

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

An event with no precedents



AN INVITATION TO WITNESS HISTORY!



Here's the proof



The greatest story of the millennium

May 5th 2015

Holographic Technology will reveal the existence of beings from other planets

A once in a lifetime experience that will change your mind

Mexico City - The UFO Capital of the world

Volume 7 Number 2

MARCH-APRIL 2015



I am shocked!

Cover: This is a collection of sayings being used by Maussan in his promotional videos for the upcoming alien slide show. He is the 21st century version of P.T. Barnum.

Left: Unlike Captain Renault, I did not expect my winnings after closing down the UFO cafe'.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who's blogging UFOs.....	2-3
The Roswell Corner	3
May 5, 2015: The day that will change the world.....	4-10
Bragalia strikes back.....	10
Rendlesham lighthouse visibility.....	11-13
Space report.....	14-17
Outlining some imagery enhancement principles and introducing the spatial domain - I by Geoff Quick.....	18-21
The Arizona UFO controversy....	22-23
The UFO evidence under review: December 12, 1957.....	24-25
701 Club: Case 1227/1305: May 25 and June 18, 1952.....	26-30

I was shocked to find SUNlite being awarded a "Zorgy" as the best paranormal magazine. I was a bit disappointed at being labeled a "paranormal" magazine but I am grateful to Paul Kimball for this honor. Hopefully, SUNlite will continue to live up to the standards set by this prestigious award.

I was even more shocked that the infamous "Roswell slides" (which received a Zorgy for "the lamest paranormal story of 2014"), are finally going to be revealed on May 5th. With the release of the date, various teaser clips appeared on the web, which opened up all sorts of commentary on the various blogs. I included my observations of the "evidence" released so far starting on page 4. At one point, I considered delaying the publication of SUNlite 7-3 for two weeks but then decided that it probably would better to just let the dust settle after the big reveal. One of the reasons I publish SUNlite ever two months is to give myself time to consider all the possibilities before making a lengthy commentary on a subject. It may be that the slides will be "exposed" for the fiasco they probably are by the time SUNlite 7-4 is ready in July!

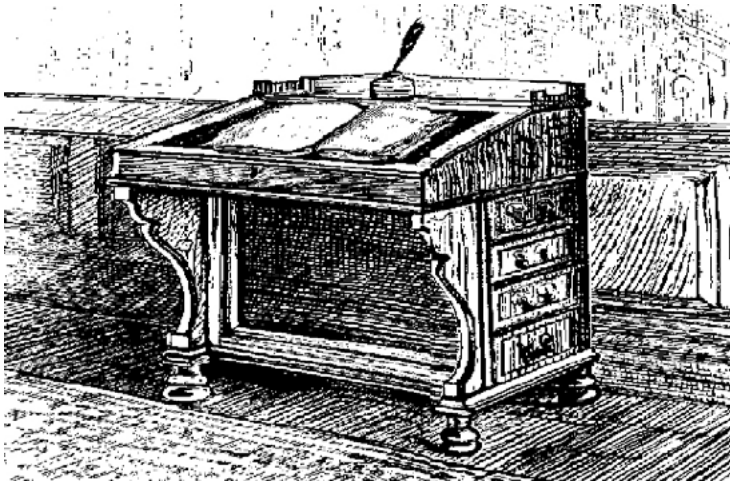
Some highlights in this issue:

- This March marks the 18th anniversary of the Arizona UFOs and there seemed to be a renewed interest in the subject on Facebook's "UFO Updates" group and "Above Top Secret" forum. At the center of the discussion was the explanation I have endorsed at my website and SUNlite articles regarding the case. I noticed that some of the arguments against that explanation involved some claims that are not accurate, which prompted me to clarify some of those issues starting on page 22.
- Readers may notice that I have no UFOs on the tube column this issue. I needed to take a break from watching television programs on the subject but I did get to see some clips from a program called "UFOs: Declassified". I was interviewed for a few hours last June and, based on what I can tell, appeared in two of the episodes. Since it is only being broadcast in Canada, I have only been able to see one clip on their Youtube channel. I was disappointed in what I saw and chose to comment about it on page 11.
- I would like to thank Geoff Quick for his contribution on image analysis that appears on page 18. Geoff is part of the IPACO team and this article is an introduction to some of the concepts associated with digital imagery that will be necessary to understand future articles on the subject.

There are also some of the usual articles and debunking. Enjoy.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



Around the first of the year, somebody in the CIA found a decades old document, which stated that the U2 had created a lot of UFO reports. Most UFO blogs ridiculed this claim and they were correct in doing so. It is a claim that is completely incorrect and was noted to be incorrect when it was first published back in the late 1990s! I am unaware of any UFO skeptics ever promoting this story as correct but skeptics are also guilty of not pointing out the problems with this report. Robert Sheaffer seems to have set the record straight and traced the claim back to a former public affairs officer in the U2 project, who made the statement to a couple of CIA historians. My guess is that he may have recalled having some form of contact with Blue Book at one point while he worked in the U2 project but exaggerated about what it involved. This is another lesson in how anecdotal testimony/memories can be prone to error.

Col. Halt made some public claims about hearing Larry

Warren's hypnosis session with Bud Hopkins, which resulted in Warren becoming very upset about the confidentiality of these sessions. Jack Brewer and Carol Rainey revealed that Hopkins made it a habit of sharing these recordings. with just about anybody who was interested. Matters became worse after his death. The files were apparently left out in a public hallway for anyone to examine. The present custodian of the files appears to be David Jacobs, who seems to also have problems maintaining the confidentiality of these interviews. This is what happens when amateurs, and not professionals, become involved with people's personal lives.

John Greenwald chose to post all the Bluebook files onto the blackvault web site . Greenwald (or somebody else) then announced to the media that the files were available for all to see. The media misinterpreted this to mean that the USAF top secret UFO files had been released for the first time. Greenwald would state that he was misquoted by the media and that he had stated the files had been available on line for some time. Greenwald's desire for media attention may have resulted in what happened next. Shortly after the news media blitz, Greenwald's Blue Book page went down stating it was due to circumstances beyond his control. Eventually, it was revealed that Fold 3 felt Greenwald was violating their terms of service in regard to use of the files. I can understand Fold 3's claim but I do not like it. His collection was an improvement over the Fold 3 and Bluebook archive web sites because the files were essentially complete (although they were redacted) and were listed in chronological order. For the time being, interested individuals will have to rely on the Bluebook archive and Fold3 web sites.

A story was posted on the UFO Chronicles web site concerning another one of those UFO police chases I mentioned in last issue. This event occurred at 4:20 AM on November 4, 1973 and involved police officers in Illinois chasing a UFO in a westerly direction. The UFO was described as "oval-shaped and amber or orange in color". The officer pursuing the UFO stated that it moved away at the same speed he was traveling. Eventually, the UFO dwindled in size and, apparently, disappeared from view. It was also seen disappearing in the west the following day around 5:14 AM. The source of this UFO was probably the planet Mars, just past opposition at magnitude -2, which set in the western sky around 5:15 AM around azimuth 280 degrees. It is another great UFO story that has a probable explanation.

Cheryl Costa, of the Syracuse newstimes, decided to write about Cylinder UFO reports. She is concentrating on reports from the New York area but appears uninterested in potential explanations for these reports. In her listing of recent sightings in NY state, the last three all had the same date (29 December) and the same approximate time (1830-1844 EST). The locations were over a distance of about 150 miles and the durations were just a few seconds. This screamed out "Fireball meteor" to me the instant I read these reports. A check of the American Meteor Society's database produced a file that involved 1546 observations of a bright meteor across the entire northeast centered around the time of 1834 EST . A photograph and a video was also available from the American Meteor Society. This is not the first time Costa tried to present misperceptions of fireball meteors as something significant. I mentioned a similar error by Costa in SUNlite 6-6. I wish that UFO promoters would do their homework before publishing reports that have probable explanations.

Leonard David, of Space.com, took on the subject of UFOs. A lot of individuals were interviewed including skeptics Jim Oberg and Robert Sheaffer. Jan Harzan, of MUFON, was also interviewed but I am skeptical of his belief that MUFON will solve the UFO problem and, as a result, end warfare. UFO proponents have been claiming they will expose the great UFO cover-up for decades and have failed at every opportunity. All these UFO groups continue to ask for is more money to help them finish the job. Two years ago, over a half-million dollars was spent on a UFO promotional gimmick that flopped. Robert Hastings has spent over a \$100,000 dollars on a film that is supposed to expose the UFOs and Nuclear weapons connection. It too will flop because it will be just another

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

er UFO film that just repeats a bunch of UFO stories with no solid evidence to prove the events occurred as described. Now MUFON demands MORE MONEY from its members, and other donors, to create a "world-wide database" that will be just an expansion on the old database, which has proven nothing!



Is this 1949 painting by Clovis Trouville, the source of the August 2, 1965 Tulsa, Oklahoma UFO photograph? Tim Beckley recently posted this on the Facebook UFO updates group and the object at the upper left is a dead ringer for the Tulsa photograph. I always thought it was some sort of hoax with a peculiar light/lens arrangement. Now it appears that the image is nothing more than a photograph of a painting.

John Podesta regretted that he did not find a way to get all those Top Secret UFO files released while he was Obama's presidential advisor. Ignored is the fact that Podesta was Bill Clinton's chief of staff for the last two years of his term. In both cases, he failed to get these files released. One wonders if he really is trying that hard to do something that should not be difficult to accomplish for somebody close to the President. Of course, Podesta is now Hillary Clinton's advisor. If you vote for Hillary, and she becomes president, maybe Podesta will be successful on the third try. Personally, I consider Podesta just another politician, who will say just about anything for a vote or publicity. If he really was interested in getting such files (assuming they really exist) released, he would present some documentation that he seriously tried and was turned back.

Kevin Randle implied that deep space radar may be tracking UFOs. His evidence is the recent radar imagery of a near earth asteroid and its companion by NASA's deep space network. I think Mr. Randle misses the fact that the antenna was only turned towards the asteroid because it was making a close path of Earth. The antenna is not usually trying to perform radar searches of the sky. Randle implies that the USAF may be controlling all of these space networks and imaging systems in order to track incoming UFOs. Unmentioned by Randle is that the USAF has their own network of systems to monitor things in earth orbit and does not require the use of NASA instruments. Additionally, there are a lot of telescopes, both professional and amateur, scanning the heavens photographically for Near-Earth Objects (NEOs). They are constantly identifying many small objects passing near the earth. In 2002, one of these was tentatively identified as an S-IVb stage from Apollo 12! If these telescopes can record an object about 60 feet in length from a great distance, why can't they image all these alien spaceships orbiting the Earth and entering the atmosphere?

Robert Sheaffer gave us his annual account of UFO congress near Phoenix, Arizona. It seems to be that abductions were a theme of the conference's first day. On the second day, there were quite a few speakers with many wild stories. My favorite has to be Joshua Warren's "wishing machine". Do people really believe this stuff works? The third day had the "heavy hitters". Richard Dolan seems to have gone off the deep end into the grand conspiracy abyss based on what Robert describes. Meanwhile, Jaimie Maussan presented all sorts of pictures and videos that, to the skeptical eye, appeared to have logical explanations. He also presented Adam Dew, who is making a film about the infamous "Roswell slides". Sheaffer got a chance to talk to Dew, who decided to interview Robert for his Kodachrome slide movie. Unfortunately, Robert was not shown the slide. I guess that it is a case of "skeptics not allowed".

Chris Rutkowski debunked a recent myth about a UFO crash at Jackhead, Manitoba. His explanation is very convincing and it is amazing that the story took off the way it did. I wonder if MUFON will be promoting this case in the future.

The Roswell Corner

Why did the aliens crash?

Kevin Randle, in the comments section of a blog entry, stated that he has been of the opinion that the reason the spaceship crashed at Roswell was because it was meant to do so. Faced with the conundrum that an alien spaceship should be able to survive a lightning strike, be undamaged by radar, or that any crashed vehicle probably would involve an alien rescue mission of some kind, Mr. Randle has created a new reason for the spaceship crashing at Roswell. He implied the aliens crashed their spaceship on purpose in order to alert Earth that it was "not alone". Unfortunately, the aliens did not expect us to be so paranoid and cover the whole event up. I have to admit that this theory is only slightly more probable than a lightning strike, radar interference, or pilot error but it fails the common sense test.

Exploring this theory further, we have to ask the question "Why crash the spaceship in a remote location in New Mexico?" If they wanted us to know of their existence, they could just as easily land or crash in Washington D.C.. Then one has to wonder why they would purposefully crash one of their wonderful spaceships and kill the crew. Were these alien beings criminals serving a death sentence? Were the critical components of the spacecraft removed to prevent reverse engineering? It seems that this is more of a theory out of desperation than a carefully thought out explanation. It makes little sense and indicates the aliens had no clue about the behavior of human beings. These aliens seemed to be ignorant of the past ten years of human history, where practically the entire world was at war.

MAY 5, 2015: THE DAY THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

That is how Jaimie Maussan, Don Schmitt, and Tom Carey are selling the latest chapter in the Roswell Saga. Amid much hype and sentimentalization, the date was revealed in several forums in early February. Within the next few days, more details were revealed, which included tantalizing glimpses of the alien slide and some additional information about those who photographed the slides and how they were discovered.

