

# Letters From the Maury Island Principals in the 1967 Merseyside UFO Bulletin

📅 April 15, 2023   👤 admin

by Charles Lear, author of "The Flying Saucer Investigators."



Throughout the history of flying saucers/UFOs, there have been characters that those being kind would describe as "colorful," and those being blunt would describe as liars, hoaxers and con men. One of these characters was Fred Crisman, who became famous/infamous due to his involvement in the Maury Island case. Crisman was accused of hoaxing the case along with his business partner, Harold Dahl, and the two confessed as much to an FBI agent who investigated (page 20 of pdf) due to the deaths of two military intelligence officers associated with the case. Crisman faded from the public eye after this but showed up again on November 21, 1968 when he was called to testify at the trial of Clay Shaw looking into the JFK assassination. We have recently

come across some correspondence between a UFO investigator, Crisman, and Dahl in the pages of a 1967 edition of a British UFO magazine that may be of interest to our readers. [Read more →](#)

1  
00:00:02,760 --> 00:00:11,020  
foreign

2  
00:00:32,990 --> 00:00:16,310  
[Music]

3  
00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:35,270  
letters from the Mori Island principles

4  
00:00:41,569 --> 00:00:39,360  
in the 1967 merseyside UFO bulletin by

5  
00:00:44,090 --> 00:00:41,579  
Charles Lear throughout the history of

6  
00:00:45,950 --> 00:00:44,100  
flying saucers slash UFOs there have

7  
00:00:48,590 --> 00:00:45,960  
been characters that those being kind

8  
00:00:50,930 --> 00:00:48,600  
would describe as colorful and those

9  
00:00:53,150 --> 00:00:50,940  
being blunt would describe as liars

10  
00:00:55,430 --> 00:00:53,160  
hoaxers and con men one of these

11  
00:00:57,889 --> 00:00:55,440  
characters was Fred Chrisman who became

12  
00:00:59,590 --> 00:00:57,899  
famous slash Infamous due to his

13  
00:01:02,209 --> 00:00:59,600

involvement in the Mori island case

14  
00:01:04,549 --> 00:01:02,219  
Chrisman was accused of hoaxing the case

15  
00:01:07,070 --> 00:01:04,559  
along with business partner Harold Dahl

16  
00:01:09,890 --> 00:01:07,080  
and the two confessed as much to an FBI

17  
00:01:12,109 --> 00:01:09,900  
agent who investigated due to the deaths

18  
00:01:14,810 --> 00:01:12,119  
of two Military Intelligence Officers

19  
00:01:16,789 --> 00:01:14,820  
associated with the case Chrisman faded

20  
00:01:20,450 --> 00:01:16,799  
from the public eye after this but

21  
00:01:22,609 --> 00:01:20,460  
showed up again on November 21 1968 when

22  
00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:22,619  
he was called to testify at the trial of

