



Lincoln LaPaz And The Roswell Incident
By Christopher D. Allan

"Lapaz apparently told Rickett that he thought 'this thing' [the UFO] had gotten into trouble, that it had touched down for repairs, taken off again, and then exploded."



(Illustration source: Los Temos Ocultos).

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- P. #7 - OPEN FORUM - The Gulf Breeze saga has been ongoing for some five years now. The debates and arguments, though some feel it has become monotonous and wearisome, are still intense, and many want the air cleared. Therefore, this issue and future issues of Orbiter will continue to carry debatable points, when they are brought to our attention. Therefore, arguments/debate on the Gulf Breeze Road Shot, the Double Exposure Demon photo, and more from Dr. Bruce Maccabee with contention from Barbara Becker, Rex Salisbury, and Zan Overall are carried in the final six pages of this newsletter.

Lincoln LaPaz and the Roswell Incident

by Christopher D. Allan

During the investigations into the Roswell crashed UFO the name of Lincoln LaPaz has been to the fore, both in the Friedman/Moore follow-up investigation in the mid-1980s and the Randle/Schmitt one during 1989-90.

Dr. Lincoln LaPaz was for many years the director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico. He had at least one UFO sighting himself and in a 1952 poll of 45 US astronomers was one of a mere handful to show any real interest in the subject. J. Allen Hynek, who conducted the poll, described LaPaz as being "cooperative in the extreme" (ref 1).

In the early UFO era one of the most puzzling phenomena were the strange and spectacular very bright meteor-like objects that were constantly seen in the southwest US in the late 1940s. Following unusually flat trajectories and generally exhibiting a bright bluish-green color, they were seen night after night, often near USAF bases and other highly sensitive areas of New Mexico. They were officially dubbed 'green fireballs' and were witnessed by hundreds if not thousands of people in this area during a period of several months in 1948-49. Dr. LaPaz, being conveniently located in Albuquerque, was a natural choice to act as consultant to the USAF in its efforts to analyse and resolve these sightings. Later, in 1950, he was also involved in setting up a new USAF project, Project Twinkle, to obtain accurate triangulation measurements on the fireballs, using specially designed instrumentation, a project which soon folded with negative results.

LaPaz was open-minded enough to speculate that these fireballs were not natural phenomena such as meteors, but manmade missiles that emanated possibly from secret bases in the USSR sent to spy on American military installations; he also entertained the possibility that they were visiting space ships, thereby alienating himself from mainstream astronomical thought. His enthusiasm for the subject was remarkable for professional astronomers of that period, very few of whom, publicly at least, took the slightest interest in UFOs.

The Friedman & Moore investigation

The first mention of LaPaz's involvement in the Roswell affair of July 1947 appears in Bill Moore's MUFON 1985 paper, later printed as a booklet: "CRASHED UFOS, EVIDENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR PROOF" (ref 2). This is repeated in a 1990 issue of FOCUS (ref 3). Moore and Friedman never met LaPaz (who died in 1985, aged 88), although Moore had tried to interview him twice but was told by his daughter that he was not well enough to be interviewed on UFOs. His daughter confirmed his interest in UFOs and told Moore that all her father's files were still with the USAF. Moore's later FOIA requests for these files yielded nothing. Moore reveals that LaPaz held a Top Secret clearance, issued by Air Materiel Command at Wright Field during World War 2 or just after.

Moore and Friedman had heard about LaPaz through Lewis S. (Bill) Rickett, a former CIC officer stationed at Roswell in 1947, whom they had met in the course of their investigation during 1983-84. Rickett claimed to have taken part in the recovery of the Roswell wreckage on July 8, 1947; if correct this would make him one of the few genuine first-hand witnesses to the affair. According to Rickett, "it was at about this same time" that Dr. LaPaz arrived by plane from Albuquerque; the purpose of his visit being "to try to find out what the speed and trajectory of this thing was". Rickett was given the task of escorting LaPaz to the crash area to interview "the farmer" (Moore assumes this was Mac Brazel), ranch hands and other possible witnesses. LaPaz and Rickett found two others who "had seen two of these things fly over very slowly at a low altitude on a date, in the evening, that he had determined had been a day or so after the other one had blown up. These people said something about animals being affected too..."

LaPaz even flew over the crash site; later, at another site a few miles away, he and Rickett collected some "glass like substance" plus some metal samples "of that same sort of thin foil stuff" and placed them in a box which LaPaz then sent off for study. LaPaz apparently told Rickett that he thought "this thing [the UFO] had gotten into trouble, that it had touched down for repairs, taken off again, and then exploded".

