

Doc No : 9600209

Clerk: st

Type: Information

Status: Complete



Date Sent : 2/24/96

Date Rcd : 2/29/96

Due Date : 2/29/96

To: Dr. John Gibbons



Congress.ID :

Date Completed : 2/29/96

TO SCHEDULE?

From : Todd, Robert G. [REDACTED]

Topic : Writer was recently sent "unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document"&Best Available Evidence by Berline and disputes claims in writings.

Action: none



Division(s) Director's



Technology



Assnd1 :

Copy1 : Dr. Gibbons

Assnd2 :

Felder

File : Tech/UFOs

Remarks :

ROBERT G. TODD
[REDACTED]

2-29-96
DHS
FEDER

February 24, 1996

Dr. John H. Gibbons
Assistant to the President for
Science and Technology
Old Executive Office Building
Room 424
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) recently furnished me with a copy of the November 1995 "Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document, The Best Available Evidence," authored by Don Berliner (with Antonio Huneus), which was forwarded to you by Laurance Rockefeller's attorney, Henry Diamond, in early November of last year.

Mr. Berliner makes certain claims in the "briefing" which are unfounded. Among them are the following.

On page 16 he claims that Irving Newton insists that what he identified at Fort Worth "was indeed debris from a standard weather balloon," with the apparent suggestion being that the Air Force's explanation that it was debris from a New York University (NYU) balloon flight launched in support of top-secret Project Mogul is somehow inconsistent with Newton's recollections. The fact of the matter is that the debris from the NYU balloon flight was indistinguishable from standard weather balloons, so Mr. Newton's statements most certainly are NOT inconsistent with the Air Force's statements.

Also on page 16, Berliner states that the GAO report "stated that it could find no evidence for a UFO wreckage, but discovered that a large quantity of potentially valuable U.S. Air Force message traffic for the period had been *improperly destroyed*." Berliner apparently doesn't know that the chief archivist at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis informed the GAO that they believed the "missing" Air Force records probably were destroyed during the 1956-58 time period, and that under Air Force records disposition guidelines then in existence, the records should have been destroyed. In short, in the opinion of the chief archivist, proper authority existed for the destruction of the "missing" records. I have no explanation for why this information never appeared in the GAO's report. I do know that the crashed-saucer promoters -- which apparently include Congressman Schiff himself -- continue to claim the Air Force records were "*improperly destroyed*," which they further claim is evidence of a cover-up. This claim is utter nonsense.

As an example of the trickery the crashed-saucer promoters use to bolster their case, I refer you to page 88 of the section entitled "Quotations Concerning Unidentified Flying Objects From Prominent Government and Military Officials, Astronauts and Scientists." Berliner quotes from General Twining's September 23, 1947 letter to the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces. Berliner doesn't make it clear enough that, at the time he signed the letter, Twining was not the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but rather was the commanding general of the Air Force's Air Materiel Command (AMC) who was reporting to his superiors in the Pentagon. But the real trickery comes when Berliner fails to quote a highly pertinent passage from Twining's letter that relates specifically to the so-called "Roswell incident." In paragraph 2h(2), Twining says that due consideration must be given the "lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove

February 24, 1996

the existence of these objects." The crashed-saucer promoters are painfully aware of this quote, and have concocted a number of utterly ridiculous rationalizations which they contend explain why Twining's statement doesn't mean what it says.

By letter dated 22 December 1947, the Air Force's Director of Intelligence, Major General George C. McDonald, forwarded Twining's letter to the Air Force's Director of Research and Development. General McDonald's action resulted in the creation of Project Sign, the Air Force's UFO investigation program. Also forwarded with Twining's letter was an "Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports" that had been prepared within the office of the Director of Intelligence in the Pentagon. Like Twining's letter, the Intelligence analysis stated, "Flying discs, as reported by widely scattered observers, probably represent something real and tangible, even though physical evidence, such as crash-recovered exhibits, is not available, [Emphasis added.]"

I have taken the liberty of enclosing copies of the 22 December 1947 letter from the Air Force Director of Intelligence to the Director of Research and Development, and the two analyses that were forwarded with the letter. Berliner obviously knows about the Twining letter, and I have every reason to believe he also knows about the Intelligence analysis. You might want to ask him how it is this information never found its way into his "good piece of work" which he obviously intended for White House consumption.

Your attention is invited to page 11 of Berliner's "briefing," where he refers to the so-called "Bolender memo" of October 20, 1969. The "memo" surfaced as a result of one of my FOIA requests to the Air Force. The document was furnished to me without hesitation and without deletions. Furthermore, although the quality of the reproduction is rather poor, the document exhibits no evidence of ever having been classified. But more importantly, the meaning and significance Berliner and others assign to the document have no basis in reality. Feeling guilty for having uncovered the document, I recently wrote an article in an attempt to get on the record exactly what Bolender's statements really mean. I have attached a copy of that article for your perusal, along with copies of other issues of *The Cowflop Quarterly*, a "newsletter" (for lack of a better word) I started because there most certainly is a conspiracy to keep the truth from the public. The conspirators aren't in the Pentagon, however. They're in the three major UFO "organizations" mentioned in Berliner's "briefing," MUFON, CUFOS, and FUFOR. They control the "UFO press" and they don't take kindly to criticisms, especially when they've been caught in lies. The "leaders" of these organizations seem more interested in promoting themselves than they are in the truth. If they don't like what's said, or the way it's said, it doesn't get published. The truth is quite incidental and is welcomed only if it validates their beliefs.

I have been researching the government's involvement with the subject of UFOs for twenty-three years. During that time, I have been responsible for bringing to light literally thousands of pages of previously unreleased, UFO-related documents. When I started out, I was convinced the government was engaged in a cover-up of the "truth" about UFOs. That belief was based on popular writings, much like those written by the likes of Schmitt, Randle, Friedman and Berliner. After researching the subject for twenty-three years, I have yet to see any credible evidence of a cover-up. Unsupported claims are a dime a dozen, and overpriced at that.

I hope this information is of some assistance. Please feel free to share it with Mr. Rockefeller, who I understand is funding "research" into certain arcane subjects, including

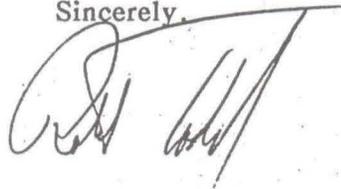
Dr. John H. Gibbons
Page Three

February 24, 1996

UFOs. It appears he has great faith in the supposed "experts" who seem to be advising him. As a result, it appears he believes the Roswell incident involved an alien spacecraft, and that the government is carrying out a massive cover-up of UFO-related information. -

Incidentally, the "cover price" of *The Cowflop Quarterly* is purely symbolic. It symbolizes what appears to be the primary motivation of the major UFO organizations and the self-styled UFO "experts" who pontificate endlessly on subjects about which they know little or nothing. If there is another issue, the cover price will rise to \$1,000.00. The sky's the limit.

Sincerely,



5 Atchs

1. D/I ltr, 22 Dec 1947, w/Atchs
2. Cowflop, Sept. 1, 1995
3. Cowflop Alert, Sept. 22, 1995
4. Cowflop, May 5, 1995
5. KowPflop, Dec. 8, 1995

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86

AFOAI-OA

Written: 18 Dec. 1947

"Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports"

Director of Research and Development

Director of Intelligence

22 DEC 1947

Lt. Col. Thomas/mas/6625.

1. Attached are two papers, one prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence, USAF, Subject: "Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports," and one prepared by the Air Material Command, Subject: "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Discs'."

2. The Directorate of Intelligence paper summarizes present information and observations concerning 'flying discs' and indicates the lines of investigation which have been pursued since the first sightings were reported.

3. As part of these investigations the AMC was requested to make an independent study, and the attached reply indicates that "it is possible within the present U. S. knowledge—provided extensive detailed development is undertaken—to construct a piloted aircraft which has the general description ... (of the flying discs) ... which would be capable of an approximate range of 7,000 miles at subsonic speeds."

4. The AMC report recommends the issuance of "a directive assigning a priority, security classification and code name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data" which would be made available to all interested agencies.

5. In view of the conclusions reached as a result of the study of the problem made in this office, the Director of Intelligence concurs in the AMC recommendation and forwards it for your consideration and reply to the CG, AMC. Request reply be coordinated with this Directorate.

2 Incls.

- 1. Subj: "Analysis of 'Flying Disc' Reports."
- 2. Subj: "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Discs'," dtd Sep. 23 1947.

GEORGE C. McDONALD
Major General, USAF
Director of Intelligence

8000-9
Flying Discs
FILE COPY - DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

DET.
F.O.

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86~~SECRET~~"ANALYSIS OF 'FLYING DISC' REPORTS"1. Summary of Information

a. During the past six months reports from several areas of the world have indicated that unidentified flying objects, variously identified in flying discs, lights, smoke trails, etc., have been observed by separate and unrelated sources.

b. Sightings of "flying discs" in the United States occurred principally in the far west. Observers have been indicated to be reliable and in some instances several observers have corroborated separate observations of the same phenomenon at the same time.

c. Outside the continental United States, an object and its trail were seen over Newfoundland; a light which had the appearance of a twin ram-jet was observed near Necker Island from an aircraft en route between Midway and Honolulu; a flying disc reputedly larger than a DC-3 was sighted near Bethel, Alaska.

d. In the Far East, three radar intercepts of rapidly moving, unidentified objects were made by United States radars operating in Japan.

e. No connection has been indicated between the "ghost rocket" sightings in Sweden, some of which conceivably might have been the result of guided missile operations, and the unidentified flying objects sighted in the United States and Pacific areas.

2. Discussion of Reports

a. Study of the various reports describing unidentified flying objects, lights, and smoke trails discloses that certain features are common to many of the observations as follows:

(1) In shape the objects are a thin disc, rounded on top and flat on the bottom, perhaps approximating a C-54 in size. The front half of the disc is often circular, sweeping back to a square tail across the full width.

(2) The surface is described as metallic or light reflecting.