23  
00:01:27,410 --> 00:01:24,960  
Clay Shaw looking into the JFK

24  
00:01:30,050 --> 00:01:27,420  
assassination we have recently come

25  
00:01:32,210 --> 00:01:30,060  
across some correspondence between a UFO

26

00:01:35,390 --> 00:01:32,220

investigator Chrisman and Dahl in the

27

00:01:38,030 --> 00:01:35,400

pages of a 19 1969 edition of a British

28

00:01:40,069 --> 00:01:38,040

UFO magazine that may be of interest to

29

00:01:42,710 --> 00:01:40,079

our readers Chrisman seemed to be

30

00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:42,720

compelled to insert himself into the

31

00:01:47,810 --> 00:01:45,780

middle of a mystery in 1946 he wrote a

32

00:01:50,210 --> 00:01:47,820

letter to Amazing Stories editor Ray

33

00:01:52,010 --> 00:01:50,220

Palmer who had just brought the magazine

34

00:01:54,410 --> 00:01:52,020

a great deal of success with his

35

00:01:56,270 --> 00:01:54,420

promotion of the shaver mystery this got

36

00:01:59,149 --> 00:01:56,280

its name from stories written by Richard

37

00:02:01,490 --> 00:01:59,159

shaver about underground dwelling nerdu

38

00:02:03,770 --> 00:02:01,500

Wells called darrows who influenced us

39

00:02:06,410 --> 00:02:03,780

appear on the surface with mind control

40

00:02:08,749 --> 00:02:06,420

Rays Shavers seem to believe they were

41

00:02:11,330 --> 00:02:08,759

based on truth and Palmer might have as

42

00:02:13,729 --> 00:02:11,340

well but he definitely promoted them as

43

00:02:16,490 --> 00:02:13,739

such Chrisman's letter was published in

44

00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:16,500

the June 1946 issue and it tells of

45

00:02:21,530 --> 00:02:18,900

Chrisman and the Buddy fighting darrows

46

00:02:24,050 --> 00:02:21,540

in a cave in Burma according to Cressman

47

00:02:27,110 --> 00:02:24,060

his buddy got a dime-sized hole in his

48

00:02:29,930 --> 00:02:27,120

bicep from Madero raygun Chrisman wrote

49

00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:29,940

another letter to Palmer in 1947 just

50

00:02:33,530 --> 00:02:31,680

after the Kenneth Arnold sighting in

51  
00:02:35,869 --> 00:02:33,540  
June of that year had come kicked off

52  
00:02:38,750 --> 00:02:35,879  
the whole flying disc craze Chrisman

53  
00:02:41,030 --> 00:02:38,760  
told Palmer that on Mori Island just off

54  
00:02:42,910 --> 00:02:41,040  
the coast of Tacoma Washington he had

55  
00:02:45,589 --> 00:02:42,920  
recovered some material from a desk

56  
00:02:47,449 --> 00:02:45,599  
Palmer had been in communication with

57  
00:02:49,970 --> 00:02:47,459  
Arnold regarding his sighting and

58  
00:02:52,790 --> 00:02:49,980  
arranged for him to fly Arnold was a

59  
00:02:55,250 --> 00:02:52,800  
Private Pilot to Tacoma to look into the

60  
00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:55,260  
story Palmer wired him two hundred

