

# 73 Magazine

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# Hams on the Trail of UFOs

— the Army's "flying saucer" movie . . . did you see it?

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"The bodies appeared little by human standards. Most notable were the heads, all looking

alike, and all being large compared to their body sizes. They looked mongoloid, with small noses and mouths and eyes that were shut. Their skin was leathery, and ashen in color."

Len Stringfield, veteran UFO researcher and author

of *Situation Red, The UFO Siege*, held the audience spellbound and on the edge of its seat at the Ninth Annual Symposium of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. The place: Dayton, Ohio, Convention Center. Date: July 29, 1978. Other hams were in the crowd, listening as intently as I. After being part of

their UFO nets for more than a year, it had been great to eyeball W0NC and N1JS at last. I'd met K9PAW, and WA5RON was somewhere back in the crowd with my son, WD8IAM. Seated up on the stage was Walt Andrus W5VRN, director of MUFON.

Carefully, patiently, Stringfield was putting together for us a jigsaw puzzle of strange events which went back 31 years, building a possibility which was stranger than fiction. "Retrievals of the Third Kind," the title read in the *MUFON Symposium Proceedings* in which I was making marginal notes, "—A Case Study of Alleged UFOs and Occupants in Military Custody." Len was presenting Abstract 5, in which a civilian, now in a high technical position, related to him a fascinating experience which occurred in 1953.

A young radar specialist, Mr. T. was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, at that time. It was in the spring of the year when he, along with a number of other radar specialists, were told to report to the base theater to view a special film.

When the group was seat-



Fig. 1. Alien humanoid head, drawn by L. H. Stringfield, based on descriptions by witnesses, July, 1978.

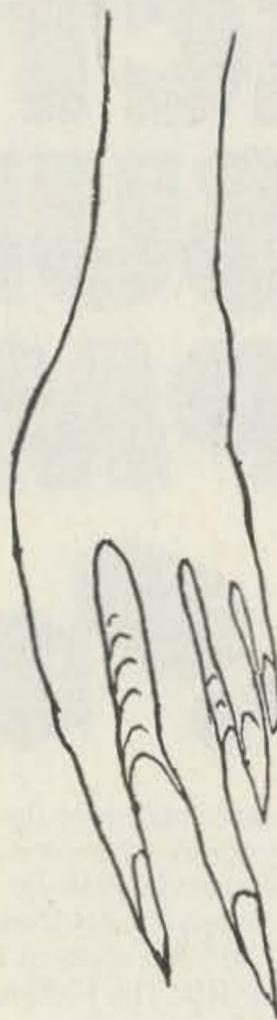


Fig. 2. Alien humanoid hand, drawn by L. H. Stringfield, based on a description by a witness.

ed, the lights went out with no briefing. A 16 mm movie projector filled the screen with light, showing all the flaws and scratches generally common to combat film. "Suddenly," as Stringfield describes the revelation, "without any titles or credits or music, there appeared a desert scene dominated by a silver disc-shaped object imbedded in the sand, with a domed section at the top. At the bottom was a hatch or door that was open."

Mr. T. recalled the next scene as showing 10 to 15 military personnel in fatigues without identification patches, standing around the disabled craft. From their height relative to the disc, he estimated it to be 15 to 20 feet in diameter. The open hatch was judged to be about 2½ feet wide and about 3 feet high.

Puzzled about the purpose of the movie, the young soldier watched the scene switch to the interior of the object. A close-up showed a panel with a few simple levers. The observer recalled noting the muted colors and sudden glares of white which characterize poor photography.

Startled, the young man viewed the next scene. Inside what appeared to be a tent were two tables—with dead bodies lying on them! Two lay on one table, and one on the other. Len was continuing with the description of the bodies now, concluding, "Each wore a tight-fitting suit in a pastel color." Strangely, the sight of the dead bodies was the end of the movie!

Contrary to most military movies which credit the Signal Corps or some other source, this one just "stopped cold," Mr. T related. The lights came on, and the officer in charge told the men,

"Think about the movie. But don't relate its contents to anyone." Mr. T. didn't even tell his wife about it!

Two weeks later, he was approached by an intelligence officer on the base. "Forget the movie," he was told. "It was a hoax."

Commenting on the movie 23 years later, Mr. T. advised Stringfield that it was about five minutes long and that he felt that it in all probability was shot by an inexperienced cameraman because it was full of scratches and had poor coloring and texture. He believes that the craft and bodies he saw were real. As he put it, "The movie was certainly not a Walt Disney production." Although he has never been particularly interested in UFOs, he has always remained curious about the purpose of the film. This was accentuated when, years later, he met an old Army acquaintance who told him about seeing this same film at a different base under similar conditions.

Len Stringfield went on, abstract after abstract, to build a very impressive body of evidence, circumstantial though it may be at present, that there indeed may have been many "retrievals of the third kind" over the years.

What do you think? Was the movie reality or a hoax? And what purpose did it have?

I'd be willing to bet that a lot of young radar specialists, trained by the military in electronics, later became hams. Who knows, you may have one of them in the next QSO. "Break. KG1UR, this is NE1C. About that movie you guys were talking about. Back in '53, when I was stationed at ----."

Better reach for an 807. It's going to be a long evening, and an interesting one!

Section	Day	EST	CST	Control	QTH
40 meter	Saturday	0800	0700	N1JS	MA
75 meter	Saturday	0900	0800	WA9ARG	IL

Table 1. Mutual UFO Network amateur radio SSB nets.

#### Addendum

It has been learned that the ex-radar specialist who viewed this movie in 1953 is a member of the amateur radio fraternity. Stringfield also has received confirmation that the same movie was shown to a group of radar specialists at a Naval base in Maine at a somewhat later date. In this case, they were not subsequently told that it was a hoax.

There may have been other UFO movies shown as well. Ray Stanford, whose instrumented UFO research was described in "Close Encounters," 73 Magazine, December, 1978, alludes to this in his book, *Socorro "Saucer" in a Pentagon Pantry*. Several years prior to 1964, an of-

ficer informed Ray that his group of radar operators had been shown movies of UFOs so close that "we could see right into the windows."

This appears to be very strange treatment of a phenomenon which NASA declined to investigate because of "an absence of tangible evidence." That's my opinion, OM. What's yours? ■

#### References

1. *Situation Red, The UFO Siege*, Leonard H. Stringfield, Fawcett Crest Books, New York, 1977, 254 pps., paperback, \$1.75.
2. *1978 MUFON Symposium Proceedings*, MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin TX 78155, 131 pps., \$6.00.
3. Sketches by Leonard H. Stringfield, reproduced with permission.

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