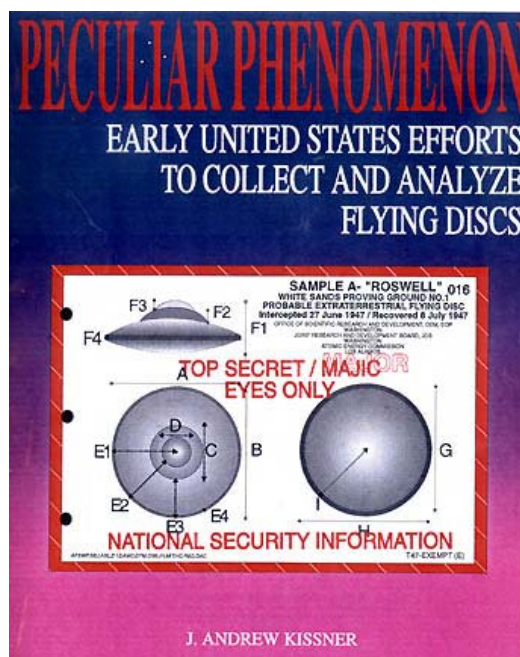


Peculiar Phenomenon: Early United States Efforts to Collect and Analyze Flying Discs

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[Editor's Note: In the mid-1990s, I was approached by former Las Cruces, New Mexico State Representative, Andrew Kissner. He told me about his official research into UFO crashes and retrievals in New Mexico, and his off-the-record conversations with military and intelligence operatives from White Sands Missile Range, the Naval Research Lab and other government agencies. Rep. Kissner had assembled many old newspaper articles and government documents leaked to him.

Former Rep. Kissner asserted that in the late 1940s to early 1950s, there was an American government policy to shoot down unidentified aerial discs. But the discs retaliated. Many of our pilots died, which forced an end to our "shoot down" policy.]

Part 1

Prologue

By J. Andrew Kissner, August 1995

In a democracy, the people must be aware of and learn fundamental truth. Without this knowledge, others are empowered to make decisions for the people secretly with little regard to the checks and balances of constitutional government. It is evident that most United States decision makers involved with this phenomenon have not been elected to public office.

The difficulty with many career officials in the government is that they regard themselves as the men who really make policy and run the government. They look

upon the elected officials as just temporary occupants. Every President has been faced with this problem ...

The civil servant, the general or admiral, the foreign service officer, has no authority to make policy. They act only as servants of the government, and therefore, they must remain in line with the government policy that is established by those who have been chosen by the people to set that policy."

- U. S. President Harry S. Truman

[Quoted from *Inside the National Security Council* © 1988 by Constantine C. Mengas, Simon & Schuster, N.Y.]

Table of Contents

Preface

Introduction

Abbreviations

Trouble in the Desert

Trouble All Over the World

White Sands Proving Ground, EEIS & "PAPERCLIP"

The National Reaction

OSRD, JRDB, CIOB & Expert Panels

Military Intelligence and Flying Discs

The Carnage Continues

Corona, Carrizozo and the San Augustin Plain

Two Points Higher Than the CIA

Classified or Censored Events in the Summer of 1947

Summary of Relevant Involvements of Purported Members of MAJIC-12

Bibliography

Reported Aerial Incidents

Appendices

Appendix I: Briefing Paper for President-Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower About "Operation Majestic-Twelve"

Appendix II: The Atomic Energy Act of 1946

Appendix III: An Act to provide for the performance of the duties of the office of President in case of the removal, resignation, death or inability both of the President and Vice President, July 18, 1947

Appendix IV: The National Security Act of 1947 on July 26, 1947

Appendix V: An Act to authorize the creation of additional positions in the professional and scientific service in the War and Navy Departments, August 1, 1947

Appendix VI: Articles of Incorporation, The Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C.

