

July 29, 1996
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Mr. Walter H Andrus, Jr.
International Director
Mutual UFO Network Inc.
103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, TX 78155-4099

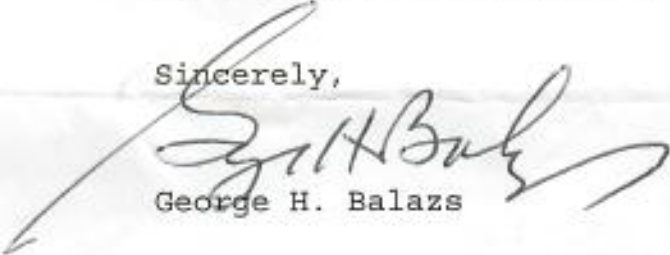
Dear Mr. Andrus:

I am writing to ask if you will provide me with the exact coordinates (latitudes and longitudes) of 1) the Roswell crash site, and 2) the Roswell debris site. I have never seen these coordinates stated in any article or book about the Roswell incident. I have written to several well known authors of this subject asking them for the coordinates. They have failed to respond. I have also contacted the UFO Museum in Roswell, but they do know the coordinates.

Surely with all of the investigations, interviews and field studies of the Roswell incident someone would have taken a modern, low-cost but highly accurate, GPS handheld unit to these two locations to document their positions. And surely the positions wouldn't be secret, since "secrets" are what UFO researchers dislike the most about government and other agencies.

Using existing magnetic maps of the earth, there are various sorts of arm-chair research that can be conducted using the coordinates. I look forward to hearing from you and learning the precise latitude and longitude of both the crash and debris sites. If your organization does not have this information, please advise me where it can be obtained. Thank your for your assistance. I am most appreciative. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs

cc UFO Magazine

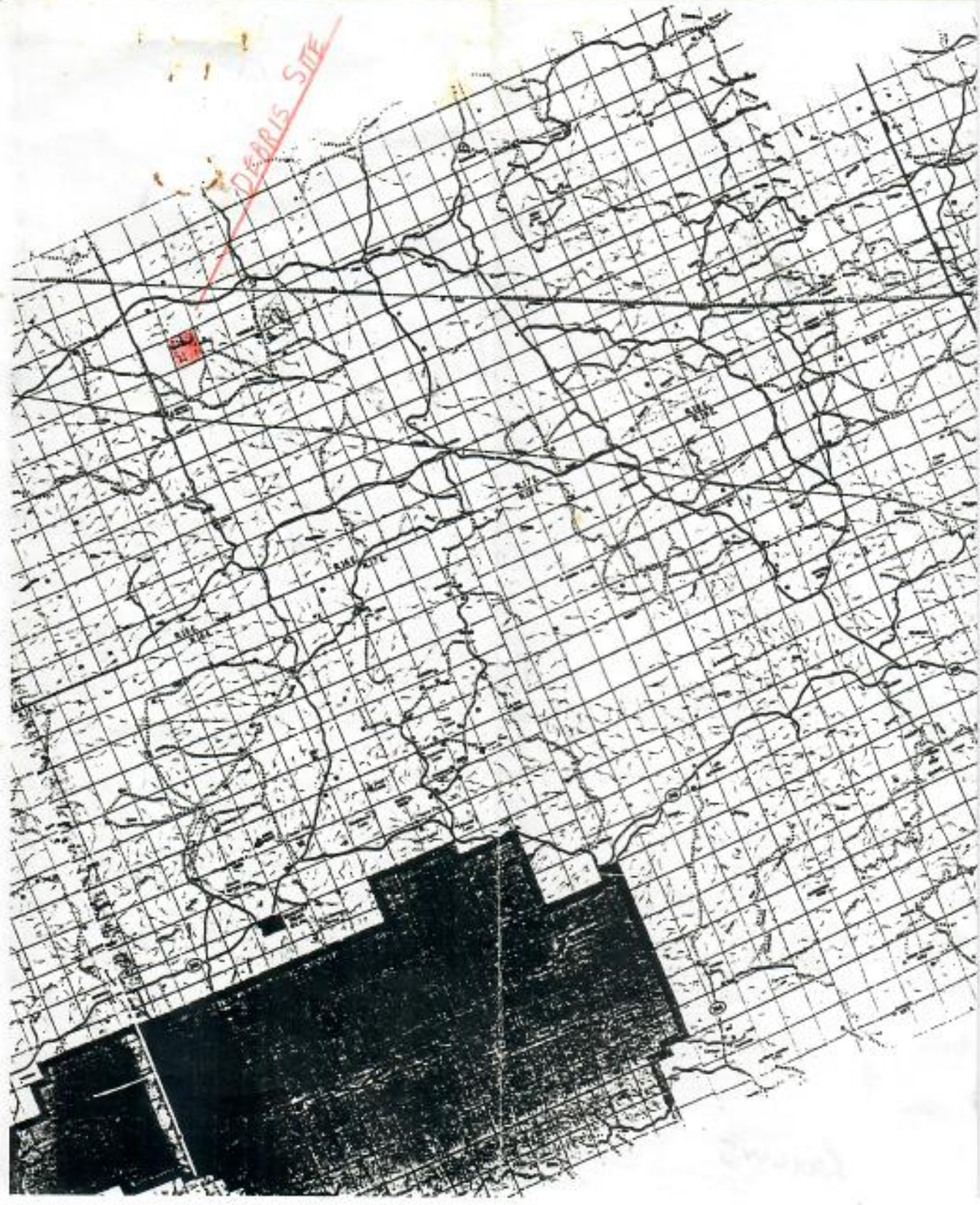
GEORGE!

WE DO NOT HAVE LATITUDE
AND LONGITUDE OF THE DEBRIS
FIELD. THERE ARE SEVERAL
"CLAIMED" CRASH SITES, WHICH
ONE IS TRUE?

8/97 response



DEARIS SITE







Susan Sterner/Associated Press

Dressed as aliens, Kameca Martinez, left, and Megan Palmer ride a rickshaw in Roswell, N.M. Visitors were in Roswell yesterday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Roswell Incident."

July 5, 1997

Hundreds commemorate 'UFO crash' at Roswell site

Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — Tourists and true believers turned out in hundreds yesterday for a service at a remote desert ranch to commemorate what some say was a UFO crash hushed up by the military 50 years ago.

Some UFO buffs say the crash took place on what is now the Corn Ranch, where a plaque unveiled yesterday said: "We don't know who they were; we don't know why they came; we only know they changed our view of the universe."

Ranch owner Miller "Hub" Corn said he wasn't certain about the so-called Roswell Incident. Still, he took hundreds on \$15 tours of the sweltering, dusty spot of desert where believers say a spaceship crashed, killing sev-

eral aliens on board. Dozens more paid \$90 to camp there this weekend.

Corn dedicated a dirt patch on the ranch as a "universal sacred site."

"The Roswell Incident is alive — is alive, folks!" said Mac McCarthy of California.

"It would be arrogant of humanity to think of ourselves as the only life form," said Richard Saiser, 54, of Albuquerque, dressed in a Star Trek uniform.

As many as 800 visitors passed through the exposition each hour, organizers said.

There were carnival rides and exhibits on alleged alien abductions, hot dogs and a presentation purported to prove crash debris was "of extraterrestrial origin."

The presenter, Russell Vernon Clark, was introduced as

a University of California-San Diego chemist who analyzed the material. But Clark is not a university employee, said Pat Jacoby, the university's acting director of campus communications.

A prominent UFO skeptic dismissed it all.

"For me, Roswell is the adult equivalent of Santa Claus," said Philip Klass, a member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Still, others got in the spirit, if a bit tongue-in-cheek.

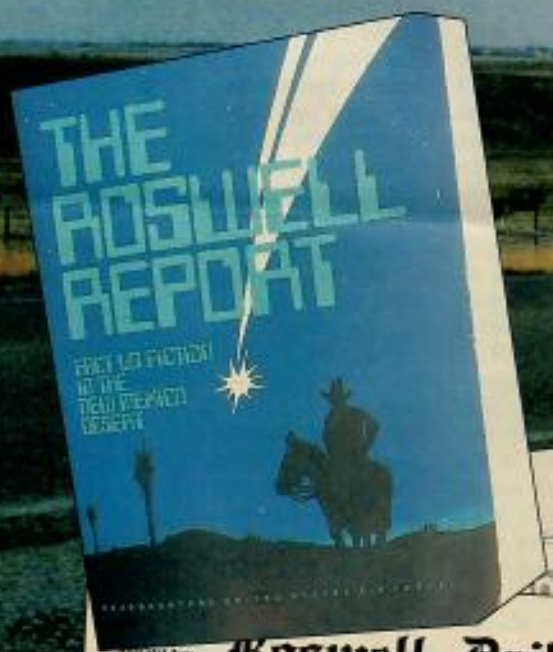
Don Thomas of Boston had a silver UFO hat that included a digital watch, blinking lights and a gyroscope.

"To tell you the truth, I don't know what it is," Thomas said. "It just came down and landed on my head this morning."

ROSWELL PLUS 50

Fifty years ago, something crashed in the desert. New evidence points to two equally startling conclusions.

BY JIM WILSON, Science/Technology Editor





The weather balloon and I-beam shown at left and top have been debunked as frauds. Harder to explain is the mystery fragment above identified as Japanese.



other than the Army Air Corps account of a crashed weather balloon and an FBI memo that refers to it.

Suspecting there was more to the Roswell story, *POPULAR MECHANICS* undertook its own investigation to learn if anything new had emerged in this 50-year-old techno-mystery. After interviewing witnesses who had seen and handled crash-site debris, and reviewing documents that were still classified when the GAO undertook its investigation, we have concluded that there really was a crashed disc, dead bodies and a secret that could have been politically deadly to presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The official story

In 1947, the Roswell Army Airfield (RAAF) was home to America's most elite air unit, the nuclear-weapon-equipped 509th Bomb Group. And during the first week of July, nearly everyone on base and off was at a heightened state of alert. Since mid-May, America had been in the grips of what historians would later call the great UFO craze of 1947. By some counts, as many as 800 sightings of strange objects were reported. At the bars, lunch counters and dinner tables in Roswell, airmen retold stories of mysterious "kraut balls" and "foo fighters" that had played tag with bombers and fighters as they flew missions over Europe and the Pacific. There is one more important, but often overlooked, historic fact to keep in mind. In the years immediately after the war, the term "flying disc" did not necessarily mean a flying machine from another planet.

Perhaps it was because of this mindset that the remarkable headline that appeared in the July 8 edition of the *Roswell Daily Record* was accepted with some sense of inevitability. "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region," it read. The story beneath the headline reported that intelligence officer Marcel had recovered pieces of a flying disc from the range of an unidentified rancher. Wire services and radio stations eager for any news about flying discs—the term UFO had not yet been coined—jumped on the story. "There was a tremendous amount of excitement," Art McQuiddy, a local editor, later recalled. "Here I am, a little old country editor talking to Paris and Rome."

It was a short-lived fame. The next day's *Daily Record* reported that Marcel had gotten it all wrong. Its July 9 headline read "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer." Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas, was quoted in the story as saying that the debris recovered by Marcel was simply the remains of a crashed weather balloon. Lest there be any doubt, the Army distributed a photo showing a contrite Marcel kneeling next to balloon remains.

Brazel also told his story on page one, beneath the headline "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It." He said that he and his son had actually found the wreckage on June 14 and returned to pick it up on the Fourth of July, after hearing about the crashed "flying disc." Brazel said he wondered if what he had found might have been some of the debris.

The story went on to say that he delivered the debris to the local sheriff on July 7, who then notified Ramey. The intelligence officer visited the Brazel home and returned to the base with the wreckage. The official story is that it consisted of about 12 ft. of smoky gray rubber from the balloon's gas bag; bits of foil, paper and tape; and a 7- or 8-in.-thick bundle of 3-ft.-long sticks. Notably absent from the recovered materials were an engine and propellers.

Ramey's press conference, Brazel's statement and photos of what were identified as the remains of a balloon so thoroughly quashed the initial report of a crashed flying disc that not until 1978 would most UFO researchers even count the Roswell incident as part of the 1947 UFO craze.

The idea that something more significant than a balloon might have crashed was raised in 1978. During a television interview, intelligence officer Marcel revealed a startling undisclosed fact about wisp-thin material recovered from the debris field near Corona: When placed near a match, it did not burn. Writers descended on Roswell, and some of them cajoled a new generation of witnesses—most of whom were children in 1947—into telling a variety of tales. The new reports told of I-beams with hieroglyphic-like marks and death threats by government agents. "There is no question there was a coverup," said UFO researcher Kevin Randle, who wrote two books about Roswell. "The question is, what were they hiding?"

A spy's tale

Randle's claims were largely based on a series of interviews that he had

● Pot, Hub Corn's 8-year-old border collie, leaps from the back of the tool-packed pickup. She sniffs the cuffs of my pants, begs to be scratched on her head and then bolts across the dusty field. "She'll scare away the snakes," Corn says as we follow Pot down a gentle incline. Our objective is 100 yards ahead, at the bottom of a 40-ft. cliff that rises from an arroyo. Corn points to a small flag that is planted halfway from the top. It marks the spot where the U.S. Army once believed a "flying disc" made its final, fatal contact with planet Earth.

Ideas of what happened here during the first week of July 1947 range from the simple—a weather balloon crash—to the downright silly—Earth was being scouted for an intergalactic invasion. The latest official government explanation—there have been three thus far—for the so-called Roswell Incident is that the recovered debris came from a Project Mogul balloon that was carrying instruments to detect Soviet nuclear tests. Despite such claims, however, over the years a number of government officials have inadvertently fired imaginations. As a presidential candidate, Jimmy Carter claimed to have seen a UFO. As president, Ronald Reagan mused openly on how petty differences among nations might evaporate in the face of an extraterres-

trial threat. And no one has done more to turn up the speculative heat than retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, who held a slew of top intelligence posts, including deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency and deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. In a Learning Channel documentary, Inman said—but has since repeatedly and vigorously denied—that the military is attempting to use technology from unspecified "recovered vehicles."

The passage of time has also complicated the task of ferreting out the truth about Roswell. The three men who might have known what actually happened—rancher Mac Brazel, who collected an armload of wreckage from a crash site near Corona, 85 miles northwest of Roswell; intelligence officer Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, who identified it as from a "flying disc"; and Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, who ordered Marcel to retract his claim—are dead. Time has also scattered the files of the U.S. Army Air Corps, Atomic Energy Commission and other government agencies that may have investigated the episode into the bureaucratic wind. For this reason, a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation performed at the request of New Mexico Congressman Steven H. Schiff and released in July 1995 reported finding no official records of a crash,



The most perplexing UFO mystery of all began in the desert north of Roswell. This year, more than 150,000 tourists are expected to check things out for themselves.

OFFICIAL SCENIC HISTORIC MARKER

ROSWELL

Population 39,676 • Elevation 3,612

Roswell was a watering place for the Pecos Valley cattle drives of the 1870s and 1880s. It was incorporated in 1891 and is seat of Chaves County, named for Col. J. Francisco Chaves, Civil War soldier and delegate to the U.S. Congress from the Territory of New Mexico. In the 1930s, Dr. Robert Goddard conducted experiments in liquid fuel rocket flights here.



Roswell. Here, he roused the base commander Col. William Blanchard and intelligence officer Marcel. With a small contingent of men, they drove north through the sleeping city and onto what is now Route 285 north. Near mile marker 132, they turned off the road and began driving across the desert, stopping from time to time to cut the barbed-wire fencing. Around 3 am, they found a heel-shaped craft measuring about 25 ft. long and 12 ft. wide embedded in a cliff.

It was split open. One of its four small passengers was thrown clear. Another was partially out of the craft. Two more were inside. All were dead, their bodies intact and unburned. Kaufmann said he watched as a crew from the airfield worked feverishly beneath searchlights to load the fractured craft and bodies aboard a flatbed truck before dawn. Meanwhile, a second team hastily created two diversionary sites to confuse the curious.

As the Sun boiled up from the east, the tarpaulin-covered Army truck rolled slowly south through downtown Roswell. Unnoticed by residents who had long ago grown used to the sight of military traffic, it made its way past the base gates and into a hangar, which was promptly surrounded by armed guards. Before evening, the wreckage and bodies were loaded aboard a military transport and flown first to Fort Worth, Texas, and then on to Wright Field in Ohio. "The beauty of the recovery operation was that it was so simple," says Kaufmann. "We didn't have to involve anyone from the outside."

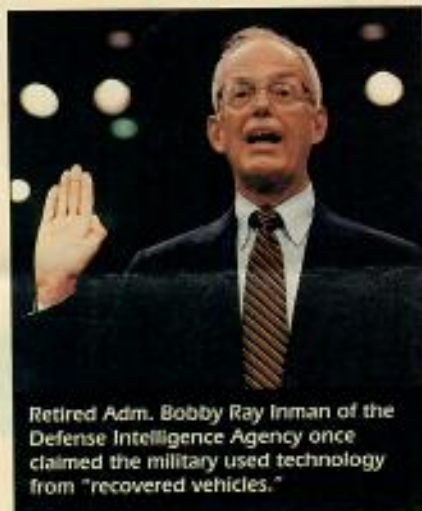
It is a compelling story, spiced with some verifiable information, but upon closer examination, the former spy's tale is fraught with inconsistencies. The most obvious of these being a lack of burned wreckage or charred bodies at a crash that allegedly produced sufficient illumination to alert residents miles away. It is also filled with factual errors, says Stanton T. Friedman. A University of Chicago-trained nuclear physicist, he was the first civilian to investigate the Roswell incident. He looked into Kaufmann's claims in the course of researching his recently published book *Top Secret/Majic*. "Majic" refers to a secret organization that Friedman believes President Truman created to investigate UFO crashes and keep the public ignorant about extraterrestrial incursions.

"There were no Air Defense Command radars in New Mexico in 1947," Friedman told *POPULAR MECHANICS*. "Radar experts tell me the only way to flood a screen with glare is for something to explode very close to the antenna. The supposed site was more than 100 miles away."

The German connection

I was all but ready to trash Kaufmann's story when a nearly foot-thick package of documents obtained via Freedom of Information Act requests arrived on my desk. As I read their badly photocopied pages, I came to realize that my judgment of Kaufmann's story might have been overly hasty. The more I read, the more credible Kaufmann's tale—except for his conclusion about extraterrestrials—became.

The most surprising information was contained in a declassified Air Force briefing paper titled "Report On Project Silver Bug." It was prepared by the Joint Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1955. It had two purposes. The first was to update civilian and military intelligence experts on technical issues related to so-called flying saucers. Its



Retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman of the Defense Intelligence Agency once claimed the military used technology from "recovered vehicles."

second goal was to enlist the help of the FBI, CIA and intelligence units within the State Department in determining if the Soviets were pursuing similar aircraft designs.

To provide the intelligence community with technical background, the report described several ongoing U.S. saucer projects. (Sketches of two vehicles described in the report appear on this page and page 53.) Configured as classic UFOs, these craft exhibited flight specifications that were nothing short of phenomenal, even by today's standards. The largest weighed 26,000 pounds and was powered by jet engines that could lift it to an altitude of 36,900 ft.—as high as today's airliners fly—in about 1 minute 45 seconds. The operating ceiling of these amazing craft was 80,600 ft. Their cruise speed was an astounding Mach 3.48.

Using key words and technical descriptions in the Silver Bug report, PM was able to trace the origin of these remarkable aircraft to Germany. And

here, in half-century-old intelligence files stamped "secret," we learned that the U.S. government had mounted a massive search for engineers and scientists who had worked on the so-called German saucer project.

Contrary to UFO literature, which claims the Germans were attempting to reverse-engineer a crashed alien vehicle of their own, these documents show a more practical reason for interest in saucers: They could take off without runways. Months of around-the-clock bombing by the allies had reduced German runways to rubble. The Third Reich's only hope of using its newly perfected jet-engine propulsion system to regain air superiority would be to install it in a vertical-take-off-and-landing (VTOL) aircraft.