(3) Extreme maneuverability, coupled with high lateral stability, is noted. Speed is high, with a banking motion or a lateral oscillation. A few reports indicate an ability to hover; to appear suddenly as if from a dive; to disintegrate or to disappear, perhaps by

By JGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86

increasing speed; to group quickly in a tight formation, and to take evasive action. Good control of flight is indicated.

(4) Trail is absent, except in a few instances when the object apparently is operating under high performance conditions. The trail, when seen, seems to be very hot, as indicated by night observations of a glowing trail, and a daytime observation of a trail that cut a wide, clean swath in a cloud.

(5) Sound is normally not associated with the sightings, although a hum or rumbling roar was heard in two or three instances. No connection between sound and trail is indicated.

(6) Estimated level speed is normally greater than 300 knots.

(7) Formation flights of three to nine objects are reported by several observers.

(8) During one night observation, a change in glow from blue-white when approaching to a reddish glow when withdrawing was observed. This could indicate ram-jets.

b. The following are typical reports of observations of discs, and indicate the type and variety of the sources of information:

✓ (1) On 7 July, 1947, five Portland, Oregon, police officers saw varying numbers of discs flying over different parts of Portland. All observations were made within a minute or two of 1305 hours.

✓ (2) On 7 July, 1947, William Rhoads of Phoenix, Ariz., saw a disc in the glow of sunset and took two photographs. The resultant picture showed a round front and square tail in plan form.

✓ (3) On 10 July, 1947, a Mr. Woodruff, FAA mechanic, observed a circular object flying at high velocity and leaving a trail. The sighting occurred near Harmon Field, Newfoundland. Two other persons also saw the trail.

(4) On 11 July, 1947, three persons at Codroy, Newfoundland, saw a disc flying at high velocity and leaving a smoke trail.

(5) On 29 July, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, while flying near Tacoma, Washington, saw a formation of flying objects. His sketch of their shape corresponds closely to that shown in the photographs made by Mr. Rhoads. On the same day, two United States Air Force pilots at Hamilton Field, Calif., saw two flying discs trailing a P-60, following it toward Oakland, Calif.

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86~~SECRET~~

(6) On 4 August, 1947, the pilot and co-pilot of a DC-3, flying for Al Jones, were near Bethel, Alaska, when they saw a flying disc larger than their DC-3. Their airplane was flying 170 mph, but the disc flew out of sight in four minutes.

(7) On 12 November, 1947, two flying discs trailing jet-like streams of fire were sighted from the bridge of the tanker Ticonderoga, according to Second Officer Claude Lee Williamson. The Ticonderoga was 20 miles off the Oregon shore. Williamson said the two discs were in sight 45 seconds, moving at a speed estimated at 700-900 mph out of the north horizon and curving westerly in a long, low arc.

c. Typical of the observations made of lights and trails rather than discs or objects, are these three:

(1) On 28 June, 1947, four USAF officers observed a light from some object which did not fly like a conventional aircraft. The light was sighted over Maxwell Field, Alabama.

(2) On 6 July, 1947, several persons, including a USAF sergeant, saw a strangely moving light over Birmingham, Alabama. A photograph was taken.

(3) On 12 September, 1947, the pilot and co-pilot of a Pan American aircraft, passing Necker Island at 0558 OCT, en route from Midway to Honolulu, saw a blue-white light approaching, changing to a reddish glow upon withdrawal. The pilot estimated speed of the light at about 1,000 knots.

d. The three United States radar intercepts of unidentified radar targets flying near or over Japan are as follows:

(1) On 1 July, 1947, a OCA radar at Chitose AAB, Hokkaido, Japan picked up a target at 16 miles, speed in excess of 500 mph. This target split up into two targets, each larger than a P-51.

(2) On 28 August, 1947, a MEW radar at Fukuoka, Japan picked up a target at 26 miles in instrument weather. Target withdrew in a climb to 54 miles before it faded.

(3) On 16 September, 1947, the same MEW radar at Fukuoka, Japan picked up a target at 89 miles and tracked it in to 19 miles, where it faded. Speed was 240 to 900 miles per hour. This observation indicates use of a homing receiver; fading at short range further indicates the possibility of good radar evasion techniques. The speed measurement is believed accurate, since it was made by a good crew, through a 70-mile long track.

By JGLEwis NARA, Date 8/13/86

~~SECRET~~

9. Investigations made

8. In addition to analyzing the reports concerning Flying Discs and other phenomena observed both in the United States and elsewhere in the world, the Directorate of Intelligence, DIA, has taken the following action:

(1) Requested the Air Materiel Command to conduct an independent investigation. The results of this study are contained in a Headquarters, AMC Letter, Subject: "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Discs'," dated 20 September 1947, which includes recommendations for further study of this problem.

(2) Sought information from appropriate agencies to determine whether the phenomena might be the result of highly classified project being conducted under United States auspices. Responses to date have not indicated existence of any American developmental work which might explain the reported observations.

(3) Submitted to a group of scientists the question whether the "flying saucer" observations might be the result of some natural phenomenon, such as falling meteors. While it was admitted there was a possibility some form of the incidents could have been caused by natural phenomena, the scientists concluded that such phenomena could not have been responsible for all of the observations.

(4) Requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to check the possibility that the "flying saucer" episodes might be the result of a deliberately planned subversive effort to create mass hysteria, possibly Communist-inspired. Backgrounds of the first four persons who had reported sightings of flying discs were investigated by the FBI, with negative results in each case.

(5) Forwarded to the Air Materiel Service a list of the first ten sightings reported by responsible persons for comparison with dates and locations of the release of meteorological balloons. The resultant check indicated there was no connection, or coincidence, between meteorological balloons aloft and the discs, auras, and locations of the reported sightings.

(6) Investigated the possible existence of foreign aircraft projects which might be related to these observations. Of interest in this regard are two German designs that could be under current exploitation by the U.S.S.R.

(a) The Martin Brothers' "Parabola," a flying wing of low aspect ration and a very low induced drag. The plan forms of this design were crescent shaped.

By JGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86

~~SECRET~~

(b) The B7-130, a long range bomber, was a flying wing design that could satisfy the few indicated features of the "flying disc."

(7) Analyzed the possibility that the flying objects were operated or controlled by representatives of a foreign nation--perhaps for photo reconnaissance purposes, or to ferret out our defensive capabilities, or to test the American psychological reaction. Principal sightings were near the borders of the United States, which lends credence to a foreign source of origin. Sightings were not reported, however, at or near the principal strategic target areas of the United States. Moreover, it is difficult to conceive why any foreign nation, if it possessed such an unconventional aircraft or missile, would risk sending it near or over the United States for anything short of an attack. Even if the disc contained a self-destructing device, any crash landing would disclose a certain amount of information which the nation possessing such an aircraft or missile would desire to keep secret. This would be particularly true if the form of propulsion was one outside American knowledge. The final answer still has not been obtained from this line of inquiry.

4. General Issues

a. Flying discs, as reported by widely scattered observers, probably represent something real and tangible, even though physical evidence, such as crash-recovered exhibits, is not available. While a portion of the observations may be the result of natural phenomena, such as meteors, or may have other conventional explanations, the likelihood that some observers actually saw disc-shaped objects sufficiently large to be compared in size with known aircraft cannot be discounted.

b. Considering the described content of these disc-like objects when sighted, it must be considered a possibility that they may have been humanly controlled, either manually or remotely, or by pre-set automatic controls.

c. On the basis of presently available information, if these discs actually exist they are foreign in origin, so investigation of the possible country of development and the place of origin should continue.

d. The Directorate of Intelligence, DSI, will continue to collect and analyze all reports of sightings of flying objects, lights, trails, etc., in an effort to develop an answer to the pending problem which they present.

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86*WGLewis*

TSDIN/HMM/12/6-1,100

SEP 25 1947

TSDIN

AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs"

Commanding General
 Army Air Forces
 Washington 25, D. C.
 ATTENTION: Brig. General George Schulgen
 AC/AS-2

1. As requested by AC/AS-2 there is presented below the considered opinion of this Command concerning the so-called "Flying Discs". This opinion is based on interrogation report data furnished by AC/AS-2 and preliminary studies by personnel of T-2 and Aircraft Laboratory, Engineering Division T-3. This opinion was arrived at in a conference between personnel from the Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2, Office, Chief of Engineering Division, and the Aircraft, Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of Engineering Division T-3.

2. It is the opinion that:

a. The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious.

b. There are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to appear to be as large as man-made aircraft.

c. There is a possibility that some of the incidents may be caused by natural phenomena, such as meteors.

d. The reported operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft and radar, lend belief to the possibility that some of the objects are controlled either manually, automatically or remotely.

e. The apparent common description of the objects is as follows:-

(1) Metallic or light reflecting surface.

8-39552

*Incl 2**SECRET*

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86.~~SECRET~~

Basic Ltr fr CG, AMO, WF to CG, AAF, Wash. D. C. subj "AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs".

- (2) Absence of trail, except in a few instances when the object apparently was operating under high performance conditions.
- (3) Circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.
- (4) Several reports of well kept formation flights varying from three to nine objects.
- (5) Normally no associated sound, except in three instances a substantial rumbling roar was noted.
- (6) Level flight speeds normally above 300 knots are estimated.

f. It is possible within the present U. S. knowledge — provided extensive detailed development is undertaken — to construct a piloted aircraft which has the general description of the object in subparagraph (e) above which would be capable of an approximate range of 7000 miles at subsonic speeds.

g. Any developments in this country along the lines indicated would be extremely expensive, time consuming and at the considerable expense of current projects and therefore, if directed, should be set up independently of existing projects.

h. Due consideration must be given the following:-

- (1) The possibility that these objects are of domestic origin - the product of some high security project not known to MO/AS-2 or this Command.
- (2) The lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects.
- (3) The possibility that some foreign nation has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear, which is outside of our domestic knowledge.