LaPaz wrote a report on the episode but told Rickett that he was going to "take a conservative approach, and leave the conclusions to others". Curiously, when Jesse Marcel returned from Fort Worth, having just taken a consignment of the wreckage, he was (according to Rickett) not allowed to see this report for reasons of secrecy, even though he had taken part in the recovery operation himself only the previous day. How LaPaz managed to get back to university, analyse the samples, write his report, get it typed and sent out within 24 hours is a mystery, and is the first indication that Rickett has got his timeline of the event wrong. Moore, however, says that, he and Stan Friedman were both "impressed by Rickett's excellent memory and his sincerity." [All quotes taken from refs 2 and 3].

The Randle and Schmitt investigation

Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt also interviewed Bill Rickett several times about his involvement at Roswell during their own investigation, starting in 1989; details appear in ref 4. Judging from the number of interviews, he seems to be their star witness to the whole recovery operation.

Concerning Dr. LaPaz, Rickett told Randle & Schmitt a similar story to the one he told Moore & Friedman a few years earlier, but with some differences, the chief one being that LaPaz did not arrive on the scene until September 1947, two months after the UFO crash. LaPaz was an expert in locating meteorites by charting eye-witness reports to track the path of the object to find its impact point; but "with the Roswell event, he could work backward; he knew where it had touched down, now he had to figure out the trajectory and speed" (ref 4). Strange methodology indeed.

Rickett took LaPaz on a 3-week tour of the New Mexico ranches in search of eye-witnesses to the Roswell UFO. They found a number of people, mainly farmers and ranchers, who had seen strange lights at night "in the last six months or so". Eventually, by charting the sightings on a map, they found a touchdown point in the woods on top of a hill. The object had "cut the tops off the trees". Strangely, Rickett never took LaPaz to the actual crash site, although at one location they did recover some foil-like debris. Rickett says he wrote an informal report and LaPaz a formal one (which Rickett never saw). According to Rickett, he did not see LaPaz again for 12 months; whereupon LaPaz had revised his views about the object being a manned spaceship that had touched down briefly, taken off again and crashed; he now speculated that the object was an unmanned, remote controlled, extraterrestrial probe that had gone out of control and met its fate.

There are a number of points arising out of this:

1. What possible point is there in seeking out eye-witnesses to such a transient event two months after it occurred, when such testimony would by then be unreliable as to date & time? In all meteorite (and UFO) tracking it is essential to get such evidence within hours or at most a few days afterwards. LaPaz would have been the first to realise this. (See Frank D. Drake's comments in ref 6, from first-hand experience, where he says people report more imagination than truth after a mere 5 days).
2. LaPaz had all the necessary security clearances, but was never shown the actual crash site or, apparently, the wreckage and bodies. Why?
3. As the date of the Roswell crash was already known (Randle & Schmitt insist it was the night of July 2), what purpose was served in checking on sightings that had occurred up to six months earlier? Were UFOs suspected of crashing as far back as March, and what connection did these other potential sightings have with Roswell?
4. If by Sept. 1947 the military already knew the true nature of the UFO, it was pointless to send LaPaz on a long trip locating witnesses and expect him to determine the touchdown site, speed and trajectory, without briefing him with all the data, i.e. any wreckage, bodies, photos, and analyses done so far. It would be nonsensical for the military to remove all the debris and ground traces in July, then call in a top scientist "to work backward" in September. -3-

A new interpretation

In view of the foregoing and the fact that Rickett was being interviewed over 40 years after the alleged crash, we are certainly entitled to question the accuracy of his memory recall. Is Rickett in fact confusing Roswell with another UFO incident?

Fortunately it is possible to check other sources and piece together the most likely picture, but the answer will not please crashed saucer addicts.

One useful source is Ruppelt (ref 5). The Blue Book chief relates how LaPaz was brought in by the USAF on December 5, 1948 after a spectacular series of fireball-like sightings that night over Albuquerque and northern New Mexico. Next morning, and for a day or two, LaPaz toured the area with intelligence officers, eventually talking to dozens of witnesses, plotting the flight paths, only to find nothing at the calculated impact point. This was the start of LaPaz's official involvement with the fireball problem, which continued, initially, until about February.

A few years later Ruppelt met LaPaz and discussed UFOs with him. One thing LaPaz emphasised was that despite many searches following reported sightings, he never once located any fragments. This was one reason why he classed the green fireballs as non-meteoritic (since he had often located known meteorite fragments) and therefore more likely manmade objects.

