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WHO'S THE DUMMY NOW?

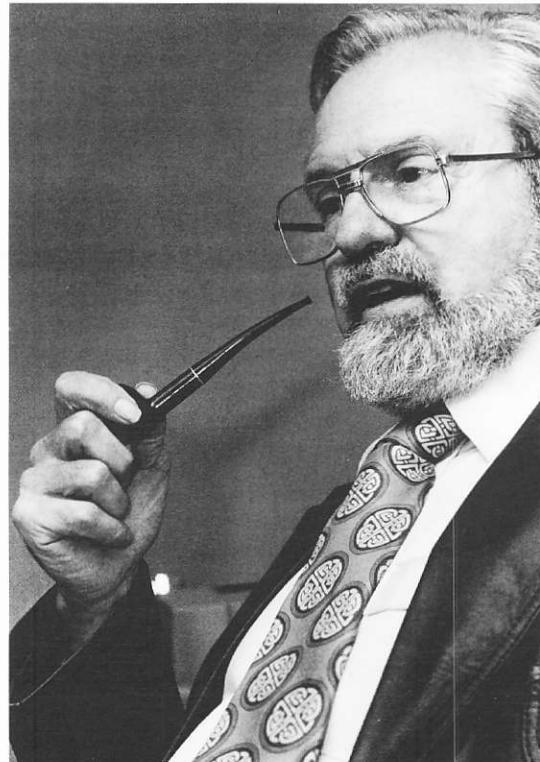
INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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THE CIA'S UFO HISTORY

BY MARK RODEGHIER

After the Cold War ended, the culture of secrecy and the operational style of the CIA began to change. Its director appeared on a radio talk show, and it became possible for citizens to pressure the CIA in ways unheard of during that earlier era. Ufology has been a beneficiary of these changes.

In late 1993, inquiries from several UFO researchers led CIA Director R. James Woolsey to order a review of all CIA files on UFOs. This agency-wide search occurred in 1994 and centralized the CIA's UFO files. Taking advantage of this opportunity, government historian Gerald K. Haines reviewed the documents, conducted interviews, and wrote a study examining the CIA's interest and involvement in UFO investigation and government UFO policy from 1947 until 1990.

Haines's study was published in *Studies in Intelligence*, a classified journal published quarterly for the intelligence community. The article, "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947–90," appeared in the first semiannual unclassified edition for 1997, on pages 67–84. It can be found at <http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies/97unclas/ufo.html>.

This is a rather important document because it is the first time that a government agency has written a review of its involvement with UFOs. Although the study had been available at least since June when I downloaded it from the CIA Web site, it did not receive widespread publicity until early August. But when the press learned about the Haines study, the attention was dramatic. The story was carried in most large newspapers, on the NBC Nightly News, and many other media outlets. A typical headline from the *Chicago Sun-Times* reads, "CIA feared UFO hysteria." Several columnists used the CIA history as an opportunity to bash the CIA and secrecy in government, as exemplified by the column by David Wise (author of *The Politics of Lying: Government Deception, Secrecy, and Power*) in the *New York Times*, "Big Lies and Little Green Men."

The media generally focused on two aspects of the Haines article. In a brief section entitled "CIA's U-2 and OXCART as UFOs," Haines claims that many UFO sightings in the late 1950s and 1960s were actually misidentified secret American spy planes. Moreover, he

alleges that the Air Force's Project Blue Book was in on this cover-up, purposely misled the public, and falsified (Haines didn't use that word but that is plainly what the Air Force would be doing) UFO explanations. This is important news if true, and the media rightly played up this angle.

Note that the CIA is not accused of deception by Haines; rather, it is the Air Force that willingly concocted the bogus explanations. Reporters asked the Air Force for comment, and on August 4, Brigadier General Ronald Sconyers told the press, "I cannot confirm or deny that we lied. The Air Force is committed to providing accurate and timely information within the confines of national security." General Sconyers sounds a bit like a weasel-worded politician, and his statement hardly serves to reduce the controversy.

The second topic seized upon by the press and played up as news was the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel from 1953. Yes, that is correct, the Robertson Panel, whose report has been well-known to anyone interested in UFOs for over 30 years now. That the press could consider the recommendations of the panel to be news at this late date speaks volumes for the intelligence, reporting skills, and historical knowledge of the Fifth Estate. (*The Washington Post*, in full damage-control mode, said in an editorial that the study was "not an exposé full of new revelations," but the paper had already published an article claiming the opposite.)

Press coverage focused on the panel's recommendations that UFO reports be debunked (a policy Blue Book followed assiduously after 1953), that UFO groups be watched, and that there was a danger the Soviets might use UFOs to clog the channels of communication and then launch a nuclear attack. The deception about our spy planes was just a small part of this strategy.

Although the press was only late by about 40 years, their coverage of this aspect of the report is a positive note for ufology. What is clear from the tone of most articles is that the CIA's (and Air Force's) lies about UFOs are just further examples of all the many lies the American public had been told during the Cold War. And for once, ufologists are being viewed in a sympathetic light by the media as direct victims of government deception.

Coming on the heels of the Air Force's second report on Roswell, the tide has begun to turn against the govern-

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ment in the UFO debate. More and more, it is becoming apparent the government has lied about UFOs for years, and that it still may be lying today.

Although the press gave so much coverage to the Haines article, it missed part of the story, failed to do any independent investigation, and generally swallowed the report as written. As Paul Harvey says, now for the rest of the story.

THE CIA'S EXCESSIVE SECRET

The report by Haines is remarkably brief, given the CIA's complex UFO involvement. In its Internet version the full article is 21 pages in length, with eight pages of that for footnotes (with several interesting tidbits buried there). Whole swaths of history, such as the early 1970s, are compressed into a few paragraphs or sentences. Certainly a more complete study could be done, and perhaps the classified version is a bit longer.

Nevertheless, to this credit, Haines several times makes it clear that the CIA bungled the handling of UFOs because of its policies of excessive secrecy, in effect fueling the idea of a massive UFO cover-up (for which, not surprisingly, Haines finds no evidence). For example, in 1957 Leon Davidson, a UFO investigator who worked at getting the Robertson Panel report released and was a believer in a government cover-up, was working on a UFO case involving a strange tape recording made by the Maier sisters of Chicago. This tape had actually been analyzed by the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and found to be "nothing more than Morse code from a US radio station."

When Davidson wrote to Dewelt Walker, the CIA officer who had contacted the Maier sisters, Walker obfuscated and refused to provide a straight answer about his role. When Davidson persisted, the CIA had the Air Force contact Davidson saying that Walker "was and is an Air Force Officer." Then to further screw things up, the CIA had one of its officers dress in an Air Force uniform and contact Davidson, claiming to speak on behalf of the Air Force. One cannot blame Davidson for believing there was a cover-up because, obviously, there was. As Haines writes, "Thus, a minor, rather bizarre incident, handled poorly by both the CIA and the Air Force, turned into a major flap that added fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs and CIA's role in their investigation."

In another incident, officers from the Contact Division (CD) of the CIA obtained a UFO photograph from Ralph Mayher in November 1957. After the photos were returned (with no comment or analysis for Mayher), he contacted the CD for the CIA's evaluation because he wanted to mention it on a television program on which he was going to appear. The CIA declined.

Major Donald Keyhoe, head of NICAP, heard about these events and contacted the CIA to confirm the story. But the CIA refused, referring the matter to the Air Force,

even though, as Haines writes, "CD field representatives were normally overt and carried credentials identifying their Agency association." No wonder, again, that ufologists would conclude the government was lying about its UFO activities.

MONITORING OF UFO INVESTIGATORS

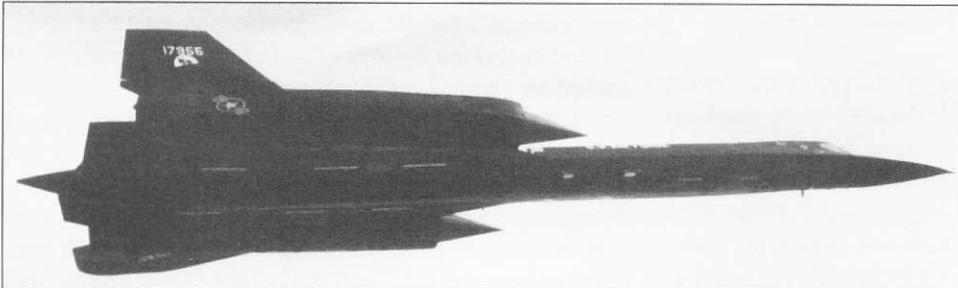
Although the CIA clearly lied to Davidson and Keyhoe, the actual UFO events at the heart of each story were mundane and not of particular importance. More sinister is the suggestion that the CIA (or FBI at the CIA's direction) has monitored UFO groups and investigators. Haines has no direct evidence for this, but it is unclear where such records would be kept or whether they would even be at the CIA (rather than the FBI). Certainly, the FBI has files on various ufologists, including Richard Hall, head of the Fund for UFO Research and long-time staffer at NICAP.

A complete history of the CIA's involvement in UFOs should have discussed this critical issue in depth; after all, the Robertson Panel recommended that UFO groups be monitored for subversive activities. That Haines did not fully discuss this subject can probably be attributed to his ignorance of UFO history, to the lack of documentation about this subject in CIA records, and perhaps, to the scope of his article which is more concerned with the investigation of UFOs rather than the investigation of ufologists.

The one bit of evidence Haines does include involves Leon Davidson again. In 1958, worried about future inquiries about government UFO investigation, the CIA met with the Air Force to discuss what to do with such requests. CIA officer Frank Chapin "hinted that Davidson might have ulterior motives" and he suggested having the FBI investigate Davidson. Haines says the record is unclear as to whether the FBI ever acted on this suggestion, but it is not clear how deeply Haines investigated this possibility.

Although the evidence is circumstantial, there are other hints that the government was monitoring UFO groups long before these discussions. In their book *UFOs Over the Americas*, Jim and Coral Lorenzen detail several rather bizarre incidents of what would seem to be rather clumsy attempts to learn the Lorenzens' motives for their UFO investigations and the work of APRO, the organization they founded. These occurred in several states over at least a dozen years, and the Lorenzens sound more amused by the experience than upset.

In point of fact, just about any ufologist would have been pleased to have the Air Force or CIA approach them and ask for advice about UFO investigations or what types of cases the investigator was receiving. The problem faced by these agencies, as Haines outlines, is that an excessive policy of secrecy kept them from openly contacting UFO investigators who most likely would have cooperated with government requests for information. As evidence, in early 1965 CIA agents finally did meet openly with Richard Hall at NICAP offices, who gladly gave them copies of



*Left: SR-71 Blackbird.
Below: U-2.*

UFO reports for the CIA's own review of the UFO situation.

THE ROBERTSON PANEL

There is no more pivotal event in the CIA's involvement with UFOs, perhaps in the U.S. government's interest in UFOs, than the Robertson Panel of January 1953. Haines devotes just over a page to this critical study, which provides him no room for nuance or much more than a bare reciting of the facts.

In his review of CIA documents he demonstrates the very high-level CIA interest in UFOs engendered by the UFO flap in the summer of 1952 and, especially, the sightings over Washington, D.C. A special study group was formed within OSI to review the UFO situation. Director Walter Bedell Smith "wanted to know whether or not the Air Force investigation of flying saucers was sufficiently objective," and he wondered "what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts."

Memos and meetings were frequent in late 1952 as the CIA considered what should be done about the UFO problem. Haines's research shows that the Robertson Panel's concerns about the clogging of communication channels and the use of UFOs to disrupt U.S. air defenses were taken straight from CIA concerns expressed in internal memos during the summer of 1952. In other words, the Robertson Panel, despite the eminence of the scientists involved, appears to have been carefully orchestrated by the CIA to come to the conclusions it did, which included debunking UFOs with the help of the Air Force Project Blue Book. Haines does not comment on this element of the CIA's role in determining government policy.

SPY PLANES AND UFOS

I turn now to the issue that so dominated press coverage of Haines's article, the claim that many UFO reports were caused by secret aircraft flights. Given the nature of many UFO reports of objects seen at close range low to the ground, ufologists have uniformly found this claim preposterous. I have over the years personally reviewed the majority of Blue Book reports and know that they were not caused by misidentifications of spy planes. But because this is such an important claim, here is the full discussion of this issue by Haines.



In November 1954, CIA had entered into the world of high technology with its U-2 overhead reconnaissance project. Working with Lockheed's Advanced Development facility in Burbank, California, known as the Skunk Works, and Kelly Johnson, an eminent aeronautical engineer, the Agency by August 1955 was testing a high-altitude experimental aircraft—the U-2. It could fly at 60,000 feet; in the mid-1950s, most commercial airliners flew between 10,000 feet and 20,000 feet. Consequently, once the U-2 started test flights, commercial pilots and air traffic controllers began reporting a large increase in UFO sightings.

The early U-2s were silver (they were later painted black) and reflected the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset. They often appeared as fiery objects to observers below. Air Force BLUE BOOK investigators aware of the secret U-2 flights tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions. By checking with the Agency's U-2 Project Staff in Washington, BLUE BOOK investigators were able to attribute many UFO sightings to U-2 flights. They were careful, however, not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public.

According to later estimates from CIA officials who worked on the U-2 project and the OXCART (SR-71, or Blackbird) project, over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States. This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project. While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the cover-up controversy of the 1970s. The percentage of what the Air Force considered unexplained UFO sightings

fell to 5.9 percent in 1955 and to 4 percent in 1956.

What exactly is the evidence for the claim that “over half of all UFO reports . . . were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights”? In one footnote, Haines mentions the monograph *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954–1974*, by Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach (1992). A colleague at CUFOS tried to obtain a copy of this reference, which was published by the CIA History Staff, but has been told the monograph is classified. That makes it impossible to verify its accuracy. In a second footnote, Haines mentions a telephone interview with a John Parongosky, who “oversaw the day-to-day affairs of the OXCART program.” I would like to call Mr. Parongosky myself, but have been unable to find any listing or address for him.

In any case, there is a very straightforward step which could verify this claim about spy planes, one I am surprised was not taken by at least one reporter. If the Air Force was lying about the cause of UFO sightings to protect the secrecy of our spy planes, then obviously the heads of Blue Book would have been central to the deception. Yet no one seems to have contacted any of these officers, most of whom are still living, for a comment.

I had previously spoken to Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Friend, head of Blue Book from about 1958 to early 1963, on a matter of UFO history, so I called him again recently to discuss this subject. Friend had not heard about the CIA report (he doesn’t watch much television and doesn’t follow UFO news closely these days), but he was very interested to learn about its existence. He asked me for a copy plus any news stories I had on the report.

I read to him the discussion by Haines reproduced above and then asked for his comment. Almost the first words he said were that it is “absolutely not true” that he or his Blue Book team were covering up spy flights as alleged by Haines. He found the whole idea laughable, and he knew Blue Book did not receive more reports from pilots and air traffic controllers after the U-2 began flying.

I asked him if he had ever concealed classified activities that were reported as UFOs. Friend indicated that, indeed, this had occurred on a few occasions, but it was not a regular occurrence. I inquired as to whether he had regular contact with the CIA at Blue Book. He said that he did because the CIA overlooked no potential source of information and wanted to keep tabs on all government intelligence activities. In addition, the Air Force had utilized the services of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, the CIA’s photo analysis office, to analyze UFO photos. However, in none of his contacts with the CIA or U-2 project staff was Friend ever told to conceal sightings of the U-2 by the CIA.

To be absolutely sure before I ended the conversation, I asked Friend whether the project had ever received a sighting which he recognized as caused by a U-2 (or other

secret aircraft). He said, to his recollection, no. Once again, he chuckled about the idea of half of all UFO reports being caused by manned reconnaissance flights.

I then read him the statement by Sconyers quoted earlier, in which the general cannot “confirm or deny that we lied.” This brought a guffaw from Friend, who wondered why Sconyers, or anyone currently in the Pentagon, should know what happened 30 years ago. We both marveled at how the press and the military (and Haines) had failed to contact the obvious central figures in this alleged cover-up.

In summary, then, the claim that motivated the press coverage of Haines’s report is inaccurate and is *not* evidence for a CIA and Air Force cover-up of UFO sightings and lies to the American public. Yet the CIA and Air Force did knowingly debunk UFO sightings, and Blue Book personnel often came up with any old explanation so that the yearly summary sheets would have only a small percentage of unidentified sightings. So I’m not too unhappy that the CIA and Air Force were taken to task for something they didn’t do, but it is important to set the record straight.

FORCING DISCLOSURE OF CIA RECORDS

Beginning in the mid-1970s, UFO researchers began using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to request government, including CIA, documents on UFOs. Once again, the CIA mishandled the requests. After William Spaulding, head of Ground Saucer Watch, wrote in 1975 requesting UFO records, the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator Gene Wilson wrote to Spaulding that the Robertson Panel was “the summation of the Agency interest and involvement in UFOs.” As Haines states, “Wilson was ill-informed.”

Not believing Wilson’s statements, ufologists sued the CIA for records and won the release of about 800 pages in December of 1978. Since the CIA had, unwisely, been denying its involvement in UFO matters, the media was surprised to learn how many documents were held by the agency. The *New York Times* claimed as a result that the CIA was probably secretly involved in the study of UFOs.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner was so upset by this that he asked his senior officers “Are we in UFOs?” He received a negative answer from his deputy and so moved to quash a new lawsuit asking for the withheld documents from the first release.

Notwithstanding the reply Turner got, Haines found that the CIA continued a few activities during the 1980s. As he writes:

During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Agency continued its low-key interest in UFOs and UFO sightings. While most scientists now dismissed flying saucers [sic] reports as a quaint part of the 1950s and 1960s, some in the Agency and in the Intelligence Community shifted their

(continued on page 36)

WHO'S THE DUMMY NOW?

THE LATEST AIR FORCE REPORT

BY MARK RODEGHIER AND MARK CHESNEY

In June of this year, the Air Force released its second massive report on the now well-known Roswell incident that occurred in and near Roswell, New Mexico, in early July 1947. The first Air Force report in September 1994 concluded that the debris found by rancher Mac Brazel was from an Army Air Force balloon-borne research project code-named Mogul. Despite the seeming finality of that first report, the Air Force clearly felt the need to release a second report to discuss the claims of alien bodies that are said to have been found at a second location in New Mexico in 1947. The first report didn't consider these claims.