61  
00:02:59,330 --> 00:02:57,360  
dollars for his troubles and Arnold

62  
00:03:02,089 --> 00:02:59,340  
became the world's first privately

63  
00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:02,099

funded Flying Saucer investigator the

64

00:03:07,190 --> 00:03:04,920

story that came out was that doll while

65

00:03:10,070 --> 00:03:07,200

in a boat belonging to him and Chrisman

66

00:03:12,290 --> 00:03:10,080

had seen six donut-shaped saucers near

67

00:03:14,930 --> 00:03:12,300

Mori Island one of them seemed to be

68

00:03:17,869 --> 00:03:14,940

having problems and it dumped hot debris

69

00:03:20,690 --> 00:03:17,879

that broke doll's son's arm and killed

70

00:03:23,030 --> 00:03:20,700

his dog Arnold found himself unsure of

71

00:03:24,770 --> 00:03:23,040

what to believe and called in the

72

00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:24,780

Military Intelligence Officers who

73

00:03:30,050 --> 00:03:27,360

looked into his case Lieutenant Frank M

74

00:03:31,970 --> 00:03:30,060

Brown and Captain William Davidson they

75

00:03:34,009 --> 00:03:31,980

weren't impressed and left but not

76  
00:03:36,050 --> 00:03:34,019  
before Christman and assisted they take

77  
00:03:38,750 --> 00:03:36,060  
some of the debris with them which he

78  
00:03:41,330 --> 00:03:38,760  
handed to them in a cornflakes box their

79  
00:03:43,070 --> 00:03:41,340  
plane crashed killing both of them and

80  
00:03:47,030 --> 00:03:43,080  
the headline the next day in the August

81  
00:03:49,970 --> 00:03:47,040  
2nd 1947 Tacoma times was sabotage

82  
00:03:53,030 --> 00:03:49,980  
hinted in Crash of army bomber at Kelso

83  
00:03:55,369 --> 00:03:53,040  
plane May hold flying disc secret Brown

84  
00:03:57,289 --> 00:03:55,379  
and Davidson's names appeared in the

85  
00:03:59,630 --> 00:03:57,299  
story before they were released to the

86  
00:04:01,610 --> 00:03:59,640  
press and the person most likely to have

87  
00:04:04,250 --> 00:04:01,620  
given the information to the paper was

88  
00:04:06,170 --> 00:04:04,260

Chrisman Harold Dahl kept a low profile

89

00:04:08,089 --> 00:04:06,180  
after that but Chrisman would

90

00:04:10,550 --> 00:04:08,099  
occasionally speak as a lecturer on

91

00:04:13,910 --> 00:04:10,560  
flying saucers and started hosting a

92

00:04:17,390 --> 00:04:13,920  
political radio show on August 1st 1968

93

00:04:21,530 --> 00:04:17,400  
for which he used the Alias John gold on

94

00:04:24,170 --> 00:04:21,540  
July 23 1967 at a UFO convention in

95

00:04:26,390 --> 00:04:24,180  
Seattle Washington unidentified aerial

96

00:04:29,570 --> 00:04:26,400  
phenomena research organization director

97

00:04:32,390 --> 00:04:29,580  
Gary Leslie met Chrisman and Chrisman

98

00:04:34,249 --> 00:04:32,400  
gave him doll's address this led to a

99

00:04:36,350 --> 00:04:34,259  
series of letters between the three of

100

00:04:40,370 --> 00:04:36,360  
them that were published in the January

101  
00:04:42,650 --> 00:04:40,380  
February 1969 merseyside UFO bulletin

102  
00:04:44,749 --> 00:04:42,660  
Leslie wrote a letter to doll the next

103  
00:04:46,730 --> 00:04:44,759  
day asking if he could help him in

104  
00:04:49,430 --> 00:04:46,740  
getting the facts straight regarding the

105  
00:04:52,189 --> 00:04:49,440  
Maury island case he asked if doll would

106  
00:04:53,870 --> 00:04:52,199  
send him copies of the photos Chrisman

107  
00:04:55,850 --> 00:04:53,880  
had told Arnold that he'd taken photos

108  
00:04:57,650 --> 00:04:55,860  
of The Craft that appeared when he went

109  
00:05:00,710 --> 00:04:57,660  
to investigate but he never produced

110  
00:05:02,990 --> 00:05:00,720  
them send him a written testimony of the

111  
00:05:06,110 --> 00:05:03,000  
account as you remember it and contact

112  
00:05:08,330 --> 00:05:06,120  
Dr Chrisman Chrisman hadn't given him

113  
00:05:11,090 --> 00:05:08,340

his address and get a written testimony

114

00:05:13,310 --> 00:05:11,100

from him finally he asked if the boat

115

00:05:16,010 --> 00:05:13,320

was intact or if the damage from the

116

00:05:18,170 --> 00:05:16,020

reigning debris was still visible Leslie

117

00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:18,180

got a letter back from Dahl dated August

118

00:05:25,310 --> 00:05:22,560

22nd 1967 informs Leslie that it has

119

00:05:26,990 --> 00:05:25,320

been his and Chrisman's policy not to

120

00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:27,000

answer letters regarding the Maury

