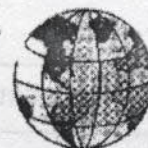


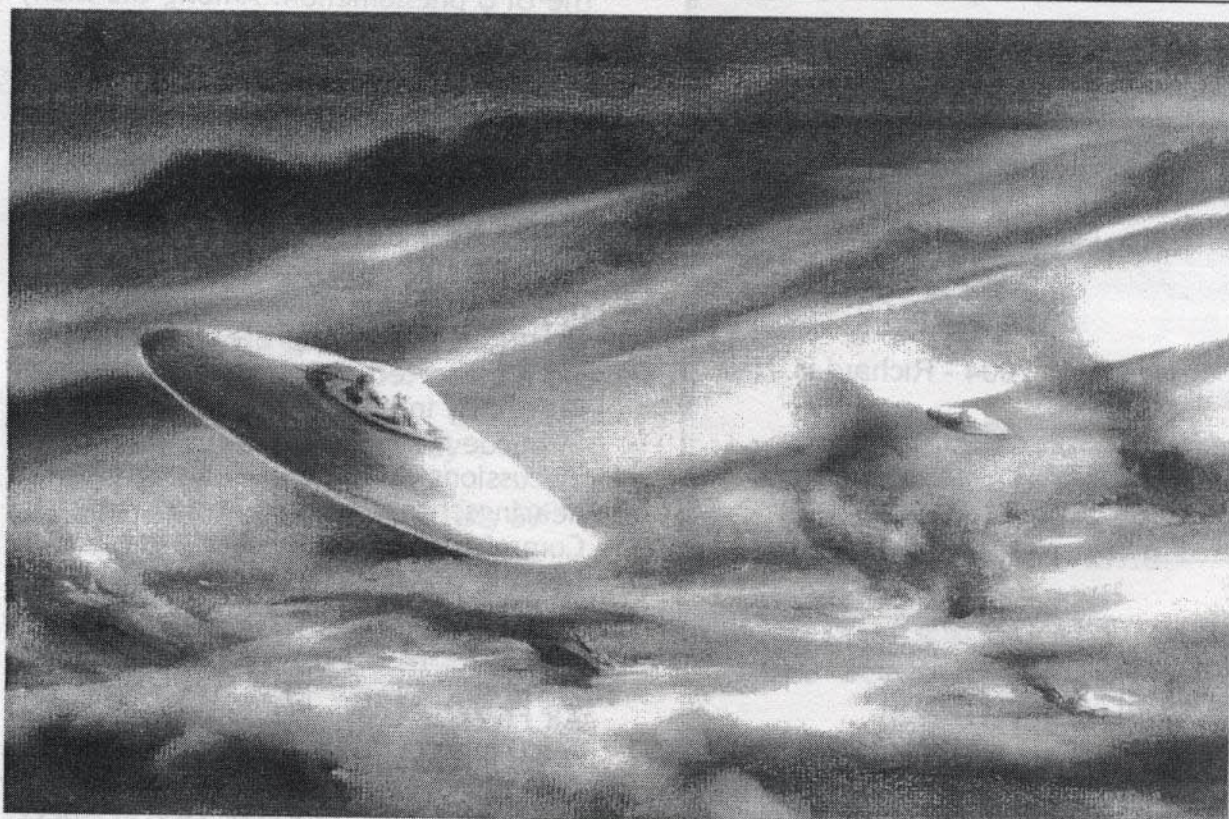
Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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November-December 2004



Artist's concept of Armor of the Future, 1959. Copy of Painting at the Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky (U.S. Army Photograph).

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EDITORIAL

This issue features an interview with highly regarded UFO researcher Barry Greenwood, co-author with Lawrence Fawcett of the important book *Clear Intent: The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience* (Prentice-Hall, 1984).

Since 1998 Barry has published the *UFO Historical Review* (UHR) newsletter but time constraints are causing him to suspend publication until his daily workload is reduced, possibly after retirement.

Back issues of UHR may be found on the web site of the Computer UFO Network (www.cufon.org), which is an excellent depository of historical UFO documents and general information. □

(Editorial & PayPal E-mail address:
dh12@erols.com)

Congressional Interest in UFOs

It is not surprising that the U.S. Congress currently shows no interest in the UFO phenomenon. Among the many reasons are the "tabloid" image of the subject, the lack of scientific study of good UFO cases, and the dearth of timely news reporting.