Much useful information is in ref 7 in which we learn of LaPaz's great enthusiasm over the fireball and flying disc phenomena. LaPaz spent December 22-24, 1948 on field trips with the military to plot a 'green flare' seen over New Mexico, covering some 10 cities south of Las Vegas (NM) and Albuquerque. He questioned many witnesses; however, as far as obtaining hard evidence, his enquiries drew a blank. At least three further field trips took place in the summer of 1949. There were frequent meetings, letters and reports during this period. In fact by May 1950 LaPaz had produced no fewer than seven reports to various military branches on his investigations. Not one of these was to do with a UFO crash (or indeed any UFO event) in July of 1947. These reports have long been declassified and are now in Blue Book archives. There is no doubt that at the time the military were deeply concerned at the continuing phenomena and the lack of hard evidence leading to a definite identification.

One area of repeated fireball activity was Vaughn (near Roswell), where an observation post was eventually set up (under Project Twinkle), only to be discontinued after a few weeks due to lack of positive results.

Of particular interest is the transcript of a classified meeting at Los Alamos on Feb 16, 1949 (there was another in October) in which Dr. LaPaz, Joseph Kaplan, Edward Teller plus a dozen or so representatives of the military, were present. LaPaz, who did most of the talking, had a lot to say about his methodology, experience of meteorite falls, and his general involvement, including the problems of collecting accurate testimony, the effect of the fireballs on farm animals, the complete absence of debris (unlike meteorite finds), and various technical matters.

Flying discs also came up in the conference and were considered as another aspect of the general UFO/green fireball problem.

LaPaz remembered the first instance he got involved with the USAF ("where for the first time we detected a bit of interest on the part of the military, there too we recovered nothing"), in a case of a bright flaming object at Four Corners on Oct 30, 1947. LaPaz was interested because of the possibility of a meteorite fall, the USAF were interested in an airplane that might have caught fire and crashed. No debris was found after extensive search.

Roswell is named several times, but the case in question is not the July 1947 'crash', but a bright fireball that streaked over southern New Mexico and west Texas, disappearing over Roswell, on the night of Jan. 30, 1949, which occasioned over a hundred witnesses being interviewed by LaPaz and military agents, and caused a priority teletype to be flashed to both Wright-Patterson and Washington from Kirtland Air Base.

What is one to make of the above? I think the facts are highly relevant and indicate the following:

1. Lincoln LaPaz was heavily involved with the military on UFOs; his view was that some of the objects were not natural phenomena but more likely manmade, possibly of Soviet or even extra-terrestrial origin.
2. LaPaz stressed that he never once located any UFO fragments.
3. LaPaz sat through at least two secret conferences on UFOs/ fireballs, had a lot to say, but never once mentioned being involved in a UFO crash at Roswell or anywhere else.
4. LaPaz often went on field trips with the military, interviewing witnesses to green fireball sightings in New Mexico, including some in the Roswell area. (my deduction: Rickett accompanied him on one of these trips).
5. LaPaz wrote seven reports on his investigations, but none in July or September of 1947. (my deduction: Rickett is referring to one such report, has the wrong date, and the alleged 'fragments' picked up were in fact soil samples which LaPaz later analysed for traces of copper and other elements).

All the above is obtainable from documents written in the late 1940s. There is not the slightest reason to suppose that any 'above top secret' crashed saucer 'revelations' have been deleted from these documents before publication. Rickett's testimony, on the other hand, is all based on 40-year old memories, encouraged by interviews with credulous crashed saucerologists.

Conclusions

I do not think Lincoln LaPaz was ever part of the Roswell Incident of July 1947. I think Rickett has got confused over dates and places after 40 years and that to expect him to recall such things reliably without a diary or other contemporary personal notes is taking far too much on trust. I think his involvement with LaPaz refers to incidents in the 'green fireballs' episode about 18 months later; and that this must cast considerable doubt on the rest of Rickett's testimony, and whether he was ever part of the Roswell crash and recovery as Randle & Schmitt claim.

I also think that if Rickett was interviewed again, this time by someone who was not a crashed disc believer, a different story would emerge. (It would have been far better, of course, if the initial interviews had been conducted thus)..It would be interesting to see records of Rickett's whereabouts and his involvement with other UFO cases during the 1947-50 period.