Appendix VII: "Roswell UFO Was A Secret Balloon"

Appendix VIII: "Air Force Tried to Lead Everyone Astray on Roswell Incident"

Appendix IX: Letter of October 12, 1994, from J. A. Kissner to the Honorable Steven Schiff, U. S. Congressman, New Mexico

Appendix X: Letter of December 4, 1994, from the Honorable Steven Schiff, U. S. Congressman, New Mexico, to J. A. Kissner

Appendix XI: *GAO/NSIAD 95-187 Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 UFO Crash Near Roswell, New Mexico*, July 28, 1995

Preface

PECULIAR PHENOMENON, *Early United States Efforts to Collect and Analyze Flying Discs* is a chronicle of events gleaned from newspapers of record and other historical materials that reside on microfilm and in decades of old newsprint. I also had many off-the-record conversations with military and intelligence operatives from White Sands Missile Range, the Naval Research Lab and other government agencies. This book examines aspects of the physical environment surrounding the "Roswell Incident" and the "Great Flying Disc Scare of 1947." It is not fiction, although after reviewing it, the reader might want to think it is. All events mentioned here are footnoted and the reader is encouraged to examine the original source material. Much of it is reprinted in more or less chronological order throughout the work. Hopefully, the presentation allows the reader to draw his or her own conclusion about the spring, summer and fall of 1947. It also provides a context to understand not only the "Roswell Incident," but also flying discs in general, U. S. space and science policy over the past half century, as well as aspects of U. S. national security affairs since 1947.

Throughout the book, reference is made to members of 'Operation Majestic-Twelve' (MAJIC-12; MJ-12) purportedly created by Executive Order of President Truman on September 24, 1947. The original copy of the document was provided to nuclear physicist, UFO researcher and author, Stanton Friedman, on a roll of unexposed black and white, 35mm film in 1984. It was packaged in an envelop postmarked Albuquerque, New Mexico. The document was first published in 1986.

Former Director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, is referred to as MJ-1 in the MJ-12 document. When a member of this working group is mentioned in this book's text, an MJ number immediately follows the name to remind the reader of that individual's purported involvement with the MJ-12 group. The reference number for the individual is derived from the order in which they were mentioned in the MJ-12 document. It is not necessarily indicative of that member's relative importance or position within "Operation Majestic-Twelve."

Research conducted for this book project tends to confirm that the MJ-12 document is authentic. After reading *Peculiar Phenomenon*, you too might understand why. If the document is not authentic, the author of the forgery enjoyed access to then-classified information (1984) as he or she was crafting it. The November 18, 1952, "Briefing Paper for President-Elect Eisenhower is copied here so the reader can analyze it before going further into *PECULIAR PHENOMENON*.

November 18, 1952, Pages 002-006 Document Prepared by: MJ-1 (Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter)

for President-Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Also, page "008" dated September 24, 1947, from Pres. Truman to Secy. of Defense Forrestal.

TOP SECRET / MAJIC

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002

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COPY ONE OF TWO.

SUBJECT: OPERATION MAJESTIC-12 PRELIMINARY BRIEFING FOR
PRESIDENT-ELECT EISENHOWER.

DOCUMENT PREPARED 18 NOVEMBER, 1952.

BRIEFING OFFICER: ADM. ROSCOE H. HILLENKOTTER (MJ-1)

NOTE: This document has been prepared as a preliminary briefing only. It should be regarded as introductory to a full operations briefing intended to follow.

OPERATION MAJESTIC-12 is a TOP SECRET Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States. Operations of the project are carried out under control of the Majestic-12 (MJ-12) Group which was established by special classified executive order of President Truman on 24 September, 1947, upon recommendation of Dr. Vannevar Bush and Secretary James Forrestal. (See Attachment "A.") Members of the Majestic-12 Group were designated as follows:

Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
Dr. Vannevar Bush
Secy. James V. Forrestal
Gen. Nathan F. Twining
Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg
Dr. Detlev Bronk
Dr. Jerome Hunsaker
Mr. Sidney V. Souers
Mr. Gordon Gray
Dr. Donald Menzel
Gen. Robert M. Montague
Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner

The death of Secretary Forrestal on 22 May, 1949, created a vacancy which remained unfilled until 31 August, 1950, upon which date Gen. Walter B. Smith was designated as permanent replacement.

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On 24 June, 1947, a civilian pilot flying over the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington observed nine flying disc-shaped aircraft traveling in formation at a high rate of speed. Although this was not the first known sighting of such objects, it was the first to gain widespread attention in the public media. Hundreds of reports of sightings of similar objects followed. Many of these came from highly credible military and civilian sources. These reports resulted in independent efforts by several different elements of the military to ascertain the nature and purpose of these objects in the interests of national defense. A number of witnesses were interviewed and there were several unsuccessful attempts to utilize aircraft in efforts to pursue reported discs in flight. Public reaction bordered on near hysteria at times.

