



THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 1948: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

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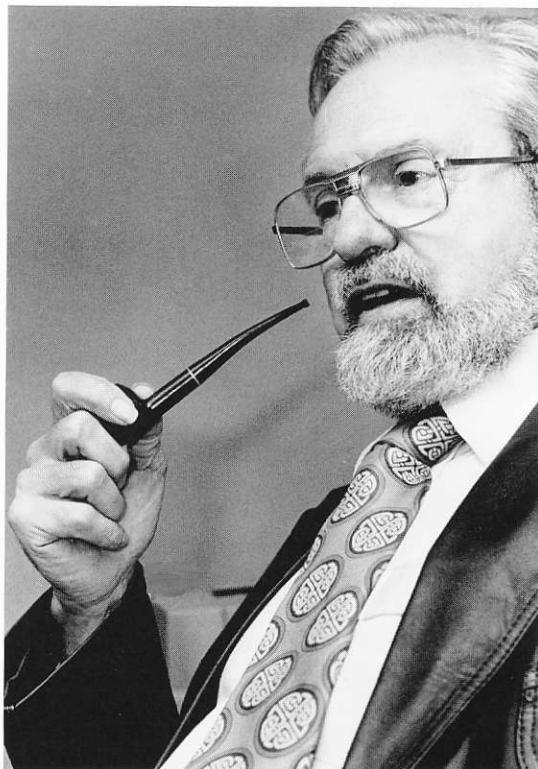
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NEW FINDINGS ON THE LUBBOCK LIGHTS

BY DONALD R. BURLESON

On the evening of August 25, 1951, a wing-like formation of at least 18 bluish objects passed over Lubbock, Texas, crossing the night sky in only a few seconds. Four professors from Texas Tech University observed the objects and notified the editorial staff of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, meeting at first with skepticism. The mysterious objects reappeared later that night and on subsequent nights to the professors and other witnesses.

Then, late on the evening of August 31 at about 11:30 p.m., Carl Hart Jr., a Texas Tech freshman, saw a V-formation of 18–20 white lights pass by his upstairs bedroom window. He got his 35mm Kodak camera and rushed out into the backyard of his parents' home. The lights passed over two more times in the next few minutes, and he took five photos of the objects. In one of these photos there is very little camera movement so the lights are captured with admirable clarity.

Four of the photos now exist, while the fifth was apparently lost early on. Air Force investigators would later declare that the Lubbock objects were birds, specifically ducks, reflecting street lights; still later Donald Menzel claimed that the objects were reflections of street lights on clouds. (I have several new Lubbock Lights witnesses—see Chapter 7 of my *The Golden Age of UFOs*—one of whom saw the objects in the country where there were no city lights; all my witnesses were adamant on the point that the Lubbock objects were not birds of any imaginable kind.)

In the field of UFO studies, the now famous Lubbock Lights sightings stand out as a remarkably well-attested case for at least two reasons: There were multiple witnesses (some of whom had graduate degrees and were critical observers), and there is photographic evidence in the form of the Carl Hart photos. It is still possible to learn a great deal from the witness accounts and the photos.

The four Texas Tech professors who first reported the objects were well-accustomed to careful and detailed ob-

servation; their respective fields of expertise were petroleum engineering (William Lyon Ducker), chemical engineering (A. G. Oberg), physics (E. F. George), and geology (W. I. Robinson). True to their scientific and engineering training, when they saw the wing formation of bluish lights, they faithfully recorded what amounts to an angular velocity of 30° of arc per second by noting that the objects, passing overhead, moved from 45° above the north horizon to 45° above the south horizon in roughly three seconds. This observation is nicely (and quite independently) corroborated by the Edward Ruppelt interviews with photographer Carl Hart Jr., who said that the objects traversed 120° of arc in about 4 seconds, for an angular velocity again of 30° per second. (However, it is true that the professors saw the object on a different night than Hart did; see Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Ace Books, 1956, p. 136.)

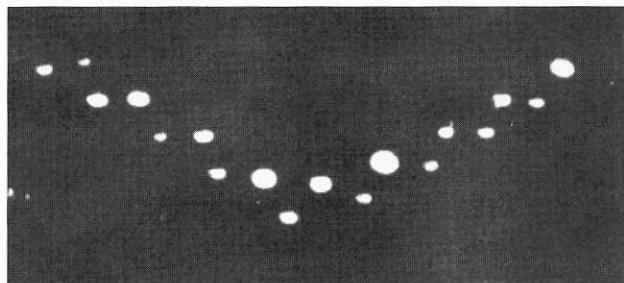


Fig. 1. The Lubbock Lights.

Let us consider the series of Hart photos, one image of which is shown in Figure 1. (Standard high-quality scans of the Lubbock Lights photos can be downloaded from a number of reputable Web sites. I have used high-resolution scans that take well to “zooming in” without the image breakup characteristic of lesser-quality scans.)

After Air Force investigators interviewed the young photographer in Lubbock beginning in September 1951, the photo images were examined by analysts at the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. ATIC's own findings are useful here. (For an account of the center's work, see Brad Steiger, ed., *Project Blue Book: The Top Secret UFO Findings Revealed*, Ballantine Books, 1976, pp. 99–100.) It determined that the image size (of the whole wing formation of

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18 objects) was 0.12 inches across on the negative, and that from the camera's focal length of 2 inches, the ratio $0.12'' / 2''$ yielded an angular size of 0.06 radians (roughly 3.4°) for the whole group of 18 objects in the sky (in comparison, the moon subtends 0.5°). ATIC further concluded, in effect, that for every mile (5,280 feet) that the lights were distant from the camera, the size of the wing would have been $0.06 \times 5,280 = 316.8$ feet. (ATIC actually said 310 ± 30 feet.)

This only establishes a *relation* between size and distance from the camera. For example, if the objects had been two miles from the camera, the wing would have been twice as far across, or about 630 feet. But we can do better than that, with some added information.

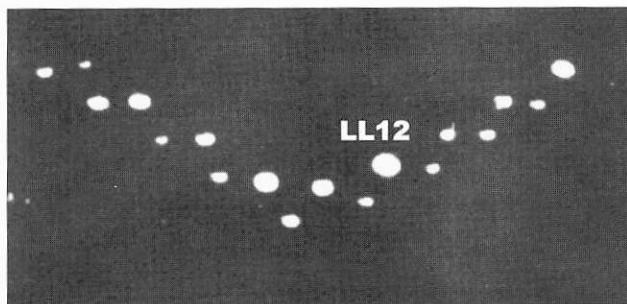


Fig. 2.

I have set up a numbering system for the 18 objects shown in Figure 1, calling them LL01, LL02, etc., through LL18 from left to right in the figure. And I have found it productive to concentrate on object LL12 for most of my computer image-enhancement work, as there are micro-differences in sharpness of focus, with LL12 (Figure 2) being one of the clearer object-images. Over a period of two years I have gradually been able to bring the underbelly structure of LL12 into view. (See Figure 3.) The remarkable discovery here is that the underside is cellular, with hexagonal features like the cells of a beehive. Similar structures can be seen on the other objects in the group, but it is clearest for LL12.

I have used a wide range of image-enhancement software, starting with the old Microsoft PhotoEditor, export-

ing and importing images between that program and others including Photo Finish, Adobe Photoshop, Graphics Workshop, and MGI PhotoSuite, and finishing with the superb state-of-the-art program Lucis, a product of Image Content Technology. In any such undertaking, of course, one must be exceedingly cautious not to alter an image in any fundamental way—for example, one should not do anything to change the *shape* of the object in the image. The best approach is to ease the image through very small and gradual enhancements that clarify its detail.

Basically, using the combinations of programs mentioned, with Lucis performing the final operations, I have adjusted gamma, contrast, and brightness, and have slowly sharpened and delineated the edges in the image of LL12, ultimately using the Lucis software's "double cursor" algorithm to simultaneously detail-enhance and smooth the image until the underside of LL12 was visible, with its beehive, hexagonal, cellular structure.

The significant thing about this underbelly structure, for at least one of the objects seen and photographed over Lubbock, Texas, in August 1951, is that a Roswell crash debris witness has described the same structure on the underside of what may well be the crashed Roswell object of 1947. When I interviewed George Newling on May 12, 2001 (following up on an interview by Don Schmitt) and handed him a printout of the beehive LL12 image, without telling him how or where I had gotten it, he said, "This is what I saw in the bomb bay." He was a ground maintenance crew member in Roswell in 1947 and had glimpsed a large, metallic-gray object propped up or wedged in the bomb bay of a B-29; afterwards he was immediately escorted away from the plane by MPs with machine guns. From Newling's testimony, it would appear that the Lubbock objects and the Roswell UFO were quite similar.

Newling describes the peculiar object in Roswell as being tightly fitted into the B-29 bomb bay, and as that bomb bay is known to have been 9.5 feet across at its widest point, it follows that the object (assuming that what Newling saw was the *whole* object) was about 9.5 feet across. As a working hypothesis, I will assume for the moment, then, that each of the Lubbock Lights, if essentially the same kind of object, was about 9.5 feet across.

In an enlargement of the wing formation in Figure 2, one may note that the LL12 image is $1/18$ of the angular size of the whole formation, though not because there are 18 objects (this is a coincidence, as the objects have space between them and are not linearly arranged), for an LL12 angular size of $(1/18) \times 0.06 = 1/300$ of a radian. Also, the distance across the wing would then be $18 \times 9.5 = 171$ feet. Recall that ATIC's analysis noted that the lights would span about 317 feet if one mile from the camera. If the lights actually spanned less than that distance, then they must have been closer to form the same image size on the negative. Since one may multiply angular size by distance d to obtain an approximation of the object's actual size, and since the size of LL12 would hypothetically seem to be

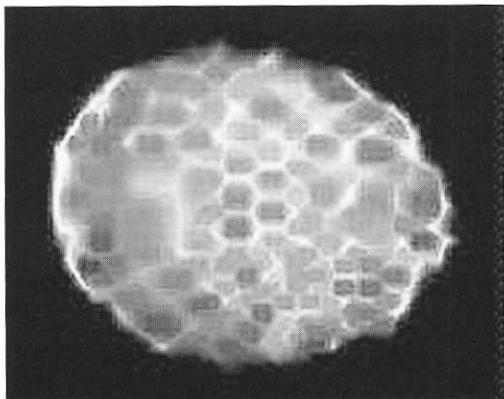


Fig. 3. Object LL12, enlarged.

about 9.5 feet, we have $(1/300) \times d = 9.5$, or distance from camera is approximately $d = 300 \times 9.5 = 2,850$ feet.

Then by doing a little further computation under the current assumptions, we may approximate the air speed. I've provided a diagram in Figure 4 to illustrate the calculations. If we let h denote half the distance flown in three seconds in the Texas Tech professors' sighting, and let A be the angle subtended from first sighting to loss from view (i.e., $A = 90^\circ$), we have $h/d = \tan(A/2) = \tan(45^\circ) = 1$, so that $h = d = 2,850$, and the whole distance flown in 3 seconds is about $2 \times 2,850 = 5,700$ feet, for an air speed of $5,700/3 = 1,900$ feet per second or $(1,900 \text{ ft/sec} \times 3,600 \text{ sec/hr}) / 5,280 \text{ ft/mile}$, or approximately 1,300 miles per hour. This is nearly twice the top speed for conventional aircraft of that time.

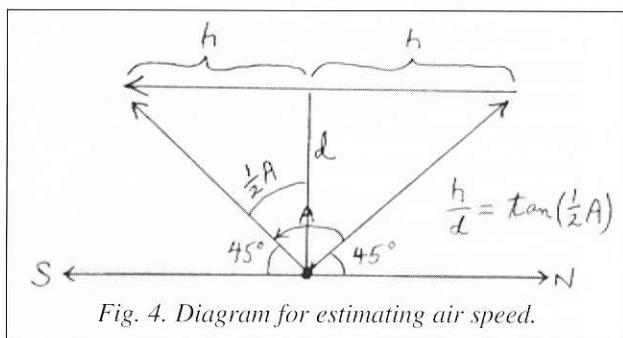


Fig. 4. Diagram for estimating air speed.

The duck explanation for the Lubbock Lights appears to be in a bit of trouble at these speeds, unless the Lubbock ducks were shot out of a cannon.

An enlargement of the cellular-bottom enhancement of LL12 shows that the object itself is about 9 times as long as an individual hex cell, and for an LL12 length of 9.5 feet, this makes each beehive-cell about 1.06 feet across. It is certainly natural to wonder whether Carl Hart's camera (a Kodak 35, with a 2-inch or 50mm lens, using 1/10-second shutter speed with a f3.5 setting) had the power to resolve a surface feature of this size at the distance computed. In considering this question, I consulted with Bruce Maccabee, easily the highest authority in the field of optics as it relates to UFO studies. He indicated that the camera could be expected to resolve images of 20 microns or more at the film plane, which for the given lens depth would translate into an angular size of 0.00040 radians. This in turn translates into the camera's resolving an image one foot across at a distance of 2,500 feet. Maccabee said that if the surface feature (one hex cell) were much less than one foot across at that distance, there could be difficulties of resolution. As I have approximated the cell width as slightly more than one foot, at only a slightly greater distance than 2,500 feet, I conclude that while the image-resolution requirements of the current problem are at the edge of the camera's capability, the appearance of the hexagonal cellular structure under the circumstances described is reasonably consistent with the resolving power of the camera.

The important thing here is that the hexagonal cells have appeared after image manipulation and (as Maccabee

noted) are well resolved. Even though my interview with George Newling strongly suggests that the Roswell object and the Lubbock objects were similar, perhaps even identical, in design, the logical possibility remains that the two objects still could be of different sizes. It is also possible that the object that Newling glimpsed was only part of the original craft. Thus it is conceivable that the individual Lubbock discs are (say) larger than 9.5 feet, in which case (the angular size at the film plane being fixed) the distance has to be greater than 2,850 feet; or that the distance is less than 2,850 feet, in which case the object size would be smaller.

In other words, there is a direct relationship between the distance and size of the formation (and object LL12) since we know the details of the camera used to take the photos. Although distance and size are both unknown (I am using Newling's testimony to estimate the size of LL12 and then to calculate the distance), one can entertain various other scenarios based on any arbitrary hypothetical disc size. For example, a disc 12 feet long would have hex cells 1.33 feet across, would be 3,600 feet from the camera, and would have an air speed (again based on witness accounts of angular speed) of about 1,640 miles per hour. Likewise, a disc 15 feet long would have hex cells 1.67 feet across, would be 4,500 feet from the camera, and would have air speed of 2,040 miles per hour, all proportional to assumed disc size.

In all these scenarios, however, the angular disc size and angular hex-cell size would be the same, being a function of image size and lens focal distance. That is, the size of the images on the negative is fixed. Thus the angular size of the wing formation is (according to ATIC) 0.06 radians, so that the angular size of LL12 would be $(1/18) \times 0.06$ and the angular size of a cell would be $(1/9) \times (1/18) \times 0.06 = 0.00037$ radians, no matter the distance to LL12 or its physical size. The angular size of a cell is not significantly different from the necessary 0.00040 radians, so that whatever the actual disk size (and I suspect it is close to the 9.5 feet indicated by the Roswell bomb-bay width), the resolution of a cell remains just within the capability of the camera. It should be noted that we are working here with approximate figures, because the original angular speed observations, though consistent, must be regarded as approximate, as are the ATIC image size figures; after all, a "two inch" lens and a "50 mm" lens are generally regarded as the same, though two inches is in fact closer to 50.8 mm. Nevertheless, the cellular beehive structure is so well resolved in the enhancements that it is clearly a physically real feature not outside the range of possible optics.