3. It is recommended that:-

a. Headquarters, Army Air Forces issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification and Code Name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data which will then be made available to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JROB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, and the RAND and NEPA projects for comments and recommendations, with a preliminary report to be forwarded within 15 days of receipt of the data and a detailed report thereafter every 30 days.

By WGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86



Basic Ltr fr CG, AMC, WF to CG, AAF, Wash. D.C. subj "AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs"

gation develops. A complete interchange of data should be effected.

4. Awaiting a specific directive AMC will continue the investigation within its current resources in order to more closely define the nature of the phenomenon. Detailed Essential Elements of Information will be formulated immediately for transmittal thru channels.

M. F. TRAINING
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding

By #GLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

18 December 1947

PROBLEM:

1. To prepare for signature of the Director of Intelligence an R&R for the Director of Research and Development outlining available information and recommendations concerning problems proposed by "flying discs."

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. At the request of the Chief, Air Intelligence Division, an earlier memorandum dated 6 October 1947, Subject: "Recommendations Relative to Unidentified Flying Objects," was reanalyzed and rewritten as a memorandum.

3. This memorandum together with a letter from Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Subject: "AMC Opinion Concerning 'Flying Discs'," dated 23 September 1947, were attached to an R&R addressed to the Director of Research and Development. Note was made in this R&R that the Director of Intelligence concurred with the recommendations of AMC concerning a specific project to study the "flying disc" situation.

ACTION:

4. R&R forwarded for signature of Major General MacDonald.

COORDINATION:

Colonel J. F. Olive, Chief, Air Intelligence Division - Ext. 2542
Lt. Colonel J. E. Thomas, Offensive Air Branch - Ext. 6625

The Cowflop Quarterly

REPORTING ON UFOLOGICAL FRAUDS AND FANTASIES

Vol. 1, No. 2

Friday, September 1, 1995

\$10.00

"BOLENDER MEMO" REALITY CHECK By Robert G. Todd

In December of 1978, the Air Force Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office in the Pentagon furnished a batch of records in response to my request submitted earlier that month. Among the documents was a three-page "Department of the Air Force Air Staff Summary Sheet," dated 20 December 1969, and signed by C. H. Bolender, Deputy Director of Development, Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development. This Summary Sheet has come to be called the "Bolender memo."

Two sentences in the text of the Summary Sheet have given rise to wildly exaggerated claims by self-styled "experts" with tabloid mentalities. These fanatical UFO hobbyists invariably present these two sentences out of context, and cynically exploit their own ignorance of the subject by filling the vast voids in their knowledge with their completely undocumented, paranoid ravings. This has led to the idea that the "Bolender memo" is "proof" that the "good" UFO reports never went to Project Blue Book, and that Blue Book was little more than a public relations ploy intended to divert attention away from the "real" UFO investigation carried out by the Air Force in complete secrecy.

Paragraph 4 of the Summary Sheet states: "Moreover, reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146 or Air Force Manual 55-11, and are not part of the Blue Book system." Paragraph 6 observes that the termination of Blue Book would leave no official office to receive UFO reports, and states: "However, as already stated, reports of UFOs which could affect national security would continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures designed for this purpose."

Taken alone and out of context, and with a sinister spin applied in the right direction, these appear to be fairly damning statements suggesting that Blue Book was a fraud, and the UFO cases which could affect national security never made it to Blue Book. So let's put these two sentences back in context and see if that makes any difference.

Omitting the references to the corresponding attachment numbers, the full text of paragraph 4 reads as follows:

As early as 1953, the Robertson Panel concluded "that the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security." In spite of this finding, *the Air Force continued to maintain a special reporting system.* [Emphasis added.] There is still, however, no evidence that Project Blue Book reports have served any intelligence function. Moreover, reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146 or Air Force Manual 55-11, and are not part of the Blue Book system. The Air Force experience therefore confirms the impression of the University of Colorado researchers "that the defense function could be performed within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations without the continuance of a special unit such as Project Blue Book."

The "special reporting system" was the system established by the Air Force in 1948 requiring the reporting of UFOs in support of Project Sign, Blue Book's predecessor.

Doltish UFO "experts" have interpreted Bolender's remarks to mean that UFO reports made under JANAP 146 and Air Force Manual (AFM) 55-11 never went to Blue Book, that these "good" cases went somewhere else for investigation.

JANAP 146, "Communications Instructions for Reporting Military Intelligence Sightings (CIRMIS)," was first published in July of 1948, and was based on a similar publication that first appeared during World War II. The 1948 edition made no mention of UFOs, and imposed no requirement that UFOs be reported. UFOs were not included in JANAP 146 until September 1950, with the publication of JANAP 146(A). The title of the publication was changed to "Communications Instructions For Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings From Aircraft (CIRVIS)," and the reports generated under this publication thereafter were referred to as "CIRVIS reports."

Based on Air Force Intelligence records located at the National Archives, and historical reports for the Air Force's Directorate of Intelligence, it seems clear that, once UFO reports were required under JANAP 146, a conflict arose between the two reporting systems. The Air Defense Command (ADC) was experiencing difficulty in getting follow-up reports from Air Force Intelligence. These follow-up reports apparently were going to the UFO investigators at Wright-Patterson AFB, but ADC was left hanging, which made their air defense mission suffer.

One result of this confusion was that the Air Force published Air Force Regulation (AFR) 200-3, "Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings From Aircraft," on 2 July 1952, in order "[t]o put 'teeth' into the CIRVIS reporting program" Prior to publication of AFR 200-3, the Air Force also revised Directorate of Intelligence Office Memorandum No. 200-23, dated 22 April 1952, entitled "Responsibilities and Processing 'CIRVIS' Messages," which prescribed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling CIRVIS reports within the Directorate of Intelligence. This office memo furnished a lot of details on how CIRVIS reports were handled.

According to Office Memo 200-23, "JANAP ... is worldwide instructions for the reporting of incidents observed while airborne which, in the opinion of the pilot, requires prompt defensive and/or investigative action by the Armed Forces." It further states that "CIRVIS is designed in large measure to prevent a second Pearl Harbor and provides for the most rapid and uninterrupted passing of raw information from an observer to the three agencies having the greatest interest" The three agencies were identified as:

- (1) Air Defense Command (ADC), "for positive air action if required";
- (2) Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), "for appropriate action by the three services"; and
- (3) Nearest Military Command, "for local evaluation and defense."

Paragraph 4g of Office Memo 200-23 specifically assigned AFOIN-2B (the Evaluations Division of the Directorate of Intelligence) with responsibility for "Keeping ATIC informed of such reports as are pertinent to Project Bluebook." [Emphasis added.]

In October 1959, the reporting requirements under AFR 200-3 were shifted to AFR 55-88, entitled "Communications Instructions Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings (CIRVIS) From Aircraft." With the May 1968 edition of AFR 55-88, copies of CIRVIS reports were being addressed directly to the Foreign Technology Division (FTD), the successor to the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), and the home of Project Blue Book.

AFR 55-88 was superseded by Air Force Manual (AFM) 55-11, "Air Force Operational Reporting System," published on 20 May 1968. AFM 55-11 appears to have been a consolidation

of *all* reporting requirements imposed on the Air Force. These requirements involved a multitude of subjects, the vast majority of which had nothing whatever to do with UFOs. That portion of the manual dealing with UFOs was merely an abbreviated version of JANAP 146, knowledge of which has been available to the UFO field since at least 1955 when Donald Keyhoe's book, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, was published.

The obvious point is that the available documentation clearly shows that the Air Force instituted procedures to be sure Blue Book was informed of CIRVIS reports of UFOs, even if the documentation proving this is difficult to find and not known to those "experts" who eagerly substitute their own peculiar ideas and speculations in place of the facts.

But why did two separate reporting systems exist? The single best explanation I have seen is found in the September 1959 "Staff Study" located among the Project Blue Book files at the National Archives. Paragraph 4 of the study says:

The methods by which UFO reports are forwarded is by TWX [teletype] or telephone from military installations, and by letter or phone from civil organizations or private citizens. This, when compared with the reaction time necessary for survival in event of an attack using modern weapons, is ridiculous. The ATIC interest in these objects, in view of the foregoing, can only be its intelligence or scientific and/or technical significance after successful defense action has been accomplished by another agency.

It should be emphasized again that the vast majority of CIRVIS reports undoubtedly had little or nothing whatever to do with UFOs. "UFO" reports (which, for ADC, included reports of Soviet aircraft which had not yet been identified as such) apparently were going to Air Force Intelligence in the Pentagon and to Blue Book at Wright-Patterson, with inadequate follow-up reports being sent to ADC, which was trying to fulfill the defense function. One might hope that even the most ardent UFO hobbyists would agree that the defense mission should take precedence over the more leisurely investigation of UFOs carried out by ATIC, and that the special reporting system that supported Blue Book was not adequate when it came to the timely reporting of *possible* threats to national security.

The "Bolender memo" did not state that CIRVIS reports of UFOs which could affect national security did not go to Blue Book. It merely acknowledged the existence of two separate reporting systems, intended to serve two entirely different purposes. Other documentation clearly shows that procedures were put in place to make sure Blue Book received reports that fell within their area of responsibility. The "Bolender memo" points out that, with the termination of Blue Book and the special reporting system that supported it, any UFO reports which could affect national security would continue to be reported to the proper military authorities. In short, the subject of UFOs would cease to be a special study, and instead would be handled as a routine item of intelligence interest. Given the Air Force mission to defend the sovereign airspace of the United States, there is no way they can divest themselves fully of the UFO subject. And the termination of Blue Book was never intended to get the Air Force out of the UFO business completely. The record has *always* been clear on this point. Despite the availability of this record, so-called UFO "experts" continue to feign surprise when they learn that a particular "UFO" event has been documented in government files, suggesting some level of government interest in the subject.