But Congress in the past did show considerable interest, and political household names like Lyndon Johnson and Gerald Ford were among those paying attention. On some occasions in the 1950s and 1960s, references to UFOs were inserted in the *Congressional Record* by individual members.

Aside from passing remarks and brief discussions during earlier Congressional hearings, the House Armed Services Committee convened the first formal hearing on UFOs on April 5, 1966, as a direct response to the highly publicized UFO sighting wave then in progress and widespread journalistic criticism of the Air Force UFO project.

The April 1966 hearings led to the establishment later that year of the University of Colorado UFO Project, sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, with Dr. Edward U. Condon in charge. That study in turn proved to be so controversial that, before the project had completed its work, another "hearing" was held.

On July 29, 1968, the House Science and Astronautics Committee held what they politely called a "symposium" at which a half a dozen scientists testified and several more submitted statements for the record. The ground rules were that the Colorado Project should not be discussed or criticized directly because they had not yet completed their work.

In conjunction with the University of Colorado UFO study, Lynn Catoe at the
(Continued on next page)

Congressional Interest, continued

Library of Congress compiled a sizeable annotated bibliography on the subject in 1969.

In 1976 Marcia Smith, a specialist in aerospace at Congressional Research Service, prepared a comprehensive report entitled *The UFO Enigma*. It was revised and updated by George D. Havas in 1983 as Report No. 83-205 SPR, 143 pages. This report contains sections on types of sightings, witness credibility, pre-1947 reports, history of Air Force UFO investigations, and international perspectives, with appendices including selected case summaries.

Selected Bibliography

House Armed Services Committee, 89th Congress, 2nd Session. "Unidentified Flying Objects," April 5, 1966.

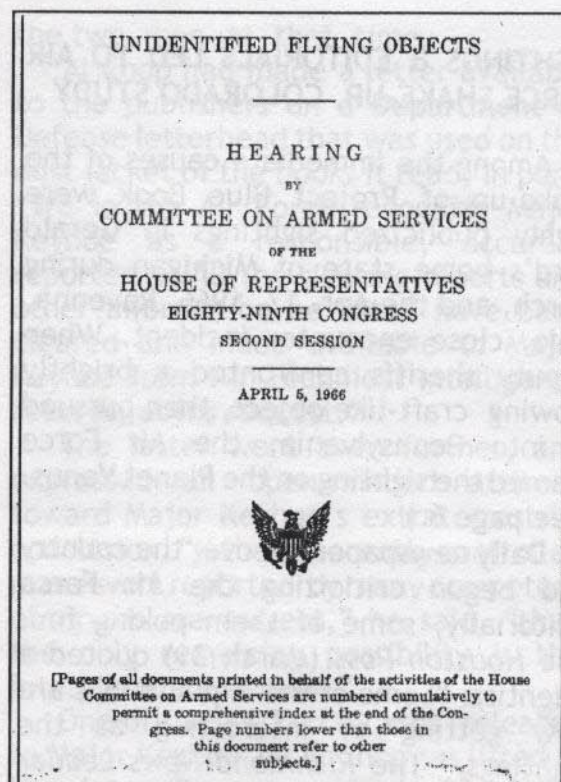
House Science and Astronautics Committee, 90th Congress, 2nd Session, "Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects," July 29, 1968.

Lynn E. Catoe, *UFOs and Related Subjects: An Annotated Bibliography*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1969.

Marcia S. Smith, *The UFO Enigma*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1976.

NICAP, *UFOs: A New Look*, Washington, D.C., 1969. [Excerpts from 1968 symposium, Congressional letters to date, newspaper editorials.]

Richard H. Hall (ed.), *The UFO Evidence*, NICAP, Washington, D.C., 1964. [Congressional letters, Air Force statements to date.]



USAF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SAW UFO FORMATION IN 1947

A staff intelligence officer at Rapid City AFB, South Dakota (later named Ellsworth AFB) in mid-August of 1947 saw a formation of about 12 luminous, elliptical objects flying in formation. He was a major in charge of all air crew interrogations for the 28th Bomb Wing.

