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GENERAL TWINING'S MAJICAL MYSTERY TOUR

"Nuclear Physicist" Stanton T. Friedman has attempted to document both the date and the location of a second supposed alien spaceship crash in New Mexico by linking the event to a visit to New Mexico by the commanding general of the Air Materiel Command (AMC). Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twining's visit to New Mexico was documented in newspaper accounts, some of which quoted him in connection with the flying disc phenomenon that was sweeping the nation during that period. If flying disc hysteria did not exist, certainly an air of expectation had been created by the persistent and widespread reports of sightings.

According to the July 17, 1947, edition of the *Alamogordo News*:

Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the Air Materiel Command, made a routine inspection of the Alamogordo Army Air Field on July 11, 1947. General Twining was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Benjamin Chidlaw, Deputy Commanding General, T-3, AMC, Maj. Gen. Earle F. Partridge from Army Air Forces Headquarters and Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Brentnall, Chief of Operations, Engineering Division, AMC.

Although he has never come right out and said so in as many words, Friedman's contention appears to be that Twining's visit was the direct result of the alien spaceship crash on the "Plains of San Agustin." In *The Plains of San Agustin Controversy*, Friedman disputed the "routine" nature of the inspection by proclaiming that "It was clear that Twining's inspection had not been routine since there were no photos, the trip had been suddenly laid on although he had been scheduled to be in Seattle, and the team was much too high-powered." Friedman repeats these proclamations in various other published writings, in much the same way Dorothy clicked the ruby slippers together three times while chanting "There's no place like home." Apparently he believes that if he repeats them often enough, his proclamations will be transported from the Land of Oz to the real world.

The Air Force Roswell report reproduced a document dated June 5, 1947, which gives the reason for Twining's visit. The document, a letter from Army Air Forces Headquarters to the Commanding General, AMC, requested that confidential orders be issued that would place Gen. Twining on temporary duty at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend the "Bomb Commanders Course," scheduled to begin on July 8th. The letter shows that Generals Chidlaw, Brentnall and Arthur Thomas also were scheduled to attend the same course. Brig. Gen. Thomas headed Supply (T-4) at AMC.

Other Air Force records show that the June 5 letter incorrectly identified the course as the "Bomb Commanders Course" when in fact it was the "General Officers Special Three-Day Course," which ran from July 8th to the 11th.

Friedman's expectations and proclamations aside, the fact that no photographs of the inspection were taken -- even if true -- is completely irrelevant. The idea that an inspection, routine or otherwise, must be documented with photographs is absurd, and amounts to little more than another of Friedman's many meaningless distractions.

In puffing up his rank speculations about the MJ-12 hoax, Friedman (certainly the world's foremost authority on the MJ-12 fantasy) fondly hauls out records that show Twining was scheduled to be somewhere other than in New Mexico. In his "Final Report on Operation Majestic 12" (perhaps the most expensive piece of garbage ever produced in the UFO field), Friedman

observes:

In Twining's correspondence files there were also materials of interest. He had planned a visit to Boeing in Seattle for July 16, 1947 The trip to the West Coast had clearly been planned for a long time (solidly planned by June 2) but was suddenly cancelled Twining said . . . due to a very important and sudden matter that developed here. [Friedman's emphasis.]

Friedman's report went on to say that newspaper stories quoting Twining about flying saucers " . . . strongly suggested that . . . 'the very important and sudden matter' [was] connected to New Mexico." Again, although he never comes right out and says so, Friedman writes as though it were an established fact that Twining's visit to New Mexico was due to the "very important and sudden" alien spaceship crash on "The Plains."

The Air Force document clearly shows that Twining's trip to New Mexico had been planned at least as early as June 5, 1947. Since Friedman claims to have established that Twining's West Coast trip was "solidly planned by June 2," we can reasonably conclude that Twining received notification between June 2 and June 5 that the "General Officers Special Three-Day Course" was scheduled to begin on July 8th, and that he and the other generals were scheduled to attend. Since the course was taught by the Sandia Base Training Division, Twining's schedule had to be adjusted to accommodate their scheduling.

