

# JUST

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# CAUSE

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## EDITORIAL #1

We are getting this issue out a bit early so that we may beat the soon-to-come postage increase. Subscriptions will be on a "per issue" basis rather than on calendar year so that charter subscribers will have their subscriptions come due after the next issue. As always, we thank all of you for your support.

So much has come in lately that we must carry several news items over to the next issue. There have been more document releases from the State Department thanks to the effort of Michael Charest of Nashua, N.H. (see also Just Cause, Dec. 84, Pg.4). We will cover some of these in Just Cause #4.

Member Herbert Taylor, among others, has expressed his support of Larry Bryant's "Ultimate FOIA Suit" (CAUS Special Report, Nov. 84) as follows: "...the public have both a right AND need to know whether UFO crash/retrievals represent an extraordinary Truth, or the most exotic Legend of the Space Age." We echo this sentiment and point out that only through the persistence and hard work of people like Larry Bryant can we ever arrive at the "extraordinary truth."

## EDITORIAL #2

### GOVERNMENT UFO SECRECY/DECEPTION

Assume UFOs represent alien tech-

nology. Then, official government secrecy may have a legitimate basis. If, for instance, our government kept its studies of UFO propulsion characteristics secret, so as to discover the alien science/technology before our adversary, the Russians, national security is arguably served.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, in a 1983 paper, "Revised UFO History", makes cognizant argument that in fact the US has a recovered saucer (July 1947) in a secret lab and has kept its studies highly classified, hoping for such national security advantage over Russia. A declassified Canadian "Top Secret" memo, filed Nov. 21, 1950, supports this thinking. In it the author, Wilbert Smith, a senior radio engineer, states he was told by the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington that, "Flying Saucers exist", "...is the most highly classified subject in the US government, rating higher even than the H-bomb", and that Dr. Vannevar Bush heads that study group.

These points in the memo are highly evocative and somewhat prohibitive. First, that it is flying saucers which exist, not the vague UFO. Next, the UFOs are above H-bomb secrecy. Harry S. Truman announced the existence of the H-bomb on Jan. 7, 1953. How did Mr. Smith know of the H-bomb more than two years earlier? Such apparent knowledge assumes a highly-placed, authoritative source. Finally, that Dr. Vannevar Bush, President of MIT, according to Bruce Maccabee, agreed with the Air Force that "UFOs or saucers were not a product of US

research." When a scientist of such world class reputation takes such a position, one may assume his basis is more than informed surmise.

I make these observations to draw a distinction between possibly legitimate government secrecy and practiced deception.

In the special case of the UFOs, Maccabee argues that, due to the "subsequently quashed" official press release in 1947, from Roswell AFB, N.M. of the retrieval of a crashed saucer, secrecy could not be enough. Deception was now required because the Russians, no doubt, would otherwise put on a "full court press" to beat us in figuring out how they fly. So, an official US policy of debunking and ridicule followed.

Absent of the legitimacy of the retrieved saucer hypothesis, the government goes too far when, instead of merely keeping it's cards close to it's chest, (i.e. maintaining secrecy) it deliberately misinforms or deceives the public.

The historic fact of 40 years of deception is too well documented to require review or summary (I would refer readers to: The Report on UFOs, Ruppelt; The UFO Controversy in America, Jacobs; The Hynek UFO Report, Hynek; Clear Intent, Fawcett and Greenwood, as such source material). Practiced government deception threatens the cornerstone of democracy, i.e. the consent of the governed. Consent is only meaningful when it is informed. Consent based on misinformation is not consent. In the end, it is like discovering that the butcher had a heavy thumb. The public grows cynical and weary and anarchy replaces consensus.

So what's the big deal if the UFO story is deliberately, officially falsified? First, factually recognized, the UFO phenomenon is universal, not a product of any government agency (therein lies an absence of basis to claim a property right to the subject and deception thereon). Next, this phenomenon may be important, very important! A briefing paper by an NSA officer says that it (UFOs) may very well have "...survival implications."