References

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2. CRASHED UFOS; EVIDENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR PROOF - William L. Moore (paper 1258; W.L.Moore publications, Burbank, Calif, 1985; rev ed. 1987) p.40-43.
3. ROSWELL REVISITED; THE ANATOMY OF A COVER-UP - William L. Moore and Jaime Shandera, 1989 (printed in FOCUS, June 1990; see p.18-20).
4. UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL - Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt (Avon Books, 1991) p.118-121.
5. REPORT ON UFOS - Edward J. Ruppelt (Doubleday, 1956) chapter 4.
6. UFOS - A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE - ed. Carl Sagan & Thornton Page (Cornell Univ. Press, 1972) p.254-7.
7. UFOS: A HISTORY - Loren E. Gross (Fremont, Calif 1982).
Vol. 1, Aug-Dec 1948, p.24-41.
Vol. 2, Jan-Jun 1949, p.15-18, 23-53.
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To the "ORBITER":

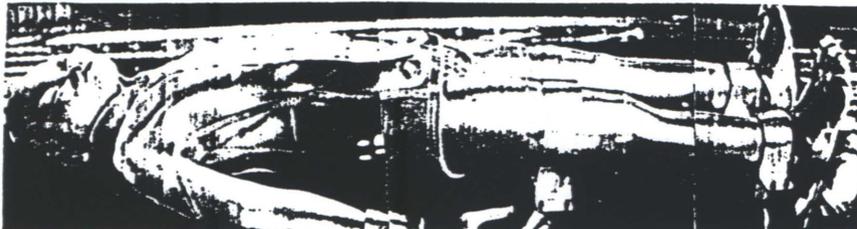
Considering the numerous remarks and mistakes provoked by the publication of the picture of an alleged "alien" ("ORBITER", Nov/Dec. 1990), it is time for me now to sum it up, for the benefit of all the readers of "ORBITER", the circumstances surrounding this "anecdote".

The "creature", as it is would be a good thing to recall, is not a genuine extraterrestrial, but only a reproduction, life size, of one of the "beings" found after the controversial "Roswell Incident". Incidentally, this synthetic alien has been exposed during many years (from 1881-1984) in the exhibition hall of the "pavillon du Monde de l' Insolite" (which means in english "Building of the Unexplained World), thematic building initially erected for the 1967 Montreal (Canada) International Exposition. Besides, the picture published in the "ORBITER" was taken (by myself) in September 1981 (and not in 1979 as I incorrectly reported it in a previous letter) on the site of the Montreal Exposition. In other respect, it is quite likely that the creator(s) of this dummy has(ve) used the descriptions published in the Berlitz and Moore's book to create his (she or their) reproduction.

As for the idea to publish this picture in the pages of the "ORBITER", it is the result of an agreement between me and Mr. Melesciuc (Editor of the "ORBITER"), agreement aiming - one more time - to demonstrate how, with documents more or less illicit, it is easy to deceive a complete community. However, it is true that in this present case this "controlled hoax" imagined by Mr. Melesciuc has been voluntarily helped by the apparation, in Europe, of another picture known henceforward under the name of "the Zigel picture". Indeed, as stated by Dr. Marina Popovitch, former Soviet pilot, it is in the archives of the late Dr. Felix Zigel that this picture, reproduced in the last Timothy Good's book ("Alien Liason"), would have been found. Always according to Marina Popovitch, the controversial document would have been given to Dr. Zigel by an anonymous canadian "contact". Unfortunately, looking more carefully, it is evident, by the general appearance of the "creature" and its silver suit (including the "zipper) and, more precisely, by this very light inclination of the head towards the right, that the "Zigel picture" is nothing else than a picture of the same "doll" under a different angle, that I photographed myself in 1981. If it is true, as Marina Popovitch claims it today, that this picture was given to Dr Zigel as a picture of a genuine extraterrestrial being, then there is no doubt that the mysterious "contact" of Dr. Zigel wanted to make fun of him.

Finally, the "incident" provoked - voluntarily - by Jim Melesciuc recalls us that the authenticity of a document is never acquired before knowing the origins of it. In short, the "golden" rule of any investigators.