But the government, and the Air Force in particular, is not blameless. They have helped cultivate the idea that a cover-up exists by repeatedly pronouncing that they got out of the UFO business when Project Blue Book was terminated in 1969. And every time new UFO-related records surface, the UFO "experts" point to the documents and say, "See, they're still conducting investigations in secret." These apparent contradictions lend credence to the idea that a cover-up exists, especially when exploited by supposed UFO "experts" for just that purpose. This, in turn, creates an atmosphere that invites all manner of wild, unsupported claims by certain UFO "visionaries" whose objective seems to be to establish themselves more firmly as "authorities" on the "UFO cover-up," which doesn't necessarily

mean these paranoid individuals don't honestly believe their own hype.

While there undoubtedly are a number of factors that explain the pronouncements claiming official disinterest in UFOs, the most compelling probably is that it's the simplest, easiest response to make, and one that discourages further inquiry by bluntly closing the door on the subject. Most likely contributing to the problem is a lack of personnel who really understand what was supposed to happen when Project Blue Book ended. As already noted, the end of Blue Book was never meant to be an end of Air Force interest in, or responsibility for, "UFO" reports. The Air Force's mission simply does not allow for it. As a result, pronouncements along these lines lack credibility from the start. Air Force personnel responsible for answering UFO-related queries simply are not knowledgeable enough to distinguish between what was *supposed* to happen when Blue Book ended, and what they *think* happened.

Another problem is one of semantics. The term "UFO" has two completely different meanings within the Air Force and within the UFO community. For the Air Force, a "UFO" could be an unidentified commercial aircraft that strayed from its flight plan, or a Russian aircraft testing U.S. defense systems. For the UFO community, the term "UFO" has come to mean spacecraft of extraterrestrial origin. No doubt when UFO buffs communicate with Air Force personnel, both assume the UFO buff is referring to spacecraft of extraterrestrial origin.

That is not to say that "UFOs" — however one defines the term — do not come to the attention of Air Force agencies from time to time. If any given "UFO" exhibits indications of being a *possible* threat, no doubt efforts are undertaken to "investigate" (another term that requires definition) the sighting, at least to the point where officials are satisfied that the "UFO" — be it a Russian aircraft or some aerial phenomenon that remains unidentified — poses no threat to national security. The transitory nature of all such sightings allows for little more.

One notable example of official, post-Blue Book interest in "UFO" sightings occurred in 1975 when a number of UFOs were reported over or in the vicinity of Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases in the northern tier states. The large quantity of official documentation generated on these sightings — which includes CIRVIS reports released by the now-defunct Aerospace Defense Command (ADCOM) — clearly demonstrates that no special project existed to investigate the sightings. The sightings came to the attention of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who eventually ordered that a Temperature Inversion Analysis (TIA) be performed whenever UFOs were reported. The requirement to perform TIAs was farmed out to Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC), and some few TIAs were performed on subsequent sightings. But even that meager effort to "investigate" UFO sightings eventually ceased.

The boring reality is that the Air Force's interest in UFOs is as transitory as the phenomenon itself, although certain elements within the UFO field would have us believe otherwise. When certain of these self-appointed "experts" cannot find the facts, they have an annoying habit of inventing new "facts" to take their place, from which they construct elaborate scenarios that are the envy of the best fiction writers. While this practice might be enormously convenient, it rarely (if ever) results in an accurate picture, especially when these new "facts" are little more than ignorance-based fantasies. This fantasy-driven game of "connect the dots" always results in a picture consistent with the belief that the government is engaged in a "Cosmic Watergate," which in turn is consistent with the belief that Earth is being visited by one or more alien races. These supposed "experts" are so immersed in the subject and believe so strongly in the reality of ET visitations that they cannot accept the idea that the government doesn't share their beliefs and concerns. Their inability to accept this idea leads them to conclude that the government must be lying about their level of interest in the subject. And if they're willing to lie about it, well, the subject must be very important indeed. This circular reasoning has their fantasies feeding off of themselves.

The "Bolender memo" is *not* "proof" that the "good" UFO cases never went to Blue Book, notwithstanding pompous proclamations to the contrary.

☆☆☆☆☆ Cowflop Alert ☆☆☆☆☆

Special Edition ☆☆☆☆ Friday, September 22, 1995

RANDLE DUMPS -- AND DUMPS ON -- SCHMITT

By Robert G. Todd

In a to-whom-it-may-concern letter, dated September 10, 1995, Kevin Randle, half of the Center for UFO Studies' (CUFOS) Roswell "investigation" team, scrambled to distance himself from Donald Schmitt (the other half of the team) and what Randle claims were Schmitt's numerous lies. Randle also sought to distance himself from what Randle generously characterized as incompetent research performed by or for Schmitt, but which Randle claims did not find its way into one or both of the Randle-Schmitt books on the overblown Roswell incident.

After recounting details of numerous falsehoods uttered by Schmitt, Randle cautions the reader not to believe anything Schmitt says.

While heaping scorn on Schmitt, Randle blows his own horn by proclaiming: "Everything I put into the books, I knew to be the truth because I researched it myself, or I had checked to make sure the documentation existed."

Randle now has a convenient scapegoat on whom he can pin every false claim, fact, characterization, or other mistruth that appears not only in their two books, but the countless articles the CUFOS "investigators" wrote for the *International UFO Reporter* (IUR), the official propaganda organ of the Center for UFO Studies (a.k.a. "The Ministry of Truth"). But how truthful has Randle been?

After reading their first book, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, and finding numerous claims of a dubious nature, I wrote to Schmitt about one of those claims, which appears on page 7 of their first book:

The government cover-up extends to the public records of the Air Force UFO investigation as well. These records were released in 1976, and the file on Roswell contains but a single press clipping. No letters, no investigative forms, no official weather balloon explanation, nothing but that lone clipping. The file for the recovery of an actual weather balloon in Circleville, Ohio, a week before the Roswell event, contains far more documentation on its particulars. Where is the material that should be in the Roswell file?

Prior to the involvement of the CUFOS "investigators," Roswell "researchers" had always claimed the Blue Book records made no mention of the Roswell incident. Eager to see the files on both incidents, I looked, and looked, and looked. The index to the Blue Book cases listed neither incident, and after looking through the actual case files, these two mystery files still couldn't be located.

I wrote to Donald Schmitt and explained that I wasn't able to find the file either for the Roswell incident or the Circleville case, and asked him to tell me where they were located.

Schmitt never replied to my letter, but Randle did, by letter dated December 9, 1992. He explained

that he "did most of the work on the section of the book" in question. He also said:

I went back and re-read page 7 and realized that it wasn't as clear as it could have been. There is no file in Blue Book that relates to Roswell specifically. The only mention of Roswell actually appears in a newspaper clipping for a case from Idaho on July 10, 1947.

He also said:

I also see that I didn't make it clear that the "file" on Circleville is not part of the Blue Book system other than a mention inside another case in the newspaper clippings that are filed with it. We meant that the clipping on Circleville contains more detail.

So, finally, one of the CUFOS "investigators" had fessed up -- well, almost. It wasn't a lie that there were Blue Book "files" both on the Roswell incident and the Circleville case -- with the reader being misled into believing the "file" on Circleville contained letters, investigative forms, and an official weather balloon explanation, while the Roswell "file" contained "nothing but that lone clipping" -- it was merely a lack of clarity that was confusing.

In contrasting the contents of these two imaginary "files," Randle and Schmitt were suggesting that the differences in the contents suggested something sinister in the official handling of the Roswell incident. The clear implication of their remarks was that the Circleville "file" contained letters, investigative forms, and the official weather balloon explanation, while the "file" on Roswell contained nothing but a single newspaper clipping. The truth was that there was no Blue Book file on either incident, that the nonexistent "file" on Circleville did not contain official letters, investigative forms, or weather balloon explanation, and that there was, in fact, no difference at all in how these two cases were handled in the Blue Book files. Each "file" consisted of a "lone clipping."

Randle's feeble -- if not downright insulting -- "explanation" for this sad affair was that the newspaper clipping on Circleville -- over which the Air Force had no control -- contained "more detail." That "explanation" is worthy of being characterized by using Randle's own words, the very words he used in accusing Schmitt: "He was caught and tried to lie his way out of it."

I wrote back to Randle and observed that what he and Schmitt published in their book appeared to be more than a simple lack of clarity. It seemed to be a deliberate lie intended to cast the Roswell incident in a more sinister light. Randle took great offense at my suggestion, and refused to cooperate any further. When I inquired about other dubious claims they made, including the claim about the missing military personnel files, neither Schmitt nor Randle replied. Since CUFOS' "investigators" had also claimed that their research materials were available at CUFOS for verification, I contacted CUFOS only to be told that

the materials in which I expressed an interest either were not at the Center, or Schmitt and Randle were not disposed to cooperate with me because I had accused them of lying. Later, in the pages of CUFOS' propaganda organ, Randle would claim he didn't allow me access because he wanted to protect the copyright of his materials, despite the fact that he and Schmitt -- and presumably CUFOS -- had made materials freely available to parties more friendly to their position, and Randle continues to do so to this very day. So, either CUFOS' "scientific director" lied in response to my repeated requests for access, or Randle lied. I leave it to those two to fight it out amongst themselves to see who will take the blame for the lies -- and the selective use of rewards and punishments they deem so crucial to the "scientific method."

Also of interest is the fact that, although aware of this supposed lack of clarity, neither Randle nor Schmitt -- nor CUFOS -- took any action to correct the public record.

Reproduced on this page are the complete contents of the Blue Book "files" Randle cited on page 7 of his first "Book of Roswell" -- ostensibly co-authored with Donald Schmitt.

If the past is any indication, we can look forward to a third "Book of Roswell" -- written by Randle alone. Hallelujah!

Flying Star Lands in Ohio

Circleville, Ohio, July 5 (AP).—Folks in Pickway County, who have been following the "flying saucer" mystery, became excited today when Sherman Campbell found a strange object on his farm.

It was in the form of a six-pointed star, 50 inches high and 48 inches wide, covered with tin-foil. It weighed about two pounds. Attached to the top were the remains of a balloon.

The Port Columbus Airfield weather station said the description tallied with an object used by the Army Air Forces to measure wind velocity at high altitudes by the use of radar.