121

00:05:31,790 --> 00:05:29,280

island incident he complains about the

122

00:05:33,950 --> 00:05:31,800

treatment he and particularly Chrisman

123

00:05:36,590 --> 00:05:33,960

received at the hand of a disbelieving

124

00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:36,600

public he mentions however that with

125

00:05:41,510 --> 00:05:38,880

renewed interest in the case the public

126  
00:05:44,510 --> 00:05:41,520  
might not be quite so ready to laugh and

127  
00:05:47,330 --> 00:05:44,520  
call me US insane according to doll

128  
00:05:49,610 --> 00:05:47,340  
after Mori Island Chrisman returned to

129  
00:05:51,830 --> 00:05:49,620  
the Air Force to fight in Korea and

130  
00:05:54,230 --> 00:05:51,840  
finish his schooling after that as a

131  
00:05:56,930 --> 00:05:54,240  
psychologist he mentions a television

132  
00:05:59,450 --> 00:05:56,940  
show starring Ray thins called the

133  
00:06:02,150 --> 00:05:59,460  
Invaders that he swears is based on

134  
00:06:05,330 --> 00:06:02,160  
Christmas life he describes Christman as

135  
00:06:08,510 --> 00:06:05,340  
a serious investigator who has never

136  
00:06:10,249 --> 00:06:08,520  
sought publicity and has never used his

137  
00:06:12,590 --> 00:06:10,259  
knowledge of the saucer thing for

138  
00:06:15,469 --> 00:06:12,600

personal gain and that he had contempt

139

00:06:17,090 --> 00:06:15,479

for those who did so that being said he

140

00:06:19,310 --> 00:06:17,100

wrote that he didn't know why Chrisman

141

00:06:21,770 --> 00:06:19,320

was speaking in Seattle and that when he

142

00:06:24,290 --> 00:06:21,780

asked Chrisman Chrisman replied that it

143

00:06:26,749 --> 00:06:24,300

was better he didn't know all the facts

144

00:06:30,170 --> 00:06:26,759

he mentions that Chrisman was scheduled

145

00:06:32,629 --> 00:06:30,180

to speak with a Dr Frank strangis in

146

00:06:35,330 --> 00:06:32,639

Omaha Nebraska and New York but that

147

00:06:37,909 --> 00:06:35,340

Chrisman didn't show up doll describes

148

00:06:40,070 --> 00:06:37,919

Chrisman as probably the most learned

149

00:06:43,010 --> 00:06:40,080

individual in this country in the

150

00:06:45,350 --> 00:06:43,020

general knowledge of UFOs and one of the

151  
00:06:47,330 --> 00:06:45,360  
few men that have studied the files of

152  
00:06:50,210 --> 00:06:47,340  
Project Blue Book according to him

153  
00:06:52,129 --> 00:06:50,220  
something changed for Lee after the

154  
00:06:53,590 --> 00:06:52,139  
Maury island incident and he had seen

155  
00:06:56,450 --> 00:06:53,600  
less and less of him over the years

156  
00:06:59,689 --> 00:06:56,460  
Leslie describes seven lines of the next

157  
00:07:01,809 --> 00:06:59,699  
paragraph as being obliterated as if by

158  
00:07:04,969 --> 00:07:01,819  
a sensor Daw answered his questions

159  
00:07:07,010 --> 00:07:04,979  
saying he would allow Leslie to have

160  
00:07:09,050 --> 00:07:07,020  
copies of the photos and that he would

161  
00:07:11,450 --> 00:07:09,060  
give him a written account only after

162  
00:07:13,550 --> 00:07:11,460  
Chrisman approved it he said he sent

163  
00:07:16,070 --> 00:07:13,560

Leslie's address to Chrisman in New

164

00:07:18,469 --> 00:07:16,080

Orleans but that if Leslie receives an

165

00:07:20,809 --> 00:07:18,479

answer it will be a big change in his

166

00:07:22,850 --> 00:07:20,819

usual attitude he said he'd get a

167

00:07:25,370 --> 00:07:22,860

statement from his son that Chrisman

168

00:07:28,189 --> 00:07:25,380

would also have to approve that the boat

169

00:07:30,710 --> 00:07:28,199

was still intact and was sold years ago

170

00:07:33,170 --> 00:07:30,720

and that the damage was repaired but

171

00:07:35,029 --> 00:07:33,180

they had pictures of it researcher have

172

00:07:37,249 --> 00:07:35,039

looked in the Chrisman's life and the

173

00:07:39,230 --> 00:07:37,259

Chrisman they found doesn't quite match

174

00:07:42,170 --> 00:07:39,240

up with the Chrisman presented by doll

175

00:07:45,350 --> 00:07:42,180

Adam go rightly summed up Christmas life

176

00:07:48,230 --> 00:07:45,360

and exploits as part 003 of his series

177

00:07:51,110 --> 00:07:48,240

the Raymond brochures files headlined

178

00:07:53,390 --> 00:07:51,120

flying saucer attack after summing up

179

00:07:56,210 --> 00:07:53,400

the Mori island incident he describes

180

00:07:58,309 --> 00:07:56,220

Chrisman using cited sources as being

181

00:08:01,909 --> 00:07:58,319

called back to active duty during the