Sighted soon after dark, the objects were "flying a tight diamond shaped formation stacked down from the lead." They were in a shallow descent, then leveled off, made a large radius turn to the right and started climbing away. As they began climbing, "they appeared to accelerate rapidly." They "seemed to have a yellow white luminous glow." (Air Technical Intelligence interrogation report, 5 July 1948, formerly classified SECRET.)

SIGHTINGS & EDITORIALS LED TO AIR FORCE SHAKE-UP, COLORADO STUDY

Among the immediate causes of the shake-up of Project Blue Book were highly publicized sightings in Gerald Ford's home state of Michigan during March, and the Apr. 17, 1966, Ravenna, Ohio, close encounter incident. When deputy sheriffs confronted a brightly glowing craft-like object, then pursued it into Pennsylvania, the Air Force blamed the sighting on the Planet Venus. (See page 6.)

Daily newspapers all over the country had begun criticizing the Air Force editorially, some of them poking fun. The *Houston Post* (March 31) quoted a scientist: "Some of the explanations are now getting as interesting as the sightings." The *Richmond News-Leader* (March 23) said, "Unfortunately. The Air Force continues its policy of obfuscation."

On March 27 nationally syndicated columnist Roscoe Drummond called for establishment of either a presidential or a congressional panel to "appraise and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

Philadelphia Enquirer, Mar. 27, 1966

Roscoe Drummond

Time to Get Facts On 'Flying Saucers'

WASHINGTON.

YOU can't dismiss the possibility that some of the unidentified flying objects—these "flying saucers" which so many people have sighted in so many different places—are real, not imaginary.

There are, of course, UFO buffs who seem to want to

GERALD FORD NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Gerald R. Ford, House Republican Leader, in April 1966 issued the following News Release:

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M., APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER
GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's [sic], the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

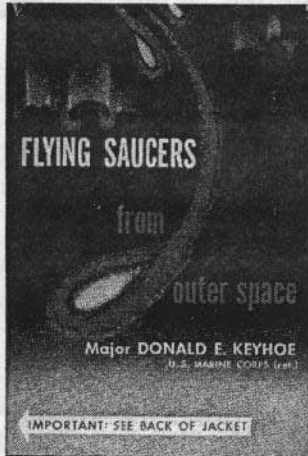
This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction. □

ACCURACY OF KEYHOE BOOK ENDORSED BY USAF OFFICIALS

The publication of *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* by Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.) In 1953, created a sensation and the book became a bestseller.



Based largely on information that he had obtained from the Air Force, Major Keyhoe concluded that the "flying saucers" (UFOs) observed by pilots and other credible witnesses were visitors from another planet.

Furthermore, that the Air Force knew this and was concealing the truth from the public.

To further embarrass the Air Force, both Albert M. Chop, the Air Force press desk representative who had made cases available to Major Keyhoe, and Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Chief of Project Blue Book in 1951 and 1952 confirmed the accuracy of Keyhoe's reporting of the Air Force cases.

In a telegram sent to the book's publishers Ruppelt authenticated the information contained in the book "I have read this book and to the best of my knowledge the accounts of the UFOs related in it are correct," he stated. "The conclusions reached, however, were those of Mr. Keyhoe."

Later, in 1954, Ruppelt reconfirmed the accuracy of Keyhoe's reporting on the Air Force cases in a pair of letters mailed directly to Keyhoe that show a close, friendly relationship between

the two men at that time.

Al Chop had made a letter available to the publishers on a Department of Defense letterhead that was used on the dust jacket of the book. It read, in part, "We in the Air Force recognize Major Keyhoe as a responsible, accurate reporter.... All the sighting reports and other information he listed have been cleared and made available to Major Keyhoe from Air Technical Intelligence records, at his request."

The letter went even further, and expressed an open-minded attitude toward Major Keyhoe's extraterrestrial conclusion. "If the apparently controlled maneuvers reported by many competent observers are correct," he said, "then the only remaining possibility is the interplanetary answer."

One of the Air Force cases released to Major Keyhoe by Al Chop, as listed in the Appendix, was a Sept. 23, 1951, March AFB, Calif., case in which F-86 interceptor pilots tried to intercept "a strange object in controlled orbit at 50,000 feet or higher." (See Chronology, page 10, for other 1951 AF cases.)