Above, the Project Blue Book "file" on the Circleville, Ohio, radar target case, according to Kevin Randle

Daily News Tribune, July 10, 1947

Saucers, If Any, Fading Away To Blue Yonder

Chicago, July 9 (U.P.).—The mysterious flying saucers all but disappeared today.

Every report that one of the discs had been found was proved false, and the numbers of reports from persons who claimed to have seen saucers in the sky dropped to a trickle.

Army Air Force headquarters in Washington was reported to have delivered a blistering rebuke to officers at the Roswell, N. M., air base for announcing yesterday that a "flying disc" had been found on a New Mexico ranch. The "disc" turned out to be the remnants of a weather observation balloon, of a type used by the Army.

At Boise, Idaho, Dave Johnson, aviation editor of the Idaho Statesman, reported he had taken motion pictures of a black object he said might be a disc. He said he was able to get only about 10 feet of film before the object disappeared in the sky.

Above, the Project Blue Book "file" on the Roswell incident, according to Kevin Randle.

The Cowflop Quarterly

REPORTING ON UFOLOGICAL FRAUDS AND FANTASIES

Vol. 1, No. 1

Friday, May 5, 1995

Free

By Robert G. Todd

EXPLANATION:

What follows are those portions of my letter to the editor of the International UFO Reporter (IUR) which, for one reason or another, the editor did not consider worthy of publication in that august journal. Without debating the merits of Jerome Clark's decision, I believe it only fair to offer the following so that the full story is known, and the reader can decide for himself.

Perhaps the reason for the misrepresentations, mischaracterizations, and outright lies foisted on the public by certain Roswell "investigators" has finally been revealed in Randle's response to my letter, published in IUR. Randle "explained" his unwillingness to circulate investigative materials to other researchers because his interest was in protecting the copyright of those materials. With that "explanation," Randle revealed that the commercial aspects of Roswell are far more important to CUFOS' "investigators" than the search for the truth. The commercialization of Roswell also helps explain why certain facts have been withheld. No market exists for explained mysteries. There are no book deals, no movie deals, not even for fictionalized accounts of mysteries that never were. The Roswell incident started because of human error, but it survives because of human greed.

ROSWELL: THE RUSE THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG

This is in reference to the article, "The Air Force report on Roswell: An absence of evidence," by Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney, which appeared in the September/October 1994 edition of IUR.

The authors accept what CUFOS' Roswell "investigators" (Schmitt and Randle) refer to as the "conventional wisdom." Of the many flaws in the "conventional wisdom," perhaps none is more important to the case than the false premise upon which the entire Roswell myth is based, and on which the myth continues to flourish. Rodeghier and Chesney make use of this false premise as the foundation for some of their criticisms of the Air Force report.

The authors quote from the July 9, 1947, edition of the *Roswell Daily Record*, which described the debris found by W.W. Brazel, based on statements Brazel made to the paper's reporters during an interview the previous day. According to the paper, Brazel "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." Rodeghier and Chesney observe that, "This statement has never been able to square with the original Air Force explanation that a weather balloon was the source of the Roswell debris. It also remains difficult to reconcile with the new balloon explanation, because Flight 4 did not consist of any unusual balloon material . . ."

The crashed-saucer promoters have not been able to reconcile Brazel's statement with the Air Force statements because the investigators reporting on Roswell either did not know, or deliberately did not report, the fact that radar targets, such as the one(s) recovered in the Roswell incident, were *not* in widespread use at the time of the Roswell incident, and with only a few exceptions, were virtually unknown to Air Force personnel, other than those personnel engaged in weather or research and development activities. These particular targets, parts of one or more of which appear in the Roswell photographs, were designed for use with a specific radar, the SCR-584, which was a gun-laying radar for anti-aircraft artillery. The artillery men operating the guns needed accurate wind information to adjust the weapons to compensate for winds aloft. This was the primary use of these radar targets. By 1947, these targets were *not* used for routine meteorological observations. Instead, the weather services relied on two other methods for determining winds aloft, the "pibal" (Pilot Balloon) method, which required visually tracking a pilot balloon, and the Radio Direction Finding (RDF) method, which used a small radio transmitter to track the progress of the balloons.

This information was furnished to the press back in July of 1947, in response to queries made in connection with the Roswell incident. Although not widely reported by the crashed-saucer promoters, an Associated Press (AP) wire,

dated July 8, 1947, quoted Brigadier General Donald Yates, chief of the Air Weather Service, as saying that only a very few of the targets "are used daily, at points where some specific project requires highly accurate wind information from extreme altitudes." My research into the subject more than forty years after the fact confirmed General Yates' statements to the press. These targets were *not* in widespread use at the time of the Roswell incident, and it is doubtful that *any* of the Roswell witnesses, including Major Marcel and W.W. Brazel, had ever seen one before. Brazel may have found weather balloons on the ranch on two previous occasions, but neither of these balloons carried the unusual radar targets. As a result, Brazel's statement that what he found this time in no way resembled a weather balloon is perfectly consistent with the Air Force's statement. A radar target is not a weather balloon, a distinction the crashed-saucer promoters consistently fail to make.

Relying on allegations made by certain Roswell witnesses, the crashed-saucer promoters conclude that Air Force personnel at Fort Worth concealed the "real" Roswell debris and substituted a beat-up radar target in its stead. But since these targets were not used for routine meteorological observations, and were not supplied to the weather squadrons on a routine basis, where did the Fort Worth personnel find one to substitute for the wreckage from the alien spaceship, which, coincidentally, bore a remarkable resemblance to the radar targets? The targets were not available either at Fort Worth Army Air Field or Roswell Army Air Field. New York University (NYU) Balloon Group personnel, operating out of Alamogordo Army Air Field, were using these targets, but the personnel at Fort Worth had no knowledge of their work. So where did they dig up some of the targets? The obvious answer is that they didn't. The debris depicted in the Roswell photographs is the *real* debris W.W. Brazel recovered, and the very same debris Major Marcel brought to Roswell Army Air Field, and subsequently flew to Fort Worth.

But the Roswell photographs reveal other evidence. Professor Charles B. Moore, who headed the NYU balloon team in New Mexico in June-July 1947, examined the photographs and reached several relevant conclusions. First, he recognized the balloon material as having come from sounding balloons. The radar targets were "Pilot Balloon Targets" and one might reasonably expect them to be flown on pilot balloons. Flying them on clusters of sounding balloons was unorthodox, and as far as Professor Moore was aware, only his balloon group was making these unorthodox flights in New Mexico at the time.

In addition, whereas the pilot balloons generally in use at that time were all pigmented to aid visual tracking, the sounding balloons were unpigmented to eliminate as many impurities from the neoprene as possible, in order to attain the highest altitudes possible. The unpigmented sounding balloons deteriorated after exposure to sunlight, and discolored in the

process, while the pilot balloons tended to retain their pigmented colors, even after exposure to the sun. But, contrary to the erroneous information contained in the statement the Air Force asked Professor Moore to sign, the balloon material did not deteriorate to the point where it would "almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days [emphasis added]." In fact, it took a few months for the balloon material to deteriorate to the point where it resembled charred paper. It became brittle and would flake easily, and could easily be mistaken for something that had been in a fire, although it would not be precise to call it ash. Professor Moore furnished me with material from a sounding balloon he exposed to New Mexico sunlight for four months which displayed these characteristics.

After examining the Roswell photographs, Professor Moore concluded that the depth of darkening of the balloon material is consistent with an early June launch. This, in turn, is consistent with the newspaper accounts, apparently based on Major Marcel's statements to the press at the time, that Brazel had discovered the debris on June 14th.

There is no disputing the fact that the balloon material shown in the Roswell photographs had been exposed to sunlight for several weeks. Ordinary sounding balloons are considered expendable equipment. Nobody goes searching for them once they're launched. The balloons are not recovered and are not -- indeed cannot be -- used over again. Once exposed to sunlight, they start to deteriorate. Nobody saves used balloon material. So, how did the personnel at Fort Worth know of Professor Moore's unorthodox balloon flights, and where did they find sounding balloon material that had been exposed to the sun for several weeks, so that it could be substituted for the "real" Roswell debris? Again, the answer is simple. No substitution was made. The Roswell photographs show the real Roswell debris, and the photographs show material from one or more radar targets, and material from one or more sounding balloons that had been exposed to sunlight for several weeks.

Neither the radar targets nor used balloon material was readily available to the personnel at Fort Worth Army Air Field, certainly not on such short notice. So few Air Force personnel were familiar with the appearance of radar targets that it is ridiculous to suggest that somebody actually recommended substituting radar targets for the "real" Roswell debris. Even the Roswell witnesses who insist they handled the real debris say the debris depicted in the photographs resembles the debris they saw back in 1947, although they say it is not the same, which isn't terribly surprising after the passage of nearly five decades.

Furthermore, the Air Force did not lie when they stated that what the rancher recovered was a weather balloon, General DuBose's statements notwithstanding. To the extent that the balloons were being used to carry scientific instruments being developed to detect compressional waves from Soviet atomic explosions, and the radar targets were being used to track the position of the balloons -- neither piece of equipment being used for weather purposes -- the statement that the debris was from a weather balloon was a little misleading as to the purpose to which it was being put, but it was the truth.

Another flaw in Rodeghier and Chesney's article is their attempt to call into question the recollections of Project Mogul personnel who recall the tape with the pinkish-purplish symbols. This maneuver seems to be directed primarily at Professor Moore, who drew the symbols at my request, and showed how the tape was applied to the targets. One of Professor Moore's drawings appears in the Air Force report.

Rodeghier and Chesney say, "Even though Project Mogul documentation exists, there is no paper or physical evidence to prove conclusively that the purplish-pink tape, for example, was used in constructing the balloon trains." The tape was not used to construct the balloon trains, as Rodeghier and Chesney put it. The tape was used by the manufacturer of the radar targets as reinforcement on the targets that were flown on the balloon trains. That aside, unlike the witnesses to the "alien writing," whose testimony Rodeghier and Chesney eagerly accept, even though the witnesses saw the writing on only one occasion, Professor Moore, for example, used the

targets on between 50 and 100 balloon flights made between June 1947 and 1952. Since multiple targets were used, we could be talking about several hundred targets with the peculiar tape, which caught Professor Moore's attention upon his every use of the targets. Yet, in their attempt to discredit the Mogul explanation, Rodeghier and Chesney reject as many as several hundred firsthand observations of the tape with the pinkish-purplish symbols in favor of the one-time observations of the "alien writing."