Indeed the "beehive" is a remarkable UFO underbelly feature, about whose purpose we can only speculate. Perhaps these cells convert atmospheric gases, or even photons, directly into propulsive energy. In any event, the case seems strong that the Lubbock Lights were highly uncommon objects, and a defensible alternative to declaring them extraterrestrial would be hard to find. ♦

THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

BY MICHAEL HALL

WITH SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FROM WENDY CONNORS

When the Air Force was investigating UFOs, it intimated there was nothing substantial to any of the reports. This attitude became very familiar to those who lived through that era. Another governmental group may have initiated this policy, however. Alfred Loedding of Project Sign, the earliest Air Force UFO study, alluded to the Research and Development Board (R&DB) as the culprit.

By 1947, the R&DB was an elite group composed of top civilian scientists who advised the president and military chiefs of staff on matters pertaining to national security. Soon they were given the exclusive authority to curb duplication in military research and development among the different services. At the dawn of that brave new age of atomic weapons and sleek jet aircraft, military-related R&D accounted for four cents out of every tax dollar. The board had oversight of those funds for research and funding proposals. So it goes without saying that the R&DB subsequently stepped on some toes as the three services competed for budget appropriations in the lean postwar years.

Alfred Loedding was among those disgruntled figures. He was often heard in those days mumbling the phrase, "tough sledding, no snow." Loedding characterized their "flying disc" investigation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, as having a tough road from the very beginning. On January 31, 1948, an article ran in the Pendleton *East Oregonian* that exemplified the official attitude that Loedding's own Intelligence group faced. It was titled, "Flying Disc Book Declared Closed."



Alfred Loedding

Michael Hall has worked as the executive director of the Montgomery County (Indiana) Historical Society since 1987 and is a graduate of Western Illinois University. Wendy Connors, a retired teacher, is the director of the Project Sign Research Center and is a graduate of the University of Iowa.

Washington—Remember the flying saucers?

Last July [1947] the entire United States was talking about the bewildering phenomenon of the celestial crockery. Dozens of people in 44 states, Canada, Mexico, England, Australia and South Africa solemnly testify that they saw the discs whizzing through the sky.

Military and Government scientific authorities Sunday said that they still have no positive explanation for the flying saucers. . . . *The Joint Research and Development Board*, the Government's top scientific body, advanced a number of theories informally . . . A spokesman said the board experts dismiss the flying saucers as a mirage induced by mass self-hypnosis. . . . Theorizing further, the experts contend that it is possible the flying discs were either a form of natural electricity, the sun mirrored in the clouds, reflections of passing airplanes or flashes of light from the silver weather kites sent aloft all over the country by Army Air Forces. . . .

The only problem was that the Air Force's book on the subject had just been opened, as Project Sign had been officially organized on December 30, 1947. So why the skeptical comments from the Board?

The R&DB may have had reasons for downplaying the subject, reasons related to secrets that had to be protected. Thus, they might have generated the first disinformation campaign that was not only aimed at the public but the lower echelons of the military as well. They would have justified this in the interests of national security. Could they have had such secrets about the saucers?

Two consultants working for that group did go on record, years later, stating that the R&DB was intimately involved with UFOs and classified secrets. One of these men, Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher, told Canadian scientist Wilbur B. Smith back in 1950 that the subject of UFOs was classified so high that it was above that of the hydrogen bomb.

Certainly if there ever was a serious consideration of



Robert Sarbacher

UFOs, it could have taken place in research and development circles. On the other hand, Air Force Intelligence—Projects Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book—which was stuck with a resulting 21-year investigation into the sightings, may never have been privy to any upper-level information. Of course, this assumes that there had been tangible evidence for high levels of government to consider. I cannot enter that debate. I can, however, take the position that the R&DB could have been the group to conduct a serious management of the subject of unidentified flying objects.

Leading ufologists are now recognizing the need to probe higher levels of government besides the Air Force. Perhaps the R&DB is that next level. Little study has been done on this group, a situation which I attempt to remedy in this article.

THE HISTORY OF THE R&DB

Many historical threads led to the creation of the R&DB, which was formed in 1946 and dissolved in 1953. They



Vannevar Bush

trace back to the Second World War and focus on one man, Vannevar Bush, director of President Roosevelt's World War II-era administrative Office of Scientific Research and Development. As its director, Bush coordinated the activities of some 6,000 leading American scientists in the application of science to warfare. His influence was not only far-reaching with the president but Congress as well.

He played just as vital a role in the postwar era. In a July 1945 report titled *Science, the Endless Frontier*, Bush proposed that military research should be under civilian control and that the armed forces should *only* engage in research “on the improvement of existing weapons.” Of course, by “civilian control” the rather egotistical Bush meant under the guidance of leading government-sponsored scientists like himself.

This view was in direct opposition to that of Gen. H. H. “Hap” Arnold of the Army Air Force and his scientific advisor Theodore von Kármán of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at Caltech. Von Kármán and Arnold were advocates of a strong military-based research program—subsequently



Wilbur B. Smith

outlined by von Kármán in December 1945 in a report titled *Toward New Horizons*.

In contrast, Bush’s group took shape as the leading civilian scientific advisory council to the Truman administration and its newly developing Defense Department. In 1945 and early 1946 it was headed by Bush as the Joint New Weapons Committee. But it was the reality of a growing Cold War that gave Bush’s board a new name and soon thereafter tremendous power.

The Cold War had begun to heat up as early as 1946. In fact, on March 5 of that year, while responding to an invitation from President Truman to speak in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill brought the phrase “Iron Curtain” into use again. At different times in history both Kaiser Wilhelm II and Joseph Goebbels had used that metaphor, warning of a growing threat from Russia. But this time history proved Churchill right.

Churchill had the same premonition about the Soviets that he had about the Nazis a decade earlier. He was in 1946 watching his beloved Britain implement bread rationing in order to export enough grain to keep food riots from erupting in Allied-occupied Germany. That was a hardship English citizens had not even had to endure during the darkest days of the war. Subsequent pressure on Parliament led Britain to abandon efforts to check Communist expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. President Truman felt America had to fill that vacuum.

To drum up Congressional support for aid to Greece and Turkey as well as aid to Europe, the Truman administration intentionally exploited public anxiety. The battleship *Missouri* sailed to the Mediterranean in April 1946, and intelligence operations were conducted out of the State Department with former OSS agents to check the Communists in the Italian elections. As the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan were on the drawing board, real fears over a blockade of Berlin were already in the news.

Against this backdrop, the Joint Research and Development Board officially came into being on July 3, 1946. In actuality, the JR&DB was simply Bush’s existing cadre of brain trust from the still active Office of Scientific Research and the postwar Joint New Weapons Committee. Added to this were other reconstituted R&D committees and advisers like Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Berkner was often quoted as saying “a research and development organization, independent of direct mili-



Theodore von Kármán



Gen. Hap Arnold



Lloyd V. Berkner

tary control, is needed to exploit new ideas.” Bush, who was then president of the Carnegie Institution, agreed.

The original founding members were physicist Alfred L. Loomis, biologist Caryl P. Haskins, physicist Luis W. Alvarez, physicist William B. Shockley of Bell Laboratories, and George F. Doriot of the Harvard Business Administration School. Two military representatives each from the Army, Navy, and Air Force completed the board’s membership. Counting Bush, this made a board of 12 original members. (Alvarez is of note here to UFO historians because he later served on the CIA-sponsored Robertson panel in January of 1953. The panel’s report may have initiated an organized debunking campaign whose legacy continues to discourage serious scrutiny of the phenomenon by mainstream historians, scientists, and the news media.)

The National Security Act of July 26, 1947, then gave the teeth to Bush’s organization. After that point the JR&DB became the R&D brain center with heretofore unheard of authority in making the final decisions in matters pertaining to the coordination of all military R&D. Sidney Shalett

wrote in a *New York Times* article that this group of civilian scientists was also “performing the unusual function of counseling the Army and Navy on strategic decisions.” Once a year the board was expected to submit “a new master plan for military research” to Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal. There was also discussion at the time of Bush’s group being the forerunner of a National Science Foundation.

On August 24, 1947, the name of the JR&DB was changed to simply “Research and Development Board.” The first Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington, as former Secretary of War for Air valued highly the input from Bush’s leading scientists. Once he sat on the National Security Council as Secretary of the Air Force, the charismatic Symington had great influence over President Truman, a fellow Missourian. His friendship with Truman gave him leverage over Forrestal, who was always a Navy man at heart. Symington and Truman often relied on the R&DB for consultation on important policy-making decisions. This, however, was also true of the powerful Forrestal who in those years served as a de facto chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon—a position not officially created until late 1949.



James V. Forrestal



W. Stuart Symington

Obviously, the power of the R&DB fell in opposition to what von Kármán and military men like Gen. Arnold would have envisioned. So although the Air Force had just become an autonomous service, their own R&D projects were answerable to an even higher authority. The same was also true of the more venerable Army and Navy when it came to research and development and the related intelligence work that supported it. In September 1949, Forrestal issued a directive increasing the authority of the R&DB still further over that of military R&D interests. This caused great alarm among some of the lower echelons of the military defense establishment.

The R&DB operated through committees. Initially there were only 12 committees but they grew to include Aeronautics, Armaments, Atmospheric Anomalies (such as ball lightning), Atomic Energy, Basic Physical Sciences, Biological and Chemical Warfare, Electronics (initially headed by Donald A. Quarles), Geographical Exploration, Geophysical Sciences, Guided Missiles, Human Resources, Medical Sciences, Navigation, Ordnance, and in February 1951 a Metallurgical Advisory Committee was organized. Many of these first committees of the R&DB had been formed from assorted civilian advisory councils that were superseded by the board. All of the committees had their own subpanels which basically served as sounding boards with no budget of their own. Each panel contained “working groups.” For example, Electronics had among its subcommittees a radar panel headed by Ivan A. Getting, who oversaw separate working groups. Electronics at one point consisted of 64 panels (all with their own working groups) staffed by 203 civilian employees and 677 military personnel.

Some committees were extremely powerful. After the National Security Act of 1947, the Defense Department assigned responsibility for all space-related activities to the Guided Missile Committee, an entity jointly run by the Army and Navy, but not initially including the Air Force. In 1951, the R&DB organized a committee to supervise the production of the H-bomb. By 1953, ordnance research being conducted by the National Bureau of Standards was transferred along with 4,800 technicians to the extensive R&D framework of the Defense Department, which also absorbed all the R&DB’s committees in that year.

The R&DB had a military-based support staff in the Pentagon headed by a full-time civilian executive secretary. That was really how the R&DB functioned on a day-to-day basis. Basically it seems Bush and his group met in person infrequently. When they did so, they had to fly in from all over the country as none of the members worked on the project as a full-time commitment. This also caused a great deal of media attention simply because the members



Ivan A. Getting

of the board were so prominent. In fact, their names were such that when one of them even appeared at a public function, it became subject matter for the prestigious *New York Times*. A 1951 article by Hanson W. Baldwin described the R&DB as an “organization of committees with numerous panels and joint panels . . . compared to a can of angle worms, and most of its part-time scientific personnel, experienced in their field, have found it impossible, meeting just once a month, to keep in touch with all the innumerable details.” Baldwin later wrote that “it has been a storm center of service interest—for here the competing services jockeyed for position and for control of pet research projects.”

Bush’s close friend and fellow Carnegie faculty patron, Lloyd Berkner, devoted a great deal of time as executive secretary, being the de facto director and administrator of the R&DB. He chaired the committee whose study led to the establishment of the R&DB’s Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, which was later headed by Dr. Howard (Bob) Percy Robertson as a separate Defense Department office. It was Robertson who chaired the infamous 1953 Robertson panel. Berkner subsequently served on that panel along with the previously noted Luis Alvarez. (It is also interesting to note that Alvarez and Berkner—who both had been associated with the 1952 MIT Project Lincoln group that strongly urged better air defense—seemed to be the most well-informed participants at the rather superficial Robertson panel discussion on UFOs.)

Bush remained the R&DB chairman until passing the job onto physicist Karl T. Compton of MIT in October 1948. (Although Bush held no official position on the R&DB after 1948, he continued to serve as a spokesman for the board as late as 1950.) Compton, who had a major role in the development of the atomic bomb and radar during World War II, was chairman for only about a year.

On November 3, 1949, he resigned as chairman around the same time that Lawrence R. Hafstad succeeded Berkner as executive secretary. Compton stated in a letter to President Truman that his health prevented any further service. At the same time, however, he publicly expressed frustration over the “checks and counter-checks that the size and security imposed on scientific work in the defense establishment.” Compton stated to *New York Times* reporter Felix Belair that this “discouraged competent research personnel from entering careers under such auspices, except as they are motivated by patriotism or by enthusiasm from particular professional opportunity.” Despite Compton’s alleged ill health, he then eagerly went on to serve as chairman of President Truman’s Advisory Commission on Universal Training.

The R&DB’s substructure was slowly becoming an

unwieldy monster which would eventually evolve into the huge bureaucracy of the Defense Department’s modern-day R&D task master. By 1949, the R&DB indirectly administered tremendous amounts of tax dollars earmarked for military research.

History shows the R&DB was certainly an important resource for the president. They were the group Truman used in late 1949 (after Russia had tested an atomic bomb in August) to decide if Los Alamos should go ahead and try to build a test hydrogen bomb, then known as the “super.”

However, the R&DB was primarily a creature of the Truman administration. In June 1953, Department of Defense Under Secretary Charles E. Wilson abolished the R&DB for the politically motivated reason that suspected communist sympathizer Robert Oppenheimer was a sitting member. In other words, it was apparently easier to disband the entire board than fire Oppenheimer.



Charles E. Wilson

The working subcommittees of the R&DB simply merged into the Defense Department’s superstructure as its functions were absorbed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Development, then Donald Quarles. In a broader sense, the board itself actually became obsolete as the size of its committees grew.

The real power behind the R&DB, Vannevar Bush, remained an important government consultant. Bush became a key member of the Board of National Estimates which often met at the Princeton University Gun Club. The Board of National Estimates served at the invitation of the Office of National Estimates which later became a directorate of the CIA.



Karl T. Compton

THE R&DB AND UFOs

This organizational history is background to the story of the R&DB and UFOs. We have seen that the board made early skeptical statements about UFOs. As chairman, Vannevar Bush had a major influence on the R&DB’s policies, and that may be one explanation for why the R&DB was so publicly skeptical of UFOs. In other words, it could have been Bush who was honestly doubtful. Bush was simply not a man prone to get overly enthusiastic about esoteric subjects. For example, during the war he was initially skeptical about the potential success of the Manhattan Project. After the war, Bush downplayed Wernher von Braun’s dramatic development of rockets and the potential of this device to revolutionize warfare and other matters. That may be hard to believe of such a learned man of science, but this is what he said before the Special Senate Committee on Atomic Energy in December 1945:

Let me say this. There has been a great deal said about

a 3,000-mile high angle rocket. In my opinion, such a thing is impossible and will be impossible for many years. The people who are writing these things that annoy me have been talking about a 3,000-mile high angle rocket shot from one continent to another carrying an atomic bomb, and so directed as to be a precise weapon which would land on a certain target such as this city. I say, technically, I don't think anybody in the world knows how to do such a thing and I feel confident it will not be done for a very long time to come. I think we can leave that out of our thinking. I wish the American public would leave it out of their thinking.

The board did take a continuing interest in UFOs, however. Evidence for this comes from several sources. For example, correspondence from Project Sign and Grudge was filed with the R&DB, which also lent its expertise as needed. One such example is found in minutes forwarded to Project Grudge detailing the first meeting held on the green fireball sightings at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory on February 18, 1949. Meteor expert Lincoln LaPaz is quoted as saying (in regard to the green fireballs) a "Dr. [H. E.] Landsberg of [the Geophysics and Geography Committee of] the Research and Development Board very kindly interested himself in the problem and the air searches resulted not even in the discovery of a broken branch."