The documents also tell of Army intelligence officers combing Europe for two brothers, Walter and Reimar Horten. Trained as pilots and engineers, they had close connections to the Reich's high command. The information provided to Army intelligence said they were believed to have persuaded German leaders to construct a fleet of saucer-shaped bombers. U.S. military historians acknowledge that the Horten brothers built and flew prototypes of circular and flying-wing aircraft. But they dismiss these craft as aeronautical curiosities with no military value. Initially, PM discounted a possible connection between the Horten brothers and Roswell.

We began to think differently after we obtained a copy of a long-secret field report from an American intelligence officer stationed in Germany. In response for a service-wide request for information about the Horten brothers, he had apparently looked into the most secret military files. There he discovered, and duly reported to his superiors, that the Horten brothers already had been found. "Paperclip records further show that the men were released by the U.K. for exploitation and allocated to the U.S. [on] 15 November 1946," the officer's report said.

"Operation Paperclip" was the code name for one of the Second World War's most secret and ethically controversial projects. Its mission was to put former Nazi scientists and engineers on the U.S. payroll. The American public knew the secret of Los Alamos weeks after the first atomic bomb exploded. They would not be told of Paperclip until after men landed on the Moon, an event made possible by Paperclip rocket scientists. The reason for keeping Paperclip secret was that the laboratories at which many of the former German scientists had worked were also Nazi slave-labor and death



conducted with a former U.S. Army counterintelligence agent who at various times has been identified as either Frank McKenzie or Joseph Osborne. Now, as I spoke with this former spy in the back dining room of Roswell's Sally Port Restaurant, I wasn't quite sure he could be trusted. People I do trust had vouched for him. He showed me documents that confirmed he had been assigned to the 509th. At the time of the Roswell incident, he had been a civilian employee assigned to intelligence duties. It was a job that could have given him access to the impact site.

Nevertheless, I felt something was fishy when he said that in 1949 he attended a technical briefing at which engineers summarized what they had learned from the wreckage found on what is now Corn's 24-sq.-mile sheep and cattle ranch. This simply didn't sound right. The first rule of keeping secrets is limiting information to those with a "need to know." The men who found the debris would not have been told its secrets.

In my business, you don't call people liars. You mentally cross them off your list of credible sources and move on. At that point, I decided to wrap up the interview by asking the spy an innocuous question: "What do you think of the crash-site dioramas in the UFO museums?"

"They got it wrong. It wasn't round.

It was heel-shaped," he said, tracing a pattern with his finger. With my curiosity rekindled, because the city's two UFO museums both depicted circular craft, I slid my notebook across the table and asked him to sketch what he allegedly saw. The spy then drew side, top and bottom views of what I immediately recognized as a wingless lifting-body airframe. It was a dead ringer for the X-38, which NASA and the U.S. Air Force are planning to use as a minispace plane. The only obvious difference was a crude pattern of cross-hatched lines he was trying to draw on the bottom view. I had seen something similar before. These lines cut into the baby-smooth bottom of the F-22, the fighter the Air Force hopes to fly into the 21st century. The purpose of the indentations is to scatter radar energy to make the jet more stealthy. Few know this. So, I decided to give the spy one last test, and asked, "Are these heatshield tiles?"

"No," he said, ignoring the bait. "They made it invisible to radar." I signaled the waitress for another

round of drinks, sat back and listened as the spy—his real name is Frank J. Kaufmann—told me how he helped to engineer the "great Roswell coverup."

Kaufmann says the Roswell incident really began on July 1, 1947, when he was ordered to bring a group of radar experts to Alamogordo, about 100 miles southwest of Roswell. For nearly a day, radar aimed at the nearby White Sands Missile Range had been detecting unexplainable blips. Kaufmann was assigned to a radar screen. While he was watching, just before midnight on July 3, he saw a brilliant glare envelop the display. The source of the disturbance came from somewhere north of Roswell.

Moments later, in Roswell, the airfield's switchboard began ringing as residents on the north end of town called to report a glow in the desert. "They thought one of our plane's had crashed," Kaufmann said. "It was something that had happened before." Acting on what he said were orders from Brig. Gen. Martin Scanlan of the Army's Air Defense Command, Kaufmann told me he returned to

The craft (above left) drawn by Kaufmann—which scattered debris in Corona and crashed north of Roswell (top)—resembles the X-38 and has stealth technology similar to the F-22.

camps. The fact the Nazis had technology that American engineers could not duplicate was deemed too harsh a message for a nation that had gone to war for a higher moral purpose.

Probing further into the fate of the Horten brothers, PM learned that just prior to their capture they had been working on the design for a new generation of circular-shaped vertical-takeoff aircraft, with specifications much like those described in the Silver Bug re-

port. Other records indicate that after the war, models of the Horten's designs—possibly constructed by the brothers themselves—were tested in the wind tunnel at Wright Field, now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This is the same base to which the wreckage of the Roswell crash was finally transported.

The Air Force acknowledges the Germans were working on a flying-disc craft, but says it was inherently unstable. Officials point to the failed Avro flying car built for the Army and a deteriorating plywood Horten wing, both on display in museums.

Declassified records obtained by PM in the course of its investigation suggest that these marginally performing craft were, in fact, shells intended to disguise the existence of more formidable flying machines. One of the most potent of these flying discs was developed under a secret program called Project Pye Wacket. Its objective was to design a 5-ft.-dia. liquid-fueled missile launch platform to protect U.S. bombers penetrating Soviet airspace.

In the end, the military would select conventionally shaped planes and missiles. As for the Horten flying disc

that the Reich had hoped would turn the tide of battle, patent rights to a remarkably similar craft configured to carry "passengers" would be assigned to the Lockheed aircraft company. A cutaway diagram of this unusual craft appears on the top of this page.

Despite this information, the possibility that the

object that crashed at Roswell was in fact one of the Horten brothers' creations misses the mark on two important details. The craft that Kaufmann claims to have helped recover was not round, but as his sketches showed, a lifting body. Also, he claims there was no fire damage, a virtual impossibility in the crash of a jet-powered aircraft.

A Japanese UFO

As our investigation neared its close, PM was alerted to a forthcoming release of documents that may fill in these two missing pieces of the Roswell puzzle. They may also explain two other curiosities: the presence of the crisscrossed radar-deflecting pattern on the bottom of the Roswell craft, and—to the consternation of those who seek an unearthly explanation for Roswell—the origin of the "dead aliens" who have so often been described as having Oriental features.

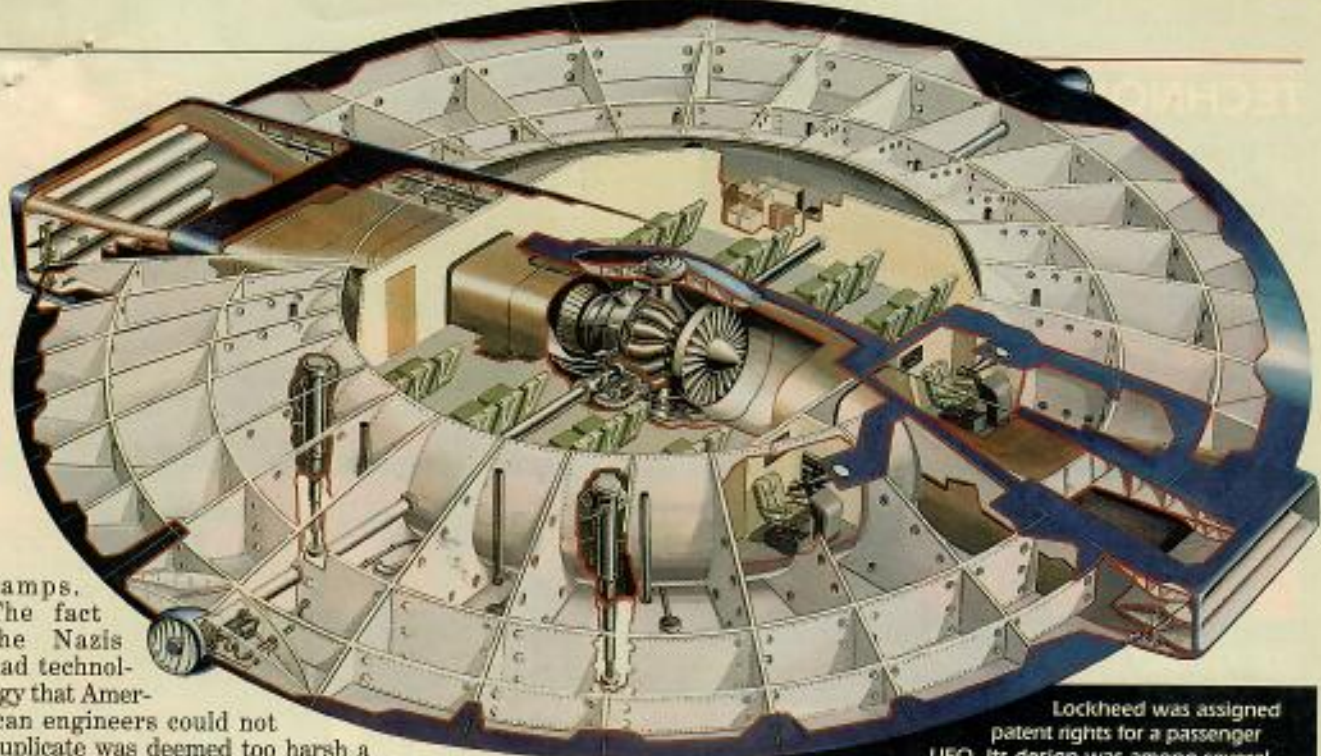
PM has been told that the documents scheduled for future release will tell of a Japanese counterpart to Operation Paperclip. One of its purposes was to determine if the Japanese had constructed a suicide-piloted version of the Fugo incendiary bomb.

Lockheed was assigned patent rights for a passenger UFO. Its design was among several developed by the military and aerospace companies.

During the Second World War, the Japanese launched these unmanned high-altitude balloons in the hope that they would land in the Pacific Northwest, explode, ignite forest fires and thereby deprive the war effort of needed lumber. The effort was an obvious failure. The Japanese may have attempted to build a second generation of Fugos that could be guided to targets by suicidal pilots.

PM suspects the craft that crashed at Roswell will eventually be identified as either a U.S. attempt to re-engineer a second-generation Fugo, or a hybrid craft which uses both Fugo lifting technology and a Horten-inspired lifting body. In either case, Japanese engineers and pilots brought to the U.S. after the war to work on the project could have been the dead "alien" bodies recovered at the crash site. Also, equipped with a rudimentary radar-deflecting underside, such a balloon could have reached stratospheric altitudes as it traveled over Western Europe and been well above the range of then-existing MiG fighters and missiles even if it had been detected. It could have carried out both photo reconnaissance and air sampling experiments—similar to those of the Mogul balloon—before gliding back to Earth in friendly territory.

Fifty years after the fact, the questions about Roswell still ring loud and clear. Our investigation leads us to believe the explanations that require an extraterrestrial presence, while possible, are nevertheless highly implausible. We're putting our money on a flying disc labeled "Made In Japan." **PM**



U.S. Finds '47 UFO Incident to Be Full of Hot Air

From Associated Press

WASHINGTON—There'll be no convincing some people, but the Air Force says—again—the thing that hit the ground near Roswell, N.M., in 1947 was not the proof that UFOs exist. But it did prove that a crashing balloon could make a 47-year mess.

There were no secret autopsies on space aliens who couldn't fly too well. No flying saucer pieces under guard on an air base. No big conspiracy.

It was just a balloon.

One of ours.

Sorry.

It took eight months to reach that conclusion, and the Air Force hopes now to put to rest talk in UFO circles that military authorities covered up a grand extraterrestrial event.

The Air Force began the investigation in January after Rep. Steven H. Schiff (R-N.M.) asked the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to press the Pentagon to declassify

documents relating to Roswell.

Air Force officials tracked down principals, combed archives, and even sent some old news photos to the CIA for analysis—all to try to deflate the persistent rumors of a massive government conspiracy to hide the truth.

The effort produced a 25-page report, released Thursday, in which Col. Richard Weaver concludes that the debris a rancher found probably came from a top-secret balloon designed to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests.

Of the UFO theories, Weaver had this to say:

"What is uniquely lacking in the entire exploration and exploitation of the Roswell Incident is official positive documentary or physical evidence of any kind that supports the claims of those who allege that something unusual happened."

However, Weaver predicted "pro-UFO" elements simply would dismiss his report as part of the cover-up.

Indeed, Walter Haut, a volunteer

at the UFO Museum at Roswell, a center devoted to gathering information on this and other suspected UFO incidents, wasted no time in rejecting the Air Force conclusions.

"I feel very strongly about it," Haut said. Referring to those who made the original UFO claim, he said: "We're not talking about flaky people."

In July, 1947, the owner of a ranch near Roswell picked up debris that included scattered foil-coated fabric, sticks, rubber and some small I-beams with strange markings.

Maj. Jesse Marcel, the Army Air Force intelligence officer who brought in the wreckage, was reported to have recovered a "flying disc." A local headline screamed that the Air Force "Captures Flying Saucer."

Days later a higher-ranking officer identified the material as the remains of a weather balloon. But the seed of what became known as the Roswell Incident had been planted.

IUR

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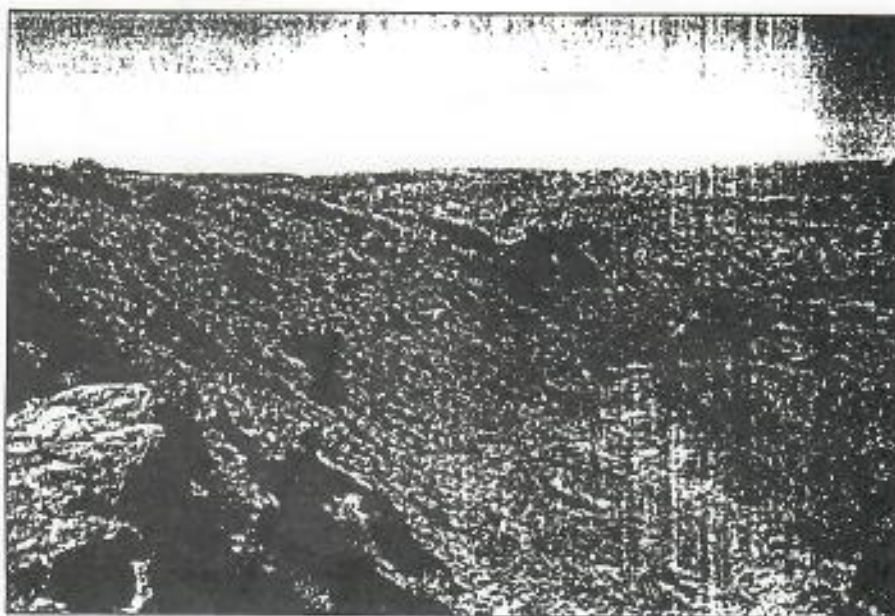
The Roswell Impact Site then:—



1947

—and as it
appears
today

1994



THE CONTINUING SEARCH FOR THE ROSWELL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

by Thomas J. Carey

WHEN AND WHERE DID THE ROSWELL OBJECT CRASH?

BY KEVIN D. RANDLE AND DONALD R. SCHMITT

Since the publication of our first book, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, we have continued our investigation into the events at Roswell. One of the key facts that we have worked carefully to establish is the actual date of the crash. Although in our book and subsequent articles we have suggested the date was July 2, 1947 (a date that has been used by essentially all other investigators), further research has convinced us that date is incorrect.

Determining the date of the crash is not some idle intellectual exercise. Placing the crash on July 2 has always been difficult to square with other known events, such as Mac Brazel's actions. Brazel, who found the debris on the ranch he oversaw, took the debris to Roswell on Sunday, July 6. If the crash happened late in the evening of the 2nd and he found the debris the next day, which seems very likely, why did he wait three days to report his find? We and other investigators have offered somewhat convoluted explanations for Brazel's actions, but our colleagues at CUFOS and we have never been completely comfortable with this three-day delay.

A second problem is the testimony of William Woody, who as a youngster in early July 1947 watched, with his father, something plunge to the ground late one evening. According to Woody, he and his father went out a day or two later to search for the object, but ran into a military cordon that prevented them from going off the highway. With the date of the crash set as July 2, and the understanding that the military didn't begin cordoning off the crash site until July 8, we have to ask why Woody and his father would wait six days until Tuesday, July 8, before beginning their search? Moreover, why go out on a Tuesday, a working day, instead of the weekend?

Of even more interest is the fact that Woody states clearly that they were driving due north of Roswell on Highway 285 when they ran into the military guards, who

wouldn't let them leave that road. Highway 285 north of Roswell is many, many miles from the Foster ranch where Brazel made his discovery (see map on page 7). When we wrote our first book, we couldn't understand why guards would be placed on Highway 285 so far from the ranch. Nevertheless, we had no reason then, or now, to doubt Woody's testimony, so we filed it away as a peculiar fact that we could hopefully explain someday when more was known about the military activities.

In the past two years we have located several witnesses and documents that make Woody's testimony, Brazel's actions, and other events less perplexing. This new information firmly fixes the date of the crash as July 4, and it also proves that the main body of the object came down far from the Foster ranch, but not far from Highway 285. This article discusses the new evidence for the date and location of the crash. Throughout the article you can refer to the timeline on page 15, which presents our reconstruction of the most critical events.

WHY WAS THE CRASH ORIGINALLY PLACED ON JULY 2?

The conventional wisdom, again, has been that the Roswell crash occurred sometime late in the evening of July 2. The problem in fixing a crash date has been that Mac Brazel was never interviewed (he died long before Moore and Friedman began their early investigation), and no military witness would or could disclose the actual date. Thus the date had to be reconstructed, working backward from July 8 when the story broke because of the famous press release. To do so, early investigators focused on the Wilmot sighting as the best evidence, as did we.

In the July 8, 1947, edition of the *Roswell Daily Record*, it was reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot apparently were the only persons in Roswell who have seen what they thought was a flying disc . . . The object came into view from the southeast and disappeared over the treetops in the general direction of Six-Mile Hill." The Wilmots lived in Roswell, and they had seen the UFO moving to the northwest, generally toward the Foster ranch site. Based on

Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt, IUR contributing editors, are the authors of *UFO Crash at Roswell* (1991). A sequel, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, is scheduled for publication in April 1994.

this sighting alone, all investigators have reasonably assumed that (1) the Wilmots saw the Roswell object before it crashed and (2) that the crash occurred on July 2.

Given the Wilmot sighting, we then assumed that William Woody and his father saw the same object coming down, also on July 2. But Woody and his father reported an object coming from the northwest and going down about due north of Roswell, 180° opposite the direction reported by the Wilmots. Either one group of witnesses is wrong in the description of their sighting, or, instead, the two UFO sightings happened on completely different days. Our investigation now demonstrates the latter explanation to be true. To show why, we turn first to other eyewitness testimony.

NEW EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY

Corporal E. L. Pyles was, in 1947, assigned to one of the outlying compounds near the main base at Roswell. He told us that in early July of 1947 he had seen an object flash across the night sky to his north, going down toward the ground. Although he doesn't remember the exact date or time, he did say that he believed it was a weekend because he was awake after the main lights had been turned out at eleven. If it had been a weeknight, according to Pyles, he would have retired before these lights were extinguished. This testimony suggests the date to be either Thursday, July 3 (because the next day was a holiday), Friday, July 4, or Saturday, July 5, and the time as after 11:00 p.m. but before midnight, when he normally went to bed. In any case, if Pyles did see an object on those dates, it couldn't have been what the Wilmots saw on July 2.

About one year ago, we learned of another witness who had an even better view of the crash. Jim Ragsdale, a civilian, had been out camping with a friend in the high country about thirty miles north of Roswell in early July. Ragsdale was familiar with the area, being employed to survey natural gas lines through the region just to the north. He told us that he remembered it was a long weekend and that's why he was camping out then. Without our prompting, he was able to pinpoint the date as the July 4th weekend simply because it was one of the few three-day weekends in that era.

