



THE JULY 1952 COAST GUARD PHOTO REVISITED

INTERNATIONAL

UFO

REPORTER

Editors:

Jerome Clark
George M. Eberhart
Mark Rodeghier

Contributing Editors:

Bill Chalker
Richard F. Haines
Richard Hall
Kevin D. Randle
Jenny Randles
Chris Rutkowski

Web site:

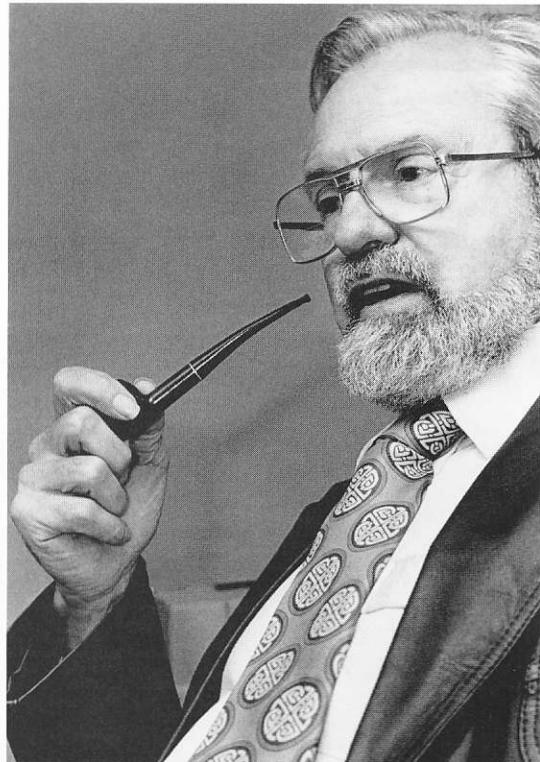
www.cufos.org

E-mail:

Infocenter@cufos.org

Answering machine:

(773) 271-3611



J. Allen Hynek
1910-1986

THE JULY 1952 COAST GUARD PHOTO REVISITED	by Joe Nyman and Barry Greenwood	3
PRE-WORLD WAR II "CREATURE" RETRIEVAL?	by William E. Jones and Eloise G. Watson	6
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: THE MORE WE LEARN, THE LESS WE KNOW	by Craig R. Lang	10
THE TIMMERMAN FILES	by Michael D. Swords	13
UFOs IN CANADA, 2001	by Mark Rodeghier	15
BOOK REVIEWS	by Jerome Clark, Mark Chesney, and John Timmerman	18
LETTER	20
BRITAIN'S SECRET UFO STUDY	by Mark Rodeghier	21
OF INTEREST TO CUFOS ASSOCIATES	31

International UFO Reporter (ISSN 0720-174X) is published quarterly by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Copyright © 2002 by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. Third-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Advertisements accepted for publication in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Address all article submissions, letters to the editor, and other editorial correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago,

Illinois 60659. Address all subscription correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

The *International UFO Reporter* is a benefit publication mailed to Associates of the Center for a contribution of \$25.00 or more. Foreign Associates add \$5.00 for delivery. All amounts in U.S. funds. Other publications also available for contributors of larger amounts. For details, write to the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, USA. **Postmaster:** Send Form 3579 to CUFOS, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

THE JULY 1952 COAST GUARD

PHOTO REVISITED

BY JOE NYMAN AND BARRY GREENWOOD

On the morning of July 16, 1952, Coast Guard photographer Seaman Shell W. Alpert turned slightly from his desk at the Salem, Massachusetts, Coast Guard Station on Winter Island and noticed bright lights outside his office window. Using the camera at hand on his desk, he was preparing to photograph the lights when he noticed they had dimmed. After seeking an additional witness, he returned to his office in time to see the lights brighten again, and he managed to take one picture just before they disappeared in a flash.

The photo was considered important enough to be classified "secret" until its release to the public in a press conference two weeks later. Although Air Force analysts in August 1952 concluded it was a double exposure due to the apparent lack of reflections on cars in the station parking lot, it was always termed an Unknown by Project Blue Book.

In 1963, a quasiofficial Blue Book document reexplained it as an internal reflection from a window, even though its Unknown status was never revoked. This 1963 explanation has persisted in the UFO investigative community. The photo was most recently reproduced in the book *The UFOs That Never Were* by Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts, and David Clarke (London House, 2000) with the caption: "A typical photographic accident which can fuel UFOlogical rumors and claims. This image, created in Salem, Massachusetts, shows lights reflecting in the window through which the photograph was taken."

However, a recent review of a Massachusetts UFO sighting from about the same date has caused us to reevaluate

Joe Nyman, although specializing in entity-encounter claims for the last two decades, has been an active field investigator of both current and historic UFO reports since the late 1960s. Barry Greenwood has been involved in historic UFO research since 1964.

ate Alpert's photo and analyze copies of original documents that show that a different evaluation of the photo is much more likely.

THE INVESTIGATION

Our investigation stemmed from a confluence of items that came to the attention of Massachusetts MUFON. These included an August 2000 e-mail report of a July 1952

sighting that the witness believed was identical to the lights shown in the Coast Guard photo; the Salem photo's recent reappearance in the Randles book, where it is labeled as a window reflection; the observation by local UFO investigator Mark Petty on the similarity between the Salem photo and another published in the recent edition of *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings* by Philip J. Imbrogno, J. Allen Hynek, and Bob Pratt (Llewellyn, 1998), p. 145, which claims it is unexplained; and the availability of copies of original documents and newspaper articles from the library of Barry Greenwood.

This article takes a look at the original investigation of the Salem case, its coverage in the print media, and its reception by the UFO investigative community. This nearly 50-year-old report is relevant to us today for the lessons that it can still teach.

A NEW WITNESS COMES TO LIGHT

On August 6, 2000, 58-year-old "Bud M." e-mailed Massachusetts MUFON with a report of objects or lights he had seen as a 10-year-old boy. He wrote:

For years I have been "haunted" by the above photo [the 1952 Coast Guard photo] for as a youngster of ten I was sitting on the old seawall at Wollaston Beach [Quincy], Ma. during the evening this photo was taken.



The Shell Alpert photo, Salem, Massachusetts, July 16, 1952.

Discover That Saucers Fly in U. S. Military Formation



FLYING SAUCER CAMERAMAN WITH HANDIWORK

Coast guardsman Shell R. Alpert, right, points to the photograph of four "flying saucers" which he made July 21, from the Salem coast guard base, where he is stationed. Commander Joseph F. McCue of Salem, holds the picture that has caused nation-wide comment on the subject of the mysterious objects.

Bud had confused his evening sighting time, about 9:00 or 9:30 p.m., with the Salem Coast Guard sighting time, 9:35 a.m. He wrote, "I can recall distinctly the objects in the photo suddenly appearing out and over the outer harbor of Boston and 'playing' in the night sky." He is again referring to the Salem sighting as concurrent with his own.

He continues:

What drew my attention to these objects and subsequent fascination was the lack of a beam flowing back to the ground [searchlights] which were in common use in the fifties to draw attention to either a grand gala/sale or promotion by a retail store or some type of summer festivities.

At the age of ten I was not aware of UFO's and the amount of sightings being observed/experienced around the country.

I can recall, now 48 years later, this sighting with almost the same clarity as if the incident occurred just a day or so previously.

On August 27, 2000, Bud and one of us [JN] went to Wollaston Beach in Quincy, the sighting location, to reenact what he had seen. Bud's and Alpert's sightings were very different. While Alpert had seen very bright lights, the number of which he was never sure of despite the four amorphous lights that appeared on film, Bud had seen two groups of yellowish-gold lights. Bud viewed an initial group of four lights in a diamond shape that were later

joined by a group of three in echelon formation (see below).

Alpert's sighting, which was initially about five or six seconds, was interrupted by his seeking a second witness, and extended a similar interval when he returned to view the lights a second time and photograph them. The lights Alpert observed were seemingly wavering, albeit stationary; Bud's sighting was many times longer, continuous, and lasted several tens of seconds at least, possibly even minutes, in the course of which the lights were seen to maneuver relative to each other singly and in groups.

Clearly, two completely different sighting sequences are involved, differing in color, numbers, time of day, and maneuvers.

I'll complete the description of Bud's sighting, then describe my [JN] attempts at dating his sighting, how it led to a review of the Coast Guard case, and what the Blue Book file showed.

BUD'S SIGHTING

Bud's e-mailed narrative was written nearly 50 years after the event. Although he insists the sighting appears clearly in his memory even now, because of this long interval I will concentrate on his general description without trying to include such specifics as apparent size that would be remembered more accurately from a recent sighting. Bud's report is of secondary importance here only as evidence for the Coast Guard case.



Bud M.'s final view of the four initial and the three late-arriving gold/orange lights.

On August 27, 2000, I took a complete statement from Bud on the details of his sighting before going on site at Wollaston Beach to reenact the events.

On a July evening between 9 and 10 p.m., Bud had walked to the concrete wall that bordered the beach only a couple of blocks from his home. He sat down on the wall to stare out onto Boston Harbor and saw two groups of yellow-orange lights moving east to west from the Atlantic. First came four oblong lights in a diamond formation that stopped northeast of him over Quincy Bay. As he watched, fascinated, one light broke the diamond and accelerated to the east again while the other three remained in position. It returned to its former position with another group of three in echelon; these latter three stationed themselves to the west of the initial group of four, all above the bay.

The light that left the original diamond formation did so with a speed that Bud "could not describe." The movement seemed to him to be "pulsation type" and at a speed that left him in awe. Bud had trouble elaborating on what "pulsation" meant 48 years after the event, but then agreed that it was as if his perception could not keep up with the speed and acceleration of the light, as if he were observing not the light but a series of after images in his mind.

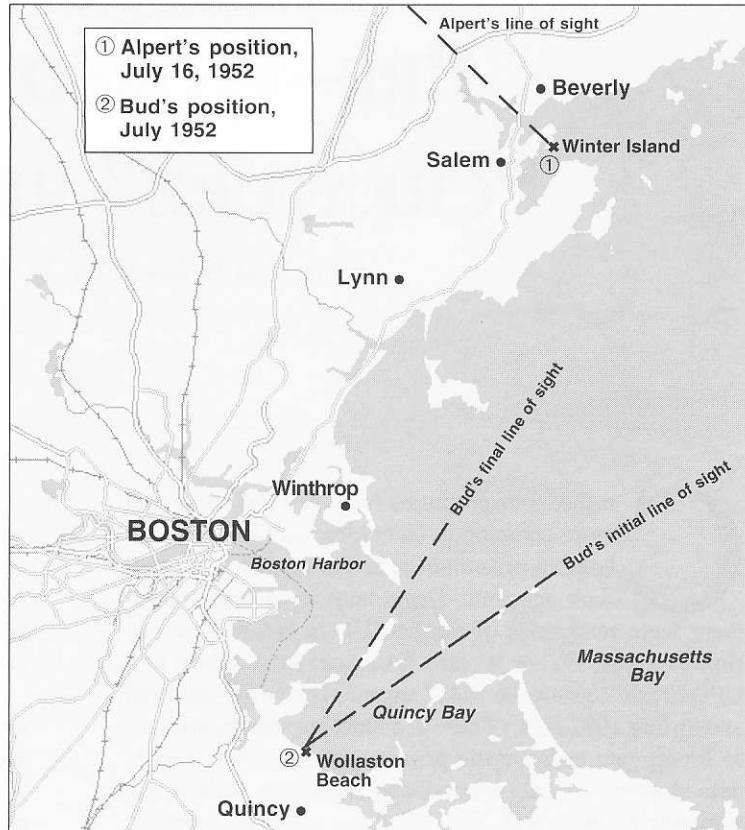
The late-arriving group of three drifted northwest over Winthrop while the group of four moved around over the water east of Boston, then proceeded toward the Atlantic from where they had come, slowly at first and then accelerating toward the southeast almost instantaneously. As Bud put it, "They were there; they were gone!"

Bud also believes he remembers the group of three, which had drifted northward, returning south and then moving to the north again. This ended the sighting, which was indelible in his mind.

Bud recalls the newspaper, "one or several days later," having headlines about the Salem photo case, which was one of the most reported UFO incidents of the time. Barry Greenwood has dozens of accounts from both domestic and foreign newspapers. This was part of the great flap of July 1952 that included the Washington, D.C., radar reports and many daylight sightings.

Bud's sighting was detailed and spectacular enough to assume there must have been more witnesses. After all, on a July evening the shoreline along Massachusetts Bay is crowded with people enjoying the breezes at the water's edge. At that time of night, there must have been thousands of people along the shoreline. And in July 1952 with a major flap going on along the East Coast, the papers were full of UFO reports, unlike the situation now.

With Bud's detailed and extended description, I thought it would be easy to find a confirming match in Barry



Map of Greater Boston area, showing locations of Alpert's and Bud's sightings.

Greenwood's extensive files, and although a search of clippings and Blue Book files turned up more than two dozen reports in July, nothing remotely matched Bud's detailed description. UFOCAT does not contain any similar reports.

In the hope of finding something in roughly the same place and time, I widened the search interval. For this I used Bud's statement that the Coast Guard photo had appeared in the papers "a day or a few days" after his sighting. When, then, did the Salem story appear?

THE COAST GUARD PHOTO

A search of the UFO literature gave no clue to the newspaper reporting date but did reveal the fact that the photo was considered explained as a window reflection and was of little interest, even though it was still listed in the Blue Book index as an Unknown. (The index erroneously gives the location as Beverly, Massachusetts, a town just north of Salem).

Deeper digging to resolve this confusing situation seemed warranted. The continued search paid off, as the National Archives Project Blue Book microfilm files provided both a resolution and a perspective.

The full story of the Coast Guard sightings and photo are to be found in the depositions taken from Alpert and

(continued on page 25)

PRE-WORLD WAR II

“CREATURE” RETRIEVAL?

BY WILLIAM E. JONES AND ELOISE G. WATSON

Crashed saucer stories have become more and more common in UFO lore, with Roswell still holding preeminence as the granddaddy of all such accounts. Some tales even suggest that there were recoveries of crashed UFOs *before* Roswell. (For example, Walter Webb's “An Anecdotal Report of a UFO Crash/Retrieval in 1941” appeared in the Winter 1996 and Spring 1997 *IUR*.) These accounts are always difficult to investigate because the primary sources have usually passed away, so only secondhand witnesses, at best, are available to interview. Still, all these potential incidents must be investigated, and an alleged UFO crash/retrieval is too important to simply file away for future reference.

It is in this context that we relate our own experience with an early crash story. In early December 1999, the Center for UFO Studies received the following letter:

November 29, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

Today I want to share some knowledge that has been, by request, kept secret in our family since sometime in World War II. This concerns something my father was shown by Cordell Hull, who was Secretary of State under Franklin Roosevelt. Sumner Wells was his Under-Secretary of State. Hull was a cousin to my father. My father was on some kind of advising committee, and made several trips to Washington, D.C. in that capacity.

My father, who was young, brilliant, and sound of mind, tells [sic] this story to us because he didn't want the information to be lost. One day when my father was in D.C. with Cordell, Cordell swore him to secrecy and took him to a sub-basement in the U.S. Capitol building, and showed him an amazing sight: (1) Four large glass jars holding 4 creatures unknown to my father or Cordell [and], (2) A wrecked round craft of some kind nearby.

William E. Jones serves on the CUFOS Board of Directors and is MUFON state director for Ohio. Eloise G. Watson is the Holt family genealogist.

My father wanted my sister and I to make this information known long after he and Cordell were dead, because he felt it was a *very important* bit of information. We have researched your group and feel it is the most reliable group in the country. We hope that you will research and search this information.

Please don't disregard this, because what I have written is true. The jars with creatures in formaldehyde and the wrecked craft are *somewhere!*

Cordell said they were afraid they would start a panic if the public found out about it.

Sincerely,
Lucile Andrew

Mrs. Andrew lives in Ashland, Ohio, which is much closer to Columbus than Chicago, so CUFOS Scientific Director Mark Rodeghier forwarded a copy of the letter to one of us [WEJ] for follow-up. At the time the letter was received, I did not know the name of Mrs. Andrew's father and his background because, as we were to discover, the family was concerned about its reputation.

