

THE UFO CRASH/RETRIEVAL SYNDROME STATUS REPORT II: NEW SOURCES, NEW DATA. PART II: NEW SUPPORT DATA

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I, OR any of my research contemporaries, may never live to see the day when all the facts are bared to either verify or completely squash the story of UFO crashes, retrievals, and of the little nondescript bipeds that are kept under official wraps in cryogenic catacombs. The whole truth is beyond my meagre range of inquiry. The data I present here are hardly sufficient to change the hard crust of our scientific community. And, if everything I know is true, then perhaps it is also true that other information unknown to me would "blow the mind," as the former C.I.A. employee once commented on tape. If, then, the real facts are so unsettling, is it socially wise to hide the truth until the day may come when disaster strikes or a docile segment of our humanity is converted to fear or worship a fetish that doesn't even exist?

In the meantime until the official facts can be bared, or if what I have revealed, short of documentation, can be believed, then UFOlogy must continue to live with the UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome until its frustrations can be relieved by seeing a humanoid, like King Tut, on exhibition. But my story is not yet finished. It is not all dominated by anonymous first-hand informants, whose reports of a UFO crash/retrieval may be diagnosed as syndromic of a sick mind. There are others of a growing legion of credible people, in and out of research, who have provided valuable data. Consider the following:

ITEM B-1 (REVISED)

Clark McClelland, formerly Director of NICAP, Florida Unit-3, during the period he worked at the Kennedy Space Center as a member of the Apollo Programme, informed me on October 5, 1979 of an alleged UFO crash/retrieval incident occurring near Kecksburg, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1965. McClelland has since correlated old and newly acquired data, relative to the incident, which is contained in the following report for this paper:

Just before sunset on the evening of December 9, 1965, a fiery object causing a brilliant glow was observed by thousands of frightened and mystified residents of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and Ontario, Canada. A loud aerial explosion occurred causing several shock waves that were experienced by private and commercial aircraft pilots flying over Michigan and Lake St. Clair, east of Detroit. During the explosion, pilots and peo-

ple on the ground observed something detach from the glowing form and fall to earth near Lapeer, Michigan. Other parts of the object eventually came to earth near Elyria, Ohio; Midland, Pennsylvania, and finally the remainder fell into a rural wooded area near Kecksburg, in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Retracing the flight of this unidentified flying object reveals some startling facts. Looking at a map of the overflight one can trace the object's path in a straight line from its initial observation above Lapeer, Michigan, and as it continued over Lake St. Clair, to Elyria, Ohio, in a southeasterly trajectory. As the UFO flew over Elyria, it made an apparent course change of twenty-five degrees which appeared to be a controlled adjustment. This would obviously kill the usual explanation that it was a meteor or a bolide. This conclusion was later advanced by Dr. Paul Annear, professor of Astronomy at Baldwin-Wallace University, and immediately drew agreement from some Pentagon sources even though the witnessed fall of physical material from the object to the ground over several cities verified the actual flight path.

Calculations show that the UFO was most probably between 40 and 60 miles altitude when first observed over Michigan. Assuming the object was 60 miles high, it could easily have been observed from Indiana to Ontario.

Amassing all the distances where witnesses claimed to have observed the glowing mass we find that it was pattering along at about 17 miles a minute or, 1,062.5 miles an hour. This is considerably slower than the astronomically recorded speed of 27,000 miles per hour or the maximum, 144,000 miles per hour that meteors have been measured to be travelling during their plunges to earth. So the college professor and the Pentagon called this mysterious object a meteor or bolide, Hah! Ask yourself — who is kidding who?

Another possibility exists to explain the mystery object. An inquiry was recently made through the records maintained by the United States Air Force Space Defense Center which is the headquarters of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) in Colorado. On January 11, 1980, Mr. Del Kinchey, the Base Public Information Officer assisted in searching the satellite and space debris re-entry archives for recorded tracking data on the date of the Kecksburg impact. He discovered that on November 23, 1965, the Soviet Union launched one of their spy

satellite series designated Cosmos 96. What is interesting about this is that it either aborted or was recalled to re-enter into the earth's atmosphere sixteen days later on the day of the Kecksburg incident — December 9, 1965. Further inquiry concerning the re-entry data where the Air Force expected the device to impact will be forthcoming in a future edition of this publication.