Although attendance at the course had been planned at least as early as June 5, Gen. Twining was still trying as late as July 1 to arrange for Brig. Gen. Thomas McDonald, chief of AMC's Maintenance Division, to attend the same course, according to other Air Force documents. It appears, however, that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had decreed that the quota for the course had been filled and that Gen. McDonald would have to take a later course. In fact, he took the very next course, which began on August 5, 1947.

Also of interest is the fact that the Air Force experienced great difficulty in getting the AEC to clear Air Force personnel for access to atomic energy information. In fact, as of July 3, 1947, Generals Twining, Chidlaw and Thomas still didn't know if they had been cleared. This was just a matter of days prior to their attendance at the orientation course, which almost certainly required such a clearance.

Generals Twining, Chidlaw, Brentnall and Partridge all were involved in research and development activities. Since they were in the neighborhood anyway, why wouldn't they inspect the AMC R&D base at Alamogordo? When put in proper context, the claim that the inspection team "was much too high-powered" is shown to be meaningless nonsense obviously intended to put a sinister spin on otherwise innocuous events.

Friedman is prone to concocting ridiculous scenarios to explain away indisputable facts that reveal his scenarios for the nonsense they are. It wouldn't be surprising to see Friedman dispute the official records by proclaiming that the government faked them as a "cover story" for the *real* purpose of Twining's visit, which he clearly contends was due to the alien spaceship crash on "The Plains." We could argue, however, that Friedman is probably the last person we would consult in an attempt to determine the authenticity of any document -- official or otherwise.

Friedman might also suggest that, if indeed Twining went to New Mexico to attend the special course, there would have been no reason why AMC wouldn't have issued a press release telling of the visit. Were he to make such an assertion, we would remind him that the June 5 letter specifically requested

that **confidential** orders be issued for Twining and the other generals. AMC wouldn't have issued a press release concerning classified orders placing Twining on temporary duty at Sandia Base. This also accounts for why reporters seemingly were given the run-around when making inquiries regarding Twining's whereabouts. It should also be noted that, despite the alleged "run-around," reporters nonetheless were successful in tracking Twining down in New Mexico, where he was quoted in connection with flying saucers.

According to official Air Force records, three other generals attended the orientation course that began on July 8th, including Gen. George C. Kenney. Gen. Kenney was the commanding general of the Strategic Air Command (SAC). This explains why Kenney was "off station" at the time of the Roswell incident.

Twining's "Majical Mystery Tour" helps illustrate the principal method used to "document" the Roswell myth and the MJ-12 fraud. Certain individuals perform archival "research" and find dates on which official meetings took place, and the names of the officials in attendance. One or more of these "researchers" manufacture phony "Government documents" that contain a highly fictionalized version of the Roswell incident, documents that incorporate the official meetings into the Roswell/MJ-12 story, along with the people who attended them. Since the fictionalized story is built around real dates of real meetings attended by real government officials, once the "documents" surface and somebody (usually one of the very people who did the original archival "research") checks their contents for accuracy, everything checks out correctly, except the basic premise upon which the entire myth is based, which relates to the supposed recovery of an alien spaceship in New Mexico in July 1947. Curiously, confirmation of the alien spaceship crash always lies just beyond arm's reach. Even though genuine documents surface dealing with the real meetings, where classified matters are discussed, the alien spaceship claim can never be ruled out because -- as we've all been instructed by Firedman, "Master of Science Fiction" -- "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." Using that "logic," the alien spaceship scenario can **never** be discredited, no matter how many authentic documents surface explaining the purpose of the classified meetings.

Twining's "Majical Mystery Tour" also shows that certain self-proclaimed "experts" are desperately in need of a "nuclear physic" -- perhaps even a "thermonuclear physic" in the megaton range.



DAMAGE CONTROL AND SPIN ARTISTRY AT YE OLDE CENTRE FOR UFO PROPAGANDA: MUCH ADO-DO ABOUT NOTHING

The release of the GAO Roswell report prompted the CUFOS-IUR propaganda machine to crank out yet another load of Grade A crapola, authored by Mark Rodeghier and Mark Chesney (the "Marks Brothers" hereafter), two CUFOS officials who regularly use the pages of the *Irrational UFO Reporter (IUR)* to flaunt their profound ignorance on a wide variety of topics. Their article, "What the GAO found: Nothing about much ado," appeared in the July/August 1995 issue of *IUR*.