An earlier document dated January 7, 1949, is found in the files of Wright-Patterson AFB. It is typed on the official stationery of the R&DB and is a rather routine-looking memorandum to Air Force Intelligence Headquarters, again dealing with the fireball phenomenon so prevalent at that time in the southwest. This copy was apparently later forwarded to Project Grudge personnel for their own files. An intriguing note in the document is a reference to the fact that the R&DB had its own Technical Intelligence Branch. The document is signed by David Z. Beckley, Chief, Technical Intelligence Branch of the R&DB.

The paper trail goes on. Project Sign and Grudge adviser George E. Valley from the Nuclear Physics Laboratory at MIT makes mention of the R&DB in a memo but seems unsure of its role in the UFO subject. He suggests that the R&DB had an office at WPAFB, in Dayton, Ohio, but all research to date shows the group to be based only in the Pentagon. However, a follow-up letter sent to Valley on November 29, 1948, from Project Sign, states that a listing of



Lincoln LaPaz

the first 100 saucer sightings in their files was sent to the R&DB at "Hq. Air Materiel Command for overall study and comment on all phases of present and future concern to national security."

On May 19, 1949, Air Materiel Intelligence Commander at WPAFB, Col. Howard M. McCoy, forwarded a copy of the Project Sign final report to the R&DB along with some appendices which later found their way into the Grudge final report. A Col. R. H. Curtis is listed in that correspondence as the contact person at the R&DB's "committee on guided missiles." That was the committee Robert Sarbacher consulted on.

THE R&DB—SHADOWS OF ROSWELL?

At the beginning of this article I raised the question of whether the R&DB could have been involved in more secret studies of UFOs, possibly including debris recovered from UFO crashes. To consider this, we can turn to testimony from Harvard professor of physics and communications engineering Robert I. Sarbacher. He is now well known in ufological literature as the man who passed information about the secret American knowledge of UFOs to Canadian scientist Wilbur B. Smith through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington in 1950. Smith was then interested in forming a Canadian investigation into UFOs as a logical spinoff of his existing research into electromagnetic radio-wave research. He summarized the information gained from Sarbacher in a November 21, 1950, "Memorandum to the Controller of Telecommunications."

This memorandum has come under some dispute, but the statements presented in it were authenticated by Sarbacher himself before his death in 1986. The memo states that "flying saucers exist" and that they are a highly classified subject—even higher than the H-bomb:

November 21, 1950

MEMORANDUM TO THE CONTROLLER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

... We believe that we are on the track of something which may well prove to be the introduction to a new technology. The existence of a different technology is borne out by the investigations which are being carried on at the present time in relation to flying saucers. I made discreet inquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

- a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
- b. Flying saucers exist.
- c. Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush. [The R&DB?]
- d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance. . . I



George E. Valley

feel that the correlation between our basic theory and the available information on saucers checks too closely to be mere coincidence. . .

W.B. Smith
Senior Radio Engineer

In a 1983 interview of Sarbacher by UFO researcher Stanton Friedman and later interviews by physicist Bruce Maccabee and other serious researchers, Sarbacher gave repeated confirmation. He stated that it was a group within the R&DB that not only took an interest in the subject of UFOs but who also handled any related tangible evidence.

On November 29, 1983, Sarbacher detailed what he could remember about the subject to researcher William Steinman:

Dear Mr. Steinman:

I am sorry I have taken so long in answering your letters. . . .

1. Relating to my own experience regarding recovered flying saucers, I had no association with any of the people involved in the recovery and have no knowledge regarding the dates of the recoveries. If I had I would send it to you.

2. Regarding verification that persons you list were involved, I can say only this: John von Neumann was definitely involved. Dr. Vannevar Bush was definitely involved, and I think Dr. Robert Oppenheimer also.

My association with the Research and Development Board under Doctor Compton during the Eisenhower administration was rather limited so that although I had been invited to participate in several discussions associated with the reported recoveries, I could not personally attend the meetings. I am sure that they would have asked Dr. von Braun and the others that you listed were probably asked and may or may not have attended. This is all I know for sure.

3. I did receive some official reports when I was in my office at the Pentagon but all of these were left there as at the time we were never supposed to take them out of the office.

4. I do not recall receiving any photographs such as you request so I am not in a position to answer.

5. I have to make the same reply as on No. 4.

I recall the interview with Dr. Brenner of the Canadian Embassy. [Smith apparently got his information from Brenner via Brenner's association with the embassy] I think the answers I gave him were the ones you listed. Naturally, I was more familiar with the subject matter under discussion, at that time. Actually I would have been able to give more specific answers had I attended the meetings concerning the subject. . . .

About the only thing I remember at this time is that certain materials reported to have come from flying saucer crashes were extremely light and very tough. I am sure our laboratories analyzed them very carefully.

There were reports that instruments or people oper-

ating these machines were also of very light weight, sufficient to withstand the tremendous deceleration and acceleration associated with their machinery. I remember in talking with some of the people at the office that I got the impression these "aliens" were constructed like certain insects we have observed on earth, wherein because of the low mass the inertial forces involved in operation of these instruments would be quite low.

I still do not know why the high order of classification has been given and why the denial of the existence of these devices. . . .

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher

Further clues can be gleaned from Eric Arthur Walker, who became executive secretary of the R&DB in August 1950. Walker was a specialist in underwater acoustics, first at Harvard and then at Penn State. Ufologists Grant Cameron and T. Scott Crain Jr. interviewed Walker for their book *UFOs, MJ-12 and the Government: A Report on Government Involvement in UFO Crash Retrievals*. They reported that he branded the famous MJ-12 papers a fake, but did say that there was a group by that name formed in 1947. As with Sarbacher, the story expands from there. Walker admitted (also to researcher William Steinman) attending meetings at WPAFB concerning "recovered UFOs." He claimed that they had even recovered bodies but seemed to downplay the significance of any useful information gained.

One might ask why Walker did not comment on all this when he published his memoirs titled *Now It's My Turn: Engineering My Way* (New York: Vantage, 1989). Maybe the stories about his work with the U.S. Navy on the homing torpedo during World War II, his presidency of Penn State University, or his tenure as chair of the National Science Foundation Board were more important to him. Or, more likely, UFO information about recovered objects would still be highly classified today.

Sarbacher's story cannot be positively verified. Crain told me that he had spoken with the executive director of the R&DB's Guided Missile Committee, Fred A. Darwin. Darwin told Crain that "the R&DB took a rather dim view of UFOs." He also stated that although Sarbacher was an exceptionally gifted man, to his regret, Sarbacher was not chairman of the Guidance and Control Panel of the Guided Missile Committee as he claimed. According to Darwin, Sarbacher was replaced as a member of the panel after only a few months and never attended a single meeting. Darwin elaborated that R&DB members like von Braun, von Neumann, Berkner, Bronk, Bush, and Oppenheimer were

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ALIEN SOCIETY AND THE ABDUCTION PHENOMENON

BY DAVID M. JACOBS

Speculating about the inner workings of alien society has always been the special preserve of philosophers, science-fiction authors, and scriptwriters for motion pictures and television dramas. Their fanciful depictions are usually imaginative projections derived from their personal upbringings, their creative powers, and the societies and technological cultures in which they have lived.

These representations have been fascinating, frightening, and entertaining. For the audiences, their plots' fictional genesis has never been in question. The discourse between the audience and the inventor has been an agreed-upon fiction in which aliens are portrayed according to cultural norms of the times. Aliens are benevolent and have come to help humans, aliens are malevolent and have come to take over and/or destroy human society, aliens have come to share in human society because of their own planetary problems, or aliens are angry at spacefaring humans whom they wish to destroy to protect themselves. These ideas have permeated entertainment in the 20th century from the early pulp science-fiction magazines like *Amazing Stories* and *Galaxy*, to the first alien-themed movies of the early 1950s and to similar science-fiction television shows of the 1950s and 1960s.

Now, for the first time, another way of constructing an alien society has developed—one that may be fascinating, frightening, and even, on some level, entertaining, but not necessarily fictional. I am, of course, referring to abductee descriptions of aliens and their interactions aboard UFOs. It is from these descriptions that a picture of alien society can be drawn that portrays a very different society than one based on culturally derived fictional representations.

The new authors of these alien accounts are not, for the most part, professional writers, producers, directors, actors, or others in the entertainment and literary industry. The vast

majority of them are not prompted to fashion their stories in the hopes of celebrity or remuneration. Often they are reluctant storytellers who would sometimes prefer not to tell their accounts rather than either to confront these stories consciously with their potential psychological ramifications for the narrator, or to have to suffer the ridicule that might result for themselves and their families if the stories were to become publicized. Indeed, many say they have had experiences that they remember but have no desire to relate them to anyone.

In spite of this, thousands of individuals have come forward to tell their private stories—although one suspects that the vast majority have not done so even though they might want to because they have found no sympathetic and competent listeners. For the ones who have come forward, their narratives comprise an extraordinary body of evidence revealing a generally consistent account of alien life that is on the one hand science-fiction like and on the other hand original and ingenuous. The distinctiveness of these fantastic stories coupled with nonfiction makes them striking in their verisimilitude.

Of course, the evidence for their reality is largely anecdotal and often incomplete, and each account often presents more questions than it answers, as is to be expected with new and still emerging data that have not yet been fully analyzed. Using these accounts to generalize about the kind of society in which extraterrestrials might dwell is obviously intellectually risky because the information is so controversial. We are in the position of formulating hypotheses mainly on accounts derived from memory, often filtered through hypnosis usually administered by amateurs. It is difficult to imagine a weaker form of evidence.

Furthermore, abductees, from whose memory our knowledge of alien society comes, will sometimes confabulate and relate events during their abductions that either did not happen or happened in very different ways from the ones they remember. Thus, using this information to construct an alien society is a difficult and perhaps even pointless pursuit and presents the danger of being a unique form of collective science fiction—perhaps a bizarre offshoot of the much-reviled collective-unconscious theory.

In spite of these problems, the consistency of detail and

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of narrative line, and the extraordinary circumstances in which these abductee stories are fashioned add a sense of authenticity to them that cannot be matched by fiction authors. With this information generalizations can be made, although partial, that might give us a clearer view into the extraordinary world of alien society.

According to my analysis of abductee testimony, the structure of alien society, like any human society, is complex. Abductees describe a highly evolved and advanced technological society that gives the appearance of a smooth-running, hierarchical, technocratically ordered culture. The beings are obviously very advanced technologically. This requires a mental capacity (either from biological manufacture or from evolution) commensurate with the ability to advance science and thus, in some respects, similar to that of humans. Although their mental ability is on a par or even higher than humans, abductees give no evidence to suggest that aliens' physiological mechanisms and the processes within their anatomical and genetic make-up are the same as humans.

Abductees have indicated that alien gross morphology is humanlike but their appearance is nonetheless different. Several varieties of aliens appear to be involved in the abduction phenomenon. The most common ones are the gray aliens who seemingly do the bulk of the abduction work. They come in two varieties: small and taller. Abductees also report seeing reptilian beings, insect beings, and human beings. Little is known about the reptilian-like beings, and I have found their reporting to be less common than the other types. Human-like beings are almost certainly adult hybrids, of which more will be said later. Abductees indicate that the insect-like beings are taller than the other aliens and at the top of a hierarchical structure of authority; they give orders, while all others take them. For the purposes of this article, all aliens, except hybrids, will be considered as one group.

In spite of their anatomical and hierarchical differences, the beings all have certain common and important characteristics: They are all seen together on board the same UFOs, they all do more or less the same procedures, and most importantly, they all appear to be working together for the same goal. Thus, one can surmise that they all come from the same society. But they have another aspect in common that might help to define the society in which they dwell: They all can communicate telepathically with each other and with abductees.

TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION

Telepathic communication has been a more or less constant feature of the abduction phenomenon since the earliest investigations.

Like all consistent aspects of the abduction phenomenon, this is remarkable. One would expect that in a phenomenon derived from the human psyche, a wide variety of communication styles would be reported, which most cer-

tainly would involve verbal-aural communication emanating from the aliens' mouths, being heard through the abductees' ears, and vice versa. Sign language might be a common feature of communication that deluded abductees would seize upon. However, these more commonsensical reports are quite rare. In fact, the constancy of reported telepathy for over 35 years from all over the world strongly suggests that it is the normal mode of communication for all aliens and humans during abduction events.

Abductees inadvertently bolster the idea that telepathy is the main communication mode by providing indirect evidence that alien physiology is consistent with mental, rather than spoken, communication. Their descriptions indicate that insect aliens have no noticeable mouths or noses, making the aspiration of air difficult if not impossible. The more commonly reported small and tall gray aliens appear to have mouth-like structures with no tongues or teeth. Aliens do not use these structures for sound formation, and the mouths are almost always closed. There is little evidence that their jaws open and close (or, indeed, that they have jaws). Although some abductees report that their mouths are open in a fashion, these accounts are rare, and because of the confabulation problem, one must be wary of them. Facial musculature, which would allow for expressiveness, is not reported.

Finally, abductees do not report anything resembling a respiratory system, nor do they describe any apparent larynx, esophagus, lung capacity, or aspiration essential for sound formation for either the gray aliens or the insect beings. On the receiving end of communication, the insect aliens do not have ears or any apparent apparatuses for collecting sound waves. Abductees often see a tiny hole where the ears should be on the gray aliens. If these are used for receiving sound, they do not, at least on the surface, appear to be very sophisticated organs.

As can be expected, sounds emanating from the aliens are not reliably reported in abduction reports. Without ears, one cannot know the extent to which the aliens are capable of hearing. That they do hear something is possible because they apparently discern the direction of communication. For example, when an abductee physically creates a disturbance on board a UFO, it attracts the aliens' attention even when they were not originally looking at the abductee, although it still is difficult to tell whether the ruckus mentally attracts their attention or whether the physical commotion causes their notice. Also, when an abductee speaks, the aliens will frequently turn and face the one who is communicating. All of this, of course, might well be consistent with telepathy, and whether the aliens have any sense of hearing is still unknown.

Although telepathy is the main method of communication, abductees indicate that the aliens have a written culture as well. For example, on board a UFO abductees will sometimes see what appears to be reading material—books, papers, and other graphical representations of language.

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A LITTLE WALK IN THE STRANGE LIFE OF GEORGE HUNT WILLIAMSON

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

UFO historians and old-timers know George Hunt Williamson as one of the early contactees. He also has a pretty strong argument for having invented the ancient astronaut hypothesis with the trilogy of 1950s books *Other Tongues*; *Other Flesh*, *The Road in the Sky*, and *The Secret Places of the Lion*. Nowadays no one knows about GHW. Maybe that's appropriate and maybe not. As the current holder of the Williamson papers, I can tell you that few people have led a more adventurous and strange life. I'd like to give you, for your amusement if not your amazement, one of dozens of Williamsonian incidents which cast most of our own lives into dull, gray shades. If we enjoy the security of the straight and narrow, GHW indeed walked the proverbial Road in the Sky.

It was March 1966. Our hero was in Miami, Florida, following a career as Chippewa adoptee, Hopi vision-questor, channeller, light-beam signaler to ETs (eat your hearts out, Sagan and Greer, Williamson as usual got there first), Adamski saucer-landing witness, Peruvian secret civilization seeker, Mayan archaeologist, world traveler, and several dozen other things including a bishop in some sort of church.