If so, doesn't the public have a right to know? Forget survival, what about the official fostering of a diverse attitude toward UFOs? Don't people (15 million, per Gallup, 1978) who say they have seen these things have a right to talk about it without being made out as the village idiot? Isn't this manipulation of public perception like the condemnable Nazi/Aryan supremacy propaganda? What harm from the Nazi tactic is historically evident? What harm from the manipulation of the UFO experience is the subject of future scholarship? Finally, and I think most importantly, official manipulation of the true UFO experience cuts people off from the possibility of being most human in regard to the special capacity to discover something new; when exquisite human experience is being able to say, "Eureka, I found it!"

Our government, in regards to UFOs, has so severely scolded us that many have lost the power to look underneath the UFO rock to find whatever they find. That is a shame. That shame should not be tolerated.

Robert Bletchman

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### THE PUGET SOUND MYSTERY CONTINUES

There have been some recent interesting developments in the case of an unidentified flying object entering the waters of Puget Sound, Washington on July 27, 1984 (see Just Cause, Sept. 1984). Several press stories (Wash. D.C. Times, 1/7/85 and Star, 1/29/85) have indicated that attempts were made to locate and raise the sunken object.

Sometime after the initial incident, as reported in Just Cause, a local commercial fisherman claimed that he had snared the object in his gill net and had unsuccessfully tried to bring it up. The military, being well aware of the story surrounding the sighting, took what might be regarded as a lackadaisical attitude toward the affair. They did not feel that a recovery effort was worth the expense involved and decided to ignore it. It is an attitude consistent with feelings expressed in government document releases

that only UFO incidents of national security importance would be investigated in detail.

Nevertheless, local seamen in the Puget Sound area did not take the story lightly. A salvage operation was organized by John Walker and Richard Burke, two experienced deep sea divers; Sam Sudore, owner of Northern Pacific Seafoods and local fishermen. It took until December 31 to begin the operation but begin it did.

Walker and Burke made their dive after their 58 foot Banzi II's sonar had detected a large, seemingly metallic object between 30 and 35 feet in diameter. They saw the object below, stuck deeply in the mud about 125 feet below the surface. The portion of the object showing was about 10 feet high. Walker said it was gold-colored, satellite dish-shaped with a clasp at one end. Burke said that the visible portion appeared to be about 17 feet in diameter, orange in color and shaped like an upside-down teacup with a hole in it that one could get his foot through. Due to poor visibility and cold temperatures the divers did not stay down long. Burke managed to stand on the object briefly before having to leave. He said that the object felt like it was giving off a low-pitch humming vibration. (This effect is very reminiscent of a case in Carbondale, Pennsylvania in 1974 where a police officer investigating an underwater UFO in a pond reported that this rocket-shaped object, some 20 feet long, caused the surface of the pond to vibrate and the officer, in fact, felt the object vibrating by using an oar in his row boat to touch it. We will report on this story in a future issue.)

Cold and nervous, the divers surfaced. They thought of raising the object then and there but night was approaching and they had to make for land.

The next day they returned and the divers reported that the object now protruded 15 to 20 feet out of the mud. They were still ill-equipped for a recovery so a third visit, using advanced sonar gear and another vessel for recovery was scheduled. However, this time the object was gone!

According to a local fisherman, a large boat was seen in the area between January 1 and 5. It appeared to him to be military, based on it's size. Participants in the abortive recovery believe that the Navy heard about their operation and managed to retrieve the object quietly.

To date, we have no verification that the Navy has the object. We are in the process of checking this possibility through FOIA and hope to have an update shortly.

### A WORLD WAR II UFO ENCOUNTER

Thanks go to Stephen A. Pratt, MUFON Field Investigator for Southern Vermont, for the following report of a very interesting Pacific UFO report. His report, edited down to basics, says:

"In mid-March of 1945, the Battleship U.S.S. New York was in the South Pacific, in the area of the Admiralty Islands. The ship had just spent three weeks there making repairs on damage it had received earlier during the battle of Iwo Jima. The New York had with it at the time two destroyers as it's escort."