This latest report—entitled *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*—was released on June 24, the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's UFO sighting in 1947, and it garnered widespread publicity, essentially preempting any coverage of the anniversary. The Pentagon even went so far as to hold a press conference to announce the “findings” of the report, although the briefing officer, Col. John Haynes, clearly hadn't read the document. So for a time, the Air Force appeared to have accomplished its mission of debunking the events at Roswell and, specifically, the stories of alien bodies. Certainly the *New York Times*, as it always does with UFOs, swallowed the government explanation whole.

But as the days passed, it became clear that the Air Force had shot itself in the foot once again. Throughout its long history of involvement with UFOs, the Air Force has continually exhibited great ineptitude and a poor understanding of public relations; but it may have sunk to a new low with this latest report. And it isn't just ufologists with that opinion. The *Springfield News-Sun* in Ohio wrote in early July that “Even dyed-in-the-wool disbelievers in UFOs must be shaking their heads at the Air Force's limp attempt to explain away the strange happenings outside



An Alderson Laboratories anthropomorphic dummy falling away from its suspension rack at high altitude over New Mexico.

Roswell, N.M.” The well-known cartoonist Herblock placed a crash dummy on a parachute and had the dummy holding a placard with the words “Roswell Report; Latest Final Explanation; Case Closed Again Until Next Time.” Since the Air Force has now released four separate statements/reports on the events at Roswell, doubt is a legitimate attitude toward its pronouncements.

The explanation the Air Force is offering in its report is so far-fetched that it hardly bears refuting. In summary, the report concludes that:

- 1) The witnesses to the reports of alien bodies are generally telling the truth.
- 2) But . . . these witnesses are mistaken about when the events they saw occurred, and they are also seriously mistaken about details of the events. Additionally, witnesses are conflating together several events that occurred at different times into a single event, and in every instance, the events the witnesses saw were normal Air Force activities.
- 3) In particular, the Air Force claims that the bodies observed were from scientific and engineering tests using anthropomorphic test dummies carried aloft by balloons,

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Anthropomorphic Dummy Launch and Landing Locations



Source: Test records of U.S. Air Force aeromedical project no. 7218, task 71719 (HIGH DIVE) and project no. 7222, task 71748 (EXCELSIOR).

and the “unusual” military activities were actually high-altitude-research-balloon launch-and-recovery operations.

4) The tests with dummies occurred several years after 1947, but the witnesses became confused about the exact date when questioned years later by UFO investigators.

5) Claims of alien bodies seen at the Roswell Army Air Field hospital were most likely a combination of two separate incidents. One was the 1956 crash of a KC-97 in which 11 crew members died, and the second was a 1959 manned balloon mishap in which two Air Force pilots were injured.

6) A Mogul balloon is still needed to explain witness accounts at the debris field found by rancher Mac Brazel, so the Air Force is now claiming that *both* a Mogul balloon and balloons with dummies caused the Roswell testimony.

As with the 1994 report, the new report is clumsily padded to make it appear to be lengthy and impressive. This is done by using a large font, many irrelevant photos, and wide margins. A great deal of research was done by the Air Force to gather information about balloon projects in New Mexico, including interviews with surviving members of the balloon teams. But as was the case in the 1994

report, no effort was devoted to interviewing still-living witnesses of the events from 1947. This makes a mockery of the claim by Secretary of the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall in the foreword that “Our objective throughout this inquiry has been simple and consistent: to find all the facts and bring them to light.”

The general flaw in the Air Force report is clear: If witness testimony is taken at face value, then the Roswell events occurred in 1947, and the Air Force could find no explanation for tales of alien bodies from its activities in that year. Accordingly, the Air Force, with no supporting evidence or logic, simply *assumed* that the witnesses were mistaken about the date of the incident they recalled. In other words, if the Air Force, in good faith, treated the events as occurring in 1947, it would have been stuck without an explanation. The result is the unbelievable report released in June.

Detailed all the problems in the report would take too much space, so we highlight only selected difficulties in the remainder of this article.

REHABILITATING GERALD ANDERSON

Perhaps the most astonishing thing in the whole report is the Air Force’s willingness to accept Gerald Anderson’s testimony at face value. Anderson surfaced as a potential Roswell witness in 1990, and after much investigation and debate, a conference was held in Chicago in 1992, cosponsored by CUFOS and the Fund for UFO Research, to evaluate his testimony. The outcome of that meeting, and subsequent events, is that Gerald Anderson admitted to falsifying records and lying about his background. Don Berliner, who relied heavily on Anderson’s testimony in his book *Crash at Corona*, written with Stanton Friedman, wrote in *IUR* in 1993 that he “no longer (has) confidence in the testimony of Gerald Anderson.”

Yet given this history, and aware of the meeting to review Anderson’s testimony, since the conference report is quoted several times, the Air Force blithely uses his testimony to establish various elements of its new explanation. Anderson’s statement about the bodies looking like “plastic dolls” is used to convince the reader that he was really seeing anthropomorphic dummies made of plastic. His use of the word “blimp” is taken to mean that he was really looking at a crashed balloon. And so on, for several pages in the report.

But, of course, all of this is irrelevant. The consensus of UFO investigators is that Gerald Anderson witnessed no crash scene, so whatever he says cannot be used to establish the Air Force’s scenario. That the Air Force in full aware-

ness used his testimony seems to indicate either desperation (because they had little other testimony to buttress their theories), stupidity (we'll let the reader decide that one), or a combination of these and arrogance.

IGNORING CREDIBLE WITNESSES

Several interviews were conducted by the Air Force, chiefly by Captain James McAndrew (who also was involved with the first report), but almost all these interviews were with surviving members of Air Force balloon projects. As with the first report, no interviews were conducted with civilian witnesses of the UFO crash, including Gerald Anderson. Instead, published accounts of interviews or transcripts were obtained from UFO investigators.

Now one might suppose that this was done to save money. Why interview UFO witnesses if they are already on record? But of course, this begs the question. No report can truly be complete if witnesses are not interviewed by the primary investigators. All of the UFO investigators of Roswell, including Randle, Schmitt, Friedman, Berliner, and Pflock, to name only a few, have attempted to interview the key witnesses themselves rather than rely on interviews done by their colleagues. And well they should, even if the witnesses might get a bit tired recounting their story again. Each investigator asks a different series of questions and has a different slant on the Roswell crash.

But McAndrew did not interview Gerald Anderson nor others, especially Frank Kaufman, who claims to have been involved with the recovery of the alien bodies. His claims have never been convincingly refuted or corroborated, so clearly his story is central to any complete consideration of the idea of alien bodies connected with the Roswell event. Instead, his testimony is referenced briefly and misleadingly quoted out of context. For example, the report states Kaufman "recalled that there was 'talk' that perhaps an 'experimental plane with dummies in it' was the source of the claims," but ignores his testimony in the same interview about what Kaufman actually observed at the crash site. We suggest that Kaufman was not interviewed or his testimony used in full because it is impossible to suggest that he could be confused about events in which he participated and for which he took written notes.

IGNORING ITS OWN EXPERTS

Even though the Air Force did interview several surviving balloon-project members, it seems not to have bothered to ask them what they thought of its explanation for the alien bodies. This seems strange, since these men were there at the time and could have observed civilian reaction, heard rumors, and the like. This strategy has come back to haunt the Air Force, though.

After the report was released, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Raymond A. Madson talked to the Associated Press about the report and his experience with the crash dummies. Madson still

lives in New Mexico and was the project officer for Project High Dive at Holloman Air Force Base for four years (the project did tests to develop ejection mechanisms for bail-outs from jet aircraft). Madson even sent some of his photos of the dummies to the Air Force for use in the report.

He told the Associated Press that there was no way the dummies could be confused with aliens, and that the dummies don't match descriptions of the alien bodies allegedly found near Roswell. Furthermore, he said that "The dummies were not covered up or hidden . . . and there was no security in the dummy drop phase of the experiments." And he also noted that there was a \$25 reward to return the dummies, which were stamped with labels identifying them as Air Force property.

To be fair, other Air Force witnesses have supported the alien-body explanation, such as Joseph Kittinger who actually flew in some of the balloons. But our point is that the Air Force report is not comprehensive and left several avenues of investigation open that could have easily been followed. And, if some of their own former personnel involved with the operation question the new explanation, how much faith should we place in it?

NO BALLOONS WITH DUMMIES

FELL NEAR THE CRASH SITE

A map is included in the report that shows the locations of anthropomorphic dummy landings in New Mexico. But there's a problem. Only one landing, number 33, occurred even remotely near the crash site, which is located about thirty miles north of Roswell on the Corn family ranch. And this dummy landing still occurred many miles away. So even if witnesses became confused by Air Force operations and thought they were observing the recovery of alien bodies, why would they place the event miles from where they witnessed it? To ask the question is to answer it: Obviously, they wouldn't do so.

As a related point, the Air Force explanation clearly depends on the witnesses to alien bodies having actually viewed balloons and dummy recoveries, but no witnesses who describe alien bodies can be placed at any recovery. In fact, Air Force balloon personnel, asked about the witnesses, cannot ever remember seeing or meeting these people at the sites of balloon recoveries.

DUMMY AND BALLOON TESTS

WERE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC

The Air Force claims that the anthropomorphic dummies "were not widely exposed [sic] outside of scientific research circles and easily could have been mistaken for something they were not." But a few pages later in the report, the Air Force admits that the dummy program, and balloon programs in general, received extensive publicity, in books, national magazines, and the 1956 movie *On the*



This ranch family assisted in the recovery of a Project Stargazer high-altitude balloon payload. They are shown here with a panel from the balloon's gondola.

Threshold of Space. This makes it highly unlikely that witnesses who lived in New Mexico would be confused by balloon activities and mistake them for aliens. A wonderful picture from the report (reproduced above) shows a ranch family holding a piece of an unmanned gondola from a Project Stargazer balloon. So much for the claim of lack of knowledge among the public.

THE GLENN DENNIS TESTIMONY

For some time now there has been debate about the accuracy and reliability of the testimony of Glenn Dennis, the mortician who claimed to have received a call from the base about caskets and who was told by a nurse from the base about an autopsy done on the bodies. Dennis also claims to have gone to the base on that fateful day and been brusquely treated by a red-haired captain.

If one thinks that Dennis's story is inaccurate, the parsimonious explanation is that he is simply making it up. But the Air Force didn't take this route. Instead, their "explanation" for his account is that he is essentially telling the truth as he remembers it, but that his memory is quite wrong about dates, places, and people. He has taken several events and people and consolidated them into one account of what he experienced. Here are all the events and/or people that the Air Force claims Dennis conglomerated into one coherent testimony:

1) Autopsies of dead crewmen from a KC-97 accident on June 26, 1956.

2) A balloon mishap that occurred west of Roswell on

May 21, 1959, involving Capt. Joseph W. Kittinger, who had red hair, and who was present at the base hospital after the accident.

3) Colonel Lee F. Ferrell, who was at the base hospital from October 1954 to June 1960.

4) Nurse Lucille C. Slattery, who was Chief Nurse at the hospital in 1947.

5) Nurse Idabelle Wilson, stationed at the base from February 1956 to May 1960.

6) Nurse Eileen M. Fanton, stationed at the base from December 1946 to September 1947.

We all know that memory is subject to distortion and that events are reworked over time. Nevertheless, the reader is left to judge the likelihood of all these events and people unconsciously being combined by a sane, competent witness, one who cannot even be proved to have been at the base hospital at the necessary times or to have known or met any of these military personnel.

If this isn't enough, consider this gaffe.

The Air Force explains Dennis's story about alien bodies at the hospital by suggesting that he inadvertently blundered into the base hospital when procedures were being performed on a burned crewman from the 1956 aircraft accident. Well, maybe, but we doubt that Dennis became confused about this incident since the actual autopsies, because of limited facilities, were conducted *at the Ballard Funeral Home* where Dennis claims to have worked in 1956! And we are still supposed to believe that Dennis thought these were alien bodies being autopsied rather than dead Air Force crewman? Give us a break.

CONCLUSION

There isn't much of a reason to go on further to highlight additional problems. What we've detailed so far is enough to demonstrate the copious flaws, errors, and misguided reasoning in the new report. Although the stories of bodies connected to the Roswell crash are less solid and have fewer witnesses than other aspects of the event, the second Air Force report is not an objective inquiry into the matter of the bodies.

Regardless of one's personal opinion of UFOs, it is plain to see that *something* occurred that has resulted in two "final" Air Force reports within three years. We can only conclude that it is simply another government whitewash attempt, or worse, a clear case of incompetence and waste of taxpayer's money. We look forward in eager anticipation to the next "final" Air Force report on the Roswell event. ♦

ROSWELL: CLASHING VISIONS OF THE POSSIBLE

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

Roswell is obviously a highly divisive topic in ufology. People accept or reject it, often emotionally, for reasons which seem to the listener unclear, even after patient attention. The possibility of a crashed disk, and the necessary astoundingly successful security required, alternatively violates or coheres with visions of reality held dear by the loudest, and occasionally less civil, discussants. But these deeper visions of reality, or what the writers and speakers of these schools want to believe, remain largely undescribed. This paper would like to pretend for the moment that such individuals and their constricting views of reality are not part of the serious Roswell exploration, as I believe they are not, no matter how much we are lumbered with them.

Instead I would like to present a few thoughts on what is a more intriguing and potentially productive aspect of the Roswell debate: that intellectually honest and unprejudiced ufologists *also* differ markedly in their views about the crashed disk hypothesis, and what the mode of reality is that seems to be acceptable to some and not to others. I have sat around tables with reasonable people (and good friends) such as Mark Rodeghier and Tom Dealey, and listened as one researcher fails to convince another, and they end by amicably agreeing to disagree.

The main problem in these discussions between reasonable people has been the unique complexity of the Roswell case. Nothing in ufology has been remotely like it in terms of numbers of witnesses, variety and quality of researchers, fragmented information, and *the lack of a comprehensive, clear research document* to which all discussants can refer. Because of this complexity, perhaps no single researcher can wrap his mind completely around the case, and so all commentators work partly from ignorance. Whereas this situation should inspire humility in the intensity of conclusions, it unfortunately encourages the opposite in persons of strongly constricting visions of reality, and even muddies the exchanges between good, honest seekers of the truth.

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Documents like the recent Air Force releases can appear to be reasonable to many people, only because of the case's complexity and the absence of a clear, comprehensive research document. This, and this alone, allows shoddy, incomplete research and "explanation" to address tiny elements of the case and pretend to address the entire complex. Some anti-Roswell ufologists have become masters of the "cut-a-branch-and-say-you-killed-the-tree" methodology. And Kent Jeffrey's recent change of mind about the case seems also influenced by this style of analysis. In many simpler UFO cases this approach might be reasonable. They are usually dependent upon very few elements. In the Roswell case, potshots and tree trimmings are important, but some humility and perspective should be applied when it comes to claiming what that trimming has actually done to the tree. In the real world, trimming often makes a tree healthier. Again, I want to emphasize that without a clear and comprehensive research document defining the case, no one, supporter or detractor, has a clear idea of what they're aiming at. My friends and colleagues, Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt, wrote good books but not this sort of document. That was not their intent in made-for-the-public publications. We are still looking for the researchusable publication from some source, however.

Because I cannot unravel the whole Roswell case in an article (due mainly to my patchy understanding of the details, let alone the length it would take), I would like to present what I believe to be the general hypothetical model that the reasonable pro-crash researchers are working with, and examine its strength and weakness. The pro-crash researchers base their views strongly in the historical context of the UFO phenomenon of the late 1940s and early 1950s. The anti-crash researchers seem to base their views in a different historical context: not UFOs, but their view of the way government and the military "should really work."

What ingredients interest the pro-crash researchers from which they build their working hypothesis? The first stone is really the foundation stone, and surprisingly almost never enters the discussion: that there was a huge wave of flying disk sightings being reported all over the country in the summer of 1947, and which continued

intermittently as essentially the same phenomenon through 1952. This outbreak of anomalous aerial events was apparently well-witnessed and very convincing to those who studied it. What were they convinced of? That these *were flying disks*; technical craft performing beyond our own capabilities of the time, and of a very unusual configuration. Almost every discussion of the Roswell event skips lightly over this UFO context, and most begin talking as if the report were to be properly viewed as an isolated event.

This apparently stems from the time-honored tendency in UFO research to view each case separately and to admit that X never can prove Y. This, of course, is true. But at the same time, X very often can form a relevant context for Y, and make of Y a reasonable working hypothesis. This seems to me to be important in the sociology of the discussion. Accepting that Y is a reasonable working hypothesis due to its context in the 1947 wave, would take some of the ridicule and attack-dog mentality out of the discussion at the beginning. "I can see where you're coming from, but here's where I disagree." Perhaps, the debate could then proceed upon hypotheses, rather than ad hominem ("how could anyone be so foolish...etc."). And a second, perhaps unresolvable, concern: We should generally be more willing to credit the context of individual cases in ufology. As long as everyone insists on fighting every case in isolation to the death, there will never be any ufology. A field of study is always composed of a whole constellation of related or potentially related phenomena, for which there exist theories and working models which organize the pieces, have a remembered history, and direct objective discussion. Our pseudoufology tends to feature isolation, no memory or history, and subjective argument.

Every pro-crash researcher that I know well feels that there is strong evidence of a large wave of aerial anomalies taking place in 1947, and that a reasonable and strong hypothesis for this is that craft beyond our current technical capabilities were being seen. I am not certain that the anti-crash researchers (again, I am not speaking of debunkers or other intellectually dishonest writers) feel as strongly about the 1947 wave and key cases such as Kenneth Arnold, C. J. Zohn, and E. J. Smith. For the pro-crash researcher, though, the wave and its several-year continuance of disks and radar reports form a powerful context within which the possibility of a crash is reasonable.