The Marks Brothers found it "most intriguing and, perhaps, ominous" that the GAO couldn't find any outgoing messages from Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) because, the GAO report claims, the messages supposedly were destroyed decades ago without proper authorization. CUFOS' official policy seems to be to embrace the most sensational interpretation possible, and following that policy, the Marks Brothers conclude that the destruction of these messages is consistent with a cover-up. They also appear to subscribe to Congressman Schiff's belief "that these messages would have shown how military officials in Roswell were explaining to their superiors exactly what happened," which, in turn, is based on the belief that RAAF personnel communicated with their superiors in Fort Worth via teletype, to the exclusion of all other forms of commu-

nication.

The GAO report makes it clear that their personnel also searched the incoming and outgoing messages of the 8th Air Force, SAC, and AAF headquarters, as did Air Force personnel. If they ever existed at all, one might reasonably expect to find the "missing" RAAF outgoing messages among the incoming messages of one or all of these organizations, yet neither GAO nor the Air Force found any such messages.

But the Marks Brothers have an "explanation" for this as well, by following their established policy of embracing the most sensational interpretation possible. In this case, according to the Marks Brothers, no RAAF outgoing messages were located among the incoming messages of 8th AF, SAC, and AAF headquarters because the conspiratorial powers-that-be went through the records and removed all incriminating materials, leaving behind only messages that did not relate to the infamous Roswell incident.

The sensational conclusion that the "missing" messages are consistent with a cover-up is based on one belief stacked on another. The fact of the matter is that, despite proclamations from Schiff and the Marks Brothers, the most reasonable explanation for the "missing" messages is that they never existed at all. Communications between RAAF and Fort Worth probably were carried out by telephone, which would have been the fastest means available. We already know from the FBI teletype that AAF personnel at Fort Worth were communicating with personnel at Wright Field via telephone -- **not** by teletype. The FBI teletype specifically refers to "telephonic conversation between" 8th Air Force and Wright Field, conversation dealing with the nature of the debris recovered from the Foster Ranch.

The Marks Brothers find it "[e]ven more disturbing . . . that the records of the 1395th Military Police Company were never even sent to the records center in St. Louis." But what they don't tell their readers is that they have taken a statement from the GAO report out of context. The report says GAO personnel examined document disposition forms which showed "that in 1953, the Walker Air Force Base . . . records officer transferred to the Army's Kansas City records repository the histories of units stationed at Walker Air Force Base. These histories included the 509th Bomb Wing and RAAF . . . ; the 1st Air Transport Unit . . . ; and the 427th Army Air Force Base Unit We could not locate any documentation indicating that records of the 1395th Military Police Company (Aviation) were ever retired to the National Personnel Records Center or its predecessor depositories. [Emphasis added.]"

In context, it is clear the GAO report refers to the unit histories of the 1395th MP Co., and there is absolutely **nothing** mysterious about the fact that such histories are not available. Many Air Force units didn't bother to prepare unit histories, especially during these early years, and many of the historical reports that were prepared during this period were not very detailed, and were halfhearted efforts at best. The 1395th wasn't a very large unit, and it appears there are no histories for the unit at all, not just for the time of the Roswell incident. There is **nothing** mysterious about the lack of unit histories for the 1395th, despite the best efforts of CUFOS and GAO to convince us otherwise.

Nor is there anything mysterious about the absence of records of the 1395th. Generally speaking, records at that level are not considered worthy of permanent retention. When no longer needed, the records are transferred to a records repository, and after a relatively brief holding period, the records are destroyed. There is nothing mysterious about this process. Nor is it any secret that records at the company or squadron level generally aren't retained permanently. There are exceptions of course, but it isn't the least bit surprising that the 1395th wasn't one of these exceptions.

In fact, in responding to an invitation by GAO to comment on the contents of the draft GAO report, Mr. W. G. Seibert, an archivist at the National Personnel Records Center, and chief of their Appraisal & Disposition Section, informed GAO that Air Force regulations in existence at the time the "missing" records are believed to have been destroyed clearly state that records "accumulated at or below wing level will be scheduled as one item and destroyed after two years. [Seibert's emphasis.]" In shockingly clear language that never found its

way into the GAO report, Mr. Seibert further states that "It is clear from the foregoing that agency records management officials, if acting in accordance with agency regulations then in force, should have destroyed the records in question rather than transfer them to St. Louis! [Seibert's emphasis.]"