It should be noted that personnel who worked with the radar targets, but who had no connection with Project Mogul, also recall the peculiar tape with the pinkish-purplish symbols.

The photographs are the best, most reliable evidence for what W.W. Brazel found on the Foster Ranch, and the newspaper accounts furnish the best, most reliable account of the sequence of events that occurred back in July of 1947. The crashed-saucer promoters tend to dismiss the newspaper accounts because they dispute the "alien spaceship" explanation. What the public has not been told is that much of the information in those newspaper stories was furnished by Major Marcel himself. Instead, the crashed-saucer promoters actively promote the idea that General Ramey told Marcel to keep his mouth shut and not talk to the press. This may indeed be true, but if it is, then Marcel spoke to the press in Roswell, before the official cover-up was instituted.

According to the newspaper accounts, Marcel said Brazel had found the debris three weeks previously and didn't think anything about it until he went into Corona on Saturday night, July 5, where he first heard mention of the "silver" flying disks." He probably also heard about the \$3000 reward being offered for a genuine flying saucer. We reasonably can assume Brazel, having recently found the silvery debris on the remote ranch, put two and two together and concluded that the debris he found must have come from one of the silvery discs. Although he had found weather balloons on the ranch before, neither included the unusual radar targets, which in no way resemble a weather balloon. For Brazel, the flying disc explanation won by default.

We may reasonably suppose from these newspaper accounts that Brazel headed for Roswell and contacted the sheriff, in the hope of claiming the \$3000 reward. It seems reasonable that Brazel presented his story to the sheriff in a flying disc context, and that the sheriff turned around and presented Brazel's story to Roswell Army Air Field and Major Marcel in a flying disc context. Since Major Marcel had never seen a radar target before, and since the targets in no way resemble a weather balloon, he, too, was not able to identify the debris, and, once again, the flying disc explanation won by default. The meaningless, pinkish-purplish symbols on the reinforcing tape only added to the mystery.

We may reasonably conclude that, upon his return to Roswell Army Air Field, Marcel showed the debris to Colonel Blanchard and his staff, none of whom had ever seen a radar target before.

The flying disc explanation won by default because nobody who examined the debris in Roswell had ever seen one of the unusual radar targets before. Because the debris had been located on a remote section of a remote ranch, the people involved reasonably concluded that the debris hadn't walked there on its own, and that, whatever it was, it had fallen from the sky. Contributing to the erroneous identification were the widespread radio and newspaper reports of flying saucer sightings. If an air of hysteria did not exist, certainly an air of excitement and expectation did.

There is no mystery as to why the crashed-saucer promoters ignore Marcel's earlier statements in favor of his statements made thirty-plus years after the event occurred. Certainly this is proof that "the best Roswell investigations," as Rodeghier and Chesney put it, do not "use all the available evidence," as they claim.

There are numerous other points for which the crashed-saucer promoters pick and choose the evidence they want the public, Mr. Schiff, and GAO to see. This selective use of information has painted a picture of the Roswell incident that bears little resemblance to reality.

The KowPflop Quarterly

REPORTING ON UFOLOGICAL FRAUDS AND FANTASIES

Vol. 1, No. 3

Friday, December 8, 1995

\$100.00

MAJOR JESSE MARCEL: FOLK HERO OR MYTHOMANIAC?

By Robert G. Todd

The grossly overblown Roswell incident would have remained buried in yellowed newspaper clippings without the "testimony" of Major Jesse A. Marcel, the intelligence officer at Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) who took the telephone call from Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox on that fateful Monday, July 7, 1947. Although certain crashed-saucer promoters have attempted to change the date Marcel first heard about the incident in order to accommodate the ever-changing "conventional wisdom," or to accommodate the flawed (or manufactured) "memories" of new "witnesses" as they surface, the fact remains that Marcel himself claimed he got the call on Monday, July 7, 1947.

Sheriff Wilcox presumably informed Marcel that W.W. "Mack" Brazel had ambled into his office with his story of finding strange debris on the ranch he operated in Lincoln County, well outside Sheriff Wilcox's jurisdiction. According to Marcel, he and a Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) agent accompanied Brazel back to the ranch and saw "Wreckage . . . scattered over an area about three quarters of a mile long and several hundred feet wide." Marcel said the object -- whatever it was -- hadn't actually struck the ground, but appeared to have exploded in the air and fell to the ground. One has to wonder why Marcel never mentioned seeing the long gouge the object allegedly made in the earth when it supposedly touched down and shed a large quantity of debris, but apparently not enough debris to prevent it from skipping off again only to crash at a second site miles away. The crashed-saucer promoters have yet to explain this obvious discrepancy.

The debris described by Marcel -- both back in 1947 and decades later -- bears an uncanny resemblance to the debris one would expect to find from a train of weather balloons and radar targets. He described "small beams about three eighths or a half inch square with some sort of hieroglyphics on them that nobody could read." These "beams" looked like balsa wood, but, of course, they weren't balsa wood at all, according to Major Marcel. He said the beams couldn't be broken or burned, and he attributed similarly indestructible qualities to the other bits of debris he saw. The tinfoil (which, of course, wasn't tinfoil at all) was as thin as the foil in a pack of cigarettes, yet it couldn't be bent or even dented. Marcel claimed that "one of the boys" (never identified by name) went to him and told him that he had tried to dent the tinfoil with a sixteen pound sledgehammer, but it wouldn't dent, a claim Marcel apparently accepted without question, even though he hadn't witnessed the attempt himself. Major Marcel said "It was possible to flex this stuff [the tinfoil] back and forth, even to wrinkle it, but you could not put a crease in it that would stay, nor could you dent it at all."

To hear the crashed-saucer promoters tell it, Marcel's credibility is unquestioned. After all, he was the intelligence officer for the only atomic bomb unit then in existence in the entire world, an "elite" unit of hand-picked men who were chosen for their expertise. But just how reliable was he? To find out, I obtained a copy of his military personnel file, which consists of nearly two hundred pages of material relating to his career in the Air Force.

In his interviews with various Roswell "investigators," Marcel made certain claims about his military service. One of those claims was that he had served in the National Guard both in Louisiana and Texas. Marcel's personnel file confirms that he served as an enlisted man in an infantry company with the Louisiana National Guard from June 1928 to June 1929, and that he was honorably discharged as a sergeant. The file also confirms that he served as an enlisted man in an artillery unit with the

Texas National Guard from July 1936 to June 1939, and that he was honorably discharged with the rank of private. The file also shows that, in January 1942, while still employed with the Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas, Marcel applied for an appointment as a second lieutenant in the "Officers' Reserve Corps," and requested assignment to the Air Force Combat Command (AFCC). According to the records, in February 1942, Marcel was recommended for appointment to second lieutenant in the Army of the United States (AUS), "for duty with the Army Air Forces". He accepted the appointment and entered active duty in April 1942, just as he had claimed to Roswell investigators. But the personnel file becomes far more interesting when compared against Marcel's more impressive claims about his military service.

For example, Marcel claimed he was an aide to General Hap Arnold, and that it had been Arnold who decided he should go to intelligence school. This claim is false. As already noted, when Marcel applied for an appointment as a second lieutenant, he was still working for the Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. When Marcel accepted the appointment and entered active duty, his very first assignment was as a student at the Army Air Forces Intelligence School (AAFIS) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The decision to send him to intelligence school had been made by the Air Force even before Marcel accepted the appointment and before he served even one day in the Army Air Forces. Not only was the decision to send Marcel to intelligence school made before Marcel even entered the service, but it was also decided that, after completing intelligence school, Marcel would be assigned to a combat unit as a "Photo Interpretation Officer," both decisions undoubtedly based on Marcel's employment at Shell Oil where he made maps from aerial photographs. Marcel's claim was a blatant falsehood. Moreover, the nature of his claim does not lend itself to an innocent explanation, except perhaps for delusions of grandeur.

Marcel also claimed he had "flying experience" prior to going into the Air Force, and that he had been a "private pilot" who had started flying in 1928. He said he had accumulated 3,000 hours of flight time as a pilot, and 8,000 hours of total flying time. His personnel file, however, does not support these claims. Nowhere on his application for appointment (completed and signed by Marcel in January 1942), or the "Classification Questionnaire for Reserve Officers" (completed and signed by Marcel in February 1942), did he mention *any* experience as a pilot. He didn't even mention that he had flown in aircraft as a passenger, although he did reveal important pieces of information such as his hobbies of amateur photography and amateur radio, and that he had acted in school and community plays, and had sung in a quartet over radio and at parties. His participation in volleyball, baseball, and tennis was noted in other official records as well, but the closest he came to indicating any civilian involvement with anything airborne was his description of his work for Shell Oil Company, where he made maps from aerial photographs. If indeed he had a private pilot's certificate in civilian life, he never hinted at it in any of the many official forms and other documents he was required to complete or verify throughout his military career. It doesn't seem likely that modesty prevented him from revealing this information to the air arm of the military services.

Among Marcel's other claims was that he flew in combat as a waist gunner, a bombardier, *and* as a pilot. While his personnel file indicates he flew *on* combat missions, it does *not* support his more impressive claims. Since Marcel's primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was "Intelligence Staff Officer (Combat)," we may reasonably assume he flew on combat missions to assess bomb damage, and/or to identify possible

future targets or targets of opportunity. The records show that, throughout his entire Air Force career, he had no aeronautical rating whatsoever, not as a bombardier, nor in any other crew position. Bombardiers required extensive training, and nowhere in his file does it show he received such training, or that he was even considered for such training. Pilots also required extensive training, and, again, the file shows Marcel did not receive that training, nor was he even considered for such training. His "Reserve Officer Career Brief," dated 20 November 1947, lists his flying experience as "NONE." In another document in the file, dated 19 August 1948, General Ramey specifically stated that Marcel was NOT a rated pilot, a fact Ramey noted would limit Marcel's career in the Air Force.

