

SUNite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

I believe in evidence. I believe in observation, measurement, and reasoning, confirmed by independent observers. I'll believe anything, no matter how wild and ridiculous, if there is evidence for it. The wilder and more ridiculous something is, however, the firmer and more solid the evidence will have to be.

Isaac Asimov - The roving mind

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Roswell Messiah?

Amid an air of religious fanaticism, the May 5th revival meeting is about to happen and, if you believe the promoters, the Roswell case will be resurrected. It is their opinion that we will all see the evidence with our own eyes and believe, without question, that we are not alone in the Universe. Unfortunately for the promoters, there are a lot of people that are not convinced this will occur. I seriously doubt that the slides will even be presented in a manner that will allow them to be carefully analyzed by those outside the "inner circle". There are rules for no cameras being used at the proceedings in Mexico City, which makes me wonder how serious the promoters are when they promise that everybody will be able to see the slides after that date. I envision that they will show the slides for those in the auditorium but they will not be very high resolution and may not be much better than the images we have seen on the web so far. The actual high resolution images are probably going to be safe guarded because, once they are out there, those precious items will be all over the Internet.

My interest in this has more to do with the way the promoters have conducted themselves and their failure to even address some of the most obvious problems with the slides themselves. They have made claims but have yet to provide one shred of evidence to support those claims other than stating the slides speak for themselves. Claims about the Ray's political connections have been made but not one iota of evidence has been presented. The non-body slides have been floated out there as proof but they have proven nothing other than the fact that these slides show things that any individual living in the era might have experienced. They are not out of the ordinary and appear to have no bearing on the body slides, which may have a possible explanation.

Many of my fellow skeptics have suggested that these slides are probably from a mummy display and there is good reason to suspect this. If it weren't for the head size, this would be considered a normal body of a human child. I am aware of one anthropologist, who saw the blurred version of the slide and responded that it looks like a mummy of some kind based on the way it was laid out. Can the promoters present anthropologists, who will disagree? Based on what we have seen, I doubt they will. They have religiously guarded the slides and have made threats of legal retribution for anyone, who may have copies of them. Apparently, even Stanton Friedman was not trusted enough to be shown any of the images! He was so unimpressed with the evidence that he did see, that he chose not to go to Mexico City and appear for their program.

This failure to inspire UFOlogists is apparently wide-spread based on what I have read. Many have formed the opinion that these slides are "Dead on arrival". What we know comes from a few sources that have been unable to answer difficult questions on the matter. Anthony Braglia is exaggerating just about every claim he can make and Adam Dew seems incapable of giving anybody a straight answer about anything. When May 5th is over, will we be better off in the world? Will this be exposed as a case of "mistaken identity"? Will anybody outside the UFO community care?

Cover: This may or may not be the source of the body in the "Roswell slides" but it looks similar to the images we have seen so far. If and when the slides are revealed to the entire public, we will know for sure.

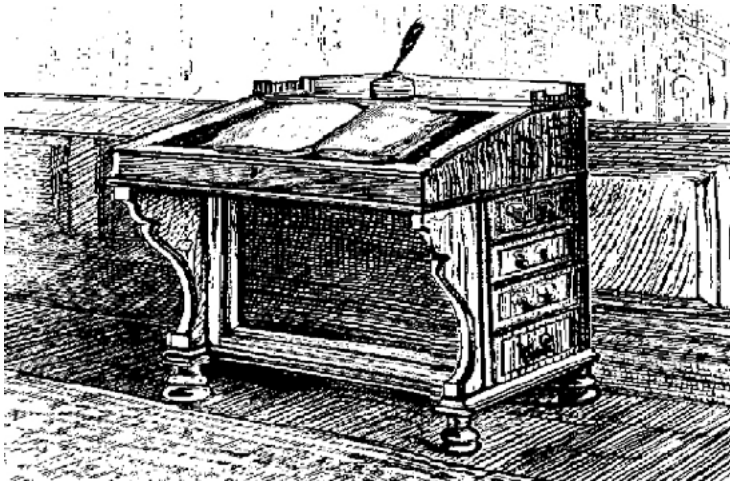
Left: Mummies were not just seen in museums in 1947. This mummy was on display in September of 1947 at a fair in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Was it possible that the Rays photographed such an exhibit?

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Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos wrote an interesting blog entry concerning the future of UFOlogy. It concerned the problem of UFOlogists blindly accepting UFO stories as evidence when these stories often have more likely explanations. He proposes that UFOlogists, world-wide, collect the 100 best UFO cases and present them to a paid group of scientists and scholars, who are independent of the UFO question. I get the impression they would analyze the cases for solutions and potential explanations. Mr. Olmos feels that they should be able to determine if there is any substance to the UFO question or if it is nothing more than a myth. I see several problems with this. Paying a group always is going to bring out the possibility that such a panel might be influenced by the funds being supplied. It is hard for a panel to tell a group of UFO proponents, who have paid them, that there is nothing to any of these reports. Assuming they are not influenced by money, it is also going to be hard for them to examine each

UFO case and give a possible solution. A lot of these cases probably have insufficient information to be analyzed properly and they will be left on the unexplained list. This will present a conclusion that not all the best cases can be explained. It would be a case of the Condon study again, where a certain percentage will always be "unexplained". I applaud Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos' desire to get to the bottom of the UFO question but I think that a more proactive approach is necessary. A long time ago, a UFOlogist wrote that it was time to throw out the old cases and start fresh by accumulating data that can be analyzed. To me, that is UFOlogy's best chance to acquire the information they desperately crave. I am skeptical they will find anything but, if they do, the results could be a major revelation,

James Carrion is having difficulties dealing with MUFON on facebook. Apparently, Carrion's criticism of MUFON is not being well received and he is not allowed to post these critiques on the MUFON facebook page. One of Carrion's comments caught my eye as it mirrors what I have been saying about anybody collecting UFO reports:

*MUFON is not scientifically studying UFOs, it is collecting data and has been doing so for over 40 years with nothing concrete to show for it. No hypotheses, no conclusions, so in a nutshell - no science. **Collecting data for the sake of collecting data is not science, it is a landfill.*** (my emphasis)

What is funny about all of this is MUFON wanted more money to improve their collection system, which will produce the same results that they have produced for the past fifty-plus years! I am shocked that MUFON has yet to jump onto the Roswell slides bandwagon.

Cheryl Costa once again listed two fireball meteor reports as UFOs in her Syracuse Times article about Spherical UFOs. On April 1, the American Meteor Society received two fireball reports from the NYC/Long island area at 11:05 PM EDT. The reports in her article were from the same area at 10:45 and 10:55 PM. Both described short duration events that lasted mere seconds. Considering the potential for error in the times of observation, it seems that the fireball explains these two reports.

The UFO chronicles posted a video of some footage taken shortly after the Socorro incident. While it is interesting, it really does not present anything new. Still it is worth a look for those interested in the case.

With all the Roswell slide news, I really did not pay much attention to the rest of the UFO community. Perhaps the UFOlogical world is holding its breath or maybe it was a slow time period. It will be safe to say, that a lot of blogs will chatter about this after May 5th. Will the event change people's minds or will it anger them because they were viewed as gullible?

The Roswell Corner

Eleazar Benavides AKA Eli Benjamin fallout

After Paul Kimball “outed” Benavides, Anthony Bragalia e-mailed Paul and myself with the threat of harassing our relatives for publicly revealing the real name for Eli Benjamin. A few days after Kimball exposed the name on his blog, Kevin Randle also revealed his name. This sent Bragalia into another tizzy but, instead of threatening a fellow crashologist, he continued to lash out at Kimball and myself. He even accused Kimball of being responsible for any physical harm that Benavides may suffer in the future:

If harm comes to this man, his blood is on the hands of those like Kimball who try to insert themselves into the slide saga at any cost.

As of May 2015, I am unaware of any harm coming to Benavides. It must be pointed out that Benavides volunteered to appear in several television programs where his face was clearly exposed. If he, and his handlers, did not expect his identity to be “discovered”, they were fooling themselves. Bragalia saw it otherwise and continued to harass me with abusive e-mails. An example is this slur he sent me on March 21st:

You have lied that you worked through the base yearbook to find Mr. Benavides (who has been harassed because of you and whose wife is near death) when you actually obtained his name through my hacked emails.

Bragalia’s accusation that I “lied” in my public statements about providing the year book images is based on what he wants to believe. The truth of the matter is known by those in the “Roswell Slides” Research Group (RSRG). As I stated in Paul Kimball’s blog, I simply provided the image after Kimball revealed the name. Contrary to what Bragalia states, I have never seen any “hacked” e-mails.

Meanwhile, Kimball pointed out that Benavides, appearing as Eli Benjamin, was interviewed in an episode of UFOs declassified. They showed the same yearbook photograph that I had given to Kimball, which seemed odd to me. If he were really a lieutenant during his service, as Dew implied in his video, he would have a photograph somewhere in his new officer’s uniform that he could have provided to the program. Benavides may have had his reasons for not providing photographs of himself in uniform but it had me questioning if he really did serve for more than just a few years.

The answer was resolved when Kevin Randle filed a request for details about his military career. He posted the results of his find and stated that Benavides did serve for twenty years. However, contrary to claims in the Dew video, he never was an officer. Benavides only rose to the rank of E-7, which is a respectable enlisted rank. Kevin Randle’s revelation raised the question, “Why did Dew think Benavides was a lieutenant (LT)?” There are several possibilities:

1. Benavides lied to Dew.
2. Dew simply made it up to give Benavides more credibility.
3. Dew misunderstood military ranks and thought he heard Benavides tell him he was a LT.
4. Somebody else told Dew that Benavides was a LT.