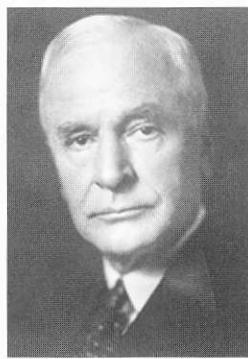
After several telephone calls and two visits to Ashland, the family became comfortable with releasing his name—the Reverend Turner Hamilton Holt—and allowing this story to be told.

The story would only be an interesting footnote in a UFO history book if the people involved were more ordinary in background and experience. But here we have a tale that directly involves one of the greatest U.S. statesmen of the 20th century and a conservative man of the cloth, who would have absolutely no apparent reason to tell a story such as this one if it weren't true, especially at a time when stories of flying saucers and their occupants had not yet become part of our culture. Because, as you will learn, this story was told to the Rev. Holt's family before the Kenneth Arnold sighting brought UFOs into the national news in 1947.

The personality and life history of the two principals in the story are crucial in deciding whether to put credence in the information. Accordingly, we next present biographical details about each man.

CORDELL HULL

Cordell Hull was born October 2, 1871, in a log cabin in Pickett County, Tennessee, the third of five sons of William Hull, first a farmer and then later, a lumber merchant. Hull grew up wanting to be a lawyer. He went to a one-room elementary school that his father built in Willow Grove, Tennessee. After attending in succession the Montvale Academy in Celina, Tennessee, the Normal School in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the National Normal University in Lebanon, Ohio, he received a law degree in 1891 after completing a one-year course at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee.



Cordell Hull

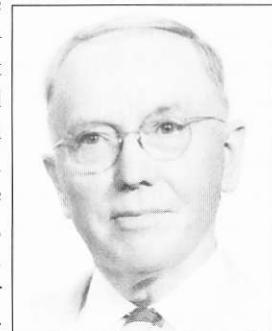
He began practicing law when not yet 20 years old. From 1893 to 1897, he was a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives. He served in the Spanish-American War as a captain, and in 1903 was appointed a judge to the Fifth Judicial District. He held this position until 1907 when he was elected to Congress. He served until 1931, a period interrupted only once for two years when he served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Hull was elected U.S. senator for the 1931–1937 term, but he resigned to become the secretary of state under President Franklin D. Roosevelt on March 4, 1933. He occupied this post until 1944 when he resigned because of ill health. His tenure in this post was the longest in American history. Prior to Hull's resignation, Roosevelt had offered him the vice-presidency, but he declined. Many historians believe that Hull could have been elected president had Roosevelt not run for a third and fourth term.

In 1945, the Norwegian Nobel Committee presented Hull the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of his life's work, including his efforts to establish good relationships between the United States and the nations of the Western Hemisphere, international trade agreements, and the United Nations. Too ill to personally receive the award, Hull had his acceptance speech delivered by U.S. Ambassador to Norway Lithgow Osborne. In the acceptance, he wrote: "Under the ominous shadow which the Second World War and its attendant circumstances have cast on the world, peace has become as essential to civilized existence as the air we breathe is to life itself. There is no greater responsibility resting upon peoples and governments everywhere, than to make sure that enduring peace will this time . . . at long last . . . be established and maintained. . . . The searing lesson of this latest war and the promise of the United Nations Organization will be the cornerstones of a new edifice of enduring peace and the guideposts of a new era of human progress." These words still ring true today. Hull died July 23, 1955, and is interred in the National Cathedral (Episcopal) in Washington, D.C.

REV. TURNER HAMILTON HOLT

Turner Hamilton Holt was also born in Pickett County (then Overton County), Tennessee, on March 4, 1894. He attended Livingston (Tenn.) Academy in 1922–1926, Milligan College in 1926–1927, and the National Bible Institute in 1928–1929. In 1929 he studied at Ashland College (now Ashland University) in Ohio and earned his undergraduate degree. From 1929 to 1938 he attended the Ashland Theological Seminary, attaining a doctorate in theology.



Turner Hamilton Holt

In his younger days, Turner Holt worked as a farmer, a lumberjack, a railroad man, and bookseller to libraries and schools. He later held several church positions during the years he was in college. From 1927 through 1945 (an important period of time for this story), he was the minister at the Shenandoah Christian Church in Greenwich, Ohio. He ministered to a number of Church of Christ congregations in Ohio until he left the ministry in 1959. Holt also served on many church boards and was involved in numerous community organizations throughout his life. He was known to be especially good at working with young people and wrote a book entitled *Life's Convictions* (Vantage, 1956) that gave advice on how young people could grow into spiritually fulfilled adults. He was, in the best sense of the term, a community leader.

He married Vina May Clark in 1920. Their union produced three daughters, Ana Lucile (born September 1921), Geneva Mareah (born December 1922) and Margaret Allene (born November 1924).

Reverend Holt passed away on February 5, 1960, in University Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

These two men had much in common. They both worked their way out of the backwoods of Tennessee and were men of learning, very well-educated for their time. They spent their lives in public service. Of crucial importance for this story, Holt was related to Cordell through Cordell's mother, Elizabeth (Riley) Hull. Holt was Hull's third cousin twice removed. Family members alive today remember that they spent time together during their large Tennessee family reunions discussing the issues of the day. Because of their love of learning and public service, they were considered by the family to be especially close.

THE INVESTIGATION

We attempted to interview as many members of the Holt family as possible. The first interview, by Jones and Irena Scott, was naturally with Holt's eldest daughter. It took place at her home in Ashland, Ohio, on February 12, 2000. The home is new and well-kept. It was obvious upon

entering the front door that these people were not only reasonably well-off, but they were accustomed to entertaining and were involved in community affairs. As we got to know Lucile and her husband, who is a retired executive of a large Ashland company, this assessment was proven true.

Lucile's original letter essentially tells the story as her father told it to her when she was a teenager. Since Lucile was born in 1921, this would have been within a year or so of the event, probably in 1940 or 1941. Unfortunately, Lucile said that she was too young to really pay much attention to what her father told her. As it turned out, however, her father also told one of his other daughters, Allene. (Allene is the mother of Eloise, the coauthor of this story.)

At first Allene was reluctant to talk to us, explaining that she wasn't well at the time. Finally, on April 3, 2000, we met both sisters together. Allene told essentially the same story as her sister. Both assured us that they remember the stories independently. Allene was told the story by her father when she was in her early twenties when she already had two young children to care for. This would have been around 1950 when Eloise was three years old. As the family story goes, when Allene's father started to tell the story, Eloise, always the active youngster, jumped up in her mother's lap and distracted her long enough so that she never really asked her father any meaningful follow-up questions. Some time later during a family gathering, she tried to ask her father some of these questions, but he replied with something like, "Not now." They never did get back to talking about the subject. Thus, details of the story that Lucile didn't hear were forever lost to Allene as well, and to history.

Reverend Holt described the entities in the glass jars as "creatures." He never referred to them as "aliens" or "extraterrestrials" as we would today. He used a term common for his day. In fact, he never said where they came from. Lucile stated that his experience happened in the "late 1930s," probably 1939. The material that was nearby the creatures was described as "silver metallic."

Allene did remember her father saying that the creatures were less than four feet tall. She also remembers him referring to the material as being a "vehicle" that appeared to have been taken apart and was "in pieces." He said the color of this material wasn't a color that he had seen before, but for the lack of a better word, he used "silver."

As far as Lucile and Allene know, their father told no one else this story. When their other sister was old enough to be told the story, she was living out of state and apparently an opportunity never came up. Their mother was mostly concerned about household issues and the rearing of their children, so their father apparently didn't feel it was necessary to tell her. Both were told not to discuss the story with anyone else. As the grandchildren grew up, at least two, including Eloise, were told by their parents. It was always a family secret that never was talked about outside the family. Both daughters believe their father told them so

that the story would be told years later and not lost to history, but the principals would have long since passed away. By telling this story, the sisters feel that they are following their father's wishes.

Lucile told her son, the other of the two grandchildren noted above, when he was mature enough to understand the story. We contacted the son and he confirmed hearing the story from his mother. He holds a doctorate in physics and has a very responsible position in industry. Because of this, he requested that his name not be used.

When we asked his opinion of the story, he replied that he believes his mother and aunt are telling the story as they remember it. He thinks that perhaps the memory of what they heard has changed with time and may not reflect what really happened. Of course, if that is true, their memories have changed in identical ways. We can't discount the possibility that each of the sisters influenced the other so that their memories now coincide. But, the sisters don't think this happened. There is no way to prove this conjecture either way. Lucile's son noted that if the story is not remembered accurately, he has no idea what the original story might have been. Further, he did say that there is a chance that the story is true. He doesn't discount the possibility.

The story doesn't offer much to corroborate, so a large part of the effort was getting to know more about Rev. Turner Hamilton Holt. The essentials of what we learned are noted above. From talking to the sisters and others in the family and from reading what written resource material we could find, Holt was not the sort of person to make up such a wild story to tell to his children. It wasn't in his character and it certainly wasn't something that his conservative religion would have condoned.

THE CAPITOL SUB-BASEMENT

One independent fact that we could check was the part of the story concerning the "sub-basement" of the U.S. Capitol building. When I first read Lucile's letter, this part of the story rang a discordant note. Storing something this important in that building struck me as absurd. But as I thought about it, it seemed more and more plausible. One has to remember the times. Washington was in its pre-World War II state. The Pentagon didn't exist and those military bases and facilities that now can be found all around the area didn't exist or were much less secure than they are today. Perhaps the Capitol would have been a safe and secure place back then. I decided to check this aspect of the story out.

There is an Office of the Architect of the Capitol. I called to determine if there is or ever was a "sub-basement" in the building, at least in the late 1930s. I was able to reach Barbara A. Wolanin, curator of the U.S. Capitol. I told her the story as I knew it from Lucile's letter. She chuckled a bit and said it reminded her of the Capitol ghost stories that are often told. She volunteered that she had never heard about these creatures being stored at the Capitol, but she did

confirm there was a sub-basement back then. She said that the building had been significantly changed over the years and this area is now the basement. Back then it had been divided into rooms that were used for storage. Thus, in a small way, part of Holt's story checked out.

HULL'S MEMOIRS

I decided that the other way to check out this story would be to learn more about Cordell Hull. There is a chance that somewhere in his papers and correspondence he had written something about this obviously important event. It probably wouldn't be a direct reference to what he knew, but there might be something stated indirectly or indicative of an inordinate interest in the possibility of extraterrestrial life or a collection of newspaper articles about flying saucers after 1947.

After Hull left government service, he wrote *The Memoirs of Cordell Hull* in a 1,804-page, two-volume book (Macmillan, 1948). No reference, direct or indirect, to this story appears in those pages. His papers are archived at the Library of Congress. The collection is made up of over 70,000 items packed in 265 boxes. John Earl Haynes has custodial responsibility over this collection for the Library. I told Haynes about the story I was researching and related my idea that Hull might have at least indirectly written something about it in his papers. He replied that he had never run across anything like that, but noted, "It is possible that it was there and I missed it because I wasn't looking for something like that."

I did obtain through interlibrary loan from the Library of Congress a copy of microfilm reels numbered 38 and 39 that contained Hull's "desk diary" for the years 1938 through 1942. I wanted to see if there was an entry of an appointment with Holt in the diary. I found none.

I was referred to Jonathan G. Utley who now lives in Chicago. A retired professor from the University of Tennessee who has been working on a book about Cordell Hull for years, Utley was, needless to say, skeptical of the story. He did note that probably the only place I might find reference to such a story would be in the papers or diaries of Hull's friends and colleagues. He told me that Hull was a workaholic. His work was everything to him, and all of his papers concern his various jobs. He did not leave a record about his personal life, which was meager anyway. He married late and had no children. He had few real friends outside of work. If he entertained privately, he usually did so in restaurants, even though he had a cook and a housekeeper. Utley noted that everything he learned about Hull's personal life was from the diaries and letters of Hull's friends and colleagues.

Utley thought that it would be unlikely that Hull would have had such easy access to the Capitol as Secretary of State because he was a member of the executive branch of government. Further, he rarely went there to testify, usually sending subordinates to do so in his place. This sounds like

a reasonable critique, but Hull seems to contradict this in his memoirs. On page 215 of his memoirs he wrote, "I also made it a practice to appear personally before Congressional committees or important group conferences, which I did scores of times during my stay at the State Department." Hull's ability to access the Capitol building is clearly an issue in evaluating the story. However, given Hull's important position within the government and his relationship with Roosevelt, even if knowledge of these creatures and debris was closely held, Hull would clearly have been aware of the secret.

Utley also pointed out that Hull was not particularly close to his extended family. Taking a cousin into his confidence would have been unusual. He was a very cautious man. He was the keeper of the family assets, giving out funds to his brothers when they needed them. That was the role with his immediate family. If a cousin had visited Hull, he would have probably entertained the visitor at a restaurant where most of his limited entertaining was done. However, we have the observations of Holt's daughters who remember Hull and Holt as being particularly close within the family. So it is still probable that for purely intellectual reasons, Hull may have wanted his friend and relative to be aware of something quite extraordinary.

Three other potential sources of information concerning Hull were contacted for assistance with our research.

The Cordell Hull Foundation for International Education in New York City has no information about Hull's life that could help us. The Cordell Hull Birthplace Museum near Byrdstown, Tennessee, has copies of some of his papers. The museum's curator, Norma Kerbaugh, did look through their collection for us, but found nothing of interest.

Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee, has several boxes of papers, letters, photographs, articles, scrapbooks, and speeches from and about Hull. According to Library Archivist Mancil Johnson, nothing was found that would relate to our story. Much of the university's material was obtained from the Cordell Hull Birthplace Museum.

A number of other libraries and archives were contacted to see if they could help, including the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York; the Roosevelt University Center for New Deal Studies in Chicago; the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio; the Holy Spirit Library, Cabrini College, Radnor, Pennsylvania; and the Little White House State Historic Site in Warm Springs, Georgia. At least through telephone contacts, no one seemed too excited about getting involved in helping establish the possible authenticity of this story. Perhaps this is understandable.

There is an ironic sidebar to this story that should be told here. Holt attended the Washington Work Shop on World Order held March 13–16, 1950, at the Burlington

(continued on page 12)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:

THE MORE WE LEARN, THE LESS WE KNOW

BY CRAIG R. LANG

During a recent thread of e-mail correspondence, I was asked what conclusions I could draw from several years of work with close-encounter experiencers. An extended discussion resulted, during which we talked about many different theories behind the phenomenon. What I found most notable was how little resolution there was to the topic. There are many theories about what the phenomenon might actually be, and there are some researchers who believe we are close to the final answer. There are also many common themes described by experiencers suggesting that although diverse and mysterious, the UFO/CE4 phenomenon has a deep self-coherence. But the phenomenon itself remains a mirage-like enigma. My best description of it is: "The more we learn, the less we know." In spite of what some researchers suggest, I believe that we still know very little about the true nature of the CE4 phenomenon.

As a CE4 researcher, I have been interviewing close-encounter experiencers and sighting witnesses for about six years. The last several years, as a hypnotherapist, I have heard many abduction accounts, enough to concur in an arm-waving way that the close-encounter phenomenon may well be as common as the Roper Polls suggest. Many of the events that people describe are quite similar to the "standard model" of UFO abduction initially framed by Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Joe Nyman, and others. This model includes the capture of abductees, typically from their bedrooms, or from their cars in remote locations. The abductees are escorted by small gray aliens to a waiting UFO and given a medical examination—frequently of a sexual or reproductive nature. They are then returned to their original locations, with one or two hours missing from their lives.

While this standard encounter is common, many accounts from experiencers suggest that this is by no means the only scenario. In my own work with experiencers I have found a considerable variety of accounts—possibly more varied than I have heard from many researchers. For each classic abduction event, I often hear one or more other

accounts portraying a completely different scenario. At other times, events may bear some resemblance to the standard scenario but differ in others. So we are left with a scenario with some common elements, but also a wide variety of differences.