GHW had finally begun to settle down a bit (an oxymoron with Williamson) and make a normal living, doing scientific background research for a Miami company creating high-class advertising. As usual he was good at it and was in danger of becoming successfully commonplace. Of course this disturbed him greatly. Was this to be the ignominious end of GHW: a well-paid, successful creative scholar living in Florida? He had to get away and query the empyrean about his direction in life. With his son Marc, he left for Key West to wallow in warm waters and wait for an answer.

"I wondered seriously if I was to do more in the UFO field. I wanted to start the infrared light beam experiments again and attempt direct communication with the UFOs once more. But I thought maybe I had done what I was supposed to do in ufology. . . . I really was looking for a sign

... something to encourage me and help me make a positive decision!"

It was the morning of March 22, 1966. GHW, as was his habit, was reading the *Miami Herald* with breakfast. In the paper was an article about a UFO sighting that was to become infamous. It began "Special: Flying Object. About fifty persons report seeing an unidentified flying object with eerie blinking lights land in a Michigan swamp." He clipped the article and saved it for his files. But where was the sign? He and Marc prepared for their final day of vacation and spent it exhausting themselves diving and swimming.

After dinner, Williamson was still agitated, but Marc declined his suggestion of a meandering stroll, pleading fatigue. GHW went for his walk alone. Forty-five minutes into his walk, he stopped and turned to go back. He was wrestling with himself about his immediate future, when:

Suddenly I looked up to see a most incredible sight! I'll never forget it—it was absolutely beautiful! I saw directly over me three large discs (UFOs) with brilliant flashing blue-white lights—they were blinding! . . . They hovered directly over me for what seemed to be about a minute . . . long enough for me to have a very good look. They positively were *not* helicopters or any conventional aircraft or balloons.

There were about three other people on the street near me who also saw the discs (a young couple and one other person). I was very elated—and I heard the same "buzzing" sound in my head I had heard on the night of Feb. 3, 1953 in Prescott, Arizona, when Betty [GHW's wife] and I had that wonderful sighting of the two UFOs and the strange block of amber light.

Multiple UFOs-on-call? Multiple sightings and signs from above? Buzzings in the head? I will leave it to the reader to decide whether you would prefer your own lifestyle and experiences to those of Williamson.

The real question is whether this actually occurred. Stuff like this was (apparently) going on with Williamson all the time. Whatever we believe, though, GHW seems to have believed it. He soon quit his well-paying Florida job and left for California to reengage his unique quest for the

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BOOK REVIEW

Don Ledger and Chris Styles, *Dark Object: The World's Only Government-Documented UFO Crash*. New York: Dell, April 2001, 192p. \$6.99.

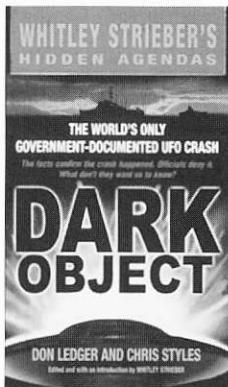
Tales of crashed UFOs are fairly common. Documented accounts of UFO crashes are another matter entirely. After the granddaddy of all UFO crashes, the Roswell incident from 1947 (covered so extensively in past issues of *IUR*), every other crash pales in comparison. The next best documented UFO crash and recovery is probably the Kecksburg, Pennsylvania, event from 1966, which may have been the reentry of a Soviet satellite (although that explanation is in dispute among investigators).

Now there is another incident to add to the short list of documented UFO crashes and, possibly, government recoveries. UFO investigators Don Ledger and Chris Styles have devoted several years to determining what occurred on the night of October 4, 1967, in and around Shag Harbour in Nova Scotia, Canada. Their book *Dark Object* describes their findings and tentative conclusions.

There is no doubt, given the evidence presented by Ledger and Styles, that something unusual crashed the evening of October 4 into the waters of Shag Harbour within sight of the shore. The object (or objects) was seen by quite a few witnesses, and several people, including officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, saw the object on the water slowly sink below the surface. Commandering local fishing boats, the police immediately organized a search party. When they got to the site where the object was last seen the boats encountered strange yellow foam with a smell like sulphur, but nothing else. The authorities were so concerned that an aircraft might have crashed that the Canadian navy sent divers to the site who searched for a few days but (officially) found nothing.

The story was covered in the local papers at the time and in the *National Enquirer*. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization conducted a token investigation, and other organizations, such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, received letters about the event urging them to investigate. Amazingly enough, it also became an official case in the Air Force-sponsored University of Colorado UFO study and was classified as an unknown. However, the project scientists did no real investigation, and the case was given little attention in the final project report.

There the matter stood for many years until the early 1990s when Chris Styles became interested again in an event he had witnessed as a 12-year-old. Chris lived nearby



at Halifax in 1967 and observed a large, orange UFO that same October evening, perhaps the identical one that later crashed into the waters of Shag Harbour. Enlisting the help of Don Ledger, the pair searched for government documents that would verify the crash and search, and they looked for potential witnesses.

Unlike the Roswell incident, where almost no documentation exists to verify the government's involvement and search efforts, there are a few Canadian government documents that verify the witness accounts of a crash into Shag Harbour and subsequent search (and there are contemporary newspaper stories as well). These documents prove, as I noted previously, that the crash actually occurred, but they don't tell us what was found, if anything, and they don't indicate whether the object was seen on radar, whether it moved around underwater, and what the authorities believed the object to be. The title of the book comes from one document where the UFO was referred to as the "Dark Object."

As their investigation proceeded, the authors were in for a surprise. Naturally concentrating on the Shag Harbour site, they were confused when one of their sources, "Harry," a diver on a naval vessel, mentioned that he was involved with recovery efforts at nearby Shelburne Harbour, a few miles to the east. Further interviews revealed a more complex scenario. While recovery efforts were ongoing at Shag Harbour with a handful of divers, a small flotilla of naval vessels was anchored off Shelburne tracking the UFO, which had possibly moved underwater from its crash site to the waters off Shelburne. This operation, unlike the one at Shag Harbour, was conducted in secret, and witnesses even today are reluctant to discuss what occurred.

In comparison to the many books about Roswell, where almost all the witnesses are named, the authors do not provide the real names of the witnesses to the secret recovery operation. Nor do the authors explain why they adopted this policy (although we can surmise that they wished to protect the identity of the witnesses for fear of government reprisals). Still, without names these stories remain hearsay, and it is hard to believe, given the example of Roswell, that at least some of these witnesses weren't willing to be identified in the book.

Essentially, the authors have been told that the UFO moved underwater to a few miles off the coast from Canadian Forces Station Shelburne, a top-secret base that was run jointly by the American and Canadians to detect Soviet submarines in the Atlantic. Even more worrisome for the military was that the magnetic detection grid that was on the ocean bottom was where the UFO came to rest. Allegedly, naval ships anchored over the UFO for about seven days and attempted to study it. At that point, the UFO joined up with another UFO (that may also have been seen on the night of October 4) and they both moved underwater to the west away from the naval ships, then surfaced and flew away.

It is not surprising, given the sensational nature of such

an event and the desire of the two governments to keep it secret, that the authors would have difficulty documenting the affair 30 years later. What is disconcerting is the rather confused and disjointed tale told of the investigation, which jumps from subject to subject and moves back and forth in time. It becomes quite a chore to get an understanding of when certain witnesses were interviewed and thus how the authors' knowledge of the event developed.

The book is one of the volumes in the Hidden Agendas series edited by Whitley Strieber. This is unfortunate, because this series was published on the cheap. As a consequence, the book has no index, footnotes, or maps, the latter a great hindrance when attempting to understand a complex event that ranged over several locations. Readers may wish to keep a map of Nova Scotia at hand. The book is also short, another characteristic of the Hidden Agenda series. This fact, coupled with the repetitious nature of the writing, means that there is less here than first meets the eye. The research, despite the dogged work of the authors, is very much in its preliminary stages and is thus reminiscent of the first book by Schmitt and Randle on their Roswell investigation.

At times the dialog in the book is too precise, given the nature of witness memories. One example is Laurie Wickens and friends' conversation as they saw the object and then called the RCMP office. This style actually detracts from the impression that the authors try to convey of a fact-based and careful investigation, because it reads more like a novelistic treatment of the episode.

These caveats aside, Ledger and Styles were undoubtedly correct in deciding to pursue the Shag Harbour incident as far as possible. They even ran into odd roadblocks in their investigation, such as missing government weather records for that night, or an obviously forged entry from a Coast Guard cutter's log (as well as missing logs from other vessels and lighthouses). None of these, in and of themselves, are evidence of a government coverup. But the sum total of these do point toward continuing interest in maintaining a veil of secrecy around the events of October 4 and afterwards.

The last bits of the investigation documented in the book seem to have occurred in late 1997, which makes one wonder what has occurred since then and 2001. I suspect that the book was written some time ago and that the authors were searching for a publisher. But in any event, it would have been better if the investigation were brought up to date.

Although the book is flawed, it still presents the essentials of a fascinating investigation and provides a convincing account of a UFO crash and attempted recovery at *Shag Harbour*. The more sensational recovery operation near Shelburne is documented only with witness testimony, almost all of which comes from anonymous individuals. Although I am inclined to believe these accounts, given my knowledge of the Roswell event and the past actions of various governments to conceal their UFO activities, until

some of these witnesses go public and other evidence is found, this aspect of the case will remain much less certain.

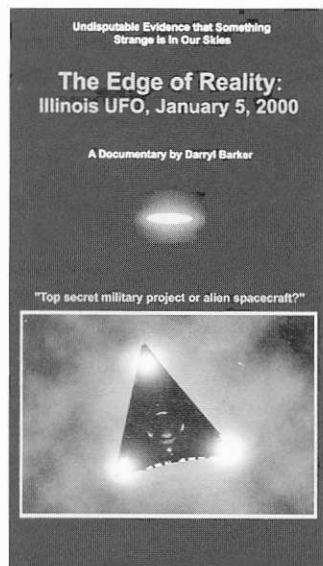
In the final analysis, *Dark Object* is another example of how much can be gained from reinvestigating older cases. And while I would prefer a current physical trace case with samples that can be analyzed in a lab, a UFO crash and government recovery operation unquestionably hold my interest. There remains much that we don't know about how governments have studied the UFO phenomenon, and this book helps to open the curtain a bit wider on those activities. I just hope that the authors' next book on the Shag Harbour crash is better documented and organized to do justice to this intriguing event. —Mark Rodeghier ♦

Correction

In Jenny Randles article, "Close Encounter in UFO Alley" (*IUR*, Spring 2001), regarding the Ogden Reservoir event of August 14–15 mentioned on page 8, the text should have read: "This certainly did *not* arise from a mirage." The editors regret the error.

Illinois UFO, January 5, 2000

In February 2000, Darryl Barker began shooting interviews with the witnesses of the "flying triangle" seen over Illinois on January 5, 2000. The first was Melvern Noll of Highland, Illinois. It was Noll who alerted the local police department that he saw something fly near his private business that he felt no one would believe. As a result of his notifying police, a series of events ensued that would be extremely rare in UFO history: the sequential sighting of the UFO by several police officers in separate cities and towns who kept in touch via the county police radio dispatch system. The sighting found its way to the Art Bell radio program and to a myriad of Web sites. The National Institute for Discovery Science in Las Vegas, Nevada, conducted an in-depth investigation and have yet to find an explanation for the object.



"The Edge of Reality: Illinois UFO, January 5, 2000" is the accurate detailing of the most remarkable UFO sighting of the year 2000.

For a copy of this 30-minute video, send \$19.95 (includes p/h) to CUFOS, 2457 W. Peterson, Chicago, IL 60659.

LETTERS

ROSWELL EVIDENCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL

To the editor:

It would require a book to respond adequately to Bob Durant's "Project Mogul Still a Flight of Fancy" (*IUR*, Spring 2001, pp. 17–28). As it happens, I've already written it: My recently published *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe*, the subject of Durant's remarkable essay. I am confident that thoughtful readers genuinely interested in assessing for themselves the soundness and validity of my research, evidence, and conclusions will study *Roswell* with open minds and arrive at their own conclusions rather than relying solely on Durant's opinions. That being so, I will confine myself to a few brief observations here.

I am deeply disappointed and quite surprised that Durant found it necessary to indulge in subtle and not so subtle *ad hominem*—even *ad hominem* by proxy in the form of an attack on my publisher. (Just in case shooting the messenger doesn't do the trick, put a bullet through the head of his horse, eh, Bob?) Adding minor insult to injury, Durant even deployed the old "You didn't write the book I would have written" trick, the last resort of the hack or partisan reviewer, and then proceeded to mischaracterize and attack much of what I wrote (and my "state of mind" when I wrote it), addressing yet another nonexistent tome (and state of mind). I was almost equally disappointed and surprised that CUFOS saw fit to publish such cheap shots. After all, *IUR* is not *Saucer Smear*.

Still, Durant's use of innuendo, straw men in silk suits, and the like is illuminating. It tells us he is not nearly as sure of his case as he would like us to believe. It is the moral equivalent of the old lawyer's trick of pounding the table when the facts and the law are against him. As "opposing counsel," I respectfully suggest Durant has very good reason to pound.

A legal analogy is really quite apt. Roswell is a historical forensic problem rather than hard science, and there is no smoking gun. The cases of those on both sides of the issue are circumstantial. After eight years of painstaking investigation, study, and careful, open-minded consideration of all the evidence before us, I am convinced the case against Roswell as a crashed/retrieved flying saucer incident is overwhelming, easily meeting the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt standard of criminal actions. I admit the case for the Project Mogul/New York University Constant Level Balloon Project explanation is not quite that strong—not quite. It is very strong nonetheless, more than satisfying the preponderance-of-evidence standard applicable in civil actions. I sincerely wish it were otherwise, but that's where the facts inexorably lead, and in ufology as in any other important pursuit, we fail to follow them at our peril.

Bob Durant has laid his brief before *IUR* readers. I have made mine in my book, supported by massive documenta-

tion and other evidence. Now it is up to the "jury" to fairly-mindedly weigh *both* in the balance and arrive at a verdict.

Karl T. Pflock
Placitas, New Mexico

CASE CLOSED

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Robert J. Durant's article, "Project Mogul: Still a Flight of Fancy" (*IUR*, Spring 2001). Durant's article reads less like a review of *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe* by Karl T. Pflock and more like a rebuttal of his very persuasive case for Project Mogul as the cause of the crash and retrieval of debris outside Roswell in 1947. If the latter was the editor's intent, then it would have been fair to have given Pflock and Durant equal space to present their cases, rather than to let Durant figuratively inflate the Mogul balloon and subsequently try to deflate it.

Let me see try to summarize Durant's argument:

- Karl Pflock is an individual with an exceptional professional background and impressive credentials as a UFO researcher.
- In his book, he effectively destroys the credibility of the three witnesses whose testimony provides the most persuasive evidence that the Roswell crash involved an extraterrestrial vehicle piloted by aliens. (One could argue that the witnesses undermined their own credibility and that Pflock merely exposed them for what they were.)
- The material that was recovered (silver foil-like material, balsa-wood struts, brownish parchment-like paper, strands of material resembling monofilament fishing line, and peculiar designs in pink and purple pastels, along with plastic-like material resembling Bakelite) strongly resembles the material used for the Mogul project.
- However, some witnesses (interviewed years after the event by UFO investigators) described some anomalous properties of the materials; for example, some of the material couldn't be cut, burned, or dented, and otherwise qualified witnesses said some of the material was unfamiliar or unusual.
- Pflock doesn't give enough credence to the testimony about anomalous properties; therefore, the notion that the material was connected to Project Mogul is out of the question.

Huh?