During 1951 and 1952, UFOs were repeatedly tracked on military and civilian radar. All over the United States Air Force interceptors were sent up to investigate. The pilots, guided by ground radar, often saw an unidentified glowing object ahead of them and locked onto the unknown with their airborne radar.

Sometimes the objects seemed to play a "cat-and-mouse" game, speeding away, then slowing down again until the jet caught up, or suddenly repositioning behind the interceptor. These cases remain among the most puzzling and inexplicable on record.

In January 1953, clearly stimulated by the simultaneous radar-visual sightings,
(Continued on next page)

OHIO SHERIFFS' SIGHTING INSTRUMENTAL IN 1966 HEARINGS

UFO sightings in the Southwest and Midwest United States in summer 1965 had already stimulated widespread newspaper coverage and inquiring editorial commentary. When, in March 1966, Michigan and other Midwest and Northeast states were deluged with sightings, the hue and cry had already reached a fever pitch. About dawn on April 17, 1966, in Ravenna, Ohio, Portage County Deputy Sheriffs Dale Spaur and

Keyhoe Book Accuracy, continued

the Central Intelligence Agency (then only about 6 years old) convened the so-called Robertson Panel to review the evidence and a new and more skeptical phase of the Air Force investigation began.

Suggested Reading

Donald E. Keyhoe, *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* (New York: Henry Holt, 1953).

Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1956).

Michael David Hall and Wendy A. Connors, *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt: Summer of the Saucers - 1952* (Albuquerque, NM: Rose Press International, 2000).

Kevin D. Randle, *Invasion Washington: UFOs Over the Capitol* (New York: HarperTorch, 2001).

Richard Hall, *Radar-Visual UFO Cases in 1952: The UFO Sightings That Shook the Government* (Fund for UFO Research, 1994).

Wilbur Neff were investigating an abandoned car. Suddenly they were confronted by a brightly glowing object that rose up out of the woods.

The object then stopped overhead, illuminating the roadway around them and emitting a humming sound. As the object wobbled from side to side, the light beam to the ground waved back and forth.

Their dispatcher instructed them to keep the object in sight until a camera car could be dispatched to the scene, so when the object started moving away, they dutifully began following it.

Soon the officers found themselves in a cat-and-mouse pursuit, the UFO alternately speeding up and pulling away, and then slowing down again until they caught up.

Their excited radio communications were picked up by other police officers in nearby jurisdictions, who positioned themselves in the path of the "hot pursuit." These officers saw the UFO speeding along at low altitude with the Portage County sheriffs in pursuit, so they joined in the chase.

Ultimately the mysterious object crossed over the Ohio state line into Pennsylvania, where some local police officers also observed it. The object hovered for a while, and then just as an Air Force interceptor approached the scene, it shot straight up out of sight.

The Air Force Project Blue Book investigators, already under fire for past questionable explanations, conducted a hasty and superficial investigation, and publicly announced that the sheriffs had been fooled by a combination of an earth satellite and the Planet Venus.

This clearly inadequate explanation created an even bigger uproar; within days the hearings occurred and the AF shake-up was underway. □

DIALOGUE WITH ➤

BARRY GREENWOOD

Science, UFOs & Organizations

Hall: Let's start with the standard, newspaper style question. How did you first get interested in UFOs? When and how? Was there some specific event that touched off your interest?

Greenwood: I can't pinpoint anything specific. I had had a natural interest in space, growing up during the 1960s when the exploits of the early astronauts were at a peak. I had noted a few UFO stories in the press, particularly the Socorro, New Mexico incident of April 24, 1964. Such mysteries were very appealing with the possibility of extraterrestrial life being an explanation. From there I continued to accumulate "evidence" of this possibility in the form of books, newsclips, etc. Because there was such ridicule of flying saucers, I felt that there was a danger of this information not being very available over time. It piled up and I decided to make archiving a goal.

Hall: Did you join any particular group or just do research on your own?

Greenwood: I did research on my own until the mid-1970s when more funds were available to see what others were publishing. There were lots of books on the newsstands of varying quality. I tended toward the more serious ones

instead of the contactee information that seemed outlandish.

Hall: What were some of the sightings or types of sightings that first attracted your interest?