In either case, this is embarrassing for Dew. The worst case is that Dew simply made it up. If that is the case, then we really can’t trust Dew on anything regarding the provenance of the slides. If Benavides lied to Dew, his story loses credibility. If it was one of Benavides’ handlers/promoters (Schmitt and Carey), it demonstrates that they will say anything, even lie, to promote the story of Roswell. They are not to be trusted in anything they say or do. If Dew thought he heard Benavides tell him he was a LT but Benavides did not say this, then Dew was hearing what he wanted to hear. He asked for no evidence of his military rank or just did not research the subject at all. The lies or mistake scenarios makes Dew look incompetent. Like the crashologists he had become involved with, Dew is allowing his beliefs to interfere with evaluating the evidence.



KODACHROME SLIDE FILM

For decades, Kodachrome was the favorite film of many photographers because of its sharp images and bright colors. I always felt the film was superior to both the Fujichrome and Ektachrome line because of the pleasing images it produced. The only problem with using this film was that it had slow speed and one had to send it away to specific labs for developing. While my collection had its share of Kodachrome slides, they only represented about 10% of my entire slide collection between 1977 and 1999 for these very reasons. After 1999, I started taking digital photographs and found no use for slide film. A further reduction of my collection happened when I moved and lost several trays of slides that included some nice Kodachromes I had taken between 1978 and 1980. Despite this problem, I did have a few slides that I want to share with my readers so that they might understand some issues associated with using the film.

Kodachrome film and photography basics

The speed of 1947 Kodachrome film seems to have been between a rating of 8 and 16 ASA (now referred to as ISO).¹ Different sources give different numbers but it is safe to say that the film was much slower than even the highly cherished Kodachrome 25 used in the heyday of Kodachrome photography. Kodachrome slide film is unique because it is manufactured differently than other slide films and the development process took advantage of that design to create color images that were sharper and of high contrast than slide films like Ektachrome or Fujichrome.

Some old time photographers might remember the "Sunny 16" rule of thumb for photographs. That meant that if you were shooting in bright sunlight, one would set the f-stop on the camera to F-16 and set the shutter to the reciprocal of the speed of the film. With an ASA/ISO rating of about 10, one would use 1/10th of a second exposure time using the old Kodachrome film at F-16 on a bright sunny day. One can see the effects of the films slow speed in this exposure table for Kodachrome daylight film in 1946²:

Daylight Exposure Table—Still Cameras: Daylight Type Kodachrome. Lens apertures at 1/50 second shutter time.

LIGHTING	BASIC EXPOSURE FOR AVERAGE SUBJECTS	LIGHT-COLORED SUBJECTS	DARK-COLORED SUBJECTS	SIDE-LIGHTED SUBJECTS	BACK-LIGHTED SUBJECTS
Bright, Direct Sunlight	Between f/5.6 and f/8	f/8	f/5.6	Between f/5.6 and f/8*	f/4.5*
Weak, Hazy Sun—No Distinct Shadows Cast	f/4.5	f/5.6	f/4		
Sky Overcast	f/3.5	f/4	f/2.8		
Cloudy, but Bright	Between f/2 and f/2.8	f/2.8	f/2		
Open Shade on Bright Day					

*Assuming shadow areas are unimportant. With close-ups having important shadow areas, use one full stop larger.

An F-stop of F-16 is an excellent setting to capture a good depth of field. Depth of field is a term used to describe what distances away from the camera will provide a sharp focus. The higher the F-ratio setting, the larger the range of distances from the camera will remain in focus. This image below shows how depth of field will affect focus. I shot this image with a 50mm F4 lens set at a 7-foot distance. The distances to each book is shown and one can see how the words blur as one moves closer to the camera.



Here is a depth of field table computed from an on-line calculator for 35mm film using a 50mm F4 lens³:

Distance	10ft	5ft	3ft	2ft
Range in focus	8.7-11.7 ft	4.7-5.4 ft	2.9-3.1 ft	1.95-2.05 ft

There is a major drawback for using high f-stop values in photographs. High f-ratio settings result in less light reaching the film and, as a result, one has to increase the exposure time. This results in a battle between getting the greatest depth of field and a shutter speed that will not produce blurry photographs due to slow shutter speed. I used to try and keep the exposure time at 1/60th of a second or faster but found myself using shutter speeds as low as 1/8th of a second in low light conditions.

The camera

We do not know what type of camera was used to take “the Roswell slide” photographs but a common camera used in the 1940s was called the Kodak 35. The lens on this camera was a 50mm F3.5 and setting the focus was essentially done manually by estimating the distance to the subject. An F 3.5 f-stop means that photography in doors was going to be an iffy thing using the slow speed of Kodachrome. Shutter speeds of 1/15th or 1/8th of a second would be required with a wide open lens (F 3.5). My experience was that such shutter speeds usually resulted in photographs that demonstrated “shutter shake”. When one presses down on the shutter button, they would tend to move the camera and it would result in shaky photographs that were blurred.



The following image is a good example of such photography. While I don’t have specifics, I do know the film was Kodachrome 25 and the subject was the control room at Kennedy Space Center in 1977. I also know that the camera was a Pentax K1000 using a 50mm F2.0 lens. The lighting indicates I had the F-stop wide open and the shutter speed was probably 1/8th or 1/15th of a second.



Based on the lighting we see in the “body” photographs, it is no surprise that there is a blur induced by the photographer depressing the shutter and a lack of focus across the entire field due to the small depth of field created by the wide open f-stop.

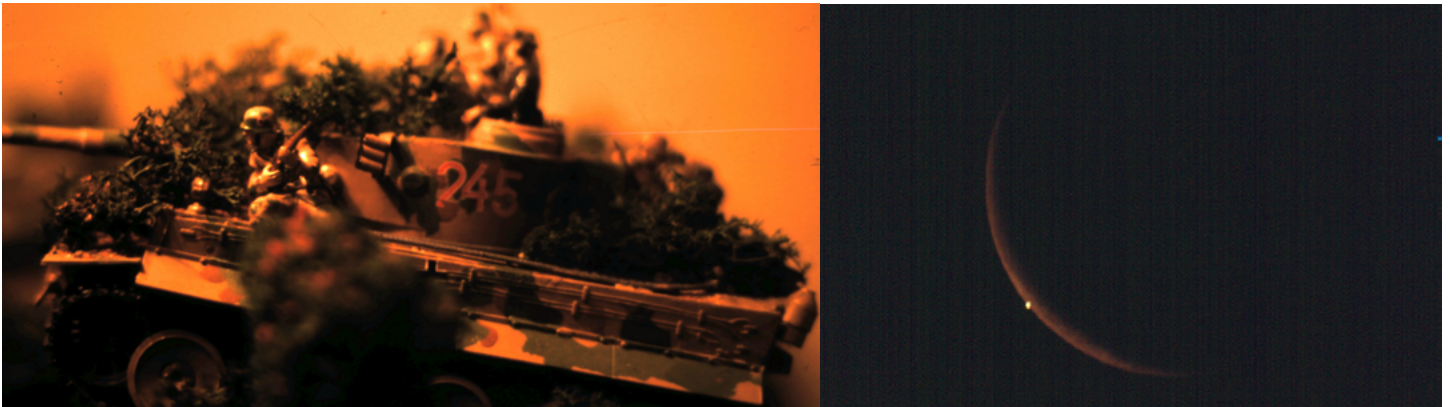
Lighting

An item that is important to note is that Kodachrome in the 1940s was a daylight film. The color was “balanced” for using in bright sunlight and not for use in artificial lighting. Using the actual lighting in doors introduced problems with color reproduction. Writing in his book about Kodachrome, Fred Bond states:

*Lighting - do not attempt shots with subject illuminated with regular household lamps--their color quality is far out of balance, and ordinary bulbs do not provide sufficient volume of light.*⁴

Eastman Kodak also mentions the problems with artificial lighting:

*Ordinary home lighting lamps have little value in color photography because of their low illumination level and yellowish light.*⁵



An excellent example of how lighting can affect the color balance of Kodachrome film can be seen in this image I took of a military model diorama using Kodachrome 64 film. The lighting was a typical room lamp and the yellowish cast causes problems with the color reproduction. There is also this photograph I took of a Venus Occultation by the moon in April of 1987 using Kodachrome 200 film and about a 1/60th second exposure. Note the orange cast of the moon, which was about 8 degrees above the horizon, indicating the film was the cause of the color shift and not atmospheric.

The good, the bad, and the ugly

Like all amateur film photographers, I enjoyed using Kodachrome film over the decades until digital imagery replaced it. Its colors and sharpness were second to none. That being said, the film’s slow speed made it a poor choice for recording fast action, giving large depths of field, and photography in low level lighting. It is these factors that probably affected the quality of the images we will see at the “Roswell slides” demonstration on May 5.

Notes and references

1. Bond, Fred. Kodachrome and Ektachrome from all angles. Camera craft publishing company. San Francisco, CA. Third edition. 1947. P. 85.
2. Kodak. Data book on color photography with Kodachrome and Kodacolor film. Eastman Kodak Company. Rochester, NY. Third edition. 1946. P. 39.
3. Fleming, Don. Depth of field calculator. Available WWW: <http://www.dofmaster.com/dofjs.html>
4. Bond, Fred. Kodachrome and Ektachrome from all angles. Camera craft publishing company. San Francisco, CA. Third edition. 1947. P. 114.
5. Kodak. Data book on color photography with Kodachrome and Kodacolor film. Eastman Kodak Company. Rochester, NY. Third edition. 1946. P. 20.

DATING THE SLIDES

One of the key pieces of evidence being presented by the Roswell promotion team is that the photographs were taken in the late 1940s around the time of the Roswell event. In his article about the Roswell slides, Anthony Bragalia stated:

To address the question of dating of the slides and the possibility of photographic deception, here is a summation of analysis done by experts from industry and academia:

-The film is manufacture coded (edge code dated) as 1927 or 1947 or 1967

-The protective lacquer used on the film is from the 1930s to 1960, eliminating the year 1927

-The cardboard sleeve used is 1941-1949, eliminating the year 1967 and leaving 1949 as the latest date the film was exposed

By simple process of elimination using these findings, we are left with the year 1947.¹

He bases this all on what Robert Shanebrook supposedly told him. We have no direct quotes from Shanebrook on how he dated the year of manufacture but Bragalia states it was using the edge coding. This seems unlikely based on the available information.