May I suggest that witness testimony (as any lawyer will tell you) is the least reliable form of evidence, and that memories revived decades after the event by zealous UFO investigators who provided as much information as they obtained concerning the unusual nature of the material are suspect, at best. Moreover, the materials used in Project Mogul are consistent with the debris reported to have been recovered. Finally, the secret nature of Project Mogul

explains the considerable enthusiasm with which the military squashed the flying-disc story. Case closed.

I confess that I have some bias in this matter. I supported Pflock in his research into the Roswell case, and I helped coordinate the congressional inquiry that led to an investigation by the General Accounting Office into the Roswell case and which no doubt forced the Defense Department to finally admit that the Roswell crash was probably connected with Project Mogul. Like Pflock, I was a believer in the possibility that the Roswell case presented proof of an extraterrestrial crash, until confronted with the inconvenient facts he presents.

The final straw, as it were, for me was the flowered tape reported to have been used in the construction of the Mogul radar targets. As Pflock notes in his book, "the company used tape it had on hand for manufacture of its civilian product lines. This was clear or milky and semi-opaque, about two inches wide. It had pink and purple flowerlike figures imprinted on it." Compare that with the description by Bessie Brazel Schreiber: "The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The 'flowers' were faint, a variety of pastel colors. . . ." [Sworn affidavit, September 23, 1993.]

What more can be said? What more needs to be said?

Fred Whiting
North Potomac, Maryland

Bob Durant replies:

Whiting quotes Pflock: "the company used tape it had on hand for manufacture of its civilian product lines. This was clear or milky and semi-opaque, about two inches wide. It had pink and purple flowerlike figures imprinted on it." Then Whiting compares this with Schreiber's description, "The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The 'flowers' were faint, a variety of pastel colors."

To the untutored and unwary reader, this is conclusive. Unfortunately, it is the result of the sort of data manipulation that characterizes the Pflock book.

The authority on the tape is Charles B. Moore, and he has furnished precise written descriptions as well as a to-scale model (*IUR*, Summer 1998). Moore's tape is one inch wide, no more and no less. To the casual observer like Schreiber the tape might seem only three-quarters of an inch wide, because about one-fourth of it is folded against the balsa members.

So how does Moore's one-inch tape become Pflock's "about two inches wide"? Could it be because the ersatz "two inches" conforms more easily with Bessie Brazel's "two or three inches"?

Moore describes a single color, "a distinctive pinkish-purple pattern of an abstract flower-like design. (Saler, Ziegler, and Moore, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, 1997). Herbert Crowe and Albert Trakowski, two Project Mogul colleagues, confirm Moore's one-inch reconstruction of the tape. Moore remembers the figures as "embossed on the

back of the tape," and having "very sharp edges, sharply incised." I have found nothing in Moore's writings about whether the tape was clear or milky.

The color of Moore's figures is pinkish-purple, clearly meaning one solid color appears throughout. His scale model retains this single-color feature. But in Pflock's hands this becomes two colors, "pink and purple figures." Of course, the two colors are required to shoehorn Brazel's "variety of pastel colors" testimony.

The same trick is played when Pflock considers Bessie Brazel's description of what she called "pipe-sleeves."

Pflock: "In a 1979 interview, Mack Brazel's daughter Bessie told ufologist Bill Moore the odd material she helped her father collect included 'something made out of the same metal-like foil that looked like a pipe sleeve. About four inches across and equally long, with a flange at one end. . . .' She said she recalled several of these, which she also described as 'aluminum collars about four inches around.' Professor Moore told me the NYU team had considerable difficulty with its 'amateurish first flight from Bethlehem, PA in early April, 1947.' He explained, 'We had problems connecting all of the lines to each other and, after the launch, with the remaining lines (used to hold the balloons during launching) fouling and restraining the balloons that we wished to cut free aloft when the balloon train exceeded the desired altitude.' So for the second and later flights, they redesigned the flight trains and used aluminum rings cut from three-and-a-half or four-inch tubing 'as attachment aids through which we could slip our double-ended handling lines . . . removing them by holding only one end at launch.'"

Ergo, Bessie's "sleeves" are Mogul's "rings."

Now let's see what Moore says about the Mogul array rings. "As another result of this experience, we redesigned our launching technique for the next flights by assembling the balloon trains with large aluminum rings. The rings, made from thick-walled aluminum tubing 4 inches (10 cm) in diameter, were used both as junctions in the flying line and as anchor points through which a doubled nylon line could be run to hold the train before launching and then could be removed by holding one end at the start of the flight." For a photograph of such a ring, see Richard Weaver, *The Roswell Report* (1995), appendix 13, fig. 27.

In other words, the Mogul rings were a torus or doughnut, akin to a thin finger ring, and not a sleeve. Moore does not give the height of the cylindrical section of aluminum tubing, but its purpose would be defeated if it were much more than half an inch. It had to be thin enough to allow attachment of nylon lines and to let other lines slip through.

Mysteriously, Bessie Schreiber's "Mogul array rings" were not just four inches in diameter (if that's what she means by "around"), but also four inches high. And they had a flanged top. And they were made from the strange metal-foil from which so much of the other debris was formed. She never used the word "ring," but instead spoke of "sleeves" and "collars."

There are many problems with Bessie Brazel Schreiber as a witness to the Roswell event. For example, Loretta Proctor, a close friend of the Brazel family, says Bessie was not at the Foster ranch when the event occurred. Her older brother Bill is adamant that she was not there. But as Roswell witnesses go, her testimony comes closest to describing Mogul debris, and were I lawyering the other side, Bessie would be my star witness.

A HOLE IN OUR HISTORY

To the editor:

I would like to clarify a few points made by Richard Hall in his review of my book.

I appreciate his pointing out certain mistakes regarding events that he dealt with directly, such as his manner of departure from NICAP. He is gracious to point out how errors can find their way into an ambitious undertaking, which I suppose my book is. Since my book will be reissued by a larger publisher next spring, I am making various corrections and amendments, so constructive feedback is not a waste of time.

But there are a few main points to which I want to reply. The first concerns NICAP. Hall, who was so intimately involved with this organization, has completely misread my comments and takes an unnecessarily defensive posture. He rebuts my statement that NICAP's *UFO Evidence* (1964) failed to generate Congressional interest in UFOs, and that NICAP was unable to exploit its opportunities in 1966. He seems to take my remarks as disparagement of NICAP, which they were not, but which in any case is irrelevant. NICAP was the most extraordinary UFO organization ever. Yet, in 1964, it was going nowhere fast. Hillenkoetter was gone and Congressional hearings were as far away as ever. And many copies of the *UFO Evidence* ended up in the DC circular file. It was only the wave of 1965 and 1966 that brought the matter to the attention of Congress, which then received ample replacement copies of the book.

1966 remains the great, failed moment in ufology. This is not to fault NICAP, which was hard at work to bring open hearings to Congress (a matter I stated in my book). But what resulted from this "Year of the UFO"? Certainly not the Congressional hearings; rather, a biased study by a university that was hand-picked by the Air Force. Sorry, but the Congressional hearings of 1966 and 1968 don't exactly qualify as open. This was not the solution for which NICAP had worked so hard. Understanding what happened in 1966 remains important today, as the recent Greer press conference demonstrates.

Then there is the CIA issue. Hall argued, with some vehemence, against any Agency influence within NICAP during his years. He then conceded, however, that what happened after the Condon report "is another story," and that my interpretation of NICAP's "assisted suicide" is plausible. What is one to make of this? Was Richard Hall the

only one with his finger in the dike? After him, the deluge?

Which takes me to the most serious of Hall's criticisms: that my book was an exercise in conspiracy theory, characterized by unsupported "sweeping conclusions." Actually, my book is a fact-based history with exactly two main conclusions, not at all sweeping. First, that UFOs are real and they are not of our making. Second, the matter of UFOs has been taken very seriously by at least some elements of the American national security apparatus, in contrast to public statements indicating the contrary. This indicates that there is indeed some type of conspiracy going on, but such conclusions are hardly unsupported.

What Hall finds unsavory is my attempt to place this in a wider perspective. He wonders why I littered my book with references to such non-UFO related conspiracies as MK-Ultra and biological weapons testing in urban areas. He calls my characterization of the National Security State impersonal, weak, and not credible. He assures us that the CIA was on the good side of the Cold War and that CIA employees make good neighbors. Well, even SS members mowed their lawns.

It is high time to place the UFO coverup within the broader context of history. Inexplicably, there has been a widespread unwillingness by UFO researchers to do so, despite the fact that the UFO phenomenon has been a national security issue for over 50 years. It has been a history of air-space violations and attempted jet intercepts, juxtaposed with official public ridicule, secrecy, and silence from the mainstream media.

What we have, in other words, is a hole in our history. The peripheral events Hall dismisses as irrelevant do matter because they show that to our national security bureaucracy, secrecy and law breaking is a way of life. And we should not expect these bureaucracies to handle the matter of UFOs any differently than they do other perceived threats to the national security; in other words, UFO secrecy is not unique. This is important to remember when so many skeptics maintain that our government could not possibly keep alien visitation a secret (what with the Internet and all). It's helpful to remember that many of the secrets that were kept for decades, such as MK-Ultra or Cointelpro, came to light purely by chance—a mere roll of the dice—and we could just as easily have never learned about them.

It's also helpful to remember that the very organizations involved in these subterranean activities were frequently those that dealt with UFOs—sometimes the same people. I think that's important. Showing how this all works is certainly daunting, and better people than I have tried. Indeed, I would have benefited from reading Francis Stoner Saunders' *Cultural Cold War*, or Terry Hansen's *The Missing Times* (reviewed in *IUR*, Spring 2001), both of which unfortunately were published too late for me to use.

It is one thing for Richard Hall to object to the inclusion of this type of material, quite another to dispute the facts, as he did at several points. He referred, for example, to the 1948 murder of American journalist George Polk as an

"unsupported allegation." I suggest Hall research the matter. The issue is no longer in doubt, nor the complicity of the American media in hiding the facts.

More to the heart of the UFO issue is the suspicious death of former Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. Hall considers it "most offensive" that I examined the possibility of murder. How could this mentally ill person, Hall asks in all seriousness, pose any threat? But the circumstances of Forrestal's death *are* suspicious, and not just a little, either. One may or may not wish to interpret this as UFO-related, and I am the first to acknowledge how unsatisfactory it is to leave the matter at suspicion only. I concede that I haven't cracked the case. Unfortunately, those of us on the outside looking in are not on a level playing field. Should we therefore pretend that we are and dismiss all suspicions? My thoughts about Forrestal were offered tentatively and provisionally; they were entirely subsidiary to the known facts. Here, as elsewhere, I treaded lightly. Calling unorthodox lines of inquiry offensive only ends in stifling discourse.

Hall's conclusion is a masterpiece of contemporary UFO doublespeak. After all the talk about conspiracy theories, he offers the startling acknowledgment that, yes, UFOs may well represent a threat to national (and world) security, and that—ready?—government secrecy about UFOs is a reality. Lest an attentive reader start believing in conspiracies (or else become thoroughly confused), he adds that, despite this secrecy, it is "highly debatable" just how much is known. Evidently this is meant to suggest that, although there is secrecy, there is no conspiracy, and that fifty years of secrecy have yielded very little knowledge. Or does it? For Hall finally acknowledges that a "vast conspiracy" interpretation of this topic "may ultimately prove to be correct," but that he just doesn't like my interpretation.

This last part is curious, as I deliberately sought to avoid excessive interpretations while writing my book (over the objections of several early readers). Instead, I have tried to adhere to, and not shrink from, the known facts. However, as our field amply demonstrates, we are seldom as radical as reality itself. It always seems that the truth races far ahead of our understanding.

Richard Dolan
Rochester, New York

Richard Hall responds:

Richard Dolan claims that I have "completely misread" his comments about NICAP and am defensive about what he says. I think I read with pretty good comprehension, and I happen to disagree with his portrayal of NICAP's alleged ineffectiveness in the period of 1964–68. Since he had not interviewed me or other principals at NICAP nor read all of NICAP's major reports, I pointed out these facts and offered my testimony to offset some of his conclusions or interpretations that were based on incomplete research. He does not have to agree with what I say.

My review took pains to be fair to the author and to state that he is perfectly entitled to his own interpretations, and it

acknowledged that his is a praiseworthy effort in many respects. However, perhaps he should be less defensive when some of his interpretations are disputed. No one (including Richard Dolan and Richard Hall) has a singular pipeline to the ultimate truth.

When he insists that "1966 remains the great, failed moment in ufology," one is forced to ask, "By what criteria?" To most students of UFO history 1966–68 was a major turning point during which Congressional hearings finally were obtained (no matter what Dolan thinks of their value), and this was in no small measure due to NICAP's effectiveness in the face of substantial resistances by many people and agencies. The status quo of Project Blue Book clearly was shaken up. The ultimate failure of the Colorado UFO Project was not in any way predictable at that time, nor can it be fairly attributed to NICAP's alleged "[inability] to exploit its opportunities in 1966."

My comments about Dolan's remarks in regard to what he terms "the CIA issue" were intended to show that the alleged CIA domination of NICAP has been highly exaggerated and is false in almost every respect during NICAP's productive years. When I acknowledged that after NICAP had passed its zenith and was on a downhill slide that there may have been a "CIA-assisted suicide," he acts puzzled. His suggestion that I am somehow painting myself as the only "hero" in this picture ("the only one with his finger in the dike") seems to miss the point entirely, and I frankly do not understand what he is implying here.

Dolan summarizes what his two main conclusions were as follows: (1) UFOs are real and not ours; (2) UFOs have been taken seriously by "at least some elements of the American national security apparatus." As I pointed out in my review, he goes far beyond that in accusing the American national security apparatus of murder, "assisted suicides," and of using harsh and repressive tactics against ufologists, also implicating the news media and the State Department in deliberately and consciously hiding the truth from the public in one of his examples.

He rather disingenuously follows up his summation with the comment that, "This indicates that there is indeed some type of conspiracy going on, but such conclusions are hardly unsupported." Clearly, it is not the notion of some level of cover-up and conspiracy that is unsupported, but instead his more extreme allegations.

I regret that Dolan seems not to understand the main thrust of my review, summed up in the last two sentences, that there is one (or more) alternative hypothesis: "[His interpretation is] not convincingly argued here. Nor is it the only possible theory or necessarily the best one to help us understand governmental and human reactions to UFO reports."

Meritorious as his work is in its recounting of UFO history, I don't think Dolan has any right to argue that his interpretation is the only possible one and that his conclusions are so supported by fact that they are beyond dispute. I have disputed them, and I am sure others will too. ♦

THE ROSWELL TESTIMONY OF CHESTER P. BARTON

BY JOSEPH STEFULA

Roswell attracted my attention in the early 1990s and absorbed a great deal of my time. Conspiracies, conflicting stories, a multitude of witnesses—it sounded much like the scripts I had seen acted out often during my military career. I was retired, and Roswell seemed a chance to play detective once again.

After enlisting in the Army I spent five years doing ordinary soldiering, then was attached to Army Intelligence for eight years, and then transferred to the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, where I spent the final 12 years of my career in uniform. The CID work was exactly like that of a senior police detective in any major city. I specialized in rapes and murders. As a result of my investigative work, a man went to the electric chair.

By the summer of 1995 I had concluded that Roswell was nonsense. I had reviewed the elaborate testimony of Frank Kaufmann, and thought it absurd. Ragsdale's story was silly. Together with other researchers, I had engaged in a very long and diligent search for the Glenn Dennis nurse, "Naomi Selff." She never existed.

I was also in touch with Lt. James McAndrew, one of the two officers assigned to produce the Air Force report on Roswell. I was particularly distressed to learn that the Air Force was quickly able to locate a group of people based at Roswell in 1947, but claimed by leading Roswell proponents to have disappeared from the face of the earth.