The Ray's had very high connections

Anthony Bragalia began the hoopla by telling us all about the people who took the photographs:

Bernerd's wife was Hilda Blair Ray. Researchers Tom Carey and Don Schmitt and the current owner of the film learned that Hilda was a highly respected lawyer with a high-end clientele and possible intelligence connections. A private pilot, she maintained favorable relations with well-placed individuals in both the public and private sectors during the 1940s. The other slides in the chest (over 100) are often found depicting accomplished people, including Dwight Eisenhower. This is a couple who were of the highest integrity. And both had contacts and activities that could have fortuitously enabled them to obtain these slides.¹

This was also mentioned by the "caretaker" of the slides, Adam Dew, in his short film about the slides:

There are dozens more photos that, together, paint a picture of a very interesting, well-traveled, and, possibly, well-connected couple.²

We are not told why everyone has drawn this conclusion. No documents were presented to demonstrate that the Rays ever met anybody of significance. The only evidence that was presented were the slides themselves. There are photographs of various famous people, including golfers and actors, at a US open but I am sure there were plenty of people, who also took photographs of these individuals. The photographs that supposedly connected them to the Eisenhowers, were those showing Dwight Eisenhower with another man on a train. While Dew and Bragalia did not make the claim that this man was Ray, people drew this conclusion by their statements about there being a connection between Ike and the Rays. The instant the photographs were out and posted on the UFO chronicle's blog, Bragalia was quick to state this proved that they were close to Ike:

I think to all that it is rather evident now -even to rabid skeptics like Lance and Printy- the Rays were a very highly-connected couple, even to Ike.³

When Paul Kimball questioned if it was Ray in the photographs, he was told that Jose Caravaca had identified him as Ray.⁴ Jose did not say why he thought this was the case but it was simply accepted by everyone that it was true. Both Bragalia and Dew never contradicted that claim or chose to make the statement that the man was not Ray. Based on Bragalia's comment, he either believed this was Ray or wanted to give everyone the distinct impression that it was Ray.



When I saw the Dew film clip and the photographs of Eisenhower (left), I was puzzled. In the video, we are shown photographs of the Rays as aging individuals (right) but the image of the man with Eisenhower is a younger gentleman. Other photographs of Ray also did not look like the man in the photograph (middle).⁵ I also wondered who took the photograph. If Ray was in the photograph, why wasn't Hilda there as well? Was she in the crowd because the Eisenhowers did not like her as much as her husband? I began to suspect that this individual was NOT Bernerd Ray as implied by those promoting the slides.

Curious as to his identity, I decided to look up when Eisenhower was in the vicinity of Texas and in his General's uniform after the war. I quickly narrowed it down to his appearance in Kansas on June 21, 1945. On that date, Eisenhower took a train from Kansas City to Abilene, Kansas. The newspapers covered the day rather extensively.⁶ Most of the individuals that were on the train ride were mentioned because they were all members of the Eisenhower family. However, nobody mentioned Bernerd or Hilda Ray. I then examined pictures of the individuals that were listed and discovered that the man in the photograph was Milton Eisenhower, Ike's

brother (see image right).⁷

I shared this information publicly, which then prompted Dew to reveal all sorts of information that was curiously unavailable before:

As much as I'd love for that to be Bernerd next to Ike on the train, I'm fairly certain it's Milton Eisenhower. This whistle stop tour was from Kansas City to Abilene (Ike's home town) in June 1945. Photo was taken in Topeka. Milton was the president of Kansas State University at the time. The Rays spent a lot of time in Kansas in the mid-late 1940s. This is one of the reasons I'd like to ID the men in the hunting picture. Kansas license plate. The hunting dog has "Manhattan" dog tag. KSU is in Manhattan. The men in the hunting pic look to me like they could be important men.⁸

Dew's revelations made it appear like he knew all along it was not Ray but chose to hide this information so viewers would draw the conclusion that Ray personally knew Eisenhower. Prior to this revelation, Anthony Bragalia proclaimed that the "rabid skeptics" should be convinced of the Eisenhower connection based on these images. Now Bragalia tried to convince everybody that he never stated that this was Ray with Ike:



if you re-read the articles that I have done on the slides, I stated that there were over a hundred other slides in the chest of the same vintage as the alien slides and "many pictured prominent people such as Dwight Eisenhower." I do not recall ever saying that Bernerd or Hilda were "with" Ike. I did not 'correct' Jose because I never said one way or another who that was- Rich and Jose did. They brought it up, not me. I cannot be expected to instantly comment on every damn item that someone brings up. To expect me to correct and comment every two minutes on all of this is unfair.⁹

I am still trying to understand why he made the first comment about "rabid skeptics" being convinced of the connection based on nothing but this photograph. This calls into question the amount of research that was performed on this part of the slide story. As this little debacle unraveled, Rich Reynolds deleted all the postings regarding the slides. Meanwhile, Dew implied that he had heard a lot of stories from people about how the Ray's were connected to the Eisenhowers. This all sounds really great but there should be real evidence out there if this were true. There would be a documented record showing them spending time with the President or other highly placed people. Not one iota of evidence is presented to date and I can find nothing in the newspaper archive that show the Rays being present with the Eisenhowers or any other prominent politician.

More slides = More speculation

In his response regarding Milton Eisenhower, Adam Dew stated that he felt a hunting trip photograph showed "important men". There is nothing in that photograph to indicate they were important at all. They just look like a bunch of hunters having a good time. Gregg Phipps would later inform people that he identified them as local Republican politicians in Kansas.¹⁰ David Rudiak suggested that they might be Governors and Senators. Even if these men are politicians, I doubt that connections to them, even if they were such a position of US senator from Kansas, would justify a belief that the Ray's had "high connections" that would allow them access to top secret areas, where alien bodies were held.

The hunting trip photograph is not the only item that Dew was openly speculating about. There is another slide that shows a trailer park. Dew hints that this looks like the trailer parks found at Oak Ridge, Tennessee during the development of the atomic bomb. The implication here is that these photographs were taken at Oak Ridge and the Rays went there because they were invited/allowed to be there. When I saw the photograph, I felt it probably was a war time photograph of hastily constructed housing for a new military base or post war housing for returning veterans. Mr. Phipps solved this one as being a photograph of temporary housing for returning veterans attending Kansas State University.¹¹

Dew also chose to present another slide, which showed a woman in front of a large model of a cruise liner. Dew implied that this is Maimie Eisenhower and the model is the Queen Mary in New York City.¹² There is no evidence presented to prove this is Maimie and, in my opinion, she has features that are different than Mrs. Eisenhower. There are also features in the model that indicate it is not the Queen Mary. There were other large models of cruise liners in existence in several venues outside of New York City that could be the subject of the photograph. This photograph proves nothing.

It seems, as part of his promotion campaign for his Kodachrome movie/video, Dew is trying to manufacture a history about the Rays



that did not exist. The focus in his tweets and videos is that the Ray's were "well connected" but, other than these slides, there is no evidence to suggest these "high level connections" existed at all. We do not even know if the Ray's took these photographs! For instance, why would the Ray's suddenly take up to living in Kansas for a few years when, according to most accounts, they lived in Midland, Texas during the same time period? There seems to be little or no effort being made to carefully evaluate the slides that do not show the body. Instead, they are being speculated about openly to the point of being sensationalized and imply things that may not be true.

The only conclusion one can draw is that, if they were the photographers, the Rays liked to take a lot of photographs documenting their travels. Those photographs did include celebrities but this was apparently due to them being at events, where the celebrities were scheduled to appear. Based on my research in the news paper archive, I determined the most prominent positions held by Hilda Blair Ray were that she was the vice president of the Texas league of woman voters in the early 40s¹³ and she was a member of Midland Draft Board during the war.¹⁴ There is absolutely no evidence presented to date that shows they had any political or "intelligence" connections that would allow them access to classified information of any kind. At this point, that part of the slide story appears to be a myth created by the promoters trying to explain how it was possible that the Rays could photograph a dead alien body.

The two slides

Writing about the slides, Tony Bragalia stated that it had been proven that the year of the film's exposure was 1947.¹⁵ This was an astonishing announcement and Lance Moody, among others, openly challenged the statement. Bragalia would respond that it had been proven the film was from 1947 stock and, since most people expose their film right away, it stood to reason it was exposed in 1947. This conclusion does not consider a lot of variables. The first being that film sits at the distribution center for a period of time before being shipped to another distribution center before making it to the actual store. Then there is the period of time from being placed on the shelf and purchasing. Then there is the unknown elapsed time between purchasing and exposure. I recall having film stored in my refrigerator for months before use but that was me. I have no idea how long the Ray's may have held onto their film before use. It could have been a day or it could have been a year. This is an unknown that can not be quantified so Bragalia's conclusion is one based on what he wants to believe and not based on any actual facts. Just because a film was manufactured in 1947 does not mean it was bought or used in 1947.

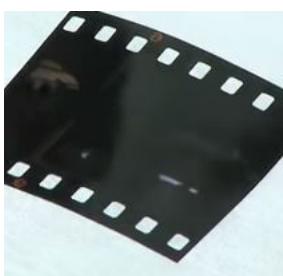


Marc O'Connell did his own digging and contacted the Curator of Technology at the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film. According to Marc, the curator told him that, "*It is impossible to tell when Kodachrome slides were exposed or developed.*"¹⁶ The best one can do is get a range of years when the film was manufactured and when the slides were mounted. Any dating beyond that is nothing more than speculation. Therefore, the claim Bragalia made that it was positively proven to be exposed in 1947 is based more on wishful thinking than careful analysis.

The choice of Kodachrome was also mentioned by Bragalia as being the best film for geologists to use in their work.¹⁷ I question this statement since Kodachrome was a very slow film (As best I can tell it was ISO speed 16 in 1947 and Kodachrome 64 did not come out until the 1960s) and not lend itself to easy development/printing. Black and white would be the preferred film for such studies. It is interesting to point out that none of the slides in the box seem to be related to his geological work and there are no papers presented showing him using Kodachrome film.

While Bragalia wants everyone to believe that the West Texas Geological society was very active in the Roswell area. It is known that the West Texas Geological Society did visit New Mexico in May of 1947 (See SUNlite 6-1).¹⁸ However, they only visited the Carlsbad region over fifty miles south of Roswell. Roswell was not on their agenda and there is no evidence presented that they ever visited the Roswell area. This is all speculation based on a desire to link the Rays to Roswell.

Just a day or two after Bragalia's revelations, several videos quickly surfaced that were meant to tease audiences about the upcoming event. It was Curt Collins' posting on facebook that got my attention for these videos. I shared the link with other skeptics and pointed out that these looked like the slides. Lance Moody passed the link onto Rich Reynolds, who then posted it on his blog. The next day, I received an e-mail from Tony Bragalia giving me "fair warning" not to write about the story without checking with him regarding the facts. Failure to contact him about the story would result in Bragalia publicly stating that I was not interested in "Truth and history" as he was. I took him up on his offer and asked him a few questions hoping for more details. I even asked him if these



were the actual slides. He refused to answer that question and his responses to the other questions were less than satisfactory. I learned nothing new as he stuck to his standard talking points in his article. He was either ignorant of details or did not want to discuss it. As I suspected, contacting Mr. Bragalia for factual information that can be checked is a waste of time.

We are told that the two slides were hidden in a special envelope away from all the other slides but nobody seems to have proof that this was really the case. As far as we know, there was no label on the envelope or the slides indicating that they were "special" or were photographs of "aliens". One has to wonder that, if these were photographs of aliens, why only two slides were exposed? There is one image of the slides being examined showing the number "9" indicating there were more frames on the roll.¹⁹ If the Ray's

were as knowledgeable about photography, as claimed, they would have exposed more frames to ensure they correctly exposed the image clearly. Exposing only two frames makes one suspect that what was photographed was worth photographing but not worth wasting the whole roll of film.

The videos included blurry/distant glimpses of, what appeared to be, the slides. The image on the slide appeared to match the descriptions given over the past year. As best one can tell, the body was in a case of some kind, which had a placard or label on it. As reported, the head had been partially severed from the torso and the internal organs were apparently removed.

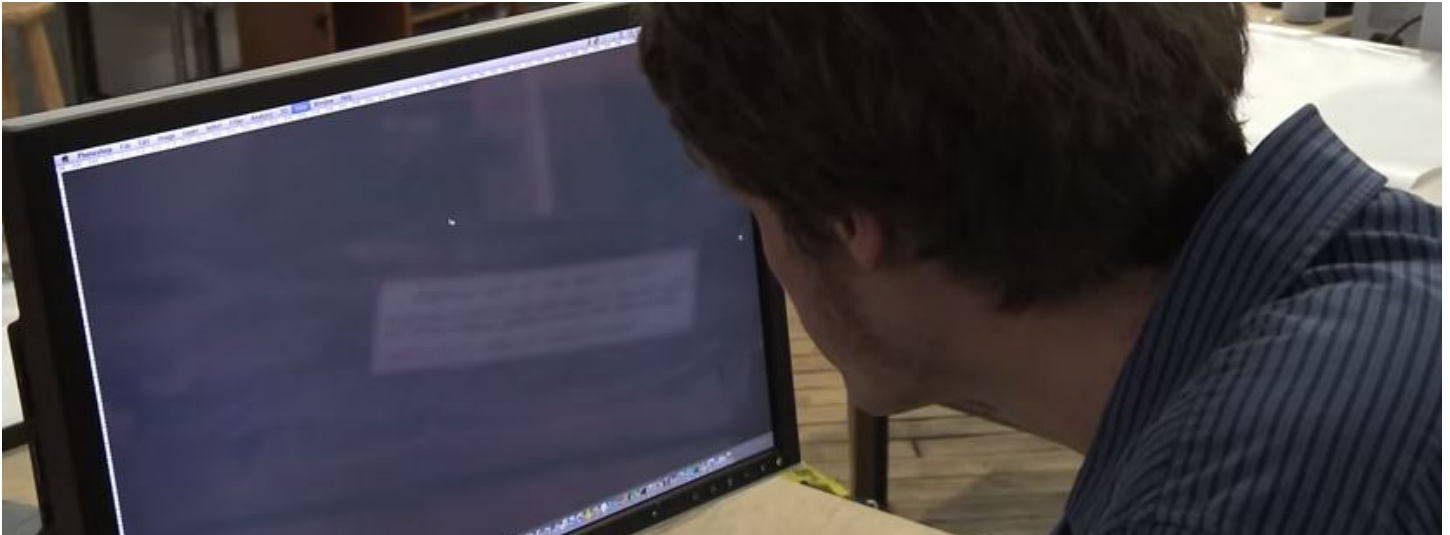


With a week of the videos being released, a sharp individual in a German forum was able to identify one frame where the slide was not blurred. This resulted in a look at what was considered the evidence that would change the history of the world!²⁰

I was unimpressed by the image. I had originally speculated in SUNlite 6-2 that it might be a body of an airman from a crash. This seems unlikely based on the images in the videos.

