

Subject: MIBs, Laughing Matter.

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June 26,

It seems that the subject of the MIB is a laughing matter as we have the third fictional movie called MIB III, being shown. I'll have to admit that Will Smith does a great job in these movies and it is a laughing matter. I like these fictional movies very much and go to see them in movie theaters. I think there are or were actual MiBs that did harass people who saw UFOs and there are actually a type of MIB who were working for our g-vernment to try to harass people who see UFOs and talk about them.

Thus with that being said, we now hop in the discussion of MIB.

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From: Terry W. C-lvin <fortean1@mindspring.com>

Subject: Happy Birthday, MIB! (1947-2012)

Date: Sunday, 24, June, 2012

Friends, Forteans, Listmates!

* Yesterday, June 22, was the 65th birthday of the sinister Men in B-ack (MIB), the mysterious visitors, often dark-complexioned, dressed in dark clothing and claiming to be go-ernment agents, who allegedly harass and threaten UFO witnesses to keep them quiet about what they have seen. The MIB began to be frequently reported in connection with UFO sightings (and occasionally also with encounters with other unusual phenomena) in the 1950s and 1960s though researchers like the late John A. Keel have pointed out similarities between Men in Bl-ck reports and older stories of d-monic or s-pernatural encounters. Thus, w-tchcraft and bla-k magic accounts for centuries have described a sinister Bla-k Man, dark-skinned or dressed in blac-, identified with the D-vil or his messengers (and having nothing to do with men of African origin or appearance). However, many UFO researchers believe that the first known modern UFO-related Men in -lack appeared 65 years ago, in June 1947, in connection with the Maury Island Incident of a UFO allegedly spewing vast quantities of hot slag and molten metal onto an island in Puget Sound near Tacoma, Washington, and a nearby boat. *

* In 1947, Harold L. Dahl (1911-1982) and Fred Lee Crisman (1919-1975) were commercial lumber salvagers in Tacoma Harbor, often incorrectly described as Tacoma harbor patrolmen. Crisman, usually described as Dahls supervisor (sometimes as just his business partner), also seems to have been a F-deral undercover agent, using his business to keep an eye on suspicious goings-on in Tacoma Harbor and Puget Soundand perhaps help cover up s-cret or illegal gov-rnment activities in the area.

On the afternoon of June 21, Dahl (so he claimed) was on his boat near Maury Island, 3 miles from Tacoma, with his 15-year-old son, their dog, and two crewmen. Dahl claimed to see six huge doughnut-shaped metallic craft far overhead. One seemed to be in some sort of trouble, lost altitude, and discharged tons of hot dark lava-like slag and light white aluminum-like metal before flying off West over the sea with the other UFOs. Most of the debris fell on the Maury Island beach but some hit Dahls boat, damaging the boat, k-lling his dog, and burning his sons arm. Dahl and his crew retrieved some of the slag and metal fragments supposedly spewed by the saucer, and Dahl also tried to take some photographs of the retreating UFOs. When Dahl returned

to his Tacoma dock, Crisman at first refused to believe his bizarre story, accusing Dahl and his crew of drinking.*

*Crisman, however, supposedly changed his mind the next morning after taking the boat out to Maury Island, seeing the piles of slag and metal on the beach, and himself sighting a UFO hovering over the island! That same morning, June 22, Dahl allegedly breakfasted with a mysterious visitor wearing a black suit and driving a 1947 Buick sedan, who knew everything about the previous days sighting, told Dahl he had seen something he should not have seen, and warned him not to discuss his experience with anybody if he loved his family. Dahl, however, at first disregarded this Man in Black as a crackpot. However, with his uncanny knowledge of Dahls experience and his ominous threats, the visitor anticipated the behavior (including the dark clothing and dark late-model cars) of the Men in Black so notorious in subsequent UFO lore. Dahls visitor, like the typical MIB of the 1950s, 1960s, and later, **seemed to have detailed information on Dahls experience the previous day, as if he had kept Dahl under surveillance for a long period of time. The visitors threats against Dahl and his family if he should tell anyone about his sighting are likewise all too typical of post-1950s MIB behavior. **Dahl also found the photographs he had taken of the saucers inexplicably fogged, as if exposed to radiation. *