From my perspective as a professional crime investigator, everything looked like amateurish bungling—or worse. But I was still willing to give the case a try when my research colleague William P. LaParl sent me a list of eight names of people he thought we should try to contact. After failing to find most, probably because they were long since dead, I managed to get Chester P. Barton on the telephone.

All I knew for sure about Barton was that he was at Roswell in 1947, and listed as a first lieutenant. I assumed he was fresh out of college and new to the Army at the time. In fact, Barton had joined the Army in 1929! Herbert Hoover was the President, the court-martial of General Billy Mitchell was only a few years in the past, and the stock market was roaring upward.

Joseph Stefula, M.A., is a retired Army Warrant Officer and former New Jersey State Director of MUFON.

Quite late in his career he had been commissioned, and in 1947 was serving in a communications unit at Roswell Army Air Field. He was promoted to captain while still at Roswell, and retired in 1954 to a home in the rural west. He was alert and responsive to my questions, but also seemed tired out, and told me he was "80 to 90% disabled," and that he had spots on his lungs.

Nobody had interviewed him about Roswell. He had read none of the books, seen none of the TV programs, and seemed entirely unaware of the controversy.

When I asked about a rumored crash near Roswell in June or July 1947, he replied that he had been to the crash site. He was convinced that it was a B-29 bomber carrying nuclear explosives, but nevertheless it had to be the Roswell event he was describing. I took notes, and when we finished I thanked him and hung up. I was stunned. Here—at last—was a perfectly credible witness, and he was telling a story of great importance. Falling back on my experience as an investigator, I immediately began formulating a line of questions based on what Barton had told me.

The following day I called again. This time I ran a tape, and had a list of questions ready. This was serious business, not the unenthusiastic "cold call" of the previous day.

At the beginning of the interview I went back over what he had told me, but to save time I would simply restate his previous statement and ask, "Is that correct?" He would usually reply with a simple "yes"—except when I deliberately changed the claimed fact. I did this in order to gauge how easily Barton could be led by the interviewer, and how accurate his recall of events was. This is a standard interrogation technique.

For example, at one point I said, "Yesterday you talked about a B-52 with an atomic bomb." The word "B-52" was just out of my mouth when Barton forcefully interjected, "I said B-29, not B-52." And toward the end of the interview I asked him for his military identification or serial number. Many people have trouble recalling their Social Security numbers, much less their military serial numbers. Barton



Chester P. Barton

had retired 41 years before our interview. But he shot the officer number right at me, and then followed by giving me his enlisted serial number, which he is unlikely to have used for at least 45 years.

In addition to passing all these small but important tests, Barton was very sparing in his descriptions. If he didn't know, he would say so. There were other areas where he elaborated a bit, but always it was on point, without a hint of exaggeration.

The bottom line on Chester P. Barton is that I found him to be a completely credible witness. The story he tells is exceptionally important, as the reader will understand from the following summary of the transcript of our interview.

BARTON TESTIMONY SYNOPSIS

Barton enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1929, was commissioned later, and retired in 1954. From 1946 to 1950, he was stationed at Roswell with the rank of first lieutenant and later captain, and was assigned to duty as a cryptographic specialist in the 509th Communications Squadron, but he also did various other jobs at Roswell.

Barton was called in the afternoon and ordered by the personnel officer to report to Maj. Edwin Easley. He went to Easley's office at the main gate of the air base at some time in the evening, exact day or day of the week not recalled. Easley gave Barton the task of finding out what was going on at a crash site and reporting it to him.

After meeting Easley, Barton was driven to the crash site in a jeep carryall. He was accompanied by two other officers, one of whom was Capt. Tripp, Easley's second-in-command. The officers were dressed in their normal working uniforms, but carried .45 caliber automatic pistols. The trip to the crash site took about 45 minutes.

The crash site was in rough, undeveloped, flat country-side. He was stopped at a military checkpoint, and then allowed to continue, but Barton never got closer than about 50 yards from the wreckage. The most obvious characteristic of the site from that distance was that it had been burned. Military police from the 1395th MP unit were at the site. Barton does not recall Easley at the site.

Although never really close to the wreckage, Barton saw parts of what he believed then—and remained convinced—were the remains of a B-29 bomber, and the associated burned area in which it rested. But no part of the "airplane" was identifiable as such. The best description he could muster was that it appeared to be a burned aircraft. He did not pick up any parts, having been told by the MPs not to do so, due to the radioactivity they had discovered.

The debris field in its entirety was comprised of two or three burned areas including the burned area within which the wreckage rested. This configuration made Barton speculate that the B-29 had bounced two or three times before coming to rest. The debris field, including all burned areas, was about the length of a football field.

At the time, Barton thought the crash was that of a B-

29 carrying an atomic bomb, or a "hot rod" in Army Air Corps jargon. Barton never wavered in this belief. However, the amount of debris seemed to him to be small compared to what he supposed would be left by a crashed B-29.

Barton and his two colleagues were not wearing any special clothing to protect them from radiation. Military policemen on the site were using Geiger counters and reported some areas of radioactivity. The officers were warned away from those areas.

The military policemen were carried to the site in six-by-six trucks. When Barton was at the site, the MPs were not picking up any of the debris.

Barton remained at the site for about an hour and a half. Then he and his colleagues returned to Easley's office, where Easley talked to them for a while, then dismissed them with orders to return to his office the next morning. Barton made a verbal report to Easley, and nothing was ever in writing.

They met again the following morning, and proceeded back to the crash site, but were called by radio while enroute and told to return to the airfield. The reason they were given via radio was that the cleanup operation had been completed. Back in Easley's office, Easley repeated that the cleanup was complete, and also told them to keep quiet about what they had seen. When Easley told Barton to forget about the incident, Barton was not required to sign any document or to make any verbal oath of secrecy.

He recalls hearing rumors at the time about the crash being a spacecraft with dead aliens aboard, but has no idea where the stories originated. These stories were definitely associated with the crash at the site he visited.

Barton concluded or speculated that by the time he arrived on the site, most of the debris had been removed. And he says that most of the wreckage had been hauled away and stored at the Roswell base junkyard, though kept in a separate section. Radioactive parts were taken to some other place, unknown to Barton. Apparently this information was second-hand, not anything about which he had direct knowledge.

At the same time that Barton made his trip to the debris field, the local newspaper ran the "flying disc" story. Barton recalls reading the weather balloon explanation, but dismissing it because of what he had seen at the site.

Barton and his colleagues ended their assignment by reporting to the base hospital, where they were examined for radioactivity. The results were negative.

Prior to Stefula's telephone call, Barton was unaware of any books or television programs, or any other public discussion of the July 1947 Roswell incident.

Barton believes the crash was that of a B-29 and that the bodies were those of the crew. But he admits that the nature and identity of the aircraft that crashed remained a mystery to him and to those with whom he discussed the matter. The crashed craft was never identified as an airplane, much less an airplane from the 509th Bomb Group. However, from

the general impression he got from viewing the crash site, Barton concluded it was a B-29, and emphatically repeated three times, "with crew." This was in response to questions raising the possibility that the crash was a spacecraft, and the bodies were those of the alien pilots.

Barton heard stories about bodies, and that they were first taken to the base hospital, and then to Fort Worth. He never talked to anyone who had seen the bodies. Per the above, he was thinking strictly in terms of dead crew members of the B-29. Barton did not hear where the debris was ultimately sent.

He says that the time of the crash was generally assumed to have been around sundown. In view of the fact that he was notified in the afternoon, Barton probably meant sundown on the previous day.

After the incident, the topic was never again raised. Barton saw no communications traffic about the incident, and was surprised that it did not generate encrypted traffic, about which he would have known, given his job at the time.

Barton heard a rumor about a group of archaeologists who stumbled on the crash site. He did not hear how the archaeologists were treated by the military.

Even though there were rumors circulating about the crash, facts such as how long it took to clean up the crash debris were not discussed because of the extreme secrecy measures invoked.

Barton was very surprised that the interviewer even knew about the crash, given the extent of the effort made at the time to keep it secret. He had never discussed it with any other person, including his wife.

Barton is sure the debris was not from a weather balloon, a radar reflector from a weather balloon, or anything associated with balloons. He is convinced that some type of standard aircraft crashed there. He was never told what type of craft it was, and was firmly instructed to forget the incident and talk to nobody about it.

AFTERWORD

For various reasons, the Barton testimony never got wide circulation, and probably only a handful of researchers are aware of it. One of my colleagues recently imposed on me to write this report, and I was pleased to do so.

LaParl independently researched Barton's military service records, and was able to corroborate all that Barton claimed about his history. Moreover, LaParl concluded that Barton is a "highly credible witness."

Barton tells us that there was in fact a "crash site," meaning the final resting place of some flying device large enough to be mistaken as at least part of a bomber, and capable of burning several large areas in the scrub near Roswell. That this had anything to do with a Mogul array is entirely out of the question.

The theme of radioactivity runs through the Barton testimony. This is a new angle that is not, to the best of my knowledge, part of the Roswell lore. My first choice for the

real Roswell story is some flying device carrying plutonium dust. As the records of World War II and the years immediately following are slowly opened, we see truly amazing things. Let me list just a few connected with radioactivity. Institutionalized, mentally-retarded children were systematically fed radioactive pabulum as a scientific test. Our government gave serious consideration to dropping plutonium dust on Japan if the atomic bombs proved to be duds. Later, we were eyeing the same technique to kill off the Russians. This must be only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. To me at least, it would be a small step to envision a flying device designed for long-range flight and dusting. Something along these lines is consistent with the policy of those years, and an effort to develop prototype delivery platforms would automatically follow. But I must admit that I have no more objective proof for this hypothesis than Barton had for his B-29 idea.

To date I have seen nothing that would persuade me of the extraterrestrial source for the crash, though I don't rule it out. Obviously, something of extreme importance happened at Roswell in July 1947. And the Barton testimony helps us narrow the field of possibilities.

Though I am far from a Roswell expert, I do know that all parties to this dispute have long ago conceded that there is absolutely no record, formal or otherwise, of an aircraft or rocket crash anywhere near Roswell in the July 1947 time frame. This seems to be one of the very rare areas of agreement in this muddled field of inquiry.

I will end with the thought that Barton's testimony sobered me. I still don't know what happened, but I am now convinced that whatever it was, it was truly exotic and profoundly unsettling to those charged with handling the debris.

Capt. Chester P. Barton died on July 4, 2000, quite probably on the 53rd anniversary of his encounter with the "B-29."

Editorial note from Mark Rodeghier:

Joseph Stefula has provided a lively description of his interview with Chester Barton and the evolution of his beliefs about the Roswell event. We decided to publish his article in *IUR* for two reasons. The first is to demonstrate that the Roswell investigation is hardly at an end. Understandably, many people believe that the Roswell case has been "investigated out," meaning that there are no more firsthand witnesses to find and interview. Stefula's interview, although done some time ago, makes clear that this is not true. For example, almost none of the MPs at Roswell who went to the crash site—attested to by both Barton and M/Sgt. Lewis "Bill" Rickett (whom I personally interviewed in 1990)—have been located (although a few have been found and have declined to discuss the event or their own role, which is odd if nothing unusual occurred). We will continue to run articles in *IUR* about Roswell as new information is uncovered.

(continued on page 29)

ALIEN SOCIETY—*continued from page 13*

They occasionally describe symbols on the walls and on various equipment or machines. In some abductions, people have reported being required to memorize a set of symbols, which they assume to be an alphabet or pictographs. Thus, although we cannot at this time know all that occurs within alien society, it is difficult to imagine a technologically advanced society without a written form of communication, and, at least for the purposes of their abduction activity, it seems probable that aliens use primarily both a nonspoken and graphical symbolic language for their communication.

The reporting of the aliens' unique communication qualities is so pervasive and consistent that any in-depth study of alien culture must assume that telepathy is one of the most influential features. A culture's communication style profoundly influences the type of society in which its inhabitants live. For example, tribal societies without written language rely heavily on memory, oral tradition, storytelling, and demonstration to pass knowledge through the generations. As a consequence, historical memory plays a much more important role in cultural transmission than it does in literate societies. Social relations are often organized around those special people who are entrusted to keep the memory of the past. This may not be the case with alien culture, but an examination of the effects of telepathy and its consequences might yield, along with other known factors about their behavior, some insight into the kind of society in which they live.

ACTIVATING TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION

Researchers do not know how telepathic communication is activated between humans and aliens. At least three scenarios are possible.

The first suggests that each human has an innate physiological ability to communicate telepathically with other humans, and the aliens in some way tap into that normally unused facility. In fact, it is not uncommon for ordinary people to claim that they can read people's minds. Researchers engaged in testing whether extrasensory perception is genuine have long debated the existence of these abilities. So far the evidence, while suggestive, is inconclusive, and these claims have not been consistently validated. If this ability is authentic and all humans share it even slightly, it would have become a central feature of human thought, culture, and life. The profound effect it would have had on almost all human relations would most certainly have made human history radically different from what it has been. In fact, little evidence exists that every human has a biological ability to communicate telepathically. And the majority of humans do not claim to have innate telepathic powers. Therefore, telepathic communication is not and has not been a valid and recognized form of human communication.

If telepathy is not physiologically innate, a second scenario may apply: Abductee telepathy is artificially stimulated by neurological manipulations and/or alterations. Thus, aliens provide humans with telepathic abilities by biologically affecting permanent changes in brain chemistry. If this were the case, one would expect that this telepathic ability would continue after abduction events. In fact, some abductees do claim this happens. They say that after some abductions they have a gradually decreasing ability to read people's minds for as long as two weeks afterward.

Unfortunately, virtually no scientific studies have been mounted to substantiate this, and the abductees have not checked with those people who are the object of their mind reading to ascertain their accuracy. But even if this were true, one would expect that telepathic abilities would last over the course of an abductee's lifetime and not exist only sporadically.

It is, of course, possible that the biological changes causing telepathic capacity respond to stimuli only originating with alien causative factors. This would mean that telepathy could be activated for an abduction event and then deactivated after. If the deactivation is in some way incomplete, and a residue of it lingers and wanes, abductees might gain a sense of telepathic communication with other humans in everyday life. This could explain the abductee reports of post-abduction telepathic abilities.

The third possibility for telepathic response is that it is caused by manufactured devices implanted into abductee brains. The implantation of such a device might take place during infancy or early childhood. It could be activated and deactivated automatically during an abduction. Sometimes these devices might be faulty in some way and, like the faulty deactivation of biological changes, cause the telepathic response to continue for a period after the abduction. However, researchers have yet to discover any such implant in a characteristic region of the brain, recover it, and then demonstrate its function.

Whatever the causative factor, a form of telepathic communication starts at the very beginning of virtually every abduction event. While it is not necessarily converted into words, the abductees know what is conveyed to them. Aliens can initiate this type of telepathic communication even before the abductees see them. For example, abductees "know" that they must go to bed, get out of bed, go downstairs, go outside, drive somewhere, stop the car, or do whatever activities the nonverbal orders have them do so that the abduction can begin.

It is important to understand that all reports of personally directed telepathic communication between abductees and aliens from a great distance that are not involved with abduction activity are usually examples of channeling. The evidence strongly suggests that aliens are not in communication with abductees apart from abductions. Thus, accounts of people having personalized dialogues in their normal environments with aliens on a continuing basis are

to be taken with extreme caution. In the same sense, "messages" to abductees should also be viewed with extreme skepticism.

