

Fred Crisman: Key Man in JFK/UFO Conspiracy/Coverup (continued)

by HAL MCKENZIE

Crisman is also named in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's 1968 investigation into the **Kennedy assassination**, in which Garrison maintained that Crisman may have been an assassin working on behalf of aerospace concerns to kill **Kennedy**.

In a well-known underground report called the Torbitt Document, Crisman is named as one of three hoboes picked up in the railyard behind the grassy knoll at Dealy Plaza, Thomas said.

Garrison also investigated Guy Banister, who was in charge of an office in New Orleans that employed Lee Harvey Oswald in a variety of capacities.

Banister was FBI Special Agent in Charge in the Pacific northwest at the time of the **Maury Island** case.

The details of the **Maury Island UFO** case and Garrison's complicated life and associations are so labyrinthine that one reviewer said of Thomas' book that it is "information rich to the point of saturation."

Thomas said details of the **Maury Island** case come from several Freedom of Information Act requests filed by him and other researchers, first hand accounts and various published accounts, including a comic book rendition that he showed in slides during his presentation. They also include such books as Kenneth Arnold's *The Coming of the Saucers* and Edward Ruppelt's *Project Blue Book* report.

The **Maury Island** story begins on June 21, 1947, three days before what is widely regarded as the event that launched the modern **UFO** era, pilot Kenneth Arnold's sightings of "flying saucers" over Mt. Ranier.

A lumber salvager named Harold Dahl, his son and two unidentified people on a salvage boat in the bay witnessed six doughnut-shaped craft, one wobbling, the others surrounding it and apparently trying to help it.

Dahl described the craft as 20 feet in diameter with five-foot portholes in their sides. The craft in the middle wobbled and dropped down about 700 feet before it stopped wobbling. Then one of the circling saucers broke formation, flew down, touched it and also became still.

The craft then spewed two different substances, white paper-like metal that floated into the bay, and a black slag-like substance that came down hot enough to raise steam. Pieces of that material struck Dahl's son and killed his dog.

Dahl reported these events to Crisman, who is described as Dahl's "superior." Crisman went to **Maury Island** to take a look, and not only saw a great deal of both materials on the shore and recovered some for himself, but also claimed to have had his own sighting of a doughnut-shaped



craft.

Crisman reported his experience to Ray Palmer, a publisher of pulp magazines like Amazing Stories.

Palmer hired Kenneth Arnold to investigate the case, whose own sightings three days later initiated a **UFO** wave, a part of which was the story of a housewife who recovered in that area a 30-inch saucer that she handed over to FBI officer Guy Banister.

Two Air Force investigators joined Arnold's investigation at **Maury island**, Capt. Lee Davidson and 1st Lt. Frank Mercer Brown. The two officers worked under Gen. Nathan Twining to collect information on the **UFO** flap with particular attention to retrieval stories, Thomas said.

Crisman turned samples of the debris to them, which was loaded into their plane, a B-25 bomber. Shortly after taking off to return to Wright-Patterson AFB, the plane crashed, killing the two men. The counter-intelligence team sent out to clean up the crash site supposedly failed to find any evidence of the **Maury Island** debris.

However, Thomas said that one of the recently surfaced MJ12 documents suggests that Crisman turned samples of the debris over to Clay Shaw, one of the three people that Garrison attempted to indict in the alleged conspiracy to kill **Kennedy**.

Although Shaw was acquitted of the crime, his role as a CIA agent is well-documented.

Crisman's life followed many strange twists and turns. According to Thomas, "He had one foot in the intelligence world, the other in the world of con-men and bums."

Crisman reportedly told the tale that during World War II he fought a race of underground aliens called the Deros in caverns in Burma. He was involved with the Universal Life Church, a right-wing fringe group connected with the Minutemen armed militia.

In 1968 he was an early "shock jock" along the lines of Rush Limbaugh, holding forth in a radio talk show in Tacoma. He was also involved in local politics, seeking to overthrow the city management in Tacoma. In 1975, he died of kidney failure at the age of 56.