A few weeks later, in July, Crisman and Dahl wrote Amazing Stories editor Ray Palmer a letter describing Dahl's sighting, and mailed Palmer some of the alleged "saucer" fragments. Palmer was a brashly sensation-mongering editorial hustler notorious in science-fiction circles for promoting Richard Shavers (JW During that time I contacted Richard Shaver and read his information called "The Shaver Mystery" and he sent me some examples of the mysterious picture on rocks, of mermaids and sharks. I believe he was telling the truth, but I've lost that material or given it away.) lurid fantasies of the evil underground dero responsible for all the worlds ills as alleged fact. Crisman, who was an Amazing Stories fan, had already written Palmer a year earlier, describing his own alleged World War II battle with aggressive underground humanoids with ray-guns in a cave in India! Crismans underground battle supposedly corroborated Shavers wild tales of the fiendish subterranean dero, ballyhooed by Palmer as fact. Palmer asked Boise, Idaho businessman and private pilot Kenneth Arnold, already famous for his own June 24 Mt. Rainier sighting of the "saucers," to fly to Tacoma and investigate the Maury Island incident, offering him \$200 in expenses. Palmer, too, had already written to Arnold, and encouraged Arnold in the belief that the flying saucers were spacecraft from other planets. John A. Keel later called Palmer the man who invented flying saucers for his early role in popularizing the extraterrestrial theory of UFOs (though few people outside science-fiction, Fortean, and ufological circles have ever heard of Keel). Keel himself abandoned the extraterrestrial hypothesis of UFOs for his own ultraterrestrial theory that UFOs, aliens, and MIBs were other-dimensional visitors whose interactions with humans in previous centuries had given rise to traditional religious, mythological, and folklore beliefs in gods, demons and fairies.

*Arnold flew to Tacoma on July 29th to find a complex, mystifying web of seeming cloak-and-dagger intrigue and skullduggery with apparently paranormal aspects while playing amateur detective for Palmer. He had not told anyone about his exact plans, yet found his mission and presence uncannily anticipated. Arriving in Tacoma, he called several hotels, to find all of them full with no vacancies. Finally, however, when he called Tacomas fanciest hotel as a last resort, he found that a room had been reserved there in his name by an unknown benefactor! From July 29 to 31, Arnold met several times in Tacoma with Dahl, who seemed fearful and reluctant to discuss the affair, and Crisman, who acted like the more dominant and

assertive of the two Maury Island witnesses. He examined Dahl and Crismans alleged saucer debris, which looked like ordinary lava rock and scrap aircraft aluminum. He was called several times by a local United Press stringer, who had been repeatedly called by a mysterious informant who accurately knew everything done and said in Arnolds hotel room, as if it had been bugged, though Arnold was unable to find any listening devices despite a diligent search of his room! *

Suspecting a hoax but feeling out of his depth, Arnold called for assistance. He first summoned a friend, United Airlines pilot Cap. E.J. Big Smithy Smith, who had also seen a UFO, to Tacoma. On the 31st, he also called two Army Air Force Intelligence officers, Lieutenant Frank Brown and Captain William Davidson, who had debriefed Arnold a few days earlier about his own Mt. Rainier sighting and told him to contact them if he saw or heard anything more unusual. Arriving on the afternoon of July 1, Brown and Davidson interrogated Crisman (the diffident Dahl had left Arnolds hotel room, as if reluctant to have anything more to do with the matter), examined the debris, and also called the whole thing a hoax while, however, insisting on taking the allegedly worthless debris back with them to their base. They left early on the morning of August 1 to return to Hamilton Field in California, to participate in Air Force Day ceremonies marking the official inauguration of the Air Force as a full-fledged separate branch of the Armed Forces. Shortly after takeoff, the plane crashed, killing both Brown and Davidson, though a military hitchhiker managed to parachute to safety.

Part 1.

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