It's something of a mystery why this unambiguous language does not appear in the GAO report, but instead the GAO used language that has given rise to all manner of wildly speculative -- and grossly misinformed -- accusations against the Air Force, accusations launched not only by the Roswell faithful and propaganda artists like the Marks Brothers, but also by supposedly responsible government officials, like Congressman Schiff, whose own profound ignorance on a number of topics has led him to make a number of blatantly stupid statements that have had the effect of heightening the supposed "mystery" of Roswell, rather than dispelling it. Conveniently, Schiff's uninformed statements and accusations, though presumably based in genuine ignorance, seem designed to justify the events he set in motion which sought to turn the government upside down to see what would fall out of its pockets. Aided and abetted by the GAO, Schiff has highlighted misinformation that tends to make the public think there is some government smoke that might lead to a cosmic government fire. Apparently, they don't call the GAO "the lapdog of Congress" for nothing. It isn't known if Schiff was informed of Seibert's memo, but I'd be willing to bet he knew all about it. It also isn't known exactly what changes Schiff recommended be made to the draft GAO report, since Schiff has instituted a cover-up of his own, and hasn't seen fit to respond to questions or furnish a copy of his recommended changes, yet he has the audacity to express indignation at what he has characterized as Air Force and DoD "stonewalling." At best, Schiff is an incompetent hypocrite. We can only hope he isn't reelected.

The Marks Brothers also claim they find it incredible that no CIA records surfaced pertaining to the Roswell incident or Project Mogul. They believe very deeply that the CIA should have some records that support the Mogul explanation for Roswell, and to support their belief, they launch into a ridiculous rationalization where they claim the CIA kept "information on domestic events for purposes of reference and background information, especially events concerning national security at the highest levels. We find it unthinkable that there are no CIA records on Mogul."

The Marks Brothers' "unthinkable" proclamation is utter nonsense. Project Mogul was an Air Force experimental project that never became operational. Although no evidence has surfaced to confirm it, the CIA might have been informed of the existence of Project Mogul at some point, but it would only have been in general terms of what the project hoped to accomplish. A search using the code name "Mogul" would be worthless, especially since the name was later changed to "Rockfish." For reasons too complicated to explain here, Project Mogul also was known as, or became a part of, Project MX-968, which itself was a part of the much larger Project "Whitesmith," which was later changed to Project "Bequeath," which was later changed to Project "Centering," which was still later changed to Project "Cottonseed." During the Operation "Sandstone" A-bomb tests in the Pacific in 1948, Operation "Fitzwilliam" was formed to test various methods of detecting nuclear explosions at long range. The Project Mogul portion of Operation "Fitzwilliam" was known as Project "Blackheart." Consequently, the Marks Brothers' ignorant pontifications are meaningless garbage. A CIA search using "Mogul" as the keyword is meaningless.

Even if the CIA had been informed of the existence of Project Mogul, under no circumstances would they have been advised of the day-to-day activities of the project, including details of which balloons fell into which unauthorized hands. The idea is absurd on its face.

The Marks Brothers also express surprise that the CIA found no records keyed to the word "Roswell," and they concoct yet another ridiculous rationalization in a failed attempt to validate their alleged "surprise." They assert: "Given that the 509th Bomb Group was the only atomic bomb wing in the 1940s, and the likely efforts of the Soviets to penetrate security at Roswell, it is rather peculiar, to say the least, that the CIA has no records whatsoever findable through the keyword 'Roswell.'"

The fatal flaw in the conspiracy theories the Roswell promoters casually toss around is their incredibly naive belief that our government agencies are super-efficient. Not only can they institute a massive cover-up on a moment's notice, but they can retrieve any piece of information that ever appeared in any government document at any time, simply by punching in the right keyword.