Even if this does prove to be an explanation for the Kecksburg object, it is common knowledge by those experienced in aerospace science and rocket development that no spacecraft or nose cone in 1965 had the capability of a twenty-five degree adjustment in flight direction during earth re-entry.

Within an hour following the impact of the object at Kecksburg, a large contingent of military specialists arrived at the scene almost as swiftly as the Pennsylvania State Police and local volunteer fire groups. They quickly cordoned off the area and ordered all on-lookers to leave. One armed forces spokesman was reported to have said, "We don't know what we have but there is an unidentified flying object in the woods."

On January 11, 1980, James Mayes, former Assistant Fire Chief and Melvin Reese, former fireman for the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire unit at the time of the impact, were interviewed. They had both accompanied an unidentified Pennsylvania State Policeman to within 75 yards of the wooded hollow where the crash occurred. Both men report seeing an object flashing. They could not determine the exact shape of the object. Both men agree that there was no fire associated with the impact. James Mayes also recalls that the military unit did set up a command post at the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Hall. He said that information concerning the affair was relayed to an Air Force Base west of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, possibly Wright-Patterson in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Mayes was not positive, so this disclosure is uncertain.

Mr. Mayes also said he had heard that a large military truck was cleared to enter the restricted area and that hours later the truck reappeared with a large object under the tarpaulin. Other residents of the area recall hearing of the truck hauling something during the night.

The truck rumour was unsubstantiated until Robert Bitner, the Fire Chief in 1965, offered the following information. Mr. Bitner was working at the time of the fall and arrived later than other volunteers who were assisting the State Police and military unit. Later, during the night, Bitner was present near the impact site when a large 10 ton military truck appeared coming from the wooded area. It had a tarpaulin spread over a large object that appeared to be 6 feet high, 7 feet wide and 17 feet long. Mr. Bitner was approximately 25 feet from the truck and the military had personnel standing guard around the entire vehicle. Eventually the truck, under escort, left for an undisclosed destina-

tion. Was that place Wright-Patterson Air Force Base or someplace else? No one knows.

The Kecksburg incident was not caused by a meteor or anything astronomical. Of this we can be sure. Perhaps further study of re-entry data will determine an association with the Cosmos-96 that returned to Earth on December 9, 1965. This remains to be proven. Was it a craft alien to Earth? Information gained so far may eventually favor this theory. What is certain is that something important was apparently retrieved by the military and as yet, the object and its origin remains a mystery.*

Clark McClelland
January 17, 1980

*On November 16, 1979, I was interviewed on the John Signa Show, Radio Station KDKA Pittsburgh. Other guests were Clark McClelland, Betty Hill, and Travis Walton. During the 3-hour session, the Kecksburg retrieval incident was aired. To our surprise, we received four calls from people who allegedly were at the site following the crash. Some claim they saw the flatbed truck under tarp leave the area. Another later saw the hole caused by impact. Three witnessed the military security team who sealed off the area, and one, who got too close, was ordered to leave. Although one military spokesman said the retrieved object was a "meteorite," McClelland emphasised that he was aware of the UFO's flight pattern prior to the crash which ruled out that explanation.

ITEM B-2

Randall Clement serves as Dispatcher in a Communications Centre for a law enforcement agency in Northern California. He told me on September 11, 1979, that a possible UFO crash, or landing, had occurred on the previous evening at approximately 7 p.m. in the general area of Modesto, California. He was on duty at the time when two officers of his unit observed a green, luminous object flying at low-level over Shasta County descending gradually in a southerly course. While linked by phone with the National Alert Warning System, Clement heard that the UFO was confirmed by radar at Vandenberg AFB and that jets were scrambled from an air base. The UFO was described by observers as wobbling in its flight like a pendulum. This he referred to as the "falling leaf syndrome," a behaviour that is speculated to be associated with a malfunctioning UFO. From other sources, too, I have learned that the wobbling effect, possibly indicating a troubled UFO, is also discernible by certain effects appearing on radar.

ITEM B-3

Randall Clement first contacted me by letter in January 1978 to relate a meeting with a friend several years ago who had served in the Air Force as a technician, which brought him to the underground facility

in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There, for reasons unexplained, he claims to have seen a dismembered and charred body of an alien humanoid. Efforts are being made to elicit more details.