With such a small image, it is hard to evaluate but we can look at body proportion/sizes. The adult human head is roughly 1/8th the size of the overall body. However, the head of a child is 1/4th to 1/5th the size of a normal body depending on age. In the photographs that have been shown, the head appears to be 1/4th the size of the body. The size of the body also appears something smaller than the 3 -1/2 foot to 4 foot size claimed by the Roswell promoters. Based on the hole size of the supports (1/2 to 3/4

inch), it appears closer to about 3 feet in length and maybe less. With such a small body size, the body starts to appear something that is more child-like than adult size. If the body is that of a young child, then the head is not really that large and the limb size not so tiny. The evidence for this being an alien, based on head size, begins to collapse.



Quite a few people have suggested that it might be a hydrocephalus child skeleton. I looked at the image as being some sort of body that had a misshapen head. It was common in some ancient cultures to forcibly misshape the heads of people because of their status. There are plenty of mummies/skeletons in various museums that could be the source of this photograph.

We are told that the Rays were well traveled. Did they visit a museum of some kind that contained this unusual skeleton/body? The placard is something one would expect in a public display where the viewers could understand what they were seeing without need for interpretation by a guide. If this were an alien body, it most likely would not require a placard since those viewing the body would already be familiar with details. I find it hard to believe that some General, after seeing the body, would state, "Is this the alien from Roswell? I can not tell. You need to label it". The label may be the clue as to what the body really is. I am aware that David Rudiak and others attempted to read it. Based on Rudiak's comments on Kevin Randle's blog, there was nothing in the interpretation that indicated it was an alien body.²¹ Perhaps somebody else was able to find the words "Roswell" or "alien" in the fine print but it seems unlikely based on Rudiak's failure to do so.

Despite the possibility of this body having a more earthly origin, the promoters of these slides have chosen to take the route of "the show must go on". On May 5th, the show will open but will it live up to the hype?

Just you wait!!!

Needless to say, the slide revelation brought about a fire storm. Skeptics made a lot of proclamations both publicly and privately. I know I spent a bit of time performing searches on the Internet looking for a possible match. Gilles Fernandez found at least one mummy that looked similar but was not the same body. I have seen images of other mummies that looked very close to the blurry image in the video. I did a search of the newspaper archive, hoping to see if there might be a publicized display that might

have caught the Ray's attention. I discovered that, in September of 1949, a Peruvian mummy had been unwrapped at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.²² However, this was an adult mummy and could not be the source in the photographs. With various people suggesting potential sources for the figure in the slide, the promoters began to try and put out the fires. If they did not do something, the photographs might be exposed before the big reveal and ruin everything.

Dew tried to impress everyone with the dating of the slides but only a few people are questioning that aspect of the slides. It had become accepted, by most, that the slides were shot in the 1940s. What had not been accepted was this was a photograph of an alien body. Dew countered that he talked to a Roswell veteran, who claimed it looked like the body he saw.²³ Some research by others revealed that the veteran was "Private Eli Benjamin" (a false name he uses to hide his real identity), who had appeared on a SCI-FI channel program on Roswell in 2006. For some reason, Dew refers to him as a Lieutenant.²⁴ Is this Dew's mistake or did "Benjamin" try and pump up his rank to give himself more credibility? Roswell has had its share of charlatans. Frank Kaufmann fooled people for over a decade with his stories about having super top secret clearances and positions/ranks he never had. Dew's reliance on this man's testimony as proof that it is an alien demonstrates he is just as gullible as all the other promoters. Perhaps he should watch the Boyd Bushman video to see how an old man can create tall tales that are not true.

Mr. Dew then appeared on WGN of Chicago promoting his film. In that interview he pointed out that skeptics/debunkers were actually helping him research the slides. I found that rather disturbing because it makes it appear that, despite having these slides in his possession for years, he was just now finding out about mummies and Milton Eisenhower. Does this mean the research that Dew did perform on the slides prior to February was inadequate?

Meanwhile, Bragalia launched a counterattack on Kevin Randle's blog, which was removed by Kevin within hours of its posting because of how the comments quickly turned negative and uncivil.²⁵ Randle did allow the entry to be reposted after some editing.²⁶ In that article, Bragalia went to great lengths to denigrate mean skeptics and how the image shown on page 8 does not accurately reflect what is in the slides. Underlining his bullet points (didn't a certain skeptic use this writing style?), he states it can't be a mummy (the body was recently alive or embalmed) and could not be a display for a professional museum (the label is handwritten). Bragalia's final assault was to describe how certain people have tried to insert themselves into the glory that is the Roswell slides. In the process of inserting themselves, they have caused undue harm to the investigation. Most of this has to do with hacking of the e-mails by a third party brought about, not by skeptics, but a UFO proponent. Bragalia also focused on skeptics, who dared to check up on the claims made by the proponents of the slides. He accused Lance Moody of using this "hacked" information to locate Robert Shanebrook, who is the expert on Kodachrome slide film the team is using to date the slides. Bragalia is sadly mistaken about how easy it was to recognize that his expert was Shanebrook because he left plenty of clues. He had made it a point that the individual dating the slides was an expert and had written the *"definitive book on Kodak film processes"*²⁷. If one puts the phrase "book on Kodak film processes" in Google, Robert Shanebrook's name surfaces right away! I had done this exact search and was considering contacting him when Moody told me he had already done so. Based on what Moody told me, his conversation with Shanebrook was very cordial. Bragalia's protestations appear to be nothing more than a smokescreen.

Tony Bragalia is desperately trying to conceal/downplay any revelations that might occur before May 5th. To accomplish this task, he is threatening people with public defamation and has referred to skeptics as "jealous", feeling a sense of being excluded, or just refusing to accept the possibility it is an alien body. Mr. Bragalia claims to be interested in the truth but his actions and writings do not confirm this. If May 5th comes and "the truth" turns out to be something else than what Bragalia states, he will have to live with the stigma of being another joke in UFOlogical history.

The rest of the "team" chose to remain quiet but Tom Carey wrote to Kevin Randle about some of the commentary regarding the slides. While appearing to confirm that this was a low resolution image of the slide, he also described much of the commentary about the image as insane.²⁸ I found that characterization rather humorous since most of the hype in promoting this event can be classified as "insane", "ridiculous", or "comical".

The greatest event known to man

One year ago, Rich Reynolds had suggested that the big event might occur in Mexico City.²⁹ I openly speculated in SUNlite 6-2 that if Mexico City was the location, Jaimie Maussan may be involved. Maussan is one of the biggest UFO hoax promoters in Mexico. He has presented all sorts of wild stories and false claims ever since he became involved with the 1991 Solar Eclipse videos, which were nothing more than recordings of the planet Venus. Maussan is described as a respected journalist but I have yet to see any examples of his work outside of UFOlogy. His appearance in this "dog and pony show" indicates it is more about sensationalism and money than a search for the truth about the slides.

The videos and teleconferences hosted by Jaimie Maussan involving Tom Carey and Don Schmitt have taken on the air of showmanship and hype.³⁰ When interviewed, both Carey and Schmitt stated or implied that this is one of the greatest events in all of human history and those present will personally see history being made. Maussan keeps repeating this like any good salesman in order to fill the 10,000 seat auditorium. It would be embarrassing if the auditorium was only half-filled for his big show broadcast to the entire world. Reading old newspapers, I noticed that P.T. Barnum had a similar approach in the 1880's with his huge elephant, Jumbo. Many of his advertisements refer to Jumbo as a possible Mastadon and that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. This sensationalist approach filled seats for Barnum's show. Will it work for Maussan and his gang of sensationalists?

All the eggs in one basket

In Adam Dew's video, he apparently performed an ambush interview with Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson at a comic book convention. In the clip, he quickly shows a cell phone image of the slide to Dr. Tyson, who responded,

*So, OK, so maybe it's a real alien that landed. Uhhh....fine....I don't have a problem with that. Come back when you got...Come back later when you got.....*³¹

He was cut off at this point but it appeared that Dr. Tyson was unimpressed. His response indicated that Dew needed to come see him when he had better evidence to confirm that what was in the photograph was an alien. Dr. Tyson's observations are what one will expect from the scientific community and most skeptics. No amount of promotion and spin is going to make it any better. Tony Bragalia disagrees and feels that the scientific community is going to be proven wrong:

*On May 6th, the day after the reveal, the clock will still tick and we will still get up in the morning with the obligations of life still before us. But may we will arise with just a little more wonder and curiosity about the world in which we live. Some will find it heartening to know that we are not alone in the vast, cold cosmos. Others will go through the same realization that man did when we realized when we learned that the world does not revolve around the Earth. It will be an acceptance that there is something of a higher order than our own. Some will fear, some will hope.*³²

His diatribe sounds like this will be more of a religious experience than a scientific one. He ignores the fact that most, if not all, scientists are not going to accept the claims of a bunch of UFO boosters without better evidence than a couple of slides showing a body of some kind. They certainly have been unwilling to accept the Patterson-Gimlin film as proof of Bigfoot so there is little likelihood that two still slides are going to alter our understanding of the universe.

I expect May 5th will come and go and the world will still be the same. President Obama will not suddenly say, "Yeah, we had this little guy under wraps for almost seventy years". Dr. Tyson will not state, "This is wonderful. We need to get to the bottom of all this". Instead, skeptics and proponents will argue over details like head size and body proportions trying to identify what the body might be. More experts from the medical and anthropological fields might be brought in to offer their opinion. They probably will not agree making the situation unresolved. Nobody will be able to prove that this is really an alien from another solar system.

Meanwhile, debunkers/skeptics will continue to look for an earthly source of the body in the slides. They may be unsuccessful but that does not mean it is an alien body. If they are successful, there will be problems for Don Schmitt, Tom Carey, and Tony Bragalia. Nobody cares about Maussan or Dew. Maussan will just move on to the next UFO extravaganza. Dew will make his money and then move onto subjects outside of UFOlogy. However, the remaining three have pinned their reputations and lives on this being the crown jewel to the Roswell story. To coin a poker term, "They are all in". After their hand is revealed on May 5th, we will see if they have a winning hand or are bluffing.

Notes and references

1. Bragalia, Anthony. "The public reveal of the Roswell alien slides". A different perspective. February 1, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/roswell-slides-update.html>
2. Dew, Adam. Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer. Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpieaE>
3. Bragalia, Anthony. Comments section to blog posting "Jose Antonio Caravaca provides enhanced Ike and Bernerd Ray pics and alien slides too". UFO conjecture(s) blog. Posting no longer available: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/>
4. Reynolds, Rich. Comments section to blog posting "Jose Antonio Caravaca provides enhanced Ike and Bernerd Ray pics and alien slides too". UFO conjecture(s) blog. Posting no longer available: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/>
5. Dew, Adam. Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer. Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpieaE>
6. "Ike's kinfolk to arrive today for K.C. reception" Joplin Globe. Joplin, Missouri. June 20, 1945. P.1
7. Milton Stover Eisenhower. Kansaspedia. Kansas historical society. Available WWW: <http://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/milton-stover-eisenhower/12044>
8. Dew, Adam. Comments section to blog posting "Jose Antonio Caravaca provides enhanced Ike and Bernerd Ray pics and alien slides too". UFO conjecture(s) blog. Posting no longer available: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/>
9. Bragalia, Anthony. Comments section to blog posting "Jose Antonio Caravaca provides enhanced Ike and Bernerd Ray pics and alien slides too". UFO conjecture(s) blog. Posting no longer available: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/>
10. Phipps, Gregory. Comments section to blog posting "The Roswell slides - video interviews". A different perspective. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-video-interviews.html>
11. *ibid.*
12. Dew, Adam. "Who is this woman?". February 9, 2015. Available WWW: <https://twitter.com/SlideboxMedia/status/564798526492667905>
13. "Midland woman is honored with offices". The reporter-telegram. Midland, Texas. March 25, 1941. P. 4.
14. "Draft board honored". The Abilene Texas Reporter-news. Abilene, Texas. February 28, 1947. P.17
15. Bragalia, Anthony. "The public reveal of the Roswell alien slides". A different perspective. February 1, 2015. Available WWW:

<http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/roswell-slides-update.html>

16. O'Connell, Mark. "Mama Don't Take My Kodachrome -- Part 2". High Strangeness. Available WWW: <http://www.highstrangeness-sufo.com/2015/02/mama-dont-take-my-kodachrome-part-2.html>
17. Bragalia, Anthony. Comments section to blog posting "The public reveal of the Roswell alien slides". A different perspective. February 1, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/roswell-slides-update.html>
18. "Geologists plan 2-day field trip in Carlsbad area". The Abilene, Texas, reporter-news. Abilene, Texas. May 18, 1947. P. 12
19. Dew, Adam. Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer. Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpieaE>
20. "The best image of the Kodachrome alien, so far (from Michael Mu)". UFO conjecture(s) blog. February 8, 2015. Available WWW: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-best-image-of-kodachrome-alien-so.html>
21. Rudiak, David. Comments section to blog posting "The Roswell slides - video interviews". A different perspective. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-video-interviews.html>
22. "Scientists study Peru mummy". Racine Journal-times. Racine, Wisconsin. September 21, 1949. P. 32.
23. Dew, Adam. "Adam Dew provided this update and clarification about his Kodachrome slide participation". UFO conjecture(s) blog. February 9, 2015. Available WWW: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/2015/02/adan-dew-provided-this-update-and.html>
24. Dew, Adam. Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer. Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpieaE>
25. Randle, Kevin. "Removal of a post". A different perspective. February 14, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/bloggers-note-these-slides-or-rather.html>
26. Bragalia, Anthony. "The Roswell alien slides and the truth". A different perspective. February 15, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-update-by-tony.html>
27. Bragalia, Anthony. "The public reveal of the Roswell alien slides". A different perspective. February 1, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/roswell-slides-update.html>
28. Randle, Kevin. "Roswell Slides Today's (February 10) Update". A different perspective. February 10, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/roswell-slides-update-february-10-today.html>
29. Reynolds, Rich. Comments section to blog posting "The Roswell Slides? Or the Aztec Slides?" The UFO Conjecture(s). January 18, 2014. Available WWW: <http://ufocon.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-roswell-slides-or-aztec-slides.html>
30. Randle, Kevin. "The Roswell slides - video interviews". A different perspective. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-video-interviews.html>
31. Dew, Adam. Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer. Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpieaE>
32. Bragalia, Anthony. Comments section to blog posting "The Roswell alien slides and the truth". A different perspective. February 15, 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-update-by-tony.html>

BRAGALIA STRIKES BACK!!!