WE ARE CLOSE TO THE ANSWER

Several researchers now claim that we are nearing the point where we can find the answer to the CE4 mystery. They paint a well-defined portrait of the close-encounter phenomenon—what it is, who the entities are, and why they are here. Among these are what I would refer to as the standard abduction scenario described above, and what can be called the "New Age" model, widely accepted by those who are more metaphysically or spiritually oriented. Each hypothesis, and a myriad of variations on them, makes differing claims—and each appears to be backed up by accounts from close-encounter experiencers (some events related while under hypnosis, others related during full conscious recall). Are they all true? Are there many different explanations for close encounters? Or is there one greater truth behind the phenomenon? These are questions which I feel we are just beginning to address.

KATHERINE'S ABDUCTIONS

Frequently, experiencers have described to me events which initially seem to support one or another of the commonly described theories, but then add some detail that tends not to fit that theory. One such case involved an experiencer whom I will refer to as "Katherine" and who reported to the Mutual UFO Network a series of traumatic close encounters. MUFON investigators interviewed her and extensively documented these events. They also conducted ground-trace surveys, finding evidence suggesting that physical close-encounter events had indeed occurred at that time.

I later conducted follow-up hypnotic work with her, both to help her deal with the traumatic effects of the events, and to understand what had happened to her. On the surface, the key events that emerged appeared to closely fit the

Craig R. Lang is a certified hypnotherapist and an abduction researcher for Minnesota MUFON.

standard-abduction mold. They had all of the details: the capture, being taken aboard a UFO, the physical examination, and the subsequent amnesia. The entities also appeared to closely match the common descriptions of small grays. These key events were indeed very similar to those so commonly described in classic abduction accounts.

Yet, mixed in with these descriptions were other details which very much contradicted the standard model of UFO encounters. In Katherine's case, this involved the significant inclusion of spiritual and metaphysical events. A few months before her key encounters began she had experienced an encounter with a metaphysical "dream" entity. She apparently had a positive relationship with this being, which also appeared in the context of her encounter experiences. The entity, which she described as human-like but with some significant variations, did not resemble any I have noted in the close-encounter literature to date. In addition, her positive relationship with the entity appeared to be in sharp contrast to the traumatic nature of the subsequent abduction events.

As we explored her relationship with this entity, it became evident that it was metaphysical in nature. She described him as her companion in another time and place—apparently in another lifetime. It would seem that his association with her abduction experiences was tenuous, yet in another way he was inextricably bound to those same events. His initial appearance seemed to herald the beginning of her key encounters. She also noted that he was present at least once when she was returned from an encounter.

This relationship between the entity and Katherine's encounter experiences appears to be ambiguous, and does not seem to fit the standard encounter model.

While Katherine's experiences also have many of the standard-model elements to them, they seem to provide support for a more spiritual or metaphysical understanding of the phenomenon. Are the two theories mutually exclusive? Could they both be true at the same time? The more we learn, the less we know.

GOOD OR EVIL?

Among the variety of encounter events, some are described as dark, ominous intrusions, while others are described as more benevolent. This polarity of good and evil seems to be a strong theme in the CE4 phenomenon, as if they were two sides of the same coin. On one side is the notion we are being genetically exploited by the visitors. David Jacobs takes this dark-side concept the farthest in *The Threat* (Simon & Schuster, 1998), where he portrays the phenomenon as a means by which the aliens plan to take over this world for reasons that only they understand.

On the other side is the idea that the purpose of the phenomenon is to provide some form of nurturing, assistance, or guidance to humanity. The focus seems to be heavily oriented towards the spiritual growth of the

experiencer, and of humanity. For unknown reasons, they feel it is important that we mature at a faster rate. This may be to prevent us from destroying our own world, but perhaps it might also be to bring us to a point where we are no longer a threat, and can be welcomed into some greater community "out there." This view is taken by much of the positive community and is related in books such as *Preparing for Contact* by Lyssa Royal and Keith Priest (Royal Priest Research, 1999), and *Healing Shattered Reality* by Alice Bryant and Linda Seebach (Wild Flower, 1991). Most commonly, however, experiencers describe their encounters as a mixed bag. Both positive and negative events seem to occur, frequently during the same encounter.

One event that initially seemed to be a classic abduction turned out to have many surprises. In this event the experiencer, whom I will call "Nancy," recounted to me under hypnosis an event in which she was abducted in the typical manner. In deep trance, she described how she was taken into the domain of the phenomenon. Once there, instead of her being subjected to the standard experience, she was taken to a large education center where she was given an often-described lesson on the environment and future apocalyptic events. At the conclusion of the scenario, Nancy noted that the place where she had been was "an education ship." Were the entities working for our benefit or otherwise? What was the purpose behind this lesson, and who administered it to her?

While deep in trance, another experiencer I will call "Susan" described a scenario in which she underwent a medical procedure at the hands of "spiritual scientists." She was abducted (again in the usual manner) and taken to a UFO. She was then seated in a room in which the scientists lectured her on some type of advanced mathematics. The entities appeared to be humanoid, wore long robes, and had facial features that were partially but not completely human. At approximately the same time, two smaller entities conducted a medical procedure on her, "giving her brain a checkup."

During this same regression, as we worked back through a chain of earlier similar experiences, Susan also found herself reliving an experience in a metaphysical domain in which she was a nonhuman entity. She felt that this had been in an earlier lifetime, and was somehow associated with her current experiences. It emerged from the regression that the phenomenon's purpose in her life was largely spiritual, and that the present-day abductions were but a small part of that process.

Although in both of these cases aspects of their experiences were unpleasant, their relationship to the phenomenon appears to have a longer-term positive tone. Both experiencers have described many similar (but not identical) aspects to their encounters. Both have also described how in the long term, their spiritual lives had been profoundly deepened by their encounters. While many events were traumatic, they consider their overall encounters to be positive events in their lives. Thus, rather than being good

or evil, experiences such as those of Nancy, Susan, and Katherine seem to be a mixed bag, or even to defy this polarity altogether. Perhaps good versus evil is a human value superimposed on a nonhuman phenomenon.

RICHARD AND MIKE

Another encounter event, described by an experiencer whom I will call "Richard," shows a wide variety of aspects that do not fit the standard model. In this event, he found himself and several other people in a car that was being approached by a UFO. They were taken as a group into a "scout craft," which then transferred them to a larger ship where they were met by human-like entities. The entities appeared to be wearing military uniforms characteristic of the 1940s. They conferred with him on a military struggle in which they were apparently engaged and they claimed that he had sided with them. However, he felt suspicious of their intentions and resisted their questions. He and the other abductees in his group were then taken back to a base where he was met by a leader of the opposing forces—also seemingly human. They were then returned to their earthly reality and placed back in their car.

Another such nonstandard event occurred to an experiencer I will call "Mike." Late at night, he felt the sense of presence and paralysis common in the beginning of encounters. He then observed entities that appeared to emerge from the nearby mirror. The entities indicated that they were from "Andromeda," and accompanied him back through the mirror with them. Mike then found himself in a vast alien realm that looked both paradise-like and technological. The entities (looking completely unlike standard types of aliens) escorted him to meet a leader figure, who interrogated him. The leader informed him of a mission that they had planned for him. They then returned him to the normal realm and back to bed.

Neither Richard nor Mike described their experiences as good or evil, and neither felt that the events were metaphysical per se. However, much about these experiences appears to be different from the classic CE4 model described in the literature. Yet they do tend to contain a few standard elements such as the paralysis at the experience onset, and the assignment of a mission or role in coming events. This varying level of standardness seems to be typical in the anomaly careers of many close-encounter experiencers—some events fit the model, some don't.

AMBIGUITY AND PARADOX

The examples described above only scratch the surface of the variety, ambiguity, and paradox inherent in UFO and close-encounter phenomena. Often, encounters are dream-like in nature, having an illogical character to them. Yet often, as in Katherine's experiences, the phenomenon also leaves physical evidence—such as body marks or ground traces—a tangible manifestation in their lives. Thus, these

descriptions suggest that rather than being either completely nuts-and-bolts or dream-like, they are somehow both at the same time. This suggests a degree of plasticity in the reality of the phenomenon, multiple forms of reality superimposed within the experiencer's consciousness.

The experiences of Mike and Richard bear little resemblance to the standard scenario. But for both they are part of a lifetime of encounters that also include standard-type events. Still, for both of them the phenomenon seems largely metaphysical in nature, suggesting a deeper dimension than simple nuts-and-bolts close encounters. In both cases the phenomenon seems to have played a key role in their lives—with profound physical, mental, and spiritual effects.

The ambiguity and the wide variety of experiences described suggest that at its core, the phenomenon does not have a simple explanation. In the end, the only conclusion I can reasonably draw is that we still know very little about close encounters. Truly, the more we learn the less we know. ♦

HULL AND HOLT—*continued from page 9*

Hotel on Thomas Circle, the State Department, the Ninth Street Church, and other venues around Washington. A number of religious and governmental leaders spoke at this conference on such subjects as Christian faith and world citizenship, American foreign policy and the economic needs of the world, American foreign policy, and the problems of human rights and fundamental freedoms. On March 14, appearing in a "Round Table on Atomic Energy: Its Uses and Controls," was Director of the Bureau of Standards Edward U. Condon, who would later become well known to the UFO research community.

We are publishing this report of a clearly incomplete investigation because we hope to encourage others to look into the story. If it is true, and we have no reason to think it is a hoax, then somewhere out there in a library or an archive there may be a document—a diary entry, a letter, a note on an appointment calendar, something—that will provide additional support. That document may offer leads to other information that will help us better document the truth about this extraordinary story.

Again, we must emphasize two key points about the story. First, Holt was known as very truthful with his family and friends. No one believes he would have simply invented this story from whole cloth. Second, he told his eldest daughter in the early 1940s, long before there was any talk of UFO sightings.

If we believe that four alien bodies and otherworldly technology were retrieved prior to World War II, what would that do to our interpretation of what we know about the U.S. government's involvement in UFO research? Assuming that the Roswell story involved another alien-related event, how should this knowledge affect our inter-

(continued on page 30)

THE TIMMERMAN FILES

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

Many readers of *IUR* know the name John P. Timmerman, long-time CUFOS treasurer, vice-president of marketing, and ambassador of good will. Most, though, may not know that John roamed North America from 1980 through 1992 making friends for ufology while escorting the CUFOS photo exhibit. He visited 92 shopping malls, mostly as weekend engagements, with two identical versions of the exhibit. He met thousands of people and many of them told him of their own UFO experiences. After the first two malls, John brought along his tape recorder and taped these witnesses.

What resulted from these recordings are many hundreds of almost entirely new cases. Due to the heroic energies of Kathryn Diehl, these transcripts were converted into hard copy so they might be more easily analyzed. And, due to the good graces of the Fund for UFO Research, they are being extracted and studied by myself, the effort to result in a monograph describing them. This article is designed to introduce this material to our readership, and to provide a flavor of what you can expect when the monograph is complete.

The case reports are, not surprisingly, of very mixed quality: These were conversations in a mall with witnesses, not full-scale investigations. Gaps regularly occur in the details, but still, many of the cases are remarkably interesting. Here are a few for those who like good old-fashioned ufology.

Lima, Ohio, September 1955, sometime during the daylight hours. Lima is Timmerman's hometown, so I wanted to begin with this case in his honor. It involves multiple witnesses, with four discs maneuvering and flying in formation. The objects were apparently technological and controlled.

The witness said: "There were several of us working on a house, and we were outside, and the sky was clear and there were a lot of jet trails up in the sky, so we figured that something was trying to chase something, or maneuvers, or something."

Michael D. Swords is professor emeritus of the Environmental Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, and former editor of the Journal of UFO Studies.

"But then we spotted a silver disc off in the east, and it looked about the size of a [quarter held at arm's length]. It came across the sky to the west approximately—we timed it—approximately three minutes. And then it came back. Then, out of the north, three came in kind of a 'V' formation, and the fourth one got in the place that was vacated [forming a diamond shape].

"And then they—it just seemed like they stopped in mid-air, and then they just took off to the east and were gone."



Fig. 1. Lima, Ohio, September 1955.

Figure 1 was drawn by deduction from descriptions in the longer transcript. (I drew all the figures for this article.) We checked UFOCAT, the CUFOS digital database, for other reports at this time and location. Nothing was found in Lima or the vicinity, but there were about a dozen reports in southwestern Ohio, especially the Cincinnati area, in September 1955.

Uniopolis, Ohio, June 16, 1966, around dusk. Uniopolis is just south of Lima. This case also involved multiple witnesses and a classic CE1 with a domed black disc with lights and a powerful light beam shining from its bottom.

The witness said: "What caught my attention to it was my dog. I was in the garage working on the car, and my dog kept raising all kinds of Cain outside, and I went out there and told her to shut up, and went back inside."

The witness went on to note that the dog, however, was very persistent and keeps looking toward the south. Finally, the owner looked too.

"I don't see nothing, and all of a sudden it was coming across the fields—and I looked up and, my God—I went in and beat on the door and told my wife."

Then he, his wife, the neighbor lady, and her kids saw the object.

"By the time [the neighbor] got out, it was going right over the house. After it passed over our house and went

north, like it was headed for the airport, the beam [a bright beam of light] came down over the woods. The trees in that woods—it was just coming on evening, it wasn't dark and it wasn't daylight—you could count every tree in that woods. It was absolutely like someone had turned on a light in the living room with about 50 lights in the ceiling.

"After it got over the top of there, it either sensed or seen these planes coming from Wright-Patterson, or wherever they came from. And you couldn't snap your fingers as fast as this thing went up."

"They [the planes] flew all around the area, and then it came over my police scanner that they sent a plane out from Allentown airfield . . . they flew all around the area for a few minutes, and then the two other planes went back south. I even wrote a letter and sent it to Wright-Pat, but I never got an answer out of it."

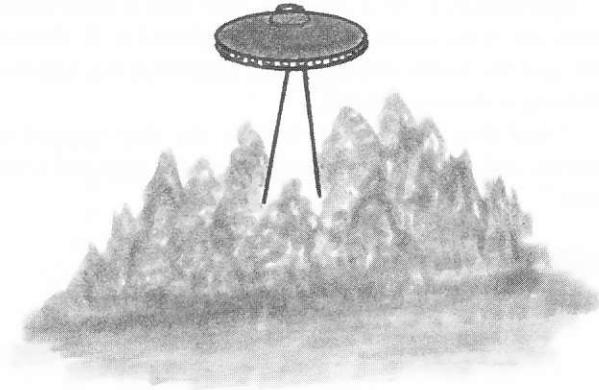


Fig. 2. Uniopolis, Ohio, June 16, 1966.

The drawing of the disc is probably accurate, since the witness mentioned its similarity to a drawing in a UFO reference that Timmerman had available at the mall. The disc had many lights (about 20 or so) around the perimeter. These lights changed to a continuous band when it rose. It never made a sound.

Depending on one's interpretation, the dog's behavior may or may not have been unusual, although dogs are not famous for hallucinations. The military appears to have been interested and the police aware of the disc's presence. The witness also noted that the UFO was close ("It was low enough that you could have shot it with a slingshot"), and large ("We have an acre of yard, and if it had set down, it would have covered the whole acre"). Covering an acre requires a disc a little over 200 feet in diameter. Given the excitement and possible error in estimate, this still indicates a quite large piece of technology.

A check of UFOCAT uncovered one report on the same day from Dayton, not far to the south of Uniopolis, and the home of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Few details are available about this case.

South of Alger, Ohio, October 1938, around dusk. Alger is just east of Lima. Note the early date of this case, before World War II. The case is a classic CE2. The witness and his father were out in their fields preparing the stalks so

that they could pick their corn. The witness stated:

"It was after sundown, about an hour after sundown. It was beginning to get [dark] enough that the lights were on. It just appeared. Came up, just kind of coasted up and then sat there for a little bit. It was [directly] over top. The tractor quit running. It was on a magneto and the tractor quit.

"It was 500 feet [up] or maybe a little higher. I would judge it to be 100 feet in diameter. Round. Lights all the way around it. Pulsating lights. They were not all one color. Different colors. It was off-on-off-on.

"Then it made a right angle and vanished. It didn't go down over the horizon, it just kept getting smaller and smaller, gone. And my father, he was a pilot, said if we've got anything like that, we need not worry about any wars."

The father and son then recranked their tractor. It started right up as if nothing had happened, and they went back to work. The lack of sound was not mentioned but is implicit in the tone of the report. The witness did not distinguish between a round disc or sphere, although disc seems implied, but not necessarily. Thus, the drawings show both.

