



● Artist's impression of photograph said to show space visitor

THE man who popularised that mysterious graveyard of ships and planes, the Bermuda Triangle, is at it again.

Charles Berlitz, a plump, soft-spoken American with a pencil line moustache and an air of a crafty lawyer, has made a profitable career investigating the inexplicable.

He has his detractors and his debunkers, and no doubt they will be out again in force over his latest extraordinary claim in his new book "The Roswell Incident."*

"In July 1947," he says, "an unidentified flying object crash-landed at Roswell, New Mexico. It was found to contain six humanoid midgets between two and four feet tall.

"They were like humans but they were not humans. The heads were round and larger in proportion to their bodies than ours.

"The eyes were small, sunken and slightly slanted and they had no hair. Their clothing seemed to be one-piece and grey in colour."

Sadly, the UFO midgets were all killed.

Wreckage

At once two questions arise. Why were we never told before of this first-ever encounter with extra-terrestrials? And how credible are the eye-witness reports?

On the first question Berlitz takes the view of most UFO supporters: "The Government is trying to cover up the truth.

"Both the midgets and the wreckage were taken away to a CIA high-security area and in the interests of national security the facts have been suppressed ever since."

Undenably something strange did happen on July 2 at the Roswell airbase which lay in a restricted area of atomic and missile research.

Reporter Lydia Sleppy, of a local radio station, was called by a colleague Johnny McBoyle: "Get ready for a scoop. A flying saucer has crashed near Roswell.

When midgets dropped in from space...

By PETER GROSVENOR

"No, I'm not joking. I've seen it. It's like a big crumpled dishpan. The Army is there. The whole area is now closed off."

But even as Lydia began tapping out the message, the teletype went dead.

Minutes later McBoyle came back: "Forget about it. You never heard it."

At the same time a statement issued by the information officer at the air base: "We have gained possession of a flying disc," which went out to the world on the wire services, was hastily countermanded.

Our own Hughie Green of TV, formerly a flight lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force and then a ferry pilot, was driving through New Mexico at the time. He recalls reports of the UFO which were suddenly hushed up. "I was fascinated—then puzzled that it all fizzled out."

Soon after, a Press conference was held by an Eighth Air Force general at which bits of a wrecked weather balloon were displayed as the explanation of the disc.

Unfortunately for Berlitz's account, there is a shortage of living eye-witnesses to these strange events.

And yet there's enough rum evidence to make one wonder. According to Berlitz and others, when General Eisenhower became President

he personally inspected the "Roswell saucer capture" and agreed to continue the cover-up.

It is claimed that the saucer contained some exotic and potentially valuable materials such as a light paper-thin metal that was incredibly tough, and a fibrous material light as balsa wood but hard as mahogany.

So it's understandable the U.S. Government would insist on secrecy, but odd that after all these years we haven't seen any application of these wonder materials.

Visit

But under the freedom of Information Act the C.I.A. is being sued to reveal all the documents.

Old flier Senator Barry Goldwater recalls a visit to the Wright-Patterson Air Base to look up his old friend General Curtis Lemay. Goldwater asked to see the Blue Room where it is said old UFO exhibits and photos are kept.

Lemay replied: "Hell no. Barry. I can't go, you can't go, and don't ever ask me again."

* *The Roswell Incident* by Charles Berlitz and William Moore, published by Granada, £5.95.