Christian R. Page
Chairman - OCIFE



"In the May/June issue of the Orbiter, Rex and Carol Salisberry published a letter in which they mention the 'red Light' sightings which occurred last year in April (1990), then stopped for about 6 months and resumed in November, 1990. They point out that, although some were proven to be hoaxes (the MUFON members have watched carefully and have seen clear evidence several times), "some of the sightings seemed to be legitimate" (my emphasis). In fact, analysis to date suggests that most of the sightings are legitimate. The interested reader should consult my paper, 'Gulf Breeze without Ed,' which is published in the MUFON Symposium proceedings, for a catalogue of sightings from before Nov. 1987 through March, 1991. This paper includes some of the most inexplicable 'red light' sightings. During the last six months these lights have exhibited the following general characteristics, with some variations: (a) they appear suddenly as bright red or white lights, but if white they turn red in a few seconds, (b) they then remain red for a while (many seconds to a few minutes), and then (c), they turn white and fade away or disappear while illuminating the clouds (if any). The lights have been seen moving and stationary (even in a wind), and when moving they have been seen moving with the wind, crosswind and against the wind and they have been seen during cloudy, clear and windy weather. They have been seen on all days of the week. When the sightings began last November the local MUFON group began a daily skywatch between roughly 8 and 11 PM, except in bad weather (which occurred especially during March). As a result of their efforts they have logged well over 50 such sightings, at an average rate of more than 2/week. Most of the sightings are multiple witness with photographs and videotapes. Several of the sightings were made by groups of witnesses separated far enough so that a triangulation was possible. In one case, April 9, 1991, several non-MUFON- member ground witnesses were quite close to the object. They described it as round, quite large in angular size (comparable to the full moon) and overall redish in color. Using the angular elevation measurements made by the MUFON members who saw the UFO from a triangulated distance of about 5 miles, the diameter is calculated to have been about 80 feet. In another triangulation case (April 17, 1991) the video of the UFO shows that the rather bright red object suddenly turned white and created a series of extremely white flashes at a high rate, sometimes changing during one frame time from quite dim to so bright that it created a large glare in the camera. The amount of white light created in the series of brief flashes lasting several seconds was "amazing," considering that the triangulation placed the object at a distance of about 5 miles. No noise was heard during this or any of the other sightings. In an earlier triangulation case, April, 18, 1990, MUFON witnesses in one location saw and photographed a red light moving westward. At another location reporter Mark Curtis (WEAR TV) saw the same red light. Combining his description of the motion with the MUFON photography I was able to determine that this light was moving about 40 MPH in a 7 mph crosswind. The latter (1990) sighting is described in the Symposium paper. The April 1991 sightings are discussed in print for the first time here. Sightings have continued into July and have afforded the opportunity to obtain infra-red (IR) and diffraction photos. The first IR photos were taken in March by Ed Walters in the presence of several other witnesses while looking northward from a location in Pensacola (i.e., away from Gulf Breeze). They provide the first concrete evidence that the "red light" has the capability of changing its radiation spectrum from the visible into the infra-red. (this sighting is described in detail in the Symposium paper). Since then other IR photos have been taken in Gulf Breeze by other witnesses. The diffraction pattern photos taken by Arthur Hufford and others are undergoing analysis. Due consideration has been given to all variants of the hoax hypothesis with the conclusion that if these sightings constitute a hoax perpetrated against the MUFON group, then it is a "massive," very expensive hoax utilizing some very sophisticated, non-explosive, probably non-pyrotechnic aerial light sources. Because of the well reported, odd characteristics of these "red lights," I do not think that the bulk of these sightings are hoaxes.

Rex and Carol downplay these sightings, claiming that they started "about the same time as the paper back version of Walters' book hit the

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stands" and that "the lights seem to appear when Hank Boland is in town." Unfortunately I do not have Hank's schedule for "being in town," but if they are correlated with his appearances then he must have been in town almost every week from November through July, except for three weeks in March (I believe he is studying in Chicago, however). As for their claim related to the publication of Ed's paperback book, the sightings started several months before the book was released. They also claim that the red lights "seem to appear on cue whenever a visiting TV crew is in town." It is true that a TV crew in January and another in May were lucky. On the other hand, a third TV crew in May waited several nights and saw nothing. Rex and Carol suggest that "all this doesn't really add up to much." That shows how little they know about what is going on.