ITEM B-4

Bette Shilling, working on a college UFO project, first heard of my "Retrieval" paper when I was interviewed on a Los Angeles radio station in the Fall of 1978. She wrote to me and I responded by phone when I learned that her friend, an Air Force officer, had told her that he knew of a crashed alien craft occurring in the Spring of 1975. At that time, she said, he was Communications Officer at a "station" in Detroit, and was responsible for transmission of a coded message to the Commanding Officer at another base in Ohio (Wright-Patterson?) about a crash in a rural area near the Ohio border in Michigan. Two dead bodies, and one still alive, were retrieved. Name withheld by request.

ITEM B-5

William D. Leet of Texarkana, Arkansas, long-time respected researcher, former Major, Air Force Pilot, WWII and Korea, and co-author of *To Rule The Sky*, knowing of my UFO crash/retrieval research, reached me by letter in December 1978 to relate that he had a lead from Mr. Lynn Ward, which concerned a relative who had seen a captured flying saucer in a Navy hangar in 1950. The witness was Durward "Buddy" Haak, CPO Radar Observer, while stationed at a Naval Air Station in Sunnyvale, California. In 1952, Buddy Haak was on an ill-fated flight out of San Diego. His aircraft disappeared; no trace of it ever found.

Buddy Haak, according to testimony received from members of his family, had accidentally entered a door of a large hangar, temporarily unguarded, and saw a huge, round saucer-shaped craft with a row of windows. A guard shut the door in his face and ordered him to forget what he had seen, or else. By June 1979, through the efforts of Bill Leet, I had received written statements from two members of the family who recalled the story, and managed to get the phone number of Durward Haak's mother. On June 25, 1979, I called Mrs. Haak, who, requesting that her full name and address be withheld, recalled her son's concern about seeing the flying saucer. "It was certainly no aircraft of ours," she remembers him saying. Although other members of the family connect Buddy's strange disappearance with his knowledge of the UFO, Mrs. Haak did not.

ITEM B-6

Richard Hall, Editor of the MUFON UFO Journal in a letter dated March 23, 1979, wrote "...Don Berliner (aviation writer) just returned from visiting an aviation historian friend in Illinois, Truman Weaver.

While there, Weaver showed him a copy of a letter dated March 1978 from a good friend of Weaver's in the aviation business ... who worked as a technician at Wright-Patterson, retiring in 1954. This gentleman said that he worked "across the alley" from where they kept the bodies, and that in 1953 they had 13 of them in a room on the third floor. A strong odor used to waft across the way, and upon inquiring they were told it was embalming fluid. The bodies he said, are now stored at a small Air Force Base (Langley) at Hampton Roads, Virginia..."

On April 3, 1979, I called Truman Weaver, a former Air Force Major, who, himself had an UFO experience while flying in Korea in 1952. He and crew saw a daylight disc, 12 feet in diameter under intelligent control, off his wingtip. Without hesitation, Weaver gave me the phone number of his friend, Robert Thompson, whom he knew through mutual aviation interests. On the same day I phoned Thompson. He confirmed the data Berliner had related to Hall about his work at Wright-Patterson. He added... "Suddenly, the building nearby became very busy, trucks drove up and right into the building. This was before airconditioning was installed and with windows open I could smell the strong odor of formaldehyde. It was sickening."

Thompson said he never saw a flying saucer or a little body personally, but he did claim to see what he called an "interim report". His boss, named McAdams, showed it to him and fellow workers, which he said confirmed the rumours that alien craft and bodies were on the base. The next day he said the paper was snatched from McAdams and officials denied it even existed. Thompson couldn't remember if the report was on official stationery or marked Secret, or if it was mimeographed. Curious, I called Weaver about such a document. He was not aware of such a report for general circulation unless it was a document that leaked out without authorization. On April 5, Thompson sent me a note which stated briefly: "The building number was 18F, 3rd floor. The 13 bodies and 2 saucers are at a small air base at Hampton Roads, Virginia, if they have not been moved again.

Thompson said he heard about the transfer to Hampton Roads from a source now in Canada and unreachable.