So what of the case itself? Lying on top of the foundation stone context are the three "columns" from which all the rest of the research on Roswell has sprung:

- A. The news story release by the air base that they had in fact captured a flying saucer;
- B. The testimony of Major Jesse Marcel, combined with his job responsibility, qualifications, and presumed character; and
- C. The several descriptions of the Brazel ranch debris and the site.

The news release. At least this is something no one

doubts happened, and apparently no one doubts that it was ordered by the base commander. Pro-crash researchers view this in regard to the simplest hypothesis: the release meant what it said. Any other hypothesis is entertainable, but it must make a case for a not insignificant reinterpreting of the release. When the second release comes out denying the conclusions of the first, the roles of the pro- and anti-crash researchers are reversed, but, I believe, not equally. The first release clearly inspired the second. Almost as clearly, that "inspiration" came from somewhere off the base. In that sense, it is reasonable to view the first release as originating at the site which was in contact with the material in the fullest and most direct way; and the second release not. There is still much latitude for rationalization upon this either way, but the fact of the release exists, and the simplest hypothesis is that the commander meant it.

One can imagine that the commander issued this press release whimsically or without much thought or having even bothered to look at the materials and the facts themselves, but that sort of behavior too would require some major rationalizing or guesswork. I submit that it is not unreasonable to suppose that base commander Blanchard familiarized himself quite extensively with whatever information and materials he had available before composing his release. If so, one is left with the problem of how Blanchard could have looked over and handled whatever his personnel had brought in, and decided that it was a flying disk, if in fact it was nothing more than U.S. produced balloon technology? For the school-of-nothing-really-happened, one would hope that the required hypothesis of:

- A. Blanchard didn't even look at the materials and still ordered an astounding release; or
- B. Blanchard didn't think the stuff was really unusual, but wrote this anyway

would be at least a little uncomfortable. And, in a civilized ufology, it would be nice to hear the anti-forces admit the discomfort, as, I believe, the reasonable pro-forces do when it comes to the "how could you keep that secret?" problem.

Major Jesse Marcel. Rightly or wrongly, pro-crash researchers view Major Marcel as a responsible and competent soldier, of good qualifications to distinguish between mundane balloon debris and something extraordinary, and of good character well beyond the creation of elaborate public hoaxes on potentially important matters. This characterization of Marcel may be in error, but, given his position in July 1947, some serious rationalization by counterviews must be made to cast him into a light of incompetence, irresponsibility, and/or dishonesty. Realizing how important Marcel is to the case has apparently spawned just such attempts to attack him.

I might add that the ad hominem attack is becoming a standard weapon in the arsenal of ufological debaters. In a field so dependent upon testimony and researcher compe-



Left to right: Howard McCoy, George Schulgen, Vannevar Bush, James Conant.

tence and honesty, *maybe* one can understand this, but in today's climate it seems well out of control and terminally destructive. We have often seen that debunkers fall back on this as a last (vicious) line of defense: Father Gill messianically lording it over the "primitive," impressionable Papuans; Cash and Landrum trying to rip off the government for "faked" injuries; Levelland or Socorro inventing cases to boost tourism. But perhaps we can do better as a community of cooperating colleagues. We have gone for years without good reason to doubt Jesse Marcel's character and competence. Now that the anti-forces recognize that the Roswell case is unlikely to fall as long as Major Marcel stands, we are seeing a variety of attempts to chop him down. Let us hope that this "analysis" is at least done civilly, honestly, sensitively.

The debris field and the debris. It is the (apparent) fact that not only Major Marcel but several persons saw the crash debris (piecemeal or at the ranch) and that the descriptions are roughly consistent. Some people describe a self-forming metal (crumple-up, uncrumple by itself) which, if real, would be extremely strange even now (even given Nitinol as its cousins), let alone in 1947. Marcel does not describe this. But even without the miracle fold-out metal, the debris seems very unusual for strength and lightness, and inconsistent with things like balloons and their instrument packages. The amount of debris stated to be at the ranch site also seems inconsistent with any balloon project.

Taking these three elements together in the historical context of the UFO wave, pro-crash researchers have reasoned this way:

1. There seem to have been a lot of reports of technological disk-shaped craft of superior aeronautical performance flying about.
2. Roswell Army Air Field's commander reported that he and the base had found a crashed one.
3. The head of base intelligence reported (many years later) that this was true and that it wasn't any

balloon, and that as far as he could tell the material was unearthly.

4. The characteristics and amounts of the debris reported seem inconsistent with any known U.S. (or other) technical project which could have crashed there.

Conclusion. "The Roswell event was a crashed non-terrestrial technology" is a reasonable working hypothesis.

A large amount of research and writing then exploded from there, as we all know. Some of the testimonies seemed to fit nicely with the hypothesis, some not. Everyone chose how and where they wanted to rationalize. But a second major debate front occurred. This was the anti-crash writers' context: How in the world could you have a real ET-Roswell, and also have the near-total silence from military, science, NASA et al, as if it never happened? The simple anti-answer: It *didn't* happen. Who knows what went on with the 1947 UFOs, the release, Marcel, and the debris, but it must have been mainly a packet of errors of some kind. This is not an unreasonable set of concerns, and it taxes the pro-crash researcher to model what could have happened. Here is a rough characterization of the pro-crash reality model vis-a-vis what happened post-crash and "cleanup."

The pro-crash view of the importance of the military gaining possession of materials from a piece of extraterrestrial technology is that this would be seen by the Pentagon *immediately* to be of highest importance and needing highest secrecy. Therefore, extreme precautions would be taken and plans made to place all aspects of this under such secrecy. Other than the mess at Roswell itself, this sort of plan should have been doable, maybe easier than we know. There have been many secret projects kept very "dark," and many, apparently, with very few persons aware of what the whole picture was all about. I am reminded of the following situation from (roughly) the same era.

In 1954 Eisenhower was scared to death about the
(continued on page 33)

LIE DETECTION IN UFO CONTROVERSIES

BY GEOFF PRICE

Grappling with fraud and deception is par for the course in the context of UFO claims. As a result, "lie detector" tests are frequently demanded of UFO claimants, and their results, positive or negative, brandished as evidence.

Some cases in particular have put lie detection in the spotlight, notably the Travis Walton abduction case of 1975, as well as the more recent (and divisive) case of Ed Walters and his Gulf Breeze photographs.

Kevin D. Randle, in his latest book *The Randle Report*, rules both cases a hoax, pointedly citing the original, failed polygraph test of Travis Walton (administered by John McCarthy, hereafter "the McCarthy test"). Randle is hardly the first to use this argument; Philip Klass has been the most unrelenting and vociferous critic of Walton, in large part because he had failed the McCarthy test. Gulf Breeze detractors, such as Carol and Rex Salisbury, have cited the successful voice stress analysis test conducted on a taped deposition given by Tommy Smith (who says he observed the fabrication of photographs by Walters).

Both of these examples represent somewhat irresponsible use of "lie detection" evidence, illustrating some of the pitfalls and common confusion that surround the topic.

DOES IT WORK AT ALL?

Is there any validity in lie detection at all? In the domain of applied psychology, lie detection is referred to as the psychophysical detection of deception (PDD). The most common PDD technique is the polygraph, a general term describing tests which measure and correlate a variety of physiological activities (sweat and gland, cardiovascular, respiratory activity) using analog ("conventional") or computerized instruments.

The polygraph has always been a controversial topic, and much of the public—and many introductory textbooks in psychology courses—treat the matter with considerable skepticism. However, the more strident criticisms of the polygraph were spurred by inadequate earlier techniques,

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long since soundly rejected by academic scrutiny. Contemporary studies have found significant validity in the most common of current techniques, the "Control Question Test" (CQT).

A recent article in the *Journal of Credibility Assessment and Witness Psychology* reviews the empirical and review literature concerning CQT, and concludes that "when the ecologically valid laboratory studies and the high quality field studies are considered, both indicate high validity for the CQT."¹

The Fifth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, in its decision in *U.S. v. Posado* in 1995, overturning "per se" exclusion of polygraph evidence, gave the following overview of the evidence for the polygraph:

There can be no doubt that tremendous advances have been made in polygraph instrumentation and technique in the years since Frye. The test at issue in Frye measured only changes in the subject's systolic blood pressure in response to test questions. . . . Modern instrumentation detects changes in the subject's blood pressure, pulse, thoracic and abdominal respiration, and galvanic skin response. Current research indicates that, when given under controlled conditions, the polygraph technique accurately predicts truth or deception between seventy and ninety percent of the time. Remaining controversy about test accuracy is almost unanimously attributed to variations in the integrity of the testing environment and the qualifications of the examiner. . . . Further, there is good indication that polygraph technique and the requirements for professional polygraphists are becoming progressively more standardized. In addition, polygraph technique has been and continues to be subjected to extensive study and publication. Finally, polygraph is now so widely used by employers and government agencies alike.²

And according to another court opinion:

The predominant format employed in the field of polygraphy is the "control question" technique. . . . There is no dispute in this case that the "probable lie" version of the control question technique, when properly employed, is a highly accurate method for detecting decep-

tion and possesses the type of scientific validity that satisfies the reliability prong of Rule 702. Through numerous field and laboratory studies, researchers have determined that polygraph examinations using this technique produce results that have an accuracy rate of approximately ninety percent. . . .

The most thorough treatment of polygraph admissibility issues can be found in two district court opinions from Arizona and New Mexico [Galbreth and Crumby] . . . both courts found that polygraph theory and technique had been tested by the scientific method and repeatedly validated in field and laboratory studies, subjected to stringent peer review and extensive publication, shown to have a remarkably low error rate when properly applied by a skilled polygrapher, enjoyed substantial acceptance within the scientific community, and was widely used within government and industry.³

Significant, and probably appropriate, obstacles remain before polygraph evidence finds a widespread and well-defined place in the courtroom, most notably with respect to the required standardization of examiner training, and in the ratification of techniques that are demonstrated proof against any physical and mental "countermeasures" that may be attempted by fraudulent claimants. However, a picture of significant validity and progress emerges.

It appears that there is sufficient evidence of the validity of polygraph testing to justify its careful use as one form of supporting evidence in the evaluation of UFO and other "extraordinary" claims. Polygraph results have the possibility of being most effective when used in multiple witness situations, where test error can be minimized across multiple subjects, and the possibility of "gross hoax" (i.e., the probability that the witnesses as a whole are lying about an event) can be rejected to a potentially quite high degree of confidence.

However, the responsible use and evaluation of lie detection evidence requires a clear understanding of which kinds of tests are well-grounded in scientific validity and which are not.

WALTON AND THE McCARTHY TEST

A total of 13 polygraph examinations have been administered in conjunction with the Travis Walton case of 1975, a prodigious case as far as the use of polygraph evidence is concerned. Nine individuals were tested, including the seven primary participants and Walton's mother and brother. Eleven of the tests were passed, one was inconclusive, and one, the McCarthy test, was failed—by the primary actor Walton.

Initially, the six alleged witnesses to the close encounter (during which Walton was zapped by a "blue light" from a close, hovering "smooth" and "reflective" disc-shaped object) were subjected to polygraph tests. These were CQT examinations administered by Cy Gilson of the

Arizona Department of Public Safety (state police), primarily addressing the possibility of some nonextraordinary foul play at work, but pointedly questioning the witnesses regarding the veracity of the reported UFO event. Five of the six passed, with one inconclusive result. Since an "inconclusive" reading is not the same as a "deceptive" reading (it is simply an unsuccessful test, to be disregarded) the results provided strong evidence of a real event.

Next, a private investigator named John McCarthy was hired to test Walton relatively soon after his reappearance. McCarthy ruled Walton deceptive, and the test results were regrettably suppressed by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization and the *National Enquirer*. A follow-up examination by George Pfeifer ruled Walton truthful.

Twenty years later, in 1993, Cy Gilson retested key participants Travis Walton, foreman and Walton friend Mike Rogers, and Allen Dalis (the original "inconclusive" result), using a state-of-the-art computer-scored CQT methodology. All three passed.

The probabilistic significance of the unanimous passing of CQT examinations by all six witnesses is considerable. Assuming independent tests, the odds of gross hoax (all participants lying about the UFO encounter) are less than one-tenth of a percent using the conservative figure of 70% for test accuracy, and on the order of one in ten million using a 90% figure. In short, quite strong evidence that some kind of startling event or elaborate hoax took place.

Nonetheless, the PDD results for the primary actor Walton were contradictory ("dueling" results). In *The Randle Report*, Kevin Randle reviews this contradiction and settles in favor of the McCarthy test. He cites the opinion of a polygraph examiner who believes that Walton could have become comfortable with his fraud in the retelling, and thus passed the later tests in 1993. He then stresses the 1975 McCarthy test, stating that, given its proximity to the original event, this test "speaks volumes" about Walton's truthfulness.

Unfortunately, Randle never raises the issue of polygraph methodology. John McCarthy in 1975 was still using what is called the "Relevant/Irrelevant" (RI) examination format. Test transcripts were forwarded by Allan Hendry of CUFOS to Dr. David Raskin, a published scholar and recognized authority on the polygraph, who described the technique as "unacceptable" and "thirty years out of date."

The RI examination format involves asking a subject a series of relevant (did you commit the crime?) and irrelevant (do you own a Buick?) questions, for which the truthful response is known. Bias against honest subjects results when an individual reacts with physiological stress to the dramatic relevant question, even when answering truthfully.

The basis of the control question format is to develop, using in part information gleaned from a pre-test inter-

view, a set of questions of comparable intensity to a primary (relevant) question. In forensic settings, for example, a suspect might be asked questions about several crimes, ideally crimes for which he is a plausible suspect, but in which he is known to be innocent. In its most general form, the test remains highly dependent on investigator expertise and vagaries of the examiner/examinee interaction. The actual implementation of the control question format is the source of a large body of contentious literature, with many derivative formats such as the “directed lie test” in current favor. A cursory examination of the literature readily confirms the degree to which the RI technique is held in low regard. The aforementioned academic review of polygraphy states brusquely, “Of the three techniques discussed in this paper, there seems to be general agreement in the scientific literature that the Relevant-Irrelevant Test lacks validity.”

Crucial is the issue of why, specifically, RI tests have been found to be unreliable. The same court review that praises CQT as “a highly accurate method for detecting deception” explains:

The relevant/irrelevant technique has been determined by researchers to produce an unacceptably high number of ‘false positive’ errors (because even an innocent subject will recognize the significance of the relevant question and may react to it) and has generally been discarded in favor of other techniques that have been shown to have a higher degree of reliability.³

Charles Honts, another heavily published scholar of PDD techniques and also an authority who has testified as an expert witness in key court cases involving polygraph evidence, concurs that “the relevant/irrelevant technique has been conclusively shown to be an invalid technique in published scientific research.”⁴

Specifically, “the relevant/irrelevant technique is known to produce a large number (80+%) of false positive errors (the truthful fail the test). A failed RI test should be given no weight for any purpose.”

In other words, under the right conditions, you would want to bet—and bet heavily—that a truthful respondent will fail a RI polygraph exam. In this context, the other issues raised by critics of the McCarthy test—Walton’s psychological distress, McCarthy’s alleged hostility—simply establish that we have exceptionally good reasons to discount the results.

Randle’s assertion that the McCarthy test “speaks volumes” about the veracity of the case is in striking contrast to Honts’ comment that a “failed RI test should be given no weight for any purpose,” and is rendered more disappointing still by the fact that even a cursory review of the literature would have prevented it.

THE 1993 GILSON TESTS

With the McCarthy test disregarded, we’re left with the

remaining successful tests, most notably the 1993 CQT exams of several key players by Gilson. Critics have floated a number of reasons as to why these tests should also be considered suspect.

I asked Charles Honts to comment specifically on Randle’s suggestion that the tale gets easier in the retelling. He replied:

I know of no scientific evidence that suggests that the passage of time, per se, would affect the validity of the polygraph. In fact the available research fails to show such effects, but no study has looked at time intervals in terms of years.

I think the suggestion that telling a story over and over would make you comfortable with the story and enable you to pass the test is most unlikely.

Others have suggested, based on McCarthy’s feelings in 1975 that Walton was trying to consciously “distort” his breathing to beat the test, that Walton has trained himself in countermeasures to beat polygraph examinations. To this possibility, Honts replies (emphasis his):

Possible, but very unlikely. Research has shown that under the proper conditions there are techniques that people can learn to enable some of them to beat comparison question test. However, this research also shows two additional things: Sophisticated training is necessary for the countermeasures to work, and the computer analysis that Gilson used is very hard to beat, much harder than the numerical scoring used by polygraph examiners. In fact the CAPS/CPS computer scoring is the best counter-measure known.

Honts was able to provide additional background on the examiner and technique employed in the tests in question:

The computer analysis program that Gilson used has been the topic of peer-reviewed scientific publication and has been shown to be valid. See Kircher and Raskin (1988) *J Applied Psychology*. I have known Cy Gilson for about 14 or 15 years. He was a respected police officer and polygraph examiner while he worked for the State of Arizona. I have seen his polygraph work in other cases and it has been of high quality. My impression of Cy Gilson is that he is not given to wild flights of fancy. I know of nothing that would suggest to me that he is anything but an honorable and honest man.

Ultimately, even ascertaining Walton’s truthfulness will never completely solve the mystery of his five-day disappearance, since it’s (at least technically) possible that he was the subject of an entirely sophisticated kidnapping/hoax. Nevertheless, the eyewitness testimony, endorsed by rigorous polygraph cross-examination, provides fairly strong evidence that the events have been faithfully reported by the relevant parties.

(continued on page 31)

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND UFOS

BY BILL CHALKER

Editor's Note: Elsewhere in this issue we discuss the history of the CIA's involvement in UFO investigations in the United States. Other Western nations have parallel histories of government involvement involving deception of the public, secrecy for the sake of national security, and limited scientific study of the UFO data. Bill Chalker, one of Australia's long-time leading ufologists, has summarized various actions taken by the Australian military and government, as well as important cases, in a document he has distributed to colleagues worldwide. Chalker was fortunate enough in 1982 to be the first Australian investigator to gain access to official government files.

In this article we have excerpted selected portions of Chalker's history. Those readers interested in the full document may e-mail CUFOS at hynek@cufos.org for the full text. Throughout this article we add clarifying comments where necessary for American readers.