Sometime late one evening (again, either July 4 or 5), Ragsdale saw an object roar overhead, slamming into the ground only a mile or two from where he was camped. As it passed overhead he likened the brightness of the object to an arc welder's torch. The next morning at sunrise, he and his companion drove to the crash site and saw the object crumpled against a small cliff (the photograph on this issue's cover shows the spot where the craft came to rest). Scattered about were several small bodies. They were unable to examine the wreckage too closely, though, because the military showed up soon after they got near the site, so Ragsdale and his friend hurriedly fled the scene.

Ragsdale was camping about due north of Roswell, in approximately the direction that William Woody and E. L. Pyles had seen the object travelling. He was about thirty-five miles from the Foster ranch site, though. His testimony, which has been corroborated by family members and friends (all have told us that he has been telling them this same story since the late 1940s), demonstrates that the second crash site, which we placed near the Foster ranch in our first book, was actually much closer to Roswell. But the testimony of Ragsdale and Pyles does not yet fix the exact date or time of the crash.

NEW DOCUMENTATION

During the past year or so we have learned of two additional independent sources of corroboration for the crash and its date. The first evidence comes from as unimpeachable a source as one could hope for, Franciscan nuns. In 1947 an order of Franciscan nuns served as nurses at St. Mary's Hospital in Roswell. They made routine observations of the night sky, and their log records the appearance of a fiery object on July 4, 1947, sometime between 11:15 and 11:30 p.m.

Second, we have had extensive conversations with a former military and intelligence officer who was at Roswell in 1947. He was involved with the recovery of the object and bodies, and he kept a diary of the events. Many military officers are trained to make notes in the form of a log book so that they can accurately recreate events later if necessary. That sort of a log, typed or handwritten, is considered documentation of the event, and although it doesn't list the time of the crash, his log does note military activity related to the recovery taking place early on the morning of July 5. Furthermore, his own memory is that the object crashed late in the evening, about 11:30 p.m., on July 4, 1947, and that it crashed due north of Roswell, in essentially the same location pinpointed by Ragsdale.

The military witness tells us that, since access to the crash site (which we label the "impact site" in our new book) was over dirt and gravel roads off Highway 285 from Roswell to Vaughn, a cordon was thrown up preventing anyone from leaving the highway and going west.

THE RECONSTRUCTED CRASH SCENARIO

The Wilmots may well have seen a UFO, but they didn't see it crashing north of Roswell. Instead, the crash occurred about 11:30 p.m. on the evening of Friday, July 4, and was witnessed by:

1. William Woody and his father south of Roswell;
2. E. L. Pyles southwest of Roswell;
3. Franciscan nuns at the hospital in Roswell;
4. James Ragsdale and friend near the site itself.


The military got to the crash site early on July 5.

NAME?

NAME?

what crashed?

TIMELINE OF SELECTED ROSWELL EVENTS, JULY 1947

Wednesday	July 2	Wilmot sighting	
Thursday	July 3		
Friday	July 4	Crash of UFO, with debris coming down on Foster ranch, and the main body of the object north-northwest of Roswell. The crash occurred about 11:30 p.m.	Jim Ragsdale witnesses actual crash. Franciscan nuns, William Woody and his father, and E. L. Pyles see object going down north of Roswell.
Saturday	July 5	Military begins retrieval and cordons nearby roads. Mac Brazel finds debris on ranch and shows it to his neighbors.	Our military source provides documentation to show that the recovery of the object began today.
Sunday	July 6	Recovery nearly complete at impact site. Brazel brings some debris to Roswell and military learns that the crash is known to the public.	Debris from impact site is flown to Washington before military learns about the Brazel site.
Monday	July 7	Marcel and Cavitt recover debris from Foster ranch. Military considers options of how to contain the Brazel find.	
Tuesday	July 8	Press release tells of recovery of object on Foster ranch, but no mention of the site closer to Roswell. Recovery begins on the ranch. Ramey issues the cover story late in the afternoon from Fort Worth.	General public becomes aware of the Roswell event, but only of the site on the Foster ranch.



Without the help of Sheriff George Wilcox, the military might have lost control of the situation.

scaring away Ragsdale. They threw a cordon up around the site and prevented any access by stationing soldiers on Highway 285. Thus William Woody's testimony now makes better sense, since he told us that he and his father went looking for the object either the next day or the day after (July 5 or 6). At that time, the cordon would have been up along Highway 285, just as he reported. Before we discovered this new information, we could only conclude that Woody had been mistaken about when he and his father went looking for the object.

It should be noted that Woody is not the only one to report guards off Highway 285. Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, an archaeologist from the University of Nebraska who had been searching for fossils in the Roswell area, also reported seeing those guards. Since he had no desire to travel west off the highway he didn't pay much attention to them. A few weeks later he learned from colleagues who also stumbled upon the crash what had happened and why the guards were in place.

By this reconstruction, we now believe that Mac Brazel found the debris on the ranch on July 5 and waited only one day to report his find to Sheriff Wilcox in Roswell. This makes more sense than having Brazel wait three days to go to Roswell, given the bizarre nature of what he found. Before this we had to assume, not unreasonably, that since the trip to Roswell and back took a whole day, Brazel would wait until it was convenient to go, given his important duties on the ranch, and that Sunday, July 6, would have been the best day for the trip.

By July 6 the military had the site north of Roswell fairly well cleaned up and believed, according to our

military source, that the incident had been contained. It was then, about midday on Sunday, July 6, that Mac Brazel arrived in town with his story and some of the debris. The military hadn't searched the surrounding territory for additional debris because they had been busy cleaning up the impact site. When Brazel talked to Sheriff Wilcox, and then the sheriff called the base, the military knew they had a serious problem, especially since by then Brazel had talked or shown the debris to several neighbors, the sheriff and his deputies, and Frank Joyce, an announcer and reporter for radio station KGFL. But the extent of the debris field wasn't evident until Marcel and Cavitt returned late on July 7 or early on July 8.

At that point, knowing the story could not be contained, someone in the military had the clever idea of issuing a press release that admitted the recovery of a flying disc, then retracting the claim a few hours later. Among many oddities in the press release, the most peculiar, given the new scenario, is that the impact site close to Roswell is not mentioned whatsoever. That omission is evidence that the press release was carefully crafted to divert attention away from the site where the main body of the object came to rest, a fact which the military thought had been effectively concealed from the public (Ragsdale had gotten away before being noticed by the military). Further proof of the hidden agenda behind the release is that it stated, incorrectly, that the object was found on the Foster ranch.

In summary, what we have learned, based on both eyewitness testimony and some documentation, is that the crash of the Roswell object occurred late on July 4. The craft was located early the next day by military officials and the object and other debris removed. On July 8 a second recovery operation was mounted at the Foster ranch about thirty-five or forty miles from the impact site.

There is nothing in the new scenario that makes the Roswell story less believable. On the contrary, the events now are more tightly interwoven and documented, and the timeline is condensed somewhat as a consequence. From July 6 on, though, the story progresses just as we, and others, have reported before. But if no debris had fallen on the Foster ranch, the military most likely *would* have concealed the critical Roswell event the recovery of the object from the public, then and today, and you would not be reading this article.

We conclude with this final comment. Skeptics of UFO crash stories (which previous to our investigation included us) have clamored for one, firsthand witness to the crash of a nonterrestrial object, with bodies, who would sign an affidavit and whose story checks out. There is such a witness now in the person of Jim Ragsdale, who has lived in Roswell for many years and has been telling his crash story, completely at odds with the press release and Brazel story, since soon after the event. Ragsdale has, indeed, signed an affidavit, and with his public accounting of what he witnessed, the case for Roswell becomes that much stronger. †

July 29, 1996
992-A Awaawaanoa Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies
2457 W. Peterson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659

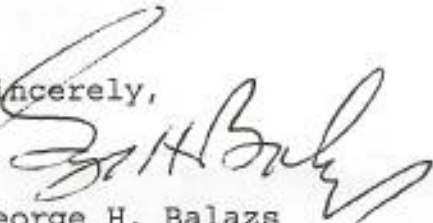
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to ask if you will provide me with the exact coordinates (latitudes and longitudes) of 1) the Roswell crash site, and 2) the Roswell debris site. I have never seen these coordinates stated in articles or books about the Roswell incident. I have written to several well known authors of this subject asking them for the coordinates. They failed to respond. I have also contacted the UFO Museum in Roswell, but they do know the coordinates.

Surely with all of the investigations, interviews and field studies of the Roswell incident someone would have taken a modern, low-cost but highly accurate, GPS handheld unit to these two locations to document their positions. And surely the positions wouldn't be secret, since "secrets" are what UFO researchers dislike the most about government and other agencies.

Using existing magnetic maps of the earth, there are various sorts of arm-chair research that can be conducted using the coordinates. I look forward to hearing from you and learning the precise latitude and longitude of both the crash and debris sites. If your organization does not have this information, please advise me where it can be obtained. Thank your for your assistance. I am most appreciative. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs

cc UFO Magazine

DON BERLINER □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Aviation / Science Writer

Sept. 9, 1996

1202 S. WASHINGTON ST., APT. 227
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 U.S.A.
PHONE 703-548-0405

Mr. George H. Balazs
992-A Awaawaanoa Pl.
Honolulu, HA 96825

Dear Mr. Balazs,

Your letter of July 29 to the Fund for UFO Research has been turned over to me to answer, as I am the Fund's Board member most familiar with Roswell crash sites.

The reason no one has given precise locations is not a lack of thoroughness, but the desire to keep the exact locations from becoming tourist sites. They are on private property, still used for grazing, and those responsible for them don't want a lot of people tramping over them in a fruitless search for scraps of debris. We are respecting their wishes for privacy, not arbitrarily keeping secrets.

On the course of researching *Crash At Corona*, I spent many hours at the sheep ranch site, poking around, bending back branches of ancient looking bushes and trying to move rocks. It was an interesting experience which convinced me that nothing was to be gained by my being there, or by others' being there.

Sorry, but we promised the ranchers we'd keep the locations secret so they wouldn't be bothered. While I don't think you would intentionally let the information out, once the information has been compromised, it won't be long before it appears on the internet.

Sincerely,



Fund for  Research Inc.

P.O. BOX 277, MOUNT RAINIER, MD 20712

The Roswell Incident, The USAF
and the New York Times

Sept. 26, 1994

Stanton T. Friedman
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Stanton T. Friedman
T. Friedman

BACKGROUND

Sept. 26, 1994

As the nuclear physicist who, in 1978, began the research into the US Government's retrieval of crashed flying saucers in New Mexico in July, 1947, I have been eagerly waiting the results of a comprehensive General Accounting Office (GAO) search for documents related to those events. Congressman Steve Schiff of New Mexico had instigated the GAO efforts in early 1994 after being stonewalled by the Department of Defense in his efforts to provide answers to constituents demanding them. He had received the same kind of totally misleading and deliberately false official responses about Roswell from the USAF Office of Congressional Liaison as had many other members of Congress as noted in my 5 page letter to USAF Colonel Shubert.

I had been impressed by my contacts with both Schiff's office and the GAO. Because of my own many weeks spent at 15 government document archives and because I handled thousands of classified documents during my 14 years working on a variety nuclear Research and Development programs in industry, I know how easy it is to keep secrets. For example, at none of the archives was I ever able to view formerly TOP SECRET PLUS documents though they certainly exist somewhere. I would expect that anything relating to recovery of two crashed flying saucers and several alien bodies would be Special Compartmented Information or well above TOP SECRET.

I was, therefore, quite surprised when the US Air Force attempted to stage a preemptive strike against the GAO on Sept. 8 by releasing a 23 page "Report of Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident". Schiff's objective had been for the neutral GAO to review all possible government (Army, Navy, USAF, AEC, etc) files that might contain information relating to Roswell. There had been many charges that the Air Force had been covering up what happened at Roswell. Trying to pass off an essentially internal report as definitive would be like having the fox guard the chicken coop. It was good to hear that the GAO is continuing its efforts to get to the truth.

It was certainly NOT surprising that the Roswell Report continued a long, easily documented, history of USAF misrepresentation about UFOs especially when I found out that the author of RR was USAF Colonel Richard Weaver. He had made outrageous claims about the Roswell-related Operation Majestic 12 documents being fraudulent, but then he was unable to provide any documentation to support those claims in response to my Freedom of Information Request. Although the report was released by the USAF Media Relations Division at 1690 Air Force Pentagon, Weaver works for

the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. He now is with the Region 2 OSI District Office, at Langley AFB near Hampton , Virginia.

BENEFITS

Fortunately there are a number of benefits arising from this attempted preemptive strike:

1. The AF investigators have done some good work showing that what crashed and was retrieved Southeast of Corona and Northwest of Roswell (and in the Plains of San Augustin almost 200 miles to the west) in early July, 1947, was NOT an aircraft, nor a stray missile, nor related to a nuclear weapon incident.

2. The USAF has for the first time, since they admittedly lied and called the wreckage the radar reflector from a weather balloon at about 5PM on July 8, 1947, given a definitive statement as to their explanation (Project Mogul Balloons) for what happened. They even admitted the earlier lie, supposedly done to protect the highly classified Project Mogul, even though they reiterate that the balloon technology, as opposed to the application relating to the detection of Soviet nuclear tests, was NOT classified.

3. It is now easy to demonstrate, based on careful review of the 23 page RR and of hundreds of pages of attachments that the new explanation is once again a LIE. It is not surprising that the attachments have been almost impossible to obtain given the clear evidence of misrepresentation they provide. I do wish to acknowledge the special efforts of researcher Phil Reynolds to gain access to and hand copy the attachments at the Pentagon.

MOGUL

Serious crashed saucer researchers have been aware of Project Mogul for more than a decade. The Project Engineer of the Project, C.B. Moore, was interviewed by William Moore (no relation) when Bill and I were busily researching Roswell in the early 1980s. Aviation/Science Writer Don Berliner, with whom I co authored "Crash at Corona", and I met with C.B. Moore and separately with one of his Mogul colleagues years ago. We had no reason to doubt Moore's sincerity in trying to fit the Roswell wreckage with the remains of a stray Mogul balloon train. The assemblies of conventional balloons could be as long at 500 feet. The key factor seemed to be that Dr. Moore and many others assumed that the description given by sheep rancher Mac Brazel in an article "Harassed Rancher who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He told About It" on the front page of the July 9, 1947, Roswell Daily Record, truly reflected what he retrieved.

Much of that article is quoted in Weaver's report (p.4) and serves as the basis for everything that follows. As one might expect, the long quote doesn't include the very next line of the article "I am sure that what I found was not any weather observa-

tion balloon" . Far more important is the simple fact, which has been documented in all 4 of the Roswell books (all listed in Weaver's opus, though selectively ignored) that Brazel had been grabbed by the Army Air Force and been brought back from his ranch into town and then told an entirely new story to the local press.

All over the world people were waiting with baited breath for the rest of the story, epitomized by the RDR news headline of July 8 "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region". Similar sometimes larger headlines appeared in other evening papers from Chicago west in response to the press release at about noon Roswell time on July 8 from Lt. Walter Haut . For example, The Los Angeles Herald Express, another PM paper, on July 8 had a huge headline, "Army Finds Flying Saucer"

Haut was then the Public Information Officer among other titles at The Roswell Army Air Field home of the 509th Composite Bomb Group. The 509th was a unique military group having dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945, and set off two more at Operation Crossroads in the summer of 1946. All the officers had been handpicked, including then Major Jesse Marcel, 509th Intelligence Officer. Marcel had followed Brazel from the Roswell Sheriff's office back to his not-easy-to-get-to ranch with Counter Intelligence Officer Sheridan W. Cavitt in separate vehicles the afternoon of July 6.

The newspaper article's description clearly indeed describes a conventional balloon and radar reflector and notes a date of June 14 for the non-exciting retrieval. The simple fact of the matter is that Brazel would never have made a special trip to town with balloon wreckage. Sheriff Wilcox would never have called the base in response to balloon wreckage. Major Marcel would never have wasted more than a day of his time and CIC man Cavitt's time to go out to the ranch for a balloon or balloons of any kind and would certainly not have been ordered by Colonel Blanchard, the Base Commander and head of the 509th, to fly the balloon remains to Wright Field, in Ohio, with an intermediate stop at 8th Air Force Headquarters in Ft. Worth, Texas. All of the old testimony, much of it obtained prior to the 1980 publication of "The Roswell Incident" for which Bill Moore and I did 95% of the research, clearly made several important points;

1. The retrieved material, unlike components of Mogul Balloons, had very special properties including very light weight and very great strength. Some of the foil like material could be folded and creased, but then would return to its original shape. The I-beam like pieces (less than .5" across, had the weight of balsa wood, but couldn't be broken or cut or burned. There were embossed strange unrecognizable pastel symbols on the inside of the beams. Dr. Jesse Marcel, who handled pieces of the wreckage on the evening of July 7 as an 11 year old boy has drawn those symbols. The thin metal pieces, which were also very light and very strong, couldn't be broken through or dented with a sledge hammer. There was no mention of embossed tape which is so impor-

tant to the Mogul explanation and which apparently was well over an inch wide.

Rancher Mac Brazel's son, Bill, had himself recovered a number of pieces at the debris field after rain storms long after the event and also noted the special characteristics. Naturally his testimony is not noted, though he is still alive, and Weaver claims that Cavitt is the only survivor who handled wreckage on site. By implication the now deceased Marcel and Rickett were exaggerating incompetents. I having been in both their homes could not disagree more.

2. There was a huge area covered by the wreckage. Major Marcel spoke (for example, in my 1979 documentary movie "UFOs Are Real" and in the TV Program "In Search of" and in an extended WWL-TV Interview, New Orleans, and in a December, 1979, interview with Bob Pratt of the National Enquirer, published in February 1980) in terms of an area 3/4 of a mile long and hundreds of feet wide. Brazel was primarily concerned, when he originally found the wreckage on about July 3, (not June 14) that his sheep refused to cross the large debris field. He would also have been concerned about ingestion of the material, if it had been balloon like. Jesse noted that both his vehicle and that of Sheridan Cavitt had been filled with debris, but that most of the wreckage was left behind.

3. Major Marcel was familiar with all kinds of weather balloons from his very extensive wartime military service in the Pacific. Rancher Brazel had previously recovered two weather Balloons on the property he managed. Dr. Marcel is familiar with weather balloons, and was certainly familiar with aircraft wreckage having later been shot down himself in Southeast Asia, having served on Military Aircraft Accident investigation teams and being a pilot and flight surgeon. Colonel William Blanchard had extensive military and piloting experience during World War 2. Obviously, considering their jobs with the 509th, Blanchard and Marcel were considered very competent. Blanchard was a 4 star General when he died of a heart attack at the Pentagon years later. Obviously neither Marcel, (who was promoted to Lt. Colonel after the incident) nor Blanchard were punished for stupidity. Marcel also had on his staff persons knowledgeable about weather balloons.

There are also key points made by Weaver:

1. "the materials recovered by the AAF in July 1947, were not readily recognizable as anything special (only the purpose was special) and the recovered debris itself was unclassified" p.19

2. In a long paragraph (p.18) dealing with Mogul balloons, it was noted that "it is very probable that this TOP SECRET project Balloon train (Flight 4) made up of unclassified components came to rest some miles northwest of Roswell, NM, became shredded in the surface winds and was ultimately found by the Rancher, Brazel, ten days later." Earlier Weaver stated that Flight 4

would have to have been made with standard neoprene balloons because the new polyethylene balloons weren't available until after July 2 . He also quotes C.B. Moore as stating that ruptured and shredded neoprene "would almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days". "Flight 4, a service flight, was launched on June 4 but not recovered by the NYU group and was found by Brazel ten days later". This, of course, matches nicely the newspaper story of July 9.

It is easy to see that this all comes down to massive misrepresentation once one adds in Cavitt's description of what he found when he supposedly went to the "crash site" in early July with Marcel and Sgt. Rickett one of Cavitt's Counter Intelligence Corps agents. "The area of this debris was very small about 20 feet square and the material was spread on the ground, but there was no gouge or crater or other obvious sign of impact. I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon. We gathered up some of this material, which would easily fit into one vehicle." From Tab. 17. Note: One balloon, standard issue, no mention of reflector, no ashes, no tape, no symbols no flakes, 400 square feet ground space, and we are to believe that Brazel would have gone to the sherrif with this???