Greenwood: I think anyone with an interest in a controversial topic would want to see it in the most serious light. Military reports abounded during the 1960s. How could one dismiss UFOs where congressional hearings were ongoing and the air force was engaged in an active collection process? Mass sightings were compelling. Periodically, waves of reports broke out during 1965-1967 where large numbers of witnesses had reported pretty much the same object or objects behaving strangely. On occasion landings of these objects were reported, as in the Socorro report cited earlier. All of this was hard to dismiss simply as hallucinations, poor observations, or hoaxes.

Hall: Both of us at one point served on the Board of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and we both ended up resigning. Would you like to discuss that situation?

Greenwood: With MUFON, I was the assistant director for Massachusetts,
(Continued on next page)

Greenwood Dialogue, continued

which was as high as I wanted to go due to lack of time to take on more. The local group worked fine generally but nationally MUFON officials were making statements about then current (late 1980s) UFO incidents that were outright endorsements of them being proof of extraterrestrial visitations. I'm thinking of Gulf Breeze and another incident in Alabama where a metal artifact found by a witness was said to be evidence of aliens. Since it is the job of local affiliates of organizations to work as arms of the national group, I felt that endorsing these incidents as proof of extraterrestrials was inappropriate.

Hall: Gulf Breeze also was sort of the last straw for me, though some of the far-out symposium speakers at times caused me to make strong protests too.

Greenwood: We were also asked at one point by the national organization to work with the tabloid newspapers to support the goals of MUFON. The thinking was that any publicity was good publicity. Now one can't prevent tabloids from often printing wild tales about UFOs. And sometimes tabloid stories were reasonably correct. However, to make it an organizational policy to actively deal with what was widely perceived to be a dubious outlet cheapens the organization.

When MUFON professed to be a scientific organization, which it was not, and then wished to adopt the tabloid press as a media outlet, it tended toward hypocrisy. If I were to answer questions by the press about UFOs as the assistant state director of MUFON, I would have to eventually denounce some of what the organization had already endorsed. Resignation was inevitable.



Barry Greenwood

Hall: The "politics" of UFO groups have always been a problem. Would you comment on the type of organizational issues and personality conflicts that often come into play?

Greenwood: There seems to be an inevitable entropy within UFO organizations where admirable goals are initially set, then chaos sets in. You want to get to the bottom of a mystery. You want to do it in an organized fashion. You want to share findings with others to see if those findings hold water or leak nonsense. Then as time passes organizational matters and personal beliefs become more dominant and the original goals become obscure. Administering a UFO organization takes much time on matters that have nothing to do with the UFO debate. Meetings had to be set up and programmed. Funds need to be raised and used wisely.

Hall: The "organizational matters" certainly became a serious and time-consuming problem at NICAP. We spent half our time struggling to survive as an organization.

(Continued on next page)

Greenwood Dialogue, continued

Greenwood: Most of the people supporting UFO research have limited time and money and don't want to deal with the small details. They want to discover what is behind the phenomenon and the preference is that it is found to be evidence of extraterrestrials or some other exotic explanation. Otherwise why bother? But because all UFO reports so far do not decisively support any such exotic conclusions but only suggest them, many UFO group members slowly drift away into other ventures. What remains in the organization are members clashing over their personal beliefs on the nature of UFOs, or battling over how to use the meager funds available, and the rest are frustrated because all this sets in.

Hall: As far as private "Ufology" is concerned, what do you think is needed to make it more effective?

Greenwood: The subject of Ufology is in a crisis from my point of view. Outside of the small group of perennially-interested investigators, researchers and long-time fans, there isn't a whole lot of concern for UFO reports anymore. It is difficult to go into a bookstore and find very much about them. Newsstand publications have virtually disappeared. To be more effective, Ufology needs more funding to be able to pay for projects that just won't be done for free.

Hall: Ultimately it all seems to come down to a lack of adequate financial support for the serious, scientific type of work that needs to be done.

Greenwood: Analyzing soil samples costs a lot of money. Travel is costly.