THE SECRET TURNER REPORT

[The Robertson Panel met secretly in 1953 in the United States at the behest of the CIA to review the UFO phenomenon and make recommendations to the government about policy and investigations. After a heavily publicized series of 1954 sightings in Victoria, Australia, including the famous Drury case where a UFO was captured on film, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) commissioned its own secret study of UFOs.]

The Drury affair and the 1954 "UFO invasion" of Victoria led to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) asking Melbourne University professor O. H. Turner to undertake a classified "scientific appreciation" of the official reports on file. In his detailed report Turner recommended greater official interest and specific interest in radar-visual reports. His most profound conclusion was:

The evidence presented by the reports held by RAAF tend to support the . . . conclusion . . . that certain strange aircraft have been observed to behave in a manner suggestive of extra-terrestrial origin.

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In studying the RAAF/DAFI UFO files Turner also utilized retired Marine Corps major Donald Keyhoe's U.S. Air Force reports, described in his best selling book, *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, and suggested the RAAF seek official USAF confirmation of the legitimacy of Keyhoe's data. Turner said of Keyhoe's "USAF data," that "if one assumes these Intelligence Reports are authentic, then the evidence presented is such that it is difficult to assume any interpretation other than that UFOs are being observed."

The disposition of Harry Turner's controversial report is a revealing indictment of official handling of the UFO controversy. Faced with his provocative conclusions with Keyhoe's data as one cornerstone, the director of Air Force Intelligence (RAAF) did seek out official confirmation from America. The Australian Joint Service Staff (intelligence) in Washington wrote to him saying:

I have discussed with the USAF the status of Major Keyhoe. I understand that his book is written in such a way as to convey the impression that his statements are based on official documents, and there is some suggestion that he has made improper use of information to which he had access while he was serving with the Marine Corps. He has, however, no official status whatsoever and a dim view is taken officially of both him and his works.

So when it came to considering Turner's classified report, the Department of Air concluded: "Professor Turner accepted Keyhoe's book as being authentic and based on official releases. Because Turner places so much weight on Keyhoe's work, he emphasized the need to check Keyhoe's reliability. [The Australian Joint Service Staff communication] removes Keyhoe's works as a prop for Turner's work so that the value of the latter's findings and recommendations is very much reduced." Turner's findings, including one in which he recommended the setting up of a scientific "investigating panel," in the light of the "discrediting" of Keyhoe's data, were found to be impractical and not justified.

The big problem with all this was that it was based on an act of conscious or unconscious misrepresentation on the part of the U.S. Air Force. They were engaged in a misguided campaign to undermine the popularity of Donald Keyhoe's books. While Keyhoe may have slightly "beat

up" his USAF data, the Intelligence reports, quoted by Keyhoe and used by Turner to support his conclusions to DAFI, were authentic. Eventually the USAF itself also admitted that the material Keyhoe used was indeed from official Air Force reports. Political myopia from both the U.S. and Australian military effectively scuttled Australia's first serious flirtation with scientific investigation of UFOs. Fortunately Turner's 1954 report was "located" in classified RAAF UFO policy files I examined in 1982 with Squadron Leader Ian Frame from DAFI.

Harry Turner was advocating attempts to secure more radar cases. Radar at the restricted Woomera rocket range facility in South Australia picked up a UFO on May 5, 1954. Turner's report indicates that at about 1630 hours three witnesses saw a "misty gray disc" at a 355 degree bearing, at some 35 miles distance and at an altitude of more than 60,000 feet. The object appeared to have an apparent diameter of about 10 feet. The visual observation which lasted five minutes was aided by binoculars. The object traveled south then west, with the radar echo confirming a speed of 3,600 mph.

Harry Turner told me of another radar case that impressed him the most in his study of the DAFI UFO files that led to his classified 1954 report. The case, originally classified secret, describes a UFO event over Woomera that was witnessed by an English Electric scientist and a radar operator. The scientist was outside talking to the radar operator when the radar confirmed the presence of a UFO. The scientist watched the object with binoculars. One of his functions at Woomera was to monitor rocket tests. He was experienced in observing movement in the sky. The radar tracked the UFO until it went out of range, however they were unable to confirm distance and size. Some tests were being undertaken with a Canberra bomber in flight. The UFO was moving in formation with the Canberra. The Canberra crew could not see the UFO, but both the plane and UFO were confirmed on radar.

THE "SEA FURY" ENCOUNTER

One of the most controversial radar-visual reports of the 1950s occurred on August 31, 1954. The story leaked out in December 1954 and made front-page headlines. The official navy file on the event remained classified until the Directorate of Naval Intelligence released a copy upon my request in 1982. During his 1973 visit to Australia, Hynek was able to interview the pilot involved in this famous incident, which became known as the "Sea Fury" encounter. Hynek made his notes on this interview available to me during my 1984 visit to CUFOS headquarters in Chicago. I, in turn, provided Hynek with a copy of the official file on the incident.

Lieutenant J. A. "Shamus" O'Farrell was returning to Royal Australian Navy Air Station Nowra after a night cross-country flight in a Sea Fury aircraft. After contacting Nowra at about 1910 hours, O'Farrell saw a very bright

light closing fast at one o'clock. It crossed in front of his aircraft, taking up position on his port beam, where it appeared to orbit. A second and similar light was observed at nine o'clock. It passed about a mile in front of the Sea Fury and then turned in the position where the first light was observed. According to O'Farrell, the apparent crossing speeds of the lights were the fastest he had ever encountered. He had been flying at 220 knots. O'Farrell contacted Nowra who in turn confirmed that they had two radar "paints" in company with him. The radar operator, Petty Officer Keith Jessop, confirmed the presence of 2 objects near the Sea Fury on the G.C.I. remote display. The two lights reformed at nine o'clock and then disappeared on a northeasterly heading. O'Farrell could only make out "a vague shape with the white light situated centrally on top." The Directorate of Naval Intelligence at the time wrote that O'Farrell was "an entirely credible witness" and that he "was visibly 'shaken' by his experience, but remains adamant that he saw these objects."

In a recent interview, Shamus O'Farrell described the incident:

I said, "Nowra, this is 921. Do you have me on radar?"

And a few seconds later they came back and said, "Affirmative 921. We have you coming in from the west. We have another two contacts as well. Which one are you?"

I said, "I think I'm the central one." And so they said, "Do a 180... for identification." So I did a quick 180 and then continued on around and made it a 360 back to where I was going.

They said, "Yes, we've got you. You're the center aircraft." I said that's correct. They then said to me, "Who are the other two aircraft?" and I said, "I don't know. I was hoping you would tell me, because I didn't think there was anyone up here." They said, "Well there shouldn't be, and they certainly shouldn't be that close to you."

So the conversation went on like this and I was very pleased to be talking to somebody because it gave me a lot of reassurance. With that these two aircraft came in quite close to me and I could really see the dark mass and that they were quite big, but I couldn't make out any other lights or any other form of an aircraft. With that they took off and headed off to the northeast at great speed.

I was about to press the button and tell them at Nowra that the two aircraft were departing when Nowra called me up and said, "The other two aircraft appear to be departing at high speed to the northeast. Is that correct?" and I said, "Yes!" And they said, "Roger, we'll see if we can track them." They tracked them for a while and then lost them.

I came in and landed at 7.30 (1930) and when I got there there were quite a few people waiting for me. I thought it was a bit strange and so they came over, and they said, "You sure you had aircraft out there?" and I

said yes. The Surgeon Commander came over and spoke to me. He said did I feel sick, or was I upset. I said no. He ran his hand over my head to see whether I had any bumps. He had a look at me and decided I was okay. So then he said, "Perhaps you'd like to come to the sick bay after you've changed and we'll do an examination." So after I was finished I went up to sick bay and he gave me a more thorough medical, and said, no, I appeared to be all right. I found out later that at the same time they checked to make sure I hadn't been drinking before I took off and all that sort of thing."

During this interview, Hynek's involvement came up:

This man—a professor [Hynek]—had made a study of thousands of sightings all around the world and he had decided my sighting was one of those that he had not been able to explain away by other means. Anyway I had a talk with him. He was a very interesting chap and he made the comment that there were about 13 or 15, I don't remember, sightings that he was aware of over the years that were like mine and could not be explained away. The interesting thing he said was that all of these sightings had been made by professional people in aviation. By that he meant they were military pilots, military air crew, civil aviation operators, air traffic controllers, and the like, or airline pilots. These were the ones he was now [1973] going around meeting the people themselves and investigating. All the others he had written off and had been able to explain down to some other phenomena. It came to the point where he said, "Your sighting cannot be explained away." And he left it at that. To this day I wouldn't know where it came from or where it went.

I have had the opportunity to talk extensively with Shamus O'Farrell. I was particularly interested in how the interview with Hynek in 1973 came about:

It was done through Sir Arthur Tange, who was secretary of the Department of Defence at the time. Hynek contacted him direct. . . . Sir Arthur Tange contacted me and said Hynek was coming out. He had written to him, through the U.S. Embassy, to set up a meeting. . . . And the next thing I knew I had a telephone call one day from Sir Arthur Tange saying that Hynek was coming and he would like me to meet him. I said, well, I haven't got all the facts, they're all a bit hazy. So he sent me the two Defence Department files over to read, to refresh it all.

I said, "That seems to indicate a high level of interest in Hynek's visit at the time?"

Yes, well, I don't think so. All that happened was that it was more of a courtesy because he was a very important guy, Hynek, and they wanted to show him the courtesies etc. As far as Defence was concerned it was dead and forgotten but they had not got rid of the files. They kept them. Normally when files like that are written off they are either decided they'll put them in Archives or dispose

of them and destroy them. But they had done neither. They had remained in the JIO. They'd kept them. I don't know what they had in mind about it, I never questioned it. I just used them as a means to refresh my memory.

Later the guy who became the chief Defence scientist, John Farrands, was very interested in it too, and he had done a lot of early investigations in most of the reports when he was chief defence scientist and in the period just before he became chief defence scientist. He had a talk with me. I was a friend of his. I used to meet with him at lunch. He went over it in great detail. He knew it all. He agreed it was something that couldn't be refuted. No matter how hard they tried, and they tried very hard, to knock it all back. They checked everything from medical, down to when was the last time I had had a drink.

I said, "That must have been a bit of a concern to you?"

Well, I wanted to hush it all up. That sort of investigation made me look a bit of a fool. I was worried it wasn't going to do my career any good.

[Apart from the radar witness] it locked in a sighting over the NDB [nondirectional beacon] at Narulan, at the same time. There happened to be a guy working on the NDB. It was down at the time. He had gone to repair it. He happened to look up at the time because he saw these lights fly overhead. Also the air traffic control officer in the tower at Mascot saw them approaching him.

It was all investigated by the then RAAF guy who did it and later it was also investigated by the Joint Intelligence Bureau.

In 1993 I assisted "The Extraordinary" program with a recreation of the Sea Fury incident. Shamus O'Farrell, Keith Jessop, and I were interviewed on the show. The case stands as one of the best unexplained radar-visual UFO cases on record in Australia.

THE CRESSY AFFAIR

[The next excerpt concerns the sighting near Cressy, Tasmania, by a cleric and his wife. The Air Force investigated the report, and Chalker's account reveals the mindset of the military investigators. They would have fit in well with their counterparts at Blue Book in the United States.]

The Cressy area of Tasmania became the center of a spectacular wave of sightings in October and November, 1960. An entirely credible witness was at the center of the milieu. Once again, an Anglican priest reported that he had seen a UFO. The Reverend Lionel Browning and his wife witnessed a fantastic sight from the dining room of the Cressy Anglican rectory on October 4, 1960. A detailed account appeared in the *Launceston Mercury* of October 10 headlined "'Flying Saucer' Seen at Cressy. Mysterious ships in the sky." A succession of media stories followed elevating the sighting into national prominence.

Again, because of the undeniable credibility of the

witness, the RAAF were in a difficult position in their efforts to contain the rapidly escalating public clamor.

Wing Commander Waller interviewed Browning and his wife on November 11 at their Cressy home. Waller concluded that the couple were "stable, responsible and unexcitable individuals who would not perpetrate a hoax," and were "genuinely and firmly convinced that they saw actual objects." He confirmed this assessment in a letter to James McDonald, who undertook a retrospective investigation into the sighting during his 1967 Australian visit.

Waller's report provided a statement based on the Brownings' written statement:

He and his wife were standing in the dining room . . . looking out through the window at a rainbow over some low hills approximately 8 miles to the east. The hills, the highest of which are approximately 800 feet, were partly obscured by low cloud and rain. . . . [His] wife drew his attention to a long cigar shaped object which was emerging from a rain squall.

The object was a dull grayish color, had 4 or 5 vertical dark bands around its circumference . . . and had what looked like a short aerial array which projected outwards and upward from the northern facing end of the object. The object seemed to be slightly longer than Viscount aircraft which Mr. Browning frequently sees flying in that area and he therefore estimated the object's length as about one hundred feet. The outline of the object was well defined and was even more so a little later when it had as a backdrop the tree covered slopes of a rain free area of the hills. . . .

The object after emerging from the rain squall moved on an even keel in a northerly direction at an estimated speed of sixty to seventy MPH and at a constant height of approximately four hundred feet. . . . [It] moved approximately one and a half miles north . . . and then abruptly stopped. Within seconds it was joined by five or six small saucer like objects which had emerged at high speed from the low cloud above and behind . . . [They] stationed themselves at positions around the cigar shaped object at a radius of one half of a mile and then, after an interval of several seconds the cigar shaped object accompanied by the smaller objects, abruptly reversed back towards and then into the rain squall from which it had emerged . . . In all, the cigar shaped object had been visible for approximately one minute. . . .

The Brownings watched the area for several more minutes but the objects did not reappear. Another person, a Mrs. D. Bransden, also witnessed the spectacle, describing it as like "a lot of little ships flocking around a bigger one."

In a minute dated November 14, 1960, the Director of DAFI (operations) reported to the staff officer to the Australian Minister of Air that "a preliminary analysis of the available information indicates that this sighting was some form of natural phenomena associated with the

unsettled weather conditions."

Waller, in a letter to McDonald, indicated that the couple "impressed me as being mature, stable, and mentally alert individuals, who had no cause or desire to see objects in the sky other than objects of definite form and substance." Such comments by the RAAF investigative officer are difficult to reconcile with the Air Force Intelligence statement released a few days after Waller's interviews. It dismissed the observation as "a phenomena [caused by] a moon rise associated with meteorological conditions at the time." The intelligence report further stated, "The presence of 'scud' type clouds, moving in varying directions due to turbulence in and around a rain squall near where the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects."

Browning indicated that at no time during the 90-minute Air Force intelligence interview was he asked about clouds. He added, "At no time was there cloud or scud when I saw the objects. The mountain was not the backdrop to what I saw. The rain cleared in front of us although it was still raining near the mountains. I saw the objects in the sky where there was no rain and the rain near the mountains provided the backdrop . . . "

McDonald, an acknowledged international expert in meteorology and atmospheric physics, concluded "the official suggestion . . . seems entirely out of the question."

The RAAF's attempts to explain the Cressy sighting away were rather hollow, particularly given an intriguing sighting report I found buried in the DAFI UFO files. On November 15, 1960, some 50 kilometers north of Cressy, a United States Air Force JB57 aircraft, operating out of East Sale RAAF base, encountered a UFO. The USAF pilot's report in the RAAF UFO files stated:

Approximately 1040 LCL while flying on a mission track 15 miles north of Launceston. My navigator __ called out an aircraft approaching to our left and slightly lower.

Our altitude at the time was 40,000 feet, TAS of 350 knots, heading of 340 degrees.

I spotted the object and immediately commented to __ [the navigator] that it was not an aircraft, but looked more like a balloon. We judged its altitude to be approximately 35,000 feet, heading 140 degrees and its speed extremely high.

From a previous experience I would say its closing rate would have been in excess of 800 knots. We observed this object for five or seven seconds before it disappeared under the left wing.

Since it was unusual in appearance, I immediately banked to the left for another look, but neither of us could locate it.

The color of the object was nearly translucent somewhat like that of a 'poached egg.' There were no sharp edges but rather fuzzy and undefined. The size was

approximately 70 feet in diameter and it did not appear to have any depth.

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM

[In the late 1960s UFO reports had increased in many countries, and scientists, such as James McDonald in the U.S., were increasingly outspoken in their calls for a serious scientific investigation of UFOs. Australia was no different in this regard, and Harry Turner, who 14 years earlier had prepared a secret report for DAFI, now tried again to encourage a scientific investigation in Australia.]

By 1968, Harry Turner, who prepared the classified 1954 report on the DAFI UFO reports, was working in the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) of the Joint Intelligence Bureau (JIB). At the end of 1954, Turner, a University of Western Australia-trained physicist, went to England, where he worked at Harwell—the British atomic-energy research establishment. He returned to Australia in 1956 and until 1964 was stationed at Maralinga. There he was the Australian health physics representative during the controversial atomic-bomb trials. When he joined DSTI, Turner functioned as a JIB liaison with DAFI and used the connection to try once again to encourage serious research within the secret world of defence science and intelligence.

Harry Turner requested access to DAFI's UFO reports. This was granted. In May 1969, at Turner's suggestion a new RAAF UFO report form was devised which was intended to give a more scientific slant to the reports. At this time Turner was working with other scientists to set up a "rapid intervention" team to scientifically investigate cases of UFO physical evidence. A firm proposal was developed with the team to operate within the Defence Science and Technical Organisation (DSTO). The team was to consist of four or five scientists, with its mainstay to be rapid intervention into UFO "landing" events, for which an aircraft was to be on standby. Turner, in a memo dated November 8, 1969, to the director of JIB, indicated that he had Morton from ANU, John Symonds from the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, and Mike Duggin, then of the National Standards Laboratory. George Barlow of Defence Science and Technology (DST) had also offered the help of his group. Turner indicated that Arthur Wills, then Chief Defence Scientist "had agreed to this." The plans for the scientific team had been almost completed and authorization to proceed appeared imminent. However fate had already intervened.