According to Adam Dew, only one of the two slides was removed from its mount and that is shown in his film². The slide appears out of its mount several times (including enlarged on a computer screen) but all we can see is the number "9" on the edges of the film.³ In the 1940s era Kodachrome slides I purchased from ETSY, I found one, out of six, with an edge code and it was pretty obvious. The circle and the triangle after the last "K" in Kodak indicate a year of manufacture as 1946. Compare this to the slide shown in the "Kodachrome" trailer. The edge code should have been visible like the number "9". Either, Bragalia is wrong about how the



film's manufacture date was determined or Adam Dew was mistaken when he stated that only one slide had been removed from its mount. This kind of conflicting information coming from the slide proponents makes it appear that they either don't know what they are talking about or are not being truthful when discussing the slides. Without a direct report from the expert, we have to consider Bragalia's claim to be unsupported by the available evidence.

My experience in dealing with Kodachrome slides from the era was that the edge coding did not appear on each individual slide. Instead, like the words "Eastman", "Safety", or "Kodak", it was spread along the roll at regular intervals. The 16% success rate I obtained with the six 1940s era slides is consistent with the other slides I had examined from the 1950s (3 out of 20 or 15%). This indicates that the odds are low for dismounting one slide and seeing an edge code. This appears to be the case in slide number "9". From what we can see in the film, the edge coding is not visible when, assuming there was an edge code, it should have been.

Even if the edge coding is present, it only indicates the year the film was manufactured. The slide mounts can help us determine the range of years when the slides were mounted but that is as far as we can get in dating the exact time of film exposure. If the film was determined to be manufactured in 1947, then there is a window of 1947-1949 based on the slide mount. It could have been exposed in January 1947 or December 1949. Without any specific information on the slide itself (i.e. The subject on the film holding some dated material), one can not draw any other conclusion.

Notes and references

1. Bragalia, Anthony. "The Roswell alien slides and the truth". [A different perspective](http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-update-by-tony.html). Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/02/the-roswell-slides-update-by-tony.html>
2. Randle, Kevin. "Who is the man in Adam Dew's video - comment section". [A different perspective](http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/03/who-is-man-in-adam-dews-video.html). 3 March 2015. Available WWW: <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2015/03/who-is-man-in-adam-dews-video.html>
3. Dew, Adam. [Kodachrome - A documentary - Official trailer](http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpiaeE). Available WWW: <http://youtu.be/jL0MvHpiaeE>

THE DEBUT OF THE ROSWELL SLIDES

Within the next few days, history is going to be made. Either the entire world will learn that alien beings have visited the earth in 1947 or the world will see a bunch of desperate individuals trying to make money/fame off a slide showing something mundane. We don't know until we see the slides. That being said, I wanted to address what we do know about the slides and their background.

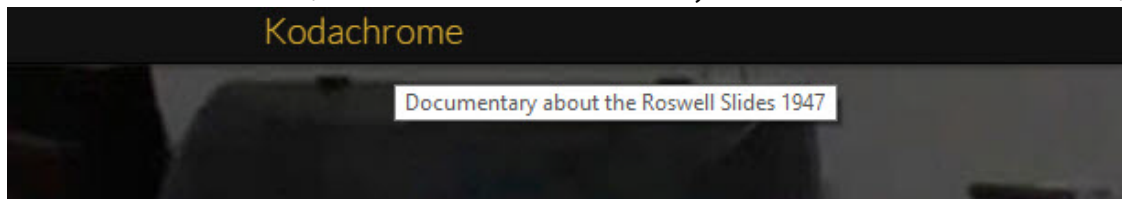
Whose slides are they anyway?

We are told these slides were all photographed by Bernard and Hilda Ray. However, there are clues that this may not be exactly true. Photographs appear to come from across the United States and Europe. Did the Rays travel all over the United States for several years or are they a collection of slides taken by multiple individuals showcasing the combined group's travels? We do know that some of the slides have Hilda's name on them but do they all have the stamp? In the twenty plus slides revealed to date, only two or three appear to include the Rays. It is hard to establish that the Rays were actually present when the photographs were taken. Is it possible that some of these slides were from friends or relatives that were given to the Rays? This might explain the multiple images that came from Kansas, in 1947, when the Rays were supposedly in Midland, Texas or Roswell, New Mexico.

This lack of provenance is something noted by many people, including Kevin Randle. It raises many questions that demonstrate that the actual photographers may or may not have been the Rays. Despite this problem, we are told by the promoters that the Rays took these photographs of an alien that had perished when its spaceship crashed at Roswell.

The Roswell slides?

Since the very beginning of this entire saga, the slides have been linked to Roswell because of the people involved with the story. Adam Dew has made the claim that he has "never" called them the Roswell slides.¹ Despite his statement that he did not call them "the Roswell slides", he went to people like Don Schmitt and Tom Carey, who specialize in Roswell, instead of going to people, with the expertise to determine what the identity of the body might be. This indicates that he had decided the body was alien before he took his next step of promoting the slides. He seems to have now embraced that title because, if one passes one's mouse over the "Kodachrome" link on his web site, it states that this is a "Documentary about the Roswell slides 1947!"² Dew, like many UFO



promoters, is saying one thing to sound impartial to outside observers but doing another thing to promote his beliefs/interests.

After releasing his trailer, Dew noticed that the reception was not as he might have expected. He, along with his fellow promoters, began to denigrate skeptics, who began to question his speculations about the slides.

Impatient strangers

That is how Adam Dew described all the skeptics, who have been looking at the slides that he allowed to appear briefly in his trailer.³ Apparently, he expected everybody to just blindly accept his story without question but that is not how it works. When somebody makes an exotic claim or suggests that he has evidence to support one, people are going to ask tough questions about that evidence. Not impressed by the evidence presented so far, a group of UFO proponents and UFO skeptics formed up on Facebook. Such a diverse group had a variety of opinions but we all seemed to agree that it was highly unlikely the slides actually showed an alien body.

Paul Kimball created a website for the group with the title of "The Roswell Slides Research Group" (RSRG), which became the informal name of our group. Unfortunately, because of the divergent opinions of many of the group's members, we had difficulty in agreeing on how to proceed. It was eventually decided that if, and when, the veil of secrecy regarding the slides was lifted, the group would evaluate the evidence and, maybe, produce a report. Meanwhile, we would continue to discuss the evidence and statements presented to date as best we could.

A conspiracy of idiots

Because of all the secrecy, the RSRG's work had to focus on the materials that were available. We did examine many of the claims made by Adam Dew about the non-body slides and found them to be exaggerated or misleading. Many of these issues had already been identified by other individuals (some not associated with the RSRG) trying to learn more about the slides:

- As mentioned in SUNlite 7-2, the photograph of Eisenhower with the strange man taken in June of 1945 was debunked shortly after the Kodachrome trailer was presented. The mysterious man had been identified as Milton Eisenhower. Despite this, Linda Moulton Howe still contends the individual is some man that people can not identify!⁴

- The photograph of the trailer park was from Kansas State University after the war.⁵
- The photograph of the woman in front of the ship was not Mamie Eisenhower, it was not the Queen Mary, and it was not in New York City's Cunard building. Investigation revealed that this was probably taken in Newport News, Virginia at the Mariner's museum's hall of steam. The model appears to be the Emperor/Berengaria.⁶ There is a similar model of the same ship with smaller smokestacks (they were shortened after the war) in Liverpool, England.⁷
- The Paris photograph was taken in the late 1950s. Several of the cars were not built before 1956-1958.⁸
- The air show photographs were taken in 1948 or later. The yellow midget aircraft was called "Little Bonzo", which did not fly until 1948.⁹ The B-36 had a triangle, which indicated it probably was a Carswell AFB B-36 bomber.¹⁰ Carswell had the first B-36 bombers in June of 1948 and their tail code involved a large triangle.
- The photographs of the dunes, the motorcycle, and the fishermen were all taken in Colorado.
- The hunters photograph has not been proven to be full of "important men" that would allow the Rays to photograph an alien body. While some have speculated about the identity of these men, nobody has conclusively identified them. One video suggested they might be military personnel from Roswell or Wright-Patterson.¹¹ Others suggested that they were lawyers/politicians from Kansas.¹² Even if there was a senator or governor in the mix, it is hard to believe that such men had the clearance that allowed them to have access to alien bodies. To me, they looked like a bunch of guys, who enjoyed their recent hunting trip. One thing everyone fails to notice is that neither Bernerd or Hilda are in the photograph. Why take a photograph of a group of important men that you were fortunate enough to know and not be seen in the photograph with them?

The reason these slides were even shown was to present the theory that the Rays were "well connected" to the point they were allowed to secret information. The actual facts about these slides indicated otherwise. Despite the "well connected" theory crumbling like the Berlin wall, the promoters continued to state that the Rays were allowed to view, and photograph, something that was more secret than the atomic bomb.

Eventually two major theories were implied of how the Rays gained access to the body. The first was because they had some form of expertise to offer and the second was they just knew the right people. While in the presence of the greatest secret in history, one of the Ray's took their camera out and quickly took two photographs before anybody noticed. The camera was then concealed and the film developed shortly afterwards. While this sounds good to those wanting the slides to show alien bodies, there really are problems that tend to indicate that it was highly unlikely:

- According to Roswell legend, the military took great precautions and violated laws in order to confiscate any evidence associated with the Roswell crash. They even went so far as to threaten people with deadly force and intimidate children. With that in mind, how was it possible that the Rays were allowed to view the body since they had no need to know? Bernerd Ray, while a geologist, would have absolutely no expertise at examining an alien body and was not important enough to be allowed to view anything associated with an alien spaceship crash.
- If the Rays were allowed to see an alien body, why would they be allowed to carry a camera into the secret area? If the Rays did manage to snap these photographs without anybody noticing, how did the film get to Kodak, be developed, mounted, and sent back to the Rays without anybody in the conspiracy noticing? This part of the theory violates the Roswell legend's claim that NOBODY was allowed to retain any evidence of the Roswell crash and that the guardians of the secret were closely monitoring everyone for potential leaks.
- With the Roswell story being told on television, and in the media by the early 1980s, why didn't Hilda Blair Ray step forward with the slides? It seems unlikely that she would be unaware of the Roswell event being publicized since she knew about it and would have interest in the subject. Hilda also could have shared them with friends or family. Instead, she chose to simply throw them in a box without a note indicating what they were. The idea that the military would threaten the Rays is ridiculous when they had already allowed the photographs to be taken and developed.