For several weeks, I had been involved in a small discussion group about the slides themselves. As we dissected each of the slides in the Dew video, the conversation turned to the "mysterious Roswell military witness" that nobody wanted to name. Somebody in the group produced the man's name and I quickly produced the page in the Roswell yearbook proving he was in Roswell at the time. As I had suspected he was nothing more than a lowly PFC and not somebody, who would have access to something as classified as an alien body even if he had a top secret clearance. It turns out that "Benjamin" had been in another television program back in 2006 telling this story. So, he was no stranger to being filmed or putting himself out in public view. Despite this, he did not want people to know his real name. The excuse used was that it might endanger his pension. This is nonsense since any conspiracy that was monitoring witnesses would quickly identify him from his appearances on television. They could easily stop his pension (assuming he even has one) using any means at their disposal. In my opinion, the real reason "Benjamin" probably did not want his name mentioned was because he had other reasons to hide behind a fake name. I could care less what that reason was and this seemed like a non-story to me but then a strange thing happened.

Paul Kimball decided to posted a blog entry revealing the man's name. I promptly received several nasty e-mails from Tony Bragalia, who threatened to call my family and the Manchester, NH police department because I produced the Yearbook page for Kimball's blog entry. Bragalia sounded like a lunatic in the e-mails as he demanded that I renounce Kimball's writings or he would take action to contact my relatives. I asked if he wanted names of ex-girlfriends, sailors who worked for me, and commanding officers I served under. I even offered to present my dd214 for him to examine (which is more than any Roswell witness has ever done) if he doubted my military background. His response was to send me a listing of some of my relatives, which included my recently deceased mother. I found this whole event both funny and sad.

Kimball also received threatening e-mails from Bragalia. He presented another blog entry documenting this. His thoughts reflect mine on this matter. Bragalia has no right to act as the "gatekeeper" on what should be discussed and what should not be discussed regarding public statements by people. He states that his only motivation is "truth and history" but his actions on this speak otherwise. Is this how real Roswell investigations are conducted? Is bluff, bluster, and intimidation the way of getting old men to tell them the stories they want to hear? The world wonders.....



Last June, I received an e-mail asking me if I wanted to perform an interview for a UFO program that was intended for the Smithsonian channel. Based on the e-mail's subject line of "Smithsonian project", I was interested and elected to participate. Originally, the producers of the program wanted me to talk about astronomical objects and UFOs. I was very happy to discuss this but, after an initial phone call, things began to change. The date of the interview was scheduled to occur within a week of my initial e-mail and they changed the topic into a discussion about the Rendlesham and Belgium UFO cases. I had to change my work and personal schedule to meet their request but I agreed to fly to Toronto for the interview.

The interview and the end result

The film company was very pleasant and helpful in getting me to Toronto to do the interview and I was treated very nice. However, when I arrived to do the interview, I was a bit disappointed. The interview now became focused more on the Rendlesham case than anything else. Additionally, the interviewer wanted to keep the topic fixed on some specific points. It was difficult for me to freely bring up issues that were often not mentioned regarding the case. Even more disturbing was the interview was done in a studio beneath a coffee shop. The studio resembled my basement and there was water piping running from the coffee shop in the ceiling. During the interview, if water was run or a toilet was flushed, we had to stop as the water made too much noise for the microphones. I found it a bit disconcerting and uncomfortable. This all contributed to me feeling like I did not do a very good job representing the skeptical side and that the producers were going to use these limited arguments as a "straw man" they could knock down with the standard proponent counterarguments. Based on what I have seen on their Youtube channel, my suspicions appear to be accurate but I can not tell without seeing the entire production.

The finished product appeared on Canadian television in January. They had a clip of the program on their youtube channel, where I described how the lighthouse matched up with the audiotape. This went well until they allowed Nick Pope to counter that, based on his cold case review, the lighthouse was invisible to the witnesses and could not be the source of the report:

...for most of the places where the witnesses actually saw the UFO, the beam from the lighthouse isn't even visible....¹

He stated something similar in his book but made the point that the lighthouse WAS visible from some locations but not all. There is documented proof that the lighthouse was visible to the witnesses, who were at the "landing site" identified by Colonel Halt near the edge of the field across from the farmer's house. Ian Ridpath has produced photographs from the landing site and even a video from the early 1980s showing this to be true. I don't ever recall being asked about this claim during my interview so Pope got the final word. Ignored in all of this presentation are the statements by the principle witnesses on the first night.



Ian Ridpath's photograph showing that the lighthouse IS visible from the location where Halt was located contrary to what Nick Pope implied.

The lighthouse chase

There is little reason to rehash the specifics of the Rendlesham case but there is evidence that is often overlooked or ignored regarding the first night's activities. These are the signed statements by the security personnel, who were involved. The most important statements were made by Jim Penniston, John Burroughs, and Edward Cabansag. They were directly involved with investigating the "strange lights" that were seen in the woods that morning. While Penniston never mentioned the lighthouse in his statement about the first night, both Cabansag and Burroughs state that they noticed the lighthouse as they came into the field and pursued it for two miles in their January 1981 statements.

Burroughs wrote, in his own handwriting, that, after chasing some lights through the woods, they began a pursuit of the lighthouse:

We got up to a fence that separated the trees from the open field and you could see the lights down by a farmers house. We climbed over the fence and started heading towards the red and blue lights and they just disappeared. Once we reached the farmer's house we could see a beacon going around so we went towards it. We followed it for about 2 miles before we could see it was coming from a lighthouse.²

Cabansag signed a typed statement, which stated:

While we walked, each one of us could see the lights. Blue, red, white and yellow. The beacon light turned out to be the yellow light. We could see them periodically, but not in a specific pattern. As we approached, the lights would seem to be at the edge of the forest...As we entered the forest, the blue and red lights were not visible anymore. Only the beacon light was still blinking. We figured the lights were coming from past the forest, since nothing was visible as we passed through the woody forest. We could see a glowing near the beacon light, but as we got closer we found it to be a lit-up farmhouse. After we had passed through the forest, we thought it had to be an aircraft accident. So did CSC as well.

But we ran and walked a good 2 miles past our vehicle, until we got to a vantage point where we could determine that what we were chasing was only a beacon light off in the distance. Our route through the forest and field was a direct one, straight towards the light.

We informed CSC that the light beacon was further than we thought, so CSC terminated our investigation.³

For those that think the report was "sanitized" by these witnesses, as Pope wants everyone to believe, I suggest they read Fred Buran's report for that night:

I monitored their progress (Penniston, Burroughs and Cabansag) as they entered the wooded area. They appeared to get very close to the lights, and at one point SSgt Penniston stated that it was a definite metallic object. Due to the colors they had reported, I alerted them to the fact that they may have been approaching a light aircraft crash scene. I directed SSgt Coffey to check with the tower to see if they could throw some light on the subject. They could not help.

SSgt Penniston reported getting near the "object" and then all of a sudden said they had gone past it and were looking at a marker beacon that was in the same general direction as the other lights. I asked him, through SSgt Coffey, if he could have been mistaken, to which SSgt Penniston replied that had I seen the other lights I would know the difference. SSgt Penniston seemed agitated at this point.⁴

Additionally, Master Sergeant Chandler wrote the following:

We set up a radio relay between SSgt Penniston, myself and CSC. On one occasion, Penniston relayed that he was close enough to the object to determine that it was definitely a mechanical object. He stated he was within approximately 50 meters. He also stated that there was lots of noises in the area which seemed to be animals running around. Each time Penniston gave me the indication that he was about to reach the area where the lights were, he would give an extended estimated location. He eventually arrived at a "beacon light", however, he stated that this was not the light or lights he had originally observed. He was instructed to return.⁵

Both of these individuals had nothing to do with revelations over the years and can be considered to be accurate portrayals of what actually occurred. There was no reason for them to make false statements that agreed with the what the others reported. A few years ago, I communicated briefly with Fred Buran and he told me that he was frustrated with the Rendlesham story and considered a lot of what is being said today to be over-exaggerated.

What this all indicates is that the events that night involved the men pursuing strange lights in the woods that appeared to move away from them. The lights disappeared from view and they eventually stumbled on to the lighthouse light, which they also pursued for some distance before realizing what it was. While the lighthouse may not have been initially observed, it was obvious that they did not know the lighthouse was there and thought it might be the UFO. The same can be said for Halt's tape. There is little doubt that Halt's flashing light WAS the Orford Ness lighthouse and that it CAN be observed from the "landing site".

Where is this cold case review?

Nick Pope describes that he performed a cold case review but I have never seen a document that outlines what his review covered. In my opinion, Pope's "cold case review" is a catch phrase he uses to make it sound like he performed some sort of official investigation. Other than in his mind, there seems to have never been an official review of the case. The only document he has ever presented regarding this "review", is his book.

In that book, Nick Pope implied that all these statements were manufactured in order to cover-up the real story. However, he seems to overlook, ignore, or fail to understand where these statements came from. It was Colonel Halt, who collected these statements:

I took original statements from the three people that actually approached the object and did it the day afterwards and they all said the same thing when they were independently interviewed and they all said it was approximately 9 feet on a side and it was triangular.⁶

He used these statements to write his infamous memo, which is the cornerstone of this case. Does this mean Colonel Halt was part of the cover-up as well?

Just another UFOlogical legend

The Rendlesham case should have been discarded long ago as a UFO centerpiece. Unfortunately, too many people, like Nick Pope, have staked their reputation on it. Once a UFO case reaches this level, it becomes a UFOlogical legend that can not be explained no matter what evidence is presented.

Notes and references

1. Abbott, Wayne. UFOs Declassified: The lighthouse (Rendlesham) Company X. Toronto, Canada. Available WWW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2k4y8Vr6D84>
2. John Burroughs. UFO witness statement. undated. Available WWW: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/Burroughs2.PNG>
3. Edward Cabansag. UFO witness statement. undated. Available WWW: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/Cabansag.PNG>
4. Fred Buran. UFO witness statement. dated 2 January 1981. Available WWW: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/Buran1.PNG>
5. J. D. Chandler. UFO witness statement. dated 2 January 1981. Available WWW: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/Chandler1.PNG>
6. "Special live episode". Strange but true? London Weekend Television. Air date: 27 June 1997.

SPACE REPORT

The months of January and February provided several space events that produced UFO reports to MUFON and NUFORC. Many of these are associated with rocket launches but some came from unexpected sources. These sources, while man-made, were unusual events that struck awe and wonder in some observers

January 10 Falcon 9 launch from Cape Canaveral at 4:47AM EST

This rocket launch produced UFO reports on two occasions and potentially a third. The first report was made from Lake Wales/Winter Haven, Florida shortly after launch to NUFORC. The witness reported the time of the sighting as 4:55 AM and it lasted 30 seconds:

Appeared like a solid rocket booster traveling horizontally then disappeared for a minute showing up far away with a halo trailing it'

I wonder why the witness chose to compare it to a rocket launch when what they were seeing WAS a rocket launch.