Unfortunately for Turner, a radar-visual sighting on May 23, 1969, in Western Australia caused great government consternation and disagreements among the Air Force and the Joint Intelligence Bureau, somewhat equivalent to the CIA in the United States. As a result, any plans for an upgraded investigation were dropped.

Soon after, the plan for the "rapid intervention" team was dropped. While this development may not be linked to

the intelligence "empire" wars, as it was at this time that the U.S. Air Force-sponsored Condon Report on UFOs appeared (which concluded there was nothing of scientific worth involved), it is still obvious that political considerations had again frustrated attempts to undertake official scientific UFO research in Australia. Harry Turner in a JIB report indicated that "the conclusions of the Condon report conflict with its own contents and had been discredited by many reputable scientists, including the UFO scientific consultant to the USAF."

MELTON-ROCKBANK SECURITY BREACH

[Of course, UFO reports continued in Australia in the 1970s and 1980s, just as they did in other countries. Here is an example from an event that involved the Army and the police from 1983.]

A bizarre nighttime game of "tag" and "pursuit" lasting several hours, and involving police, occurred at Melton, Victoria, on July 22, 1983. This event caused great consternation in official circles, principally because during the evening's events the Army signal unit was alerted that its security had been breached. Constable Raymond Ellens was in a police divisional van with Constable Peter Ferguson, involved in the on-and-off pursuit of the strange intruders. Ellens stated in his official report:

At about 5.00 am we again sighted the object to the east of our position. Sunshine 311 were still in attendance. We observed the object traveling directly towards our position. Between the object and our position was the Australian Army Rockbank Receiving Station. The object appeared to be traveling slowly directly towards the antenna array. At this time the object appeared to be below the height of the antenna and if it continued on its path a collision would have occurred. The object then turned about and started to arc again to the north. After a few minutes we again lost sight of the object over the far horizon.

Sergeant Barry Harman of Melton police station witnessed the strange craft in close proximity to the station:

Both Inspector Hickman and myself then ran onto the roadway of Palmerston street in front of the Melton Police Station, and immediately I looked into the direction of the Regional shopping center and observed the object.

My immediate observation was that of two large round lights, very similar to the lights of a motor car, approximately 40 cm in diameter and approx. 3.5 meters apart, approaching the police station at a very low altitude of approx. 100 to 150 meters. This object appeared to be maintaining an even altitude and speed and direction towards the police station. . . . As the object passed by, I gain the impression of the shape of the object to be similar to an inflatable life raft approximately 12

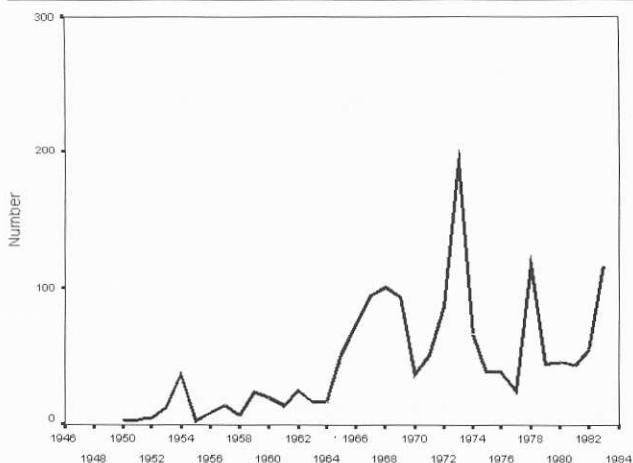


Fig. 1. UFO reports logged by the RAAF.

meters in length, with rounded sides, and a shallow body of approximately 2 meters in depth. A red flashing light, not rotating, was situated in about the center of the undercarriage. There was no visible wings or tail similar to an aircraft, nor was there any sound similar to an aircraft or helicopter. The only sound audible was that of a very quiet wind noise.

Constable Ferguson gave this description:

The object then proceeded from over Melton in an easterly direction directly towards our position. As the object got closer and eventually passed directly overhead we shined the spotlight onto its underside and observed it to be of gun metal gray in color and to have the appearance of a very large rubber raft with two lights inset in the front and two white lights on the rear and a red flashing light in the center. The underside appeared to be slightly curved and the side . . . panels [were slightly] curved also. The object was approximately 30 feet in length and was approximately 20 wide. The object made a low pitched humming sound and appeared to be traveling at about 70 to 80 kph. The object was approximately 200 feet above us and was illuminated by the spotlight.

The evening's events were well witnessed. Earlier the object had briefly appeared on Tullamarine radar. The officers had also sighted the object on the ground near a paddock at the rear of the Toolern Vale Stud. Constables Ellens and Ferguson inspected the paddocks in the area but could find nothing.

Here we have a complex multiple-witnessed affair involving possibly two separate objects, one of a structured lattice appearance and the other, the "inflatable" craft described above. I spoke with some of the officers soon after the incident and was impressed with the seemingly bizarre nature of the affair. John Auchettl, then with Victoria UFO Research Society, went out to Melton the next day. There was extensive interest and presence from army,

transport, and police officials. John undertook a detailed investigation. He still regards it as a very unusual and strange event, particularly because of the apparent "backing up" of the UFO when a collision seemed imminent with the Rockbank aerial array, the slow speed involved while it seemed to be chasing the police at times and the curious aspect of the UFO seeming to "crash land" at one point and seemingly disappear into the ground. John indicated that this was not (in army parlance) a "dead ground" effect, it was as if the object had been "absorbed" into the ground. And yet we have clear and unambiguous evidence of a real object, tracked briefly on radar.

The intelligence world was in an uproar because the Rockbank site was an Australian Signal Intelligence facility, where Defence Signals Directorate (DSD, the equivalent of the U.S. National Security Agency) monitoring occurs as part of our UKUSA SIGINT intelligence alliance. The site is linked with the nearby Watsonia facility which has direct satellite communications with the NSA and CIA. In this light, one can understand the acute sensitivities with the security "breach" that occurred that night. In intelligence parlance, one could suggest that the Melton UFO showed "clear intent" in its intrusion at the DSD Rockbank aerial array. We probably don't know the full story of that night's events.

THE RAAF UFO "SWAN SONG"?

[The Australian Air Force had downgraded its UFO investigations in 1983. As a consequence, the number of reports to the RAAF is only accurate up through that year, as shown in Figure 1. At least until then, it seems that UFO reports were increasing over time, punctuated with large flaps in the late 1960s, 1973, and 1978.

But by 1993, the Australian military was finally ready to throw in the towel, in part because it claimed that the number of reports had decreased significantly. It is somewhat surprising that this occurred 24 years after Blue Book closed in the United States. In fact, several western countries, including Britain and France, still have ongoing, if low-key, monitoring and/or investigations of UFO reports.]

During December 1993, the RAAF formerly concluded its long love-hate relationship with UFOs, or "Unusual Aerial Sightings" (UAS) as they preferred to call them. The Department of Defence "swan song" was dryly expressed in Enclosure 1 to Air Force file AF 84 3508 Pt 1 folio 18, *RAAF Policy: Unusual Aerial Sightings*. In correspondence dated January 4, 1994, civilian UFO groups around Australia were informed by now Wing Commander Brett Biddington (of the 1983 "Operation Close Encounter" caper fame), on behalf of the Chief of Air Staff, that "The number of reports made to the RAAF in the past decade had declined significantly, which may indicate that organizations such as yours are better known and are

(continued on page 36)

VIMANAS HAVE LANDED: ANCIENT ASTRONAUTICS IN UFOLOGY

BY JEROME CLARK

The ancient-astronaut craze of the late 1960s and early 1970s brought to a worldwide public an idea first raised five decades earlier, in a UFO book written in 1919, when "UFOs" and "flying saucers" were words and concepts yet to be born.

The book was Charles Fort's *The Book of the Damned*, and in often tongue-in-cheek prose it speculated that various archaeological anomalies evinced extraterrestrial visitation in the early history of the human race. Two subsequent books, *New Lands* (1923) and *Lo!* (1931), addressed the subject, mostly in short, jokey asides, where Fort wondered if legends of ghosts and demons were based on long-ago encounters with extraterrestrials. Perhaps, he suggested though without developing the idea, "every living thing upon this earth may, ancestrally, have come from somewhere else" and "evolution upon this earth has been . . . induced by external influences."

Nonetheless, Erich von Däniken's best-selling *Chariots of the Gods?* (1969) and most of the books that followed it, by von Däniken and other authors, gave little if any credit to comparable speculations in ufological and saucerian (contactee-oriented) literature. The ancient-astronaut movement, as represented by the still-existing Ancient Astronaut Society (1821 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois 60035), paid little attention to ufology, and except for such rare exceptions as W. Raymond Drake, Brinsley le Poer Trench, and Otto O. Binder, UFO writers and researchers kept their distance from it. Some, in fact, were openly hostile to it.

What follows is not an overview of the von Däniken-influenced movement. Its focus is on the sort of speculation about early visitation that found expression in UFO writings of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

COMING OF THE VIMANAS

Most ancient-astronaut theorizing in the UFO literature came from saucerians sympathetic to both contactees and occultism. Accordingly, the first book to give UFOs an antique ancestry also introduced George Adamski, one of

Jerome Clark, editor of IUR, is author of the forthcoming second edition of The UFO Encyclopedia (Omnigraphics), from which this article is adapted.

the most influential contactees of the 1950s. Irish occultist Desmond Leslie had already completed a manuscript on early space visitations when Adamski's story of a November 1952 meeting with a Venusian named Orthon in the California desert created a sensation. When it saw print as *Flying Saucers Have Landed* (1953), Leslie's manuscript was published with Adamski's 60-page account of the alleged contact and its aftermath, and the two shared the by-line. Adamski's tall tale attracted all the attention, and Leslie's theories were largely overlooked.

Still, Leslie anticipated much of what was to come. His sources were esoteric literature (including the books of Madame Blavatsky [1831–1891], the founder of Theosophy, and lost-continent fancies), Celtic legends, pyramidology, and Eastern epics. Leslie even thought he knew the year at which the first spaceman, a Venusian, arrived on earth: 18,617,841 B.C. In ancient times, he wrote, spaceships were called "vimanas"—the flying chariots that figure in the Sanskrit saga *Ramayana*, composed more than 2000 years ago. Like many subsequent theorists Leslie held that the Great Pyramid, Stonehenge, and other early stone structures could not have been built if the ancients had not had access to a supertechnology which mastered levitation, presumably learned from space people.

THE COSMIC HIGHWAY

George Hunt Williamson, perhaps the most interesting figure in the contactee movement of the 1950s, was an anthropologist of sorts. He did undergraduate work in the subject, though apparently without graduating, and lived among Indian tribes in Minnesota and North Dakota. In 1952, while residing in Arizona, he established a relationship with the Hopi. He was convinced by now that many Indian legends and religious beliefs had grown out of early contacts with extraterrestrials.

Soon Williamson was claiming his own contacts, via automatic writing and radio, with beings from other planets in the solar system and beyond. He also had become friends with Adamski, whose initial alien encounter Williamson allegedly witnessed. Until he dropped out of sight in the early 1960s, Williamson lived a colorful life as contactee, proselytizer, author, and explorer/archaeologist

in South America. In the mid-1950s he lived in a metaphysical colony in Peru awaiting earth-altering cataclysms and spacecraft landings.

Three of Williamson's books deal with ancient-astronaut themes. In *Other Tongues—Other Flesh* (published in 1957 but copyrighted 1953), *Secret Places of the Lion* (1958), and *Road in the Sky* (1959), he imagines and outlines—not entirely coherently or consistently—an alternative occult history shaped by Atlantis, Lemuria, reincarnation, and space people benign and malevolent.

According to Williamson, the first visitors arrived 1,000,000,000 years ago. They were the Elder Race (Els), 12 feet tall, some of them one-eyed cyclops, "‘male’ and ‘female,’ but not as we think of sex differentiation today." They had already colonized much of the galaxy before coming to earth, which would be the last planet they would experience as biological beings. While here, they escaped

the binding chains of physical existence, to break forever the ties that bound them to physical plants and systems—the conquest of Matter, Energy, Space and Time. . . .

They . . . became the legendary "gods." They could mentally project any amount of matter in any degree of density or intensity to any place on Earth at any time. They constructed a Control Room which we might call "Earth Central"—although it was not in the center of the planet—at their underground city near Lake Titicaca, which now lies between Bolivia and Peru.

In these subterranean realms they left vast libraries consisting of crystal devices on which the history of the universe is recorded. These "are enclosed in a magnetic field that, at times, finds an affinity with some 'sensitive' person living on the Earth today." The Els were "Planet Preparers" whose purpose was to set in place a legacy for future races.

The next visitation took place hundreds of millions of years later, in 10,000 B.C., when a Venusian "Light Ship" landed in Telos (in present-day Arizona), an eastern region of Lemuria. Williamson identifies the pilot of this craft as Merk. For a short period the Lemurians, who had mastered flight but not space travel, enjoyed a fruitful relationship with the Venusians and even erected a memorial in the wilderness location where the ships had first landed. A great Lemurian historian known as the "Lady of the Sun" preserved the extraterrestrials' teachings on tablets made of "telonium," an imperishable metal. These and other records attesting to the earth's unknown history are hidden in various inaccessible places around the world, in what Williamson called "secret places of the lion" (the lion being "the symbolic representation of a New Age in which the Divine Truth of the Word sets out to conquer new spiritual territory").

As Lemuria (also known as Mu) fell into anarchy and depravity, it also suffered from damaging weather, earthquakes, and bombardment by cosmic rays. With the continent's existence imperiled, the ruling prince sought the Venusians' advice and was told to gather pure-hearted

followers. The prince led them on an exodus which took them to the Light Ship monument. There they boarded Venusian craft and escaped Lemuria just as it was destroyed and sank into the sea. The Sun Lady and another historian, Mutan Mian, stayed behind in Telos and frantically worked to preserve on tablets all the great scientific and occult knowledge Lemuria had accumulated. The records were also to serve as a warning to a future human race.

Williamson was usually vague on sources for his fantastic claims, always expressed as if self-evident fact, but here one sees some elements of the Shaver mystery. In the 1940s Richard S. Shaver, a Pennsylvania welder, related wild tales of encounters with the survivors of Lemuria in vast underground caverns. Among many other improbable assertions he spoke of memories of a previous incarnation, 12,000 years ago, as Mutan Mion of Lemuria. Shaver also wrote of an exodus of select Lemurians from an earth endangered because of cosmic-ray bombardment. The rest of the story is an eclectic mix of Theosophical doctrine and outright science fiction. Some of the material Williamson would use also came out of his own and others' contact claims.

In any event, the story above, related in *Secret Places*, was not the same as the one told in *Other Tongues*, where spirit beings Williamson calls "The Migrants" came from the Sirius system not to shake off the physical but to attain it. Arriving during the Miocene Epoch (between 13,000,000 and 25,000,000 years ago), they looked for bodies to inhabit and initially were interested in cats. But in due course they decided that apes were more likely to evolve into something useful to them; there could be no technology, for one thing, without an opposable thumb. Apparently during this period the Migrants also employed their thought powers and sometimes created grotesque material forms for themselves. As this "Great Abomination" was going on, Williamson says, "man was literally half eagle and half lion." He goes on:

The abomination was so vast that forms were fusing together into monsters having no purpose but self-destruction. Men and animals were growing interchangeable of spirit and structure. Man was beastly and beast was manlike. Spirit knew not itself, whether it were divine or whether it were experiment of Thought Incarnate. They had so interchanged that they could no longer be accepted by the Host on the Sirian planets as divine. All physical forms had to be cleansed. "Pure beast must be preserved as beast; pure angel-man must be preserved as angel-man. Therefore, a vast catastrophe was decided upon. Ice from polar seas was melted and released upon continents of monsters." The Elder Brother [a channeled entity] tells us: "No longer could life make physical vehicles by thought. Forms existing in purity were preserved. Monsters and anomalies were destroyed. No longer could they propagate. Pure species were saved

and pronounced sterile unto all but themselves."

Such mythological creatures as griffins, centaurs, dragons, and sphinxes really existed, says Williamson, as the thought-creations of the Migrants during the Great Abomination. After the Great Catastrophe the Migrants (also called "Sons of God") lost their vast psychokinetic powers. They bred with the native ape-women, and from these unions *Homo sapiens* came to be.

Other extraterrestrial influences were exerted by beings known as "Wanderers." Their mission was to travel from planet to planet aiding their fellow humans on backward—or, as Williamson has it, "trash can"—worlds. They brought their souls here and voluntarily entered the reincarnation cycle. Their leader, the Elder Brother, aka the Son of Thought Incarnate, would one day incarnate as Jesus. He arrived in the company of 144,000 Lesser Avatars, and inserting their spirits into physical bodies, they seeded themselves in humanity's midst. Over many incarnations some forgot their cosmic origin and purpose, but others even now are working for mankind's spiritual enlightenment. Over time more and more came here, and after World War II the process accelerated. Williamson quotes a "space friend": "Many of our people are in your world now. There are nearly ten million of them, with six of those million in the United States itself."

In the alternative-history universe of *Other Tongues* ("a full-scale crank classic," in the caustic estimation of pioneering ufologist Isabel L. Davis), the solar system once housed 13 planets, all inhabited by intelligent human beings who spoke Solex-Mal, the universal language. This common tongue was lost at the destruction of Atlantis and Lemuria, which scattered the survivors all over the world. The earth, then named Saras, became the least advanced of the 13. Eleven planets belonged to what Williamson refers to variously as the Universal Tribune, Brotherhood or Interplanetary Confederation, headquartered on Saturn. Maldek, located between Mars and Jupiter, housed an evil race which was denied membership in the Confederation. Though warned to discontinue experimentation with hydrogen bombs, the scientists of Maldek went ahead, determined to build weapons with which they could conquer the universe. Instead, Maldek was blown to pieces in 1500 B.C. and became the present asteroid belt. The souls of the dead inhabitants were sent into deep space.

The destruction of Maldek had great consequences on earth. The red dust from the explosion fell into the atmosphere and into the waters, which assumed a bloodlike appearance. Fish and animals died. People starved, and plagues erupted. Rains of meteorites destroyed crops and devastated the landscape. Moses led the Exodus out of Egypt, guided by space people who told him of Maldek's fate. On earth Maldek was referred to as Lucifer. The evil planet would eventually become confused with Satan, an evil individual.