Nevertheless, it appears that many World War II bomber pilots allowed each member of the crew (including enlisted personnel) an opportunity to fly the aircraft at least once, so they would be more familiar with the controls should the pilot and copilot become incapacitated. It seems this practice was credited for saving more than one ship and its crew. If Marcel piloted any aircraft during the war, it surely was when the pilot let him fly the plane to familiarize him with the controls. Had the pilot and copilot actually become incapacitated and had Marcel been called upon to save the ship, you can be certain we would have heard about it. That is the only set of circumstances under which Marcel would have been allowed to pilot an aircraft in combat.

As for his claim that he flew as a waist gunner, the records show he had no training for that position either. According to the file, Marcel was scored for his proficiency in the use of firearms, and scored an unimpressive 44% with a pistol. The records also show he fired 25 rounds from a Thompson submachine gun, 40 rounds from a carbine, and 20 rounds from a 22-caliber rifle. According to his service record, that was the full extent of his hands-on exposure to firearms. Furthermore, the position of waist gunner was an enlisted man's position, not an officer's position. Even so, bombardiers and navigators also had training as gunners — but intelligence officers did not. Nowhere does Marcel's service record show he had any training as a gunner.

Given the above facts, it might seem downright incredible that Marcel actually claimed he had been awarded five Air Medals because he shot down five enemy planes while manning the waist gun of a B-24 bomber. The official records, however, show otherwise. These records — some signed by Marcel himself — clearly show he was awarded only two Air Medals (one Air Medal and an oak leaf cluster for a subsequent award of the same medal). Moreover, the citations giving the reasons for the awards make absolutely no mention of Marcel's having shot down even one enemy aircraft. In fact, the citations make it clear the medals were awarded because Marcel had flown on enough combat missions for enough hours to qualify for the awards.

While commendable, two Air Medals are not five. In terms of numbers, Marcel claimed he received 150% more Air Medals than he actually received, a significant exaggeration by any reasonable standard. He also grossly misrepresented the circumstances under which the medals were awarded. And, once again, there is no innocent explanation for this rather glaring discrepancy.

There may be a grain of truth to his claims of manning a waist gun, to the extent he was allowed to squeeze off a few rounds to see what it was like, but the claim he shot down five enemy aircraft and was awarded five Air Medals as a result is a blatant lie. Five confirmed "kills" (officially called "victories") would have made Marcel an "ace," and his achievement would have been noted in his service record in no uncertain terms. It is not.

Marcel also contributed to a misunderstanding regarding his rank. The military ranking system has changed significantly over the years, becoming less complicated in the process. The crashed-saucer promoters never fail to mention that Marcel attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, as if this automatically bestows credibility on anything he had to say. What they don't say (probably because they don't know it) is that Marcel's active-duty rank never rose above major. When he left active duty in September 1950, the highest rank he had attained while on

active duty was still major. Marcel told receptive (if not eager) Roswell "investigators" that he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1947, but that — incredibly — he didn't find out about the promotion until he left the service (presumably meaning when he left active duty), because "They kept me so busy I never even looked at my personal files."

The official records show that Marcel was indeed promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1947 — in the Air Force Reserve. Despite his reserve rank, his active-duty rank was still major. Nobody walked around saluting him and calling him "Colonel."

As for his claim that he didn't find out about the promotion until after he left the service, it was an outright lie. Not only did he know about the promotion, but he had specifically requested it in a 29 October 1947 letter to the commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group. By letter dated 20 November 1947, Marcel was informed he had been appointed a lieutenant colonel "in the Officers Reserve Corps," and was further advised that the appointment would be cancelled if he did not accept it by signing the oath of office "within a reasonable time." Marcel signed the oath on 1 December 1947, thereby accepting the appointment officially. Marcel claimed they had kept him so busy that he didn't find out about the promotion until he left active duty in September 1950, almost three years later!

It appears Marcel fed the faithful other lies about his background. He told Roswell "investigators" that he had a bachelor's degree in Physics from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Marcel had been stationed in Washington during part of his assignment with the Strategic Air Command (SAC), from 16 August to 9 November 1948; and during his assignment with the Air Force organization responsible for detecting foreign atomic explosions, from 26 December 1948 to September 1950. He also claimed he attended the University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University, New York University, and Louisiana State University (LSU).

The forms Marcel filled out himself prior to entering active duty show that he claimed he attended LSU for one year. On one form he said he had been a "special student," while on another he said he had taken non-credit courses in Mathematics, English, and Physics. On records dated later, the one year at LSU grew to one and a half years, with no obvious explanation for the discrepancy, aside from the fact that the information had to have come from Marcel himself. There are no records in the file that show the Air Force made any attempt to verify his attendance at LSU. When I wrote to LSU to verify Marcel's claim, they informed me they could find no record of him, although they did find the records for his son. A second search produced the same results.

Marcel claimed he completed work on his bachelor's degree at The George Washington University, and that he had in fact received a degree. Yet, when I wrote to the University, they informed me they could find no record of Marcel. And, once again, a second search produced the same results.

No attempt was made to contact the other universities he claimed he attended, although there is no indication he ever lived in Wisconsin, Ohio, or New York where he would have had the opportunity to attend these universities in person. When he left active duty in September 1950, he apparently returned to Louisiana where he was self-employed as a television repairman. None of the records in Marcel's personnel file — with the records dating as late as June 1958 when he was discharged from the Air Force Reserve, long after he left Washington, D.C. and returned to Louisiana — show he attended any college, except for that one and a half years at LSU which Marcel himself had characterized as non-credit.

During a December 1979 interview with Bob Pratt, then a reporter with the *National Enquirer*, Marcel was asked how long he stayed at Roswell following the Roswell incident. He said he was transferred to Washington, D.C., the "latter part of 1947," where he said he was given a lengthy title of some kind. But, according to the official records, Marcel was assigned to the 509th Bombardment Wing at Walker Air Force Base (AFB), Roswell, New Mexico, until 16 August 1948, when he was transferred to SAC headquarters at Andrews AFB, Washington, D.C. That was more than a year after the Roswell incident had taken place. We'll never know for sure whether Marcel was lying, or

just badly confused. Whatever the cause, the crashed-saucer promoters use Marcel's erroneous statement to suggest that, contrary to what they might have expected if Marcel had really goofed on the Roswell incident, his superiors immediately promoted him and transferred him to a position of even greater responsibility. It sounds good, but the timing is off by about a year.

At SAC, Marcel was given the title of "Chief, Technical Trends & Developments, Alien Capabilities Section, Intelligence Division, Headquarters, presumably the lengthy title he had alluded to during the interview with Bob Pratt. Marcel remained at Andrews AFB until 9 November 1948, when he transferred — along with SAC headquarters — to Offutt AFB, Nebraska, where he held the same title. On 26 December 1948, he was again transferred, from SAC to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron (part of Headquarters Command) in Washington, D.C., where he was made the officer in charge of the "War Room, Intelligence Branch, Operations Division, AFOAT-1." AFOAT-1 (1009th Special Weapons Squadron) was responsible for operating the Long Range Detection Program (LRDP), which was intended to alert the United States to atomic explosions that occurred anywhere in the world, especially in the Soviet Union.

Marcel furnished Pratt (and others) with details of his assignment at AFOAT-1. In fact, he made the rather astonishing (and equally impressive) claim that, when AFOAT-1 detected the first Soviet atomic explosion in 1949, Marcel himself had to write a report on it. "In fact," he claimed, "I wrote the very report President Truman read on the air declaring that Russia had exploded an atomic device." Curiously, President Truman never went on the air to announce the Soviet A-bomb explosion. Instead, the White House issued a written statement, so Marcel's claim is false right from the start. In addition, no documentation has surfaced to support Marcel's claim to fame, while records have surfaced that suggest Marcel inflated his role. Among the records on the Soviet A-bomb explosion that have surfaced are formerly top-secret records from AFOAT-1 that found their way into President Truman's files. Not surprisingly, Marcel's name does not appear anywhere in these records, including records of the advisory group convened to evaluate AFOAT-1's data and conclusions. The group consisted of Dr. Vannevar Bush, Dr. Robert Bacher (former AEC commissioner), Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, and Admiral W.S. Parsons. With AFOAT-1's technical director, Doyle Northrup, and various generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels in the chain of command between Marcel and the President, it isn't terribly likely Marcel was telling the truth. But what has also surfaced is a copy of the White House statement itself, complete with corrections. *Nothing* about the typed, one-page statement suggests Marcel had anything whatever to do with it. Given his lies about other aspects of his background, there is little reason to give Marcel's claim any credence whatsoever.

Although the debris recovered from the Foster Ranch was identified officially as debris from a weather balloon that carried aluminum radar targets, Marcel claimed this explanation was only a "cover story" intended to get the press off General Ramey's back. According to Marcel, he "was acquainted with virtually every type of weather-observation or radar tracking device being used by either the civilians or the military. It was definitely not a weather or tracking device . . ." he said.

In *The Roswell Incident*, written by Charles Berlitz and William Moore and published in 1980, the authors lead the reader to believe that radar targets of the kind found by Brazel were in widespread use throughout the United States around the time of the Roswell incident. Nearly every Roswell "researcher" since then has repeated this myth, which is usually accompanied by a quote attributed to Mack Brazel to the effect that he had found weather balloons on the ranch on two prior occasions, but that what he found in June (*not* July) did not resemble the previous balloons. Although Brazel made no mention of finding weather balloons with the unusual radar targets, the crashed-saucer promoters find it extremely convenient to *assume* this is what Brazel meant. Since they assume Brazel found radar targets before, obviously he would have been able to recognize the one he found on June 14th, if indeed that had been what it was. Likewise, since Marcel claimed he was acquainted with virtually every type of weather-observation or radar tracking

device, surely he would have recognized the Roswell debris for what it was, had it been a radar target.