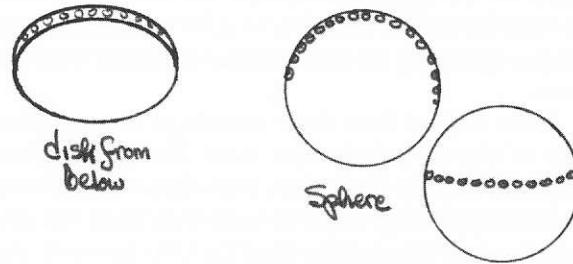


Fig. 3. Alger, Ohio, October 1938.

This case is one of the earliest vehicle interference reports on record, thus this interview is especially valuable. Not surprisingly, there are no reports from this time at any nearby location in UFOCAT.

Springfield, Illinois, summer 1956, around 11:30 p.m. This report, the only one outside Ohio, is another CE2.

The witness said: "I was coming back from the old Southwest airport on the southwest part of Springfield and was stopped at the corner of South McArthur and South Grand. All the [traffic] lights were red. Normally, you have two reds and two greens. They all went to red. Everyone looked up and there was this orangeish glow and then there was—looked like a cigar with these lights going bright and then dim. Bright and dim. Bright and dim."

"There were four cars and my partner . . . he was in another car and his car stopped. Whether it was a fluke or not, his car quit. And he saw it. I was there; my brother saw it. We're all pilots, and this is no baloney."

"It looked like a blimp, only it was a little bit smaller, and had lights pulsing out of the side of the windows, if it had windows in a blimp. It stayed there probably—it seemed like a long time but I would say maybe 30 seconds. And it went straight up—gone."

(continued on page 30)

UFOS IN CANADA, 2001

BY MARK RODEGHIER

For the past 12 years, Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM), under the direction of Chris Rutkowski and Geoff Dittman, has compiled a report of UFO sightings in Canada from the previous year. UFOROM and these two investigators have continued that fine tradition with their recent release of sighting data from 2001 in a report titled *The 2001 Canadian UFO Survey: An Analysis of UFO Reports in Canada*. As I have done in previous years in *IUR* (Summer 1999, pp. 23–26; Summer 1997, pp. 31–35), in this article I summarize the sighting data for last year, compare it to earlier years, and list a few of the best Canadian sightings in 2001. Those who would like to view the complete report can do so on the Internet at www.geocities.com/Area51/Rampart/2653/.

Regrettably, it remains impossible to compile a similar report for the United States, which is too fragmented in the reporting and cataloging of sightings, despite the best efforts of several organizations. CUFOS has long since gotten out of the business of being a central focus for case reporting; we now concentrate on special research projects, investigation of physical trace cases, the publishing of high-quality material, public education, and assisting other investigators and researchers with their own work. In these activities we have attempted to fulfill J. Allen Hynek's original dream of CUFOS as a think tank devoted to ufological subjects. Thus, we must rely on other organizations for complete case data. (UFOCAT, our massive computer database, is a wonderful resource, but was never meant to be a listing of the most *recent* UFO sightings.)

COLLECTING CANADIAN UFO REPORTS

To begin this review, I quote at some length from the introduction to the report, which emphasizes the difficulty in collecting sighting reports and the related limitations on the data:

Many individuals, associations, clubs and groups claim to investigate UFO reports and otherwise solicit reports from the general public. Comparatively few actually

participate in any kind of information sharing or data gathering for scientific programs. Many are only interest groups based in museums, planetariums, church basements or individuals' homes, and do essentially *nothing* with the case reports they receive. Because there is no way to enforce standards in UFO report investigations, the quality of case investigations varies considerably. Quantitative studies are difficult because subjective evaluations and differences in investigative techniques do not allow precise comparisons. Fortunately, UFOROM's requests for data include some basic information that can be used in rigorous analyses.

Until 1995, the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) routinely collected UFO reports from private citizens, RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], civic police and military personnel. This practice ceased as a result of budgetary restrictions and the perceived lack of importance of UFO data. Included among the NRC reports were many observations of meteors and fireballs, and these had been added into the UFOROM database since 1989. For several years, the collection of such reports was in an effective hiatus, but in 2000, an arrangement facilitated UFO sightings which were reported to Transport Canada could be referred to UFOROM for research into this phenomenon. . . .

For the purposes of this and other scientific studies of UFO data, UFO sightings which have been made to contributing and participating groups, associations, organizations or individuals are considered *officially* reported and valid as data in this study. The collection of Canadian UFO data is challenging. However, the data obtained for the present analysis yields similar results to previous studies and is useful in understanding the nature of UFO reports in Canada, and can shed light on the nature of UFO reports elsewhere in the world.

The Canadian UFO database contains both UFO and IFO (identified flying objects) reports. This might seem an odd choice, but a complete database of *UFO reports* must include all reports received, whether they are explained or not. As the authors explain:

Mark Rodeghier is scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Studies of UFO data include reports of meteors, fireballs and other conventional objects. In many instances, observers fail to recognize stars, aircraft and bolides, and therefore report them as UFOs. Some UFO investigators often spend many hours sorting IFOs from UFOs. Historically, analyses of UFO data such as American projects Grudge, Sign and Blue Book all included raw UFO data which later resolved into categories of UFOs and IFOs. Sometimes, observed objects are quickly assigned a particular IFO explanation even though later investigation suggests such an explanation was unwarranted.

The issue of including IFOs in studies of UFO data is an important one. One could argue that once a sighting is explained, it has no reason to be considered as a UFO report. However, this overlooks the fact that the IFO was originally reported as a UFO and is indeed valid data. It may not be evidence of extraterrestrial visitation, but as UFO data, it is quite valid. It must be remembered that all major previous studies of UFOs examined UFO reports with the intent to explain a certain percentage of cases. These cases were the IFOs—definitely part of the UFO report legacy.

CANADIAN REPORTS: 1989–2001

There were 374 UFO reports in Canada in 2001, about one per day. This is a large increase from the 263 reports in 2000. Figure 1 presents the number of UFO sightings by year for the full 12-year period of UFOROM reports. There is a spike, or outlier, in the yearly figures for 1993, caused almost entirely by a single major fireball event that led to hundreds of reports from across Canada. With that exception, 2001 may represent the greatest number of reports since the survey began.

As a relevant aside, the number of reports in 2001 in the United States can be estimated from the Canadian data. Assuming that reports per capita is the same in the United

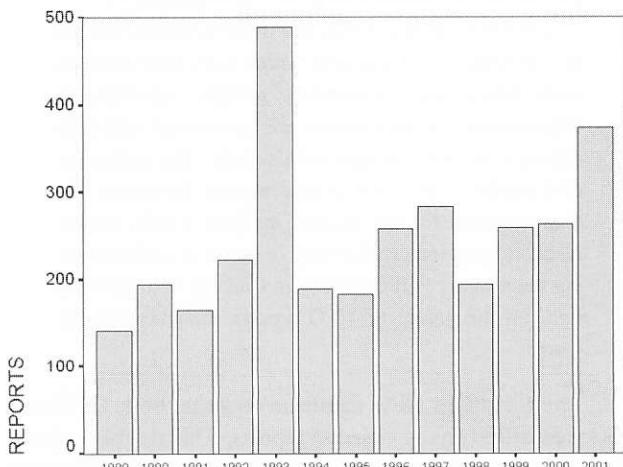


Fig. 1. UFO sightings by year in Canada, 1989–2001.

States as in Canada, which seems reasonable, and given the greater U.S. population, we can estimate that there might have been about 3,400 reports last year in this country. That figure is comparable to estimates from other methods.

Ignoring the 1993 fireball event in Canada, there is a clear trend toward an increasing number of reports over time. This could be caused by an increase in the UFO phenomenon itself, but there may be another explanation. This is especially true since the report pattern in the United States doesn't match this trend. We know that cooperation with UFOROM has been increasing since the survey was begun in 1989, as individuals and groups across Canada (and some in the United States who receive Canadian reports) see the benefit of sending their reports to UFOROM. As evidence, about 34% of cases came from the National UFO Reporting Center in the U.S., an organization that had a much lower profile 10 years ago, and no toll-free number. A direct consequence of this would be a slow but steady increase in reports over time, which is what we observe in Figure 1. Thus, although *sightings* may not be increasing, the increased cooperation implies that the yearly surveys are recording a greater and greater percentage of all Canadian sightings each year (with the caveat that only a small fraction of all UFO witnesses report their sightings to any UFO group or official body).

Of more interest would be the number of sightings classified as unknowns. The authors explain how a UFO report is assigned this category:

In most cases, evaluations are made subjectively by both the contributing investigators and the compiler of this report. The category of **Unknown** is adopted if the contributed data or case report contains enough information such that a conventional explanation cannot be satisfactorily proposed. This does *not* mean that the case will never be explained, but only that a viable explanation is not immediately obvious.

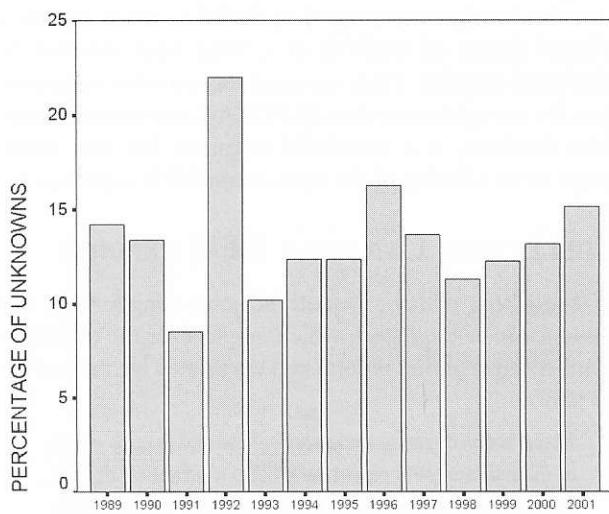


Fig. 2. Percentage of unexplained UFO sightings by year in Canada, 1989–2001.

Since the number of reports varies from year to year, a better measure of unknown sightings is the percentage of unknowns for each year. These data are displayed in Figure 2. (The years 1994 and 1995 were consolidated in the database and so are given the same value.) Unlike the number of reports, there is no obvious trend in the percentage of unexplained cases over time. A statistical test supports that observation.

However, this is not surprising. It has been well established that the percentage of unexplained UFO reports falls somewhere around 5–10% of all cases, with some modest variation from year to year. The only unusual aspect of the Canadian data is that the number of unknowns is a bit higher than that from other countries. (For all years together, 13.4% of the cases are unexplained.)

As in past years, the percentage of cases with insufficient information to make a determination was relatively high, comprising about one-third of all reports. This is caused both by lack of investigation and by witness reports that are missing important details.

CANADIAN REPORTS IN 2001

As noted, there were 374 UFO reports compiled by UFOROM in 2001. Of this total, over half (58%) are nocturnal lights, characteristically the least interesting and most likely to be explained. About 36% of the sightings were either daylight discs or nocturnal discs. This category represents sightings where some type of object—not just a light—was observed, but still at some distance from the observer. Only about 4% of the 2001 reports, or 15 cases, were close encounters of some type, including three abduction reports. (This category is the most underreported.) Close encounters have always been only a small fraction of all reports, whether in the 1950s or today in the 21st century.

The number of unexplained reports in 2001 was 57, or 15.2%. When only high-quality cases are considered, which have a reliability rating of 7 or greater on a 9-point scale, only 20 cases remain, or about 5%.

More reports were made in the late summer and fall than at other times in the year, and this is true almost every year, not just in Canada, but in most countries in the northern hemisphere. The reasons for this pattern continue to be obscure.

Although extensive details are not provided, the report provides brief accounts of some of the more interesting unknowns from last year in Canada, some of which are listed next.

January 5, 2001, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, 10:30 a.m. A white, “self-lit,” cigar-shaped object with a small vapor trail was observed to “hop forward” in its progress through the sky before it moved out of view behind a mountain. It returned and flew back again.

January 31, 2001, Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, 3:30 p.m. As many as 10 witnesses observed two cigar-shaped “shining lights” in the sky, hanging motionless over the horizon. One

suggested explanation was that of “condensation trails from a jet.”

March 11, 2001, Calgary, Alberta, 6:30 p.m. An irregularly shaped object like a cluster of red spheres flew against the wind over a witness, who managed to take a photograph.

April 1, 2001, Etzikom, Alberta, 10:30 p.m. “Funnel-shaped flames” were observed descending and then rising again over a field. Later, an 11-foot-wide crater was discovered in the field.

July 9, 2001, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, 11:30 p.m. A man and his daughter watched six orange, oval objects flying in a V-formation towards the west.

August 12, 2001, Victoria, British Columbia, 12:25 a.m. Five people watched seven gray objects flying in a straight line, which changed position in flight into a hexagonal formation and ascended into the sky over the city. They were lost to view after 15 minutes.

August 17, 2001, Mitchell, Manitoba, 9:30 p.m. An astronomer heard loud booming sounds and ran outside to see three steady lights in triangular formation moving east to west.

August 25, 2001, St-Laurent, Québec, 3:27 p.m. An astronomer and others watched two solid-appearing objects moving slowly through the clear sky. Photographs were taken.

November 11, 2001, Policeman’s Point, Yukon Territory, 4:00 a.m. An oval object with several lights flew on an irregular path in the sky.

December 11, 2001, Craik, Saskatchewan, 8:06 p.m. Pilots of a commercial airliner saw lights they believed were on another aircraft at a higher altitude, but air traffic controllers did not have any others on their radar.

These reports are not that dramatic, and there is only one case with possible physical evidence, and no cases with reported interference of vehicles or other machines. And continuing a trend of many years, there were no unexplained reports with humanoids. Most reports, even unidentified ones, continue to be of relatively distant objects. Still, as Rutkowski and Dittman note:

The most important findings of this study include the fact that UFO sightings have continued to be reported at a more-or-less constant level over the past several years. People still report observing unusual objects in the sky, and some of these objects do not have obvious explanations. Many witnesses are pilots, police and other individuals with reasonably good observing capabilities and good judgment. Although most reported UFOs are simply lights in the night sky, a significant number are objects with definite shapes observed within the witnesses’ frame of reference.

Although current reports may not be that spectacular, the UFO phenomenon persists as a scientific puzzle which, amazingly, is ignored by most scientists. That state of affairs is not likely to change anytime soon. ♦

BOOK REVIEWS

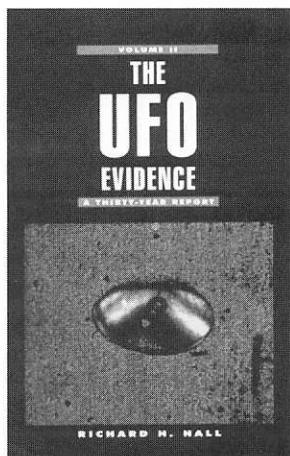
Richard H. Hall. *The UFO Evidence, Volume II: A Thirty-Year Report*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, January 2001. 679p. \$59.95.

In several pages of her recent *The Lure of the Edge: Scientific Passions, Religious Beliefs, and the Pursuit of UFOs* (University of California, 2001), sociologist Brenda Denzler succinctly surveys the history of ufologists' interaction with their most active critics. She dryly observes, "Debunkers gradually made it clear to ufology that there were no conceivable circumstances under which students of the UFO phenomenon could present a convincing case."

The views of debunkers, very few of them scientists notwithstanding their pious rhetorical stance as defenders of scientific practice, would be, generally speaking, of only clinical interest were it not for the fact that, as Denzler further observes, debunkers have "functioned as gatekeepers between ufology and the scientific world." UFOs are an irksome question, in other words, and somebody has to do the thinking—dirty work, to be blunt—that scientists can't or won't do themselves. Easier to say that "there's nothing to it," to paraphrase something Henry H. Bauer once wrote about the typical scientist's way of responding to questions about anomalies, than the impolitic truth, which is that "we don't know, we don't care enough to find out, and won't you stop asking about it?"

These thoughts come to mind as one peruses what will surely be among the UFO literature's seminal works, the estimable Richard H. Hall's *The UFO Evidence II*, the long-awaited (and belated) sequel to the first *UFO Evidence*, published in 1964 by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), in what seems like—and undoubtedly was—another age. In that other age, it was possible to be optimistic about ufology's near-term prospects, to share NICAP's hopeful expectation that the book's contents would so overwhelm members of Congress and scientists that UFOs would soon become as mainstream as ball lightning and mountain gorillas. Younger readers may think I am exaggerating. Older readers will (a) grin sheepishly and/or (b) hang their heads.

