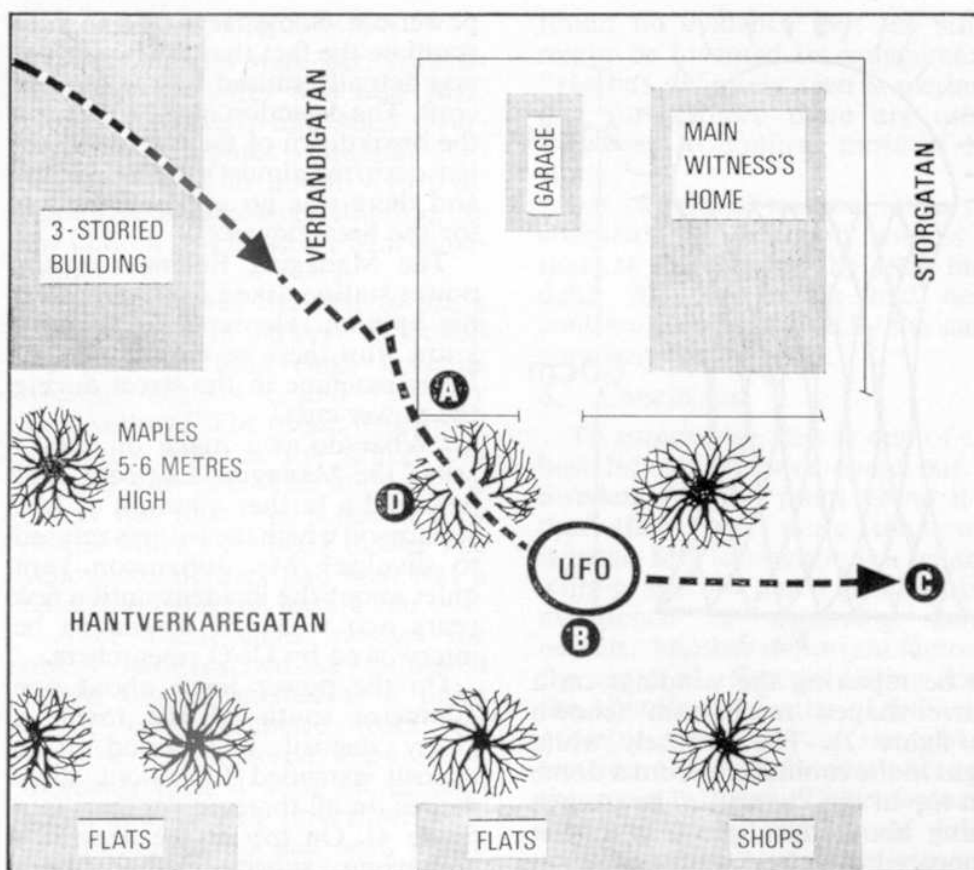
Mariannelund is a small town in Småland (southern Sweden) with 3,200 inhabitants.

### The UFO

The witness said that in his estimation the UFO was 3.5-4 metres long and 2.5 metres high. It was oval-shaped, not round. It was light blue in colour and it appeared to be built of some metal resembling armour-plating—and at least 8 millimetres thick. (The witness is able to describe the metal exactly as a result of his army service.)

The window, or windscreen, was curved and the frame around it was riveted. The rivets were pointed and they looked like sawn-off rifle bullets. (This is an interesting point, for most contactees describe UFOs as smoothly constructed machines without rivets or other protuberances.)

Mr. Johansson thought the UFO looked as if it might have been



### Key to diagram

→ Path of UFO

**A** Place where Mr. Johansson and son Rolf were standing

**B** Landing place; duration about 4 minutes

**C** Place of instant take off/disappearance

**D** Maple tree damaged by UFO

hand-made. "It looked like some of the things we manufactured during the 19th century without welding, etc. The construction seemed to be very simple—except for the wonderful light inside. I can only describe it as being like sunshine on new-fallen snow."

### Entities and telepathic "contact"

(See witness's drawing of the entities, Fig. 1, below.)