182

00:08:04,670 --> 00:08:01,919

Korean war in 1951. he was assigned as a

183

00:08:07,189 --> 00:08:04,680

P-51 fighter pilot correctly cites

184

00:08:09,529 --> 00:08:07,199

researcher Mike Sylvester is coming up

185

00:08:11,749 --> 00:08:09,539

with the information that Chrisman had

186

00:08:14,089 --> 00:08:11,759

premonitions that he would be killed and

187

00:08:17,330 --> 00:08:14,099

got himself reassigned as a transport

188

00:08:19,490 --> 00:08:17,340

pilot he continued to suffer anxiety to

189

00:08:22,309 --> 00:08:19,500

the point where he was hospitalized in

190

00:08:24,350 --> 00:08:22,319

Japan and according to Sylvester began

191

00:08:26,869 --> 00:08:24,360

to abuse tranquilizers during this

192

00:08:29,869 --> 00:08:26,879

period Chrisman left the military in

193

00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:29,879

1953 and became a high school teacher in

194

00:08:36,409 --> 00:08:32,640

Elgin Oregon and a school superintendent

195

00:08:38,269 --> 00:08:36,419

in Huntington Oregon in 1958 he was

196

00:08:40,909 --> 00:08:38,279

arrested and charged with drunk driving

197

00:08:42,769 --> 00:08:40,919

and disorderly conduct and it was found

198

00:08:44,930 --> 00:08:42,779

that he was under the influence of

199

00:08:46,490 --> 00:08:44,940

barbiturates because of this he was

200

00:08:49,370 --> 00:08:46,500

fired from his job with the school

201  
00:08:51,250 --> 00:08:49,380  
system according to so Wester Chrisman

202  
00:08:53,389 --> 00:08:51,260  
made strange statements to the police

203  
00:08:55,490 --> 00:08:53,399  
including saying that he had a metal

204  
00:08:57,410 --> 00:08:55,500  
plate in his head that same year

205  
00:09:00,230 --> 00:08:57,420  
Chrisman became acquainted with Frank

206  
00:09:02,810 --> 00:09:00,240  
Strange's and Wayne aho two saucer

207  
00:09:06,230 --> 00:09:02,820  
lecturers who could also be described as

208  
00:09:09,470 --> 00:09:06,240  
colorful Dr Frank straintius wrote a

209  
00:09:11,210 --> 00:09:09,480  
1967 book Stranger at the Pentagon in

210  
00:09:14,389 --> 00:09:11,220  
which he claimed to emit a Venetian

211  
00:09:17,210 --> 00:09:14,399  
Valiant Thor was offering advice to the

212  
00:09:19,310 --> 00:09:17,220  
Eisenhower Administration Ajo was a

213  
00:09:22,009 --> 00:09:19,320

contactee who founded the Church of the

214

00:09:24,650 --> 00:09:22,019

new age and was involved with two saucer

215

00:09:27,170 --> 00:09:24,660

swindlers Otis T Carr and Reinhold

216

00:09:29,990 --> 00:09:27,180

Schmidt both of whom were convicted for

217

00:09:31,850 --> 00:09:30,000

saucer-related criminal activity korid

218

00:09:34,009 --> 00:09:31,860

claimed to have built a working Flying

219

00:09:35,990 --> 00:09:34,019

Saucer that that he and Ajo were

220

00:09:38,570 --> 00:09:36,000

supposed to Pilot but a demonstration

221

00:09:40,850 --> 00:09:38,580

failed AO was brought up in charges

222

00:09:43,850 --> 00:09:40,860

along with Carr but it was determined

223

00:09:46,490 --> 00:09:43,860

that he was just a dupe as for Christman

224

00:09:48,410 --> 00:09:46,500

using the title doctor and doll writing

225

00:09:51,050 --> 00:09:48,420

that Chrisman had finished his education

226

00:09:53,389 --> 00:09:51,060

in Psychology after the war there seems

227

00:09:56,030 --> 00:09:53,399

to be an explanation according to the

228

00:09:59,930 --> 00:09:56,040

Wikipedia entry on Cressman citing the

229

00:10:03,650 --> 00:09:59,940

November 6 1966 Washington Olympian has

230

00:10:06,110 --> 00:10:03,660

the source in November 1966 Chrisman

231

00:10:09,170 --> 00:10:06,120

founded the professional research Bureau

232

00:10:11,930 --> 00:10:09,180

with t Edward Beckham and siroba Bates

233

00:10:14,090 --> 00:10:11,940

seeking to conduct research and

234

00:10:16,190 --> 00:10:14,100

consultation within the fields of

235

00:10:18,590 --> 00:10:16,200

Pieology research and Industrial

236

00:10:21,710 --> 00:10:18,600

psychology public relations and

237

00:10:24,290 --> 00:10:21,720

criminology go rightly explains that

238

00:10:26,990 --> 00:10:24,300

Chrisman and Stranges ran a number of

239

00:10:29,329 --> 00:10:27,000

dicey diploma Mills so they perhaps

240

00:10:32,570 --> 00:10:29,339

bestowed the title of doctor on each

241

00:10:35,750 --> 00:10:32,580

other next week letters from Chrisman

242

00:10:49,730 --> 00:10:35,760

Charles Lear is the author of The Flying

243

00:10:49,740 --> 00:10:55,490

foreign