The current book, the most comprehensive one-volume overview of the phenomenon in print, will not usher in the millennium, whatever a "millennium" is in a ufological context. In the not-imminent world to come, however, when a future generation of scientists—starting, surely, with exobiologists desperate to justify their existence after



decades of failed SETI hunts and prophecies—confronts the almost-certainly-ongoing mystery of unexplained UFO sightings head-on, Hall's will be seen as one of the enduring works of the early UFO age, the source of most of what needs knowing about that era. (I should add that here and there Hall gets help from such luminaries as Thomas E. Bullard, Michael D. Swords, Walter N. Webb, Don Berliner, and Barry H. Downing, all of whom contribute well-researched and well-considered papers or essays on their particular areas of expertise.)

The original *Evidence* appeared just before ufology was about to experience developments which would alter it forever. These include the great mid-1960s waves, J. Allen Hynek's de facto defection from Project Blue Book, James E. McDonald's brief but brightly glowing star, the Condon Committee, the flood of close encounters and then abduction claims, the emergence of theories (paranormal and psychosocial) to rival the extraterrestrial hypothesis, the rise of organized debunkery, the reexamination of Roswell and other crash allegations, and God knows what all else. Though by the nature of its focus it does not acknowledge all of the foregoing, the new *Evidence* represents a ufology sobered, chastened, and matured by those developments.

Beyond the obvious differences with its predecessor (which could barely bring itself to admit to credible reports of close encounters of even the least hair-raising kind), it also underscores the continuity of the phenomenon's core, from the structures reported to the effects associated with them. If some modern UFO experiences seem more fantastic than those reported in the 15 to 20 years after Arnold, the former are nonetheless consistent with the implications of the latter. Which is to say that the line between a daylight disc with portholes and a disc carrying abducting humanoids is, whatever the ontological status of either, arguably a straight one.

If you don't already have *UFO Evidence II*, you'd be wise to order it at first opportunity. I am happy to report that it is sturdily bound, and it "meets the minimum requirements of American National Standards for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials," as the catalogue page informs us. Good thing, because you'll be giving it a lot of use.—Jerome Clark

Nick Cook, *The Hunt for Zero Point: One Man's Journey to Discover the Biggest Secret Since the Discovery of the Atom Bomb*. London: Century, 2001. 281p.

I first became aware of this book though a brief review published in a British tabloid that was in a packet from the *UFO Newsclipping Service*.

This article emphasized Nick Cook's hypothesis that U.S. limited-access black-projects research might have come up with essentially an antigravity drive system, perhaps based upon captured Nazi technology and research.

The "zero point" in the title of his book refers to the currently fashionable and fundable zero-point energy research being conducted in certain areas of physics. Were

this book published in the mid-1980s rather than 2001, it might have been titled *The Hunt for Super Strings*.

Nick Cook himself seemed to have the right credentials to make his book interesting: aviation editor and aerospace consultant for *Jane's Defense Weekly*, as well as industry/defense editor for *Interavia*.

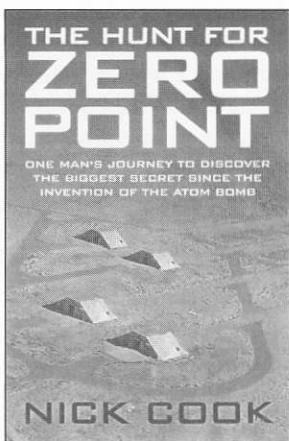
As a former aerospace engineer with a background that includes stints at NASA's Johnson Space Center solving complex Space Shuttle engineering issues, I was understandably interested in reading Cook's book. I was also a subscriber for many years to *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, helping to pay Phil Klass's salary.

The first thing I do upon examining any new nonfiction book as a candidate for my interest is to check the index. This allows me to gauge the range and depth of the coverage the author gives to a topic, and assess the ease with which it can be used for later research. One of the great advances of computerized word processing is the ease with which a keyword-based index can be compiled. I was taught as a student that a book without an index is called a novel; thus it bothers me that *The Hunt for Zero Point* has neither an index nor a table of contents.

Speaking of novels, I noticed early in the book that the author decided to write it in an uneven, folksy, first-person, bad-detective-novel mode. I also realized that as Cook related his adventures, he carefully avoided providing a timeline for his investigation. The reader is left wondering whether he pursued this for six months or six years, during this decade or the last. Why this was done one can only guess at; it does make it very difficult to evaluate Cook's claims.

The model for an aerospace-industry writer who gets published in *Aviation Week* is a person with a background as a pilot, technologist, or engineer. Despite my differences with Phil Klass's views on UFOs, I have always respected his technical expertise. *Jane's* apparently has different standards, because Cook has none of this; his understanding of science and technology is low, his apparent gullibility is high. Cook begins to give this away by repeatedly bragging about his close contacts with the public relations people at various aerospace concerns, yet the one time that he seeks to speak to an actual industry technologist (George S. Trimble at Lockheed Martin) it is such an investigative reporting breakthrough for him that he places great pride in such an original idea.

We then follow along with Sam Spade—sorry—Nick Cook as he chases down leads in captured Nazi documents, old photos of mysterious foreign "experiments," and anec-



dotal tales of suspense. These are the same tired Nazi flying-saucer tales that have been published elsewhere.

Early in the book he speculates about whether certain Nazi engineers, specifically Richard Miethe, actually existed. But then there is a photo of him in the photo section, and I recognized his name from other sources. This is either bad editing or poor writing.

British reviews of the book emphasized a mysterious Nazi bell-shaped device. Cook doesn't really have that much information on this mechanism, allegedly constructed by an Austrian forester named Viktor Schauberger, and the information he does have is very nebulous. He bases much of this on Schauberger's diary, but that is hardly a reliable source without independent confirmation.

Cook also reads too much into Schauberger's words, as on page 221 when he equates the guy's ideas to zero-point energy. Cook really needed a physicist to look over this section. But more to the point, whether zero-point energy has any basis in fact or not, we can't assume that an engineer in 1945 would be thinking of zero-point energy like we do in 2002. It just doesn't wash. Schauberger was not this advanced in his thinking; neither was Einstein at the time.

Cook also lacks the historical sense to understand the Third Reich during the war. They had the money and the slave labor to throw at hundreds of projects in the hope that a few would succeed—one form of engineering triage. That Schauberger's and other flying-disc projects got funding doesn't mean that they were even thought that likely to succeed. The Nazis funded all kinds of projects because they believed in technology. Cook doesn't even look into this angle on the matter.

Rather than bore myself with a further retelling of these chapters, just let me point out that they suffer from Cook's all-too-apparent lack of understanding of the basic principles of aerospace technologies, real or imagined. One recurring case in point is his theme of antigravity research. He is confused about the meaning of antigravity, often confusing gravity-shielding with gravity-overcoming engines. This basic misunderstanding is staggering.

Now to heighten the drama in Cook's quest we need just one more ingredient—the mysterious Deep Throat-like informant. Luckily, Cook gives us just the person we and his publishers are looking for, in the person of the supermysterious evil genius, the pseudonymous Dr. Marcus!

Marcus is blamed in the book for leading Cook all over Earth and WWII history as he bravely tries to uncover the truth. The best/worst part of the book occurs as Cook relates his first meeting with the amusingly secretive Marcus character as he forces Cook to rendezvous with him on a small ferryboat in the North Sea. A little too John Steed and Emma Peel for my tastes.

As I mentioned, the book is a bit overdramatized, with many conversations repeated verbatim, yet I cannot believe he can recapture all the dialogue accurately (such as his

(continued on page 23)

LETTER

BESSIE AND THE RING

To the editor:

Responding to Fred Whiting's letter, Bob Durant (*IUR*, Fall 2001) attempts to call into question the testimony of Bessie Brazel Schreiber by, among other things, adducing a photograph of a portion of the rigging of a New York University/Project Mogul flight train (*The Roswell Report*, Figure 27, Appendix 13, U.S. Air Force, 1995) and a claim that Mrs. Schreiber's "older brother Bill is adamant that she was not there [on the Foster Ranch when their father W. W. "Mack" Brazel discovered the peculiar debris]."

Concerning the photograph, Durant notes that the launching/connecting ring shown therein is a "torus or doughnut . . . not a [flanged, tubular] sleeve" of the sort recalled by Schreiber as being among the debris she helped her father round up. He asserts that this demonstrates the rings made from 3.5 or 4-inch, thick-walled aluminum tubing by NYU project engineer C. B. Moore's team could not have been the same items recalled by Schreiber. The photograph in question is from an April 1, 1948, NYU project report and clearly is of a portion of a flight train flown well after July 1947, late in the project's life.

At Durant's suggestion, I contacted Prof. Moore, asking him for a sketch of the rings made by his team and for more detailed information about them and why he thought they and what Schreiber recalled seeing were the same "animal." Here's what Moore said in two e-mail messages:

October 15, 2001: "I do not remember the aluminum rings that we used in our June 1947 balloon launches well enough to make a meaningful sketch of them. None of them were 'factory-made'; we made them ourselves on the NYU Physics Department lathe."

"Figure 27 shows a later stage of our operations using greater lifts at a time when we no longer used the doubled hold-down lines. The ring here was just a 'junction' to which several lines could be attached quickly. The figure shows the use of an electrical release of balloon train above the ring which did not go up with the flight train."

October 20, 2001: ". . . in late 1993 after receiving a copy of Bill Moore's 1979 telephonic interview with her [Schreiber] from Bob Todd, I think I called her and asked her about the two objects that she had mentioned in her conversation with Bill. Although I do not have a firm memory of our conversation, I think that she described an aluminum ring to me which seemed to me to be a fair description of one of our 'hold-down launching rings.' She said more of substance to me than was recorded in Bill Moore's record of his interview; I came away with the firm impression that Bessie had seen the debris from one of our early June 1947 balloon flights.

"I've not yet located any mention in my 1993 log book of this communication with Bessie. At the time, I was merely attempting to determine for myself whether or not

the debris descriptions provided by the Brazels matched that of our flight gear. After discussing her recollections with her, I was satisfied and dropped the matter without documenting the conversation. . . . But I still have the idea from my communication with her that she remembered two different devices, one that she described as resembling one of our hold-down rings and another that she may have remembered which was different (about which I have no memory and no basis for an opinion)."

Whichever side one might decided to come down on with respect to the foregoing question, whether Bessie Schreiber was on the ranch when her father found the "saucer" debris is a rather different matter. Bill Brazel's assertion that Bessie was not there came to pass only after he had been "rediscovered" by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt in the late 1980s. When Brazel was interviewed by a Roswell investigator for the first time, a decade earlier, in 1979, he said, "Dad was at the ranch house with two of the younger kids [Bessie and her brother Vernon]," and a couple of days after discovering what he called "garbage," he "rounded up the two kids and [with some of the debris in hand] took off for Roswell by way of Tularosa, where he stopped and left the kids with Mother."

These words appear on pp. 85–86 of the Berkley edition of Berlitz and Moore's *The Roswell Incident*, part of a lengthy, verbatim extract from the interview transcripts. Bill Brazel approved and with his dated signature certified that the words attributed to him were accurate before they were included in Berlitz and Moore's manuscript. I have a copy of the signed text in my files. Your witness, Bob.

Karl T. Pflock
Placitas, New Mexico

Editor's note: This response to Bob Durant was accidentally omitted from the Fall 2001 issue. The editors regret the omission. ♦

SENDING SIGNALS

Alien cultures more advanced than our own will have spotted us by now, astronomers say. Tell-tale rainbows from any inhabited planets will soon show us where to gaze back.

Within 15 years, next-generation telescopes will be scouring the skies for light from other earth-like planets. A slight technological edge would mean that any life-forms on those planets could already be peering at us.

"Our own Earth has been putting out a signal for a billion years," said astronomer Roger Angel of the University of Arizona in Tucson. "Any civilization slightly more advanced than our own would know there was life on this planet," he said at the February 2002 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston.—*Nature*, February 19, 2002.

BRITAIN'S SECRET UFO STUDY

BY MARK RODEGHIER

As seen in Jenny Randles's "Rendlesham Forest: The British MoD File," *IUR*, Fall 2001, the British government has long had a UFO office in its Ministry of Defence (MoD). This office, though, has had more of a public relations task than one of UFO investigation. In this it differs from the U.S. Air Force UFO projects (Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book), which more or less successfully conducted investigations (although Blue Book was also unquestionably tasked with managing public perceptions of the UFO phenomenon).

These U.S. government projects also produced, commissioned, or contributed to several UFO studies, including the Project Grudge report in 1949, the report of the Robertson Panel in 1953, and the Battelle Institute study released in 1955 (also known as *Project Blue Book Special Report 14*). Given the nature of the British government UFO office, and the non-specialist civil servants who staffed it, we don't find it surprising that the office never produced a comprehensive report on the UFO subject comparable to those mentioned above. In fact, the MoD has always denied that the British government ever did any official study of the UFO phenomenon.

This claim has recently been shown to be false. Two active UFO researchers in the U.K., David Clarke and Andy Roberts, have recently discovered documents in government archives that reveal how in October 1950 the MoD set up a secret committee of scientists and intelligence experts to investigate sightings of "flying saucers." The report they

produced for Winston Churchill's government remained secret for 50 years, and even today certain sections remain classified because of their intelligence content.

The committee created to study UFO sightings was the work of Sir Henry Tizard, one of Churchill's most trusted science advisers. In this he was aided by Lord Mountbatten and Air Chief Marshall Hugh Dowding, both of whom had quietly concluded that flying saucers were alien spacecraft.

The committee was called the Flying Saucer Working Party and had five members, representing the technical intelligence branches of the Air Ministry, Admiralty, War Office, and Ministry of Defence. Although the group had the words "flying saucer" in its title, its final report was entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects." In this it was undoubtedly influenced by the U.S. UFO investigations, as this acronym for flying saucers was first used by USAF investigators.

The report was classified Secret and completed in June 1951. The Working Party reviewed hundreds of sightings, but only studied a few in-depth, mostly from military witnesses. Even then, the report concluded that the witnesses were most likely mistaken in their observations.

Clarke has recently spoken to two of the military witnesses, Flight Lieutenant Stan Hubbard and Wing Commander Frank Jolliffe, whose sightings were mentioned and dismissed in the report. Neither knew that their reports had been evaluated as explained until Clarke interviewed them (although Jolliffe had been interviewed by MoD agents who seemed to take his account seriously). Both were rather distressed when they learned about how their sightings were evaluated.

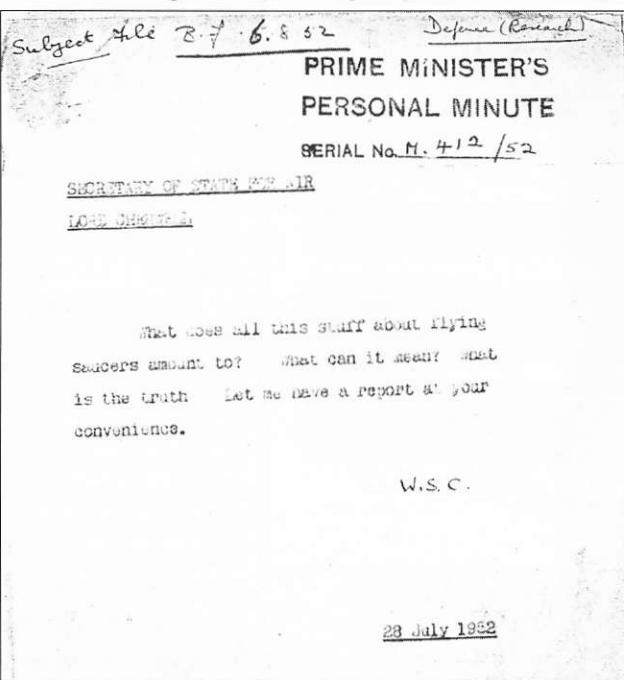


Fig. 1. Memo from Prime Minister Winston Churchill inquiring about flying saucers, July 28, 1951.