Same spooks haunt both JFK and **UFO** cover-ups
By Hal McKenzie COSMICTRIBUNE.COM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

407 U. S. Court House
Seattle 4, Washington
August 18, 1947

Ray Palmer

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY FRED
CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL,
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
SI - X

Dear Sir:

The following, in general, are the facts regarding the flying disc story that started by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD A. DAHL which subsequently resulted in news stories by the Tacoma Times, the Boise Statesman and the Chicago Times that a B-25 carrying Army Intelligence officers was shot down or sabotaged over Kelso, Washington on August 1, 1947 because it was carrying some flying disc fragments.

The original story, as related by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL, was to the effect that DAHL, while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, Washington, sighted six flying discs, one of which fluttered to the earth and disintegrated, showering his boat with fragments which caused some damage to the boat and killed his dog. HAROLD DAHL wrote a letter to RAY A. PALMER of Biff-Davis Company which publishes fantastic adventure magazines in Chicago, sending him fragments of the flying disk and relating the above story. RAY PALMER requested Trans-Radio News in Chicago to verify the story as related by HAROLD DAHL and FRED CRISMAN telegraphed RAY PALMER confirming DAHL's story. RAY PALMER then engaged KENNETH ARNOLD, Boise, Idaho, who was the first to report sighting the flying disc and whom RAY PALMER had previously made a contract for a story regarding the flying disc, to come to Tacoma and check the story as related by FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL.

KENNETH ARNOLD came to Tacoma, Washington July 30, 1947 and arranged for a meeting the following day, July 31, with FRED CRISMAN and HAROLD DAHL in his room 502, Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. KENNETH ARNOLD also called to attend the meeting [redacted] who had also reported seeing flying disc fragments, and Army Intelligence to attend

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August 19, 1947

this meeting. KENNETH ARNOLD, [REDACTED] FRED CRISMAN, HAROLD DAHL, Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN of Army A-2 Intelligence from Hamilton Field, California, all met in ARNOLD's room at various times during the afternoon and evening of July 31, 1947 and discussed the flying disc story as related by [REDACTED] Intelligence Officers, Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, left about 2:00 A. M. the morning of August 1, 1947 to return to Hamilton Field, California for Air Force Day in a B-25 and were carrying some of the reported disc fragments. The left engine on the B-25 burned an exhaust stack which in turn caught the left wing afire, the wing subsequently breaking off and tearing off the tail. The B-25 crashed, killing Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN. However, the Crew Chief and a hitch-hiker parachuted to safety. Intelligence Officers at McChord Field, Washington advised there was no indication of any sabotage. The plane crashed at Kelso, Washington approximately 2:50 A. M. August 1, 1947. b7c 1

Five anonymous calls were received by a reporter, Tacoma Times, and the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, between 11:30 A. M., July 31, 1947 and 5:30 P. M., August 2, 1947. The first call was to a Tacoma Times reporter approximately 11:30 A. M., July 31, in which the caller stated that there was a meeting taking place at that time in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel concerning the disc fragments found on Maury Island. The second call was received between 11:00 A. M. and 12:00 noon, August 1, 1947 by the Tacoma Times reporter in which the caller advised that at that moment a big meeting was taking place in ARNOLD's room number 502, Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed was carrying disc fragments and that McChord Field officials had stated it was shot down or sabotaged. The third call was received Friday, August 1, 1947 at 5:30 P. M. by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, in which the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying flying disc fragments and that the dead officers were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, A-2 Intelligence Officers at Hamilton Field, California. This call was prior to the release of the dead officers' names by Army authorities and the caller indicated that when the names were released, it would verify the information he was furnishing was correct. The fourth phone call was received at approximately 6:45 P. M., Friday, August 1 by the United Press Wireman in which call the caller stated the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence officers, they would not deny it. The fifth phone call was received by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, at 5:30 P. M. August 2, 1947 at which time the caller stated the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down and that [REDACTED] would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning. When the Army authorities released the names of the dead Intelligence officers which verified the information as given by the anonymous caller, the Tacoma Times printed this story on August 2, 1947 and carried several articles thereafter inferring that the B-25 had been shot down or sabotaged because of the fact that it was carrying disc fragments. DAHL and CRISMAN have admitted that the material which they sent to RAY PALMER had no connection with any flying discs and have given a signed statement to that effect which are being b7c 1