In spite of these efforts, little of substance was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico located approximately seventy-five miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C.") The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. (See Attachment "B.") Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon.

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A covert analytical effort organized by Gen. Twining and Dr. Rush acting on the direct orders of the President, resulted in a preliminary consensus (19 September, 1947) that the disc was most likely a short range reconnaissance craft. This conclusion was based for the most part on the craft's size and the apparent lack of any identifiable provisioning. (See Attachment "D-1"). A similar analysis of the four dead occupants was arranged by Dr. Bronk. It was the tentative conclusion of this group (30 November, 1947) that although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in homo-sapiens. Dr. Bronk's team has suggested the term "Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities", or "EBEs", be adopted as the standard term of reference for these creatures until such time as a more definitive designation can be agreed upon.

Since it is virtually certain that these craft do not originate in any country on earth, considerable speculation has centered around what their point of origin might be and how they got here. Mars was and remains a possibility, although some scientists, most notably Dr. Mendel, consider it more likely that we are dealing with beings from another solar system entirely.

Numerous examples of what appear to be a form of writing were found in the wreckage. Efforts to decipher these have remained largely unsuccessful. (See Attachment "E-1"). Equally unsuccessful have been efforts to determine the method of propulsion or the nature or method of transmission of the power source involved. Research along these lines has been complicated by the complete absence of identifiable wings, propellers, jets, or other conventional methods of propulsion and guidance, as well as a total lack of metallic wiring, vacuum tubes, or similar recognizable electronic components. (See Attachment "F-1"). It is assumed that the propulsion unit was completely destroyed by the explosion which caused the crash.

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A need for as much additional information as possible about these craft, their performance characteristics and their purpose led to the undertaking known as U.S. Air Force Project SIGN in December, 1947. In order to preserve security, liaison between SIGN and Majestic-12 was limited to two individuals within the Intelligence Division of Air Materiel Command whose role was to pass along certain types of information through channels. SIGN evolved into Project GRUDGE in December, 1948. The operation is currently being conducted under the code name BLUE ROCK, with liaison maintained through the Air Force officer who is head of the project.

On 06 December, 1950, a second object, probably of similar origin, impacted the earth at high speed in the El Indio - Guerrero Area of the Texas - Mexican border after following a long trajectory through the Atmosphere. By the time a search team arrived, what remained of the object had been almost totally incinerated. Such material as could be recovered was transported to the A.E.C. facility at Sandia, New Mexico, for study.

Implications for the National Security are of continuing importance in that the motives and ultimate intentions of these visitors remain completely unknown. In addition, a significant upsurge in the surveillance activity of these craft beginning in May and continuing through the autumn of this year has caused considerable concern that new developments may be imminent. It is for these reasons, as well as the obvious international and technological considerations and the ultimate need to avoid a public panic at all costs, that the Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that imposition of the strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new administration. At the same time, continuity plan HJ-1049-04P/78 (Top Secret - Eyes Only) should be held in continued readiness should the need to make a public announcement present itself. (See Attachment "G-1").

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TOP SECRET / MAJIC
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TOP SECRET

EYES ONLY

COPY ONE OF ONE.

ENUMERATION OF ATTACHMENTS:

- *ATTACHMENT "A".....Special Classified Executive Order #092447. (TS/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "B".....Operation Majestic-12 Status Report #1, Part A. 30 NOV '47. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "C".....Operation Majestic-12 Status Report #1, Part B. 30 NOV '47. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "D".....Operation Majestic-12 Preliminary Analytical Report. 19 SEP '47. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "E".....Operation Majestic-12 Blue Team Report #5. 30 JUN '52. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "F".....Operation Majestic-12 Status Report #2. 31 JAN '48. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "G".....Operation Majestic-12 Contingency Plan MJ-1949-042/78: 31 JAN '49. (TS-MAJIC/DO)
- *ATTACHMENT "H".....Operation Majestic-12 Maps And Photographs Folio (Extractions). (TS-MAJIC/DO)

TOP SECRET / MAJIC
EYES ONLY

TS-EXEMPT (E) 006

TOP SECRET
EYES ONLY
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Dear Secretary Forrestal:

As per our recent conversation on this matter, you are hereby authorized to proceed with all due speed and caution upon your undertaking. Hereafter this matter shall be referred to only as Operation Majestic Twelve.