Mark Rodeghier is scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

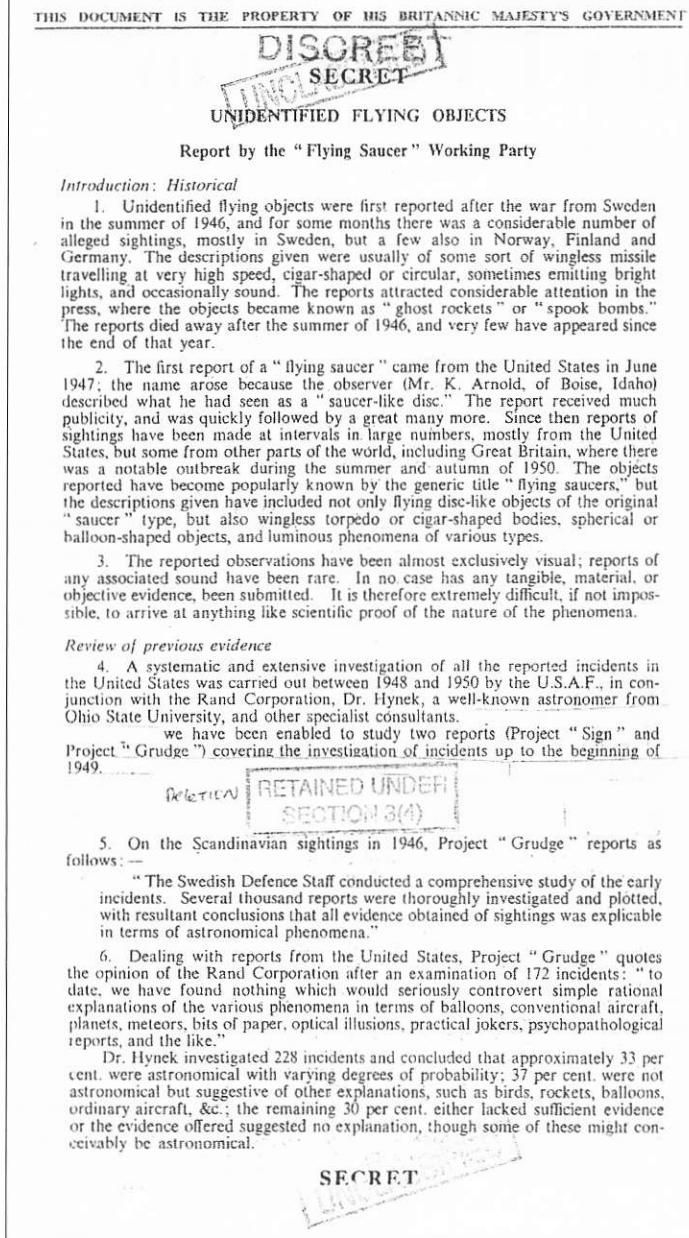


Fig. 2. First page of the report by the British MoD Flying Saucer Working Party, June 1951.

Hubbard had two sightings, the first at 11:27 a.m. on August 14, 1950, when he and two other officers at Farnborough Airfield in Hampshire heard a humming noise. Hubbard looked up and saw a flat gray disc, about 50 feet in diameter, at an estimated height of 5,000 feet. He watched it for about 30 seconds as it flew at a speed of 800–1,000 mph and made a series of S-turns, oscillating as it moved. The other two men saw nothing, perhaps because they were not wearing sunglasses, as Hubbard was. The Working Party could not accept that such an unconventional object flying at great speed over a densely populated area would only have been seen by one witness, so they discounted it as either an optical illusion or a normal aircraft that Hubbard misreported as to size and speed.

Hubbard's second sighting took place at Farnborough at 4:09 p.m. on September 5, 1950, when he was standing on the watch-tower with five other officers, one of whom was Jolliffe. The report says: "At about the same moment they all saw, at an estimated range of 10–15 miles, an object which they described as being a flat disc, light pearl grey in colour, and 'about the size of a shirt button.' They all observed it to follow a rectangular flight path, consisting in succession of a 'falling leaf,' horizontal flight 'very fast,' an upward 'falling leaf,' another horizontal stretch, and so on; finally it dived to the horizon at great speed. The pattern was estimated to be executed somewhere over the Guildford-Farnham area."

Hubbard was convinced it was the same type of object as he had seen three weeks earlier, but the Working Party was relentlessly skeptical: "We have no doubt that all these officers did see a flying object of some sort. We cannot, however regard the evidence of identification of this object, which was only seen at very long range, with the earlier one as of any value whatever. Further, we again find it impossible to believe that an unconventional aircraft, manoeuvring for some time over a populous area, could have failed to attract the attention of other observers. We conclude that the officers in fact saw some quite normal aircraft, manoeuvring at extreme visual range, and were led by the previous report to believe it to be something abnormal—an interesting example of one report inducing another."

The further influence of the American government UFO projects on the Working Party is readily apparent in the first section of the report, which quotes approvingly the uniformly negative conclusions of Project Grudge on UFO reports in general and the Swedish ghost-rocket reports. Furthermore, when the Working Party presented its report to the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, a special guest at the meeting was none other than H. Marshall Chadwell, the CIA's chief scientist. Chadwell, a year later, was a driving force behind the meeting of the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel study of UFOs. The "special relation" between the U.S. and the U.K. in intelligence matters is in plain view here.

The report, like that of the Robertson Panel, is also quite short, only six pages in length. And like the report of the panel, the Working Group suggests that all sightings can be explained by mundane phenomena. Although the British report appears not to have been explicitly mentioned at the Robertson Panel meetings, it is hard to believe that it wasn't lurking in the background and informing the preparations and run-up to the meeting.

The report is uniformly negative. On the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors, the Working Group states, "When the only material available is a mass of purely subjective evidence, it is impossible to give anything like scientific

proof that the phenomena observed are, or are not, caused by something entirely novel, such as aircraft of extraterrestrial origin, developed by beings unknown to us on lines more advanced than anything we have thought of." Going on, the report concludes, "We are satisfied that the bulk of the observations reported do not need such an explanation, and can be accounted for much more simply." Then the report cites known astronomical or meteorological phenomena, mistaken identifications of aircraft, balloons, birds and other natural objects, optical illusions, and psychological delusions and deliberate hoaxes as the sources of UFO reports.

Interestingly, the Working Group suggests that the only hope of making progress would be to set up a worldwide network of visual observers, supplemented by a network of radar stations. But "on the evidence so far available," this is viewed as a "singularly profitless enterprise." Thus, the report recommends "very strongly" that no further investigation of UFOs be undertaken until "some material evidence becomes available."

Of course, just a year later the UFO subject was placed on the front burner by the 1952 summer UFO wave in the United States. This led Prime Minister Churchill to ask "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?" of his Secretary of State for Air (Figure 1). The answer was to cite the 1951 secret report that there was nothing to the subject, an answer seconded by Churchill's Scientific Ad-

visor, Lord Cherwell.

The discovery of this secret report is a major advance for our understanding of the hidden government involvement in UFO investigation. UFO researchers continue to study the early years of government investigation because the policies promulgated then greatly affected what occurred over the next 40 years. The early, secret negative conclusions about the UFO phenomenon, whether justified or not, clearly affected how both the British and U.S. governments approached the subject and their policies toward the public and how sightings should be handled (or debunked, to be more blunt).

Both the British and U.S. reports were classified secret because of the ongoing Cold War with the Soviets. In this ufologists have been unfortunate, as a subject of legitimate scientific inquiry became intertwined with Cold War security concerns. Although the Cold War has now ended in favor of the West, the UFO subject has been so effectively debunked for so long that it remains a taboo subject for scientists.

More information about the British report plus reproductions of its pages can be found at www.flyingsaucery.com/mod/home.htm. Also, Clarke and Roberts have written *Out of the Shadows: UFOs, the Establishment and the Official Cover-up*, to be published by Piatkus (London) in the spring of 2002. The MoD study forms a major chapter in this book. ♦

BOOK REVIEWS—continued from page 19

discussion with Marek in little restaurants, or on cell phones when traveling.) Cook does not realize that this level of dramatic license in a work of nonfiction is only acceptable when committed by expatriate French ufologists.

Probably no pulp detective novel is complete without the inclusion of the "usual suspects." Here Cook meets the challenge as he moves, without explaining the connections, through a series of in-person interviews with those he implies are the leading antigravity, zero-point energy gurus. He starts with Hal Puthoff, moves to George Hathaway, then to John Hutchison, with a dash of John Alexander for flavor. While it is true that "no visible means of support" comes to my mind when I think of this group, I do not mean to use that phrase in the antigravity sense. Cook's suspects did provide him with technofiller material, scary stories, and, in Hutchison's case, some weird photos for the book.

So what are the results of Cook's quest? He doesn't reach any conclusion, but at the end he strongly hints that there really was some type of transfer of technology from the Nazis to the Americans, and that this technology involved exotic propulsion methods of some type, possibly antigravity.

After finishing the book, I think Cook should have done more talking with engineering sources in the United States; not the leaders, who won't say anything, but the next level of people, the kind of people that Bill Scott taps for

Aviation Week. But Cook had several problems:

1. He is not an experienced journalist like Scott or Klass, who have to dig for stories.
2. He doesn't live in the United States and so can't easily talk to people face-to-face.
3. He was led down a rabbit hole by "Dr. Marek."
4. He's just not that capable at analyzing information, despite what he thinks.

He hasn't convinced me of this thesis, though there are some intriguing clues, such as all the public talk about antigravity in the early 1950s. However, he lacks a historical context for this, and he failed to dig deeply enough. I suspect that the explanation for the antigravity stuff is simple technological hubris in the aerospace community, plus perhaps some disinformation to confuse the Soviets and make them think they had to put research money into antigravity studies.

I can't wait to see the movie.—Mark Chesney

Gordon Cooper, with Bruce Henderson. *Leap of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey into the Unknown*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. 279p. \$25.00.

This title is at first deceiving. As you open the book, written by one of the early astronauts who helped to make the early history in man's leap into space, you wonder whether you will be reading of a spiritual journey rather than a physical one. Gordon Cooper takes us through the naming process for the flights in those early years, and why

he chose *Faith 7* as the name to be painted on the side of the spacecraft, which very nearly became the end of his story.

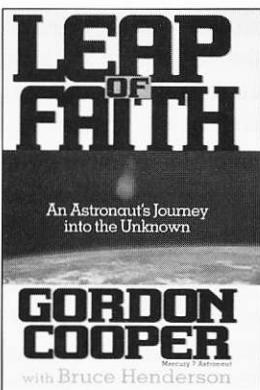
There is near tragedy to read, as if you were sitting there perspiring with Cooper. There is dedication to a dream described as if it had been your dream. There are emotional moments that involve a hard look at NASA, beginning with Project Mercury, then Gemini and Apollo, and the real men on the moon. It is a good history lesson, as seen through Cooper's eyes, of the technical complexity necessary to allow those first moments of seeing our planet from space. There is also the thrill of the exquisite view which we, as readers, can at first only briefly imagine until we see the photography Cooper and others brought back to Earth. But then it was only the beginning.

Those aspects of this book will fascinate the general reader. What will be of the most interest to readers of *IUR* are the chapters devoted to correcting what was not true about his sightings of UFOs from space. He begins early in his book to deny the reports that as he orbited he "became the first astronaut to see a UFO from space." He writes, "I saw no UFOs from space," and on page 76 Cooper cleans the slate for those who still believe that Wally Schirra, Jim Lovell, Frank Borman, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin saw UFOs on their flights. His testimony: "It never happened." Likewise, no UFOs or "alien structures" were photographed on the moon.

But don't close the book prematurely. There is much more on UFOs to keep you reading, and Cooper certainly is no skeptic. He reports his own sightings, the first occurring in Germany in 1951. He was one of several F-86 pilots who tried to intercept some UFOs but could not climb high enough to determine their size. He did get close enough to see that "they were metallic silver and saucer-shaped." He reports on conversations with those who have seen legitimate UFOs, but did not file reports "for fear of being grouped with all the nuts who don't care about the truth."

After relating many other reports and first-hand testimony from credible men he spoke to during the 1950s, he quotes President Harry Truman who said on April 4, 1950: "I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on Earth." Still, Cooper knows of no official investigations being conducted and so is left wondering, if not from here on Earth, "Where did they come from?"

Gordon Cooper doesn't pussyfoot around the reality of UFOs in this book. He is willing to charge the military and government establishment with everything it has coming and, if the reviewer may join in, it comes as a refreshing display of candor from a person highly qualified (pun intended) to keep our place in the Universe in perspective.



There are many other comments about UFOs elsewhere in the book that you should read to enjoy. But what else is this book about? Cooper was in a position to meet and become close friends with many eminent scientists and engineers. He first met Wernher von Braun, the lead scientific adviser during Project Mercury, in 1959 at Huntsville, Alabama. Meeting him inspired Cooper to a new level of confidence in the future of our space program. They became more than just acquaintances. Von Braun, like Cooper, "felt certain that the universe is teeming with life and inspired those working close to him with his insight and foresight."

This section of the book is an especially good read. He mentions having met German rocket scientist Hermann Oberth whom he also greatly admired. As a brief aside, while handling correspondence for Hynek in the early 1980s, this reviewer had the privilege of writing to Oberth and receiving a response in which he affirmed his belief in the importance of UFO research at the Center for UFO Studies. As Cooper writes, "Oberth had no doubt that some of the unexplained objects were 'interplanetary craft of some sort that do not originate in our solar system.'"

This kind of testimony, which would surely influence a jury in a civil action, is found throughout the book. If you have experienced a convincing UFO sighting, reading this book will reinforce the conviction that these sightings represent a subject that scientists should study, not ignore with wisecracks about the X-files. The book may also be an inspiration to speak out to others about your sighting. Perhaps UFO reports represent an intelligence from elsewhere. What could be more exciting than this prospect?

Finally, there are more difficult questions raised in this book. Cooper became acquainted with a very interesting woman who appears to him to possibly possess another "sense" that goes beyond the fascinating discoveries of Nikola Tesla and his unfair omission from the history of science. And contactee Dan Fry is examined in a way that may be enlightening to some readers. But rather than attempt to summarize this ending to a very interesting book, I urge readers to reach their own possible explanation answering Cooper's final question. "How did she know?"

—John Timmerman ♦

GEORGE ADAMSKI'S NAVEL

Colin Bennett, in *Looking for Orthon* (New York: Paraview, 2001), offers this quote from Desmond Leslie in an old issue of the *Cosmic Bulletin of the Adamski Foundation*: "I don't suppose he will mind me telling this, now he has cast off the fine old body, but he once showed me the most extraordinary birthmark. His navel was not like a human navel at all. It was a huge solar disk with deeply cut rays extending out about six inches all around it from waist to groin. What this signifies I have no idea—unless it is truly the sign of a 'Child of the Sun.'"

COAST GUARD—continued from page 5

Hospitalman First Class Thomas E. Flaherty by Coast Guard Intelligence Investigator R. G. Eastman on July 17, 1952 (Document 1). The story is simple and complete as follows.

At 9:35 a.m., July 16, 1952, Alpert was filing negatives in the base photo office with his back toward the window. The window was open; there was only a *dirty copper screen in place*. Turning slightly in the direction of the window, he noticed something bright outside. Looking directly out the window he saw “what appeared to be several bright—almost brilliant—lights” to the right of the Salem Power Company smokestacks. He described the lights as “extremely brilliant and white.” Alpert was not sure if the lights were “waving” but thinks this was possible. Interestingly, he made a sharp point in noting that he couldn’t tell the number of lights, one of seven uncertainties including size, altitude, sound, speed (if any), direction of motion, and shape.

After observing the lights for five or six seconds he turned to a camera he had on his desk, the lens of which he was planning to clean. He adjusted the focus to infinity and

prepared to shoot the picture when he noticed that the lights were “considerably dimmed down.” How long this focusing took is not estimated in the deposition but must have been on the same order as his original observation, another few seconds.

Alpert assumed, then, that he was observing “some sort of reflection” but “rushed out of the lab into the Sick Bay” anyway to get another witness, Flaherty. Possibly another five to ten seconds then elapsed.