Constructing catalogs and inventories of document collections takes months and few are motivated in this direction without compensation. The subject needs to be made saleable to generate such funding. In this modern, media-oriented world, one or more good (and by good I mean truthful) documentaries on the caliber of say Ken Burns' "Civil War" or Brian Greene's "The Elegant Universe" could change the image of UFO research from a kooky pastime into a worthwhile inquiry about peculiar phenomena. In the unlikely event that a UFO phenomenon can be separated from a belief in what it is, then perhaps progress can be made. Until then, the money so desperately needed will continue to elude researchers.

Hall: Well said!

Alien Invasion or Human Fantasy? The 1966-67 UFO Wave By Richard H. Hall

This 136-page, perfect bound report presents a detailed chronology and analysis of the biggest UFO wave of all time. Profusely illustrated, plus additional pages of color graphs and maps.

\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.

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(www.fufor.com)

CHRONOLOGY OF EARLY UFO HISTORY: FEBRUARY-AUGUST, 1951

(Installments appear in each issue.)

Feb. 19, 1951: A large cigar-shaped UFO was observed hovering over Mount Kilimanjaro in Kenya, Africa, and reportedly was photographed from an aircraft.

May 22, 1951: An American Airlines pilot in the vicinity of Dodge City, Kansas, reported seeing a blue-white starlike object that "moved backward and forward, then up and down" and finally dove below the aircraft and sped away.

June 1, 1951: A technical intelligence official based at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, who later filed a confidential report on the incident with NICAP, saw a "stubby cigar" shaped object pacing parallel to his car at night. Its leading edge was brightly illuminated. The object made a sharp-angle turn, then showing a circular outline, and rapidly disappeared.

July 9, 1951: A P-51 fighter pilot airborne near Milledgeville, Georgia, at 1340 hours encountered a whitish disc, "flat on top and bottom...completely round and spinning in a clockwise direction." The object dove beneath the P-51 and circled it for about 10 minutes before disappearing. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

July 14, 1951: A UFO which sped near a B-29 bomber above White Sands, New Mexico, was tracked on radar at a missile tracking site, observed visually, and also photographed. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

July 23, 1951: Air Force pilots flying in the vicinity of March Field, California, saw a silvery object circling high above them as the object was tracked on radar. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

Aug. 11, 1951: A former Air Force fighter pilot in Portland, Oregon, saw three disc-like objects flying in formation. (Report to NICAP.)

Aug. 25, 1951: In Texas, the famous "Lubbock Lights" were observed on several successive nights, formations of luminous objects passing overhead, and photographs were taken on August 30. Capt. E.J. Ruppelt, chief of project Blue Book, said that the individual lights "shifted position according to a definite pattern."

Aug. 25, 1951: At 2158 MST a Sandia Base guard in Albuquerque, N.M., observed what appeared to be a flying wing aircraft low overhead, showing 6-8 pairs of soft glowing lights on the trailing edge. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

Aug. 26, 1951: An Air Force radar station in Washington State tracked a UFO headed northwest at 900 m.p.h. on two different radar sets. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

The August 1951 issue of *Popular Science* magazine reported the results of a survey conducted by the editors that asked witnesses to choose the most plausible explanation for UFOs; 70% believed that UFOs were intelligently controlled devices, either man-made or extraterrestrial. □

LETTERS FROM LEX MEBANE

To Richard Hall

On CSICOP

I don't think you ought to be quite so indignant at the often egregious truth-twisting of Klass and the CSICOP crowd, even if it does have such nasty manifestations as the shameless libeling of James McDonald (and of all abduction-investigators, including you).

Bear in mind that the defenders of "scientism" have been faced with a fearsomely hard row to hoe: they are undertaking to prove a "universal" All (or No) proposition! To admit (reasonably) that things forbidden by their metaphysical creed "happen only rarely" would simply *not* serve the purpose: it has to be made to appear credible that they absolutely *never* happen, and that such reports are *invariably* only mistakes, lies, or false perceptions generated by naturally-abnormal or humanly-warped minds.

People who have committed themselves to proving this (actually *false*) universal "Never," if they are to hold the fort, *must* be brutally "tough-minded" scorers and ruthless tramples of all evidence that might threaten it. [There is] no use expecting them to be "gentlemanly", or even reasonable, in controversy: their unconditional defense of an actually-untenable metaphysics requires them to be (like dedicated Bible- or Koran-worshippers) unreasonable *fanatics*. [Venice, Florida; March 6, 1995.]