Only a few hours later, the booster and its payload made a pass just before sunrise in the upper mid-west and Canada. There were four reports from that region. One report came from Elfros, SK in Canada at 7:10AM:

....I turned to east and saw a bright light in eastern sky proceeding from south to north. The light was a bright white ball with a lighter white light in the shape of a boomerang at the nose of the ball. The light proceeded at a good rate of speed, slowed down for a short period, then regained speed again. There are large trees in town so I lost sight of it after about 30 seconds. I went north down the street to see if I could continue to see the light but it was gone...The ball of light did not make a sound. The shape would be if you took a boomerang, turned it so that it was pointing north and the ball of light was behind the pointy part. The ball was bright and the boomerang part was lit but not as bright as the ball. I've seen shooting stars before and this was not that. I don't know what it was but it definitely affected me. I can't seem to get it out of my head. I wasn't nervous or scared during the sighting. I am more intrigued and would like to know what it was. I was hoping that it might turn and come back towards town but once it disappeared I never saw it again...²

Another Canadian report came from Emerson, MB at 7:02 AM:

I was facing north on hwy 75, in my semi, about 1 mile north of the Emerson MB/Pembina ND border crossing. I was pulled over and was about to get out of my truck to check the tires. I opened my door, stood on the step, I took one step down and suddenly had a strong/strange feeling to look up. I looked up, directly at a strange blue/white object with a curved halo(?). At first I thought it was a very slow moving comet, having never seen a comet before, let alone a slow moving comet, that was just what popped in my head. I stared at it for a few seconds and noticed a second object behind it (roughly 6 inches behind if I held a ruler at arms length). Both objects were traveling the exact same speed, on the exact same path. I felt kind of sick in my stomach when I realized that I didn't know what this was. I then jumped back into my truck, went into my sleeper and grabbed my phone to take a video. My phone was on when I grabbed it, I jumped back out and ran to the front passenger side of my truck and somehow in that few seconds my phone shut off! It took about a minute to turn my phone back on and to start the video camera. As I waited for my phone and camera to load, the lead object's "halo" was growing and shrinking and appeared to be swirling. Whenever it would make the swirling motion the actual object would black out. I don't mean fade out, I mean it appeared to smear out into a black cloud shape that was darker than the night/early morning sky, then it would "smear" back. My camera finally turned on and I started recording. The video is only 37 seconds long and there is only about 5 seconds of this object. If you are able to lighten the video, or somehow adjust it, you may be able to see more and in better detail. I cannot see the second, smaller, trailing object in the video. The object was very far away at this point, but was still pretty large in the sky, but not big or bright enough to get anymore video. The speed the objects were traveling was approx 1 foot in 5 seconds at a arms length ruler. I don't know if I heard any sound with the objects. I don't remember physically hearing anything, but I had a feeling like I was hearing a noise similar to rustling leaves, but that may have been adrenaline, I don't know. I continued watching the object for a few more seconds, but then I had a very strong feeling of being alone and I suddenly felt very frightened and I couldn't get back in my truck fast enough. I jumped in, feeling very panicked and scared, I locked the door, and took off...³

In the Midwestern United States, observers also saw the object. At 7:00 AM, a Sauk Centre, Minnesota observer reported:

Elongated fixed object gliding northeast without noise. Too large, low, slow, and quiet to be an airplane. It had one bright but hazy white light in front and a smaller bright white light (no haze) on the tail end. The rest of it appeared to be invisible, except for these two lights. Where the mid section would be, there was small white light that appeared to blink slow and irregular. This was at 7:00 a.m., and it was dark enough to see the stars. At first I thought I was looking at stars until I noticed it was moving. Then, I could tell that it was much much closer than any stars could be. It was much closer than an airplane would fly.⁴

An observer in Duluth, Minnesota saw the event as well:

At approximately 7:03 A.M. on the morning of 1/10/15, I went out to pick up my newspaper. In the Northern sky (North of my vantage point), I noticed a light moving from West to East. It was bluish to green in color. The strange thing was that it had 3 plumes coming out of it. One plume was directly behind it and two others were coming almost straight out the sides. It was very bright and easily noticeable.

Following behind the first were three more. They were single lights, almost as bright, but smaller and yellow colored. There were no plumes on these lights. All 4 lights were following a same flight pattern, but far enough apart that there is no way it could have been a single aircraft. The first (plumed), third and fourth lights were in a direct line. The second light was higher in altitude.⁵



Ted Molczan computed the pass of the second stage for this time period and produced a ground track that explained the sightings rather well. Apparently, the second stage booster was venting spent fuel and the sun illuminated the expanding cloud of gas/fuel. These observers did see a unique event. However, they did not see anything alien.

The third set of reports were made when the second stage rocket re-entered the earth's atmosphere over eastern Russia on January 18th around 6:48 local time. There was a spectacular video of the re-entry. I am unaware of any UFO reports being filed for the event but I only examined MUFON's and NUFORC's database.⁶



January 20 Atlas 5 launch from Cape Canaveral at 8:04 PM EST

I was on vacation in Florida for this launch and we traveled to the causeway at Port Canaveral to observe the liftoff. Like the Falcon 9 launch, it also produced UFO reports. The first came from Tampa:

I WAS IN THE CVS PARKING LOT.THE FRONT OF MY CAR FACING BRITON PLAZA. ACROSS THE STREET WAS A TACO BELL, AND A DUNKIN DONUTS. I WAS WAITING THERE FOR MY MOTHER TO GET BACK INTO THE CAR AND I NOTICE A SHOOTING STAR. IT WAS RED AND ORANGE. BUT THE STAR DID NOT SHOOT ACROSS THE SKY. IT WAS LIKE A SLOW MOTION SHOOTING STAR. LEAVING A STREAM OF ORANGE AND RED BEHIND IT. THEN THE STREAM DISAPEARED AND THE STAR-LIKE OBJECT BEGAN TO MOVE HORIZONTALLY WHAT LOOKED LIKE WAY ABOVE THE PUBLIX IN THE BRITTON PLAZA. THE STARLIKE OBJECT WAS SEVERAL FEET ABOVE AND EVEN ABOVE AN ACTUAL PLANET THEN IT DESCENDED ALMOST LIKE IT WAS ROCKING BACK AND FORTH DOWNWARDS UNTIL IT WAS BELOW IT. BY THIS TIME MY NIECE AND I WERE BOTH WATCHING IT VERY INTRIGUED. WE BOTH MADE WISHES ASSUMING IT WAS A SHOOTING STAR BUT REALIZES ITS A MUCH STRANGER THING AND THEN THE LIGHT JUST DISSAPEARED OUT OF NO WHERE. WE GOT OUT OF THE CAR AND WAITED TO SEE IF THE LIGHT WOULD APPEAR AGAIN AND TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING A PLANE BUT THE LIGHT NEVER SHOWED AGAIN.⁷

East of Tampa, in Haines City, came another report:

Object appeared to be a slow moving orange colored ball descending through cloud layer leaving a very long sparkly reflective trail of orange material. First impressions or thought was neat, followed by it looks like some sort of plasma trail. Estimate trail to be several miles long. Once object passed cloud base; typically around 3,000'; it leveled off and proceeded with straight and level flight for several minutes with a color change to brilliant white with no trail. After several minutes, object made slow 90 degree turn and flew away from my location. At one point object disappeared during level flight for about a minute, then reappeared. Object stayed visible during level flight maintaining its white color until it was so far away that it disappeared from view simply by distance and faded away. My personal opinion is this was obviously a controlled craft returning from orbit and I was lucky enough to witness the atmospheric entry phase of its flight. Its origin, or who was controlling it, is unknown. This is my first UFO sighting and found myself intrigued and fascinated by the whole experience.⁸

The observer was correct in that it was being controlled but we do know who was controlling it.

To the north, near Green Cove Springs, came another report:

Driving, just getting into GCS when to the southeast corner, what seemed right above St. Johns River, hundreds of feet above, was an orange flame that looked like a meteor because of the trail behind it, but it never moved closer, only hovered. 7 cop cars whizzed by me with blue lights and sirens within seconds of it appearing. What scared me the most is it seemed nobody else saw what I was pointing out. What scared me the most was that as soon as cops appeared, the light in the sky started to..... disappear.⁹

I find it interesting how witnesses like to associate military and other official vehicles with UFO reports. These police vehicles were probably responding to something else. I doubt they were trying to chase a rocket launch.

January 31 Delta 2 rocket launch at 6:22 AM PST from Vandenberg

NUFORC and MUFON did not have any UFO reports. Does this mean that California observers are more critical and aware of the rocket launches? It appears that weather was a factor in preventing UFO reports as many nearby locations were cloudy. Videos of the launch showed the rocket enter into a cloud back shortly after launch indicating it was not widely observed.

February 11 Falcon 9 launch from Cape Canaveral at 6:03PM.

This launch was interesting because the payload required a northeast trajectory that paralleled the Eastern seaboard. The rocket's path made it possible for observers in some eastern states outside Florida to see some of the staging events. One came from Quinby, Virginia:

It was just getting dark as I got in my truck while parked on the edge of a field. I was facing east and over the woods to my right I noticed a really bright ball of white light moving slowly to my left. At first I was thinking it was an airplane but the bright light would have been pointed in the direction that it was moving, it was pointed in the opposite direction, behind it... with beams of light coming from the ball of light looking like spokes of a wheel. It was so quiet out there in that farm field... there was absolutely no sound coming from it, nothing... I then hopped out of the truck to take video of it and realized my cell phone was in the truck charging so I ran back and grabbed it, turned on the phone and tried to start the video and noticed it was getting dimmer and seemed to get lower, then I lost sight of it completely as I pressed the start button ... like it disappeared into some low clouds. Airplanes make noise and comets move fast and! leave a tail of fire behind them, this was neither. It truly was the strangest thing I have ever witnessed in my 45 years of life.¹⁰

The time of the report and direction of flight indicate he was observing the second stage burn, which was over five minutes long and quite spectacular for those wanting to observe it. Another report came from Portsmouth, Virginia. It was very brief and described the object as *a bright light with a tail* and appearing like a comet.¹¹ This event was a good example of how rocket launches, under the right conditions, can be seen from great distances.

February 23 CZ-4B rocket body re-entry

A brilliant re-entry display occurred over the western United States and Canada on the night of February 23rd. The trajectory was a south to north track that happened between 05:52 and 05:58 UTC (10:52-10:58 MST/9:52-9:58 PST). This event produced many reports to the American Meteor Society and quite a few to MUFON. MUFON's reports were interesting in how witnesses reported the event. As expected there were a few that perceived the re-entry as a craft with lights instead of individual fragments.

Nampa, Idaho - *I saw a large bar-shaped object hovering in the sky. It had defined edges and star-like lights placed in equi-distant intervals along the length.*¹²

Wenatchee, WA - *we saw something moving slowly in the sky that looked like a long red cylinder shaped object that was moving towards us.*¹³

Wickenburg, Az - *This was not a airplane or a blimp, as far as i know there are no aircraft that we possess that are over 200 yards long and can fly with no noise. we watched it travel across our line of sight, it was a clear night with only minimal cloud cover to our west with a setting moon that shone light on the object. It was solid black, a large burning light on the front and a smaller glowing light at the rear.*¹⁴

These are all examples of the "airship" and "excitedness" effects noted by Dr. William Hartmann in regards to the Zond IV event. The witnesses did see something but they were very wrong in the conclusions they drew. The DID NOT know what they saw.

February 25 White Sands Missile launch

On the morning of February 25th, White Sands launched a missile that released a scientific payload into the upper atmosphere. The resultant release of vapor created an interesting pink display in the morning sky. It was visible from Chihuahua, Mexico, where a report describing the display was filed with MUFON.

*The object looked like a round cloud, no sound just a ball of white gas with inner light pink slowly shifting to red and violet over and over, around 5:30 AM it never moved, this cloud vanished with the sunrise and it was seen for many people and even it's already on the local news.*¹⁵

I wonder if MUFON will identify this one?

Space activity and UFO reports

It is not unusual for space activities to create UFO reports. Venting boosters in orbit, re-entries of debris, and launches can be appear strange to those not familiar with them. UFO databases need to take note of these kinds of reports and label them as IFOs.

Notes and references

1. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/116/S116608.html>

2. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=62542&rnd=
3. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=62540&rnd=
4. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/116/S116604.html>
5. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/116/S116707.html>
6. Molczan, Ted. "Re-entry of 15001D / 40373 seen from Russia". Seesat archive. 18 January 2015. Available WWW: <http://satobs.org/seesat/Jan-2015/0122.html>
7. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=62770&rnd=
8. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/116/S116855.html>
9. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/116/S116860.html>
10. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/117/S117266.html>
11. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/117/S117301.html>
12. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=63544&rnd=
13. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=63547&rnd=
14. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=63545&rnd=
15. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) case management system. Available WWW: http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/report_handler.pl?req=view_long_desc&id=63575&rnd=

Outlining some imagery enhancement principles and introducing the spatial domain - I

by Geoff Quick

First a word of clarification . The word “spatial” is often used, in some publications, to refer to imagery taken from space, typically from an earth observation satellite. This is not what will be discussed here.

In an earlier essay, I outlined the radiometric domain of an image, usually, in a digital form, quantified as the gray levels (plus color levels in a color image) of the individual pixels (from picture elements) .

We'll now move on to look at some basic radiometric enhancement concepts and begin also considering information contained within the pixel matrix of rows and columns (typically “x” and “y” axes) whilst examining some of the terminology and processes involved in their analysis and interpretation.

Firstly, let us recap on the diagrammatic illustration of a digital display at the end of the “Radiometric Domain” essay.

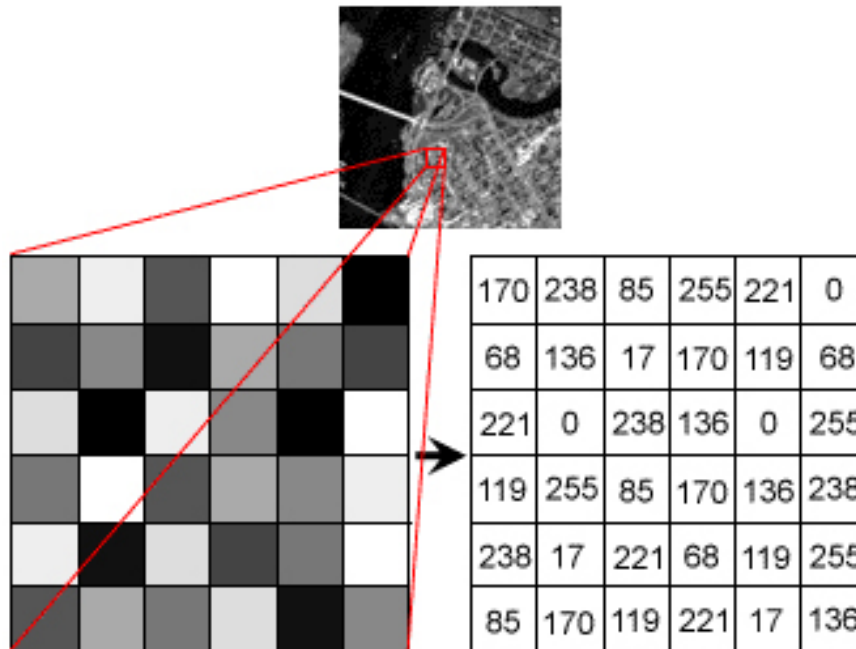


Fig.1 Schematic digital array.