The newspaper article quotes Brazel's (preprogrammed) statement as saying the wreckage was "scattered over an area 200 yards in diameter". This is only 700 times greater than the area mentioned by Cavitt. Brazel supposedly left it in place until gathering it on July 4 a full month later. He then, supposedly after hearing about flying discs on July 5, presumably during a trip noted elsewhere to Corona, then took it to the sheriff on July 7.. This sequence is completely contradicted by the family of Sheriff Wilcox, by Brazel's son Bill, by Jesse Marcel Sr. who stated back in 1978 that he had gone only with Cavitt. Rickett later went with Cavitt, not Marcel, to the site , as Marcel had gone off to Texas and wasn't part of the CIC in any event.

In my first conversation with Jesse in early 1978, he noted that they spent overnight on the Brazel ranch and had a can of beans. This clearly was July 6, since we know that the press release and Jesse's trip to Fort Worth took place on July 8. Brazel clearly came or was brought back to town after Marcel left for Texas or his interview would have been in the PM paper on July 8 not on July 9. It must be noted that Brazel had no phone and no electricity.

Obviously the neoprene material having been out in the sun for a month would have been broken down into ashes or flakes, and of no interest at all to anyone. The tin foil and balsa wood were hardly indestructible. Considering the circumstances it is impossible to accept Cavitt's testimony. In the first place, if he had recognized it as a simple weather balloon, he would never have hesitated to say so to the many researchers who beat a path to his door after I found him and informed Bill Moore of his whereabouts. He would certainly have made sure that no special flight

took place, would not have returned to the site, would not have denied ever being there as he did. The sheriff would not have been impressed with the remains of a very conventional neoprene balloon. He wouldn't have called the base. If he had, Major Marcel would not have been impressed either.

Furthermore, in attachment 32 we have the following statement by Lt. James McAndrew in response to his own question as to how experienced military people could have not recognized the wreckage for what it was. "The balloon that was found on the Foster Ranch consisted of as many as 23 350 gram balloons spaced at 20 foot intervals, several radar targets (3 to 5), plastic ballast tubes, parchment parachutes, a black "cutoff" box containing portions of a weather instrument and a sonobuoy".

There is no way all this junk (having been shredded and out in the sun for a month) could have been thought worth a long trip to Roswell. It could not have fit in an area 20 feet square or in one vehicle.

Note that Cavitt says nothing about the radar targets or the string that held things together.

ATTACKS ON RESEARCHERS

Weaver takes every opportunity, sometimes justifiably, to complain about the quality of some of the UFO research. Over the years I have exposed a number of frauds including Guy Kirkwood, William Spaulding, Bob Lazar, "Dr." Frank Stranges, Robert Oechler. I have noted many false claims about Roswell as well. For example, he notes that in one book (Probably "UFO Crash at Roswell)", a list of 11 names of military persons stationed at Roswell is given and the claim made that there are no military records for these people. In fact, Weaver's people found records for 8 of the 11 and there were too many persons with the same name to identify the other three.

He, as with most propagandists, says good things about people whose work he approves of, for example, referring to Robert Todd as a serious researcher. I am mentioned in the report twice, but there is no indication that I am a nuclear physicist with BS and MS degrees in physics from the University of Chicago, who had a "Q" clearance, visited many archives, worked on classified programs, published scientific papers. Todd has no degrees, had no clearance, has visited no archives, lives at home, has published no scientific papers. He certainly has filed a zillion Freedom of Information requests and seems to have provided Weaver with most of the input on Mogul. He has a long history of letting his personal animosities interfere with objective thinking.

Quite frankly, I had to laugh at this comment by Weaver giving the genesis of the investigation of Roswell as a major UFO event: "In 1978, an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper, the National Inquirer (sic), which reported the former intelligence officer, Marcel, claimed that he had recovered UFO debris near

Roswell in 1947. Also in 1978, a UFO researcher, Stanton Friedman, met with Marcel and began investigating the claims that the material Marcel handled was from a crashed UFO." The truth of the matter is that I didn't actually meet with Marcel in person until early 1979, but had phone conversations with him beginning in early 1978 after having been referred privately to him by an old ham radio buddy of his at a TV station in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The date of Enquirer reporter Bob Pratt's interview with Marcel was actually December 8, 1979, as noted in Karl Pflock's report which, in turn, is referenced by Weaver. The article appeared in February, 1980, and obviously had nothing whatsoever to do with the extensive prior research by Moore and I. This sequence of my involvement was reported in "Crash at Corona" and in my 1991 paper "Update on Crashed Saucers in New Mexico" also not mentioned by Weaver, though he does refer to Bill Moore's 1985 paper "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof." Certainly Weaver implies that Marcel contacted the Enquirer and that my research was stimulated by the Enquirer article.. both are nonsense. As it happens, Pratt whose work I was very familiar with and greatly admired (unlike that of William Broad's NY Times UFO" investigation") got Marcel's location from me after almost all of our research had been done.

There are several more places in Weaver's piece that refer back to the July 9 RDR article. It is, of course, not surprising that essentially no mention is made of so much other relevant first hand testimony available, for example, in the 104 minute video "Recollections of Roswell" with testimony from 28 witnesses.

Naturally, Weaver never mentions the Operation Majestic 12 Documents which I believe are genuine despite the attacks by Robert Todd, Kevin Randle, Philip Klass, etc, and his own totally unjustified attacks on them. He never deals with the very important recovery of an almost intact saucer and alien bodies in the Plains of San Agustin in New Mexico, at the same time and West of Magdalena. Matter of fact, while taking potshots at the notion of alien bodies, he avoids discussion by claiming that since what was recovered was a Mogul balloon, it couldn't have carried bodies! Nothing like research by proclamation.

Weaver claims "What was later characterized as 'the UFO Wave of 1947' began with 16 alleged sightings between May 17 and July 12, 1947, (although some researchers claim there were as many as 800 sightings during that period)." "Crash at Corona" references the "Report on the UFO Wave of 1947". Author Ted Bloecher has maps and tables and lists 853 reports, a number of which were checked out by University of Arizona physicist, Dr. James E. McDonald. Bloecher continued his collection after the report was published and found over 700 more. Too bad Weaver couldn't be bothered.

Weaver stresses that there is disagreement within the UFO community about the location of crash sites and exact dates of the crashes. From a rational viewpoint, the correct question is "was

there a crash and recovery of at least one alien spacecraft in New Mexico in July, 1947? The answer agreed to by all of us who have written books about the matter is unquestionably "yes", no matter how much we disagree about some of the details.

Weaver alludes to profit making by people concerned with Roswell. I wish I knew where all this profit was as a result of my 16 years of effort and enormous telephone and travel and time expenses. He never mentions that three of the people interviewed Lt. Colonel Sheridan Cavitt, USAF ret, The Mogul Project Officer Colonel Albert Trakowski, USAF Retired, and weatherman Irving Newton, Major, USAF Ret., are all collecting nice pensions, get medical care, etc and have a very strong vested interest in NOT upsetting the apple cart at this point in their lives. They don't need to be threatened.

INDEMNIFICATION

Weaver claims that the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila Widnall, has given them the opportunity to tell without fear of retribution anything they might know about these events including anything that might have been classified, to the investigators. The indemnification documents are not listed among the attachments. I challenge the US Air Force to make a blanket declaration indemnifying any and all former Army Air Force or Air Force personnel from punishment should they speak their mind about any aspect of the recovery and analysis of any crashed flying saucer in New Mexico in 1947. If there were no crashed saucers and no coverup, they have nothing to fear.

Weaver also suggests that it would be impossible to conduct a serious investigation of crashed flying saucers and alien bodies without leaving a huge Air Force paper trail. During World War 2 Dr. Vannevar Bush headed the Office of Scientific Research and Development under which aegis the Manhattan Project was operated to develop atomic bombs along with projects relating to the Proximity fuse, radar, and many other technologies. He noted in his Oral History at MIT that there were weekly meetings of the four leaders of the Manhattan Project. There were no secretaries, no agendas, no minutes; in short no paper trail. They surely got the job done.

Since much of the Manhattan Project was conducted in New Mexico, it seems very very likely that the recovery of alien spacecraft and alien bodies would have induced a similar project like the Manhattan Project relating to the saucers, such as Operation Majestic 12, a special effort completely outside the USAF and other standard military groups. The USAF concern is the here and now, not the futuristic technological, economic, biological, religious, etc implications of alien visitations. Quite rightly they were concerned with defending against the expected attack from the Soviet Union. One must note that the NSA was established as an interservice group by a classified executive order in the early 1950s.

PHOTO ANALYSIS

Weaver makes a big deal of having located the pictures of General Ramey, Colonel Dubose, Major Marcel, Major Newton taken in Ramey's office at Fort Worth, and having those pictures analyzed by the CIA. I originally had located those pictures in 1979 at the Fort Worth Star Telegram. Not one researcher of whom I am aware seriously believes that the material shown in those pictures is the strange stuff found at the Foster Ranch. It was indeed the tin foil and balsa wood radar reflector used with weather balloons. It hardly matches either the Mogul balloon wreckage of which Weaver is so fond or the weird material described by the Brazels and the Marceles and others.

Weaver claims that the threats supposedly made to witnesses were obviously ineffective since so many people have talked. He fails to note that there are still individuals from the military unwilling to go public. We need a blanket indemnification for these people. I don't mean characters like Frank Kaufman who were everywhere, knew everything, but can provide nothing to substantiate their off-the-wall claims so have nothing to fear except the contempt of those who find their testimony totally unbelievable.

After all, the pictures of balloon radar reflector wreckage and Jesse Marcel, DuBose, Ramey, and Newton appeared in many newspapers. Much of what they said was actually a matter of public record. Walter Haut's name, often misspelled, was all over the place. Most of the people who were threatened WERE NEVER NOTED IN PUBLIC do NOT have documentation to prove their claims nor are still alive. After all, if that TV Station manager hadn't suddenly suggested my talking to Jesse Marcel, we would still know nothing about Roswell.

As for Weaver's apparent shock at the suggestion that the USAF has covered up anything about UFOs, besides lying about the weather balloon to protect Project Mogul, whose technology was totally conventional, and needed no protection, let us note some examples:

A. In October 1955 The USAF issued a press release concerning a huge study done about UFOs. They, of course, didn't say where the work was done (Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, a very well respected Research and Development firm), nor give the names of the researchers or even the title of the Huge Final report of the Study "Project Blue Book Special Report 14". They put out a supposed summary of the study which gives none of the data included in the more than 240 charts, tables, and graphs in the report. The focus was on new strange aircraft on which the government was working. The press release included this completely false statement by, of all people, the Secretary of the USAF "On the basis of this report, we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflowed the United States. Even the unknown 3% could have been identified as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observation-

al data had been available."

These two "factual" statements are both lies. 21.5 % of the 3201 sightings investigated by BMI could not be explained (not 3%), completely separate and distinct from the 10.5 % listed as insufficient information. The data in the report show that the better the quality of the sighting, the more likely to be listed as an Unknown, and that the probability that the Unknowns were just missed knowns was less than 1%. In short, the USAF lied and the press repeated the lies. It isn't surprising that none of the 11 anti-UFO books even mention BBSR 14, even though all the authors were aware of it.

In 1969, when Project Blue Book was closed, another splendidly done totally misleading press release was issued by the Air Force giving three totally misleading conclusions from Project Blue Book namely that "No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security 2. There has been no evidence submitted to, or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "Unidentified" represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge and 3) There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" are extraterrestrial vehicles." Obviously penguins in Antarctica aren't a threat to US security either, but they certainly are real. If one of the 3 functions were performed by some other agency (NSA or NRO, CIA, DIA, NASA, ONI, Majestic, etc) the statement would be true, but irrelevant. I have worked on fission and fusion programs for deep space travel so number 2 is meaningless as well. For 3 what if those really good cases were listed as Interstellar Alien Craft or some such rather than Unidentified???

Not surprisingly, the USAF in 1993 and 1994 was feeding out more lies now to Congressman, again focusing on Project Blue Book and its totally misleading 1969 conclusions. They also falsely claimed that the USAF didn't get involved in UFO research until 1948 (gets rid of Roswell the easy way), that the USAF knows of nobody besides the National Archives who has any UFO data, that all there was, was Blue Book, Sign and Grudge. These are all lies especially in view of the legal actions against the CIA and the NSA which proved that both are withholding UFO data and the USAF General Carroll Bolender's 1969 memo which states that reports of UFOs which could effect national security would continue to be made in accordance with JANAP 146 and Air Force Manual 55-11 and are NOT part of the Blue Book system. The Air Defense Command was NOT part of Blue Book and BB didn't have a need to know for their data.

NEW YORK TIMES

As bad as Weaver's piece is, the press coverage, especially by the New York Times, is actually much more distressing because it will have influenced so many more people. There it was Front Page of the Sunday Edition, Sept. 18, 1994. The 60 column inch piece

was by science writer William Broad, whose work I normally admire. For example, he early on broke a story about over 100 unannounced underground nuclear explosions conducted in the Southwest. Broad seems to have started from the proposition that there is nothing to the notion of flying saucers in General or crashed saucers in particular. It is only in the last 3 inches of his piece that he says anything about the Roswell story.

The rest of the article tells us far more than we want to know about the Mogul Balloon Project. For reasons unknown, Broad seems to think this long cancelled project is important news in 1994. He did interview Colonel Trakowski who casually remarks, as though he knew anything at all about the matter "In New Mexico flying saucerism has become a minor industry. There are whole museums dedicated to the presentation of outrageous fictions". Broad can't be bothered mentioning the 509th (the only atomic Bombing group in the world), or Major Marcel, its intelligence officer. He lists some books about Roswell, but not "Crash at Corona" though I am the original investigator and this is the only Roswell book co-authored by a scientist and an Aviation/Science writer as opposed, for example, to a writer of fiction.etc..

He mentions and quotes Walter Haut at the Roswell UFO Museum and Research Center, but doesn't even mention that he was the one who issued the press release. Despite Trakowski's crack about fictions, Broad doesn't mention that Trakowski is almost blind, that the museum is staffed by volunteers and charges no admission fee. Broad couldn't be bothered mentioning or interviewing any of the key witnesses such as Dr. Marcel, Bill Brazel, Glenn Dennis, etc.

Broad has no qualms at all at about repeatedly insulting those of us who, after many years of effort, have come to the conclusion that some UFOs are alien spacecraft. Included in his article are such terms as "flying saucer fans, cover up theorists, flying saucer cultists, conspiracy theories, flying saucer devotees," etc ad nauseum. He seems completely oblivious to the fact that opinion polls have shown for thirty years that believers outnumber non-believers, and that the greater the education the more likely to accept the notion of UFO reality. Polls of engineers and scientists show that about 2/3 of them who express an opinion accept UFO reality. It is the nasty noisy negativists and debunkers who deserve the insults for their irrational unscientific comments about UFOs.

Not for Broad is there any mention of the Five large scale scientific studies, the dozen or so PhD Theses, the hundreds of UFO articles by scientists such as Dr. Bruce Maccabee and myself. One is reminded of the comment in Dr. Herbert Strentz's 1970 PhD Thesis about Press coverage of UFOs:

" The high degree of ridicule present in the UFO phenomenon was reflected in the press coverage.. the coverage has been marked by superficiality, redundancy, silliness, careless reporting and lack of relevant information... The lack of relevant information

was also attributable to the reluctance of the press to ferret out information about the phenomenon and those involved in it."

It is 24 years later and yet Broad's article shows how right Strentz was.

As other good examples, we have this statement from the Los Angeles Times (Sept. 27, 1973) "A two year old Gallup Poll reported that more than three million Americans believe Flying Saucers are real. But that still leaves 98 % of the country somewhat doubtful". The fact is that 64% of those who expressed an opinion said they were real. Note this totally false claim from SCIENCE August 20, 1976. "The number of people believing in Flying Saucers remains at about 6% of the adult population according to the Gallup Polls". Both publications refused to publish corrections even when sent the relevant polls!!

Colonel Weaver had claimed that the USAF decision to dig into Roswell was primarily triggered by an article in the January 14, 1994 , issue of the Washington Post about Congressman Schiff and the GAO. I did a 4 page critique of the numerous errors of fact and tone in this article, but had no impact on the editors nor the ombudsman. The basic rules here for debunkers are 1. "Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up", and 2. "What the public doesn't know, we are not going to tell them." and 3. "If one can't attack the data, attack the people."

One more example to illustrate rule 2. Weaver mentions the memo of July 8, 1947, from the Dallas FBI Office and uses this quote "The disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon by a cable, which balloon was approximately 20 feet in diameter... the object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector.. disc and balloon being transported.." Weaver leaves out this clause after radar reflector " But that telephonic conversation between their office and Wright Field had not borne out this belief." I think it is fair to say that this omission is significant.

Isn't it time for those of us who have studied the data to make our voices heard instead of being apologist ufologists or closet ufologists? I have lectured on the subject "Flying Saucers ARE Real" at more than 600 colleges and over 100 professional groups in all 50 states, 9 provinces and 4 other countries. I have only had 10 hecklers, two of whom were drunk . The audience took care of the other 8. If we stay quietly in the closet, we only have ourselves to blame for the misrepresentations of the Weavers and Broads of the world. Remember that we are paying Weaver's salary and Cavitt's retirement benefits.

Top headline "Gen. Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer"
Full width

July 9, 1947, Roswell Daily Record
Page 1, Bottom

Harassed Rancher who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It

W. W. Brazel, 44, Lincoln county rancher living 30 miles south east of Corona, today told his story of finding what the army at first described as a flying disk, but the publicity which attended his find caused him to add that if he ever found anything else about a bomb he sure wasn't going to say anything about it.

Brazel was brought here late yesterday by W. E. Whitmore, of radio station KGFL, had his picture taken and gave an interview to the Record and Jason Kellahan, sent here from the Albuquerque bureau of the Associated Press to cover the story. The picture he posed for was sent out over AP telephoto wire sending machines specially set up in the Record office by R. D. Adair. AP wire chief sent here from Albuquerque for the sole purpose of getting out his picture and that of sheriff George Wilcox, to whom Brazel originally gave the information of his find.

Brazel related that on June 14 he and an 8-year old son, Vernon were about 7 or 8 miles from the ranch house of the J. B. Foster ranch, which he operates, when

they came upon a large area of bright wreckage made up on rubber strips, tinfoil, a rather tough paper and sticks.

At the time Brazel was in a hurry to get his round made and he did not pay much attention to it. But he did remark about what he had seen and on July 4 he, his wife, Vernon and a daughter Betty, age 14, went back to the spot and gathered up quite a bit of the debris.

The next day he first heard about the flying disks, and he wondered if what he had found might be the remnants of one of these.

Monday he came to town to sell some wool and while here he went to see sheriff George Wilcox and "whispered kind a confidential like" that he might have found a flying disk.

Wilcox got in touch with the Roswell Army Air Field and Maj. Jesse A. Martel and a man in plain clothes accompanied him home, where they picked up the rest of the pieces of the "disk" and went to his home to try to reconstruct it.

According to Brazel they simply

could not reconstruct it at all. They tried to make a kite out of it, but could not do that and could not find any way to put it back together so that it would fit.

Then Major Martel brought it to Roswell and that was the last he heard of it until the story broke that he had found a flying disk.

Brazel said that he did not see it fall from the sky and did not see before it was torn up, so he did not know the size or shape it might have been, but he thought it might have been about as large as a table top. The balloon which held it up, if that was how it worked, must have been about 12 feet long, he felt, measuring the distance by the size of the room in which he sat. The rubber was smooth gray in color and scattered over an area about 200 yards in diameter.