TELEPATHIC DEACTIVATION

Telepathic communication is deactivated just as mysteriously as it begins. Abductees do not report procedures whereby the aliens cause telepathic communication to cease. If this were the case, researchers would be seeing it at the end of every abduction event. Thus, the closest we can come to understanding the origin of the implementation of telepathic communication in the abductee is that it is the result of some sort of neurological engagement, artificial or biological, with the aliens. It starts with the alteration of consciousness and perception that engages neurologically at the beginning of all abduction events and usually ends when the abduction is completed.

ALIEN-TO-HUMAN COMMUNICATION

When one asks abductees what they mean by "telepathic communication," they generally say that they receive an impression in their mind, which automatically converts into words for comprehension. Reports from people of different nationalities indicate that the abductees convert telepathic communication into whatever language they speak.

Thus, and this is important in understanding the global nature of the phenomenon, the aliens circumvent the problem of having to communicate in the vast variety of human languages. When in rare instances an abductee reports that the telepathic communication he or she is receiving contains an "accent," one can surmise that this has more to do with the abductee's expectations than with the reality of the situation (this observation may not apply to hybrid communication).

One of the great problems encountered by abduction researchers is the way in which abductees recount alien telepathic communication. Not only can it be very difficult for abductees to remember exactly what has been "said," but remembrance is also complicated immeasurably by the problem of the abductee deciding exactly where the communication originated. Many abductees routinely mistake their own thoughts for thoughts put in their mind by the aliens.

The question is, how does one distinguish between hearing impressions from the aliens, or hearing one's own thoughts? This problem, akin to channeling, has provided the rocks upon which many inexperienced abduction researchers have foundered. Mistaking human thought for alien communication, researchers have often developed poor and misleading data. Because of the human origination of this communication, channeled messages of societal concern and benevolence often make their way to the public and cause confusion among abductees and researchers alike.

Most of the time, abductees have no difficulty identifying and understanding alien communication, although they often have problems describing accurately that conversation for the researcher. Because of trouble converting the communication back to spoken or written language when remembering it, they generally add the phrases, "or something like that" and, "or words to that effect," to indicate that they cannot translate the telepathic dialogue with total accuracy. Therefore, some imprecision, at least in recall, might be a somewhat constant feature of alien-to-human communication.

Although the aliens are generally not forthcoming about their goals and purposes, in some instances conversations take place with abductees in which the aliens are more substantive and focus on those issues. These conversations are infrequent, but when they occur, they can be significant, giving insight into the abduction program as a whole. However, the majority of the aliens' conversations with abductees are either directive or palliative. They tell the abductee to remove his clothes, to get up on a table, to follow them, to get dressed, that it is time to go, and so forth. They tell the abductee that he will not be hurt, or that he will not be there long, that everything is going to be all right, to calm down, and so forth.

HUMAN-TO-ALIEN COMMUNICATION

Humans communicate with aliens in much the same way as the aliens communicate with them. Abductees report that they were unable to fashion words with their mouths. They indicate that they were paralyzed and could not speak even if they wanted to. Just as often they say that it does not even occur to them to use their voices.

But in order to engage aliens in conversation, they know that it must be accomplished from mind to mind. Usually, humans report communication with aliens that relate to their situation on board the object: the purpose of procedures administered to them, how long they will be there, and if others abducted with them are all right. They might even ask general questions about the purposes and meaning of the abduction program, although this is not usual.

Asking questions, however, does not mean that the aliens will answer; the question does not necessarily provide psychological pressure for an alien to answer. If they answer at all, it is often with vague generalities. Thus, responding to a question does not necessarily mean that valuable information will be imparted, although it sometimes does occur.

Although virtually all communication is telepathic, abductees report that at times they find that they can verbalize. Usually this comes out in the form of shouts, cries, moans, and other vocalizations. It is sometimes a shock for an abductee to hear the silence pierced by the screams of another abductee on board a UFO. Therefore, vocalization is possible at times, but word formation is not.

ALIEN-TO-ALIEN COMMUNICATION

In order to develop and maintain a scientifically advanced society, alien-to-alien telepathic communication must, by logic and necessity, be precise. The aliens must be able to convey advanced scientific concepts and mathematical equations on a sophisticated level. Accuracy, clarity, and flexibility in communication would be essential for their accomplishments. Thus, sophisticated "intra-communication" between aliens is critical. And it parallels the requisites that human languages possess.

Aliens are often seen communicating with each other in private conversation, and they are seen in group situations in which all participants are communicating. How rich their communication skills are is unknown, but they are able to convey all that is needed to create their civilization.

The aliens' logical minds suggest that the interactions and thought processes with abductees are quite similar to those of humans. We are able to understand their commands, their desires, their motivations, and their procedures. Most areas of alien life are still mysterious, but the evidence suggests that given enough information, everything they do is amenable to human understanding, both through direct communication with abductees and by deduction afterward by researchers.

HUMAN-TO-HUMAN TELEPATHY

Abductees can sometimes carry on conversations with other abductees whom they encounter on board a UFO. Human-to-human communication can either be by telepathy or by voice. When talking to another human, the abductees do not consciously chose telepathy or voice. They simply do one or the other. Why humans can communicate aurally with one another is a mystery, given that it is apparently very difficult in other abduction contexts. It is possible that they only think they are talking normally but they are actually communicating telepathically.

When humans converse with one another, their conversations typically often focus on how they can escape from the UFO or what the aliens are going to do to them. Often one abductee tries to calm or reassure other abductees, saying that the aliens will not hurt them and they will be leaving soon.

In effect, they do the aliens' work for them. Whether this is because of alien design or because it stems from human compassion remains to be seen. Although these types of conversation seem reasonable on the surface, in fact they are somewhat frustrating for the researcher. Only rarely will the abductees exchange their names and addresses.

They seem unaware that they will most likely forget the experience directly afterwards, and it does not occur to them that it might be important to locate the person whom they saw on board for verification of their experience. Much of this has to do with the aliens' abilities to neurologi-

cally alter the mechanisms of memory and consciousness that is beyond the scope of this discussion.

INDIRECT HUMAN-ALIEN TELEPATHY

Frequently abductees report that they can tap into communication between two or more aliens and between other humans and other aliens. Although it is difficult for them to be precise about everything the aliens say, they generally comprehend the context of the discussions, which often involve mundane exchanges about the best way to go about performing a procedure upon the abductee, the nature of the next procedure to perform, or aspects of the abductee's physiology. Sometimes abductees can be quite specific, detailing what each alien said. Therefore, aliens and humans in proximity to hear telepathic communication can receive at least some of it. It is not known if the aliens can privatize their communication by whispering or by in some way preventing others from hearing their thoughts.

As yet, I and other researchers have found no evidence to suggest that abductees can hear or monitor alien thought processes apart from those specifically employed for communication. They cannot listen in on the private mental world of thoughts that the beings might possess. Abductees are unaware of the ideas that lurk behind the aliens' conversations directed at them. Thus, the abductees probably have only limited abilities to listen to the aliens' thoughts. But testimony exists to suggest that the reverse might be true—aliens can understand what abductees are thinking privately.

For example, when one abductee was forced to hold a hybrid baby, she threatened to throw it to the floor. She said, however, that the aliens knew she did not mean it. Similarly, when an abductee is worried about another family member abducted with him, the aliens will tell him that the relative will be all right, even though the abductee did not directly address the alien about his fears. When abductees are becoming frightened just before a procedure is administered, the aliens will sense the anxiety and take measures to calm him. Abductees appear not to have these abilities, and therefore the aliens might well have stronger powers of telepathic communication than abductees possess.

CONSEQUENCES OF ALIEN COMMUNICATION

The evidence suggests at least two possible scenarios for the character of alien society. The first is based on the idea of total telepathy: All aliens can monitor all other aliens' thoughts. There are no barriers or limitations. The second is based on limited telepathy: Aliens can monitor only selected (filtered) thoughts. The second scenario suggests that the aliens have a choice about whether or not they desire to have all thoughts open to monitoring. The two scenarios reflect societies that might differ in the degree of personal privacy allowed, but are nonetheless still extremely dissimilar to human cultures.

The totally telepathic society, while having logic and rationality in common with human societies, would, by necessity, be profoundly different. Although an uncontrollable full exposure of all thoughts would be considered horrifying in most human societies, it could be the norm for a totally telepathic society, and its consequences would be enormous. In effect, one would be forced to share one's innermost private life with all others, and therefore individual freedom of thought would be diminished or even nonexistent.

In this type of society, uniqueness and individuality could be significantly curtailed. Special characteristics of physiology, clothes, affect, and expression, which can be important for human expression of individuality, would have little, if any, use in a society where individual identity is severely diminished or altogether unnecessary. In human prisons and other institutions an inmate's identity is systematically stripped away so that the controlling powers can rebuild the member's identity to control him psychologically and to satisfy the needs of the organization. Prisoners are given numbers instead of names, they wear uniforms instead of freely chosen clothes, they eat the same food, they sleep in the same quarters, and most other areas of choice are severely limited.

In an alien society this rebuilding would not be necessary. The inhabitants would be born into a public, or even corporate (rather than private) culture. The aliens' identity would be reflective primarily of that society's needs and of the specific function that they must perform within it. Individuality would not be deemed a functional operative within this system.

Abductee reports appear to bear out the diminution of individual alien identity. The gray aliens seem to have no names or personality characteristics that separate them from the others. Outwardly, they look alike, dress alike, act alike, and, most probably, think alike. They appear to have few activities that would give them personal satisfaction — they do not joke with abductees, engage in dialogue about themselves, ask personal questions for their own satisfaction, and so forth. All personality and individual activity is directed toward the abduction goal in a clinical and dispassionate way.

Because personal uniqueness, individuality, and one's sense of self would be significantly altered, a hive mentality would ensue as function and performance become more important than creativity and initiative. The group rather than the individual becomes the most important social unit, as the alien is less a private than a public being. In effect, the government or the hierarchy of authority becomes paramount as the individual is subordinated to group needs. In this atmosphere, harboring thoughts opposed to the group's prevailing norms and viewpoints might be undesirable and perhaps even unthinkable. The beings would have little or no ability to become rebels or to struggle significantly against the societal grain. Conformity and rigid truth would be the norm regardless of nuance or the little white lies of

normal discourse that allow for human society to proceed smoothly and humanely without injury to others' feelings. In such a society, good or evil do not exist, only function and compliance.

The second scenario suggests that alien society might be based on a reduced, or partial, telepathy. In this type of telepathic society it is probable that the aliens would have more control in their ability to be telepathic. It is difficult to imagine a functioning society in which every thought is open to everyone else (as noted in the first scenario). For example, the noise of other beings' thoughts impeding upon one's mind would be detrimental to accurate communication and possibly imperil survival. Without the critical capacity to filter out what is not wanted, one's ability to perform tasks accurately and efficiently would be impeded. Therefore, it is probably necessary for the beings to have a mechanism to turn aspects of telepathy on or off, or at least increase or decrease its intensity. It is highly likely that they employ a filtering method for clarity of communication, and thus telepathy might very well be limited to purposeful communication.

Nevertheless, the ability to tap into another being's thoughts on any level would significantly diminish the concept of privacy. Although the aliens would have a more private inner life, their sense of self and their ability to express individuality would be severely compromised. The salient factor would still be the inner, rather than outer, mode of expression and communication, and that might well have almost as severe a set of consequences on group versus individual norms as total telepathy would have, and it would still be consistent with abductee descriptions of their interactions.

Whatever the degree of telepathy, the chances are that it actively contributes to a society that is more communal than private, more conforming than individual. It is unknown to what degree the aliens can employ and manipulate telepathy, but regardless of the degree of this method of communication, it suggests even more profound differences between alien and human society.

ALIEN AND HUMAN SOCIETAL DIFFERENCES

In human society, much of the quality of life is dependent upon the hearing mechanism. In a society based on telepathy, it must not be assumed that the aliens have lost their ability to hear through eons of evolution; their communicative abilities might well have evolved and developed as a normal part of their genetics (if, indeed, they have genetics). Thus, the nonhearing society would not have the benefit of the aesthetic world that comes with hearing. All music (and perhaps dance), which enriches and fulfills our lives in innumerable ways and which are some of the earliest and most important art forms for all human societies, would be nonexistent in a telepathic society. It also implies that the aliens might have no genetically determined aesthetic sense and/or inner emotions satisfied by

rhythmic and melodic notes produced by patterned tones and beats.

The normal visual cues that both deaf and hearing humans rely upon for complete communication are, in telepathic communication, not present. The aliens do not use their hands to gesture expressively. The subtle and wide range of expression that humans can use—cynicism, irony, sarcasm, drama—seem to be limited for the aliens, and the range of communicative expression that comes from subtle facial movements is almost nonexistent. Abductees do not report the use of body language to communicate subtleties and nuance, although it is possible that aliens may have incorporated this into their telepathic communication without abductees being able to recognize it.

EMOTIONS, TELEPATHY, AND VISUAL ARTS

Abductees report that alien emotional range seems to be greatly circumscribed. Possibly, telepathy restricts the range of emotions that can be transmitted and/or received. Whatever the reasons, abductee narratives suggest that aliens' emotional life falls within narrow parameters. That they do have emotions is widely reported. They seem to display satisfaction, excitement, a limited form of happiness, and even a limited form of fondness. Conversely, they can become frustrated, annoyed, surprised, peeved, and even irritated. Abductees sometimes describe aliens as having an extremely rudimentary sense of humor, especially when dealing with human children.

Although aliens obviously possess emotions, their feelings are not variable and expansive enough to encompass what humans rely upon for a normal quality of life. In general, abductees do not report instances when they see aliens laughing, crying, becoming enraged, expressing sincere love, unrestrained joy, feeling jealousy, or having their feelings hurt. In general, they do not display a deep sense of humor, and abductees rarely report that they are laughing. Virtually every emotion seems to exist within a narrow range. It is conceivable that these emotions are present but the aliens hold them rigidly in check. However, with the extremely wide range of abduction accounts now available, this seems unlikely because abductees almost never report seeing slip-ups in which the aliens exhibit wider limits of their emotions. Abductees have reported that they can telepathically sense this limited range of emotions even under the most trying times when they have physically attacked aliens, refused to cooperate with them, actively resisted them by running, flailing, and so on. Under these trying circumstances, one would expect a wider assortment of alien emotional reactions, but none is forthcoming.

If the aliens actually have this restricted emotional sense, it has profound implications for the telepathic society in which they live. Aliens obviously have the sense of sight, but without the emotional range to gratify the senses visually, it is doubtful whether they have developed an art form based on vision. Thus, paintings, drawings, and graphics

are conspicuous by their absence within the interior of UFOs. Strong color, which causes emotional reactions in humans, is almost nonexistent on the walls of UFOs. In fact, abductees report little aesthetic sense whatever in their surroundings on board the UFOs. The rooms, equipment, hallways, and most apparel are functional, clinical, and devoid of artistic expression. The small gray aliens and most of the taller gray aliens dress alike (if they wear anything at all), and fashion design does not appear to be important. The exception to this is the insect-like beings who sometimes wear robes with high collars (some abductees have reported robes with a simple hem design on them). Abductees also report that these beings will sometimes also wear an amulet around their neck with a design on it. Whether the design or amulet is for decorative purpose or for another, perhaps political, social, or technological purpose, is unknown.

The aliens' lack of a nose and mouth (and with evidence of obtaining nutrition by absorption) suggests the absence of the entire range of sensory satisfaction in which humans indulge through the preparation and ingestion of food. The great cuisines of the world and all the lore, mythology, and day-to-day enjoyment of eating would not be a factor in the aliens' society. Fragrances by themselves would have little or no meaning. For example, freshly mowed grass, flowers, and the entire range of earthly and animal scents would be lost on aliens.