The array can be seen to be arranged as a matrix of pixels (often referred to as a raster display) each with its own digital number (DN), more commonly known as its radiometric, radiance, “brightness” or gray scale value, which is the figure in each square (i.e. pixel) represented in the diagram . The pixel positions within the matrix are identified by their coordinates in the “x” (column) and “y”(row) values, the imagery convention being (x, y).

The coordinates number from the top left of the image, the first being (1,1) the next to the right (2,1) and so on. N.B. Confusingly some graphics conventions start at (0,0,)

The third (z) axis in the digital imagery construct is the brightness value which is usually expressed in quantification of bits e.g. 8-bit (256 values) ,however, in this axis the values would be normally expressed as 0-255.

Physical Elements of the Digital Image.

With most hand-held cameras an array of small sensors is situated in the “image plane”, which is where the film would be exposed in an analog camera. However, some observation satellite and other families of imaging sensors do use somewhat different systems which are separate cases for interpretation, not covered here.

This array of sensors, called a Charge Coupled Device or CCD, contains a great number of tiny semiconductors, each equating to a pixel in the output image. The size of the array is often expressed in Megapixels (MP or millions of pixels). An 8MP digital camera can, theoretically at least, capture twice as much information as a 4MP camera with an otherwise similar imaging system. When this figure is multiplied by the number of gray levels, digital images often result in very large files, the number of bytes being usually represented in increments of 210 (1,024) or more:

1 Kilobyte (KB) = 1,024 bytes

1 Megabyte (MB) = 1,024 KB

1 Gigabyte (GB) = 1,024 MB

1 Terabyte (TB) = 1,024 GB

With the increasing capability of computers to handle such ever growing file sizes, it is now possible to perform quite sophisticated imagery calculations on a PC, which even a large mainframe computer would have struggled with a few years ago.

As an aside, it should be noted that a CCD which is physically bigger can have bigger semiconductors, which in turn can potentially gather up many more photons and give a better quality pixel result. An analogy of this in analog silver film imaging is the good quality of some very old images, obtained when both lens and film technology was less sophisticated. The reason for the quality was simply the large size of the photographic plates, and later the film formats. Strategic aerial reconnaissance cameras used the same concept for obtaining high quality imagery of distant targets, often by using film formats of 9 or even 18 inches – or more, with appropriate lens systems.

Each semiconductor in creating its pixel gathers up photons from a minute square section of the scene viewed through the lens and converts it into a tiny electric charge proportional to the incoming energy hitting it during the brief period of exposure. All of these charges are then, extremely rapidly, stripped off of the CCD row by row, in a manner often likened to a line of men operating a fire bucket brigade, and dumped into a file in the storage medium (typically a chip), usually along with additional metadata (i.e. data describing data) that are supplied by the camera.

Typically both the fineness of the spatial data (N.B. MP) and the radiometric resolution of the pixels far exceed the limitations of the human visual system. In other words there is far more information contained within the digital image than can be directly perceived by the observer. For example, very approximately, the human eye has angular spatial resolution characteristics which enables detection of objects subtending around one minute (i.e. 1/60 deg) of arc. In simple physiological terms one degree of a scene is projected across 288µm of the retina by the eye's lens and the number of tiny sensors (rods and cones) contained within this value defines a physical constraint along with measured responses. Radiometrically, only around 50 brightness levels can be differentiated. There are variations due to different contrast/illumination and duration parameters but the basic rules apply fairly well in empirical considerations of both radiometric and spatial domains.

It should be noted that the number of output display pixels from a CCD device is usually much greater than the number of pixels (screen pixels) on a computer screen, each screen pixel typically being an average value of several display pixels covering its position in the screen matrix. Incidentally, this process is typically reversed by the computer when a part of the original output image is enlarged on the screen. Enlarging beyond the point where the original output pixels just become discernable on the screen, however, is generally a wasted exercise in direct visual interpretation.

To enable aspects of this information contained within a digital image to be made visually perceptible to the observer there are various processes that are applied to make this information more apparent. We will start by considering how the data in the radiometric domain may be made more apparent or "enhanced".

Density Slicing and Contrast Enhancement

In Fig.1 above we saw how an individual pixel is identified by its unique "x","y" and "z" coordinates in an image. If we now imagine these pixels hypothetically as just being like a collection of marbles in a bag with their gray levels written on them, we could collect them all up and in the case of a 0-255 gray level spread count them into discrete groups, identified by their gray level values. These would come out with a distribution of gray level values from 0 to 255. We can represent these in a number of ways, one of which is commonly used is a distribution histogram.

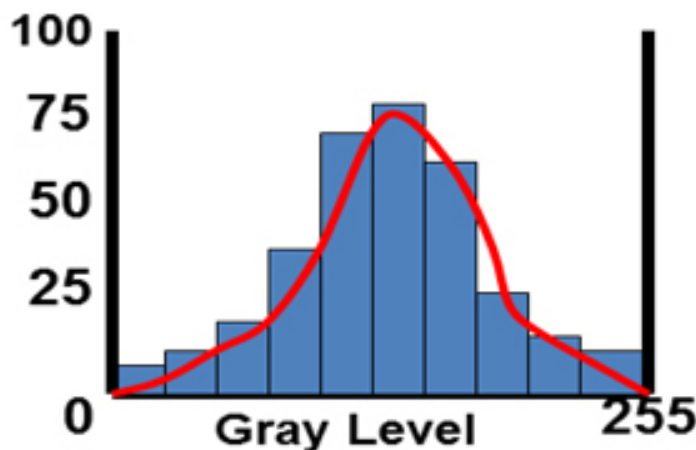


Fig 2.Example of a Distribution Histogram.

In this diagram the pixel gray levels can be seen to be distributed in a pattern with most pixels in the middle of the gray levels (“mid gray”) dropping away to fewer pixels to the left (towards zero or “black”) and similarly to the right towards saturated or “white). The red line is a curve drawn through the histogram levels and is referred to as a distribution curve.

So if the overall curve is displaced to the left you have a dark image and if to the right a light image. In addition, if a large number of pixels have a similar gray level the distribution will be a bit like the Empire State Building in profile. With the pixels bunched so close together in brightness level the human visual system, with its limitation of only being able to discern around 50 Brightness levels, will not be able to discern many levels of gray which are contained within the image.

This practical example will perhaps illustrate the point:

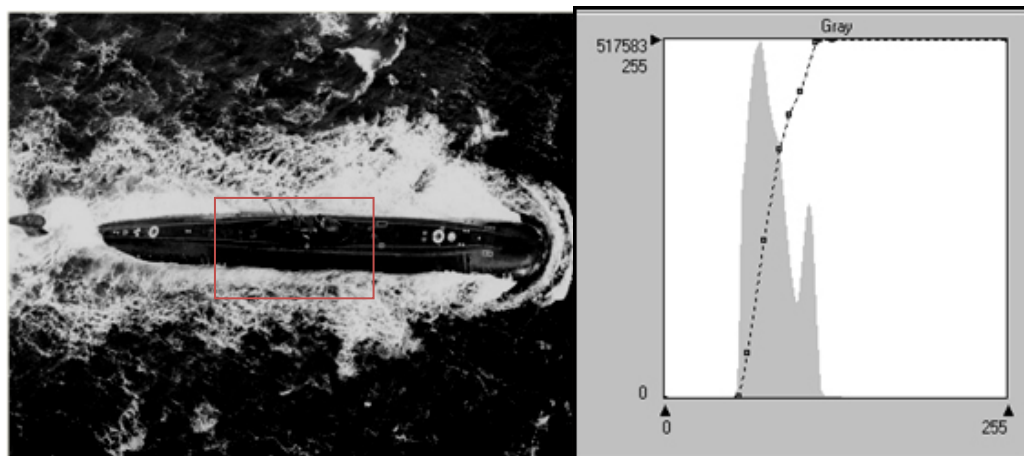


Fig 3. Digital Image of a Submarine and Histogram of Conning Tower Area. .

It can be seen that there is a bunching of the pixel values around about the 80 – 100 gray level range (the dotted curve is just a cumulative representation of the same data). It can also be seen that it is not easy to pick out detail on the hull around the conning tower as the eye cannot readily detect the differing gray levels in such an electronic “soft copy” screen display, or “tonal” values in a “hard copy” image version such as a print.

However if we now take a slice of the distribution histogram in the area of the peak of gray values (density slicing) and pull it out across the “x” axis, (the yellow colored histogram values below) we keep the relative values of gray level intact but open them up across the distribution histogram, increasing the separation levels between them to a point at which the human eye can now differentiate. The image has been contrast enhanced.

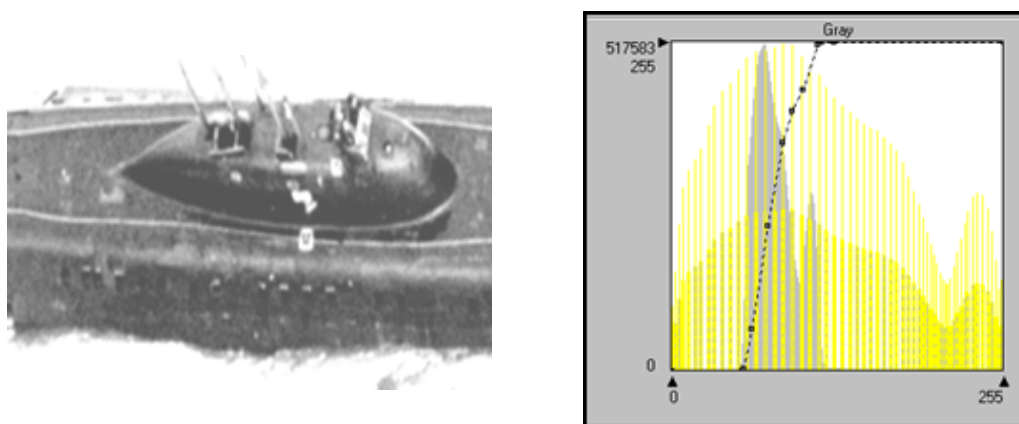


Fig 4. Enhanced Submarine Image and Matching Histogram.

N.B. No **additional** information has been added to the image. The information already held within the image has merely been re-displayed to aid the observer in visualization. This is the essence of Imagery Enhancement, including all of the routines developed and implemented in IPACO.

As well as the radiometric (z) domain, imagery enhancement routines are also employed to display less clear data in the spatial (x, y,) domain (i.e across the image in any and all directions). To understand the basis of these routines it is helpful to first of all understand the concept of spatial frequency.

Spatial Frequency

When considering the term “frequency”, the first idea that comes to mind is of some repeating variable with time, such as for a example 50hz electricity mains frequency, or a “high frequency train service”.

With imagery we use the concept of spatial frequency to refer to how the brightness values in pixels change as we scan across the image. So in simple terms we are looking at changes in radiometry (or gray level) compared to units of measurement across the image.

In this image of pebbles on a beach, note how the rapid changes in gray level across the scene give it a rough “texture”. A scan across a row or column of the image pixels would give a result somewhat similar to the diagram on the right.

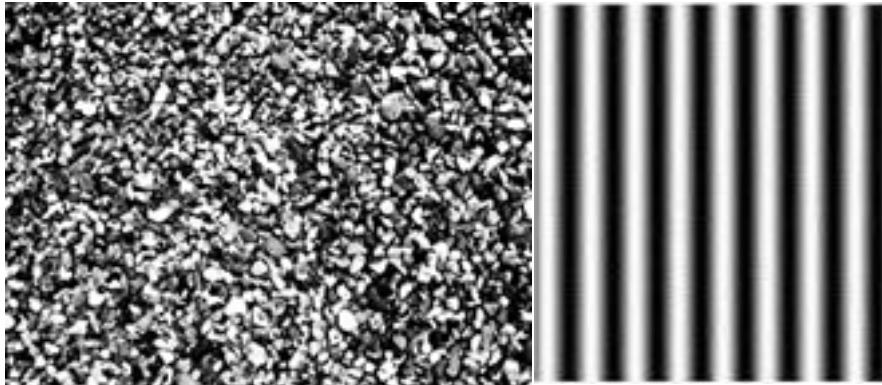


Fig.5 High Spatial Frequency Dominant Image.

In comparison, the image of clouds below shows predominantly gradual changes in gray level across the scene, giving it a “smooth” texture. With a scan along a row or column of pixels in this case giving a result somewhat similar to the diagram on the right.

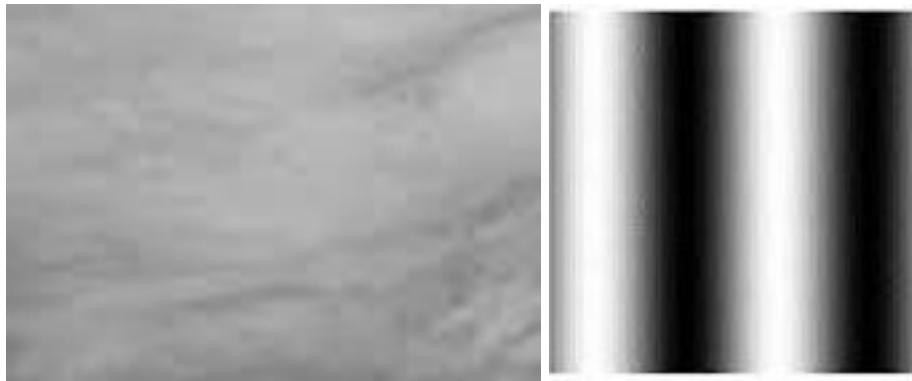


Fig.6 Low Spatial Frequency Dominant Image.