Alpert preceded Flaherty in reentering the photo lab room and noticed that now the lights were “again burning brightly.” Without saying anything to Flaherty, Alpert “dived for the camera and hit the shutter.” Then, after telling Flaherty to look out at the lights, “there was a momentary flash and we could no longer see any lights.”

According to Flaherty, when he was able to look out the window “there appeared to be what was thought to be a quick flash.” Flaherty couldn’t say it was more than a reflection from “passing cars or from the ocean.”

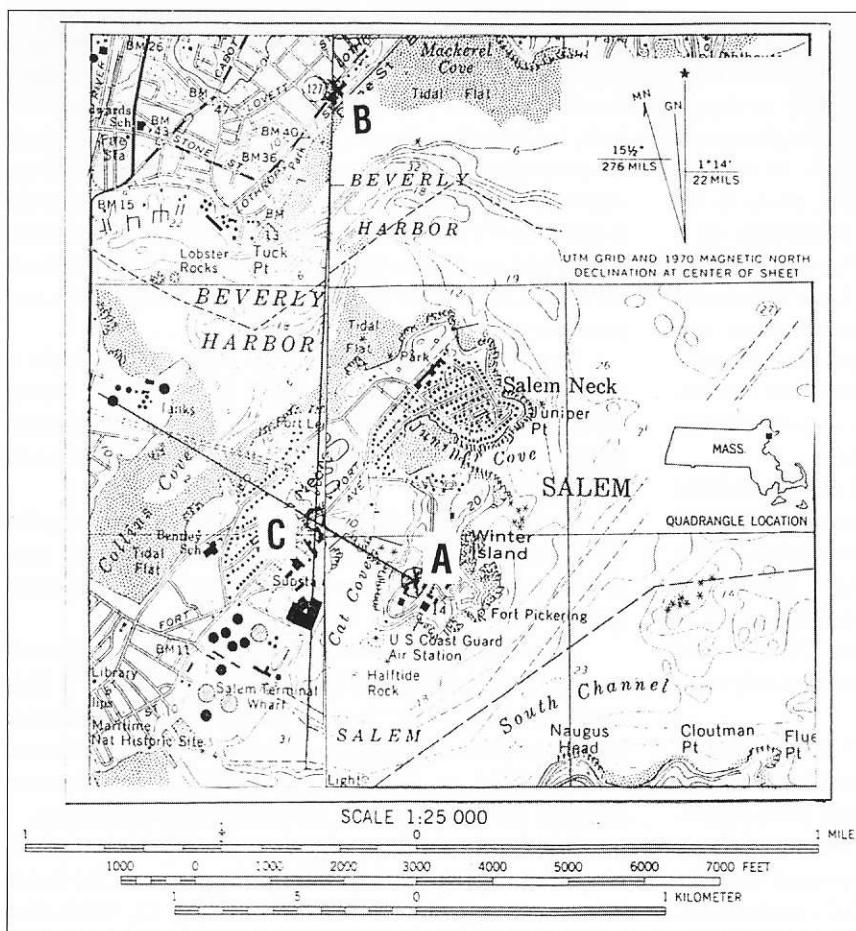
If we also estimate the return of both men to the lab window at about five seconds, the total elapsed time must have been about 20–25 seconds. This is in line with the estimate of 25–30 seconds made in the Spot Intelligence Report (SIR) dated July 17, 1952 (Document 2).

In spite of Alpert’s insistence, both in his deposition and the subsequent press conference, that he couldn’t determine the number of lights, the SIR states that “after ALPERT developed the photograph, he noted that there was a difference in numbers than what he had observed.” Alpert’s only public statement about differences in number was that the light images on the developed film seemed larger and clearer than what he had observed (*Boston American*, August 1, 1952).

In a phone interview with the authors on March 25, 2001, Alpert couldn’t remember if the number of lights he actually observed was three.

Contrary to a report in the August 2 *Salem News*, Alpert did not develop the picture later in the presence of the base commander, but developed it immediately with materials at hand at the base photo lab. After fixing and washing the negative, Alpert took it to the base commander. The base commander’s name at the time is obliterated in the Blue Book documents but is thought to be Lt. Cdr. Hudgins or J. D. Hudgins.

Succinctly, that is the story of the Coast Guard sighting and how the pho-



- U.S. Coast Guard photo sighting, July 16, 1952.*
- Location of Shell Alpert.*
 - Location of Arthur Edwards.*
 - Intersections of lines of sight of the witnesses.*

tograph was taken. Attentive readers will notice that nowhere did the two witnesses mention an “object.” In fact, both thought an explanation of what they had seen was some sort of reflection. Only lights were seen and reported and this in broad daylight on a hot morning in July. Alpert maintained his insistence on lights alone in our phone conversation in March 2001.

Oddly, Alpert stated in the last paragraph of his deposition, “ground reflections could possibly have accounted for the lights, but in my estimation *this is an improbable explanation* [emphasis added].” Why he qualified this explanation was never articulated, either then or this year, but clearly the lights had made a great impression as evidenced by his attempt at calling another witness and his urgent photography.

We end the summary of witness statements by repeating two salient points: (1) the photo was taken, not through a glass window, but through a dirty copper mesh screen; (2) the lights disappeared suddenly in a “momentary flash” (Alpert) or “quick flash” (Flaherty). These points will have direct bearing on our evaluation of the ultimate USAF explanation.

PHOTO AFTERMATH

The base commander must have received the photo from Alpert shortly after 10:00 a.m., immediately after its development in the photo lab. The SIR states that the sighting was not reported to the base commander until 15–30 minutes later. Alpert wasted no time in bringing the photo to his commander’s attention in spite of the possibility of a reflection. Hudgins must have listened to the story intently; UFOs had been reported from all over the United States on almost a daily basis and were on everyone’s mind, and many were daylight sightings. As a teenager, I can remember the evening TV news reporting a plane load of journalists took off to photograph the UFOs seen over the Capitol during the Washington flap that same month.

Alpert told us that the base personnel were assembled and told that the photo was not to be spoken about. It’s not known when the Secret classification was applied, but it must have been about the date of the Spot Intelligence Report, July 21. Two copies of the SIR were forwarded to the Commanding General of Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, on or shortly after that date.

What went on behind the scenes isn’t known, but on July 29 the photo and documents pertinent to it were declassified in preparation for a Coast Guard press conference held at the Boston Custom House, then local Coast Guard HQ, on August 1. This was coordinated with the release of Alpert’s photo in Washington, D.C., on that date.

On the same date, the Coast Guard, at the request of Maj. Dewey Fournet in the office of Air Force Intelligence at the Pentagon, sent Alpert’s photo negative to Captain Edward Ruppelt at Wright-Patterson, for additional analy-

sis (Document 3). There is a request on record by the Air Technical Intelligence Center to the Photo Reconnaissance Lab of the Weapons Component Division requesting analysis (Document 5).

Also on August 1, Air Technical Intelligence and Ruppelt found the negative interesting enough to request copies of Alpert’s and Flaherty’s depositions and the Coast Guard agent’s report. The date of the request is not given but can be inferred from a Coast Guard letter of August 18 sending Ruppelt the requested documents by registered Airmail (Document 6).

On August 28, the photo study concluded that the authenticity of the picture was doubtful, since there were no reflections present on the roofs of cars in the parking lot. The exact quote is, “the fraud is indicated because no highlights may be seen in the auto roofs” (Document 7).

Greenwood’s extensive newsclipping file for the months following the Air Force analysis reveals that the conclusion of “doubtful authenticity” was never released to the media, or at least that the media never published the evaluation. This is a little strange, since the military missed what now seems like a good opportunity to dismiss the case once and for all. Perhaps it was realized in the review of the circumstances of the photo that, given the two witness statements, a hoax was out of the question. Neither witness reported a UFO, only lights. Both witnesses offered possible reflection explanations (which would be odd for a hoaxter) and both, in Coast Guard service, had no opportunity to capitalize on the photo. This is apparent still, since we learned from Alpert in our recent talk that the negative was left in the Coast Guard’s possession. However, as a peculiar aside, Alpert told me that for three years he received checks from the Coast Guard as the result of the public’s request for, and purchase of, copies of the photograph.

Local investigator Mark Petty managed to obtain a copy of the photo in March 2002 from the U.S. Naval Institute Web site at www.usni.org/webstore/shopexd.asp?id=16073, but not before several people told him it had been “lost.”

From August 28, the date of the photo evaluation by the AF Photo Reconnaissance Lab, the trail of official pronouncements and documents pertaining to the case turns sparse.

Richard H. Hall, while calling the lights “objects,” quotes an “official Coast Guard letter” in NICAP’s files dated August 8, 1962: “it never has been determined what caused the phenomenal lights shown” (*The UFO Evidence*, NICAP, 1964, p. 88). Clearly, the Coast Guard never accepted the validity of the Air Force photo evaluation.

Ray Fowler, in discussing the case (*UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors*, Exposition, 1974, p. 94) quotes an Air Force letter to George D. Fawcett of February 12, 1963, that repeats the double-exposure explanation, while only six months later, on August 5, 1963, the Air Force has come up with a new explanation to John P. Speights’s inquiry. The photo now is purported to show “light reflections on the

window through which they were taken.” Fowler never fell for this nonsense, calling the official explanations “absurd.”

This last explanation (window reflection) has certainly been accepted by many investigators and authors. It appears in several sources, such as Ronald D. Story’s original reference work (*The Encyclopedia of UFOs*, Doubleday, 1980) and, as we noted above, most recently in *The UFOs That Never Were* (2000).

THE INVESTIGATION REASSESSED

Our investigation has provided an additional understanding of the early effectiveness (or lack thereof) of the military as UFO investigators. The poor quality also emphasizes the sorry state of UFO investigations generally, whether conducted by proponents or debunkers.

The reflection explanation is embodied in a document present in the Salem photo case files without security classification, date, address, or signature, and with no military routing or identification headings. It is a one-and-a-quarter page document entitled simply “UFO Sighting, Salem, Massachusetts, 16 July 1952.” It purports to be an October 1963 review of the Salem photo and discusses the initial evaluation of a double exposure. It then concludes, after a short review of some of the circumstances and camera equipment, without sufficient reason or justification, that a more probable cause than hoax is that “the photos [sic] represent light reflections from an interior source (probably the ceiling lights) on the window through which the photo was taken.”

Completely ignored is the clearly stated fact in the original report that the photo was taken through a window with only a screen in place. In other words, the window was open, there was no glass to reflect room lights. Alpert confirmed this point in our phone conversation.

Even had there been a glass pane, the other fact that rules out a reflection of room lights is the sudden flash and disappearance of the lights, witnessed by both observers. If the lights had been internal reflections, their sudden disappearance would have meant that the room lights had suddenly gone off and stayed off for no apparent reason, which was not reported by either witness. Furthermore, the lights as window reflections would have been noticed over and over again by Alpert in the six months that he had remaining in his tour of duty—and they weren’t, either before or after the incident (Alpert interview).

This point must be reemphasized: The original documents contradict the official USAF explanation of the case, accepted rather thoughtlessly by later investigators.

We are only aware of one other official statement on the lights. That is a note dated January 1964 that was made part of the Coast Guard original press release on the Salem photo. Apparently the Coast Guard continued to send out this original press release to inquiries made long after the original event “to satisfy the persistent demands for the

public for prints” (Document 9). It reads in part, “The U.S. Coast Guard has no further information or explanation to add to [their previous press release] and has no official opinion to offer as to the identity of the lights.” It’s conceivable but not confirmable that the added paragraph was offered in contradiction to the Air Force’s nonsensical explanation of October 1963, but more likely it was merely a statement about the current status of the case.

We believe that the military was anxious in 1963 to get out from under the stream of inquiries and requests from the public for information. The resources didn’t exist to handle these inquiries properly, so something had to be done to end the matter. The Air Force was most likely under the greatest pressure. It had to provide an explanation. One was chosen and it seemed sufficient to those who had no access to the original documents 11 years afterwards. Window reflections it was.

The Coast Guard, more candid and aware of the facts, stuck to their guns. It was an anomaly with no explanation. That left investigators hanging uncomfortably. The Air Force explanation may even have smelled like a cover-up to the more conspiracy-minded.

The investigation suffered from the beginning by the intercession of parties who ignored the facts, as can be seen from the Coast Guard press conference.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE

The Coast Guard press conference was held in the Coast Guard offices at the Boston Custom House. Word was circulating publicly about the picture and its circumstances at least two days before the actual press conference. Interest was very high and the conference was described as “packed.” (All quotes are from the *Boston American*, August 1, 1952, unless otherwise noted). Front-page headlines and stories were the order of the day, not only in the Boston papers but also in the national and foreign press.

Alpert and Flaherty both made statements, Alpert at considerable length. He essentially repeated the details of his military deposition with some clarifying remarks. He was quoted as saying the lights were of a whiteness that might appear blue at night. “They were of that brilliance that is seen in the burning of an electric arc or welding torch. They seemed to be wavering, but [he] couldn’t be certain.” Again Alpert is quoted: “One odd thing is that the lights appear much larger and clearer in the picture than they appeared to my sight.”

Upon returning from calling Flaherty, he had discounted the idea of flares, as the lights seemed to be in the same relative positions in the sky. “These were either flickering or wavering, I couldn’t be sure. I can’t even say I saw an object—just light.”

Alpert again: “I think perhaps some sort of refraction of ground reflections could possibly have accounted for the lights, but in my estimation this is an improbable explanation” (*Boston Post*, August 2, 1952). Obviously, he was

searching for a reasonable explanation but couldn't quite convince himself that this was it.

ENTER MENZEL

Professor Donald Menzel, Harvard University astrophysicist (and later known as the preeminent UFO debunker), had been leading the charge for skeptics both before and after the press conference. He maintained, without having seen the photo, that "reflections and refractions can account for all 'flying saucers'" (*Lynn Telegram News*, August 2, 1952). It was almost as if he had picked up Alpert's own statement to run with, yet, although Alpert had doubts, Menzel had none.

In our phone conversation, Alpert chuckled as he told me about Menzel's frustration at how dirty the copper screening was. Apparently, Menzel had taken the trouble to investigate on site. He would have a hard time proving his reflection/refraction theory, but that didn't prevent him from repeating that same explanation for the Salem lights in his book, *The World of Flying Saucers* (Doubleday, 1963), p. 122. Interestingly, Menzel acknowledges the "admittedly dirty window screen" and persists in calling the lights "objects" although the witnesses hadn't.

Amazingly, Menzel seemed totally unaware of the lack of reflections present on the metal surfaces of the parked cars that had prompted the original USAF evaluation of "double exposure." This fact would have backed up his own preferred explanation. Could it be that Menzel never examined the photo?

ADDITIONAL WITNESSES

As noted above, 10-year-old Bud mistakenly believed he was viewing the same phenomenon reported in the newspapers a few days later. No one came forward in the days following the news reports to confirm what Alpert and Flaherty had seen, or at least, no one who was deemed worthy of news coverage. I have mentioned my lack of success in finding any mention of a similar sighting to Bud's on a night when many thousands must have been along the shore. This is an aspect of UFO sightings that we meet continually. I have no ready explanation for it, but it's certainly an interesting facet of the phenomenon.

Ray Fowler reported that when he lectured at the Salem Coast Guard Station in the 1960s he was told that "men were observing it from the dock where amphibian aircraft were moored," yet Alpert told me that no base personnel ever approached him to confirm his sighting in the remaining six months of his enlistment. None of these coastguardsmen ever approached the base commander, or there would have been documentation to that effect in the Air Force file. Fowler also reported that workers at the power plant also saw the lights, their attention primed by reflection of the lights from tanks they were working on. Yet none of these workers came forward at the time, and this testimony is not

consistent with the anomalous lack of reflection that Alpert's photo shows. This additional witness testimony, years after the event, must be considered very weak, if it is to be considered at all.

On December 3, 2001, one of us [JN] visited Winter Island Marine Park, now part of the Salem Park Department, and spoke with several people who were helpful in providing additional leads and information. Thanks to Salem City Engineer Joe Nerdan, building inspector Tom St. Pierre, and the Salem Public Library, I was able to find Alpert's exact location and obtain maps of the Coast Guard station as it existed in the 1950s.