With a restricted range of emotions—coupled with their lack of ears, noses, or mouths—their society would be less colorful than ours. One would expect that the range of emotion-based interactions between the aliens would be limited; events that generate enjoyment, laughter, awe, thrills, and so forth, would be either severely restricted or nonexistent. In this dull world, the texture of alien society would be flatter and emptier than that of human society and hence far less stimulating.

The paucity of aesthetic sense means that the world of human art and design with all its branches is unknown to the aliens and perhaps not understood. It also means that they probably do not understand the role that aesthetics plays in human life. This suggests that a complete understanding of human psychology may be beyond their grasp. They might remain forever outsiders, partially grasping human motivation, but unable to fully comprehend it. (But they can still use human emotion for their own purposes as they have done so effectively in their neurologically based staring and visualization procedures.)

Thus, the world of art and aesthetics that occupy the lives of so many humans is nonexistent in an alien society. It is entirely possible that there are no art forms like painting, drawing, photography, literature, drama, and performance art. The passionate and complex world of theater, entertainment, sports, or any other area depending on the highs and lows of human emotions does not exist in their world. If this were true, they would live in a dull, joyless society focused on work, obedience, subservience to the

group, and obedience to an authoritarian hierarchy.

TELEPATHY AND ALIEN EMOTIONAL LIFE

In a society based on telepathy and restricted emotional range, it might be difficult to experience what we would call love. Without a sense of self-love that comes from a sense of individuality, the aliens might have a diminished capacity to have these feelings. They certainly have the ability to elicit feelings of love and affection in abductees through neural stimulation, and abductees often make the mistake of assuming that those feelings are reciprocal. Although a taller alien being might show a sense of friendship or even intimate that he likes someone, there is little evidence that he has any capacity to love in the human sense.

The aliens' inability to love also suggests that their sense of morality and conscience might be different. This complements their apparent lack of individual personality attributes, especially in the smaller beings, and the steady pace of cooperation that abductees report. It also allows for their apparent lack of moral qualms when they abduct people. For them, the ends justify the means, and the concept of conscience does not seem to play an important role in their abduction program.

Rationality and logic play a far more important role in their society than emotion, empathy, and sympathy. Thus, the human connection that one expects in all human societies would be absent in alien society. When this connection is lost and the dominant group identifies the other as the enemy or the lesser species, it becomes easier for that group to subjugate or even eliminate the subordinate group. The history of genocide in the world amply displays the consequences of the objectification and demonization of the other. The aliens' activity in relation to the abduction and exploitation of humans could well be an indication of this mode of thinking.

TELEPATHY AND HYBRIDS

One aspect of alien society is especially important and deserves mention. Significantly, hybrids appear to bridge the gap between alien and human both in appearance and in communication. While the ones that look more alien (early-stage) communicate telepathically, the ones that look more human (late-stage) can communicate both telepathically and orally. When the late-stage hybrids speak through their mouths, they are more communicative and more expressive than the aliens. One can speculate that the more human they appear, the more they display oral communicative abilities.

The hybrids live in the alien-dominated society, and their lives are ruled by that dominant culture. When abductees describe disagreements and clashes between aliens and hybrids, the differences between a subordinate society with more complete humanlike sensory abilities—hearing, tasting, smelling, and so on—and thus a fuller emotional range, and the more restricted nonhearing alien society are brought

into sharp relief. For example, on one occasion a hybrid was engaged in an argument with an alien over using an abductee as a special project. The hybrid was anxious, angry, animated, and stubborn. The alien was cool, logical, unruffled, and in control.

If late-stage hybrid emotions run the gamut from love to hate, they can present special difficulties for the aliens. In one abduction event, an alien told the abductee they were having difficulty controlling the hybrids because their emotional needs constituted a serious problem that the aliens had not fully understood before they embarked upon their reproductive program. If this is true, the role of hybrid emotions looms as a significant problem for the aliens. What the final results will be of the mixing of these two types of beings is unclear.

CONCLUSION

The aliens (insect and gray) most likely represent a society based on different sensate determinants than those of human societies. Their society appears to be group- and work-oriented. They live in a colorless society, both literally and figuratively. It has fewer diversions and entertainments, and less aesthetic content than human society. On board a UFO, it is apparent that the aliens lead a life of service and work in which individuality is subordinated to the group.

Their form of communication plays a significant role in the ordering of their lives and culture. Privacy and individual expression are either nonexistent or severely truncated. Telepathy both isolates and joins the aliens together in ways that are very different than in human societies. The quality of the aliens' lives and the shape of their society as a whole is significantly formed by the role that the interplay between telepathy and a restricted neurology of the senses plays. It is a society in which humans would feel quite alien. ♦

CHESTER BARTON—*continued from page 23*

Second, Barton's testimony is quite important because it corroborates the statements of other key witnesses, and it also opens up one new line of investigation, as I will explain. And recall that Barton had not read books or seen programs about Roswell before Stefula interviewed him.

In the Roswell yearbook for 1947, Chester Barton's photo is included in the 1395th MP company section. This fits with his testimony that he was accompanied to the crash site by Capt. Tripp, Major Easley's second-in-command (Tripp's photo is on the same page as Barton's). And it supplies a natural reason why Barton would have been asked by Easley to go to the crash site as one of his observers. As William LaParl discovered from Barton's military records, Barton was only temporarily assigned to the Base Service Unit in early July 1947. So his story of going out to the desert while between real assignments jibes with the date of the Roswell event. And, I suspect, given the

evidence from the yearbook, that Barton was assigned to the MP squadron at least for a few months after July. (Investigators have been told the yearbook pictures were taken in the latter half of 1947.)

Barton's testimony about receiving his assignment from Easley also supports testimony that Maj. Easley provided in interviews with Kevin Randle about his (Easley's) knowledge of the unusual nature of the crash. Barton confirms that Easley was well aware of the Roswell crash and recovery effort and had his own men involved in guarding the site and possibly recovering the debris. Hence, Easley certainly would have been aware of the nature of the debris, or at the least, whether it was terrestrial in origin or not.

Another critical point of confirmation is that Barton reports that the drive to the site took only about 45 minutes. There is no way, even today, to drive from Roswell to the debris field on the Foster ranch near Corona in merely 45 minutes. But, there is testimony from other witnesses that the actual impact site of the object was much closer and just about due north from Roswell. Rickett, who went to a site north of town with his commanding officer Capt. Sheridan Cavitt (who changed his story many times over the years), told me that the drive took about 45 minutes. William Woody drove up Highway 285 with his father looking for what they believed to be a meteorite fall, and they encountered MPs preventing anyone from leaving the road to the west at about 30–45 minutes driving time north of Roswell.

Barton cannot have been at the Foster ranch site where Mack Brazel found all the debris. Thus, I think it is quite reasonable to conclude that there were *at least* two debris fields associated with the Roswell crash, and that one was relatively near to Roswell.

Barton was not told by Easley, or anyone else, what was found at the crash site (and this would certainly be standard security procedures). But he was informed personally by Maj. Easley to keep quiet and forget about the incident. It was then logical, given the security around the event, the fact that he and his companions were armed while at the site, and the report that some of the debris was radioactive, for Barton to speculate that what he saw was the debris from a crashed B-29 aircraft, perhaps carrying an atomic bomb.

However, there are several problems with the B-29 scenario. No B-29 aircraft, from Roswell or anywhere else, is known to have crashed near Roswell in July 1947 (and investigators, including the Air Force, have searched for such a crash by which to explain the Roswell event). Furthermore, B-29s did not carry atomic bombs, even on simulated bombing runs. This was both too risky and too cumbersome, as the atomic material for the bombs was not stored at Roswell but another site in New Mexico (when practicing crews from Roswell dropped "pumpkins" that acted similar to an atomic bomb in the air).

There are also problems matching his description of the site with a typical aircraft crash. Barton describes a burned

area, an unburned area, another burned area, and then the wreckage resting in a third burned spot. It is difficult to conceive of a B-29 crash scenario that would produce this sequence. Did the airplane strike the ground at the first spot, then bounce into the air and fall at the second, and then finally come to rest at the third burned area? Perhaps a fairly flat trajectory would produce such bounces, but it would also leave the airplane nearly intact, or at the very least, unmistakably identifiable as a large bomber.

Nor do the burned areas make sense. The first collision with the ground might rupture the fuel tanks, but they would stream fuel from that point on, not release the fuel in distinct spots separated by dry spaces.

And finally, most aircraft crashes, no matter how violent, leave pieces of debris intact that make it easy to determine that it was an aircraft that crashed. Barton, though, did not recognize any of the debris as from an aircraft but simply assumed that it *had to be* from an aircraft. (What else could it be?)

So for all these reasons, it is logical to conclude that, whatever Barton observed that day, it wasn't the debris from an aircraft accident. And as Stefula notes, it clearly was not from a Project Mogul balloon either. Mogul balloons didn't catch on fire when they landed; nor did they carry lots of metallic equipment that could be mistaken as aircraft debris. Diehard skeptics who continue to proffer the Mogul balloon explanation for Roswell must now deal with Barton's testimony, but I for one don't see any sensible way to fit a Mogul hypothesis with Barton's account.

It might appear odd that Barton saw no cryptographic traffic about the event, but the yearbook evidence indicates that Barton soon was placed in the MP squadron, which didn't handle communications for the base. Additionally, Barton was between assignments when the event occurred, and so might have missed any cryptographic communications. In any event, we can be certain that even if the incident were the crash of a B-29, there would have been secret communications to Washington. So, I suspect that one of these two rationales explains Barton's observation about message traffic.

Some might consider it peculiar that Easley would send out his officers to observe, but not supervise, a recovery operation that involved MPs under his command. But what if the recovery also involved MPs and personnel from other bases, as several witnesses have suggested? In that case, Easley might not even have been in overall charge of the recovery. And if so, it would be natural for him to want to have some of his own men there to report to him about what was occurring.

Barton reported that some of the debris was radioactive and that he and the others were checked for radioactivity at the base hospital. This is a new wrinkle on the Roswell incident. To my knowledge, no witness before this has mentioned anything about radioactivity at any site. To be honest, it is difficult to know what to make of this information, although Barton can hardly be in error since he recalls

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going to the base hospital to be checked, and there would have been no other reason to go unless he had been injured somehow. Of course, if the debris at Roswell was from an extraterrestrial spacecraft, it could have been radioactive. (Some of our own spacecraft carry small nuclear reactors for power.) And one can imagine other more esoteric mechanisms to generate radioactive materials on a spacecraft.

The only other witness who was interviewed extensively, was honest with investigators, and was likely at the same site as Barton is Lewis Rickett. (Others were there, such as Cavitt, but he admitted nothing to investigators about his trip with Rickett, and the testimony of additional witnesses who claim to have been there, especially Frank Kaufmann, is much in dispute.). Thus, the fact that no one else has mentioned radioactive debris—even if it were there—is perhaps not that surprising. Still, until other witnesses can be located to back up this aspect of Barton's story, it must remain unconfirmed at this stage.

A recent interview with Barton's wife (not with him in 1947 at Roswell) conducted by Robert Durant confirmed that he took his involvement seriously, even years later. He eventually decided not to talk to other investigators shortly after his interview with Stefula, who surprised him with his knowledge of the Roswell event. I'm positive there are other Chester Bartons alive, waiting to be discovered and interviewed, who can increase our knowledge of what occurred at Roswell. ♦

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skeptical of the very existence of UFOs. We may never know if Darwin was honest in his statements, but according to former Mercury and Gemini astronaut Gordon Cooper, at least one name on that list, Wernher von Braun, did have an open mind on the subject in general.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

It would be nice to be able to put all these odd fragments of information together. At this point they remain only tantalizing clues. We know that the Air Force was obviously a chief beneficiary of the R&DB's expertise. Nevertheless, since the end of the war Gen. Arnold and then his successor Gen. Carl Spaatz attached a great level of importance to in-house Air Force-controlled research and development. For that reason there may have been considerable resentment of the R&DB and its overriding civilian authority. An outcome of this may have been loss of coordination about such subjects as UFOs.

Another fascinating tidbit came to my attention during a 1998 phone conversation with Alfred Loedding's brother Fred. He said that he once visited Alfred at Wright Field around the time of the first flying saucer reports when Loedding was an investigator of the sightings. Fred does not remember if the date was 1947 or 1948. But he does recall his brother making a rather remarkable statement when he gave him an informal sightseeing tour of the base. Fred had asked Alfred what he thought "this flying saucer business is all about." Alfred replied that he did not know but then proceeded to point to one of the hangars. Alfred took a long pause. He then told Fred with some frustration that while he had no access to that hangar and had no firsthand knowledge of what was in it, he understood that the answer to the disc mystery was locked inside.

Of course, Loedding may have simply been expressing frustration over a secret R&D project to which he was not made privy. Certainly at that early time in the UFO investigation, Loedding and his Air Technical Intelligence unit thought that the flying saucers represented either a secret R&D domestic program or foreign technology gleaned by the Soviets from the Germans. This, despite the fact that Gen. LeMay put in writing in 1947 that the saucer sightings did not represent a secret American R&D project. On the other hand, "Men from Mars" were yet to be seriously considered, but a time for that did come.

If there ever was hard evidence for UFOs, Air Force Intelligence at the Air Technical Intelligence level—where Projects Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book operated—may not have had direct access to the information. A much more logical theory would be that some echelon of Research and Development controlled upper-level information in connection with a Pentagon-based Intelligence operation. Air Technical Intelligence veterans have stated to me and to Wendy Connors that if something as "exotic as a spaceship"

had ever been recovered (even in part), that it could have become the exclusive realm of R&D and a higher Pentagon-related office and so have remained unknown to those at Wright-Patterson.

Whenever a new type of Soviet MiG, for example, had been captured, Air Technical Intelligence at WPAFB did do the first analysis work. Their mission was to produce an estimate of the aircraft's threat so that U.S. fighter pilots knew what to expect. The real work from there was conducted by R&D who sought to take that Soviet plane and eventually make a better American fighter.

But the UFO subject may have been handled differently. The UFO projects, such as Blue Book, always maintained that the reported phenomenon posed no threat. So the subject truly seems to have had little sense of urgency at the Air Tech level.

On the other hand, Research and Development may have given the matter greater consideration—but at what level of R&D? As has been demonstrated, R&D was a jealously coveted realm all the way to the Defense Department's R&DB.

We do not know if the R&DB ever handled hard evidence relating to UFOs, but it is a legitimate question, given the testimony of Sarbacher and Walker. So the research must continue, given the potential importance of the subject. And this research must move to higher levels in Washington to uncover whatever the truth is about the R&DB and the U.S. government's knowledge of UFOs. ♦

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Big Truth that, he just knew, is "out there" somewhere.

Williamson and his son returned to Miami on the morning of the 24th following the sighting. He arrived late to the ad agency and told a colleague about it. (Williamson was far too assured and extroverted to ever be reluctant to talk about weird things.) Later in the day, the colleague came running in with the morning's *Herald*, which GHW had missed due to his return trip. "Look," his colleague said, "It's your sighting." The story's headline read "Keys Theater-Goers Report 'Flying Discs.'" Fifteen theater-goers saw three discs ringed with flashing lights hovering, then shoot off over the Gulf of Mexico. One of the witnesses said he spotted small windows in the craft.

Williamson was happy, though maybe a little miffed—I didn't see any windows, he said. The next day, the *Herald* reported that CUFOS founder J. Allen Hynek had declared the Michigan saucers "swamp gas." A few days after, in another story, the *Herald* included the statement that "flying saucers *do not* exist, Pentagon says." GHW wrote:

Can you imagine such stupidity?...They have taken the public for fools!!

Well, *that*, at least, George, is something we can all agree upon. ♦