In practice, images comprise a large and complex mixture of high and low spatial frequency components and the data within these components can be extracted and analyzed by tools working in the spatial frequency domain.

The basic theory and use of these tools in imagery enhancement will be outlined in part II of this article.

THE ARIZONA UFO CONTROVERSY

Recent postings about the March 13, 1997 Arizona UFO event on Facebook's UFO updates group and above top secret forums had me interested in examining the claims made by Dr. Lynne Kitei and those defending her position. Dr. Kitei has dismissed all the theories regarding the Arizona UFOs that appear to explain the event, has written a book, and helped produce a movie about the subject. I want to address some of these arguments here in SUNlite.

Trying to misrepresent the skeptical arguments

Dr. Kitei, and her supporters, want everyone to believe that skeptics state the 8 PM event was produced by flares dropped over the Barry Goldwater range. I have never seen an informed skeptic make that claim and those that have, alter their viewpoints once they become aware of all the facts. My articles in SUNlite and elsewhere have made it clear that the flares only explained the 10PM event. The promoters of the Arizona UFO event, who continue to misrepresent the skeptic's position are guilty of either being ignorant of that position or deliberately misleading people in order to make skeptics appear to be uninformed.

I know what I saw

This is the last refuge of the UFO investigator, or UFO witness, who is not willing to admit they might have been mistaken. Nobody wants to be wrong but, when the evidence points towards a probable explanation, witnesses and investigators have to recognize they could have erred in their perception of the event. What Dr. Kitei, who is a UFO promoter, does not want to tell everyone is that she has been fooled by two different flare exercises. She gave her videos to Dr. Bruce Maccabee back in 1998 for analysis. Through triangulation, he determined that all the videos, including hers, were of lights hovering over the Barry Goldwater range at the same time the Maryland and Michigan National Guards had been conducting exercises involving dropping of illumination flares.¹ Unless Dr. Maccabee can be proven to be wrong, then Dr. Kitei is wrong and knows that she was wrong. Still, she promotes her images as "true UFOs".

Because Dr. Kitei apparently did not like the results of this analysis, she asked Dr. Maccabee to see if her March 13, 1997 videos showed lights in front of the Estrella mountains and not behind them.² He was unable to determine one way or the other because the lights were on, or slightly below, the ridge line when they disappeared. Dr. Maccabee did mention that there was a potential for error in his alignments, which might lead to the lights being slightly below the ridge before they disappeared. Considering the very close proximity of the lights to the ridge line and the triangulation results, it seems very probable that the lights were disappearing behind the ridge line just like all the other videos taken that night. Her continued promotion of these images/videos demonstrates she is ignoring any scientific evaluation of the evidence.

No planes were airborne on the night of March 13, 1997

There is a video of a television newscast from 2013 has been presented as proof that there were no aircraft airborne over Phoenix that night.³ What is not mentioned in that broadcast was that the document presented has been available for all to read since 1997, when John Greenewald published this letter.⁴ Instead of stating that no aircraft were airborne that night, as presented in the newscast, It actually states that aircraft from Luke AFB were not involved in the "Phoenix lights" event. This document does not mention activity by aircraft from other bases like the Maryland Air National Guard flying out of Davis-Monthan AFB in Tuscon and any aircraft en route from Las Vegas, Nevada to Tuscon. Using this document as evidence that aircraft were not involved in any way that night is a flawed argument.

A formation of aircraft would have been heard

This is a comment I saw/received recently about the explanation for the 8PM event. It is not a bad argument but it ignores some things. The noise level for a formation of aircraft would change with distance. At a minimum distance of 19,000 feet (over 3 miles), the noise from aircraft in cruise mode would not be that significant. Having spent time in remote areas with my telescope and seeing aircraft overflowing my position, I am quite aware of the amount of noise most aircraft produce. Sound travels at roughly 1100 feet/second depending on temperature and altitude, which means the noise from planes at an altitude of roughly 20,000 feet, would not be heard until 18 seconds later. The amount of noise generated by these aircraft up close would be pretty noisy but the amount of noise drops off at an inverse square of the distance. Only those in remote areas, where outside noises were very low might be able to hear the passage of the aircraft. Additionally, the 18-20 second time delay would result in some confusion between the observer and the lights. When the lights were overhead, they might not hear anything. Only after their close passage might the noise of the aircraft be heard. It can be very confusing. I have heard distant aircraft at night before but could not identify where the aircraft was. In the Arizona UFO event, the witnesses may or may not have been able to hear the aircraft simply because they were too distant, the background noise was too high, or they weren't listening for the noise.

Jim Dilletosso resurrected

In her movie production, Dr. Kitei presents Jim Dilletosso as an expert to prove that the videos do not show flares.⁵ This is a apparent rebuttal of Maccabee's triangulation results, which are strangely never mentioned. The analyses by Cognitech and Dr. Bruce Macca-

bee agree the lights were behind the hills and were consistent with flares. Using a flawed analysis in her movie demonstrates that Dr. Kitei was never interested in scientifically analyzing the data. She only wanted to promote her beliefs no matter how inaccurate they area.

Explanation not falsified

I wrote in SUNlite 2-3:

*In my thirteen years of following this case, I have come to the conclusion that UFO proponents and witnesses will never accept the possibility that the 8 PM event was, or could be caused by, a formation of aircraft. If I had all the records, including radar data, pilot names, and tail numbers for the aircraft, it still would not be good enough because they are convinced that it was something exotic.*⁶

This opinion still stands today. The proponents of this case have yet to provide one bit of solid evidence to show that it was impossible the event was produced by aircraft in formation. The arguments against the explanation usually go to the eyewitness reports. Unfortunately, a significant number of witnesses did not observe an actual spaceship that night and only saw a formation of lights. These reports are ignored in favor of the more spectacular reports that have been widely published. While I can not present positive identification of the aircraft with documentation that can be examined, there is enough circumstantial evidence to suggest that the source of the event was a formation of aircraft.

Notes and references

1. Maccabee, Bruce. "Report on Phoenix light arrays". Dr. Bruce Maccabee research website. Available WWW: <http://brumac.8k.com/phoenixlights1.html>
2. Maccabee, Bruce. "Reanalysis of March 13, 1997 video by Dr. Lynne Kitei". Dr. Bruce Maccabee research website. January 2012. Available WWW: <http://brumac.8k.com/PhoenixSupplement/REANALYSISOFHELKVID.htm>
3. Argos, Greg. "'Phoenix Lights' UFO theories still swirl 16 years after sightings". CBS5AZ KPHO News. Phoenix, Arizona. Available WWW: <http://www.kpho.com/story/21620004/phoenix-lights-ufo-theories-still-swirl-16-years-after-sightings>
4. Greenewald, John. "1 May 1997 letter from Nel Flagler, USAF". The Black Vault. Available WWW: <http://www.theblackvault.com/documents/ufos/ufophoenix.pdf>
5. Kitei, Lynne. The Phoenix Lights - We are not alone. Health Education learning programs and Steve Lantz productions. 2008. Available WWW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWCMPyLSISo>
6. Printy, Tim. "The case of the Arizona UFOs thirteen years later". SUNlite 2-3. May-June 2010. P. 14. Available WWW: http://www.astronomyufo.com/UFO/SUNlite2_3.pdf

December 12, 1957 - Tokyo Japan

The UFO Evidence describes this sighting as:

December 12, 1957--Tokyo, Japan. Radar-visual sighting of vari-colored UFO, jets scrambled. [VIII] G,V¹

Section VII states:

GCI radar tracked UFO seen by ground observers as vari-colored object, jets scrambled.²

Their source for this sighting is the January 1958 APRO bulletin, which provides the details:

12 December, 1957, Tokyo, Japan. At 7:30 p. m., 1/Lt. F. R. Dunn of the 15th Tactical Reconnaissance squadron was flying his RF-84-F aircraft to an undesignated station from the Tokyo Central Control Area via air routes RED 27, RED 19, RED 17, RED 15, AMBER 7. As Lt. Dunn was in flight, GCI (Ground Controlled Intercept) notified him that an unidentified object had been and still was flying parallel to his left wing. He was requested by GCI to watch the area to his left and report if he sighted the object. He replied that he saw nothing. GCI stated that they had had the object in radar contact since Dunn departed Tokyo and apparently GCI had received a report or reports from ground observers as GCI asked him to watch for different colored lights if he sighted it. The Lt. never did establish visual contact. Shortly, Air Defense ordered two F-86-Ds into the air to intercept the unknown. The interceptors returned, one on emergency with a bad control mechanism. Our informant indicates that this might be just a coincidence, or perhaps the fighter actually did intercept and engage the object. At any rate, further information was not available.³

While this is interesting, it appears mostly second hand. It turns out that Blue Book had a file on this case and it was far more informative than the APRO bulletin.

Blue Book sheds light and reveals an old friend

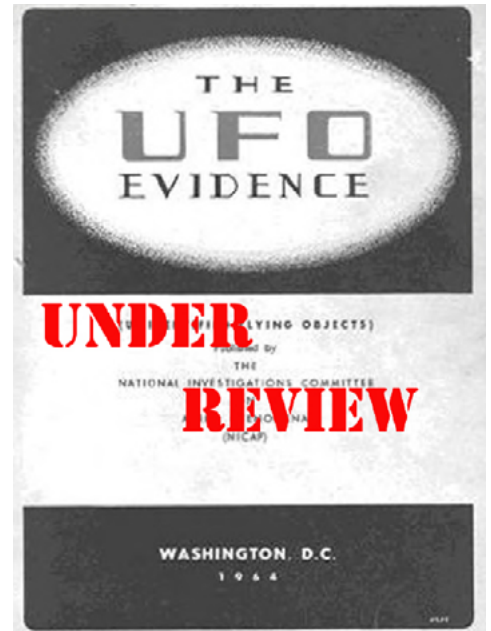
The APRO bulletin article appears to be a garbled version of what actually transpired between December 12-15, 1957 at Chitose AFB almost 500 miles away from the location given in The UFO Evidence. Two F-86s were scrambled from Misawa AFB but they failed to reach the radar target. They did see a bright object in the direction of the radar contact but never reached it.⁴ They thought it was a bright star.⁵ Additionally, an RF-84-F on a training flight was asked to look for the UFO. They did not see anything and had to land at Misawa after running low on fuel.⁶ If this is not the same event, it is an extremely odd coincidence.

There is more to the story than what is described in The UFO evidence. The Blue Book files reveal that the incident began when ground observers noticed a bright light in the southwest. Radar operators then looked for a target and found one. This prompted the intercept by the two F-86s.

Upon further review by Blue Book, it was determined that what the ground observers actually saw was the planet Venus. There is even a hand written note on the message traffic signed by Dr. Hynek stating:

Definitely Venus with an attempt to correlate with radar.⁷

It was visible in the southwest that evening and set around the time the observers lost sight of the UFO (See stellarium image below for 0950Z). It is very probable that the radar was caused by anomalous propagation conditions because, despite approaching the radar contact, the pilots saw nothing but, what they described as, a bright star.



There seems to be no reason to reject the Venus explanation provided by Blue Book. This also demonstrates the problems with many of the events listed in The UFO Evidence. Second hand stories can contain mistakes that give the impression that something exotic was seen. As the history of UFO reports has shown us, such stories do not often reflect what actually transpired.

Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 137.
2. *ibid.* P. 80.
3. APRO bulletin. Alamogordo, New Mexico. January 1958. Available WWW: http://www.openminds.tv/pdf/apro/apro_jan_1958.pdf P. 3
4. "Message from the Commander of the 848 ACWRON". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6970414/>
5. "Message from the Commander of the 848 ACWRON". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6970236/>
6. "Intercept action record 12 December 1957". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6970397/>
7. "Message from the Commander of the 848 ACWRON". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6970225/>

701 CLUB: CASE 1227/1305 - MAY 25 AND JUNE 18, 1952

The reader may ask why I have two cases this time. It is because these cases involved the same witnesses, which makes one wonder if they were just lucky to have observed two unknowns or were they just prone to making UFO reports.

Meet the Hoffmans

The witnesses to these two 1952 Blue Book Unknowns were actually involved in three UFO sightings that year. The first was determined to be "insufficient information" even though the witness did provide a lengthy description of their sighting.¹ The primary witness was Mr. John Hoffman of Birmingham, Michigan. He was the principle witnesses in these sightings.

Mr. Hoffman seemed to be a rather emotional individual, who had a very strong opinion about the UFO subject. In a letter, dated May 14, 1952, Mr. Hoffman told Blue Book:

I have been a faithful believer and follower of flying saucer incidents as far back as 1948 and was of the opinion that they were a project of the U.S. Government, but after my recent experience which I am going to outline in detail, it has changed my belief entirely.

Coincidentally, I happened to read the April 7th issue of Life Magazine which precedes my experience by a couple of weeks, explaining my actions, as you will note.²

At the end of this letter describing his April 27th sighting, he would add:

....I firmly believe that this saucer was making a reconnaissance tour over the area and if my report had been handled effeciently, we would be more intelligent position to know more clearly their intentions.

I further feel, with due respect to the Army, that "someone was sleeping at the switch", or it is being kept "hush, hush", that the public reaction would be mass hysteria (sic) when the unknown definitely attempts to make contact with us (as has been proven in the past). Experience has taught us that education toward events to come adjust the human mind to accept the phenomenons and cope with them.³

This is how Mr. Hoffman portrayed himself in 1952. He had come to the conclusion that UFOs were "craft" of some kind flown by some unknown individuals that were not part of the US government. He relies heavily on his readings about the UFO subject, which included the Life Magazine article from April 7, 1952. In that article, two scientists, Dr. Walther Riedel and Dr. Maurice A. Biot, voiced their opinions that UFOs were from outer space. If he was a follower of the subject, as he claimed, then Mr. Hoffman probably read Donald Keyhoe's book "Flying Saucers are real" as well. That book also concluded that flying saucers were alien spaceships.