ITEM B-7

On June 25, 1978, James Minton, his wife and I, breakfasted together in a motel in Carlyle, Illinois, on the day Betty Hill, Charles Hickson, and I each addressed the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, hosted by Mrs. Rosetta Holmes, at the Fish Hatchery grounds. Jim and I, over several coffees, discussed our respective interests in the UFO and have since that day "kept in touch" as I continued to develop new material about the UFO crash/retrieval syndrome. In

September of 1979, Jim called to relate that he had talked with a former Air Force friend, William Draeger of Austin, Texas, who had uncovered some information about a 1950 crash incident occurring in Mexico.

I knew the incident well, and that it had been disputed by some researchers, however, I had not pursued the case beyond having referred to the alleged crash in my previous paper. At that time, I had used information related by Todd Zechel to the *Midnight Globe*. Since, further research into the case by Zechel and others has revealed that not only the year of the incident was wrong, having changed from 1948 to 1950, but also the crash site has changed.

Whatever the status of the case, I was eager to learn anything new, so Minton made arrangements for me to call Draeger the same day. One call led to another as Draeger had hoped to gather information from still another backup source. Like his friend Minton, he was willing and able to probe — and is resourceful. And being also honest, Draeger said he was unable to get his other source to talk, but agreed to submit a statement for this paper relative to his investigation in Mexico (names withheld). His letter, dated October 11, 1979, follows:

Todd Zechel called me in Austin, Texas, on Sunday, August 13, 1979. He was acting as consultant to a Japanese television crew from Nippon Television Network taping a UFO documentary. They were in Del Rio, Texas, researching the alleged UFO crash which occurred in 1950 (and has at times been erroneously reported as having occurred near Laredo, Texas). On Monday August 14 I was employed as interpreter for the Japanese crew due to the fact that I was raised in Del Rio and speak Spanish fluently. The retired Colonel who witnessed the UFO in the air and later on the ground was also in Del Rio with Todd and reported that the soldiers surrounding the crashed craft were Mexican troops. I contacted the Mexican Army General who had command of that specific area of the border and initially talked with him by telephone. I identified myself and my position and related that in 1950 a UFO was reported to have crashed 30 miles north west of Del Rio, that we had along a pilot who had seen it in the air and later on the ground being guarded by Mexican troops until American Air Force units arrived to retrieve the craft and a body that was found aboard. Without pause, the General answered in Spanish, "Yes, I know about that. I don't have any papers or documents to prove it, but due to my position I know about that."

When I asked if he would consent to an interview he paused and said he would be busy for 30 minutes but afterwards would be free for an interview at his home. When the 7-man crew, the retired colonel, and myself arrived and we talked with him, he totally denied any knowledge of the incident and on camera he denied and evaded any questions dealing with the in-

cident and UFOs. The General is a military celebrity and began his career as a young Lieutenant serving under Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. He was acquainted with several movie stars, like John Wayne, and became friends with General George Patton when he was stationed at Fort Clark, 35 miles from the border. They played polo together. I believe the General is beyond reproach and that he "slipped" on the telephone but maintained strict security for the interview.

I, William H. Draeger, do hereby swear to God that the above statement is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." (signed) William H. Draeger.

ITEM B-8

The case of the mysterious flying object crashing into the mountains bordering Argentina and Bolivia, May 8, 1978, is well known by research. Was it a meteorite, part of a satellite or spacecraft? Rumours say nothing was ever found after extensive search on the precipitous slopes by Bolivian and Argentine military teams and by NASA.

In June 1979, I received a stack of clippings from Argentine newspapers with stories that claim otherwise. The sender, Nicholas M. Ojeda of Rosario, Argentina, stated in his letter, "...As you know, our country is one of the most visited areas in the world by OVNI's as we call them in Latin America. Last year, May 8, we had a very significant case in the Salta Province in the north of the country. A long object crashed into the mountains. Although some people think it was a meteor or part of a satellite, the case is not closed yet. There is a report of a group of investigators who vanished mysteriously in the area. I really think something big happened in Salta. NASA investigated, but there was not news of it. I have to tell you that in La Paz, Bolivia, a huge USAF Hercules C-130 carried "something" from the area where the UFO crashed. What was it?"