"Cpl. Donald Pratt was aboard the battleship as part of the FMF PAC (Fleet Marine Force Pacific). The weather that day was warm, very sunny and clear. The ship and it's escort were on their way to join once again with the Seventh Fleet."

"Suddenly, during the early afternoon, around 1300 hours, the ship was called to general quarters. Every man ran to his battle station thinking that this might be a Japanese suicide attack. Cpl. Pratt, at the time was a gunner on one of the ship's 40mm gun mounts. Inside the ship, a single, distinct blip had appeared out of nowhere on the radar scope. A few seconds later, the blip became visible in the sky... almost directly over the battleship. It hovered there motionless."

"By this time, Capt. K.C. Christian was out on deck looking at the object through binoculars."

"The object was described as being silver in color and very shiny.

It was much larger than what the brightest star would be, but smaller than the full moon. There was no noise that anyone could detect, and it did not change color, split up, perform any erratic maneuvers, but it remained above the ship, matching speed and course with it."

"After about a half an hour had passed, Capt. Christian and many members of the crew were getting a bit nervous. Was it a Japanese trick or some kind of new weapon? Capt. Christian quickly ordered two of the ships to open fire from the 3-inch anti-aircraft mounts. For about the next half hour, the 3-inch guns hammered away at the object, to no avail. Later it was learned that, at the time, the object was at an altitude of 20,000 feet."

"Finally, Capt. Christian ordered the guns to cease fire. The object remained above the ship for a few more seconds, then, to everyone's amazement, it climbed up at a fantastic rate until it was out of sight and off the radar scope."

CAUS has verified that the New York was in the area during March 1945. The witness also recalled seeing what he thought was a story on the incident in Time Magazine. We have checked this and, indeed have found the piece in question in the August 11, 1952 issue of Time. However, the case cited was off the Aleutians in 1943 and definitely not the same sighting. It is an understandable error, considering the number of years that have passed since then. We will attempt to locate the log of the New York for that time to try and verify the story.

### BENTWATERS TAPE SURFACES

CAUS has recently acquired a copy of a tape apparently made on the scene of a portion of the now famous Rendlesham Forest incident in England in 1980. On the tape can be heard Lt. Col. Charles Halt and a number of men investigating the UFO landing site and also witnessing several UFOs in the area. The tape virtually confirms the content of the last half of the so-called "Halt memo" (see Clear Intent).

We hope to have a copy of a transcript of the tape soon for Just Cause

### CRASH/RETRIEVAL NEAR APPLE VALLEY CALIFORNIA?

A videotaped interview with a former student/witness to the recovery of a capsule-shaped UFO in the early 1960s has been provided to CAUS. Keeping in mind that a story like this requires extraordinary proof of it's reality and is currently being investigated, these are the details as we have them:

Sometime in late 1963- early 1964, students at the Lucerne Valley Elementary School near Apple Valley, California, were on their lunch break in the schoolyard. Our witness, then a 4th grader, reported that a strange object dropped out of the sky and landed in the schoolyard with a heavy impact, shaking the ground and throwing up a cloud of dust. A round imprint was noticed in the ground around the base of the object.

It was described as shaped like a space capsule, only larger. Our witness thought that it would probably have filled a classroom. The bottom was circular and flat. No rivets or sign of conventional manufacture were visible and the color was a metallic gray. A narrower top portion had portholes with a star-like light showing through. (see sketch) The teachers herded the children into the classrooms while the school's principal called George AFB for assistance.

About 1/2 hour later, jeeps and canvas-covered trucks with armed men appeared on the scene. Several stood around the object facing it while officers issued orders. School windows were closed and guards kept the children inside. A crane-mounted military truck came, chained and hoisted the object and took it away under a large, brown canvas with no outline showing.

We will advise of any further developments on this case.