When the debris was gathered up the tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks were a bundle about three feet long and 7 or 8 inches thick, while the rubber made a bundle about 14 or 20 inches long and about 4 inches thick. In all, he estimated, the entire lot would

have weighed no more than five pounds. There was no sign of any metal in the area which might have been used for an engine and no sign of any propellers of any kind, although at least one paper fin had been slung onto some of the tin foil.

There were no words to be found anywhere on the instrument, although there were letters on some of the parts. Considerable scratch tape and some tape with flowers printed upon it had been used in the construction.

No strings or wire were to be found but there were some eye-lets in the paper to indicate that some sort of attachment may have been used.

Brazel said that he had previously found two weather observation balloons on the ranch, but that what he found this time did not in any way resemble either of these.

"I am sure what I found was not any weather observation balloon," he said. "But if I find anything else besides a bomb they are going to have a hard time getting me to say anything about it."

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TELETYPE

G.W.
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Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FBI DALLAS

7-5-47

6-17 PM

URGENT

DIRECTOR AND SAC, CINCINNATI

FLYING DISC INFORMATION CONCERNING.

~~REDACTED~~, HEADQUARTERS

EIGHTH AIR FORCE, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THIS OFFICE THAT AN OBJECT
PURPORTING TO BE A FLYING DISC WAS RECOVERED NEAR ROSWELL, NEW
MEXICO, THIS DATE. THE DISC IS HEXAGONAL IN SHAPE AND WAS SUSPENDED
FROM A BALLOON BY CABLE, WHICH BALLOON WAS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY
FEET IN DIAMETER. ~~REDACTED~~ FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE OBJECT
FOUND RESEMBLES A HIGH ALTITUDE WEATHER BALLOON WITH A RADAR
REFLECTOR, BUT THAT TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEIR OFFICE
AND WRIGHT FIELD HAD NOT ~~REDACTED~~ COME OUT THIS DATE. DISC AND
BALLOON BEING TRANSPORTED TO WRIGHT FIELD BY SPECIAL PLANE FOR EXAMINATIC
INFORMATION PROVIDED THIS OFFICE BECAUSE OF NATIONAL INTEREST IN CASE.
~~REDACTED~~ AND FACT THAT NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND
OTHERS ATTEMPTING TO BREAK STORY OF LOCATION OF DISC TODAY. ~~REDACTED~~
~~REDACTED~~ ADVISED WOULD REQUEST WRIGHT FIELD TO ADVISE CINCINNATI
OFFICE RESULTS OF EXAMINATION. NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING
CONDUCTED.



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cc: Mr. ...

15

AIR FORCE EXPLANATION OF 1947 "Roswell" UFO CRASH A LOT OF HOT AIR

The U.S. Air Force recently "explained" the highly controversial story of material recovered from an alleged UFO that crashed in central New Mexico in 1947 as a once-secret Project Mogul balloon. A careful analysis of the 23-page official report, by the Fund for UFO Research, has revealed enough holes in the Air Force theory to bring down the sturdiest of balloons.

Project Mogul was intended to detect sound waves from the first Soviet nuclear test, using a scientific payload suspended beneath a constant-altitude balloon. The clusters of off-the-shelf balloons flown in the early summer of 1947 were merely tests aimed at developing an operational system. They were not actual operational flights with highly classified scientific instruments.

According to the "Report of Air Force Research Regarding the 'Roswell Incident'", "the material was...most probably from Flight 4". But the Flight Log (Attachment #27) does not list a Flight 4, but rather begins with Flight 5, launched on June 5. There is no known evidence that there ever was a Flight 4.

Had there been such a flight, it would have have been launched no later than June 5, and thus at least a month before the debris was found on the Foster Ranch, near Corona, NM, by ranch foreman William "Mac" Brazel. The debris was on a frequently-inspected section of the ranch, and thus would have been found much sooner than early July.

Moreover, an Air Force-quoted statement from Prof. Charles B. Moore, a recognized authority on balloons, and a participant in the Project Mogul program, is seriously at odds with the official conclusion. According to Prof. Moore, the neoprene balloons used in the first test flights were susceptible to rapid degradation in the sunlight, and "would look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days."

In a week, let alone a month or more, such "flakes or ashes" would have been so widely scattered by the frequently strong winds that no one could possibly have noticed them. Even if they could have been seen, they would hardly have been described by witnesses as resembling metallic foil.

Maj. Jesse Marcel, Intelligence Officer of Roswell Army Air Field, and one of the first two military persons on the scene, is on videotape describing an area 2/3 of a mile long and several hundred feet wide, littered with strange material. He said there was a large quantity of what looked like metallic foil, but was both lighter and much stronger

than common household aluminum foil. He said it could not be creased, cut, punctured, burned or even dented with a 16-pound sledge hammer.

He said that he and Counter-Intelligence Corps officer Sheridan Cavitt loaded their two vehicles with a small portion of the material and took it back to Roswell Army Air Field. Could the remains of a cluster of small balloons possibly account for the quantity (to say nothing of the nature) of what first-hand witnesses said they saw, handled and helped transport?

Prior to disintegrating, the balloons would have been intact, though some of them would have been damaged by the punctures or rips which caused them to descend. But the whole assembly would have still been tied together, and would have covered a very limited portion of the estimated 50 acres.

The balloons would have had to explode in order to distribute their pieces over such a large area. But helium-filled Project Mogul test balloons could not have exploded, since helium is an inert gas. Thus each of them would have been in one piece when it landed. And if what was found was neoprene, either the just-landed pieces would have been in good shape and thus recognizable as neoprene, or they would have been in the process of disintegrating, and would have crumbled when picked up by Marcell and Cavitt.

Among the items of videotaped eye-witness testimony ignored by the Air Force report is that of the son of Maj. Marcel, Dr. Jesse Marcel, who is now an M.D., Army National Guard helicopter pilot and flight surgeon. He describes, in great detail, not only the odd metallic foil, but also slender metallic I-beams which he says displayed unrecognizable symbols embossed in a strange pinkish-purplish color on their webs.

Just what it was that crashed on the New Mexico sheep ranch in 1947 is unknown. But no evidence exists to show that it was any kind of balloon, experimental airplane, test missile or anything else mundane, as suggested by the Air Force. The repressive behavior of military personnel at the time is not consistent with this view.

Was it an alien spacecraft, as so many are now suggesting? We don't know, but unless a convincing alternative explanation is forthcoming, that remains an open possibility.

For further information, contact Don Berliner, Fund for UFO Research, at (703) 684-6032.

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER

79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E3B 2V1
CANADA

Richard L. Weaver, Col. USAF (506) 457-0232
Deputy for Security and
Investigative Programs (SAF/AAZ)
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Department of the Air Force
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Subject: Majestic 12 Documents

Dear Colonel Weaver:

Feb. 13, 1994

Mr. Nicholas Redfern of England has been kind enough to send along copies of your letters to him of October 12 and 29, 1993. These letters contain a number of statements about the lack of legitimacy of the MJ-12 documents. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be even a hint or a whisper of any evidence, any report, any investigation to substantiate these claims.

On the other hand, having first heard of these documents about 9 years ago and having devoted an enormous amount of effort, time, and money to serious attempts to determine legitimacy, I have reached the conclusion that the 3 primary documents are very likely genuine; specifically (1) the 8 pages of the Eisenhower Briefing of Nov. 18, 1952, which includes (2) the Truman Forrestal Memorandum of Sept. 24, 1947, as attachment A and (3) the Cutler-Twining Memo of July 14, 1954, I have spent hundreds of hours at a total of 15 archives. I have contacted families of MJ-12 members, have contacted former associates of President Truman and written a large report and a number of shorter papers.

My conclusions based on my intensive study and investigation are that the 3 documents are very likely genuine since there is so much internal data, not known to any one outside the government at the time they were received, that turns out to be true. In addition, I have yet to hear one anti-MJ-12 argument that stands up to careful scrutiny. If you have any, please forward same.

Having worked as a scientist under security for 14 years, I can indeed understand the need for having a policy to deal with documents marked TOP SECRET MAJIC. What I cannot understand are your totally unsubstantiated claims that

1. "The Air Force considers the "MJ-12" (both the group described and the purported documents) to be bogus." To whom in the Air Force are you referring? Or is this a purely personal, as opposed to professional, opinion not requiring substantiation?

2. the issue "is universally viewed in security and investigative circles as an obvious hoax."

I trust that you have some reports from somewhere showing that (1) is an official Air Force position based on investigation as opposed to proclamation, and that you have reports from various security and investigative circles again providing evidence? Please consider this letter an FOIA request for these documents.

If you do not have any official reports or any evidence or any investigation, and having already stated that the documents did not originate with the Air Force, how can you, as a presumably responsible public official, make these claims? Isn't it incumbent that government officials tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to citizens? I am still a US citizen.

I shall enclose my 108 page Final Report on Operation Majestic 12 of which I have sold hundreds of copies. Copies of the documents are included after page 60.. not yet marked Bogus. The last 3 pages list some of the many pieces of included information that surprisingly turned out to be true. In the text I deal with a host of arguments (more are in my 1992 paper) made by anti-MJ-12 buffs. Note, too, the \$1000. check to me from P.J. Klass for my proving him wrong about the Pica type on the Cutler-Twining memo. He, too, prefers to make proclamations rather than doing homework. In the interest of fairness, you ought to refer anybody seeking MJ-12 information to my report, don't you think? I am, after all a professional scientist who spent a great deal of effort. What are your qualifications in this MJ-12 matter besides writing letters? How many archives have you visited??? How many investigative reports have you written about MJ-12??? This is a FOIA request for all of them.

There is no question that government agencies are indeed withholding UFO information. This is fact NOT theory. If you don't believe it, then please provide, as a minimum, the 156 NSA UFO documents which were also withheld from Federal Judge Gesell, or the 11 CIA UFO documents (just the tip of the iceberg) withheld from me. Perhaps you could also provide a justification for the Dec. 1981, USAF OSI memo instructing its units NOT to follow their own regulations should they receive a FOIA request from me about UFOs? A copy of this disgraceful OSI document is enclosed along with the brief paper about the Cosmic Watergate.

Colonel Weaver, the cold war is over. Hopefully the days of blind acceptance of anti-UFO propoganda issued by various US government agencies are over as well. Even the KGB is talking about UFOs. I would be willing to make a presentation about MJ-12 in particular or the UFO subject in general before any group (official or not) of your choosing. Are you willing to put your anti-MJ-12 case on the line? More importantly, do you have an anti-MJ-12 case?

Awaiting your response with great interest,
Most cordially,


Stanton T. Friedman

Enclosures include my MJ-12 report, my CV which lists my 62 UFO papers, a few responses from my more than 600 college and 100 professional lecture audiences, and information about my book Crash at Corona, which also includes the MJ-12 Documents.

CC: Congressman Steven Schiff, various journalists, and others.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 1 2 1993

SAF/AAZ
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330

Mr. Nicholas Redfern
20 Paradise Lane
Pelsall
Walsall
West Midlands
WS3 4NH
England

Dear Mr. Redfern

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (undated) concerning the so-called "Majestic 12" or "MJ-12." We have no documents responsive to your request.

Having said that, however, I can state that the Air Force considers the "MJ-12" (both the group described and the purported documents) to be bogus. In fact, we mark copies of the "documents" that come into our possession with the annotation "NOT AN OFFICIAL AIR FORCE DOCUMENT, NOT CLASSIFIED, SUSPECTED FORGERY OR BOGUS DOCUMENT."

Such marking, of course, only proves to "true believers" that we are obviously part of a gigantic on-going cover up regarding the "documents". These marking do, however, alert persons who may come into contact with them that they are not really dealing with TOP SECRET classified documents, and do not have to employ security measures to protect them (usually at great cost and inconvenience to all concerned).

Copies not so marked do, however, from time to time show up in government offices in the following manner: An MJ-12 buff mails a copy of the "documents" to a government office or hands them to a security guard, purposely pointing out that they are marked TOP SECRET. The guard or secretary panics (most have never seen a TOP SECRET document before) and begins to take heroic measures to protect the "information" from further disclosure. Calls to the authorities are made, security containers acquired, guards posted, security officers notified, etc. Ultimately, of course, it is learned that these "documents are bogus". Meanwhile, the "MJ-12" buffs,


conclude that, since such security measures are employed only for classified material, the initial government reaction and application of such procedures to the "documents" is acknowledgment by the government that they are, in fact, classified. Hence, their prophesy is fulfilled and they can use this incident as further "proof" to verify their claims of authenticity of "MJ-12."

Your question concerning prosecution for this hoax is an interesting one. While, it appears there are several statutes that the "author(s)" may have violated; there is no current effort by the government to attempt to identify the author(s) or prosecute them. The whole issue is viewed as a nuisance not worth wasting more time or money on.

If you consider this "no records" determination as an adverse action you may appeal it to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 days from the date of this letter. Please state your reason for reconsideration and attach a copy of this letter. Mail it to:

SAF/AAIS (FOIA)
1620 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1620

Sincerely



RICHARD L. WEAVER, Col, USAF
Deputy for Security and Investigative
Programs (SAF/AAZ)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 29 1993

SAF/AAZ
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1720

Mr. Nicholas Redfern
20 Paradise Lane
Pelsall
Walsall
West Midlands
WS3 4NH
England

Dear Mr. Redfern:

This is in response to your letter of 22 Oct 93 requesting information regarding the so called "MJ-12 documents".

I do not have readily available the citations to potential criminal code violations that the author(s) of the "documents" may have violated because, as I previously stated, no one has been interested in seriously pursuing the issue, which is universally viewed in security and investigative circles as an obvious hoax. Hypothetically, various fraud statutes could possibly be applicable, although many of those require some direct pecuniary gain by the perpetrator(s) as an element of the offense. In this particular case, there appears to be no direct pecuniary gain; although a number of people have obviously benefited indirectly because they used the "documents" to write books. The only real loss (although intangible) is to the U.S. taxpayers who pay the salaries of the government employees who must take time out of their necessary duties to debunk these "documents" when they come to their attention. Additionally, many of the people who either personally bring or write to us regarding these "documents" also lose indirectly because they have been taken in by the perpetrator(s) of this hoax.

As for the second part of your request, I have attached suitably marked copies of these "documents", specifically: (a) "Briefing Document: Operation Majestic Twelve"; (b) "Executive Briefing: Project Aquarius" with the "Snowbird Document," (which references "Sigma"); and (c) the so-called "Aquarius Document."

MARGARET T. POTWATE
RECEIVED - TERRY W. HALLOR
...
...

Hopefully, these will be helpful to you. Good luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. WEAVER, Col, USAF
Deputy for Security and Investigative
Programs (SAF/AAZ)

Attachment
a/s

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER

79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E3B 2Y1
CANADA

(506) 457-0232


Richard L. Weaver, Colonel, USAF
Investigative Programs (SAF/AAZ)
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Department of the Air Force
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Dear Colonel Weaver:

April 3, 1994

This is just a quick note to remind you that my letter of February 13, 1994, (Copy enclosed) included 2 Freedom of Information Act requests related to the Operation Majestic 12 Documents. The law, as I understand it, allows 10 working days for response time. It has been 6 weeks. May I have a response, please?

Most cordially,


Stanton T. Friedman
Enclosure

x 24



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



4/20/94

APR 11 1994

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/AAZ
1720 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1720

Stanton T. Friedman
79 Pembroke Crescent
Fredericton New Brunswick E3B2V1
Canada

Dear Mr. Friedman,

This is in response to your letter of 3 Apr 94 which was characterized as a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The other letter you referenced, dated 13 Feb 94, was not received by this office.

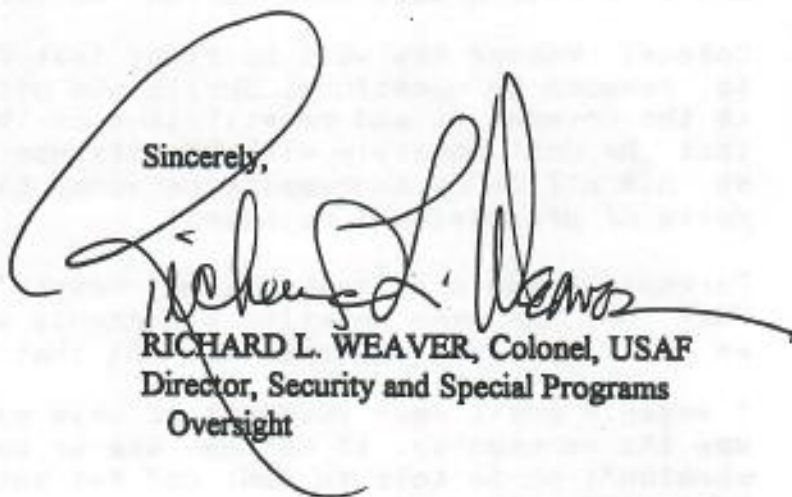
We have no records responsive to your request.

We are not required by the FOIA to provide answers to questions.

If you interpret this "no records" response as a denial, you may appeal this decision to the Secretary of the Air Force within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. Include in your appeal your reasons for reconsideration, and attach a copy of this letter. Address your letter as follows:

SAF/AAIS (FOIA)
1620 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. WEAVER, Colonel, USAF
Director, Security and Special Programs
Oversight

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER

79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E3B 2V1
CANADA

Certified Mail

(506) 457-0232

SAF/AAIS (FOIA)
1620 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Subject: Appeal to denial of FOIA request concerning materials on
Operation Majestic 12, MJ-12, Majic-12

References (enclosed): A. FOIA Requests to Colonel Richard L.
Weaver dated Feb. 13, 1994, with copies of letters from Weaver to
Nicholas Redfern dated October 12 and October 28, 1993

- B. Reminder letter Friedman to Weaver dated April 3, 1994.
- C. FOIA Denial, Weaver to Friedman dated April 11, 1994.
- D. "Final Report on Operation Majestic 12" by S. T. Friedman
- E. Miscellaneous background information.

Gentlemen:

April 21, 1994

I am hereby appealing the April 11 denial to my FOIA request.

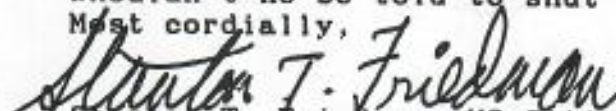
The basic ground for my appeal is that I simply cannot believe that such negative OFFICIAL statements as were made by Colonel Weaver concerning Majestic 12 Documents could be made without there being a paper trail leading up to them. His letters were on Official stationery. Surely there must be memos, letters, records of phone conversations, reports, investigative summaries, some rational basis for the claims he made??? Perhaps instructions from his commanding officer? The comments, after all, were made in his official capacity not as a private citizen. Surely if the views expressed were purely personal ones, they would have been prefaced with a statement to that effect?

Colonel Weaver may well be right that FOIA does not require him to respond to questions. Surely his official oath of allegiance to the government and constitution of the United States requires that he deal honestly with US citizens and not reflect dishonor on his office by expressing personal bias to foreigners in the guise of professional opinions.

Perhaps it would refresh Colonel Weaver's memory if I noted that USAF OST has made negative statements about the MJ-12 Documents as well? and even informed the FBI that they were bogus? Copies??

I eagerly await your reversal of this miscarriage of justice. To use the vernacular, if Colonel Weaver can't put up any data, than shouldn't he be told to shut up? Retract, apologize??

Most cordially,


Stanton T. Friedman, US Citizen

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER

79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E1B 2V1
CANADA

(506) 457-0232

OP-ED
For NY TIMES

The Roswell Incident, the USAF, and the NY Times S. Friedman
Sept. 23, 1994

As a nuclear physicist who has studied UFOs for 36 years and, in 1978, began the research into the 1947 Roswell Incident, I was not surprised at the recent misleading USAF report about the event. There is ample evidence that coverup has been the USAF rule, and that we are dealing with a Cosmic Watergate not a "white lie". But when the NYT (Sept. 18) does a 60 column inch front page story completely ignoring the relevant evidence, that is surprising.

William Broad's article tells us a great deal about Mogul whose existence had been known for many years. It tells us nothing about the overwhelming evidence, outstanding individuals and groups involved in the Roswell Incident. Instead he disparages "flying saucer fans, devotees, cultists". Not a word about 5 large scientific studies, 12 PhD theses, hundreds of articles by professional scientists like myself. Opinion polls for 30 years have shown that UFO "believers" far outnumber non-believers and that, the greater the education, the more likely to accept UFO reality.