It continues to be my feeling that any future considerations relative to the ultimate disposition of this matter should rest solely with the Office of the President following appropriate discussions with yourself, Dr. Bush and the Director of Central Intelligence.



TOP SECRET
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Introduction

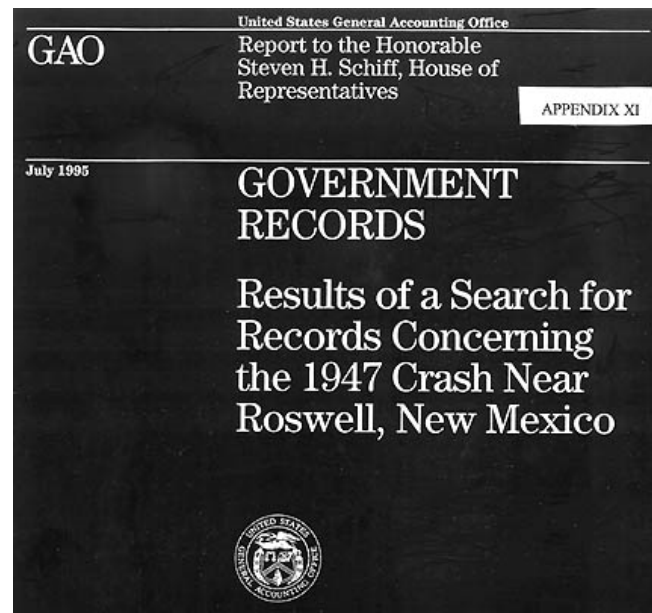
What you are about to read, along with other materials, was submitted to the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, in October to December 1994. The submission was made through U. S. Representative Steven Schiff's office, (R-New Mexico) 1st Congressional District, who died at age fifty-one on March 25, 1998, from cancer.



1947-1998.

Steven Schiff, 1st Congressional District Representative (R), New Mexico.
Died March 25, 1998, at age 51. Photograph courtesy congressional office of Steven Schiff.

This manuscript was provided as public input into the GAO review of the "Roswell Incident," a review requested by Cong. Schiff. Following over two years of inquiry, the GAO's final report was published on July 28, 1995. The 20-page document is included as Appendix XI of this book.



July 28, 1995, release of U. S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report to New Mexico Cong. Steven Schiff about the GAO "Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash Near Roswell, New Mexico.

On the morning of July 3, 1947, Corona ranch manager William W. ("Mac") Brazel discovered what he considered to be a "flying disc" in one of his sheep pastures 75 miles northwest of Roswell and 25 miles north northeast of Carrizozo, New Mexico. An intelligence officer from the Army Air Forces 509th Bomb Group, Major Jesse Marcel, based at Walker Army Air Field, Roswell, New Mexico, reported that he had seen a "crashed flying disc" on July 6, at the Brazel ranch. The next day, the local Roswell newspaper reported that the U. S. Army's 509th Bomb Group had recovered a crashed flying disc. Immediately afterward, on the afternoon of July 7, General Ramey, Commander of the 8th Air Force, the 509th's headquarters group, reported that a high altitude weather balloon had been misidentified as a flying disc by its personnel stationed at Roswell. This is where the official explanation of the event stood for 47 years: that nothing much happened, just crash debris from a high altitude weather balloon.

Then on September 8, 1994, the U. S. Air Force Public Affairs Office re-explained "Roswell." The Air Force re-examined what they termed to be their own "weather balloon cover story." According to the Air Force, it was not a weather balloon after all. After 47 years of official denial, the event became the crash of a TOP SECRET Project Mogul high altitude research balloon testing an Atomic Energy Commission payload to acoustically detect Russian nuclear experiments. (See Appendix II and Appendix III)

The Air Force's re-explanation was provided to the public and to Congressman Schiff 120 days after this author interviewed eyewitnesses in the Carrizozo area of central New Mexico who had experienced a cover-up of another incident at the same time in July 1947.

But their event was approximately 25 miles south of the purported flying disc crash site. The 48-year-old story had to change to justify the declared "military emergency" in Carrizozo, New Mexico, during the week of July 13, 1947. A project classified TOP SECRET was necessary to justify local military, AEC and FBI actions and orders given by military officers to civilians at the scene of this cover-up.

Continued in **Part 2** - Unreported Facts About 1947 Roswell UFO Crash

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