Williamson goes on to propose a reading of the Bible

which would be echoed by any number of subsequent ancient-astronaut theorists. God and angels are really extraterrestrials, and they are here to guide us into a new and much happier world:

Many of the old ways will be eliminated in the New Age. Even now we can see the trend. We are now in a transitional stage to the Golden Dawn just ahead of us. We will again "speak with angels," for we will understand and speak the Solex-Mal.

Road in the Sky draws in large part on Williamson's experiences in South America and in the Southwest of the United States. Among other strange assertions, it contends that the Hopi's ancestors were Martians, while their neighbors, the Navajo, hail originally from Maldek. Their respective exodus took place at the same time the terrestrial Exodus was occurring. The sort of reasoning Williamson brings to the discussion is exemplified in this paragraph:

The key in the legend is the fact that the happy life in the former world of the Hopis ended when the crops failed due to a lack of rain [Williamson's italic]. Remember, the planet Mars is known to be covered with desert areas, and Dr. Percival Lowell believed that Mars was a dying planet. He theorized that the Martians were forced to construct their great canal system in order to retard the process of water evaporation and save their civilization. Did the dwindling water supply on Mars force some of her people to migrate in space ships to another world? Did the colonists on their arrival upon Earth pick the deserts of the American Southwest because they only understood the economy of an irrigated area and a desert environment? When the descendants of the original colony later constructed the great figures on the desert to attract the "rain gods" they must have been impelled by a racial memory that stemmed back to the fear of an insufficient water supply—a fear that constantly overshadowed the lives of their ancestors on "dying" Mars.

Williamson writes that the Mars/Hopi connection came to him via a letter from a correspondent who detected eerie similarities between designs on Hopi ceramics and Lowell's maps of the canals of Mars. It is no doubt pointless to observe that Lowell's "canals" were the product of an obsessed astronomer's imagination.

GODS AND LITTLE PEOPLE

Mainstream ufologists had little use for Williamson or his ideas. Few UFO publications bothered to review his books, though one, the contactee-bashing *Saucer News*, regularly took after him, apparently because its editor, James W. Moseley, harbored an intense personal antipathy to Williamson. One reviewer sneered that Williamson's research consisted in good part of reading "cheap novels." He even detected traces of Isaac Asimov's science-fictional

Foundation series in portions of *Road*. The same reviewer charged that *Secret Places* drew on “all the hallucinated and unsubstantiated treasure stories of the past ten thousand years” and “on records deposited at the nonexistent Abbey of the Seven Rays on Lake Titicaca, Peru.”

Ironically, the reviewer—Yonah Fortner, who wrote as Y. N. ibn Aharon—advanced ancient-astronaut speculations hardly less fantastic than Williamson’s and based them on sources whose reality status some would question. In a series of *Saucer News* pieces from the late 1950s to 1960, Fortner conjured up his own revisionist history, under the label “extraterrestrialism.”

As Fortner had it, the most advanced ancients such as the Chaldeans and the Atlanteans interacted with a number of extraterrestrial individuals and races, some friendly, some hostile, some simply too alien for their motives and intentions to be discerned. The good space people helped lift primitive humans out of ignorance and poverty and into tribal unity, a common language, and space flight. This golden age lasted until the Great Flood, which also destroyed Atlantis. In 1340 B.C. the arrival of a trouble-making alien named Y’hova (“from a higher order of being, a dimension beyond all known dimensions”) initiated a period of bloody conflict, in the course of which nuclear bombs fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. Eventually, Y’hova became the God of Jewish and Christian religion.

Though *Saucer News* excoriated Williamson for bogus credentials claims, its own contributor was just as vulnerable on that score. A spokesman said the Sephardic Jewish Community of America had never heard of anyone by the name of Yonah Fortner or Y. N. ibn Aharon, Fortner’s assertion that he was an ordained Sephardic rabbi notwithstanding. He also compiled a bibliography purporting to list ancient Middle Eastern manuscripts from which he gleaned his findings about extraterrestrial intervention, but nearly all of the documents were obscure and inaccessible. (Of one Fortner stated that “the only copy . . . I have been able to locate is in the Library of the Siyyum al Yahud’ fil Marraqesh, which institution will not appreciate inquiries.”) When shown the bibliography, the chief of the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library could only express bafflement.

In his youth M. K. Jessup did graduate-level work in astronomy and participated in archaeological expeditions in Central and South America. This background colors the speculations he offered in three books published between 1955 and 1957, where he linked UFOs to a variety of astronomical anomalies and to enigmatic ancient artifacts. He was certain that ancient monuments he had observed in his travels could have been built only by a technology superior even to our own, a technology which had cracked the secret of levitation. He devoted an entire book (albeit a slim one) to a ufological reading of the Bible. As von Däniken and countless others would do in the years ahead, Jessup transformed every angel, fiery chariot, or cloud into an extraterrestrial being or craft.

Jessup’s definition of “extraterrestrial” was, however, distinctly different from others’ definitions. As he puts it in *UFO and the Bible* (1956), “The existence of space-intelligence, relatively near the earth, but yet away from it and in open space, and the probability of a super-race using navigable contrivances, fits all conditions which we have been able to attribute to UFO [sic], and thus rationalizes scriptural events.” In his next book, *The Expanding Case for the UFO* (1957), Jessup argues that this “super-race” came from earth itself. It had developed an advanced technology which encompassed not only levitation and teleportation but space flight. These people had fled the earth around the time Atlantis and Mu sank into the oceans, and they now live both on the moon and in large floating structures between the earth and its satellite. Who are these people? Jessup provides a surprising answer:

Since we know that space flight has existed for at least 3,500 years, and, according to the research of Leslie, H. T. Wilkins, [James] Churchward [author of four books—published between 1926 and 1935—on Mu, allegedly drawn on secret ancient tablets whose existence Churchward was never able to prove] and others, we have reason to believe that space flight may have been in existence for 70,000 to 100,000 years, there is reason to believe that space flight derives from a time in the pre-cataclysmic era which developed a first wave of civilization. In this case, it is an improbability of lesser order to assume that space flight originated on this planet in an earlier wave of intellectual development, than to assume that the UFO phenomena, more recently observed, are coming from another planet.

. . . If we do, indeed, have “little people” within the UFO . . . then we may assume that the Pygmies, at some remote epoch, developed a civilization which discovered the principle of gravitation and put it to work.

No one else picked up on this outlandish hypothesis, and *Expanding Case* would be its author’s final word on the subject. Jessup died two years later and today is remembered only for his peripheral (and innocent) role in the notorious “Philadelphia experiment” yarn, one of the UFO age’s more convoluted hoaxes.

Aerial folk. Brinsley le Poer Trench, who edited Britain’s *Flying Saucer Review (FSR)* between 1956 and 1959, was a theorist in the Leslie/Williamson mold, in other words sympathetic to contactees and occultism and in no way averse to incorporating “evidence” derived from those sources into his particular version of alternative history.

The “sky people” of *The Sky People* (1960) were the Elohim of the Old Testament, mostly benevolent extraterrestrials with enormous powers. Via what would now be called a genetic engineering experiment, one not-so-good branch of them, the Jehovah, created the present human race (Animal or Adamic Man) on earth, then quickly removed it to Mars and hid it in a remote, obscure location:

the Garden of Eden. (Trench confusingly refers to “Jehovah” in both the singular and plural, sometimes using the name to denote an individual and at other times to indicate a group of gods. For reasons of coherence, we here use the plural “Jehovah.”) This was not the first creation, according to Trench, but the second. In the first, which took place so long ago that it is “lost in the starry mists of an antiquity so vast our own planet is no more than a little child in it,” the Galactic Men of the Golden Age (when the gods of antiquity, such those remembered in Greek mythology, roamed earth and space) came into being through the Elohim’s efforts.

In creating Animal Man, the Jehovah acted without permission. Animal Man was to be the servant of the Jehovah but never their equal. But things got out of control when another race of Galactic Men, the Serpent People (also known as the Wise Ones), learned of the females who had been genetically engineered from tissue samples taken from the males who lived in the Garden. Curious, the Serpent People visited the Garden. The men tried to drive them out because the Jehovah did not trust the Serpent People, but the women welcomed them.

Through their long existence the Serpent People, so called because the serpent was their chosen symbol, passed on information the Jehovah had tried to keep from their creations, including knowledge of good and evil. The Serpent People told them that the Jehovah’s warnings notwithstanding, the food in the garden was safe to eat. They also taught them about clothing; heretofore, the humans had wandered about innocent and naked. At the same time the erotic attraction between the Serpent men and the Adamic women brought sex and reproduction into the lives of the Jehovah’s folk. The women then imparted this knowledge to their male counterparts, and with the infusion of culture and curiosity into their lives, the Adamic race began to change radically.

When they learned of all this, the Jehovah were enraged but essentially powerless to do anything except rant and threaten. With a group of Adamic loyalists, including Noah-I, the Jehovah were expelled from Mars and flown via spaceship (Noah’s Ark) to earth. Trench is vague on how the rebel Adamics got to our planet, but apparently they managed somehow. Because of the inter-breeding with the Galactics, as represented by the Serpent People, we, like our ancestors, possess a dual nature:

One portion of our heritage is oriented towards the stars and comes to us from the ancient Galactic civilization of the Elohim. The other part of our heritage is oriented toward the Earth, towards its ownership, its cultivation, and its protection from all comers. In each and every one of us, because of the crossing of the two stocks, both these tendencies are present and are the prime sources of human conflict, individual and social.

Since then human beings, or at least the best of us, have sought to regain the “total consciousness” that comes from

the superior (Galactic) side of our nature. “This is the doctrine of Salvation,” Trench writes. It is also the reason the Galactics put Jesus on earth.

Once back on earth some of the original Adamites reverted to their animal instincts. Here Trench brings in Atlantis, an ultimately failed attempt by “Cross-Man” to reconstruct Eden, except with technology and superior knowledge. The Atlanteans maintained a friendly association with Galactics such as the Serpent People, who flew in to visit them regularly. The Jehovah were afforded a chance to rehabilitate themselves by preparing Cross-Man humanity for “Galactic manhood.” Unfortunately, many of these abused their powers. Out of greed they caused such destruction to the earth’s environment that the planet retaliated with a Great Deluge which wiped out Atlantis and its Pacific counterpart Lemuria, along with their advanced knowledge and their direct awareness of extraterrestrial intelligences. Noah-II, a descendant of the righteous Jehovah Noah-I, boarded a spaceship and returned only when the waters had receded.

Some years later, Noah-II’s grandson Nimrod led an attempt to build spaceships and to return to “the only home they had ever known. They attempted to build a tower to heaven.” But the gods—the Galactic Men—thwarted their efforts and let them know the earth was under quarantine. This quarantine continues to the present, but soon “some of its inhabitants will be sorted out and will find themselves transferred to a ‘new earth’ in a ‘new heaven,’ ” which is why flying saucers are here today.

In this and three subsequent books, Trench reinterprets the Bible and classic mythology in ways that even in the early 1960s were barely original. Like Williamson before him, he surveys ancient archaeological wonders and discerns evidence of Atlantean and extraterrestrial technology from their construction. He holds that many of the great historical figures were either space people or their offspring. As always each fantastic proposition is offered as revealed truth for which proof, or even a coherent narrative, is unnecessary. Indeed, Trench owes more to Madame Blavatsky’s esoteric writings and to Richard Shaver’s lurid imaginings than to anything that can be inferred, even by quantum stretches of logic, from science or history.

GODS AND SPACEMEN EVERYWHERE

W. Raymond Drake, an occult-influenced British writer educated in Classical literature, believed the world’s folklore, mythology, and religion to be replete with references to “spacemen,” as he called them. In the 1960s, as a regular contributor to *Flying Saucer Review*, he looked for evidence of flying saucers in ancient and medieval chronicles, but it was in his books—starting with *Gods or Spacemen?* (1964)—that he created his own complex alternative history, the subject and logic of which are perhaps encapsulated in this paragraph:

Since the Greek word “Ouranos” means “sky,” Uranus could generalize spacemen from anywhere in the heavens, although it might refer to the planet Uranus known to the Ancients. The legends suggest that hundreds of thousands of years ago, the Uranids, highly civilized Beings from space, landed on Earth, whose giant inhabitants enjoyed an earthly paradise[.] revolts against the conquerors were suppressed and some of the Cyclops went underground, as we ourselves would seek subterranean refuge in nuclear war. Centuries later spaceships from Saturn invaded the Earth, overthrew the Uranids and established a wonderful civilization; invasion from other planets was repulsed by the Saturnians but eventually fleets from Jupiter, or its Moons, landed near Crete, allied with the resistance movement of the Cyclops, and wrested domain from the Saturnians. The Titans, descendants from the Uranids, refused to yield to Jupiter and fought a bitter ten years war waged with thunder and lightning, that is with the terrible siderial and nuclear weapons fashioned by the Cyclops until the Titans were almost destroyed. Is it possible that the two Van Allen radiation-belts discovered by our Sputniks are the radiations still persisting from interplanetary war? The Titan leader, Prometheus, apparently commanded a spaceship . . . and may have carried the war to Jupiter itself, where he stole some Jovean nuclear technique; finally he was forced to retreat to the Caucasus, where he was attacked by rockets . . . until the siege was lifted by his fellow-giant, Hercules. Atlas had likewise sought refuge on another high mountain. Epimetheus was either captured or surrendered to Jupiter with whom he allied; he married Pandora, the daughter of Vulcan the Cyclopean leader, a reluctant bride, whose dowry brought the traitor all the trouble he deserved, although her notorious box may have been a nuclear bomb or a reactor, which went wild, but its baneful effects may merely describe subsequent disasters. Shortly afterwards Jupiter fought a sky-dragon called Typhaeus, which may have described an invading comet or the collision of the then-Moon with our Earth changing the seasons and radically altering the climate. The culture-hero, Prometheus, reorganized the survivors to civilization. Disaster probably struck the planets, too; space-travel ceased. During the ensuing centuries conditions grew worse, men plundered from each other, war followed war, finally more catastrophes nearly drowned mankind in floods, the few scattered survivors had to start the long painful climb to civilization without assistance from space; the golden age became a garbled memory.

And so on. During the ancient-astronaut fad Drake’s books were reissued as mass-market paperbacks. Consequently, of all the ancient-astronaut writers with a background in ufology or saucerianism, Drake commanded by far the widest audience. Still, his arguments were no more persuasive than anybody else’s. Like them he drew eclectically on elements of modern occultism (notably

Theosophy) and fringe science (Immanuel Velikovsky’s dubious astronomical and geophysical theories) to replace old mythologies with new ones.

THE MATERIALISTS

To most early ufologists legends, myths, and pre-modern records, if they were relevant to the modern UFO phenomenon at all, were of interest only as possible indications, however distorted, of early sightings. Few thought that presumed extraterrestrials played any larger role in historical times than they played in the present. Ufologists implicitly assumed that UFOs then as now operated from the sidelines—as observers of human affairs rather than as participants in them—and refrained from direct contact with people individually or collectively. This disbelief in contact in the present was fundamental to the rejection of theories of human/extraterrestrial interaction in early times. It is also why nearly all such theories came out of writers in sympathy with the contactee subculture.

Another reason for ufologists’ conservatism was their materialism. The first generation of ufologists gave little credence to paranormal and occult theories about UFOs, while such were part of the saucerians’ natural vocabulary. Saucerianism, after all, simply grafted flying saucers onto older esoteric doctrines, and knowledge gleaned from the pronouncements of mediums, channelers, and seers (and their contemporary equivalents, the contactees) had as much claim—perhaps even more of one—to represent ultimate truth as did knowledge gleaned from more conventional methods of inquiry.

Ufological speculation about ancient astronauts took a more daring turn in 1960, when Donald E. Keyhoe (in his *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*) reported that two Navy officers had told him about a 5000-year-old map “so accurate only one thing can explain it—a worldwide *aerial survey*.” Only a part of this map survived. That portion was used by Columbus, and later, in the early sixteenth century, a Turkish admiral, Piri Re’is, had obtained a copy, which he combined with Greek maps for a world chart. The officers thought that a colony of extraterrestrials stranded on earth 10,000 years ago had produced the map. In time, cut off from their parent world, they reverted to a primitive state and started over again, eventually becoming the modern human race. Keyhoe quoted one of his sources as suggesting that modern UFOs may be “their descendants ... checking up.” For his part Keyhoe was interested but noncommittal.

Though the Piri Re’is map is certainly interesting, it is far from accurate, and nothing about it compels us to contemplate something so fantastic as an advanced early aviation technology. Even so, it would figure prominently in the later books of von Däniken and other ancient-astronaut theorists.

In 1962 *Les Extraterrestres* (published in English translation as *Flying Saucers Through the Ages* [1965]) Paul Misraki, a French songwriter using the pseudonym

"Paul Thomas," linked modern UFO sightings with biblical and mythological tales and proposed a complex theory about human/extraterrestrial interaction over history. Though many of its specifics are anticipated in the relatively more restrained chapters of Williamson and Trench, the book is written from a materialist/ufological perspective. In the serious and conservative *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* (1965), French-American astronomer Jacques Vallee considers Misraki's ideas respectfully while conceding that they "may not have been handled with all the necessary precautions the scientist would like to see observed." Even so, a later Vallee book, *Passport to Magonia* (1969), employs some of the same materials to launch even more exotic—and explicitly occult—conjectures.

The Bible and Flying Saucers (1968) returns to a by now well-worn subject, though this time by a uniquely qualified author, Barry H. Downing, a Presbyterian minister with a B.A. in physics and a Ph.D. in religion. Contactees, occultism, and lost continents are nowhere in evidence here, and Downing writes intelligently and knowledgeably on the theological and scientific context of his radical (or, as some would have it, far-fetched) hypothesis. Yet most of the argument rests on the clichéd equation of Jesus and angels with space visitors, burning bushes, clouds, and chariots with spacecraft, and so on. In the book's most interesting and original chapter, Downing asks, "Where Is Heaven?" Extrapolating from relativity theory, he writes that it may be "possible for universes of different spatial curvatures to coexist in the same space"—a perfectly respectable scientific speculation which Downing ties intriguingly to some modern UFO reports.