I have lectured about UFOs to over 100 professional groups, and 600 colleges and have two University of Chicago physics degrees. Perhaps that is why "Crash at Corona" by myself and aviation science writer Don Berliner isn't mentioned? Cultists?? The UFO debunkers and noisy negativists are the cultists.

The Roswell military group was the 509th, then the world's only atomic bombers, with hand picked officers. A key witness was Major Jesse Marcel, the 509th's intelligence officer. His son, who also handled wreckage, is now an MD, pilot, flight surgeon and served on military aircraft accident investigating teams. There is old testimony from both Marcells and many other witnesses which is in direct conflict with the newly concocted Mogul balloon explanation. There was, after all, nothing special about the Mogul balloon materials. The real wreckage was very special.

In 1979 I located the pictures taken in General Ramey's office. Every book notes that the wreckage is indeed a balloon radar reflector. Why the USAF had the pictures analyzed is beyond me. I can understand this false statement, "In 1978 an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper the National Inquirer(sic) which reported that the former intelligence officer, Marcel, claimed he had recovered UFO debris near Roswell in 1947. Also in 1978 a UFO Researcher, Stanton Friedman, met with Marcel and began investigating the claims...". The Enquirer article actually appeared in February, 1980, long after I and others had conducted a serious and still ongoing investigation. I was referred to Marcel by a TV station manager, a ham radio buddy of Marcel's. There are many notarized statements from first hand witnesses, NOT interviewed by USAF.

The only real correlation between a balloon and the wreckage comes from a July 8 interview with rancher Mac Brazel who made the long trip to Roswell on July 6 (not July 7) and had previously recovered two weather balloons. It has been well documented by Roswell media persons, Brazel's son and neighbors, that he had been taken into custody by the USAAF and given a new story. The AF report even leaves out the next line of the newspaper article, otherwise quoted almost in its entirety, "I am sure that what I found was not any weather observation balloon".

Is there any indication that the much quoted Colonel Trakowski knows anything about the Roswell story in particular, or UFOs in general? Why no mention that several of the key witnesses interviewed by the USAF collect substantial pensions? No vested interests? Why no mention that the Roswell UFO Museum charges no admission and is staffed by volunteers? I have been there. Has Trakowski? Broad mentions Walter Haut, UFO museum president, but not that he was the officer ordered by Colonel William Blanchard, 509th Commander and later a 4-star general, to issue the crashed disc press release.

Pensioned OSI officer Sheridan Cavitt's new testimony is totally at odds with his own previous testimony, with that of others who supposedly accompanied him to the crash site, and with the official USAF conclusion!!

Although both contain much factual material, the NYT article and the USAF piece are almost textbook examples of propaganda with selective choice of data, positive and negative name calling, false reasoning and a cavalier disregard for the truth. FOR SHAME.
Text 698 words

For free scientific UFO info send an SASE to UFO, POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958
-30-

To NY Times. In a 700 word article it is impossible to go into any detail, but I can substantiate all my claims. In 60 column inches, Broad should have noted key details about the Roswell story, not just irrelevant trivia about the MOGUL story.

Here is what Cavitt is quoted as saying (Tab 17) " The area of this debris was very small about 20 feet square, and the material was spread on the ground, but there was no gouge or crater or other obvious sign of impact. I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon. We gathered up some of this material, which would easily fit into one vehicle."

Lt. McAndrew, in contrast, says Tab 32, "The balloon that was found on the Foster Ranch consisted of as many as 23 350 gram balloons spaced at 20 foot intervals, several radar targets (3 to 5) plastic ballast tubes, parchment parachutes, a black "cutoff" box containing portions of a weather instrument and a sonabuoy (Atch.3)." There is nothing here to justify Brazel's long Roswell trip nor Major Marcel's very different 1978 description. If Cavitt recognized a balloon, why not tell all the investigators?

DANIEL K. INOUE
HAWAII

APPROPRIATIONS
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications

Chairman, COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Chairman, DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

Member, COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

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February 2, 1995

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101 AUPUNI STREET, NO. 205
HILO, HI 96720
(808) 935-0844
FAX (808) 961-5163

Mr. George Balazs
992-A Awaawaanoa Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the "Roswell Incident."

I have contacted the General Accounting Office (GAO) and have been informed that their report will be completed in June. However, I have enclosed a copy of the Air Force's report for your review.

Thank you again for your letter. I will contact you as soon as I receive the GAO report.

Aloha,



DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

DKI:agl
Enclosure

**REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH
REGARDING THE
"ROSWELL INCIDENT"**



July 1994

REPORT OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH REGARDING THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Roswell Incident" refers to an event that supposedly happened in July, 1947, wherein the Army Air Forces (AAF) allegedly recovered remains of a crashed "flying disc" near Roswell, New Mexico. In February, 1994, the General Accounting Office (GAO), acting on the request of a New Mexico Congressman, initiated an audit to attempt to locate records of such an incident and to determine if records regarding it were properly handled. Although the GAO effort was to look at a number of government agencies, the apparent focus was on the Air Force. SAF/AAZ, as the Central Point of Contact for the GAO in this matter, initiated a systematic search of current Air Force offices as well as numerous archives and records centers that might help explain this matter. Research revealed that the "Roswell Incident" was not even considered a UFO event until the 1978-1980 time frame. Prior to that, the incident was dismissed because the AAF originally identified the debris recovered as being that of a weather balloon. Subsequently, various authors wrote a number of books claiming that, not only was debris from an alien spacecraft recovered, but also the bodies of the craft's alien occupants. These claims continue to evolve today and the Air Force is now routinely accused of engaging in a "cover-up" of this supposed event.

The research located no records at existing Air Force offices that indicated any "cover-up" by the USAF or any indication of such a recovery. Consequently, efforts were intensified by Air Force researchers at numerous locations where records for the period in question were stored. The records reviewed did not reveal any increase in operations, security, or any other activity in July, 1947, that indicated any such unusual event may have occurred. Records were located and thoroughly explored concerning a then-TOP SECRET balloon project, designed to attempt to monitor Soviet nuclear tests, known as Project Mogul. Additionally, several surviving project personnel were located and interviewed, as was the only surviving person who recovered debris from the original Roswell site in 1947, and the former officer who initially identified the wreckage as a balloon. Comparison of all information developed or obtained indicated that the material recovered near Roswell was consistent with a balloon device and most likely from one of the Mogul balloons that had not been previously recovered. Air Force research efforts did not disclose any records of the recovery of any "alien" bodies or extraterrestrial materials.

INTRODUCTION

Air Force involvement in the alleged UFO-related incident popularly known as the "Roswell Incident" began as the result of a January 14, 1994, Washington Post article (Atch 1) which announced Congressman Steven Schiff's intent to initiate a General Accounting Office (GAO) effort to resolve this controversial matter. Having previously been involved in numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Congressional

requests on "unusual aircraft," to include Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), The Director, Security and Special Program Oversight, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, (SAF/AAZ) believed the Air Force would become involved in any GAO effort involving this subject.

Thus, in late January, 1994, SAF/AAZ directed its research/declassification team, SAF/AAZD, to attempt to locate any official records relative to this matter. These initial research efforts focused on records at the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), Maxwell AFB, AL, the Air Force Safety Agency (AFSA) at Kirtland AFB, NM and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

On February 15, 1994, the GAO officially notified Secretary of Defense William J. Perry that, it was initiating an audit of the Department of Defense (DoD) policies and procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official government documents dealing with weather balloon, aircraft, and similar crash incidents (Atch 2). This notification was subsequently passed to the Department of Defense Inspector General who in turn officially notified the Secretaries of the Services and other affected parties of the audit in a February 23, 1994, memo (Atch 3). This memorandum indicated that the "GAO is anxious to respond to Representative Schiff's request and to dispel any concerns that the DoD is being unresponsive." These were the first official US Government documents that indicated that the purpose of the GAO was to review "crash incidents involving weather balloons and unknown aircraft, such as UFOs and foreign aircraft, and (2) the facts involving the reported crash of an UFO in 1949 (sic, 1947) at Roswell, New Mexico ... (and an) alleged DoD cover-up."

An entrance meeting of potentially concerned parties was held in the offices of the DoD Inspector General on February 28, 1994. During this meeting it was learned that, while the audit officially would be reviewing the records of a number of DoD (and possibly other Executive Branch entities), the bulk of the effort would be focused on Air Force records and systems. The audit was officially given the GAO code 701034, and entitled "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents." Although this official title appeared rather broad, there was no misunderstanding that the real purpose was to attempt to locate records and/or information on the "Roswell Incident." This incident, explained later in more detail, generally dealt with the claim that in July of 1947, the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) recovered a flying saucer and /or its alien occupants which supposedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. When the USAAF ultimately became the United States Air Force (USAF) in September, 1947, the USAF inherited equipment, personnel, records, policies, and procedures from the AAF. In this particular case, the Air Force also inherited the allegation that it had "covered up" the "Roswell Incident" and has continued to do so for the next 47 years.

Within the Air Force, the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AA) is responsible both for information management procedures (SAF/AAI) and security policy and oversight (SAF/AAZ). Because of this organization, SAF/AA was

the logical entity to assist the GAO in its audit and SAF/AAZ was officially named as the Central Point of Contact for this endeavor (Atch 4). Subsequently, the then-Administrative Assistant, Mr. Robert J. McCormick, issued a tasking memorandum dated March 1, 1994 (Atch 5), to a number of current Air Staff and Secretariat offices that might possibly have records related to such an incident if, indeed, something had actually occurred. This search for records was purposely limited to Air Force records and systems since:

- (a) The Air Force had no authority to compel other agencies to review their records;
- (b) The Air Force would have no way to monitor the completeness of their efforts if they did; and
- (c) the overall effort was the task and responsibility of the GAO—not the Air Force.

During the in-briefing process with GAO, it was learned that this audit was, indeed, generated at the specific request of Congressman Steven Schiff of New Mexico. Earlier, Congressman Schiff had written to the Department of Defense Legislative Liaison Office for information on the "Roswell Incident" and had been advised that it was part of the former UFO "Project Bluebook" that had previously been turned over to NARA by the Air Force. Congressman Schiff subsequently learned from NARA that, although they did, indeed, have the "Bluebook" materials, the "Roswell Incident" was not part of that report. Congressman Schiff, apparently perceiving that he had been "stonewalled" by the DoD, then generated the request for the aforementioned audit.

It is within this context that the following research and assistance efforts were conducted in support of the GAO. This report is intended to stand as the final official Air Force response regarding this matter.

THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"—WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN 1947

The modern preoccupation with what ultimately came to be called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) actually began in June, 1947. Although some pro-UFO researchers argue that sightings of UFOs go back to Biblical times, most researchers will not dispute that anything in UFO history can compare with the phenomenon that began in 1947. What was later characterized as "the UFO Wave of 1947" began with 16 alleged sightings that occurred between May 17 and July 12, 1947, (although some researchers claim there were as many as 800 sightings during that period). Interestingly, the "Roswell Incident" was not considered one of these 1947 events until the 1978-1980 time frame. There is no dispute, however, that something happened near Roswell in July, 1947, since it was reported in a number of contemporary newspaper articles; the most famous of which were the July 8 and July 9 editions of the Roswell Daily Record. The July 8 edition reported "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region," while the next day's edition reported, "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It."

The first story reported that the Intelligence Officer of the 509th Bomb Group, stationed at Roswell AAF, Major Jesse A. Marcel, had recovered a "flying disc" from the range lands of an unidentified rancher in the vicinity of Roswell and that the disc had been "flown to higher headquarters." That same story also reported that a Roswell couple claimed to have seen a large unidentified object fly by their home on July 2, 1947.

The July 9 edition of the paper noted that Brigadier General Roger Ramey, Commander of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Texas, stated that upon examination the debris recovered by Marcel was determined to be a weather balloon. The wreckage was described as a "...bundle of tinfoil, broken wood beams, and rubber remnants of a balloon...." The additional story of the "harassed rancher" identified him as W.W. Brazel of Lincoln County, New Mexico. He claimed that he and his son, Vernon, found the material on June 14, 1947, when they "came upon a large area of bright wreckage made up of rubber strips, tinfoil, a rather tough paper, and sticks." He picked up some of the debris on July 4 and "...the next day he first heard about the flying discs and wondered if what he had found might have been the remnants of one of these." Brazel subsequently went to Roswell on July 7 and contacted the Sheriff, who apparently notified Major Marcel. Major Marcel and "a man in plain clothes" then accompanied Brazel home to pick up the rest of the pieces. The article further related that Brazel thought that the material:

"...might have been as large as a table top. The balloon which held it up, if that is how it worked, must have been about 12 feet long, he felt, measuring the distance by the size of the room in which he sat. The rubber was smoky gray in color and scattered over an area about 200 yards in diameter. When the debris was gathered up the tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks made a bundle about three feet long and 7 or 8 inches thick, while the rubber made a bundle about 18 or 20 inches long and about 8 inches thick. In all, he estimated, the entire lot would have weighed maybe five pounds. There was no sign of any metal in the area which might have been used for an engine and no sign of any propellers of any kind. Although at least one paper fin had been glued onto some of the tinfoil. There were no words to be found anywhere on the instrument although there were letters on some of the parts. Considerable scotch tape and some tape with flowers printed upon it had been used in the construction. No string or wire were to be found but there were some eyelets in the paper to indicate that some sort of attachment may have been used. Brazel said that he had previously found two weather balloons on the ranch, but that what he found this time did not in any way resemble either of these."

EVOLUTION OF THE EVENT FROM 1947 TO THE PRESENT

General Ramey's press conference and rancher Brazel's statement effectively ended this as a UFO-related matter until 1978, although some UFO researchers argue that there were several obtuse references to it in 1950's era literature. Roswell, for example, is not referred to in the official USAF investigation of UFOs reported in Project Bluebook or its predecessors, Project Sign and Project Grudge, which ran from 1948-1969 (which Congressman Schiff subsequently learned when he made his original inquiry).

In 1978, an article appeared in a tabloid newspaper, the National Inquirer, which reported the former intelligence officer, Marcel, claimed that he had recovered UFO debris near Roswell in 1947. Also in 1978, a UFO researcher, Stanton Friedman, met with Marcel and began investigating the claims that the material Marcel handled was from a crashed UFO. Similarly, two authors, William L. Moore and Charles Berlitz, also engaged in research which led them to publish a book, The Roswell Incident, in 1980. In this book they reported they interviewed a number of persons who claimed to have been present at Roswell in 1947 and professed to be either first or second hand witnesses to strange events that supposedly occurred. Since 1978-1980, other UFO researchers, most notably Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle, claim to have located and interviewed even more persons with supposed knowledge of unusual happenings at Roswell. These included both civilian and former military persons.

Additionally, the Robert Stack-hosted television show "Unsolved Mysteries" devoted a large portion of one show to a "re-creation" of the supposed Roswell events. Numerous other television shows have done likewise, particularly during the last several years and a made-for-TV movie on the subject is due to be released this summer. The overall thrust of these articles, books and shows is that the "Roswell Incident" was actually the crash of a craft from another world, the US Government recovered it, and has been "covering up" this fact from the American public since 1947, using a combination of disinformation, ridicule, and threats of bodily harm, to do so. Generally, the US Air Force bears the brunt of these accusations.

From the rather benign description of the "event" and the recovery of some material as described in the original newspaper accounts, the "Roswell Incident" has since grown to mythical (if not mystical) proportions in the eyes and minds of some researchers, portions of the media and at least part of the American public. There are also now several major variations of the "Roswell story." For example, it was originally reported that there was only recovery of debris from one site. This has since grown from a minimal amount of debris recovered from a small area to airplane loads of debris from multiple huge "debris fields." Likewise, the relatively simple description of sticks, paper, tape and tinfoil has since grown to exotic metals with hieroglyphics and fiber optic-like materials. Most versions now claim that there were two crash sites where debris was recovered; and at the second site, alleged bodies of extraterrestrial aliens were supposedly retrieved. The number of these "alien bodies" recovered also varied. These claims are further complicated by the fact that UFO researchers are not in agreement among themselves as to exactly where these recovery sites were located or even the dates of the alleged crash(es).

Consistently, however, the AAF was accused of securing these sites, recovering all the material therefrom, keeping locals away, and returning the recovered wreckage (and bodies) to Roswell under extremely tight security for further processing and later exploitation.

Once back at Roswell AAF, it is generally alleged that special measures were taken to notify higher headquarters and arrangements made to have recovered materials shipped to other locations for analysis. These locations include Ft. Worth, Texas, the home of the Eighth Air Force Headquarters; possibly Sandia Base (now Kirtland AFB), New Mexico; possibly Andrews AAF, Maryland, and always to Wright Field, now known as Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The latter location was the home of "T-2" which later became known as the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) and the Air Materiel Command (AMC), and would, in fact, be a logical location to study unknown materials from whatever origin. Most of the Roswell stories that contain the recovery of alien bodies also show them being shipped to Wright Field. Once the material and bodies were dispersed for further analysis and/or exploitation, the government in general, and the Army Air Forces in particular, then engaged in covering up all information relating to the alleged crash and recovery, including the use of security oaths to military persons and the use of coercion (including alleged death threats) to others. This, as theorized by some UFO researchers, has allowed the government to keep the fact that there is intelligent extraterrestrial life from the American public for 47 years. It also supposedly allowed the US Government to exploit recovered extraterrestrial materials by reverse engineering them, ultimately providing such things as fiber optic and stealth technology. The "death threats," oaths, and other forms of coercion alleged to have been meted out by the Army Air Forces personnel to keep people from talking have apparently not been very effective, as several hundred people are claimed to have come forward (without harm) with some knowledge of the "Roswell Incident" during interviews with non-government researchers and the media.

Adding some measure of credibility to the claims that have arisen since 1978 is the apparent depth of research of some of the authors and the extent of their efforts. Their claims are lessened somewhat, however, by the fact that almost all their information came from verbal reports many years after the alleged incident occurred. Many of the persons interviewed were, in fact, stationed at, or lived near Roswell during the time in question, and a number of them claim military service. Most, however, related their stories in their older years, well after the fact. In other cases, the information provided is second or third-hand, having been passed through a friend or relative after the principal had died. What is uniquely lacking in the entire exploration and exploitation of the "Roswell Incident" is official positive documentary or physical evidence of any kind that supports the claims of those who allege that something unusual happened. Conversely, there has never been any previous documentary evidence produced by those who would debunk the incident to show that something did not happen; although logic dictates that bureaucracies do not spend time documenting non-events.

SEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

To insure senior Air Force leadership that there were no hidden or overlooked files that might relate to the "Roswell Incident;" and to provide the GAO with the best and most complete information available, SAF/AZ constructed a strategy based on direct tasking from the Office of the Secretary, to elicit information from those functional offices and organizations where such information might logically be contained. This included directing searches at current offices where special or unusual projects might be carried out, as well as historical organizations, archives, and records centers over which the Air Force exerted some degree of control. Researchers did not, however, go to the US Army to review historical records in areas such as missile launches from White Sands, or to the Department of Energy to determine if its forerunner, the Atomic Energy Commission, had any records of nuclear-related incidents that might have occurred at or near Roswell in 1947. To do so would have encroached on GAO's charter in this matter. What Air Force researchers did do, however, was to search for records still under Air Force control pertaining to these subject areas.