If the Roswell legend, as told by people like Carey and Schmitt, is true, the Rays would have been locked up, or possibly shot, for taking these pictures. Crashologists can't have a conspiracy that was so well conceived that every iota of evidence was confiscated and then have the same conspiracy so incompetent that it would allow some low level geologist to take some snapshots of the actual alien without anybody ever noticing.

Despite this problem, the promoters actually believe that this was possible and the Rays managed to pull it off. To promote this theory, Anthony Bragalia stated that Bernerd Ray was so deeply affected by this event that it changed his life.

The "ghost"

In writing about Bernerd Ray, Anthony Bragalia stated:

This author made the discovery that the husband, Bernerd A. Ray, was an Oil Exploration Geologist working the fields in New Mexico and the Permian Basin (which includes the Roswell region) in the 1940s for a company that would later become part of Texaco. In 1947 he was the President of the Texas chapter of the American Institute of Petroleum Geologists, which also at that time 'folded in' the State of New Mexico. After 1947, Bernerd became a 'ghost' in his profession and did not publish nor appear to be active with the Institute ever again.¹³

56. BERNERD A. RAY, Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Midland, Texas
 WILLIAM T. SCHNEIDER, Honolulu Oil Corporation, Midland, Texas
 CHARLES TAYLOR COLE, University Lands, Midland, Texas
 EDGAR KRAUS, The Atlantic Refining Company, Carlsbad, New Mexico
 RONALD K. DEFORD, Argo Oil Corporation, Midland, Texas
West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico Development in 1941

Development in West Texas was greater than in any year since 1937. A total of 2,325 wells were drilled, including those deepened and recompleted. Of these 2,190 or 94 per cent were producers. The most active field was the Slaughter field which accounted for 678 wells or more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the producers drilled. A total of 135 wildcat wells (i.e., wells over one mile from production) were drilled, of which 27 were producers and 108 were dry holes. Nine of the wildcat wells established new areas of production; the remainder were produced from new levels in established areas or were considered extensions. Fifteen of the wildcats were completed from the various known Permian levels while two new levels, both in the lower Permian, were disclosed. Permian exploration was scattered over 43 counties and was more inclusive in the number of zones tested than in previous years.

Bragalia's description of Ray seems rather exaggerated. Ray was the president of the West Texas Geological Society in 1946.¹⁴ In 1947, the president was William J. Hilseweck.¹⁵ If Ray was the President of the Texas chapter of American Institute of Petroleum Geologists in 1947 (I could not find evidence of this), then his time may have been focused on performing the duties of that position and he would have spent less time in the field. That means he would have been less likely to be in Roswell in July of 1947 or later.

Bragalia's claim about Ray writing papers appears to be misleading. Not mentioned by Bragalia is that, prior to 1947, he only wrote two papers in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) bulletin and they covered the same subject. The 1942 paper was titled, "West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico development in 1941".¹⁶ It was coauthored by five writers and was only two pages long. The 1943 paper had essentially the same title, "West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico development in 1942". It was a much longer paper (23 pages) and there was only one other author.¹⁷ By 1944, other authors began to write this annual report.¹⁸ I did searches in the bibliographies for North American Geology¹⁹ between 1940 and 1947 and could not find any papers other than those I just mentioned. As far as publishing papers/articles, Ray was a "ghost" long before 1947.

Despite his minimal effort in writing papers for the AAPG bulletin, Ray was active in the fields of western Texas doing his job in the oil industry. There are several references²⁰ to Ray involved in the drilling and production from oil wells in the 1950s.²¹

Scouting

Following by counties are drilling p
 cant wells being drilled in the Permian
 about new locations of field developme

New Locations

ANDREWS — Pan American Petroleum Corp. 12-P O. B. Holt, 6 miles north of North Cowden in North Cowden field. 5100 feet, 660 FNL 440 FWL A-43-TIN-PSL Survey.

Berner A. Ray 1 L. P. Enlow, 13 miles south of Seminole in North Means (Queen) field, 4350 feet, 660 FS&EL 2-A34-PSL.

Superior 2 University 11-C, 25 miles southwest of Andrews in Block 11 (Wichita) field, 5545 feet, 1980 FS&EL 27-11-University Lands. (Originally completed in Wolfcamp in May of 1959).

COCHRAN — Texas Pacific Coal & Oil Co. 9 Edwards, 14½ miles northwest of Plains in Landon field, 5200 feet, 1150

Sullivan
 Orla In
 feet, 16

SCUR
 Sugar-R
 Sharon
 feet, 99
 John
 13 mile
 Jamesor
 1019 FS

STONE
 1 Robin
 mont in
 1650 FS

WARE

In Spraberry Area

The third producing zone has been opened in the huge Spraberry Trend Area Field. Rowe Oil Co. opened the new pay with the completion of its No. 1 Schwertner from the Clear Fork.

The important discovery was finished for a calculated daily potential of 284 barrels of 38.1 gravity oil, flowing through a ¾-inch choke from perforations at 5,693-6,401 feet, where pay was treated with 500 gallons of acid. Gas-oil ratio was 829-1. Tubing pressure was 160 pounds.

Operator was to complete as a dual producer from the Spraberry and Clear Fork.

Location is in extreme northwest Reagan County, one-half mile southeast of the Upton, Midland, Reagan and Glasscock County lines. It spots 660 feet from the south and east lines of Section 15, Block 37, T-5-S, T&P Survey. It originally was completed as a Spraberry Producer in 1951, and has been on production from that zone since then.

Berner A. Ray of Midland No. 1-23 J. F. Nunn is to be dug as a 7,600-foot project in the northwest Reagan County portion of the Spraberry Trend Area Field.

Site is 11¼ miles northwest of Stiles, 1,980 feet from south and 660 feet from east lines of Section 23, Block C, L&SV Survey.

MIDLAND—Forest Oil Corp. and Cities Production Corp. No. 1-B-4 Dora Roberts has found oil in two pays in west Midland County.

It flowed natural for a three-hour gauge of 35 barrels of 52.1 gravity oil from Ellenburger open hole at 13,033-13,128 feet. Flow was through a ¾-inch choke.

After the Ellenburger gauge, operator acidized Pennsylvanian section through perforations at 10,212-12,290 feet with 1,000 gallons mud acid. It kicked off and flowed 102.55 barrels of oil in four hours through a ¾-inch choke with 475-275 pounds on casing and 1600-1700 pounds on tubing. Gravity was 51.6 degrees. Gas-oil ratio was 1100-1. Testing continued.

Location is one-half mile north of Ellenburger production in the Virey Field, 1¼ mile northwest of the field's Pennsylvanian production. It spots 660 feet from the south and west lines of Section 15, Block 41, T-3-S, T&P Survey.

Fryer & Hanson Drilling Company No. 2-G-13 A. Fasken is a new prospect for the shallow Ger

Prepared by Gaines County Abstract Co. of Seminole, Texas.
REL OL—Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. to Schleicher County, Texas, league 284; 71/77.
AOL—Sunray Mid Continent Oil Co., et al. to Forest Oil Corp., 1/8th interest in W/2 S/2 labor 12, and W/2 labor 16, league 298.
AOL—J. Lee Youngblood to Texas Gas Exploration Corp., E/2 sec. 324, blk. G; 6 month term from 11/8/57.
RD—George E. Benson to E. Hayes Sieber, 1/4th interest NE/4 sec. 271, blk. G.
MD—Clarence T. Woodard to Raymond C. Warwick, 1/40th interest in S. 200 acres of E/2 sec. 3, blk. A26.
MD—Marjorie D. Woodard to Raymond C. Warwick, 1/40th interest in S. 200 acres of E/2 sec. 3, blk. A26.
RE REC WD—J. R. Moseley, et ux to Eugene S. Allen, 126.5 acres sec. 124, blk. H.
PATENT—State of Texas to R. W. Cozby, 160.3 acres in NW/4 sec. 8, blk. C43.
MD—Bernard A. Ray, et ux, to James K. Wilson, 204/4800 interest in S. 480 acres sec. 12, blk. A23.
MD—James K. Wilson to Hilda Blair Ray, 204/4800 interest in S. 480 acres sec. 12, blk. A23.
WD—Tennessee Gas Trans-

Buying, Selling, and Leasing

Take off of filings in the County and District Clerks' offices of Gaines County, Texas, from May 11, 1957 at 6 p.m. to May 18, 1957 at 6 p.m., as to Warranty, Mineral and Royalty Deeds; Assignment of Overriding royalty, oil gas leases; assignment of oil, gas leases, release of oil, gas leases; and patents, prepared by Gaines County Abstract Co. of Seminole, Tex.
MD—Bernard A. Ray to Hilda Blair Ray, Trustee, 1/16th of sections 3, 4, 5, blk. A23.
MD—Bernard A. Ray to Hilda Blair Ray, Trustee, 1/16th of 18, blk. A23.
MD—Bernard A. Ray to Hilda Blair Ray, Trustee, 1/4th interest in N/2 sec. 20, blk. A23.
MD—Bernard A. Ray to Hilda Blair Ray, Trustee, 1/64th in N/2 sec. 8 and 13 and S/2 of sec. 8 and 13, blk. A23.