Regarding their comment on Photo 19, I have yet to see any convincing proof of a hoax from them or anyone else. Barbara Becker, in the same Orbiter issue, reports on calculations she has done. She used the method I developed, before direct measurements of the probable camera height were made available, to calculate the height of the camera when Ed shot photo 19. She has used the MUFON commissioned survey of the road site and discovered that if the "sighting line" shown in the survey were the same as the sighting line when Ed shot photo 19, then the camera was almost 9 feet high. If her calculation were correct, we would have to assume that Ed jacked up his truck about 4 1/2 ft. in order to get the camera about 9 ft. high when he shot the background (in the hoax hypothesis the UFO and the background are shot separately as two parts of a double exposure). Of course this is ridiculous. There is a hint that Barbara realizes this in the last sentence of her paper which reads: "The above paper assumes the survey data are correct." The altitudes and distances measured on the survey are correct (I assume). What is not correct is to assume that the surveyor's 'sighting line' was the same as the photo 19 sighting line from the camera, through the center of the UFO and to the distant trees. The surveyor picked a location to start his survey which was far enough off the road so that he would be sure that his altitude measurements, made on either side of his sighting line, would cover the area of interest. He chose to start at a position about 15 ft. from the edge of the road. However, during the investigation of the sighting in 1988 I determined that Ed parked much closer to the road. Probably his truck was less than 5 ft. from the road. I have estimated that the camera was 7 to 10 ft. from the road, with 7 ft. being more probable than 10 ft. Had Barbara realized this and drawn a sighting line from a point about 7 ft. from the road at the surveyor's "0.00" distance location and heading towards the same tree on the horizon in the photo (the tree that appears above the UFO image) her calculated camera height would have come closer to the probable value based on measurements which indicate the height was in the range 4.1 to 4.5 ft. Note: there has been a lot of argument about the "exact," to within inches, height of the camera. The camera lens was lower than the windshield wiper, as proven by the fact that the road is visible between the windshield wiper and the front of the hood. The windshield wiper "rests" only about 2 inches above the dashboard level. Hence the camera was not as high as, say, halfway up the windshield. The height I gave in my MUFON paper last fall (4 ft) may be low, but it is within inches of the actual height of the camera above the ground below the truck. To be more exact would require knowledge of the actual load carried by the truck at the time, the conditions of the suspension springs and the inflation pressure of the tires. Using heights in the range 4.1 to 4.5 ft. change the calculated length of the reflection of the road by 25 ft., but do not change the basic nature of my suggestion that the reflection was caused by a beam projected from the UFO. (Note: I did not say that the reflection had to be caused by a beam. The non-uniform illumination of the UFO bottom, evident in other photos, suggests that the light radiation pattern could be widely divergent and non-uniform, and hence the UFO could be over the reflection at a distance of about 185 ft. plus or minus.)

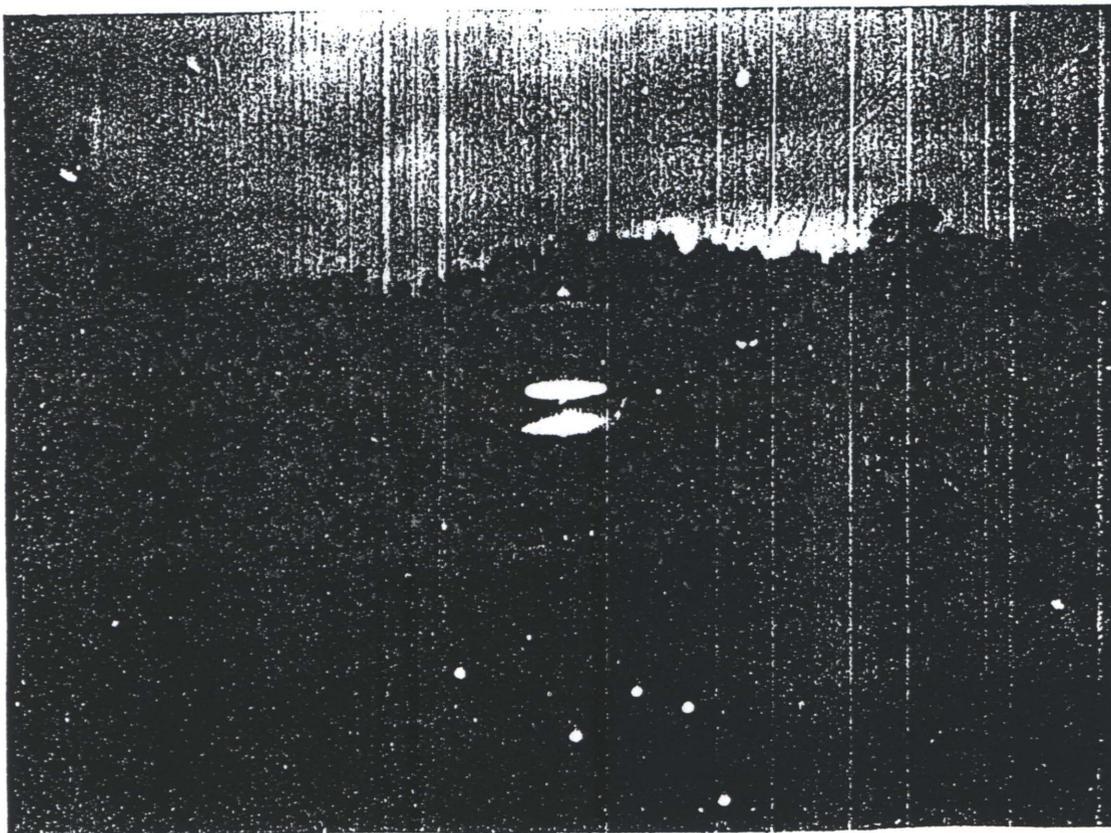
Preliminary results from a new, sophisticated photoanalysis suggests that there are photographic data within Ed's photos that rule out the simple double exposure hypothesis that I discussed 3 years ago and

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which is still promulgated by Willy Smith and Zan Overall. (This is not the 'secret' analysis mentioned by Walter Andrus, which is somewhat flawed and rather inconclusive.) If these new results are confirmed by further work, then the "Ghost Photo" argument will become irrelevant, as will the description of the hoaxing technique offered by Tommy Smith and the experiments of Mark Curtis (of TV station WEAR). Initial results from this photoanalysis were presented in a special display at the MUFON symposium, but were not a subject of my discussion.