In order to determine parameters for the most productive search of records, a review was first conducted of the major works regarding the "Roswell Incident" available in the popular literature. These works included: The Roswell Incident, (1980) by William Moore and Charles Berlitz; "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof," (1985) by Moore; The UFO Crash at Roswell, (1991) by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt; The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell, (1994) also by Randle and Schmitt; The Roswell Report: A Historical Perspective, (1991), George M. Eberhart, Editor; "The Roswell Events," (1993) compiled by Fred Whiting; Crash at Corona (1992) by Stanton T. Friedman and Don Berliner, as well as numerous other articles written by a combination of the above and other researchers. Collectively, the above represent the "pro" UFO writers who allege that the government is engaged in a conspiracy. There are no specific books written entirely on the theme that nothing happened at Roswell. However, Curtis Peebles in Watch the Skies! (1994) discussed the development of the UFO story and growth of subsequent claims as a phenomenon. There has also been serious research as well as a number of detailed articles written by so-called "debunkers" of Roswell and other incidents, most notably Philip J. Klass who writes The Skeptical Inquirer newsletter, and Robert Todd, a private researcher. The concerns and claims of all the above authors and others were considered in conducting the USAF records search.

It was also decided, particularly after a review of the above popular literature, that no specific attempt would be made to try to refute, point by point, the numerous claims made in the various publications. Many of these claims appear to be hearsay, undocumented, taken out of context, self-serving, or otherwise dubious. Additionally, many of the above authors are not even in agreement over various claims. Most notable of the confusing and now ever-changing claims is the controversy over the date(s) of the alleged incident, the exact location(s) of the purported debris and the extent of the wreckage. Such discrepancies in claims made the search much more difficult by greatly expanding the volume of records that had to be searched.

An example of trying to deal with questionable claims is illustrated by the following example: One of the popular books mentioned that was reviewed claimed that the writers had submitted the names and serial numbers of "over two dozen" personnel stationed at Roswell in July, 1947, to the Veterans Administration and the Defense Department to confirm their military service. They then listed eleven of these persons by name and asked the question: "Why does neither the Defense Department nor the Veteran's Administration have records of any of these men when we can document that each served at Roswell Army Air Field." That claim sounded serious so SAF/AAZD was tasked to check these eleven names in the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Using only the names (since the authors did not list the serial numbers) the researcher quickly found records readily identifiable with eight of these persons. The other three had such common names that there could have been multiple possibilities. Interestingly, one of the listed "missing" persons had a casualty report in his records reflecting that he died in 1951, while the writers claimed to have interviewed him (or a person of the exact same name) in 1990.

While the historical document search was in progress, it was decided to attempt to locate and interview several persons identified as still living who could possibly answer questions generated by the research. This had never been officially done before, although most of the persons contacted reported that they had also been contacted in the past by some of the listed authors or other private researchers. In order to counter possible future arguments that the persons interviewed were still "covering up" material because of prior security oaths, the interviewees were provided with authorization from either the Secretary of the Air Force or the Senior Security Official of the Air Force that would officially allow discussion of classified information, if applicable, or free them from any prior restriction in discussing the matter, if such existed. Again, the focus was on interviewing persons that could address specific issues raised by research and no consideration was given to try and locate every alleged witness claimed to have been contacted by the various authors. For example, one of the interviewees thought vital to obtain an official signed, sworn statement from was Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF (Retired) who is the last living member of the three persons universally acknowledged to have recovered material from the Foster Ranch. Others were also interviewed as information developed (discussed in detail later). Additionally, in some cases survivors of deceased persons were also contacted in an attempt to locate various records thought to have been in the custody of the deceased.

Even though Air Force research originally started in January, 1994, the first official Air Force-wide tasking was directed by the March 1, 1994, memorandum from SAF/AA, (Atch 5) and was addressed to those current Air Staff elements that would be the likely repository for any records, particularly if there was anything of an extraordinary nature involved. This meant that the search was not limited to unclassified materials, but also would include records of the highest classification and compartmentation.

The specific Air Staff/Secretariat offices queried included the following:

- (a) SAF/AAI, Directorate of Information Management
- (b) SAF/AQL, Directorate of Electronics and Special Programs

- (c) AF/SE, Air Force Safety
- (d) AF/HO, Air Force Historian
- (e) AF/IN, Air Force Intelligence (including Air Force Intelligence Agency--AFIA, and the National Air Intelligence Center, NAIC)
- (f) AF/XOW, Directorate of Weather
- (g) (added later) The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI)

In addition to the above Air Staff and Secretariat offices, SAF/AAZ also reviewed appropriate classified records for any tie-in to this matter. With regards to highly classified records, it should be noted that any programs that employ enhanced security measures or controls are known as a Special Access Programs (SAPs). The authority for such programs comes from Executive Order 12356 and flows from the Department of Defense to the Services via DoD Directive 5205.7. These programs are implemented in the Air Force by Policy Directive 16-7, and Air Force Instruction 16-701. These directives contain detailed requirements for controlling and reporting, in a very strict manner, all SAPs. This includes a report from the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense (and ultimately to Congress) on all SAPs submitted for approval, and a certification that there are no "SAP-like" programs being operated. These reporting requirements are stipulated in public law.

It followed then, that if the Air Force had recovered some type of extraterrestrial spacecraft and/or bodies and was exploiting this for scientific and technology purposes, then such a program would be operated as a SAP. SAF/AAZ, the Central Office for all Air Force SAPs, has knowledge of, and security oversight over, all SAPs. SAF/AAZ categorically stated that no such Special Access Program(s) exists that pertain to extraterrestrial spacecraft/aliens.

Likewise, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff, who head the Special Program Oversight Committee which oversees all sensitive programs in the Air Force, had no knowledge of the existence of any such program involving, or relating to the events at Roswell or the alleged technology that supposedly resulted therefrom. Besides the obvious irregularity and illegality of keeping such information from the most senior Air Force officials, it would also be illogical, since these officials are responsible for obtaining funding for operations, research, development, and security. Without funding such a program, operation, or organization could not exist. Even to keep such a fact "covered-up" in some sort of passive "caretaker status" would involve money. More importantly, it would involve people and create paperwork.

The aforementioned March 1, 1994, SAF/AAZ tasking generated negative responses (Atch 6-12) from all recipients; i.e. all offices reported that they had no information that would explain the incident. Consequently, these negative responses led to an increase in the already on-going historical research at records centers and archives.

The extensive archival and records center search was systematically carried out at by the SAF/AAZD Declassification Review Team. This team is composed entirely of Air Force

Reserve personnel who have extensive training and experience in large scale review of records. (Previous efforts include the Southeast Asia Declassification Review, declassification of POW/MIA records, and the review of the Gulf War Air Power Survey records). The team members all had the requisite security clearances for classified information and had the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to declassify any classified record they found that might be related to Roswell. SAF/AAZD conducted reviews at a number of locations, including: the National Archives in Washington, DC; the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO; the National Archives, Suitland MD; the National Records Center, Suitland, MD; Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC; Federal Records Center, Ft Worth, TX; the INSCOM Archives, Ft. Meade, MD; National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, AL; Center for Air Force History, Bolling AFB, DC; Phillips Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA and Kirtland AFB, NM; Rome Laboratory, Griffiss AFB, NY; and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

A listing of the specific record areas searched is appended as Atch 13. The areas included all those subject areas logically believed to possibly contain any reference to activities at Roswell AAF during the period of time in question. It is anticipated that detractors from this effort will complain that "they did not search record group x, box y, or reel z, etc.; that's where the real records are!" Such complaints are unavoidable and there is no possible way that the millions of records under Air Force control could be searched page by page. The team endeavored to make logical searches in those places where records would likely be found. They were assisted in this task by archivists, historians, and records management specialists, including experienced persons who have continually worked in Army and Air Force records systems since 1943. The team also searched some record areas that were recommended by serious private researchers such as Robert Todd, who had independently obtained almost encyclopedic knowledge of the complexities of Air Force records systems, particularly as related to this subject area.

Not surprisingly, the research team found the usual number of problems in many of the records centers (particularly St. Louis) with misfiling, lost or misplaced documents, mismarking of documents, or the breaking up of record groups over the years and refileing in different systems. This included, for example, a small amount of missing "decimal files" from the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell that covered the years 1945-1949, that were marked on the index as "destroyed." The researchers noted that there was no pattern to any anomalies found and that most discrepancies were minor and consistent with what they had found in the past on similar projects.

WHAT THE ROSWELL INCIDENT WAS NOT

Before discussing specific positive results that these efforts revealed, it is first appropriate to discuss those things, as indicated by information available to the Air Force, that the "Roswell Incident" was not:

An Airplane Crash

Of all the things that are documented and tracked within the Air Force, among the most detailed and scrupulous are airplane crashes. In fact, records of air crashes go back to the first years of military flight. Safety records and reports are available for all crashes that involved serious damage, injury, death, or a combination of these factors. These records also include incidents involving experimental or classified aircraft. USAF records showed that between June 24, 1947, and July 28, 1947, there were five crashes in New Mexico alone, involving A-26C, P-51N, C-82A, P-80A and PQ-14B aircraft; however, none of these were on the date(s) in question nor in the area(s) in question.

One of the additional areas specifically set forth by GAO in its efforts was to deal with how the Air Force (and others) specifically documented "...weather balloon...and other crash incidents." In this area, the search efforts revealed that there are no air safety records pertaining to weather balloon crashes (all weather balloons "crash" sooner or later); however, there are provisions for generating reports of "crashes" as ground safety incidents in the unlikely chance that a balloon injures someone or causes damage. However, such records are only maintained for five years.

A Missile Crash

A crashed or errant missile, usually described as a captured German V-2 or one of its variants, is sometimes set forth as a possible explanation for the debris recovered near Roswell. Since much of this testing done at nearby White Sands was secret at the time, it would be logical to assume that the government would handle any missile mishap under tight security, particularly if the mishap occurred on private land. From the records reviewed by the Air Force, however, there was nothing located to suggest that this was the case. Although the bulk of remaining testing records are under the control of the US Army, the subject has also been very well documented over the years within Air Force records. There would be no reason to keep such information classified today. The USAF found no indicators or even hints that a missile was involved in this matter.

A Nuclear Accident

One of the areas considered was that whatever happened near Roswell may have involved nuclear weapons. This was a logical area of concern since the 509th Bomb Group was the only military unit in the world at the time that had access to nuclear weapons. Again, reviews of available records gave no indication that this was the case. A number of records still classified TOP SECRET and SECRET-RESTRICTED DATA having to do with nuclear weapons were located in the Federal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. These records, which pertained to the 509th, had nothing to do with any activities that could have been misinterpreted as the "Roswell Incident." Also, any records of a nuclear-related incident would have been inherited by the Department of Energy (DOE), and, had one occurred, it is likely DOE would have publicly reported it as part of its recent declassification and public release efforts. There were no ancillary records in Air Force files to indicate the potential existence of such records within DOE channels, however.

An Extraterrestrial Craft

The Air Force research found absolutely no indication that what happened near Roswell in 1947, involved any type of extraterrestrial spacecraft. This, of course, is the crux of this entire matter. "Pro-UFO" persons who obtain a copy of this report, at this point, most probably begin the "cover-up is still on" claims. Nevertheless, the research indicated absolutely no evidence of any kind that a spaceship crashed near Roswell or that any alien occupants were recovered therefrom, in some secret military operation or otherwise. This does not mean, however, that the early Air Force was not concerned about UFOs. However, in the early days, "UFO" meant Unidentified Flying Object, which literally translated as some object in the air that was not readily identifiable. It did not mean, as the term has evolved in today's language, to equate to alien spaceships. Records from the period reviewed by Air Force researchers as well as those cited by the authors mentioned before, do indicate that the USAF was seriously concerned about the inability to adequately identify unknown flying objects reported in American airspace. All the records, however, indicated that the focus of concern was not on aliens, hostile or otherwise, but on the Soviet Union. Many documents from that period speak to the possibility of developmental secret Soviet aircraft overflying US airspace. This, of course, was of major concern to the fledgling USAF, whose job it was to protect these same skies.

The research revealed only one official AAF document that indicated that there was any activity of any type that pertained to UFOs and Roswell in July, 1947. This was a small section of the July Historical Report for the 509th Bomb Group and Roswell AAF that stated: "The Office of Public Information was quite busy during the month answering inquiries on the 'flying disc,' which was reported to be in possession of the 509th Bomb Group. The object turned out to be a radar tracking balloon" (included with Atch 11). Additionally, this history showed that the 509th Commander, Colonel Blanchard, went on leave on July 8, 1947, which would be a somewhat unusual maneuver for a person involved in the supposed first ever recovery of extraterrestrial materials. (Detractors claim Blanchard did this as a ploy to elude the press and go to the scene to direct the recovery operations). The history and the morning reports also showed that the subsequent activities at Roswell during the month were mostly mundane and not indicative of any unusual high level activity, expenditure of manpower, resources or security.

Likewise, the researchers found no indication of heightened activity anywhere else in the military hierarchy in the July, 1947, message traffic or orders (to include classified traffic). There were no indications and warnings, notice of alerts, or a higher tempo of operational activity reported that would be logically generated if an alien craft, whose intentions were unknown, entered US territory. To believe that such operational and high-level security activity could be conducted solely by relying on unsecured telecommunications or personal contact without creating any records of such activity certainly stretches the imagination of those who have served in the military who know that paperwork of some kind is necessary to accomplish even emergency, highly classified, or sensitive tasks.

An example of activity sometimes cited by pro-UFO writers to illustrate the point that something unusual was going on was the travel of Lt. General Nathan Twining, Commander of the Air Materiel Command, to New Mexico in July, 1947. Actually,

records were located indicating that Twining went to the Bomb Commanders' Course on July 8, along with a number of other general officers, and requested orders to do so a month before, on June 5, 1947 (Atch 14).

Similarly, it has also been alleged that General Hoyt Vandenberg, Deputy Chief of Staff at the time, had been involved directing activity regarding events at Roswell. Activity reports (Atch 15), located in General Vandenberg's personal papers stored in the Library of Congress, did indicate that on July 7, he was busy with a "flying disc" incident; however this particular incident involved Ellington Field, Texas and the Spokane (Washington) Depot. After much discussion and information gathering on this incident, it was learned to be a hoax. There is no similar mention of his personal interest or involvement in Roswell events except in the newspapers.

The above are but two small examples that indicate that if some event happened that was one of the "watershed happenings" in human history, the US military certainly reacted in an unconcerned and cavalier manner. In an actual case, the military would have had to order thousands of soldiers and airman, not only at Roswell but throughout the US, to act nonchalantly, pretend to conduct and report business as usual, and generate absolutely no paperwork of a suspicious nature, while simultaneously anticipating that twenty years or more into the future people would have available a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act that would give them great leeway to review and explore government documents. The records indicate that none of this happened (or if it did, it was controlled by a security system so efficient and tight that no one, US or otherwise, has been able to duplicate it since. If such a system had been in effect at the time, it would have also been used to protect our atomic secrets from the Soviets, which history has showed obviously was not the case). The records reviewed confirmed that no such sophisticated and efficient security system existed.

WHAT THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT" WAS

As previously discussed, what was originally reported to have been recovered was a balloon of some sort, usually described as a "weather balloon," although the majority of the wreckage that was ultimately displayed by General Ramey and Major Marcel in the famous photos (Atch 16) in Ft. Worth, was that of a radar target normally suspended from balloons. This radar target, discussed in more detail later, was certainly consistent with the description of July 9 newspaper article which discussed "tinfoil, paper, tape, and sticks." Additionally, the description of the "flying disc" was consistent with a document routinely used by most pro-UFO writers to indicate a conspiracy in progress--the telegram from the Dallas FBI office of July 8, 1947. This document quoted in part states: "...The disc is hexagonal in shape and was suspended from a balloon by a cable, which balloon was approximately twenty feet in diameter. ...the object found resembles a high altitude weather balloon with a radar reflector. ...disc and balloon being transported..."

Similarly, while conducting the popular literature review, one of the documents reviewed was a paper entitled "The Roswell Events" edited by Fred Whiting, and sponsored by the

Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). Although it was not the original intention to comment on what commercial authors interpreted or claimed that other persons supposedly said, this particular document was different because it contained actual copies of apparently authentic sworn affidavits received from a number of persons who claimed to have some knowledge of the Roswell event. Although many of the persons who provided these affidavits to the FUFOR researchers also expressed opinions that they thought there was something extraterrestrial about this incident, a number of them actually described materials that sounded suspiciously like wreckage from balloons. These included the following:

Jesse A. Marcel, MD (son of the late Major Jesse Marcel; 11 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated May 6, 1991. "... There were three categories of debris: a thick, foil like metallic gray substance; a brittle, brownish-black plastic-like material, like Bakelite; and there were fragments of what appeared to be I-beams. On the inner surface of the I-beam, there appeared to be a type of writing. This writing was a purple-violet hue, and it had an embossed appearance. The figures were composed of curved, geometric shapes. It had no resemblance to Russian, Japanese or any other foreign language. It resembled hieroglyphics, but it had no animal-like characters...."

Loretta Proctor (former neighbor of rancher W.W. Brazel). Affidavit dated May 5, 1991. "...Brazel came to my ranch and showed my husband and me a piece of material he said came from a large pile of debris on the property he managed. The piece he brought was brown in color, similar to plastic...'Mac' said the other material on the property looked like aluminum foil. It was very flexible and wouldn't crush or burn. There was also something he described as tape which had printing on it. The color of the printing was a kind of purple..."

Bessie Brazel Schreiber (daughter of W.W. Brazel; 14 years old at the time of the incident). Affidavit dated September 22, 1993. "...The debris looked like pieces of a large balloon which had burst. The pieces were small, the largest I remember measuring about the same as the diameter of a basketball. Most of it was a kind of double-sided material, foil-like on one side and rubber-like on the other. Both sides were grayish silver in color, the foil more silvery than the rubber. Sticks, like kite sticks, were attached to some of the pieces with a whitish tape. The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The 'flowers' were faint, a variety of pastel colors, and reminded me of Japanese paintings in which the flowers are not all connected. I do not recall any other types of material or markings, nor do I remember seeing gouges in the ground or any other signs that anything may have hit the ground hard. The foil-rubber material could not be torn like ordinary aluminum foil can be torn..."

Sally Strickland Tadolini (neighbor of WW Brazel; nine years old in 1947). Affidavit dated September 27, 1993. "...What Bill showed us was a piece of what I still think as fabric. It was something like aluminum foil, something like satin, something like well-tanned leather in its toughness, yet was not precisely like any one of those materials. ...It

was about the thickness of very fine kidskin glove leather and a dull metallic grayish silver, one side slightly darker than the other. I do not remember it having any design or embossing on it..."

Robert R. Porter (B-29 flight Engineer stationed at Roswell in 1947). Affidavit dated June 7, 1991. "...On this occasion, I was a member of the crew which flew parts of what we were told was a flying saucer to Fort Worth. The people on board included...and Maj Jesse Marcel. Capt. William E. Anderson said it was from a flying saucer. After we arrived, the material was transferred to a B-25. I was told they were going to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. I was involved in loading the B-29 with the material, which was wrapped in packages with wrapping paper. One of the pieces was triangle-shaped, about 2 1/2 feet across the bottom. The rest were in small packages, about the size of a shoe box. The brown paper was held with tape. The material was extremely lightweight. When I picked it up, it was just like picking up an empty package. We loaded the triangle shaped package and three shoe box-sized packages into the plane. All of the packages could have fit into the trunk of a car. ...When we came back from lunch, they told us they had transferred the material to a B-25. They told us the material was a weather balloon, but I'm certain it wasn't a weather balloon..."

In addition to those persons above still living who claim to have seen or examined the original material found on the Brazel Ranch, there is one additional person who was universally acknowledged to have been involved in its recovery, **Sheridan Cavitt, Lt Col, USAF, (Ret)**. Cavitt is credited in all claims of having accompanied Major Marcel to the ranch to recover the debris, sometimes along with his Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) subordinate, **William Rickett, who, like Marcel, is deceased**. Although there does not appear to be much dispute that Cavitt was involved in the material recovery, other claims about him prevail in the popular literature. He is sometimes portrayed as a closed-mouth (or sometimes even sinister) conspirator who was one of the early individuals who kept the "secret of Roswell" from getting out. Other things about him have been alleged, including the claim that he wrote a report of the incident at the time that has never surfaced.