When this question and the news of the cargo plane being there was put to Bob Barry's former C.I.A. contact, he confirmed the flight and admitted, "I was aboard that plane." He offered no answer to, "what was aboard?"

ITEM B-9

Lee M. Graham, researcher, and by occupation, an infrared research technician for Aerojet Electro Systems Co., in California, made considerable effort in 1979 to reach a medical doctor (name withheld) through a friend, a school teacher, who had discussed with him privately some aspects of the research that had been conducted on a recovered live alien body some years before. The doctor, said Graham, knew a colleague who still had the records of his work. Graham and friend, together, finally reached the doctor for an interview, hoping to be given clearance to call the out-of-town colleague. The reply: The colleague

had passed away — and so had his medical secretary who knew about the secret records.

It was not all in vain. The Doctor, who did talk briefly, recalled certain factors disclosed about the circulatory system. The skin was pliable, or stretchable, over smooth muscles; that there was no perspiration or loss of liquid through the skin and no body odour. This information tallied with characteristics made known by my other medical source in Case A-7.

ITEM B-10

The Honorable Barry Goldwater, a long-time Senator from Arizona, once Presidential candidate and a forthright spokesman on military and political affairs, is respected for his candor for speaking on the UFO, but, alas, what he relates is limited. Response to inquiries contain the same general information; however, couched in each there is a variation in the text, perhaps significant.

Goldwater's letter to me, dated December 3, 1974, follows:

...Let's get this whole UFO thing straight as far as my relationship is concerned. Many years ago, more than I can remember, someone asked me if I believed in UFOs. I said that I neither believed in them nor disbelieved in them because I felt that with the billions of planets in our universe there had to be at least another on which lived creatures that could accomplish things with their brains or whatever they used as brains. I have never seen a UFO, I've never had a personal friend that's seen them, although I've read accounts of reputable pilots who have seen what they describe as UFOs. That was about the extent of my statement on UFOs, but since then — and that was a long time ago — I made an effort to get in the room at Wright-Patterson Field where the information was stored and I was denied this request, understandably. Frankly, I'm no expert on this subject, I've never made lengthy statements on it. What I've told you just about sums it up...

In a letter received by a researcher (S.A.), dated March 28, 1975, Goldwater states:

...The subject of UFOs is one that has interested me for some long time. About ten or twelve years ago I made an effort to find out what was in the building at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where the information is stored that has been collected by the Air Force, and I was understandably denied this request. It is still classified above Top Secret. I have, however, heard that there is a plan underway to release some, if not all, of this material in the near future. I'm just as anxious to see this material as you are, and I hope we will not have to wait too much longer...

Then, in a letter dated April 11, 1979, Lee Graham (referred to in Item B-9) who had questioned Senator Goldwater about my letter in *Situation Red*, received the following response:

...It is true that I was denied access to a facility at

Wright-Patterson. Because I never got in, I can't tell you what was inside. *We both know about the rumors*. Apart from that, let me make my position clear. I do not believe that we are the only planet, and of some two billion that exist, that has life on it. I have never seen what I would call a UFO, but I have intelligent friends who have, so I can sort of argue either way...

The emphasis in each letter is mine. In essence, Goldwater is saying that he was denied access to the facility where Top Secret information was stored which he believed concerned the alien craft and bodies. Recall in Case A-3 that my informant, who was stationed at Wright-Patterson during the Goldwater visit, states that the incident caused quite a fiasco among ranking personnel.

ITEM B-11

The following letter, quoted in part, dated June 22, 1978, was received from a source in Florida, who prefers that his name and location be withheld:

...this letter is in reference to your book, *Situation Red* ... To the point, what really grabbed me was the letter published on page 252, which was a reply from the Air Force to Senator Goldwater ... It is an outright lie.

In 1951 I became a very good friend with a major in the Air Force, now deceased. I decline to mention his name on paper, but he was an influential person, known throughout the world. I worked for him part-time, and while I was in his house one day, he casually tossed a book to me to read. Even though this was over 25 years ago I still remember distinctly the words on the cover, "Classified." I read the book and thought that it was science fiction ... I don't remember much of what I read, but one picture I'll never forget. The photo showed three or four Air Force personnel holding saucer objects by their rims. The objects were about 3 or 4 feet in diameter and were identified as UFOs. Printed on the bottom right-hand corner was "Official U.S. Air Force photo."