Winter Island Marine Park Manager Charlie Arnold referred me to a current Salem resident, Thomas Langlois, a Coast Guard parachute rigger stationed at the base in July 1952. In our December 4, 2001, interview, Langlois remembered his flight returning to the station at about 2:00 p.m. to find that all personnel had been restricted to base for the next two-and-one-half days because of the photograph. He was not aware of any additional witnesses. This lack of additional witnesses at the aircraft dock where the amphibious aircraft were secured contradicts the testimony reported to Fowler. Langlois said that the consensus of station personnel was that the photograph was of some "gases," but not a hoax or reflection.

THE EDWARDS LETTER

On January 15, 2002, one of us [BG] located a letter sent to Ray Fowler on June 19, 1987, by one Arthur W. Edwards, which is excerpted as follows:

When [a friend] sent me a newspaper photo of the UFO's (taken in the 1950's) seen over the power station in Salem, I wrote commenting that I had seen them. I happened to be walking along the sea wall at the foot of Thorndike St. in Beverly, and as was my habit, was scanning the Bev./Salem harbor area, and then I saw these very bright "objects" (spots) that appeared to be directly over the smokestacks @ the powerplant. They appeared to be very still for about 1 or 2 minutes. . . . then suddenly they lifted vertically, straight up, and then rapidly vanished.

At the time I really didn't get excited about what I had witnessed figuring they were "reflections" from the water and stack emissions. Later, from news stories, I learned that there were many witnesses to this episode and that someone had taken a picture (a coastguardsman??). I guess that picture has been featured in a number of publications having to do with UFOs.

There are inconsistencies comparing this description with Alpert's. Edwards says he saw the lights for one or two minutes versus a sighting duration of about 30 seconds for Alpert, but Alpert was initially facing away from the viewing window before turning to see the lights. The lights could

have been visible longer before he noticed them, so this time inconsistency does not seem serious, especially given the years that intervened between the event and Edwards's letter to Fowler.

Edwards says the lights rose vertically before vanishing, while Alpert says the lights disappeared in a flash. Alpert would not have been able to see the lights accelerate vertically because of the window cutting off his view in vertical direction. So a flash followed by rapid upward acceleration would have seemed like a vanishing act. Magicians are well aware of this phenomenon when they cause objects to disappear by throwing them out of sight of the audience.

Interestingly, if the lights were located near the power plant, as Edwards's sighting suggests, there may indeed have been other witnesses at the plant. The intersection of the sight lines of Edwards and Alpert is over Salem Neck, next to the power station (see topographic map). However, Edwards's memory is faulty when he says that he read news stories of many witnesses. Notice, too, that Edwards refers to the lights as reflections in the same way as Alpert and Flaherty.

It's unfortunate that the letter was written 35 years after the event. Memory is ever repainted in convenient colors; without some kind of corroboration, we are surely wise to not believe absolutely that this is a confirmation of Alpert's sighting.

FINAL THOUGHTS

It is still possible that the lights were actually between the parked cars in the photo and Alpert's position, and that in some way the lights were only directional, i.e. directed toward Alpert only and not away from him. This would account for the lack of reflection from the cars and also the lack of observation by others, since the lights would effectively have been local only to Alpert's immediate location. Nothing contradicts this hypothesis but nothing supports it either.

One additional little-known fact in this case is that some person or persons examining the negative of the Salem photo at its release on August 1, 1952, reported "another dot" that was interpreted to be a fifth "object." This was reported in both the August 2 *San Francisco Examiner* and the August 1 *Framingham News*, but was never mentioned again.

All in all, certain things stand out clearly. The military at the time tried to do the best job it could given its resources and the strident demands of the public for answers. The Air Force was clearly baffled by the anomaly their analysis had come up with. Branding the coastguardsmen as hoaxers just didn't fit.

The military had other reasons to take the report seriously, which could explain, in part, the Blue Book evaluation of the photo as an unknown. An interesting news item datelined Augusta, Georgia, August 5 stated in part, "A

'shapeless incandescent flash of light' was reported over the Atomic Energy Commission's billion-dollar hydrogen plant early today. . . . the flash had been observed at 7:30 a.m. and 'looked to [a witness] like a huge bulb in a flash camera' . . . many persons said they observed the unusual sight at the same time. Later in the day an official of the AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] said he had no logical explanation" (*Louisville Courier Journal*, August 6, 1952). The lights seen by the two coastguardsmen could be described as shapeless, and they emitted a flash when departing.

Still, the continuing 1952 flap pushed Alpert's photo into the background. Menzel's opinion remained his own and was never invoked by the military. Scientists, when confronted with the unexplainable, will often appeal to Occam's Razor, or the Principle of Parsimony, to reduce the level of exotic explanation, but often overlook the next step, that the simpler explanation is really a hypothesis that must be tested.

If the simpler hypothesis does not fit the facts, it too must be discarded. In Menzel's case, birds and aircraft reflections remained the hypothesis that fit his version of the facts. Clearly, the window-reflection theory has only survived because it has been difficult for UFO researchers to obtain reliable documentation for older events, and with time there were many more interesting things to consider than an old case. And the explanation survived among skeptics because it has been easier to agree with *any* explanation, however far-fetched.

The anomaly of the lack of reflection on the parked cars survives. It's a phenomenon I have heard spoken of before, specifically, by my [JN] wife's cousin who in 1968 near her house viewed a UFO that left no reflection on the icy snow in the yard below. Fowler has also heard this kind of story. This lack of reflection must be considered a valid component of the UFO phenomenon. Additionally, the surprising brightness of the lights and their disappearance in a flash are phenomena that are not easily explained in the context of the sighting.

Compellingly, the Salem Coast Guard photo case remains a significant piece of the UFO puzzle.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Document 1, July 17, 1952. CG-2947 (8-47), Witness Depositions.

Document 2, July 21, 1952. 1D-OSI-24-0-259, Spot Intelligence Report.

Document 3, August 1, 1952. Letter from Lt. Cdr. W. D. Strauch Jr. to Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, with enclosure of original photo negative.

Document 4, August 1, 1952. U.S. Coast Guard Public Information Release, no. 5554, on photo.

Document 5, August 1, 1952. DD Form 96, Air Force request for photo analysis.

Document 6, August 18, 1952. Letter from Lt. Cdr. W. D. Strauch Jr. to Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, with enclosures of

witnesses' depositions and Spot Intelligence Report.

Document 7, August 28, 1952. Photo Analysis Report of Probable Double Exposure Hoax, with enclosures of four sets of photo prints.

Document 8, [October 1963]. Salem, Massachusetts, July 16, 1952, evaluation of Salem lights as interior window light reflections.

Document 9, January 1964. Addendum to Coast Guard Information Release stating there is no further information on, nor explanation of the lights than that already given.

NEWSPAPERS

Boston American, August 1, 1952, p.1, "Coast Guard Bares Flying Disc Story."

Boston Globe, July 30, 1952, p. 6, "Salem Photos of 'saucers' Now Being Checked." July 31, 1952, "Flying Saucer" Photo Taken at Salem Base Under Secret Study." August 1, 1952, p. 1, "Egg-Shaped Objects in 'V' Formation Seen Over Air Base."

Boston Post, August 2, 1952, p. 1, "Saucers Fly in U.S. Air Pattern."

Boston Traveler, August 1, 1952, p. 3, "Says 'Objects' Seen at Salem Can't Be Laid To 'Just Lights'."

Framingham (Mass.) News, August 1, 1952, "Coast Guard Photo Fails to Shed Light On 'Flying Saucers'."

Lawrence (Mass.) Evening Tribune, August 2, 1952, "Reporters Take Up Saucer Hunt."

Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal, August 6, 1952, Sec. 1, "Flash of Light Reported over H-Plant in Georgia."

Lynn (Mass.) Telegram News, August 2, 1952, "Prof. Declares Salem Saucer Shot No Help."

San Francisco Examiner, August 2, 1952, "First Pictures of Saucers."

Salem (Mass.) News, August 2, 1952, p. 1, "Coast Guard Reveals 'Flying Saucers' Film." ♦

TIMMERMAN—continued from page 14

UFOs have reportedly interfered with various types of electronic devices, but rarely a stoplight. The witness further mentioned that the cigar seemed to pop into existence after the orange glow.

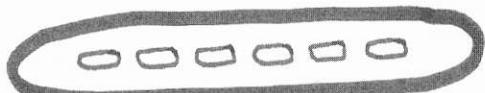


Fig. 4. Springfield, Illinois, Summer 1956.

There is nothing in UFOCAT for this time and location. But as a perhaps relevant addendum to this case, the CUFOS files contain a NICAP report from LaPorte, Indiana, with the same vague "summer 1956" designation. The object in the NICAP report is described as the same sort of cigar-shaped UFO with lights running down its central axis. These lights also pulsated on and off while the "windows"

remained observable. It also hovered and then rushed away at high speed.

With the vagueness of the dates and only the general region of the country the same, perhaps this means nothing. But the UFOs, still, are extremely similar.

The drawing above is comparable to the one in the NICAP report, and was deduced from the description in the Springfield witness transcript.

There are hundreds more cases in John's audiotape records, some even more unusual and entertaining than these. Hopefully, I can share a few more with you as the monograph project progresses. ♦

HULL AND HOLT—continued from page 12

pretation of the government's response to Roswell, or even its response to the development of the post-1947 UFO mystery itself?

One would certainly hope that the prior knowledge would have made the government at least somewhat ready for an event like Roswell and that the Roswell retrieval was more efficient because of that. What if we learn that this pre-World War II alien technology wasn't retrieved in the United States but came from somewhere else in Europe or the Far East, transferred to the United States for protection until after the war that most people knew was coming? What if we learn that this technology was given back to France, China, or Russia after the war? How would this retransfer of technology change our view of history? The possibilities are numerous. This story truly deserves investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors would like to recognize the efforts of Irena Scott of Delaware County, Ohio, for her assistance in the early stages of the investigation of this story. Dr. Scott is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mutual UFO Network and has investigated UFO sighting reports in Ohio and elsewhere for many years. She has written two well-received books on the subject. ♦

MARTIAN GULLIES

Scientists have provided new evidence that liquid carbon dioxide, not running water, may have been the primary cause of erosional features such as gullies, valley networks, and channels that cover the surface of Mars. Research suggesting that condensed CO₂ found in Martian crust carved these features was reported by Kenneth L. Tanaka and colleagues at the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona, and the University of Melbourne, Australia, in the *Geophysical Research Letters* this spring, published by the American Geophysical Union. A debris flow dominated by carbon dioxide would flow faster and farther than a water-based flow, they say.

OF INTEREST TO CUFOS ASSOCIATES

AN AMERICAN EXPLORES EXTRAORDINARY DESIGNS OF CELESTIAL WORLDS

Former Prisoner of War shows drawings of designed UFOs, mathematical measures North-South America, Earth, future celestial space-city New Jerusalem. Book price: \$25.00. Kenneth Lloyd Larson, 200 North Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

A quarterly publication reporting on worldwide UFO sightings and happenings in ufology that has been publishing since 1967. We invite you to join us – four issues mailed on time for only \$10.00. FSD, 377 Race Street, Berea, OH 44017.

HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST ALIEN ABDUCTION

Autographed copies of Ann Druffel's 1998 book, *How to Defend Yourself against Alien Abduction*, are available directly from the author. Send \$9.50 postpaid (certified check or money order preferred) to Ann Druffel, 257 Sycamore Glen, Pasadena, CA 91105. This is a special offer to readers of *IUR*, direct from the author.

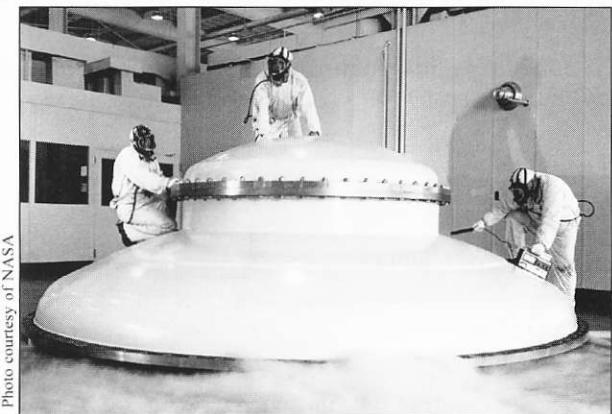


Photo courtesy of NASA

NO, IT'S NOT AN ADAMSKI SCOUT CRAFT, it's the domed top to a 70-foot-long vacuum tank at the NASA Lewis Research Center's Electric Propulsion Laboratory, Cleveland, Ohio. The three technicians shown here in protective clothing had just emerged (in 1961) from within the tank where they had been cleaning in the toxic mercury atmosphere, left after ion-engine testing in the tank. Lewis has since been renamed the John H. Glenn Research Center.

FUND FOR UFO RESEARCH

As a partner with CUFOS in the UFO Research Coalition, the Fund for UFO Research has long been engaged in the support of scientific research and education. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

NEW PARADIGM BOOKS

Did aliens build the secret pyramids of China? Did Victor Hugo talk to Mercurians and Jupiterians? For answers, read **THE CHINESE ROSWELL** by Hartwig Hausdorf and **CONVERSATIONS WITH ETERNITY: THE FORGOTTEN MASTERPIECE OF VICTOR HUGO**. Available at bookstores, or online from New Paradigm Books, www.newpara.com.

Are you looking for someone to talk with about UFOs? To discuss what you've read or seen on TV? I can help you organize a local group to share your interest in the UFO subject with others. I have created such a group in Ohio and would like to assist others to do the same. Send an e-mail to jptimmer@bright.net, or a self-addressed envelope to LAURA, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH 45802.

ADVERTISE IN IUR

A maximum of 45 words may be submitted for \$20.00 U.S., plus \$1.00 for each additional word, paid in advance. Discounts apply for multiple insertions of word or display ads. For all other details, e-mail jptimmer@bright.net, phone or fax 937-843-3834, or write to CUFOS, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH 45802-1621. CUFOS retains the right to refuse advertising that does not meet *IUR* standards. Thanks for reading the *IUR* and patronizing our advertisers.

ASSOCIATE APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

- New associate
 Renewal

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ASSOCIATE LEVEL**ASSOCIATE BENEFITS**

(Please make payment in U.S. funds only)

Sustaining	\$25.00	<i>International UFO Reporter (IUR)</i>
Contributing	\$50.00	<i>IUR plus one Center publication **</i>
Donor	\$100.00	<i>IUR plus two Center publications** or one Alien Abductions video†</i>
Sponsor	\$250.00	<i>IUR, two publications & one Center case**</i>
Research patron	\$500.00	<i>IUR, two publications & two Center cases**</i>
Benefactor	\$1000.00	<i>IUR for life, two cases/yr., and new CUFOS publications free**</i>

Please Note: This application form is for U.S. residents only.

** Associates at the Contributing level or higher are entitled to one or more of the following publications:

- NEW! Regional Encounters: The FC Files* (close encounters in the Midwest, by Francis Ridge)
- NEW! Edge of Reality: Illinois UFO, Jan. 5, 2000* (videotape report on UFO near St. Louis)
- Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers, 1952* (Wendy Connors, 2000)
- Giant UFO in the Yukon Territory* (Martin Jasek, 2000)
- Journal of UFO Studies*, New Series, Volume 7 (2000)
- Catalog of Early 20th Century UFO Reports* (Richard Hall, 2000)
- CUFOS UFO Archive #2* (CD-ROM, Windows-only, containing two out-of-print publications, including *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*, by Ted Bloecher, and the *Kelly-Hopkinsville Report*, by Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher)
- Examining the Earthlight Theory* (Greg Long) [study of the tectonic-strain theory of UFOs]
- Near Miss with a UFO: Swissair Flight 127* (Don Berliner and Robert Durant, 1999)
- The Cash-Landrum Incident* (John Schuessler, 1998)
- CUFOS UFO Archive #1* (CD-ROM, Windows-only, containing three out-of-print publications, including *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference; Physical Traces; and 1973: Year of the Humanoids*)
- UFO Briefing Document* (Don Berliner, 1995)

My contribution to receive IUR and any benefit publications: \$ _____

Also enclosed is my personal tax-deductible contribution for the work of CUFOS: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make payment in U.S. funds, payable to CUFOS.

If you prefer to pay by credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

4/02

Thank you for your support of the Center for UFO Studies!

Mail this form to: **CUFOS, 2457 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659; (773) 271-3611**