Since Lt Col Cavitt, who had first-hand knowledge, was still alive, a decision was made to interview him and get a signed sworn statement from him about his version of the events. Prior to the interview, the Secretary of the Air Force provided him with a written authorization and waiver to discuss classified information with the interviewer and release him from any security oath he may have taken. Subsequently, Cavitt was interviewed on **May 24, 1994**, at his home. Cavitt provided a signed, sworn statement (Atch 17) of his recollections in this matter. He also consented to having the interview tape-recorded. A transcript of that recording is at Atch 18. In this interview, Cavitt related that he had been contacted on numerous occasions by UFO researchers and had willingly talked with many of them; however, he felt that he had oftentimes been misrepresented or had his comments taken out of context so that their true meaning was changed. He stated unequivocally, however, that the material he recovered consisted of a reflective sort of material like aluminum foil, and some thin, bamboo-like sticks. He thought at the time, and continued

COPY?

to do so today, that what he found was a weather balloon and has told other private researchers that. He also remembered finding a small "black box" type of instrument, which he thought at the time was probably a radiosonde. Lt Col Cavitt also reviewed the famous Ramey/Marcel photographs (Atch 16) of the wreckage taken to Ft. Worth (often claimed by UFO researchers to have been switched and the remnants of a balloon substituted for it) and he identified the materials depicted in those photos as consistent with the materials that he recovered from the ranch. Lt Col Cavitt also stated that he had never taken any oath or signed any agreement not to talk about this incident and had never been threatened by anyone in the government because of it. He did not even know the "incident" was claimed to be anything unusual until he was interviewed in the early 1980's.

Similarly, Irving Newton, Major, USAF, (Ret) was located and interviewed. Newton was a weather officer assigned to Fort Worth, who was on duty when the Roswell debris was sent there in July, 1947. He was told that he was to report to General Ramey's office to view the material. In a signed, sworn statement (Atch 30) Newton related that "...I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer...I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target..." Newton also stated that "...while I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. there were figures on the sticks, lavender or pink in color, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason (sic). He did not convince me that these were alien writings." Newton concluded his statement by relating that "...During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target."

Balloon Research

The original tasking from GAO noted that the search for information included "weather balloons." Comments about balloons and safety reports have already been made, however the SAF/AAZ research efforts also focused on reviewing historical records involving balloons, since, among other reasons, that was what was officially claimed by the AAF to have been found and recovered in 1947.

As early as February 28, 1994, the AAZD research team found references to balloon tests taking place at Alamogordo AAF (now Holloman AFB) and White Sands during June and July 1947, testing "constant level balloons" and a New York University (NYU)/Watson Labs effort that used "...meteorological devices ... suspected for detecting shock waves generated by Soviet nuclear explosions"—a possible indication of a cover story associated with the NYU balloon project. Subsequently, a 1946 HQ AMC memorandum was surfaced, describing the constant altitude balloon project and specified that the scientific data be classified TOP SECRET Priority 1A. Its name was Project Mogul (Atch 19).

Project Mogul was a then-sensitive, classified project, whose purpose was to determine the state of Soviet nuclear weapons research. This was the early Cold War period and there was serious concern within the US government about the Soviets developing a weaponized atomic device. Because the Soviet Union's borders were closed, the US Government sought to develop a long range nuclear explosion detection capability. Long range, balloon-borne, low frequency acoustic detection was posed to General Spaatz in 1945 by Dr. Maurice Ewing of Columbia University as a potential solution (atmospheric ducting of low frequency pressure waves had been studied as early as 1900).

As part of the research into this matter, AAZD personnel located and obtained the original study papers and reports of the New York University project. Their efforts also revealed that some of the individuals involved in Project Mogul were still living. These persons included the NYU constant altitude balloon Director of Research, Dr. Athelstan F. Spilhaus; the Project Engineer, Professor Charles B. Moore; and the military Project Officer, Colonel Albert C. Trakowski.

All of these persons were subsequently interviewed and signed sworn statements about their activities. A copy of these statements are appended at Atch 20-22. Additionally, transcripts of the interview with Moore and Trakowski are also included (equipment malfunctioned during the interview of Spilhaus) (Atch 23-24). These interviews confirmed that Project Mogul was a compartmented, sensitive effort. The NYU group was responsible for developing constant level balloons and telemetering equipment that would remain at specified altitudes (within the acoustic duct) while a group from Columbia was to develop acoustic sensors. Doctor Spilhaus, Professor Moore, and certain others of the group were aware of the actual purpose of the project, but they did not know of the project nickname at the time. They handled casual inquiries and/or scientific inquiries/papers in terms of "unclassified meteorological or balloon research." Newly hired employees were not made aware that there was anything special or classified about their work; they were told only that their work dealt with meteorological equipment.

An advance ground team, led by Albert P. Crary, preceded the NYU group to Alamogordo AAF, New Mexico, setting up ground sensors and obtaining facilities for the NYU group. Upon their arrival, Professor Moore and his team experimented with various configurations of neoprene balloons; development of balloon "trains" (see illustration, Atch 25); automatic ballast systems; and use of Naval sonobuoys (as the Watson Lab acoustical sensors had not yet arrived). They also launched what they called "service flights." These "service flights" were not logged nor fully accounted for in the published Technical Reports generated as a result of the contract between NYU and Watson Labs. According to Professor Moore, the "service flights" were composed of balloons, radar reflectors and payloads specifically designed to test acoustic sensors (both early sonobuoys and the later Watson Labs devices). The "payload equipment" was expendable and some carried no "REWARD" or "RETURN TO..." tags because there was to be no association between these flights and the logged constant altitude flights which were fully acknowledged. The NYU balloon flights were listed sequentially in their reports (i.e.,

A,B, 1,5,6,7,8,10 ...) yet gaps existed for Flights 2-4 and Flight 9. The interview with Professor Moore indicated that these gaps were the unlogged "service flights."

Professor Moore, the on-scene Project Engineer, gave detailed information concerning his team's efforts. He recalled that radar targets were used for tracking balloons because they did not have all the necessary equipment when they first arrived in New Mexico. Some of the early developmental radar targets were manufactured by a toy or novelty company. These targets were made up of aluminum "foil" or foil-backed paper, balsa wood beams that were coated in an "Elmer's-type" glue to enhance their durability, acetate and/or cloth reinforcing tape, single strand and braided nylon twine, brass eyelets and swivels to form a multi-faced reflector somewhat similar in construction to a box kite (see photographs, Atch 26). Some of these targets were also assembled with purplish-pink tape with symbols on it (see drawing by Moore with Atch 21).

WHY?

According to the log summary (Atch 27) of the NYU group, Flight A through Flight 7 (November 20, 1946-July 2, 1947) were made with neoprene meteorological balloons (as opposed to the later flights made with polyethylene balloons). Professor Moore stated that the neoprene balloons were susceptible to degradation in the sunlight, turning from a milky white to a dark brown. He described finding remains of balloon trains with reflectors and payloads that had landed in the desert: the ruptured and shredded neoprene would "almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days. The plasticizers and antioxidants in the neoprene would emit a peculiar acrid odor and the balloon material and radar target material would be scattered after returning to earth depending on the surface winds." Upon review of the local newspaper photographs from General Ramey's press conference in 1947 and descriptions in popular books by individuals who supposedly handled the debris recovered on the ranch, Professor Moore opined that the material was most likely the shredded remains of a multi-neoprene balloon train with multiple radar reflectors. The material and a "black box," described by Cavitt, was, in Moore's scientific opinion, most probably from Flight 4, a "service flight" that included a cylindrical metal sonobuoy and portions of a weather instrument housed in a box, which was unlike typical weather radiosondes which were made of cardboard. Additionally, a copy of a professional journal maintained at the time by A.P. Crary, provided to the Air Force by his widow, showed that Flight 4 was launched on June 4, 1947, but was not recovered by the NYU group. It is very probable that this TOP SECRET project balloon train (Flight 4), made up of unclassified components; came to rest some miles northwest of Roswell, NM, became shredded in the surface winds and was ultimately found by the rancher, Brazel, ten days later. This possibility was supported by the observations of Lt Col Cavitt (Atch 17-18), the only living eyewitness to the actual debris field and the material found. Lt Col Cavitt described a small area of debris which appeared, "to resemble bamboo type square sticks one quarter to one half inch square, that were very light, as well as some sort of metallic reflecting material that was also very light ... I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon."

Concerning the initial announcement, "RAAF Captures Flying Disc," research failed to locate any documented evidence as to why that statement was made. However, on July

10, 1947, following the Ramey press conference, the Alamogordo News published an article with photographs demonstrating multiple balloons and targets at the same location as the NYU group operated from at Alamogordo AAF. Professor Moore expressed surprise at seeing this since his, was the only balloon test group in the area. He stated, "It appears that there was some type of umbrella cover story to protect our work with Mogul." Although the Air Force did not find documented evidence that Gen. Ramey was directed to espouse a weather balloon in his press conference, he may have done so because he was either aware of Project Mogul and was trying to deflect interest from it, or he readily perceived the material to be a weather balloon based on the identification from his weather officer, Irving Newton. In either case, the materials recovered by the AAF in July, 1947, were not readily recognizable as anything special (only the purpose was special) and the recovered debris itself was unclassified. Additionally, the press dropped its interest in the matter as quickly as they had jumped on it. Hence, there would be no particular reason to further document what quickly became a "non-event."

BUT WERE IS IT?

The interview with Colonel Trakowski (Atch 23-24) also proved valuable information. Trakowski provided specific details on Project Mogul and described how the security for the program was set up, as he was formerly the TOP SECRET Control Officer for the program. He further related that many of the original radar targets that were produced around the end of World War II were fabricated by toy or novelty companies using a purplish-pink tape with flower and heart symbols on it. Trakowski also recounted a conversation that he had with his friend, and superior military officer in his chain of command, Colonel Marcellus Duffy, in July, 1947. Duffy, formerly had Trakowski's position on Mogul, but had subsequently been transferred to Wright Field. He stated: "...Colonel Duffy called me on the telephone from Wright Field and gave me a story about a fellow that had come in from New Mexico, woke him up in the middle of the night or some such thing with a handful of debris, and wanted him, Colonel Duffy, to identify it. ...He just said 'it sure looks like some of the stuff you've been launching at Alamogordo' and he described it, and I said 'yes, I think it is.' Certainly Colonel Duffy knew enough about radar targets, radiosondes, balloon-borne weather devices. He was intimately familiar with all that apparatus."

Attempts were made to locate Colonel Duffy but it was ascertained that he had died. His widow explained that, although he had amassed a large amount of personal papers relating to his Air Force activities, she had recently disposed of these items. Likewise, it was learned that A.P. Cray was also deceased; however his surviving spouse had a number of his papers from his balloon testing days, including his professional journal from the period in question. She provided the Air Force researchers with this material. It is discussed in more detail within Atch 32. Overall, it helps fill in gaps of the Mogul story.

During the period the Air Force conducted this research, it was discovered that several others had also discovered the possibility that the "Roswell Incident" may have been generated by the recovery of a Project Mogul balloon device. These persons included Professor Charles B. Moore, Robert Todd, and coincidentally, Karl Pflock, a researcher who is married to a staffer who works for Congressman Schiff. Some of these persons

provided suggestions as to where documentation might be located in various archives, histories and libraries. A review of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests revealed that Robert Todd, particularly, had become aware of Project Mogul several years ago and had doggedly obtained from the Air Force, through the FOIA, a large amount of material pertaining to it; long before the AAZD researchers independently seized on the same possibility.

Most interestingly, as this report was being written, Pflock published his own report of this matter under the auspices of FUFOR, entitled "Roswell in Perspective" (1994). Pflock concluded from his research that the Brazel Ranch debris originally reported as a "flying disc" was probably debris from a Mogul balloon; however, there was a simultaneous incident that occurred not far away, that caused an alien craft to crash and that the AAF subsequently recovered three alien bodies therefrom. Air Force research did not locate any information to corroborate that this incredible coincidence occurred, however.

In order to provide a more detailed discussion of the specifics of Project Mogul and how it appeared to be directly responsible for the "Roswell Incident," a SAF/AAZD researcher prepared a more detailed discussion on the balloon project which is appended to this report as Atch 32.

Other Research

In the attempt to develop additional information that could help explain this matter, a number of other steps were taken. First, assistance was requested from various museums and other archives (Atch 28) to obtain information and/or examples of the actual balloons and radar targets used in connection with Project Mogul and to correlate them with the various descriptions of wreckage and materials recovered. The blueprints for the "Pilot Balloon Target ML307C/AP Assembly" (generically, the radar target assembly) were located at the Army Signal Corps Museum at Fort Monmouth and obtained. A copy is appended as Atch 29. This blueprint provides the specification for the foil material, tape, wood, eyelets, and string used and the assembly instructions thereto. An actual device was also obtained for study with the assistance of Professor Moore. (The example actually procured was a 1953-manufactured model "C" as compared to the Model B which was in use in 1947. Professor Moore related the differences were minor). An examination of this device revealed it to be simply made of aluminum-colored foil-like material over a stronger paper-like material, attached to balsa wood sticks, affixed with tape, glue, and twine. When opened, the device appears as depicted in Atch 31 (contemporary photo) and Atch 25 (1947 photo, in a "balloon train"). When folded, the device is in a series of triangles, the largest being four feet by two feet ten inches. The smallest triangle section measures two feet by two feet ten inches. (Compare with descriptions provided by Lt Col Cavitt and others, as well as photos of wreckage).

Additionally, the researchers obtained from the Archives of the University of Texas-Arlington (UTA), a set of original (i.e. first generation) prints of the photographs taken at the time by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, that depicted Ramey and Marcel with the

wreckage. A close review of these photos (and a set of first generation negatives also subsequently obtained from UTA) revealed several interesting observations. First, although in some of the literature cited above, Marcel allegedly stated that he had his photo taken with the "real" UFO wreckage and then it was subsequently removed and the weather balloon wreckage substituted for it, a comparison shows that the same wreckage appeared in the photos of Marcel and Ramey. The photos also depicted that this material was lying on what appeared to be some sort of wrapping paper (consistent with affidavit excerpt of crew chief Porter, above). It was also noted that in the two photos of Ramey he had a piece of paper in his hand. In one, it was folded over so nothing could be seen. In the second, however, there appears to be text printed on the paper. In an attempt to read this text to determine if it could shed any further light on locating documents relating to this matter, the photo was sent to a national level organization for digitizing and subsequent photo interpretation and analysis. This organization was also asked to scrutinize the digitized photos for any indication of the flowered tape (or "hieroglyphics, depending on the point of view) that were reputed to be visible to some of the persons who observed the wreckage prior to it getting to Fort Worth. This organization reported on July 20, 1994, that even after digitizing, the photos were of insufficient quality to visualize either of the details sought for analysis. This organization was able to obtain measurements from the "sticks" visible in the debris after it was ascertained by an interview of the original photographer what kind of camera he used. The results of this process are provided in Atch 33, along with a reference diagram and the photo from which the measurements were made. All these measurements are compatible with the wooden materials used in the radar target previously described.

CONCLUSION

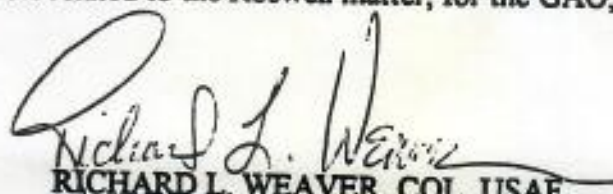
The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the "Roswell Incident" was a UFO event. All available official materials, although they do not directly address Roswell *per se*, indicate that the most likely source of the wreckage recovered from the Brazel Ranch was from one of the Project Mogul balloon trains. Although that project was TOP SECRET at the time, there was also no specific indication found to indicate an official pre-planned cover story was in place to explain an event such as that which ultimately happened. It appears that the identification of the wreckage as being part of a weather balloon device, as reported in the newspapers at the time, was based on the fact that there was no physical difference in the radar targets and the neoprene balloons (other than the numbers and configuration) between Mogul balloons and normal weather balloons. Additionally, it seems that there was over-reaction by Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel, in originally reporting that a "flying disc" had been recovered when, at that time, nobody for sure knew what that term even meant since the it had only been in use for a couple of weeks.

Likewise, there was no indication in official records from the period that there was heightened military operational or security activity which should have been generated if this was, in fact, the first recovery of materials and/or persons from another world. The post-War US Military (or today's for that matter) did not have the capability to rapidly

identify, recover, coordinate, cover-up, and quickly minimize public scrutiny of such an event. The claim that they did so without leaving even a little bit of a suspicious paper trail for 47 years is incredible.

It should also be noted here that there was little mentioned in this report about the recovery of the so-called "alien bodies." This is for several reasons: First, the recovered wreckage was from a Project Mogul balloon. There were no "alien" passengers therein. Secondly, the pro-UFO groups who espouse the alien bodies theories cannot even agree among themselves as to what, how many, and where, such bodies were supposedly recovered. Additionally, some of these claims have been shown to be hoaxes, even by other UFO researchers. Thirdly, when such claims are made, they are often attributed to people using pseudonyms or who otherwise do not want to be publicly identified, presumably so that some sort of retribution cannot be taken against them (notwithstanding that nobody has been shown to have died, disappeared or otherwise suffered at the hands of the government during the last 47 years). Fourth, many of the persons making the biggest claims of "alien bodies" make their living from the "Roswell Incident." While having a commercial interest in something does not automatically make it suspect, it does raise interesting questions related to authenticity. Such persons should be encouraged to present their evidence (not speculation) directly to the government and provide all pertinent details and evidence to support their claims if honest fact-finding is what is wanted. Lastly, persons who have come forward and provided their names and made claims, may have, in good faith but in the "fog of time," misinterpreted past events. The review of Air Force records did not locate even one piece of evidence to indicate that the Air Force has had any part in an "alien" body recovery operation or continuing cover-up.

During the course of this effort, the Air Force has kept in close touch with the GAO and responded to their various queries and requests for assistance. This report was generated as an official response to the GAO, and to document the considerable effort expended by the Air Force on their behalf. It is anticipated that that they will request a copy of this report to help formulate the formal report of their efforts. It is recommended that this document serve as the final Air Force report related to the Roswell matter, for the GAO, or any other inquiries.


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Attachments

1. Washington Post Article, "GAO Turns to Alien Turf in New Probe," January 14, 1994
2. GAO Memo, February 15, 1994
3. DoD/IG Memo, February 23, 1994
4. SAF/FM Memo, February 24, 1994, w/Indorsement

5. SAF/AA Memo, March 1, 1994, w/ March 16, 1994 Addendum
6. AF/IN Memo, March 14, 1994
7. AF/SE Memo, March 14, 1994
8. SAF/AQL Memo, March 22, 1994
9. AF/XOWP Memo, March 9, 1994
10. SAF/AAI Memo, March 10, 1994
11. AFHRA/CC Memo, March 8, 1994
12. AFOSI/HO Memo, May 11, 1994
13. List of Locations and Records Searched
14. HQ AAF "Issuance of Orders," June 5, 1947
15. Copy of Vandenberg's Appointment Book and Diary, July 7-9, 1947
16. July 9, 1947 Photos of Balloon Wreckage, Ft Worth Star Telegram
17. Signed Sworn Statement of Cavitt, May 24, 1994
18. Transcript of Cavitt Interview, May 24, 1994
19. Letter, July 8, 1946, Project Mogul
20. Signed Sworn Statement of Spilhaus, June 3, 1994
21. Signed Sworn Statement of Moore, June 8, 1994
22. Signed Sworn Statement of Trakowski, June 29, 1994
23. Transcript of Interview with Moore, June 8, 1994
24. Transcript of Interview with Trakowski, June 29, 1994
25. Illustration of Project Mogul "Balloon Trains"
26. Two Photos of Project Mogul "Balloon Trains"
27. Log Summary, NYU Constant Level Balloon Flights
28. List of Museums Contacted
29. Copy of Blueprint for "Pilot Balloon Target, ML-307C/AP Assembly"
30. Signed Sworn Statement of Newton, July 21, 1994
31. Photos of ML-307C/AP Device, With Vintage Neoprene Balloon and Debris
32. Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings by 1LT James McAndrew
33. "Mensuration Working Paper," With Drawing and Photo