Responsibility for investigating domestic espionage rested with the FBI, not with the CIA. The CIA probably would have been advised of such cases, but it is absurd to suggest such cases would be filed under the title of "Roswell." Common sense tells us the cases would be filed under the names of the perpetrators. If the Marks Brothers have information relating to specific cases involving Soviet efforts to penetrate security at Roswell Army Air Field, let them come forward with the names of the perpetrators so that a proper search can be performed by the FBI and CIA -- although it isn't at all clear how such information would advance their alien spaceship claim, unless, of course, one of the living aliens (maybe the one who prefers strawberry ice cream) was caught red-handed in the bomb bay of one of the 509th's aircraft with a tape measure in one hand and an ice cream cone in the other. There is absolutely nothing suspicious about a lack of CIA records keyed to the word "Roswell," and only a devout true-believer would make such an asinine claim.

The Roswell incident was an embarrassing non-event back in 1947, and, as the Air Force observed, bureaucracies generally don't waste a lot of time and effort documenting non-events. That includes the CIA.

Accompanying the Marks Brothers' fatuous article was a companion piece reporting on the contents of the GAO report and Congressman Schiff's July 28, 1995, news release. In that release, Schiff stated: "At least this effort caused the Air Force to acknowledge that the crashed vehicle was no weather balloon." Schiff's shockingly erroneous proclamation should make us question everything he says. Apparently he didn't bother to read the Air Force report, which says: "Recent research indicates that the debris recovered from the ranch on July 7, 1947, was a weather balloon--but it was not being used strictly for weather purposes [Emphasis in the original.]" Consequently, Schiff and the other true believers are full of Schiff when they proclaim that the Air Force has confessed to lying about the nature of the debris back in 1947, and acknowledged that the debris was not from a weather balloon back in 1994. It's also clear that, as of the time they wrote their ridiculous article, the Marks Brothers hadn't bothered to read the very report they spent so much time criticizing.

The Marks Brothers further proclaim:

Even former Air Force personnel are getting in the act and attacking the Air Force explanation. In a recent interview, Irving Newton, the weather officer who identified the debris at Fort Worth Army Air Field as from a weather balloon, doesn't buy the Project Mogul explanation. He still believes that he saw debris from a standard weather surveillance balloon. We agree with Newton, because the available evidence shows that the Air Force substituted a weather balloon for the real debris brought to Fort Worth with Major Marcel. Project Mogul debris was never found near Roswell by Marcel or brought to Fort Worth.

As with so many proclamations the Marks Brothers make about Roswell, these are utter hogwash. It is clear from the credible evidence that what was recovered from the Foster Ranch was a portion of a balloon train launched by New York University (NYU) in support of Project Mogul. The debris consisted of material from meteorological sounding balloons ("weather balloons") and radar targets (corner reflectors). It is also clear that any "mystery" surrounding the Roswell incident centered on the radar targets. Support for this fact comes from the descriptions of the debris by firsthand witnesses (including the revered Major Marcel himself), and the photographs taken in General Ramey's office, where the radar target material occupies center stage and the balloon envelope material is ignored completely. The debris was exactly what the Air Force claimed

it was back in 1947, and exactly what they said it was again in 1994. The debris was indistinguishable from standard weather balloons. This is not to suggest that everybody who saw it would be able to identify it, unless he had some experience with meteorological equipment. As a result, Newton's skepticism is perfectly understandable and completely consistent with the Air Force's statements back in 1947 and 1994. The ignorance of Schiff and the Marks Brothers -- be it genuine or feigned -- cannot change these facts.

Colonel Marcellus Duffy, who was the acting chief of the Electronic Plans Section, Electronic Subdivision, Engineering Division, Air Materiel Command, at Wright Field, and who had overall responsibility for Project Mogul at the time of the Roswell incident, told me he identified the Roswell debris as meteorological equipment. When asked if the equipment had come from Project Mogul, however, he said he didn't know, which certainly suggests that the debris was indistinguishable from standard meteorological equipment.

The true believers point to the absence of official records that document the link between Project Mogul and the Roswell incident, and contend that the absence of such records invalidates the Project Mogul explanation. This is just more utter nonsense from people who don't know what they're talking about. I spent five years looking for the Project Mogul project files, without success. I understand the Air Force also expended considerable time and effort trying to locate the project files, also without success. These records should still exist. Even if they do exist and can be located, the chances they contain even a passing reference to the Roswell incident are extremely slim. The incident was completely inconsequential in terms of Project Mogul, and it would not have advanced the project to memorialize the event in official records.