As reported in the first issue of *The Cowflop Quarterly*, radar targets were *not* in widespread use that the time of the Roswell incident, and, wishful thinking aside, there is no good reason to believe Brazel every recovered one prior to June 14, 1947. Nor is there any good reason to believe Marcel was acquainted with radar targets. Marcel was an intelligence officer, *not* a weather officer. Radar targets were not in widespread use either by civilians or the military. And, while not a highly sophisticated piece of equipment, radar targets were a highly *specialized* piece of equipment unknown to most people except the relative handful of people who used them.

The myth that radar targets were in widespread use allows the crashed-saucer promoters to claim a "common, ordinary" radar target was substituted for the "real" Roswell debris that was spirited away to some high-security facility. But since these radar targets weren't in widespread use, and weren't available either at Roswell Army Air Field or at Fort Worth Army Air Field, there was no convenient stock from which such a target could be drawn for employment in the mind-boggling cover-up. Those Roswell "investigators" who are interested in protecting the Roswell myth (and their reputations, such as they are), just ignore these facts and blithely go about their business of claiming Brazel and Marcel both would have been able to identify a radar target when they saw one. If they ignore the facts, they don't have to explain why it is they've been promoting their fallacious contentions for up to fifteen years.

Some crashed-saucer promoters (one in particular) point to the fact that Major Marcel attended radar intelligence school, and they try to convince us that he would have known all about radar targets for that reason. But their argument is utter nonsense. According to Marcel's personnel file, he attended the "Radar Intelligence Officers Course" from 13 August to 8 September 1945. The certificate of completion lists the subjects taught in that course, which were Basic Radar AN/APS-15A; Scope Interpretation; Radar Navigation; Radar Bombing; Target Study; Mission Planning; Aircraft Recognition; Radar Countermeasures; and Scope Photography. *None* of these subjects suggests Marcel had even an introduction to the use of radar targets for measuring the direction and speed of winds aloft, which was the usual province of weather officers. The course obviously was designed to help officers gather intelligence data, not weather data.

Marcel's dubious claims aside, there is no good reason to believe he even knew radar targets existed, much less what they looked like. Given the frenzy of flying saucer reports around the time of the Roswell incident, is it really any wonder Marcel's identification of the debris defaulted to "flying disc" when he was shown mangled metallic debris from a piece of highly specialized equipment he had never seen before? Yet some Roswell cheerleaders feign incredulity whenever somebody suggests Marcel was caught up in the moment and simply made a stupid mistake. Add to the mix his embarrassment at being made to look like a fool when the debris was *finally* shown to a weather officer who identified it correctly. No doubt it was humiliation that motivated Marcel to chase Irving Newton around General Ramey's office trying to convince him the debris really had come from an alien spaceship. And we can reasonably suppose that fear of further humiliation motivated Marcel to embellish details of his military service, and to concoct his claim that the Roswell debris wasn't from weather balloons and radar targets — even though that's exactly what it looked like — because the debris was virtually indestructible (except to the extent that it apparently had a problem with "common, ordinary" lightning, if you believe the mythology).

One of the more imaginative of the Roswell promoters, Kevin "Wrong Way" Randle, has concocted an embarrassingly ridiculous rationalization to delude himself into believing Marcel knew all about radar targets, and that there was indeed a source of radar targets available to the 509th Bomb Group. It seems Randle corresponded with Irving Newton and Newton revealed the fact that weather balloons with radar targets had been used during the atomic bomb tests. "Wrong Way" observed how the 509th Bomb Group had participated in the A-bomb tests during Operation Crossroads. From that one observation, "Wrong

Way" made the prodigious leap to the conclusion -- expressed in a March 7, 1995 letter to Prof. Charles B. Moore, formerly of the NYU Balloon Group at Alamogordo -- that "Rawin targets would have been available to the 509th because of that."

"Wrong Way" went on to make similarly astute observations with respect to Robert Porter's testimony. Porter had said he handled several packages wrapped in brown paper that were put on the plane going to Fort Worth. One package was triangular, and about two or three feet long. Other packages were the size of shoe boxes. Randle observed:

It sounds as if the wrappings concealed the remains of a rawin target. It seems that the evidence suggests that the rawin target came from Roswell. The question then, is it one that had been on the base, or is it the remains of something picked up on the Brazel ranch. It seems logical, based on the fact the 509th participated in Operation Crossroads, they would have had access to the rawin targets.

Incredibly, what "Wrong Way" was saying was that radar targets were used during Operation Crossroads. Since the 509th Bomb Group participated in Crossroads, they would have had access to radar targets (as though the targets were standard issue equipment for A-bomb groups). And since Robert Porter's testimony clearly suggests he placed a radar target (in brown wrapping paper) on board the aircraft going to Fort Worth, it must have been a radar target the 509th took out of their own stock of radar targets, so that it could be flown to Fort Worth where General Ramey could use it in place of the "real" Roswell debris.

It's always interesting to see the pathetically desperate lengths to which the crashed-saucer promoters will go to avoid the obvious conclusion that the debris recovered from the Foster Ranch did indeed consist of weather balloons and radar targets.

Precise wind information was needed during atomic tests for a number of reasons, not the least of which being concerns for the safety of observers. Without accurate wind information, it would have been impossible to predict where radioactive fallout might come down. Radar targets were specialized weather equipment that afforded accurate measurements of wind direction and speed. They were not necessary to deliver atomic bombs to their targets, and they certainly weren't necessary to detonate atomic bombs once dropped on their targets. Contrary to what "Wrong Way" would have us believe, radar targets were not standard-issue equipment for atomic bomb groups, which had no use for them.

Major Marcel also claimed he got shot down once, on his third mission. Not only did he claim he got shot down, but he also claimed that, when he bailed out, his main parachute malfunctioned and failed to open. He said he bailed out at eight thousand feet and fell six thousand feet before he got his reserve parachute open, leaving him a margin of error of only two thousand feet. When Bob Pratt asked Marcel if everyone survived, Marcel said, "All but one crashed into a mountain." One gets the feeling Marcel would have claimed he had been one of the men who died when he crashed into the mountain, if he thought he could get away with it. Apparently it would have taken a discrepancy that obvious in nature before certain of the crashed-saucer promoters started doubting Marcel's veracity. Marcel's personnel file does not confirm his claim of being shot down, nor does it dispute it. But considering his other fanciful claims, there is reason to doubt the story.

Given Major Marcel's documented inclination toward Walter Mitty-like fantasies, and his propensity for making wildly exaggerated claims, coupled with his embarrassment over having made a stupid mistake back in 1947, any statements he made in connection with the Roswell incident are virtually worthless, except to the faithful who will continue to cling to Marcel as a knight in shining armor. In his Showtime movie, *Roswell*, Paul Davids did his level best to turn Major Marcel into a folk hero who blazed the trail to the "truth" about the Roswell incident. But the truth is that Major Marcel was a mythomaniac who was responsible for the brouhaha back in 1947, and without whom the Roswell story would never have lived again in the 1980s and '90s. Clearly Marcel had a problem with the truth.

In Marcel's "testimony," we see the origins of every sensational claim being made about the Roswell incident, repeated and embellished by "witnesses" -- real and imagined -- who have followed in his footsteps. Although he never mentioned the recovery of bodies, his face-saving claim that the debris was "not of the Earth" certainly opened the door for others to make that claim. Marcel primed the pump of sensational claims, and it's been gushing ever since.

The Roswell incident has emerged as a myth of such power and allure that it is no longer in anybody's best interests to seek -- or admit to -- the truth. The town of Roswell profits from increased tourism. The supposed Roswell "witnesses" get their two hours of fame, and immortality in the history books. The Roswell "investigators" garner the adulation of their peers (assuming they have any), and the royalties from book and movie deals. The UFO "organizations" enjoy a new respectability they otherwise haven't been able to achieve after nearly fifty years of worthless "research"; and at least one politician gets his face plastered all over tabloid TV so that his constituents get the misimpression that he's actually doing something besides collecting a fat salary -- just in time for the 1996 election. Is it any wonder the truth has been lost in this hodgepodge of vested interests?

It's time the fanatical true believers (if indeed that's what they are) started questioning the accuracy and veracity of the "testimony" certain alleged witnesses have given. For too long that testimony has been held inviolable. No matter how sensational or nonsensical, alleged "eyewitness" testimony in the Roswell case is presumed to be true until proven otherwise. While the self-proclaimed Roswell "experts" tout themselves as sophisticated, worldly investigators capable of discerning the most subtle of disingenuous statements uttered by government officials, they are almost childlike in their blind, enthusiastic acceptance of everything uttered by anybody who claims to have witnessed some aspect of the Roswell non-event, so long as their claims are consistent with the alien spaceship myth. Conveniently, only those witnesses whose testimony conflicts with the alien spaceship myth are considered mistaken or liars.

During the preparation of this article, Major Marcel's son, Jesse Marcel, Jr., was contacted three times in an effort to elicit information that might explain some of the obvious discrepancies in his father's various claims. If indeed he had any rational explanations, he chose not to furnish them.

Marcel, Jr., was also questioned about the obvious discrepancies between his claims and those of his father in regard to the "beams" that constituted part of the Roswell wreckage. Marcel, Jr., claims the beams were shaped like "I beams," whereas his father -- in more than one interview -- stated they were solid members that were square or rectangular in cross section. I questioned Marcel, Jr., on this point many months ago, but received no response. More recently, after observing that his earlier published claims made no mention of the "I beam" shape, I asked if his "recollection" of the "I beam" shape emerged only after he had been subjected to hypnosis. Marcel hasn't even acknowledged my letter, much less furnished an explanation for this rather significant discrepancy.



Happy Holidays! FROM THE "STAFF" OF The Cowflop Quarterly



Comments, suggestions, complaints and gripes should be directed to Robert G. Todd, 2528 Belmont Avenue, Ardmore, PA 19003-2617.