While doing the research for my paper I found that over a dozen people have claimed to have seen the object that appears in Ed's photos. Some are well known (Charles and Dori Somerby, Jeff Thompson, Billy Zammit, Fenner and Shirley McConnell, Arthur and Mary Hufford, Truman Holcomb) and others are less well known (several wish to remain anonymous). However, one of the witnesses was a complete surprise to me. Unfortunately I didn't discover his testimony until after I had completed the MUFON paper. During an interview for the A Current Affair TV show that was aired in early 1990, he compared what he saw to "Ed's craft." He said, "what he (Ed) had on the photographs looked actly like what I saw." Who was this surprise witness? None other than Rex Salisbury.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee
19 July 1991



Source: MUFON Journal
March 1988

THE GULF BREEZE ROAD SHOT.

Dear Jim,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Bruce Maccabee's letter of July 19, 1991. I am grateful ORBITER continues to follow the Gulf Breeze controversy and the saga of Ed and Francis Walters.

First, I am very surprised by a comment made by Bruce in his July rebuttal. He said, "I did not say that the reflection had to be caused by a beam. The non-uniform illumination of the UFO bottom, evident in other photos, suggests that the light radiation pattern could be widely divergent and non-uniform, and hence the UFO could be over the reflection at a distance of about 185 ft. plus or minus."

In the MUFON UFO Journal article, THE "ROAD SHOT" REANALYZED, the original assumption was i) that the UFO was over the Reflection Image (RI), ii) was located at a distance 185 feet from the camera and iii) that the RI was "the reflection of light from a non-uniformly radiating source within the glowing bottom of the UFO...." When the shape of the RI was challenged by Rex and Carol Salisbury, Bruce developed the "Beam Theory" which states, i) the UFO was NOT over the RI, ii) but was located at a point 65 feet beyond the farthest edge of the RI at a distance 370 feet from the camera and iii) "the only way the light could get from the UFO to the illuminated spot on the road would be if the UFO PROJECTED A BEAM OF LIGHT 65 feet toward the truck...." (P. #13).

For almost a year now the "Beam Theory" has been championed by Bruce. His paper was based on the assumption that the RI was created by light reflected from the road, from a BEAM, from Ed's UFO. He used this argument to support Walters' story and Walters' story to support this argument. Now he casually notes, "I did not say that the reflection HAD to be caused by a beam." But that is exactly what he did say when he used the words "THE ONLY WAY". To say the ONLY WAY something can occur is to say there is NO OTHER WAY IT CAN HAPPEN. If all other criteria are correct then it would have to be a beam causing the RI on the road. Perhaps Bruce is back-pedaling because he now realizes that there is enough contrary evidence to warrant a re-evaluation of his hypothesis.

Second, I find it sad that Bruce attempts to discredit his critics with inane comments about Walters jacking up his truck to meet a 9 foot camera height. Of course that is ridiculous...and so is Maccabee's comment.

My calculations are correct based on the MUFON commissioned survey and Bruce's formulae, the very same formulae he used for the November 1990 MUFON UFO Journal article, THE "ROAD SHOT" REANALYZED. Bruce insinuates that the only figure I worked with was the INCORRECT one furnished by the MUFON survey. Not so, I have worked with every figure possible using the 5' 4" camera height. I did that LONG ago. I used Bruce's formulae and the INCORRECT MUFON survey to draw attention to the problems that have plagued this so-called investigation.

It is inconceivable that the survey should have been done without Maccabee's input, after all, it was he and Charles Flannigan who took the original measurements. In Walters' book, THE GULF BREEZE SIGHTINGS, Bruce writes that he and Flannigan returned to the site of the road shot "to determine the exact location of the truck." (p. #279) We are told how there were "clear tire marks" on the shoulder but Walters denied these were his, instead he settled on a place a distance from these marks. At this time they, "made numerous measurements" and accepted the truck position as correct based on "an accurate reconstruction based on the tree line visible in photo #19." Apparently it wasn't accurate nor was it complete because in a letter to Dr. Willy Smith (and friends) dated July 5, 1991, Bruce states that prior to writing the MUFON article previously mentioned, he asked Ed Walters to return to the site and take the sighting line measurements. Why did he rely on Walters? Because "he (Walters) knew from previous experiments where the truck was at the time of photo #19 to within several feet...." So, it was Walters who provided Bruce with the sighting line measurements he used in the reanalysis, NOT BRUCE HIMSELF NOR A MUFON INVESTIGATOR. Is this proper investigator

CONT'

procedure? I realize it would be unreasonable to ask Bruce to fly to Gulf Breeze (FL.) to take additional measurements, however we are allowed to believe that the information we are getting is based on correct data collected by conscientious, seasoned investigators when it isn't, and that assumption influences the credibility of the case.