blk. G. 5 year term.
MD—R. C. Qulett, et ux to Charles S. Hall, 8 acre interest that part of E. 1/2 sec. 267, blk. G, W. and SW of old Lovington Hwy.
MD—R. C. Qulett, et ux to Charles S. Hall, 1 1/2 acre interest in E/2 sec. 230, blk. G.
MD—R. C. Qulett, et ux, to Charles S. Hall, 3 1/2 acre interest in sec. 264, blk. G.
MD—R. C. Qulett, et ux, to Charles S. Hall, 1/16th interest in NE/4 NE/4 sec. 228, blk. G.
ASSIGN ORR—E. G. Aycock to Ford M. Graham, 10/113.511 of 1/100 of 8/8 interest in W/2 SW/4 and W/2 of SE/4 sec. 55, blk. G; W/2 of SE/4 and W/2 SW/4 sec. 59, blk. G; E/2 NE/4 and E/2 of NW/4 sec. 60, blk. G; E/2 NE/4 sec. 83 and W/2 of SE/4 sec. 83, blk. G.
ASSIGN ORR—E. G. Aycock to Ford M. Graham, 10/113.511

10/113.511 of 1/200 of 8/8 interest in SE/4 and SW/4 sec. 60, blk. G; 10/113.511 of 73416 of 1/200 of 8/8 in NW/4 sec. 32, blk. G; 10/113.511 of 1/200 of 8/8 in SW/4 sec. 56, blk. G; and N/2 sec. 55, blk. G.
OGL—H. Jaworski to Hyle C. Doss, sec. 9, blk. A21; 5 year term, sub. to res.
OGL—J. P. O'Neil to Monterey Oil Co., SE/4 sec. 60, blk. G; 5 year term.
MD—George Breazil, et ux, to W. A. Yeager, 1/40th interest in sec. 238, blk. G.
ASSIGN OL—William E. Anthony to Pan American Petroleum Corp., NW/4 sec. 244, blk. G; see lease below.
OGL—John A. Byerly, et al, Trustees to William E. Anthony, NW/4 sec. 244, blk. G; 5 year term.
OGL—Donald Winston to Shell

H. WD—Minneapolis, blk. 2, inole.
REL—George SE/4 s MD—Hamilt gue 29 WD—Oran I blk. C3 OGL—C. L. M C34; le 5 year OGL—C. L. and 2.4 (section ASSI Gulf C blk. C3

There also seemed to be a transfer of shares in his oil wells to Hilda Blair Ray, or others,²² on at least two occasions.²³

While four newspaper articles does not present us with the picture of an "active" geologist in the oil industry, it also does not paint a picture of a man who "disappeared" from the industry. One must recognize the fact that the media does not record everything. Oil company records would probably present us with a more accurate picture of Ray's activities. Such records have not been presented as evidence by Mr. Bragalia to support his claims.

Ray appears to have been quite active with the West Texas Geological Society over the years after serving as president. The Midland Reporter-telegram of June 16, 1976 stated he was a "longtime member" and that, for his participation in the society, was given an honorary lifetime membership.²⁴ If he was trying to disappear, as implied by Bragalia, he would have cut his ties with the Society. The evidence suggests otherwise.

All of this information appears to present us an image of Bernard Ray that is different than what Bragalia portrays in his writings. One could easily suggest that Ray did not desire to waste his time with writing papers and being president of the society, when others were more than willing to perform that kind of work. Maybe he chose to focus his attention on getting out into the field and locate sources of oil for production, which was what people were paying him to do. This appears to be a more plausible theory than Bragalia's for the lack of his mention in journals. The mystery of Bernard Ray is only a mystery if one tries to manufacture one.



BERNARD A. RAY of Midland, left, a longtime member of the West Texas Geological Society and its president in 1945, was given honorary life member status Tuesday at the organization's annual meeting in the Hilton Inn. Presenting the certificate is John H. Hille of El Paso, a former Midlander. James H. Hille of El Paso, a former Midlander, is standing next to Ray. Humphill, who was president of the organization, is standing next to Ray.

The enforcer

While the RSRG was starting to discuss the slides, I received more threatening emails from Anthony Bragalia. Somebody had asked Paul Kimball if the group was examining the slides. Mr. Kimball did not say one way or the other and this caught the eye of Bragalia. He told me that if I had the slides he would make sure I suffered for it. He then proceeded to state that I had no moral compass and threatened me with defamation of my character:

Everyone will know how you do your 'research' and your reputation –such as it is- will suffer forever and irreparably.

How you can live with yourself is beyond me. You are not 'scientific' – what you are doing borders on the criminal and I shall make this known in ways that will make you wish you never heard of the slides.²⁵

I find it interesting that Bragalia accuses me of a crime I did not commit without any evidence. It demonstrated that he was desperate and felt he could bluff me into telling him some great secret he desired to know.

Bragalia renewed his threats when Paul Kimball stated on his blog that he personally had access to the slides and would host a free event on May 4th, where people could see them.²⁶ Less than 12 hours after this posting, Bragalia threatened me again. This time he promised legal action even though he had no evidence that I was involved:

If you and Kimball have the slides- as he maintains today on his blog- you are going to be sued. Not only that- I will personally see that you are publicly excoriated for theft and for working with a hacker.

Two lawyers have been engaged on this- and if you indeed do have the slides- you will be charged with theft. What you have done is illegal.

Tom Carey was hacked by cryptolocker and you will then be tied to this easily and your 'reputation' such as it is, will be forever marred.

You are part of a theft ring if this is true. Vile.²⁷

At the time of this writing, I had never seen any of these high resolution slides and I was never contacted by any lawyers regarding these alleged thefts. Paul Kimball did not share them with anyone and suggested they were being held in safe keeping. I admit that I was curious and inquired if he did have the slides. His response was cryptic and I concluded that this was an effort on his part to get more information about the slides by provoking the promoters of the slides into commenting about his claim. If that was the case, then Bragalia and Dew bit on the hook as they responded and presented information that was not previously known. Personally, IF I had the slides, I would have shared them in multiple UFO/skeptic forums on the Internet because, in my opinion, it would defuse the entire situation.

Strangely, the slides that were supposedly hacked off Tom Carey's computer have never appeared on the Internet in any form. Why would hacker go through the effort to get the slides and then not publish the information? It would only take an anonymous posting someplace and the slides would be exposed to the public. Since this did not happen, it gives credibility to the theory that the "hacking" was contrived by somebody to give the impression that the government or some evil person wanted to stop publication of the slides.

The idea that the slides had been stolen by somebody was apparently put to rest when Adam Dew, the caretaker of the slides, would state on Paul Kimball's blog:

There are only three people who've ever had possession of full res versions of both slides.²⁸

The limited number of individuals surprised many in the RSRG because it was thought that the slides were being distributed to various experts for analysis. This indicated very few people had those images and the likelihood they were hacked was very low. Shortly after Dew's statement was made, Anthony Bragalia contradicted him and stated the number of individuals was six.²⁹ Even if it were only six individuals that have been able to view the high resolution images, the question remained, "What were the experts using to read the placard and determine that the body was not a mummy?" Either many people have seen high resolution copies of the slides or a lot of what has been stated about the research of the slides is exaggeration/fabrication. Based on these varied statements, can one really trust anything the slide promoters are saying?

As I had stated in SUNlite 7-2, Bragalia had taken on the personality of a man frantic to protect his interest and, apparently, his reputation. In Kevin Randle's blog, Bragalia wrote:

Despite being publicly berated and even having criminal acts committed against me over all of this, I am in this till I die.³⁰

One can interpret this to mean that Mr. Bragalia will say, or do, just about anything to prevent the slides from being exposed as something other than an alien body. His dedication to "truth and history"³¹ should read that he is dedicated to HIS version of the truth and HIS version of history. Concerned what the RSRG might produce, Bragalia went so far as to call the group "laughable"³² because it did not have the actual slides to examine.

In science, as well as history, it is important to have one's work verified independently. Instead of trying to convince the opposition with facts, "the enforcer" attempted to, once again, defuse any explanations that indicated the body was not an alien by making statements not supported by any evidence.

It's not a mummy....Dummy!!!

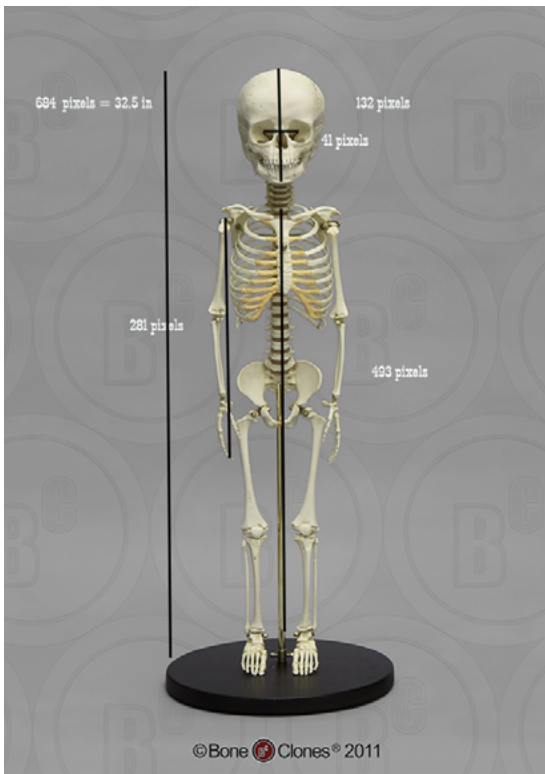
Tony Bragalia launched a pre-emptive strike regarding the possibility that the body was a mummy:³³

1. The skin on the body appeared "organic" and not desiccated.
2. The hand in the photograph showed only four digits.
3. The eyes were wide set and twice the size of any human being.
4. The face appears "insect-like" near the jaw and "frog-like" at the top of the skull. Additionally, the chin is very pointy.
5. The limbs are long and thin. According to Bragalia, the image being used by the "anti-sliders" is compressed to the point that the size is not correctly shown.
6. The body is "encased" in a glass container that does not resemble anything used by a museum. He also mentions the Green army blanket that was "hastily cut". By Bragalia's observation, it was something that was hastily constructed.
7. The framing of the images indicated they were obtained in a surreptitious manner.
8. The slides were "hidden" from view by being separately packaged in the box of slides.
9. Bernerd Ray was an oil geologist, who worked in the Roswell region in the 1940s. He used Kodachrome in his field work. This means he was near Roswell in 1947 and took these photographs.