"They had big eyes, full of intelligence, with a piercing look. I felt that they were looking right through me, reading my mind. I don't know

how to explain it—but somehow I felt that I knew what had happened to them."

Could it be that Mr. Johansson

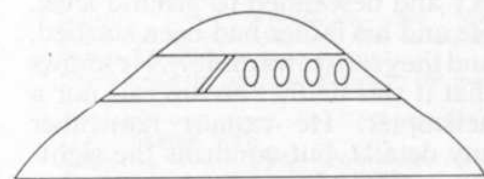


Fig. The Oval-shaped UFO

had a form of telepathic contact with one of the entities? Although he could not actually see into the craft, as it hovered above ground level, he nevertheless seems to have received a mental picture of the interior. These mental impressions may have been conveyed to him by one of the humanoids who kept looking alternately at the interior of the craft and then at the witness.

As a result, Mr. Johansson had a visual impression of what the second entity was doing below the level of the window. He appeared

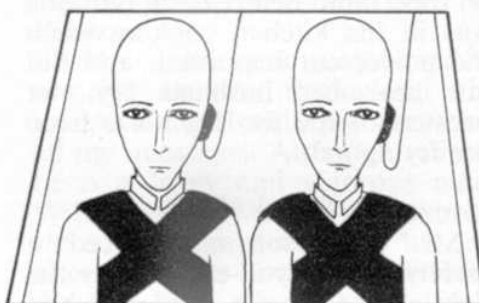


Fig. 1



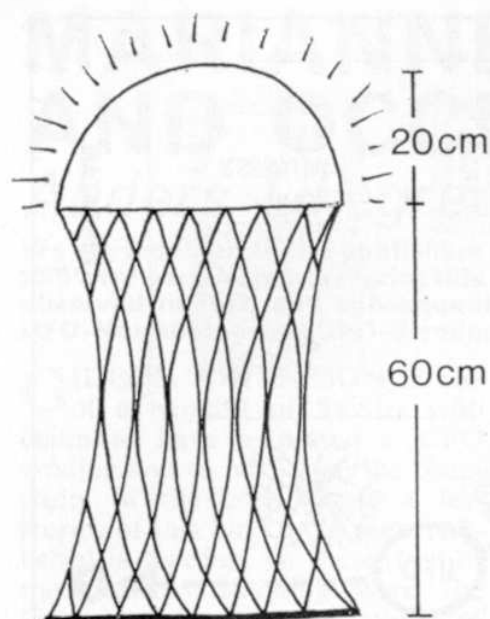


Fig. 3

to be repairing the windings on a barrel-shaped mechanism (shown in figure 3). The intensely white light in the cabin came from a dome on top of the "barrel". The strange thing about this light was that it appeared to extend no farther than approximately one decimetre beyond the window.

#### Other witnesses

The incident was also witnessed by Mr. Johansson's son Rolf. He has stated<sup>4,5</sup> that he does not remember much about the incident. He was young, and he had many other things on his mind at the time. He does remember, however, that a big object came out of the sky and descended to ground level. He and his father had been startled, and they ran (towards it?). He knows that it was neither an aircraft nor a helicopter. He cannot remember any details, but confirms the sighting in general.

There were a few other witnesses in the neighbourhood who also saw the mysterious light near Mr. Johansson's house, and who came to question him about it. The fact that only a few people saw it is explained by the power cut—they were busy indoors looking for candles.

### 3. Effects of environment

There were a number of effects caused by this UFO, all of them typical of other cases.

#### Electro-magnetic effects

The landing occurred during a

power cut. Some facts tend to substantiate the fact that the power cut was actually caused by the strange craft. The detection of the UFO and the breakdown of the electrical system occurred almost simultaneously, and there was no apparent reason for the breakdown.

The Managing Engineer at the power station asked Mr. Johansson his opinion. He replied, "I don't know. But there was some kind of flying machine in the street during the power cut."