Otto O. Binder's *Flying Saucers Are Watching Us* (1968) borrowed liberally from the theories of engineer Max H. Flindt, who contended that extraterrestrials had conducted genetic engineering on our apelike ancestors to create modern mankind. Binder writes that space people return at intervals of "every few centuries" to interbreed with "earth's human species in order to successively improve the stock and insure the mental and intellectual growth of their worldwide colony." (The concept of alien-human hybrids would arise later as an often-reported element of the abduction phenomenon.) *Mankind—Child of the Stars* (1974), a sequel co-written with Flindt, argued this hypothesis more comprehensively, albeit no more persuasively.

ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS IN THE UFO PRESS

Small-circulation UFO magazines and bulletins occasionally carried speculative pieces on ancient evidence of extraterrestrials. As early as 1959, for example, *FSR* was trumpeting the Piri Re's map as "overwhelming" evidence that "the ancients had knowledge that is incredible even by today's standard," presumably given them by friendly space visitors.

As already noted, *FSR* printed a number of W. Ray-

mond Drake pieces on alleged ancient extraterrestrials, and other contributors (to both *FSR* and its companion magazine *FSR Case Histories*) weighed in from time to time with pieces on prehistoric artifacts or mythological references which in one way or another reminded them of modern UFOs or their occupants. None of this amounted to more than innocent guesswork of widely varying intelligence and plausibility, and only Drake put forth an overarching theory of ancient astronauts and human history.

On the other hand, Paul C. W. Davies debunked exaggerated characterizations of the Piri Re's map, and Gordon Creighton drew on his historical and anthropological background to provide nonextraterrestrial explanations for figures and objects in cave paintings.

Ancient-astronautical writing is relatively rare in periodicals intended for ufologists. Early ufologists such as Harold T. Wilkins were more interested in giving UFOs a historical pedigree, however dubiously, than in reinventing history in the light of their presence. To the extent that UFO magazines continue to address the issue, the articles tend to focus on biblical revisionism and American Indian legends. On one occasion the erudite ancient-astronaut theorist Zechariah Sitchin, who is not a ufologist, addressed a Mutual UFO Network conference. Sitchin is a favorite of some ufologists, a subject of occasional flattering commentary in the UFO press, though he has also been criticized. Italy's Roberto Pinotti and India's Kanishk Nathan are among the tiny number of ufologists who still engage in alternative-history hypothesizing.

In the 1970s pulp newsstand magazines such as *UFO Report* and *Official UFO* (along with its short-lived companion *Ancient Astronauts*) carried sensationalistic material on alleged extraterrestrial intervention in pre- and early history. With few exceptions these pieces were written by individuals with weak or nonexistent links to the UFO community, and none had any impact.

UFOLOGISTS AND "VON DÄNIKENITIS"

Born in 1935, Erich von Däniken was a Swiss autodidact whose Catholic education failed to quell growing religious doubts. These doubts drove him to read widely and uncritically, and they may also have had something to do with a mystical vision he says he had at 19. The experience "led me to the firm belief that the earth had been visited by extraterrestrial astronauts." He has never discussed the contents of this vision.

Perhaps more to the point, von Däniken read Jacques Bergier and Louis Pauwels's European best-seller *The Dawn of Magic* (1960; published in the United States as *The Morning of the Magicians*) and Robert Charroux's *One Hundred Thousand Years of Man's Unknown History* (1963), which discussed possible early alien interactions with mankind, though none of the authors had any connection with ufology or saucerianism. He also read Carl Sagan

and I. S. Shklovskii's *Intelligent Life in the Universe* (1966), which cautiously speculates about possible extraterrestrial influences on Sumerian civilization.

Determined to pursue these ideas, von Däniken went to North Africa and the Americas to study archaeological sites firsthand. In March 1968 his first book, titled *Chariots of the Gods?* in subsequent English translations, saw print. In this and other books he rehashed ideas in circulation since Leslie and Williamson, though it is likely that—at least when he started out—he had never heard of them. Von Däniken had little knowledge of or interest in UFOs. In any event, all the elements were there: gods as space visitors, creation of *Homo sapiens* via cross-breeding or genetic engineering, nuclear conflict in the ancient world, monuments built by levitation, and so on. For reasons having more to do with the mysteries of the marketplace than with originality of concept, *Chariots* was wildly successful, sold millions of copies worldwide, and spawned a host of sequels and imitations.

If von Däniken married the adjective “ancient” to the noun “astronauts,” he did nothing to make the concept credible. Like Leslie, Williamson, Jessup, and all the rest, he can only be called a peddler of pseudoscience. Against a torrent of criticism from scientists, historians, archaeologists, and journalists, von Däniken could only shrug, say he was just raising interesting questions, and cash his royalty checks.

In a brief 1969 review of *Chariots*, *FSR* editor Charles Bowen, remarking that the author’s theories were “all too familiar to ufologists,” offered a mild criticism or two before putting forth boilerplate praise to von Däniken for making people think. When his name next appeared in the magazine, just over three years later, it was in the context of a blistering attack by Creighton on the errors and illogic of von Däniken and his cohorts:

According to the startling new thesis propagated by these gentlemen, virtually every prehistoric scratch nicked on a rock by our shaggy ancestors or by African or South American primitives, and every portrayal of a big-headed monster, demon, or tribal deity, is in reality a representation of one of our Elder Brethren from the Cosmos, a “Space-man.” Likewise, it now turns out that wellnigh every hitherto unexplained mystery, be it archaeological, palaeontological, anthropological, theological, geographical, topographical, or toponymical, simply has to be connected with “Outer Space” and “Flying Saucers.”

Writing in *FSR* later that year, Bowen acknowledged von Däniken’s failings before praising Paul Misraki’s book (which he asserted had “not yet been translated into English”; such an edition in fact had appeared eight years earlier) and predicting, both falsely and hyperbolically, that it “could well come to be recognized as one of the basic reference books on the whole question of religion and the

influence of higher beings on human life and development.”

Other British ufologists had no time for any ancient-astronaut theorists. In *Merseyside UFO Bulletin* Roger Sandell blasted their “ignorance” and “total credulity.... For them one source seems as good as another and so their books mingle the findings of genuine archaeologists with those of cranks and charlatans.”

In the United States, Barry Downing asked bluntly in the title to a *Skylook* article, “Is Erich von Däniken a Fraud?” and answered “partly yes, and partly no.” *UFO Investigator*, the newsletter of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, carried a two-part piece by UFO debunker Robert Sheaffer hitting von Däniken’s “charlatanism.” Von Däniken had only one defender in the UFO press, a Maryland aerospace engineer named Stuart W. Greenwood who produced several mild-mannered rejoinders to critics.

Ronald Story, author of two debunking books on von Däniken and ancient-astronaut theories generally, took care to separate UFOs, “a genuine mystery,” from unfounded speculations about early space visitations, and he went on to edit a UFO encyclopedia and to write a sympathetic book on the subject. His *The Space-Gods Revealed* (1976) and *Guardians of the Universe?* (1980) were well received by both UFO proponents and UFO bashers. In *FSR* Janet and Colin Bord coined the term “von Dänikenitis” and recommended *Space-Gods* as a tonic. Another important critic was Ted Peters, a Lutheran minister and religious-studies scholar with UFO interests.

Even before von Däniken appeared on the scene, ufologists as a general rule had not been much interested in radical and unverifiable theories about the role of extraterrestrials in earthly evolution and history. When one considers the volume of literature the UFO controversy has generated, it is surprising how little of it deals with these sorts of issues. As we have seen, the bulk of the literature came out of the saucerian movement, where revelation is revered and scientific claim or conventional documentation tends not to be especially prized. To the extent that early ufologists paid attention to Leslie, Williamson, Trench, and the like, it was to ridicule them.

Most ufologists thought UFOs had been around a long time but only as distant observers of human affairs. In any event, conjectures about genetic engineering of our apelike ancestors seemed inherently unprovable, whereas an ongoing phenomenon such as UFO sightings offered a more realistic and immediate opportunity of learning something new and interesting, and maybe even proving something.

Ufologists also felt that von Däniken, like his saucerian predecessors, simply had not made the case. Worse, he was not even interesting. His books had all of the inanity, but none of the color, of Williamson, Trench, and Drake—who, if they were no more convincing, were undeniably more entertaining. ♦

LIE DETECTORS—*continued from page 16*

Randle does provide some other—new—evidence of hoax in the case, casually dropping in his conclusion that some unnamed members of Walton's family have confided to some unnamed investigators that the whole business was indeed a hoax planned and executed by Walton. Well . . . polygraph evidence may not be as "hard" as a proverbial flying saucer on ice, but it is at least more solid than this sort of curious hearsay, and it seems fair to request substantiation of such rumors before weighing them seriously.

GULF BREEZE, ED WALTERS, AND TOMMY SMITH

Another controversial case which features seemingly "dueling" PDD evidence is the Gulf Breeze case of Ed Walters and his sensational UFO photographs and videos. One of the many explosively controversial moments in the case came with the testimony of Tommy Smith, a young man who claimed in a taped deposition that he was with Ed Walters on an occasion when Walters hoaxed a UFO photograph.

Investigators applied a voice stress analysis (VSA) test to the taped testimony, which was passed. A VSA test is a (usually computerized) mechanical analysis of the human voice to determine truthfulness. It differs from polygraph tests in that it monitors only voice patterns. In concept, as advertised by the companies that sell it, VSA promises a powerful tool for evaluating claims, since it can be conveniently used on any recorded testimony at the leisure of investigators.

Lined up against Smith's VSA success is a pair of successful but controlled VSA tests conducted on testimony by Ed Walters, in which he denies perpetrating a hoax. A controlled test compares critical testimony against control testimony—a normal sample of the subject's voice patterns (apparently unavailable in the Smith case).

Do we prefer the Walters VSA tests on the grounds that they were controlled? Ultimately, the issue of controlled versus uncontrolled VSA tests is hard to settle, because there simply is no compelling body of evidence supporting VSA in any form.

The Department of Defense Polygraph Institute conducted an extensive inquiry into VSA tests, and released the following statement in September of 1996:

To date, we have found no credible evidence in information furnished by the manufacturers, the scientific literature, or in our own research, that voice stress analysis is an effective investigative tool for determining deception. . . . The preponderance of evidence indicates the polygraph is far more accurate at detecting deception than is voice stress analysis.

Charles Honts concurs: "For once, I am in total agreement with DODPI! There is *no* published evidence to

support the validity of VSA." The studies that have been published are generally negative. This is in sharp contrast to the many lab and field studies that have been conducted in the study of the polygraph.

Which suggests that, until appropriate validation is presented, VSA claims should be disregarded entirely, particularly in light of the uncritical citing of very high accuracy rates provided by manufacturers (95% accuracy, according to some touting Smith's testimony).

Judging from the available information, the elimination of VSA claims leaves only the passed polygraph test administered to Walters by Harvey McLaughlin in February 1988 as far as PDD evidence goes. Reports seem to indicate that this test was competently administered, though details are scarce.

Some critics have argued that Ed Walters is or could be a sociopath or pathological liar, and would therefore be able to beat polygraph tests at will. This is another "commonsense" objection that lacks support in published research. According to Charles Honts, "The 'correct' diagnosis is antisocial personality disorder. The research is very clear that these people fail polygraph tests when they are lying. I have tested a number and when they lie they fail. Raskin tested Ted Bundy, [who] failed. No controversy on this."

NOTES

1. Mary K. Devitt, Charles R. Honts, and Lynelle Vondergeest, "Truth or Just Bias: The Treatment of Psychophysiological Detection of Deception in Introductory Psychology Textbooks," *Journal of Credibility Assessment and Witness Psychology* 1, no.1 (1997): 9–32.

A fuller excerpt:

The most commonly used test in the field is the Control Question Test. We will focus most of our analysis on validity studies of the CQT. . . . A recent review (Honts & Quick, 1995), found four field studies of the CQT (Honts, 1994b, now in press; Honts, & Raskin, 1988; Iacono & Patrick, 1991; and Raskin, Kircher, Honts, & Horowitz, 1988) and two of the CKT (Elaad, 1990; Elaad, Ginton, & Jungman, 1992) that were able to meet the stringent requirements for a useful field study described above. Three of the field studies (Honts, 1994; Honts & Raskin, 1988; Raskin et. al., 1988) produced accuracy rates above 90%. The independent evaluators in the third study (Iacono & Patrick, 1991) produced a high false positive rate, although the accuracy rate of the original examiners exceeded 90%. . . .

Laboratory Studies Concerning Forensic Settings. A recent meta-analysis of 15 laboratory studies (Kircher, Horowitz, & Raskin, 1988) of the Control Question Test indicated a wide range of validity estimates. One study found near chance results, while six of the studies produced moderate validity estimates, and eight of the studies report validity coefficients of 0.7 or better. In

four of the studies, the validity coefficients exceeded 0.8. The Kircher et al. meta-analysis noted that these laboratory studies differed widely in their ecological validity. Some studies used mock crimes and procedures that closely modeled field conditions while other studies were very artificial and used unrealistic procedures. Moreover, the Kircher et al., meta-analysis indicated that those laboratory studies that most closely modeled field conditions produced the highest accuracy rates. . . .

Although there is controversy, the empirical and review literature concerning PDD suggests the following conclusions: There is little support for the Relevant-Irrelevant Test, but this test is in frequent use only in employment settings. The laboratory and field data concerning the Control Question Test are mixed. However, when the ecologically valid laboratory studies and the high quality field studies are considered, both indicate high validity for the CQT.

2. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, *U.S. v. Posado*, citing in particular: J. C. Kircher, S. W. Horowitz, and D. C. Raskin, D. C., "Meta-analysis of Mock Crime Studies of the Control Question Polygraph Technique," *Law and Human Behavior* 12 (1988); David C. Raskin, "The Polygraph in 1986: Scientific, Professional and Legal Issues Surrounding Application and Acceptance of Polygraph Evidence," *Utah Law Review* 29 (1986): 72.

3. U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia, *U.S. v. Gilliard*.

4. Honts suggests a related article on the topic of the relevant-irrelevant method by Horowitz et al. in the first issue of the 1997 volume of the scientific journal *Psychophysiology*. A selected listing of Honts's professional publications and reports on the polygraph is available online at <http://truth.idbsu.edu/honts/cv2.html>. ♦

BOOK REVIEW

Travis Walton. *Fire in the Sky: The Walton Experience*. New York: Marlowe and Company, 1997. 370p. Paperback. \$16.95.

In *Fire in the Sky*—the best book ever written by a UFO witness—Travis Walton relates a curious story.

Not long before the release (in March 1993) of Paramount Pictures' docudrama on Walton's abduction experience (also titled *Fire in the Sky*), Walton got a phone call from a man with a remarkable claim. The stranger said he had independently witnessed the November 5, 1975, incident which gave rise to this most celebrated and controversial of all UFO cases. While hunting in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, he and his wife had seen Walton run toward a large hovering UFO and get hit by a beam. The man, then allegedly an Army Intelligence officer, told his superior officer about the UFO but was directed to keep silent unless the crew were about to be convicted of murder.

The man had the details generally right and sounded "genuine," in Walton's estimation. He notified Tracy Tormé, the movie's scriptwriter, and soon afterwards Paramount—without notifying Walton—flew the informant to Los Angeles to interview him. On March 11, in Phoenix, veteran polygraph examiner Cy Gilson administered a test in which the man was asked two series of questions. The first concerned the sighting and his claim to having a high security clearance.

The second asked him if he was conspiring with anyone to discredit Walton's story—Philip J. Klass and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) were mentioned specifically—if he had a current military affiliation, and if indeed a military supervisor had ordered him not to speak of what he had seen.

The results were eyebrow-raising. In Gilson's reading they indicated that the man was lying. More than that, however, there was evidence of "a deliberate attempt to produce countermeasures." In other words, it looked as if someone who may have been trained in beating polygraph tests had tried, and failed, to mislead Gilson and Paramount. As Walton sees it:

The intent of the scheme seems to have been to fool Paramount into believing they [sic] had a corroborating witness, while deliberately providing enough incorrect details to justify claiming later that Paramount had disregarded accuracy to a negligent or even to a conspiratorial degree. The corollary plan was apparently to deceive Cy Gilson, then confess later to discredit the rigorously of his methodology, and therefore discredit his tests on all seven of us.

(In November 1975 Gilson gave polygraph examinations to the six witnesses, fellow members of Walton's logging crew. In 1993 he examined Walton himself as well as two of the other witnesses. He concluded that they were telling the truth.)

To Walton the logical suspects were CSICOP and Klass, the latter an obsessed debunker of Walton's claims. Walton, Rogers, and Klass were scheduled to appear on CNN's *Larry King Show* on March 12. Curiously, Walton noted, Klass, who lives in Washington, D.C., from which King's program is broadcast, flew in from CSICOP headquarters in Buffalo, New York, to participate. "Perhaps," Walton writes, "from a panicked strategy rehearsal, a hasty tactical session?"

Though Walton was unaware of it, the incident—if indeed it was an unsuccessful scheme to discredit his story—was not without precedent. In the early 1980s, James Randi, a magician/debunker then associated with

CSICOP, engineered a hoax under the code name Project Alpha and sent two young sleight-of-hand artists to a parapsychological laboratory, with the intention of convincing experimenters that they possessed psychokinetic metal-bending powers.

The purpose, of course, was to prove Randi's longstanding contention that parapsychologists are easily fooled. Though observers disagreed about how well Project Alpha had succeeded, it generated considerable attention, and debunkers made much of it.

Klass and CSICOP have not commented on Walton's charges. Indeed, Klass's usually enthusiastic *Skeptics UFO Newsletter* has had virtually nothing to say about them or anything else since Walton's book first appeared in hardcover last year. No wonder. In a long appendix (pages 285-370) Walton demolishes Klass's reckless charges against the case so effectively that only the truest-believing debunkers will manage to retain the faith, though only by looking away. We may safely assume few will dare to read this book.