These were remote-controlled UFOs that had been captured by the Air Force, that much of the book I do remember ... and, they do have humanoids and UFO craft in their possession...

COMMENT

I phoned the source and got identification of the Major who was a well known figure. I also got other details relative to the document he was privileged to have read.

ITEM B-12

In the long history of the UFO, chroniclers and story tellers representing all levels and from all doubtful depths have surfaced to espouse a theory or an experience. They range from the professional and the authoritative, who have measurably contributed a lasting message, to the opportunist and the charlatan who

have done everlasting harm. One, a professional writer, and one of the earliest to release a rhetorical bombshell, was Frank Scully. His only UFO book, *Behind the Flying Saucers*, (published 1950), was the first to deal with the UFO crash/ retrieval syndrome. But his glory as author was shortlived; his sensational exposé became a sensational hoax. Indeed, the fate of Scully was to change the course of research for almost three decades. As a result of Scully's scandalous smear, which got maximum publicity when the saucer craze was peaking in the early 1950's, it became unfashionable for any respected researcher to write or talk about a crashed UFO or their "little green men." Contrary to today, as records will attest, even Encounters of the Third Kind were scantily reported in that early era. So completely was Scully's story put down that some researchers today wonder, in retrospect, if the book and/or its exposure was contrived. Little new information about Scully since his death surfaces for today's evaluation. Any item concerning his life may provide a clue. I have uncovered two letters written by Frank Scully in 1954 that deserve review. They came from a collection of saucer memorabilia, bound in hard cover, discovered by an Australian while browsing in a bookstore in Florida. While I was writing my book he obligingly sent me the material for my research.

Scully's letter on masthead, Desert Springs Chamber of Commerce, dated April 12, 1954, follows:

Dear Rev. — Thank you for your letter of April 4 which I had better answer immediately or it will never be answered, I'm so in arrears. I just returned from a convention held in Giant Rock where 5000 persons held a Saucerian convention. It is 35 miles from anywhere, in the Mojave Desert. All shades of opinion were represented.

But to get to your letter. My chief witnesses as you describe them have not repudiated one sentence of *Behind the Flying Saucers*. Dr. Gee was a composite of 8 different scientists, whose stories were tape recorded and then synthesized by me where they were in substantial agreement. As for others who have similar stories, there are a whole slew of them. Mine dealt with three saucers and dead crews. George Van Tassel, a former Lockheed test pilot, has out a book, *I Rode A Flying Saucer*, George Adamski tells a personal experience in *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. Another man has one out called *Aboard A Flying Saucer*. He claims he was aboard 11 times. Another, Williamson, has one out, *The Saucers Speak*. There are altogether about 10 books. Many go beyond mine, but their authors are not writers as such. I am. That's my only profession. I claim to have seen nothing. I simply reported what others claimed they saw.

Right now I am gathering material for *This Side of Saucers*. It should prove more sensational than *Behind The Flying Saucers*. I do not know when I will get it finished. Next Spring, probably ... Faithfully (signed)

Frank Scully.

Letter on VARIETY masthead, dated June 10, 1954, follows:

Dear Rev. — Thank you for your letter of May 21. I've not seen any response to that resolution to turn the saucer inquiry over to civilians, have you? At the Giant Rock Convention 5000 people endorsed this view and you might try your Congressman, or your Senator, this being an election year, to try his hand at pushing it through.

As to the Hunrath-Wilkinson disappearance, I'm afraid it was a planned suicide on Hunrath's part. They had gas enough for only three hours and could hardly get over these high mountains with that. If they lost their bearings and got over the Pacific they might easily be drowned without trace.

I'm in the position of a pathologist having reported on grounded saucers and dead crews, and listening now to personal histories of those who have talked with live crews and even flown in their saucers. My personal history continues to be much more prosaic. I've been very ill for several months and have been doing much research and little writing, but I hope to get on to the latter this summer in the desert. With renewed thanks for your interest, I remain ... Faithfully (signed) Frank Scully.