Personal belief can play a role in how an individual can interpret, and remember, events that they had witnessed. In my opinion, this was a critical factor in his reports to Blue Book.

April 27, 1952

On April 27, 1952, at 10:45PM, Mr Hoffman and his family were in the car near Royal Oak, Michigan. They had just turned to the west on "15 mile road", when his wife noticed a UFO come from the northeast. It then stopped in a position that they could observe as they drove west. According to the witness, it was two miles north of them and about 3000 feet high. He also estimated the "ship" was 200 feet across:

It appeared to have two tiers of windows each about ten feet high which resembled looking into the playing section of a mouth organ. The windows were all around the entire diameter making visible the round flatness.⁴

The "ship" (as he described it) then "got its bearings" and drifted northwest at a speed of 100mph. John Hoffman drove west along 15 mile road following the UFO as it continued its trek. He stopped at a local drive-in and convinced two young men to come out and watch his UFO. Mr. Hoffman then called the Birmingham police and told them to alert all the airfields in the area. He then got back in the car and drove further west on 15 mile road in pursuit of the UFO, which seemed to always be northwest of his position and, despite traveling at 100 mph, did not outdistance the car driven by Hoffman even when he stopped his vehicle for minutes at a time. The UFO then blinked its lights three times. On the last blinking the lights went from bright white to yellowish-orange. At this point, Hoffman stopped his car again, to call the Detroit newspaper.

Disturbed that nobody seemed interested in his sighting, John Hoffman called the Birmingham police again, who seemed reluctant to do anything about his report. Upset by the inaction, he called Selfridge AFB himself and got the runaround. I supposed he did not realize it was late on Sunday night and there would not be a lot of individuals at the base, which explains why he had a hard time getting a hold of somebody in charge. Eventually, he got a hold of an individual, who he described as "an officer". The officer told him he would report it, which, again, disappointed Mr. Hoffman, who seemed to want prompt action and fighter jets sent up to examine the UFO. According to USAF records, this phone call occurred at 1106PM and Mr. Hoffman had actually spoken to an airman second class (a low enlisted rank). Apparently, nobody else was available to answer his request and report it.⁵

While he was busy talking to the USAF on the phone, Mrs. Hoffman got the gas station attendant and a truck driver to observe the UFO. Satisfied that others had seen their UFO, the Hoffman's got in the car and, once again, drove west on 15 mile road in pursuit. Hoffman reports that the UFO disappeared over the tree tops in the direction of Flint, Michigan at 1115PM EST.

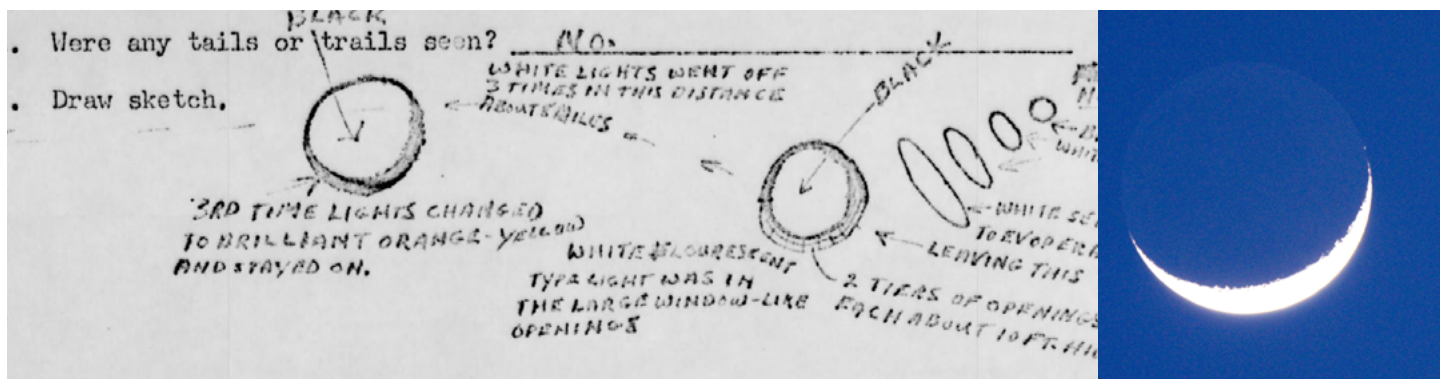
Probable explanation for April 27, 1952 sighting

The key to this sighting appears to be the direction of UFO being northwest of his position and disappearing in that direction behind the trees at 1115PM EST. Was there anything that matches that description? Well, for starters we have the moon, which was a few days old and located between azimuth 301-305 degrees (northwest is 315 degrees azimuth) between 2245 and 2315 PM EST. It set at 2336PM EST (see Stellarium image below for 1115 PM EST). One wonders why they did not notice the moon that night, which was very close to where the UFO was supposed to be.



Hoffman wrote that the southern half of the sky was cloudy, which hid the moon from view. However, he was wrong that it was to the south. It was in the direction he was looking. Weather observations for Detroit on that night were "clear" until 11PM when they reported "smoke" until noon on the 28th.⁶ If there was a haze/smoky condition on that evening, it probably would give the moon an interesting appearance and cause it to be come distorted.

His sketch of the UFO bears a resemblance to a photograph of the crescent moon showing the same phase.⁷



It appears that Mr. Hoffman and his family were probably observing the setting moon. The first part of the sighting, where the UFO came from the northeast may have been a meteor that drew their attention to the moon or may have been due to the motion of the car as they turned from going north to west at the intersection. In any case, there seems to be good reason to suspect this sighting was caused by the young crescent moon.

May 25, 1952

The next UFO report filed by the Hoffmans was slightly less than one month later on May 25, 1952. Don Berliner describes the sighting as follows:

May 25, 1952; Walnut Lake, Michigan. 9:15 p.m. Witnesses: seven persons, including John Hoffman, his family and friends. One large white circular object having dark sections on its rim, flew straight and level for 30 minutes, appearing red when behind a cloud.⁸

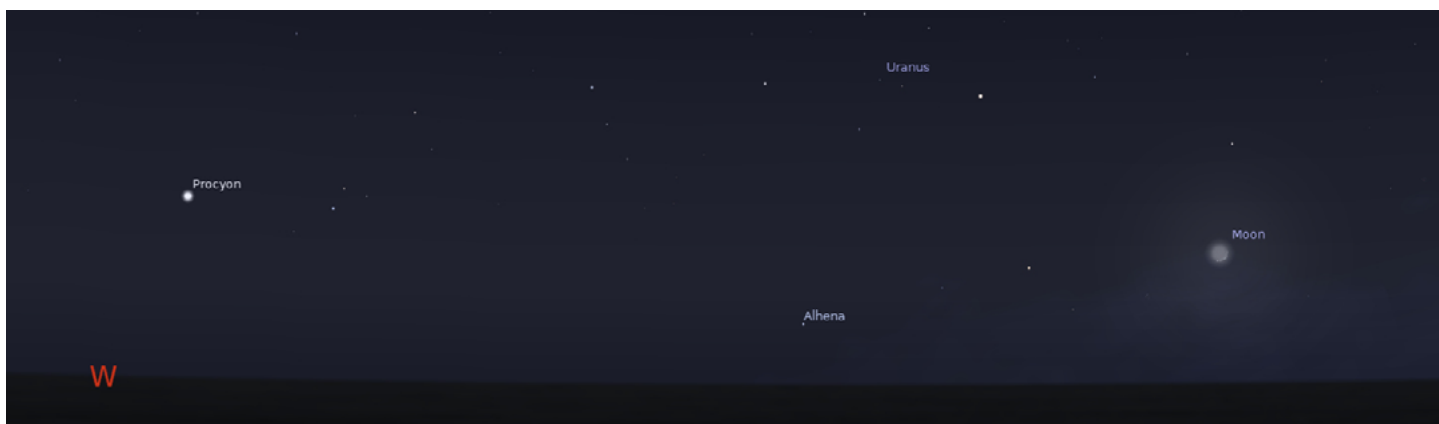
Berliner's summary does not do the sighting justice. Mr. Hoffman reported that they initially thought it was the moon but then noticed it moving slowly west. In his report, he described the object as larger than the moon, white to yellow orange in color, noiseless, with no trail of any kind following it.⁹ John Hoffman estimated it to be 200 feet in diameter and 20 feet thick. It seemed to have light and darker areas on its periphery, suggesting windows. These were described as looking like "the side of an accordion." the weather in the area was described as hazy, with stars dimly visible.

Like the April 27th event, the Hoffman's got in their car and hoped to pursue the UFO. When they had first observed the UFO, the Hoffman's had thought it was drifting westward. Now, as they drove, they noticed that the UFO was drifting northward. Twenty minutes after the initial sighting, it was getting lower and was going to pass behind a cloud. The Hoffmans had concluded that if

they were chasing the moon, it would disappear behind the cloud. When it went behind the cloud, they noticed a red glow emanating from the cloud. After it came out of the cloud it was observed for ten more minutes as it approached the horizon. At this point, the Hoffman's apparently got onto to US-24 and continued the pursuit. At one point, Mr. Hoffman tried to take photographs of his UFO but they did not turn out because he did not take time exposures. The sighting ended around 2145 on the 25th when the UFO was lost as they drove through the Pine Lake area.

Probable explanation for May 25, 1952 sighting

Once again, the key to this sighting is the direction in which the UFO disappeared. The witness reported that the UFO was moving west and north. Once again, the moon was visible in the sky around an azimuth of 305 degrees and it moved in a north and west motion as it set. It was visible low on the horizon until it set at 1018PM EST (see Stellarium image below for time 2145 EST). If it wasn't the moon, the witnesses should have seen both and never suspected the UFO was the moon. This implies that, in all likelihood, the UFO was the moon.



June 18, 1952

Don Berliner summarizes this sighting as:

June 18, 1952; Walnut Lake, Michigan. 10 p.m. Witnesses: Marron Hoffman and four relatives, using 4x binoculars. One orange light was observed zigzagging and then hovering for an unspecified length of time.¹⁰

The primary witness, Marron Hoffman, was the brother of John Hoffman, who was also present and provided the 4X binoculars. According to the report, John came out and watched the light in the western sky zig-zagging and remaining motionless. He went inside and reported the sighting to Selfridge AFB. When he came back out, he could not see the UFO anymore. Then he noticed it again in the west but it was now a white color. It shot straight up and disappeared. However, it reappeared again about 45 degrees above the western horizon. It slowly drifted towards the northwest and then disappeared. The object showed no shape and was the size of a star.¹¹

Probable explanation for June 18, 1952 sighting

Of the three UFO sightings, this is one of the more puzzling and is hard to evaluate. There is a lot of information missing. However, it is possible that what they were observing were stars and planets (see Stellarium image bottom left for 10PM). The planet Mars was a bright orange object (mag -0.8) in the south-southwest around elevation 30 degrees. It drifted towards the southwest during the 45 minute observation. To the west of Mars were Saturn and the star Spica. The bright star Arcturus was in the western sky around 60 degrees elevation. Finally, the first magnitude star Regulus was visible in the west and set before midnight. At the



time of the sighting its elevation changed from 17 to 10 degrees. All of these might have been what he reported seeing. The auto-kinetic effect and unsteady hands using the binoculars could have produced some of the violent maneuvers being reported. Keys to this sighting are the description of the size and how the final object appeared to slowly drift towards the west. That appears to point towards Regulus as the final observation. The "disappearance" could have been Regulus getting too low and disappearing behind trees and ground objects.

The only descriptions that appears to rule out stars are the sudden disappearances and that, at one point, the light shot upward. It is hard to say what the objects were without more substantial information that is provided in the report. However, I would classify this one as "possible stars" and not "unknown".

One might also classify this as insufficient information.

The sightings of Hoffman

In evaluating these sightings, one has to consider the witness. In my opinion, Mr. John Hoffman's openly expressed belief that UFOs were unknown craft of some kind indicated he was going to bias his reports in that manner. He might exaggerate perceived motion and details to the point the actual source would be unidentifiable. The fact that he confused the moon for a flying saucer in two of the three sightings makes one question the accuracy of the third sighting. After his third sighting, Mr. Hoffman saw no more flying saucers that he reported. It is possible that Hoffman simply gave up reporting these sightings because nobody was taking him seriously. I would classify the May 25 and April 27 sightings as the moon and the June 18th sighting as probable stars and planets. There is no reason to suspect these sightings really were of anything that was truly exotic and unknown to science.

Notes and references

1. "Project Blue Book Record Card. 27 April 1952." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313898/>
2. "Letter from John Hoffmann to USAF ATIC dated May 14, 1952. page 1" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313930/>
3. "Letter from John Hoffmann to USAF ATIC dated May 14, 1952. page 3" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313939/>
4. "Letter from John Hoffmann to USAF ATIC dated May 14, 1952. page 1" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313930/>
5. Rosina, Anthony. "Air intelligence information report 29 April 1952 page 2". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313907/>
6. "Weather history for Detroit, Michigan April 27, 1952." Weather Underground. Available WWW: http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KDET/1952/4/27/DailyHistory.html?req_city=NA&req_state=NA&req_statename=NA
7. "ATIC questionnaire completed by John Hoffmann page 2." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/6313921/>
8. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
9. Neely, Gerald C. "Air intelligence information report 28 May 1952 page 2". Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/9614176/>
10. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook unknowns". NICAP. Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
11. "Message from the Commander of the 4708th air defense wing, Selfridge AFB Michigan DTG P192000Z". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <http://www.fold3.com/image/9616215/>