10. The testimony of Eleazar Benavides confirmed that this was a photograph of the aliens found at Roswell.

While Bragalia's claims sound good, we can't say for sure that his observations are accurate without the slides themselves and any evidence they would use to confirm the other claims. However, we can examine these claims and see if they are correct based on what we know at this point:

1. The skin may appear organic in the photograph but we do not know what kind of lighting was being used to illuminate the body. Kodachrome is a daylight film and the color balance was set for lighting from the noon day sun. It was not designed to be shot indoors. It can present false color balance simply because of the nature of how the film reacted to the lighting. Kodachrome would tend to shift towards the red/yellow depending on the type of lighting (see my article on page 5). It is interesting to note that "Larry" stated he felt the skin was shrunk taught against the body and used the term "dessication" to describe the effects he observed.³⁴ This is the kind of language one might use to describe a mummy.
2. The hand showing only four digits is not a strong argument. There may be a hidden digit that is obscured by the palm of the hand or behind another digit. A mummy can have missing digits simply because they have broken off. Additionally, if the public statements made by some that the image is out of focus/blurry are accurate, one can conclude that this might make two digits merge together and appear as one.



3. We don't know if the eyes are even visible because of the supposed blurriness of the photographs. The orbit is usually about 4X the size of a human eye. If they are just eye sockets that appear like black eyes in the image, they are going to be larger than a human's eyes. Bragalia also stated that the eyes were too far apart. I measured the ratio of the height of the skull to the middle of the eye as being under 4:1. The skull appears to be tilted towards the camera giving a higher ratio. Images of skulls I measured had a ratio of about 3.5:1 depending on the skull. This image of an archaic child's skeleton³⁵ can be used for comparison. Using the image taken from the Dew film is probably going to introduce some errors due to its size, distortions, and foreshortening of the body. While not the same, many of the measurements are similar indicating that the possibility exists that it is a human child.
4. The face and skull of the body may be distorted by the glass case to make it appear odd. Mummies can have distorted skulls and faces simply due to the ravages of time. Additionally, the skulls of some civilizations purposefully distorted the skull at a young age. Anthony Bragalia's personal observations are biased towards the alien explanation. Like the supporters of the Patterson-Gimlin film, he sees bigfoot instead of considering the possibility that it is a man in an ape suit.
5. Bragalia's statement that the arms are too long is not correct based on my measurements. The ratio of the arm to the apparent length of the body, from the shoulders to the feet, appears to be about 0.5. This is not outside the normal for a human skeleton.
6. The glass case does not appear as unusual as Bragalia claims. His description of the blanket is very interesting. He states it was "hastily-cut"³⁶. There is no logical explanation for why the blanket would be cut for this display. If it were too big, it would be simply folded to fit the body. A more likely explanation is that the cloth beneath the body is very old and the ravages of time had resulted in the rough edges visible in the photograph. This would be consistent with a burial shroud for a mummy.

7. Taking photographs in doors is never easy and the images were probably poorly taken because of the shooting conditions. Using the photographs that were staged outside is not a proper comparison. However, even those photographs demonstrated similar problems. For instance, the Arc de Triomphe image from Paris shows poor framing and is tilted.
8. There is no evidence the slides were actually "hidden" on purpose or that they were separately packaged. This is the interpretation of what one person said and was retold by Adam Dew. Was it this way or was it a story told to make the slides appear more credible? Based on what we know, the four hundred slides were nothing more than a disorganized collection placed in a box. Examining the images that have been displayed, it is apparent they were assembled from other sub collections. These slides may have been in an envelope that was found and simply tossed into the box of slides. It is important to note that these slides were not labeled in any way indicating they were anything extraordinary even though Hilda Blair Ray made the effort to label some of the slides with her name!
9. There is no evidence presented to date that Ray ever was physically in the vicinity of Roswell at any point in his career. To say he was there in 1947 is just wild speculation. Most of his work was in southwest Texas. The same can be said for his claim about Ray using Kodachrome in his field work. Bragalia claims that he spoke to somebody, who told him that Kodachrome was used in such work but anecdotes are not evidence. Confirmed sources demonstrating that Bernerd Ray specifically used Kodachrome film in his oil research is what needs to be presented.
10. We do not know if Benavides is telling us the truth or making these stories up. He was shown the images with the preconditioning that these slides could show the aliens he claimed he saw. Would he have said the same if they showed him an image from the Alien Autopsy film or some other alien body hoax?

Without the actual slides, we can not properly evaluate the evidence and must take Bragalia's word that he is being accurate in reporting what is in the slide images. However, there is enough information obtained from the Dew video image that demonstrates his conclusions are biased to support his own personal beliefs and are not objective observations. Undaunted by Bragalia's verbal barrage, some of the members of the RSRG presented one mummy they felt MIGHT be the source of the image in the slides.



Then again....Maybe it is

As can be expected, the RSRG focused a lot of its time on the figure in the slide. As I stated in SUNlite 7-2, the size of the body seemed smaller than the claimed 3.5-4 foot height claimed by Bragalia, Schmitt, and Carey (Dew states it is 3-4 feet in his video). The dimensions of the supports indicated a body closer to three feet long, which is the size of a child. Focus quickly turned towards child mummies or some other kind of museum display involving the body of a child. A mummy was the most likely choice and several prime suspects surfaced. The biggest suspect was a mummy with the identification of Wistar catalog number 2397.³⁷ It used to reside at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia from 1860 to 1958. The mummy was then moved to the National Museum of Natural History, where it has the identifier NMNH-381235. As one can see in the image above (assembled by Curt Collins), it had some very close resemblances to the body in the photograph:

- It had a length of just under three feet
- The head had been separated from the body
- The head had a bright spot on its forehead

- The mummy was displayed on its burial shroud (the possible army blanket)
- The mummy's body was displayed in a similar position as the body in the photograph
- The mummy's physical appearance was similar to the body in the photograph
- One eye socket on the mummy was damaged
- The abdominal cavity was empty.

Two members of the RSRG contacted Dr. David Hunt, a physical anthropologist at the Smithsonian who had experience with mummy 2397. He was shown the blurry image of the slide and made the following observations:

The positioning of the body as seen in the boy mummy, and in the 'alien' body are what is seen as the common positioning of the body during mummification in Ptolemaic and Greco-Roman period Egypt. The arms along the side,, the head at the angle with the chin on the chest, most all individuals were not eviscerated and the abdomen would be collapsed (not stuffed)and the chest (ribs cage) would be collapsed (not stuffed); the feet would sometimes be positioned ventrally, or sometimes to one side or the other.

So as is seen in the "alien" body, the positioning is highly consistent with the position of the Egyptian boy mummy. If you were to do searches on unwrapped commoner (or lower status) Egyptian mummies from the Ptolemaic or Greco-Roman periods, they all will have that similar position. Thus I feel that even if it is not the same mummy, it is strikingly similar since this was the convention for positioning the body during the cultural practice period.³⁸

Several of Anthony Bragalia's arguments were also posed to Dr. Hunt. His response was what one would expect from a professional, who was faced with conclusions made by an individual with no knowledge of the subject:

Two comments, what does the 'erector-set' and non-professional setting have to do with his argument....? NMNH has used minimal type supporting systems before for cost savings and as selection by the design artist for their desired effect, so this does not hold.

As you can see in the images, this child did not suffer from hydrocephaly, and child heads are NORMALLY larger than the body proportion of an adult. So this is not an argument.

I have seen three Egyptian child mummies and two adult mummies from this time period (this one being one) where there is separation of the neck vertebrae from the positioning of the head in the chin-down orientation. Damage can occur to the bones and if the body has had a bit of time to decompose (and this often happened) , the head may begin to separate from the body and the embalmers would have to "reunite" the head by means of wooden rod. So there is no argument on this either.³⁹

The team had good reason to suspect that mummy 2397 was the culprit but several of us had our reservations. I felt that it was hard to prove without a clearer image and there were certain aspects of the photograph that suggested 2397 might not be the source. I think the most important thing to take from the research so far are the observations of Dr. Hunt regarding this being typical of what one would see in mummies that were displayed. Is it just a coincidence or can we consider his opinion something important to consider?

Even more disturbing for the slide promoters was the fact that their planned extravaganza alienated them from some in the UFO-logical community. Jaimie Maussan would state that, other than Kevin Randle and Robert Hastings, he never heard of any of these individuals. Tom Carey would state such individuals were "jealous" of the promoters.⁴⁰ This group of "jealous" UFOlogists included some prominent names that I did not expect. Some were turned off by the manner in which the slides were being presented and others, who had seen enough of the slides to make a personal judgment, felt they were not as compelling as the promoters were stating.

Revolt of the UFOlogists

It is rather unusual to see quite a few UFOlogists react to the Mexico City extravaganza in a negative manner. Robert Hastings wrote a scathing article about the slides, where he referred to them as a "ticking time bomb".