On "Crashed Saucers"

If UFOs are real physical vehicles piloted by real flesh-and-blood aliens, who are native to some real planet(s) in the real space-time universe, then the law of probability should apply to

Alexander D. Mebane

Alexander ("Lex") Mebane, 81, died Saturday, December 4 at his home in Venice, Florida. He had undergone major surgery nearly a year ago and was recovering at home..

Lex was a long-time friend and colleague, and was actively involved as an investigator, analyst, and editor in Civilian Saucer Investigation of New York in the 1950s, along with Ted Bloecher and Isabel Davis.

He was an organic chemist by profession, and had a keen intellect and a strong literary bent. His interests included so-called Fortean anomalies, to which he lent his considerable analytic talents.

The accompanying letter excerpts are published to honor his memory.

them...and so in all the tens of thousands of visits that they have paid to Earth, misfortune should sometimes have overtaken them, so that there should have been no small number of perfectly-genuine UFO *crashes*, from which the remains of the vehicles could be laid hands upon, as well as the remains of their pilots - not improbably, on some *living* UFO-nauts as well.

It would really be out of the question to believe that such events had *never* happened, if we are dealing with perfectly-physical vehicles and beings, no miracles being allowed!...Now, one who has accepted a supernatural origin for all UFO phenomena is free to deride *all* of the above propositions as mere superstitions, for which all evidence is totally spurious, and which ought not to be endorsed by anyone of a respectably

(Continued on next page)

Mebane letters, continued.

skeptical mind. And surely the evidence runs in that direction: the MJ-12 documents proved to be really absurd forgeries...the strong confirmatory testimony to the reality of Barney Barnett's crash-with-bodies-recovery in San Agustin collapsed on skeptical investigation....

If the (unwitnessed!) crash-with-bodies-recovery supposed to have occurred somewhere near Corona can be substantiated, of course, the "superstition" (as I call it) of physical reality would be vindicated, but I am very skeptical about that.... two of the original witnesses make no mention whatever of the only *remarkable* material alleged by two others to have been part of the debris, and so I feel it possible to doubt its reality. Thus the supernaturalist is in this case in the skeptical position, criticizing the incautious credulity of the believers in physical reality. [Venice, Florida; Nov. 24, 1993.]

On the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

Do you remember how all of us used, in younger days, to rail against the blind, closed-minded pedants who deduced from *a-priori* axioms the "impossibility" of extraterrestrial visitations, and refused to look at the concrete evidence to the contrary that was appearing before their eyes? I never thought I'd come to be one of those silly asses myself -- perhaps it shows that my brain has "fossilized," which seemed so likely a diagnosis when we were younger--yet, I believe I will stick to my established belief on this matter. ...I hope I am humiliatingly *wrong* about this The arguments against the *probability* of straightforward extraterrestrial

voyagers (yes, an *a-priori* argument) are, as everyone who knows anything about it has got to admit, far stronger now than they were 43 years ago, when virtually nothing was known about the solar system....

[The new knowledge] makes a devastatingly large difference in the probability equation, and requires us to postulate supraluminal space travel as not only possible but perfectly easy

The more the evidence accumulates, surely it is hard to deny, the worse it fits the original picture of "Martian" (as they then were) space-travelers who had just become able to reach Earth...[I have discarded] the originally-"obvious" belief that flesh-and-blood denizens of the astronomical universe were arriving in nuts-and-bolts spaceships. This now seems to me absurd.

And yet, to be sure, a mountain of direct observation "*proves*" that that is what in fact they *are*! You will naturally anticipate my reply: what it proves is that that is what they *seem to be*, and the convincing character of this impersonation proves that it can only be a *deliberate* one. So we are quite undeniably dealing with intelligent beings (smarter than we are, one must presume, in spite of their proclivity for doing all sorts of silly-looking things), but ones who are putting on a spectacularly mounted "show" (or rather a succession of shows) which can have no purpose except to make our jaws drop in wonder and our theorists jump to false explanations of them, which the shows themselves cunningly and convincingly suggest to our minds.

Beings who can transform their appearances and produce appropriate "scenery" in such a prodigious way... are, by definition, of "supernatural" character. [Venice, Fla.; Oct. 20, 1990]