Walton has chronicled one of the most shameful episodes in UFO history.

Unfortunately, as we know now all too well, it would not be an isolated incident but the shadow of even darker things to come. We now live in an age when the trashing of

witnesses (most recently and sickeningly, Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, Sr.) is a blood sport in ufology, where so much discourse has been reduced to the abysmal level of Klass's frenzied polemic and *Saucer Smear's* casual character assassination. Not bothering themselves to read Walton's book, even ufologists and Forteans who ought to know better have written off Walton, his family, and the other witnesses as hoaxers. The theory seems to be that even if no single charge against any of them can be substantiated, there are so many of them (often, as Walton remarks bemusedly, in conflict with one another) that at least one of them must be true.

In reality, after more than two decades, Walton's credibility survives intact. No shred of evidence yet brought forth against it withstands skeptical scrutiny. The witnesses and others continue to pass polygraph tests. No one confesses, even when offered substantial money to do so. The debunkers, immune to shame, propagate the Big Lie, but Walton, a decent, intelligent, and courageous man, has somehow survived, dignity intact, to tell the tale definitively—and for the last time. He tells me he is through with it now. It has consumed too much of his life already, and his story told, his enemies vanquished, he wants to fade into the happy obscurity of wife, children, and small-town life. God bless him.—Jerome Clark ♦

ROSWELL—continued from page 13

possibility of a surprise nuclear attack by the USSR. He had grave reasons for keeping his feelings and what he might do about this problem absolutely secret. Ike had an Office of Defense Management which contained a Science Committee with many of the nation's elite and war-tested scientists on board. He spoke to J. Robert Oppenheimer and the good doctor suggested this committee.

Normally Ike would have discussed such momentous matters with his National Security Council, but, in his mind, this was too big even for them. Science Committee bigwheels, James Conant of Harvard and James R. Killian of MIT, were called in. They suggested a special group of highest secrecy to make the necessary study. Its name was the Technological Capabilities Panel, and it was composed of an elite group of academics, industrialists, and the military. There were only 50 (or so) persons involved who knew what was going on, and they reported only to Ike.

The structure of the Panel was a Steering Committee with three Project Teams, plus a military advisory committee, and a "communications working group." I don't know what this latter was, but perhaps it was the "service" group which handled all the materials, documents, communiqués, etc. for the big brains. When their study was done, Ike listened to their report without inviting his National Security Council to attend.

What the pro-Roswellians imagine is something like the model in Diagram 1: an unavoidably messy situation in the Roswell area, both physically and socially, which was

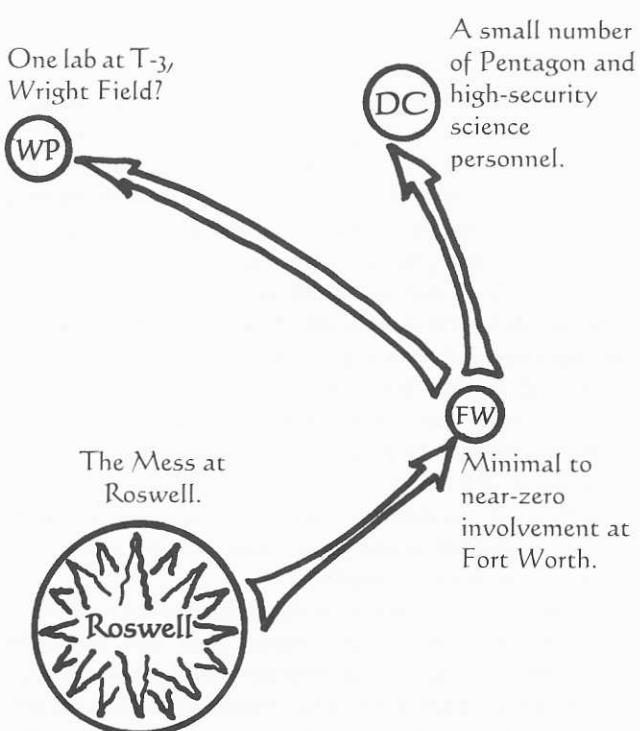
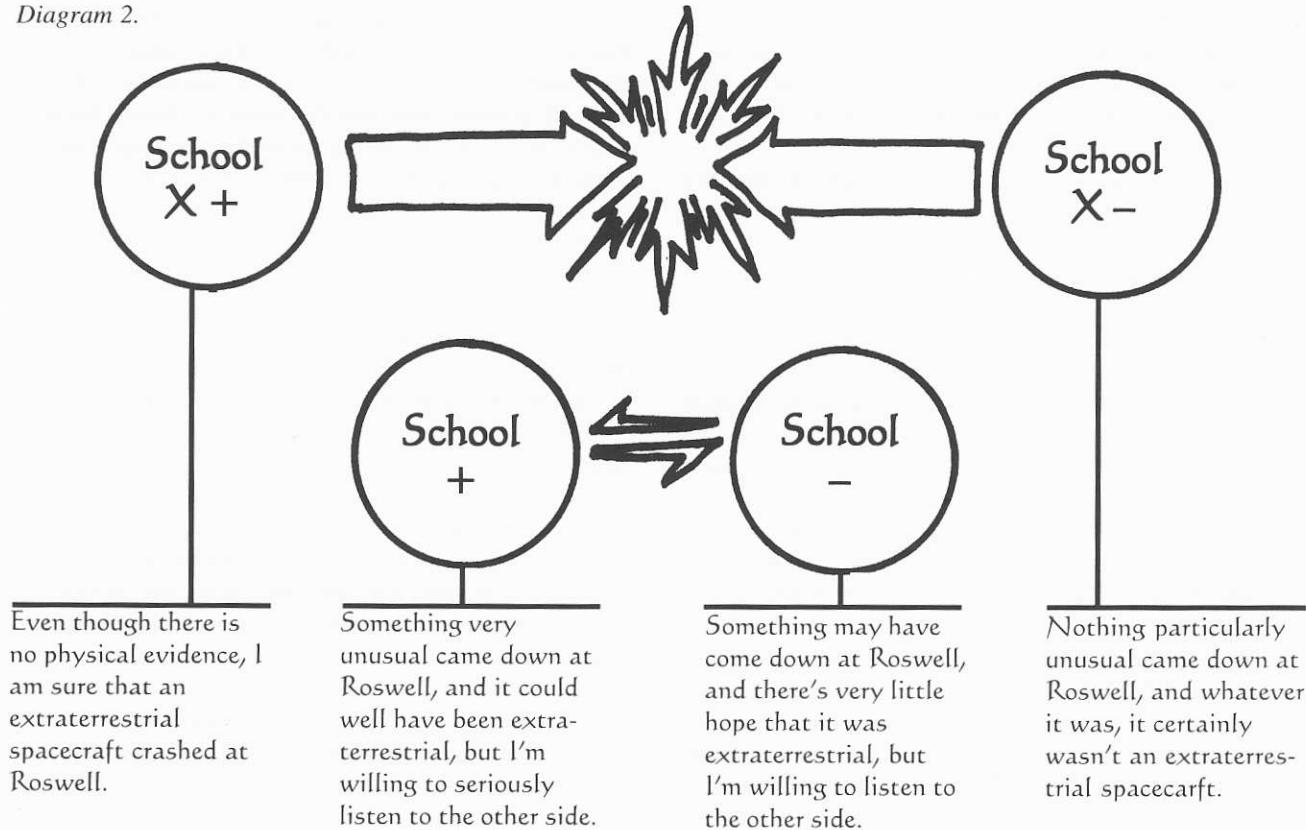


Diagram 1. The secrecy-security problem model.

"cleaned up" by whatever means available as quickly as possible. Lots of leaks and unauthorized knowledge would be part of that mess, and lots of leaks occurred as expected. Secondly, almost no one would have to be in the know at

Diagram 2.



Fort Worth, and that would be easy to secure. Thirdly, almost no one (other than a few lab scientists) would have to be in the know at Wright Field (or wherever), and that would be easy to secure. The number of people in the Pentagon (and related D.C. scientists) would initially be a little messier, but the problem could be kicked far upstairs very quickly and generally organized and controlled. The vast majority of military, political, and intelligence functions would be left entirely out of this situation, as it would be imperative for them to go forward with their business as if we had nothing hot to hide. *Only* if anything of real technical importance ever emerged from the testing would a decision have to be made to "alter human history." That decision would not be a crude decision, but as subtle an "interference" as possible. All decisions made would be driven by security issues alone. None would be driven by "science" or desire to explore.

This sort of highest-level elite program and security is what the pro-crash people require (and feel would be reasonable) in order to deal with the post-cleanup research and information blackout on the crashed disk. They see this project as being set up in principle (i.e., minimizing the number of persons, even within the Pentagon or at the research labs, who would be exposed to the materials or information in any way which would be suggestive of their nonterrestrial provenance) immediately; and tightening the security to a narrower need-to-know group with time. This is why pro-crash researchers aren't shocked by highly

placed intelligence officers (like General George Schulgen or Colonel Howard McCoy) acting like they knew nothing about the reality of a crashed disk. People in their same positions weren't in on things like Ike's TC Panel; small elite extra-secret projects can be extremely selective, and should be. In analogy to the TCP, if there were only about 50 persons in the know totally, who would they be? There were only about a half-dozen military in Ike's group. The bulk were the Conants and Killians of the country.

This scenario seems unacceptable to the anti-crash researchers. They (apparently) feel that either:

- A. You couldn't form this program effectively; or
- B. Leaks would occur all over the place in time; or
- C. Certain persons should have been in on this no matter how elite it was and that those persons (in their opinion) didn't act as if they were in on the secret.

Well, who really is to say? Without documentation either way this falls apart into another rationalization debate. As a person who tends to defend the reasonability of the ET-hypothesis for Roswell, I will (without grave claims of certitude) offer this:

- A. It seems to me that the military, CIA, et al., have formed all sorts of extremely effective secrecy programs, and had ready-made secret labs at

- Wright-Patterson T-3 Engineering (and elsewhere) immediately available to lock almost anything up tight.
- B. Same answer as above, regarding "Leaks." I would add that although no catastrophic leaks have occurred other than Major Marcel himself, a case could be made for a slow but steady number of minor leaks occurring over the whole 50-year period.
- C. And as for who should or should not have been in the inner circle, that is guesswork, and I haven't heard many compelling arguments that any one person lower than someone like Vandenburg absolutely had to be part of this. To speak to the case of one of my favorite guys, Colonel Howard McCoy of Wright-Patterson's T-2 intelligence division: As bright a guy as Mack was, he was the wrong guy for this task. His division was for analyzing intelligence reports, not testing metals and materials, or even biological specimens. I realize that many reasonable people will not be able to accept this sort of scenario, but we should (I believe) accept one another's viewpoint to the extent that we recognize where we're coming from, and admit that neither side knows what the upper echelons of the Pentagon would do or were capable of doing in the face of such a problem.

Schools of thought on Roswell are numerous, and every person seems to have his own unique take on it. I believe that it is informative, however, to break the schools of people who have an opinion down into four: the extra positive (X+), the positive (+), the negative (-), and the extra negative (X-)(see Diagram 2). The extra positive and extra negative schools write and speak as if they have concretely made up their minds, and that there's nothing any longer to be said except monitor one another and release occasional nuclear volleys. Maybe something can come of this sort of behavior, but I doubt it. Almost by definition, concrete does not meditate, grow, and evolve. Unfortunately for most of us and the public, these nuclear volleys are all we tend to hear. They polarize the issue so strongly, and create false impressions of the unity of all elements of testimony at play, that people begin to see the case as an all-or-nothing situation (accept everything that I believe or none of it). Even worse, some people get the impression that the entirety of ufology is riding on the case, a peculiar notion only explainable by watching too much pop media.

But more quietly, positive and negative individuals try to discuss the issues with more give and take and civility to their colleagues. We need to hear more of this sort of exchange and less from bomb-throwers.

In my observation of these debates (the saner sides of them anyway), the responsible anti-crash discussants cannot buy the level of secrecy and selectiveness of need-to-know personnel required by the pro-crash people to understand Pentagon and Project Sign behavior. They,

therefore, doubt the crash evidence.

The responsible pro-crash discussants begin by being impressed with the debris-related testimonies, and therefore are led to imagine secrecy scenarios of an extreme nature. I believe that the pro-crash researchers (like pro-UFO researchers) tend to trust testimony, especially when it is corroborated somehow, and the anti-crash persons do not. Also, the pro-crash side tends to see the case as a large constellation of many elements, and the anti-crash side tends to isolate bits, pick away at them, and, sometimes, forget case elements which are less easy targets.

My article has had the goal of clarifying a little of the different worlds that even good UFO scholars live in when it comes to Roswell. In my opinion there has never been a good focused debate on critical aspects of this case, nor a research resource that would make such a debate feasible. But it's something that the serious people in the field need to do if the status of the crash event is ever to be made more understandable to any of us and to the history of our field. We need a workshop of rational and respectful give-and-take on this case, and a solid research document on case elements and their sources to emerge from it. Is anyone interested? ♦

New CUFOS Board member

At its spring board meeting, the CUFOS board added a new member, Thomas Carey, of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. Readers of *IUR* will be familiar with articles he has authored on his search for the archaeologists alleged to have been witnesses to the UFO crash near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

Tom was born and raised in Philadelphia and received his B.S. from Temple University in 1967. After a stint in the Air Force, he went back to school and earned a Master's degree in anthropology from California State University, Sacramento in 1974, then pursued a Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Toronto. He finished all the work for the degree but the dissertation. Tom now works as a financial analyst for a large insurance company in Philadelphia.

Tom became interested in UFOs, like so many of us, when he was a kid, then rekindled that interest in the mid-1980s when he became a MUFON State Section Director for Philadelphia. Tom has since investigated numerous UFO sightings of all types. Recently he has devoted much of his time to research into various aspects of the Roswell incident, especially the question of the archaeologists.

Project 1997

CUFOS has Jan Aldrich's 207-page preliminary report on the 1947 wave, published by the UFO Research Coalition, available. Send \$20.00 (plus \$2.00 p+h for U.S. customers, \$5.00 for overseas customers).

UFOs AND CIA—*continued from page 6*

interest to studying parapsychology and psychic phenomena associated with UFO sightings. CIA officials also looked at the UFO problem to determine what UFO sightings might tell them about Soviet progress in rockets and missiles and reviewed its counterintelligence aspects. Agency analysts from the Life Science Division of OSI and OSWR officially devoted a small amount of their time to issues relating to UFOs. These included counterintelligence concerns that the Soviets and the KGB were using US citizens and UFO groups to obtain information on sensitive US weapons development programs (such as the Stealth aircraft), the vulnerability of the US air-defense network to penetration by foreign missiles mimicking UFOs, and evidence of Soviet advanced technology associated with UFO sightings.

If I hadn't checked the calendar after reading this, I would have sworn this was 1952 and I was reading of CIA concerns about how UFOs could be used by the Soviets against the United States, as eventually expressed in the recommendations of the Roberson Panel report. Some things never change, at least during the Cold War.

Haines notes that during this period, "Agency officials purposely kept files on UFOs to a minimum to avoid creating records that might mislead the public if released," and Haines says he found almost no documentation on CIA involvement with UFOs in the 1980s. This certainly is an effective method to circumvent FOIA, but it hardly leads to further confidence in the CIA.

Finally, in an intriguing footnote, Haines says that the "CIA reportedly is also a member of an Incident Response Team to investigate UFO landings, if one should occur. This team has never met." Say what? He offers no evidence for this statement, which, if true, belies the notion that the government completely ignores UFO reports.

In the end, Haines's article is not as revealing as press reports indicated, but it does open a window on CIA activities that have long been closed to the public. Perhaps its chief contribution will be the documents referenced in the footnotes which can now be specifically requested through FOIA by an enterprising UFO historian. His historical analysis is unremittingly pedestrian, but he does admit that CIA errors of commission and omission contributed directly to the notion of a UFO cover-up, and he demonstrates that there *was* indeed a cover-up, though not of spy planes, of a UFO crash near Roswell, nor other events of similar import.

Another effect of Haines's article is a gradual shifting of media opinion toward granting greater credibility to the statements of UFO groups and investigators and a concomitant greater distrust in government claims about its UFO activities. This is all to the good and here the old phrase "better late than never" surely applies.

Those wishing to acquire the full text of the article may download a copy from the CIA's Web site at <http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies/97unclas/ufo.html>. Hard copies can be obtained from the Photoduplication Service, National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. To expedite service, call the NTIS Order Desk at (703) 487-4650. ♦

AUSTRALIA—*continued from page 22*

meeting the community's requirements."

The "new" policy, which was an inevitable outgrowth of the downgrading of the RAAF's role back in 1984, stated:

For many years the RAAF has been formally responsible for handling Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS) at the official level. Consideration of the scientific record suggests that, whilst not all UAS have a ready explanation, there is no compelling reason for the RAAF to continue to devote resources to recording, investigating and attempting to explain UAS.

The RAAF no longer accepts reports on UAS and no longer attempts assignment of cause or allocation of reliability. Members of the community who seek to report a UAS to RAAF personnel will be referred to a civil UFO research organization in the first instance . . .

Some UAS may relate to events that could have a defence, security, or public safety implication, such as man-made debris falling from space or a burning aircraft. Where members of the community may have witnessed an event of this type they are encouraged to contact the police or civil aviation authorities.

Given the rich history of political and military machinations that quite often effectively prevented opportunities for real science, the policy statement alluding to "the scientific record" is particularly perplexing. As a scientist who has examined in detail the RAAF record I can state with some certainty that their record was not particularly scientific and was largely defined by two criteria: national security and political expediency. You have seen evidence in the history I have written where science rarely got a look in, despite courageous and persistent "sub rosa" efforts by scientists like Harry Turner and Michael Duggin. In examining the official record I share with these scientists the sense of lost opportunities.

If the Department of Defence had a sense of an efficient burial of the UFO problem someone had forgotten to inform the alleged corpse. The UFO phenomenon has never really passed away, but you would be forgiven for believing it has had many resurrections. Remarkable events continue to occur, providing a challenging testament for the legitimacy of the UFO phenomenon. ♦