...that is likely to become one of the most embarrassing missteps in a seven-decade-long effort by ufologists to gather and publicize data pointing to the reality of the UFO phenomenon and its probable extraterrestrial nature....⁴¹

He also talked to Tom Carey about the placard. According to Hastings he contacted both Carey and Maussan about deciphering the placard. Carey told him that "not a single word" had been deciphered. Less than a month later, Carey would tell Maussan that enough words had been deciphered by experts that "debunkers" are going to be "disappointed".⁴²

Hastings would end his article by stating:

I will conclude by predicting, perhaps redundantly, that this affair will end badly for the Roswell Slide promoters. If, as I contend, the body in the slides is the mummy of an Inca child, or some such, then Carey, Schmitt and Maussan will owe the whole world an apology. They should also seriously consider returning whatever money they made as a result of their unfortunate, unfounded and misguided claims.⁴³

Meanwhile, Kevin Randle wrote that he had problems with the research and questioned just about everything to do with the slides. His article about provenance was critical.

Without the important questions of provenance and chain of custody answered, there is no real reason to assume the being on the slides

*has anything to do with the Roswell case, or that it is an extraterrestrial creature. This is basically the same stumbling block that so many of us interested in the case have encountered before and there is no reason to assume that anyone outside of the UFO community is going to care about this... and there might not be that many inside who do.*⁴⁴

This brings us to all the other UFOlogists, who Maussan claimed he never heard of before. Frank Warren, of the UFO Chronicles, referred to this as “The Roswell slides fiasco” and expressed skepticism about the slides in several forums:

*For the record, there’s no doubt in my mind that the image represents a human cadaver, a child, either a mummy, or a mummified/preserved pathological specimen. I’m confident that this will be proven to everyone’s satisfaction in short order.*⁴⁵

Alejandro Rojas, of “Open Minds”, was a bit less skeptical and simply stated that

*...the most we will have is some interesting pictures. Nothing provable*⁴⁶

Several individuals, who are not unknown in UFOlogy, from MUFON would also chime in with their opinions. Rich Hoffman noted:

*Even if you see the film has what looks like an alien, it still could be a fake. How do you qualify it without a body?*⁴⁷

MUFON’s photo expert, Marc D’Antonio, would comment:

*... the Roswell slides are going to be promoted and shown first by Jaime Maussan ... Such a move on the part of Carrie (sic) and whoever else will only remove credibility from an already tenuous claim...*⁴⁸

Writing in his blog, Paranormal Way point, Jeff Ritzman commented:

-It’s a non-story as far as what it tells us about the UFO phenomena. It says nothing about the phenomena, and really can’t say anything either. Dead end is a good term.

-It represents a new, depressing turn for UFO inquiry: the presentation of ‘evidence’ that can’t be dis-proven, or proven.

*It’s a non-story for this reason alone: a photo of a supposed alien is absurd. There is no benchmark for authentication. Where’s the comparison? Where’s your yardstick for such a claim? Right. There isn’t one. It’s an utterly, and completely useless discussion from the get-go – and it’s certainly not ‘evidence.’*⁴⁹

In order to drum up support, the Maussan team decided to bring in high powered UFOlogists to speak at the presentation. Not surprisingly, Richard Dolan gladly accepted the opportunity to appear on television. However, Stanton Friedman did not and publicly stated:

*I could find no convincing information that there is any connection between the slides and Roswell...I don’t want to appear to add legitimacy by my presence in Mexico City in the absence of serious evidence of the slides being what is being claimed they are.*⁵⁰

What this means is that the Roswell team has failed to convince very many people, outside their inner circle, that the slides show an alien body recovered at Roswell or, for that matter, any other spaceship crash. The desire for secrecy so they can all make some sort of financial gain or notoriety has been their undoing in drumming up support for their cause.

Circling the wagons

Partly because of the UFOlogical revolt, Jaimie Maussan and Tom Carey decided to launch a publicity campaign to protect their interests. Instead of addressing the commentary by UFOlogists, they chose to vilify those proposing possible explanations for the body in the image. They used the tried and true tactic of “Us against them”. That means calling anybody, who suggests that the body is not an alien a “debunker” and that the “debunkers” were trying to stop the event from even happening! Jaimie Maussan would imply that the debunkers were so powerful that, if the slides were not shown in Mexico city, they might not be shown at all:

*We are blessed for having this event in Mexico... No one can stop us here.*⁵¹

Maussan then suggested that skeptics/debunkers were being financed by outside sources to destroy him and the May 5th event:

*Well, I’ve been threatened, they’ve told me not to do this, that I’ll be destroyed...They’re very angry that this should be shown, that it’s a fiasco, that it isn’t true, that it’s a hoax...I’m not sure who’s financing these people, if there’s money involved, but they want to destroy the case and keep it from having any significance....*⁵²

I am unaware of anybody involved with the RSRG ever receiving a single penny for their efforts. We were doing this all “pro bono” and we were not the ones making money off the slides.

Tom Carey would echo Maussan’s complaint about a conspiracy but concludes the motivation is not money:

*....no matter how hard the debunkers try to destroy us and that is what they are trying to do. They are on a seek and destroy mission to take down Roswell, to take down this event, because out of petty jealousy....*⁵³

Probably the biggest blow to the Maussan madness was the fact that Stanton Friedman chose not to participate. Don Schmitt stated that it was the “noisy negativists”, who were able to influence Stanton Friedman:

Let it be noted, that even though we accept Stanton Friedman’s reversal regarding the presentation in Mexico, we totally disagree with his reason for that decision. Upon his initial acceptance, Stan was offered an opportunity to be briefed by us and ask whatever questions

he felt necessary. As of this posting he has never accepted that privilege. Failing that, we are left to conclude that the only source of information in making his decision was someone outside of our group. It should also be noted that we were not the ones to label the slides as the "Roswell Slides" or register an Internet domain under that same name. That was done by other individuals who apparently did persuade Stan to pre-judge without knowing all the facts. In the same context, we have never suggested that the slides have anything to do with the Plains of San Agustin or Aztec. On May 5, we will allow the actual slides and the entire battery of scientific analysis weigh in as to the authenticity of this discovery. Regretfully, Stan has allowed the "noisy negativists" influence his better judgement and that he also declined a thorough briefing on the situation from those individuals who extended the invitation in the first place. Unlike true scientific methodology, science by proclamation is not true science...something Stan should know as well or better than most.⁵⁴

If Schmitt and company really wanted Friedman to come, they would have trusted him and shown him the slides. Instead, their secrecy was their undoing and Friedman was unimpressed with what had been presented to him.

Schmitt's comment about his group never calling these the "Roswell slides" is not accurate. Anthony Bragalia has been essentially stating this for over a year and a half. As early as September 2013, Bragalia has been implying that the slides were associated with Roswell.⁵⁵ While he did not call the "The Roswell slides", he did start using that term openly in February long before the RSRG web site was developed.⁵⁶ So, when Schmitt says "we" did not label them as "Roswell slides", he is not being honest unless "we" means everyone BUT Anthony Bragalia, who has claimed to be part of this "inner circle" of Roswell investigators.

It was not only Bragalia's writings that indicated these slides were associated with Roswell. In a Maussan Skype conference, Schmitt implied that they were evidence of the Roswell event.⁵⁷ Maussan has been peddling the idea that the slides showed an alien from Roswell since his original "BeWitness" videos in February!⁵⁸ To imply that skeptics/debunkers/noisy negativists were the only ones giving them the "Roswell slides" label is nothing more than semantics. Schmitt, in this statement, is employing the same propagandist trick Carey and Maussan used. He is trying to vilify those with a differing opinion instead of relying on the strength of his evidence. It makes one wonder if they have their doubts about the outcome of May 5th. On May 6th and beyond, the true verdict will be cast.

Get your popcorn

May 5th is only a few days away. Based on what Adam Dew⁵⁹ and Anthony Bragalia⁶⁰ have stated, images and reports will be made available for everyone to examine. However, I have my doubts. Like movie theaters, cameras are not going to be allowed at the program, which means the owners of the slides do not want any copies of the slides being made or distributed to protect their financial interests. Once the slides are made available, nobody is going to want to tune into television programs or buy "Kodachrome" DVDs. It will be interesting to see what kind of restrictions they will attempt to employ to prevent the images reaching the Internet. Will the May 5th event be nothing more than a bait and switch, where the high resolution images will not be allowed to be seen? After all the promotion and promises, such a move will result in more negative responses from the UFOlogical and skeptical communities.

I am also skeptical of the promise that extensive reports documenting the research of the group will occur. If they do present anything in writing, it will probably mirror most of the writings we find in the Schmitt/Carey books and Bragalia's bloggings. A lot of flashy stuff will appear that sounds great but, after closer examination, will probably be anecdotal data, biased interpretation, quoting out of context, or just plain inaccurate information. I am sure that, whatever they produce, it will be closely scrutinized by those in the UFOlogical and skeptical communities.

The power of belief

When the dust settles on the slides, we are going to learn something about human behavior. Bragalia criticizes skeptics for our "interference" in his organization's "research". If they did not want people to check up on their claims, they should have kept their mouths shut and let the chips fall on May 5th. Instead, their promotional efforts dared skeptics to prove them wrong.

In my opinion, outside observers probably could not find fault with our skepticism and efforts to discover more. The odds are in our favor that the claims will be shown to be less than convincing. If the evidence is as convincing as the slide promoters state, then they will stand up to scrutiny from outside and the skeptics will have to admit they were wrong. I am not aware of any skeptic, who would not willingly accept the evidence if it is good. The problem remains that what has been presented to date is not very good and it does not look like it will be getting any better.

The opposite will be the case, if the promoters are shown to be wrong in that these slides show an alien body. Outside observers will find fault with the promoters for allowing their beliefs to interfere with critical evaluation of the evidence. Based on their behavior the past three months, the Maussan/Dew organization appeared to discourage others from discovering information that would derail their production on May 5th. Instead of taking the stance that the evidence will speak for itself, they allowed Anthony Bragalia to malign people for contacting individuals, who he had labeled as "off limits" to anybody else. I seriously doubt that Carey, Schmitt, Bragalia, Dew, or Maussan will apologize for their actions if the body in the slide IS identified as something earthly. I suspect that, if is identified, they will either ignore the identification or find reasons to reject it. As Gilles Fernandez is fond of saying, "That is UFOlogy".