ITEM B-13

In my first UFO crash/retrieval paper I made a brief reference to an alleged incident occurring in the Spring of 1977 in southwestern Ohio which involved an encounter between a landed or disabled alien craft and its crew and a U.S. military detachment dispatched to the site. Since it made news and drew inquiry, the town nearest the site has been identified as Lumberton, on Highway 68, southwest of Xenia, Ohio. The incident is one of violence, ending in a western-style shoot-out. Word was that it resulted in 11 American casualties and an unknown number of aliens. To add fuel to this story, which emanated from a research group in Pennsylvania, I learned from another source in Cincinnati that a person working in an "off limits" area at Wright-Patterson claims to have seen "bodies on litters" arriving at the base during the same time frame.

Researchers involved in the investigation of this sensitive incident prefer anonymity. It all began when a respected researcher in Pittsburgh overheard the story during a luncheon from an engineer who worked for the city's school system. He, in turn, knew of another person who was supposed to have been involved somehow in the macabre experience. But the key person, despite repeated attempts, could never be reached. Bob Pratt, a highly respected reporter for the *National Enquirer*, also tried to pursue the case and hunt down the key source. He, too, talked with the secondhand source but he would not reveal the identity of the principal source.

In October 1977, I also tried to get a new lead by calling many law enforcement agencies covering three counties. I got nowhere. It is understandable, if this case is true, that it would be kept under the tightest security.

ITEM B-14

February 12, 1979, was a day like all days in my quest for a new material relative to the UFO crash/retrieval syndrome. I had called David Mannweiler, columnist for the *Indianapolis News* who featured a story about an anonymous source with information about the recovery of an alien body from a saucer crash in 1948. He promised he would try and arrange an interview but his source dried up.

I also got a call from a New York reporter for *The Village Voice* who desired an interview with me for an article concerning my UFO crash/retrieval material. This also vaporized. And, there were other calls, but the real eye opener came about midnight from Larry Moyers, State Director of Ohio for MUFON, in Akron. Moyers pardoned his late call, and as I tried to recover from a half sleep, he jolted me with news so extraordinary that I wasn't sure if I were in a dream. Moyers had just an hour earlier received a call from a person named Ron Johnson who made the claim that he had recovered a small humanoid body appearing to be injured but still alive, from a roadside while driving through the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Confused as what to do next, he put the creature into his car and drove on. About 3 hours later, when he stopped to check the body, he found it motionless and presumed that it was dead.

Johnson described the creature as humanoid, about 3 feet tall, without nose and only one ear. The other ear appeared to have been sheared off. The biped covered with a downy fuzz, had only three fingers with webbing in between, and the feet were "neither left nor right, not in the sense that humans are." A metallic cloth covered the entire body. Johnson's main concern, said Moyers, was his fear of legal consequences for allowing the entity to die while in his possession without notifying the police. In desperation he drove on to his home in Akron, and placed the cadaver into a deep freeze. Johnson explained that he remembered hearing of a local UFO research group and finally got Moyer's telephone number and called him for advice. Because of the lateness of the hour, and fatigue, he agreed to see Moyers early the next morning and gave him his address, and his phone number. Moyers, concerned, called me.

My advice, in the play against time, was for Larry and a trusted friend to go to Johnson's at the earliest next day. Take a camera, I suggested, to photograph a

variety of shots of Johnson and his cadaver as proof, then call an attorney and a medical doctor for their expertise. In the meantime, I told Moyers, I would head for Akron and be on hand to advise the authorities, key researchers, and the media. But, Larry and I both smelled a hoax.

Early the next morning, Moyers joined by Mike Candusso got to Johnson's house as planned. While parking to check the house number, they saw two women leaving the house. When asked if they knew Ron Johnson, both said they never heard of him, then Moyers checked the neighbours. No one knew of Johnson. Moyers then phoned the number given him by Johnson. To his dismay, the phone had been disconnected. When Moyers called me to explain his dilemma, I, too, called the "Johnson" number. Said the Operator: "The number you have dialed has been disconnected temporarily at the customer's request."