"What do you make of that?" asked the Managing Engineer, and he asked a further question of Mr. Johansson which the witness refused to divulge.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Johansson kept quiet about the incident until a few years ago when he agreed to be interviewed by UFO researchers.

On the power lines, about one kilometre south of the town, a glassy deposit was found. This deposit extended for about three metres on all three power lines (see figure 4). On top of the deposit a grey-white substance had been sprinkled.

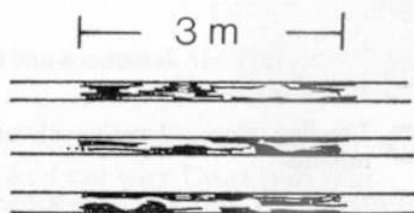


Fig. 4

Mr. Johansson had the impression that the machine was damaged and had landed to effect repairs. It is reasonable to suppose that damage may have been caused to the machine if it had too nearly approached the power lines, or even collided with them, at the place where the glassy deposit was found.

"I believe that radiation from the object caused some kind of a short-circuit," said Mr. Johansson.

His wife heard a crackling sound on their radio before it cut out. She was in the kitchen cooking when the power cut happened, and did not hear her husband cry out because of the sizzling noise from her frying pan.

#### Physiological effects

Mr. Johansson experienced a variety of bodily ill-effects after the sighting. "After the incident I had terrible 'prickling' pains from the

waist downwards. The pains disappeared after a few hours and there was no redness or obvious irritation of the skin," he said.

"I couldn't go to bed after the incident. I just sat at the table, making notes about my experience. Then I remembered having read that people had received serious injuries from incidents of this kind, and I began to fear for my health.

"I didn't feel well. All my glands became swollen and sore, and so did my testicles. I had some difficulty passing water. My body started to swell, and when I bent down my face felt as if it was bursting. My body began to smell like something putrid. I lost my appetite and food was tasteless.

"I went to a doctor and told him what had happened to me. He made some strange comments—and gave me a sedative."

#### Physical effects

Besides leaving a glassy deposit on the power lines, the craft cut the top off a maple tree. Mr. Johansson said, "The following spring, when the maple trees were bursting into leaf, one could see that there was something wrong with this tree. It looked as if it had been injured by frost, and there were no budding leaves. Each year it became worse. I photographed the tree a few times, and when I visited the place for the last time in September, 1969, the tree had been cut down.

"It was odd because none of the other maple trees on both sides of the street, spaced about 20-25 metres apart, were damaged in any way. It seems to me that radiation is dangerous not only to people, but also to vegetation."

### 4. Previous incidents

Mr. Johansson says that he had had four UFO sightings. But apart from the 1959 landing and another sighting he had in 1957, he refuses to discuss details of his observations. He has also had an extraordinary experience which might be classified as a typical "Fortean" phenomenon.

#### Rain of worms in 1945

On May 1, 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Johansson went to visit a family living at Lönnebarga. It was a

beautiful day, the sky was cloudless, there was no wind and it was unusually warm. In the afternoon the two couples sat out on the balcony to have coffee and cake.

As they sat they "heard a sound like falling hail. The surface of the pond was in turmoil. Suddenly, worms were raining on us out of a clear sky. Two of them landed in the cream cake. The shower of worms passed over us and rained down on the other side of the house and on the wood. The area covered with worms measured, as far as we could tell, about 100 metres by 300 metres. There was not a square metre of ground free of worms.

"There was another extraordinary thing. Numbers of birds, such as crows, dived down towards the worms, but as soon as they got close to them, they turned and flew away.

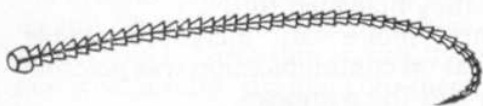


Fig. 5

"Our neighbour let his hens out to have a feast, but they didn't touch a single worm—they refused to go near them.

"I fetched a bottle, filled it with spirit, and put two worms into it. Later I showed it to a teacher of biology, but he couldn't identify the worms. He told me to send them to Stockholm, and I did so—but I never had a reply.