The MUFON survey is WRONG. A correctly executed survey could have ended some of the debate. Why wasn't Bruce consulted? For that matter, why wasn't Walters consulted again since it was he who KNEW where the truck was "to within several feet." Walters' measurements were good enough for Bruce's reanalysis they should have been good enough for the MUFON survey. What if Bruce had been consulted, what would he have said? The truck was "probably" less than five feet from the road edge...or maybe it was somewhere between 7 to 10 feet! He swayed our opinion in GBS when he said that he and Flannigan performed an ACCURATE reconstruction. Accurate means conforming exactly, free from error. While a distance of a foot may not influence the outcome of a calculation dramatically, I think the nonchalance of this investigation should be considered when determining the authenticity of the Walters' case.

Finally, I would like to say that I have read Bruce's paper GULF BREEZE WITHOUT ED. I find some of the Gulf Breeze cases described very compelling, however, there is no way to know if the cases cited have actually been thoroughly investigated or are simply narratives whose numbers are used to spice up a statistical analysis. Without confidence in the investigators the investigation is worthless.

Barbara Becker
21 Aug. 1991

AN OPEN LETTER TO BRUCE MACCABEE - 6 August 1991

Dear Bruce,

It has recently come to my attention that you have been spreading the false story that I have "testified" to having seen a UFO which resembled "Ed's craft". You cite as your source an interview from the "A CURRENT AFFAIR" TV show that was aired in early 1990. As you should well know, the context of my comments for that interview dealt with the RED LIGHT sighting at the Pensacola MUFON meeting in September 1989. My comments in that regard were accurate. The dim red glow which I saw in the sky did resemble the dim red image on the photograph allegedly taken by Walters outside of the meeting place that night. Charles Flannigan and Gary Watson were also involved with the subject interview which was conducted in Flannigan's home. Both of these individuals should be able to confirm the context of the interview. Copies of the un-edited video tapes of the interviews are also available to refute your FALSE claims.

I have never seen, nor have I claimed to have seen, an unidentified flying object which resembled any of the photos shown in Walters' book. I have seen the UFO MODEL which was found in the attic of the Walters' former residence and it does resemble some of the photos in the book. Perhaps this may have caused your confusion.

Dr. Willy Smith, Mr. Philip Klass, and others have assured me, that down through the years; they have considered you to be a man of high professional integrity. If they are right, I believe that it would be appropriate for you to publicly correct the FALSE assertions which you have been making. A letter of retraction printed in the MUFON Journal would be a good start. I will not ask for an apology from you, but will just chalk the whole issue up as another one of your MISTAKES.

Sincerely

Rex C. Salisberry

Zan Overall

P. O. Box 7060-753
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

3 September 1991

Mr., Jim Melesciuc
Editor
The Orbiter

Dear Jim:

The previous issue of the Orbiter contained an open letter I wrote to Dr. Bruce Maccabee. Dr. Maccabee's reply in this current issue baldly avoids the issue I raised in the open letter. I asked that he either retract the "third photo" attack he and Ed Walters made on my Gulf Breeze Double Exposed at the Pensacola MUFON convention or reply to the arguments that I believe invalidate the attack. He did neither.

If you will publish in this issue the letter (IUR, Nov.-Dec.1990)I wrote replying to Walters and Maccabee's hasty and ill-considered contentions, I will again challenge Dr. Maccabee to either abandon his position or defend it in the forum of the Orbiter.

* * * * *

I hope anyone (still) interested in the dismal Gulf Breeze hoax will read Gulf Breeze Double Exposed (\$9.95 from CUFOS) and get a picture of Walters's pre-"UFO" persona and photographic trickery, along with examples of Dr. Maccabee's regrettable gullibility where Walters is concerned.

Best wishes,

Zan Overall

P.S.: I wonder if Sonny DesVerger is still alive and if anyone ever got him to describe the occupant. Good article.

Ed. note: Regrettably we were unable to publish the IUR letter due to lack of space. However if anyone requests to review it send a SASE to the address on the front page and a copy will be sent out to you.