The long and the short of it is that there is a very small chance any Air Force records were created on the Roswell incident, and it is far more likely none were created at all. This works to the advantage of the fanatical true believers who can rest assured that no official records are likely to surface to prove conclusively that the Roswell incident involved nothing more than the remains of weather balloons and radar targets launched in connection with Project Mogul.

Even if such records were to surface, the fanatics simply would claim they are forgeries created by a government intent on hiding the "truth" from the world. Time and time again, the fanatical true believers have demonstrated that the only explanation they are willing to accept for the Roswell incident is that the government recovered one or more alien spacecraft, and their alien crews. For these fanatics, no other explanation is possible.

Some Roswell cheerleaders have claimed that, if Mogul had been responsible for the Roswell incident, it would have been a major breach of security that would have necessitated the creation of mountains of official records. And they claim that, since none of these records were located, the Mogul explanation can't be valid. But their claims are just more nonsense.

In 1948, former Colonel Trakowski, who was the Project Mogul project officer at Watson Laboratories at the time of the Roswell incident, wrote a report to Colonel Duffy in which he expressed concerns over the security of Mogul operations. When I questioned Trakowski about security, he stated that it was expected that Mogul balloons would fall into unauthorized hands. The course of a balloon cannot be controlled, and is subject to the vagaries of the wind. On many NYU balloon flights, reward tags were affixed to the equipment. Both NYU and Project Mogul personnel anticipated that the balloons would come into the possession of civilians. There simply was no way to avoid it.

The balloon demonstration carried out by Watson Labs personnel at Alamogordo Army Air Field on July 9th is further evidence of the lack of concern over security. Sure, they didn't reveal the true purpose of the balloon flights, but had they been concerned about security, the safest course of action they could have taken would have been to keep their mouths shut. There were no reward tags on the June 4th flight, and nothing else that would lead back to the NYU Balloon Group at Alamogordo, much less to Project Mogul. Clearly, the Watson Labs person-

nel were interested in revealing the source for the Roswell debris, and could -- and did -- do so without compromising any classified information whatsoever.

The balloon demonstration at Alamogordo may have been a completely local affair. When I questioned Colonel Trakowski, he said he had no recollection of such a demonstration, which suggests that it didn't have to be cleared through him. Although I didn't have the chance to question Colonel Duffy about the demonstration before he passed away, I suspect his answer would have been similar to Trakowski's.

Whether there was any heightened security as a result of the Roswell debris remains in question. Just because people claim there was, that doesn't make it so. If indeed there was heightened security, it occurred at the Roswell Army Air Field where they apparently believed they had a "flying disc" on their hands, thanks to the erroneous "identification" by Major Marcel, the base "intelligence" officer on whose judgment Colonel Blanchard was likely to depend in such matters.

Some true believers have argued that Irving Newton's identification of the debris at Fort Worth would have made it unnecessary to fly the debris to Wright Field for Colonel Duffy to identify. I would suggest that these people take another look at the FBI teletype. It relates details of the telephone conversation(s) between 8th Air Force personnel and personnel at Wright Field, and clearly indicates that some confusion existed, despite Newton's identification. Eighth Air Force personnel may have been describing the radar target in two-dimensional terms, when they should have been thinking three-dimensionally. Whatever the cause of the confusion, it is clear confusion existed both at 8th Air Force and at Wright Field, and the "disc" and balloon were flown to Wright Field for a definitive identification, which Colonel Duffy was eminently qualified to furnish.

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MAJOR MARCEL UPDATE

The last issue of *The Cowflop Quarterly* reported on the many lies Major Marcel told about his military service. Among those lies was the claim that he had flown aircraft during World War II and had been a private pilot since 1928. Word has just been received from the Federal Aviation Administration's Airmen Certification Branch that they can find no record of a pilot's certificate for Major Marcel. Apparently they have records dating as far back as the time of the Wright brothers. Consequently, it appears that, if Marcel flew aircraft as a civilian, he did so without benefit of being certified or legally authorized to do so.

In a letter to James Moseley, Jerome Clark, "editor" of the *Irrational UFO Reporter (IUR)*, has proclaimed that Marcel's lies about his military service are not relevant to his lies about the Roswell incident, or anything else for that matter. This seems a rather strange approach to take in a field that relies almost exclusively on the truthfulness of witness claims. Strange, and very convenient.

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