Hoax? Probably. Who is the real Ron Johnson? Was his game a ploy to test Moyers with an ulterior motive? And, why was the phone number he gave Moyers disconnected and on whose request? Hoaxes, although rare, and other inexplicable acts, are not new to me and others investigating mysteries of the syndrome. Another case in point, and so typical of following a new lead, involved a dentist in Bloomington, Indiana, to whom I was referred as having UFO crash/retrieval information. When I called the dentist he recalled that his brother, a retired Navy Captain in Washington, D.C., had discussed with him, several years before, his part in the transportation of a crashed alien craft. Seeming eager to help, he gave me his brother's phone number. But when I called the retired Navy Captain, he said he didn't remember ever talking about such an affair with his brother.

There are many other leads bearing promise of information to come by mail, a return phone call, or a visit. Weeks, months, a year may pass. So often the response is nothing; a silence rooted in fears of reprisal or ridicule, or, a desire for privacy — or, all three combined. This is understandably human. Indeed, I feel privileged to know what I do know and for what I can relate. This is my inspiration. I hope to learn still more with new leads now on hand, and if I persist with patience in this endeavour.

This, the *second major Status Report* by Mr. Stringfield, will be completed in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review*. However, as soon as circumstances permit, we shall continue this series by reprinting the whole of Mr. Stringfield's *third Status Report*, **UFO CRASH/RETRIEVALS: AMASSING THE EVIDENCE**, which was published by him in June 1982.

U.S.A. TO STEP UP THE SEARCH FOR ALIEN LIFE IN SPACE

According to various reports in the British press at the end of 1982, NASA have secured an unexpected blessing from the U.S. Congress. This means far more funds, and it is reported that they are now to forge ahead with a radio search programme for alien civilisations in Space which will be "millions of times more extensive than any such programme previously undertaken."

With a new annual budget of the equivalent of a thousand-million pounds sterling, the astronomers hope in the next few years to scan eight million radio frequencies in search of signals likely to be of artificial origin.

The search will be concentrated upon some 773 stars which lie within 80 light-years of Earth and whose age and stability would appear to be such that there might be inhabited planets in existence around them.

Giant telescopes, controlled by NASA and located in the USA (California), Australia, and Spain will also

assist in the programme and be linked up to a special computer.

The radio-frequencies that have been selected for scrutiny lie in or near the "water-hole", where there is the least loss in signal-strength as it traverses the vast tracts of interstellar Space. It includes the frequencies of hydrogen and hydroxyl, which combine to form water.

The Congress decision to agree to an expansion of NASA's Space Search effort resulted from a discussion between Professor Carl Sagan and Senator William Proxmire. The latter had previously always been one of the principal opponents of the idea of spending more cash on the search for alien life, saying that it was nothing but a stupendous waste, but apparently Sagan was able to convince him, not only that it would be cheap at the price, but also that it might be highly dangerous for mankind to remain ignorant of what there was in the Space around us.

UFOs OVER THE ANDES: OFFICIAL ARGENTINE GENDARMERÍA REPORTS REVEALED

Oscar Adolfo Uriondo (Buenos Aires)

South American Representative of STENDEK-CEI of Barcelona

(Translation from Spanish)

I AM in a position to furnish some important information deriving from the *Gendarmería* of Argentina, who are a military body charged with the duty of surveillance of the nation's frontiers. These reports came to me via the lawyer Antonio N. Baragiola, who, in turn, had got them directly from an officer of the *Gendarmería*. As many years (14) have elapsed since the events described herein, I am now venturing to make the reports public. The manner in which they are presented has been modified somewhat, but all the facts have been strictly respected.

I have already had the Spanish version of this article published in the journal STENDEK (No. 42, December 1980) under the title: *Misteriosos Fenómenos Luminosos en Neuquén (Argentina)*, and now forward it to you for publication in FSR.

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During the year 1968 Argentina had one of the most important UFO waves ever experienced in the Southern Hemisphere. It reached its peak in the winter months (July-August). This exceptional degree of UFO activity was extremely widely reported in the press, so much so that at first it might well have been suspected that the unusual increase in the volume of reports was of purely sociological origin — that is to say, triggered off and then kept going by the media, and actually devoid of any factual reality. However, at that date it was still quite unknown to the public that, several months previously, right at the beginning of 1968, there had, in fact, been a veritable "minor wave" that was quite unknown to anybody outside certain small circles of the Military. The eyewitnesses who had observed this substantial series of sightings — none of which was ever made public — were all members of the Argentinian *Gendarmería Nacional*, and their reports, all official, and all directed to their own