"The worms (see figure 5) were deep frozen, transparent and reddish in colour. Along their length one could see their green intestine. They were about 12 centimetres long, and were composed of conical segments, one fitting into the next.

"The worms soon thawed out, but they were dead. I visited the place two weeks later and the worms were still there—dry carcasses on the ground."

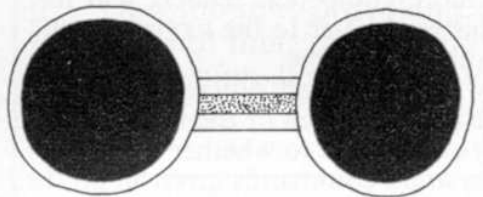


Fig. 6 (above) and 7 (below)



## UFO sighting July 1957

The witnesses were Mr. Johansson and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Nykvist, and their four-year-old daughter Gunilla. On July 10, 1957, at about 9.10 p.m. these five people were standing by the church of Hässelby, Marianne-lund.

The child was the first to see a strange object in the sky. "It looked like two wedding rings fastened together (figures 6 and 7). They were yellow." The object descended vertically towards the group and increased in size. The body of the object was blue, but it had hollow domes which were black inside. The yellow colour they had seen was a reflection from the setting sun.

After about eight minutes the object had reached an estimated height of 800 metres at a point about one kilometre from the witnesses. It hovered there for a moment, then it shot off at high speed in a westerly direction.

Mr. Johansson had seen active service with the Swedish air defence corps during the war. He is therefore trained to assess accurately altitudes, distances and sizes. He estimates that the size of the object was about 50 metres in length. He also estimates that when the group first saw it, it was at an altitude of 30-40,000 metres.

The following day Mr. Johansson read newspaper reports which stated that similar objects were sighted at about the same time at Aneby and Gothenburg (Sweden), over Jylland and Denmark, and over the North Sea.

## 5. Psychologist's report

A professional psychologist, Mr. Ewert Mårtensson, who lives in the same town as Mr. Johansson, visited the witness on June 17, 1969, to assess his character. Afterwards, Mr. Mårtensson wrote a report about the interview to *Sökaren*<sup>6</sup>:

"Mr. Johansson maintained a positive attitude throughout the interview and willingly answered all my questions. Although retired, he is a lively and vigorous man. With good powers of self-expression, he is easy to talk to and appears to be honestly convinced that he has seen a craft from another planet." Mr. Mårtensson

found no evidence that the story might be invented or exaggerated. "He has definitely seen something and furthermore there are other witnesses to confirm most of his story."

An additional testimonial to the character of the main witness is that, at the time of the 1959 incident, Mr. Johansson had been continuously employed by the same company for 39 years.

## 6. Conclusion

To summarise, this is one of the best reports to have come out of Sweden. A good point about it is that there was more than one witness. Mr. Johansson is a reliable witness and has had a good deal of experience of observing aerial objects. Another important factor is the material effects resulting from the landing of the UFO—for example, the power cut, the broken tree-top and the physical effect on the main witness. These features, common to a number of UFO sightings, lend credence to the report that an unidentified flying object did come very close to the ground, and that the crew of the machine were closely observed.

Time may prove Mr. Johansson's story is true, and that this case is another important landmark in UFO investigations.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> The Domsten case has been reported in a number of UFO publications, e.g. *Flying Saucers—The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space*, Lorenzen, Coral E., Signet, 1966, pp. 60-64.
- <sup>2</sup> Schalin, Sven: *Rymdbesök—eller vad?* published by the Sökaren. Also in *APRO Bulletin*, September/October 1967.
- <sup>3</sup> Notes about the sightings loaned by the main witness.
- <sup>4</sup> Witness's own story, *En UFO-observation 1959*, Sökaren, 5/69.
- <sup>5</sup> Rehn, K. Gösta: *UFO!—Nya fakta om de flygande tefaten*, Zindermans, 1969.
- <sup>6</sup> Mårtensson, Ewert: *Gideon Johansson trovärdig*, Sökaren, 9/69.



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