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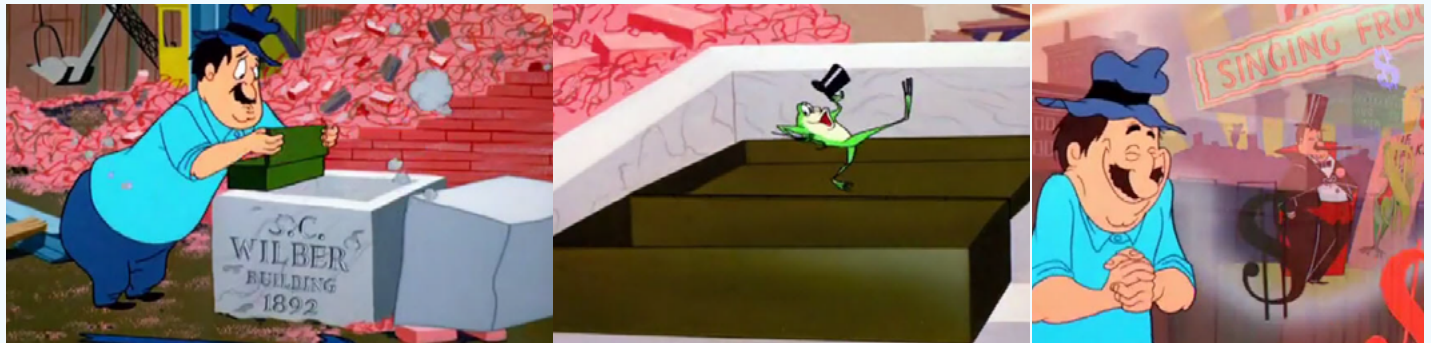
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Warner Brothers and the slides?

I am a big fan of the old Warner Brothers cartoons. A favorite is called "one froggy evening". One can see parallel's with the current Roswell slides story. The cartoon opens with the destruction of an old building where one worker finds a box. He opens it and out pops a dancing and singing frog. Needless to say, the man decides that he has a sure money maker. He takes the frog to an acting



agent, who was skeptical of this frog. One the box was opened, the frog just acted like a frog. The owner of the frog was thrown out with the box. Once everyone was gone, the frog once again sang and danced. The man desperately tried to get the frog seen



by the public but the frog refused to dance or sing in front of a crowd. Frustrated and broke, the man puts the frog back in the box and placed him in the foundation of building that was just being constructed. The cartoon flash forwards about one hundred years



when the building is being disintegrated. A worker finds the box and out pops the frog, which starts to dance and sing. This man begins to ponder how he is going to make money off the frog. Does one see similarities with the frog and the slides? Is it possible that the frog will only sing and dance for those who want the frog to sing and dance?

Identifying the non-body slides

In Adam Dew's production of "Kodachrome", he treated us with glimpses of some of the slides that were found in the box that he deemed important enough to show to the public as a teaser. While Dew gave us clear indications that the slides show the US open at Pacific Palisades country club and the Cleveland air show of 1948, he did not bother to comment about the other slides. We are all left wondering how important they are. If one can date them or give the locations, one might get a better picture of who took the photographs and where they were located when the images were recorded.



Tournament of Roses parade January 1, 1946: The float is the indication of year and location. The same float is visible on the web.



Paris late 1950s: Various individuals in the Roswell Slides Research Group (RSRG) identified many of the cars as being built in the late 1950s



These slides appear to have been taken in Kansas in the 1940s after the war. The dog's tags indicated he was photographed in 1947. One wonders how the summer trip with the camping trailer was taken when the Rays were supposedly in New Mexico looking at aliens.



These photographs were taken in Colorado. Some have suggested the "sand dunes" were from White Sands, New Mexico. However, research indicates they were taken at the Great Sand Dunes national park in Colorado. The trail ridge road/motorcycle image was taken at Rocky Mountain national park. The same can be said for the "fishing trip" photograph at the upper right. A common problem the RSRG discovered was that Dew sometimes reversed the slides, which made identification of exact locations difficult.



A curious image in the Kodachrome video is this one of, supposedly, Bernerd Ray. The slide mount shown indicates something from 1949 or sooner but Bernerd was only 50 years old in 1949 and this shows a man who appears older. Compare this image with another image of Ray shown in the trailer and from 1976. Is the man in the bow tie, Bernerd Ray or somebody else? If it is Bernerd Ray was the photograph really taken in the 1940s or was it much later? If so, how does it explain the slide mount? Was this an example of Dew altering the slide mount to make it appear to be a much older image? We can also say the same about the Hilda Blair Ray photograph.



Instead of a woman in her 50s, we see a woman much older than that. Either the Rays aged at a rate much faster than most adults, the slide mounts are incorrect for the time period, or these people are not the Rays.

The non-body slides may or may not be important but what we know of these slides so far is that they appear to show people, who traveled to various locations and took photographs. They do not show anything of significance that might link them to a possible Roswell space ship crash or allow them access to debris or bodies from such a crash. They also indicate that they might have been some place else in the summer of 1947 and not New Mexico.

DID A CLOSE ENCOUNTER TURN A LEADING DEBUNKER INTO A BELIEVER?

by

Martin S. Kottmeyer

I've been catching up on cable TV shows about ufos in recent months. I had some awareness that these shows are more about entertainment than objective journalism and had of course seen articles here and elsewhere on the many errors and distortions these shows routinely serve up to their audiences. There is no point in pretending personal surprise in finding many errors as yet discussed in these series. I am here going to unravel one particular tale that caught my fancy while watching an episode of Hangar One titled "Unfriendly Skies" that first aired April 11, 2014.

The specific story is one about a commercial airline pilot's ufo experience introduced as "one close encounter that turns a leading ufo debunker into a believer." Text appears on the screen titling the segment "Captain W.J. Hull UFO Sighting". A ufo researcher identified as Dwight Equitz speaks of 1956 as an era when there is a big surge in ufo sightings by pilots. But Captain Hull did not believe in ufos. John Ventre, MUFON State Director, tags in: "He was a true skeptic. He even authored an article for an airline magazine called "The Obituary of the Flying Saucer." On screen, a clipping that looks torn out of some publication echoes the title. The article is not discussed. Instead, we move into a reconstruction of the ufo experience. "Captain Hull and his co-pilot observe this bright light." On screen we see daylight out the cockpit window. A large white orb is in the distance framed by cumulus clouds. We are told they first thought it was a meteor, but then it did something no meteor could do. It changes direction. On screen, the orb makes a looping motion. The voice-over says it darts back and forth, rising and falling. It makes 90 degree turns in an instant. After 30 seconds, it stopped and hovered awhile in front of the plane. "So suddenly this pilot who didn't believe in ufos suddenly found himself face to face with one." After a few seconds it shoots over the Gulf of Mexico at the most breath-taking angle. It diminished to a pinpoint and was swallowed up in the night sky. One of the researchers reappears and states, "Obviously after this, Hull was not the skeptic he had been." They mention he called in the sighting to the tower – traffic control – and then the show changes the topic to how Project Blue Book was behaving questionably and not getting anywhere.

We are left to infer Hull repented his sins with intense wailing and, a broken man, wandered the earth asking forgiveness and atonement of those he so miserably misled. For me, there was one glaring boggle. Who the hell is Hull?

I have a reasonably solid grasp of the history of ufo skepticism and I was quite certain Hull could not possibly have been a leading debunker. I never heard of him, never read anything by him. Still, I was made curious by the tale and typed his name and the title "Obituary of the Flying Saucer" into a search engine. I quickly found it, read it, then learned that Hull not only had a 1956 ufo experience, but one in 1957, and both were recounted in the Condon report and granted there to be unexplained by one Condon's team. I also found out that Hull had a correspondence with one of the principles of the Nash-Fortenberry classic of 1952. The correspondence made one thing absolutely clear. Hull was not a debunker, nor a true skeptic.

In fact, even the "Obituary" gives evidence against the label. Hull's writing is actually a brief book review and Hull is declaring a just-released book is the Obituary. It was Donald Menzel's first effort in ufo debunkery titled *Flying Saucers* (Harvard, 1953). Hull had just read it and was excited by it. Hull writes, "It is right here I wish to confess that from the very first sighting of a saucer by Kenneth Arnold over Mt. Rainier in 1947... I have believed implicitly in the existence of these nebulous will-o-the-wisps, passionately defending my views against all the "heretical" attacks made upon them... I did tireless research on the subject for six years, interviewing other pilots, control tower operators, hundreds of passengers, as well as laymen from all walks of life. I devoured voraciously every printed word on the subject, newspaper and magazine articles by the score, and I bought each new book as fast as it hit the market."

This is the declaration of an enthusiast and someone emotionally invested in the subject. The book review is only twelve paragraphs long and lacks any sense of deep study. He intuitively Menzel's book represents turning point in the controversy. He observed that the CAA had recently accepted mirages were involved in the 1952 Washington National radar incidents, an assessment in conformity to Menzel's conjectures.

The correspondence between Joe Hull and Captain Bill Nash is an eye-opener. In a letter dated November 2, 1953, Hull writes, "on two occasions – both times at night – I was an unbelieving witness myself to strange manifestations in the sky that were clearly visible from the cockpit."

So, with the 1956 and 1957 experiences, we are now up to FOUR ufo sightings by our 'true skeptic.'

Hull writes Nash about his feelings towards the saucer controversy: "Nothing in my entire life has ever captured my imagination more... I even read all the fiction that is written about the disks, watch all the TV shows, many of which doted on this theme during the past three years." In this letter, barely two months after being turned into a heretic – Hull's personal term – by Menzel's book, he was already making excuses that he had been made uneasy by too many self-styled experts in the preceding months. The review pretty much stated this. Things had become silly with people promoting absurd looking ufo photos and Cahn's exposé of the so-called Scully hoax appearing in the prior September issue of *True* magazine. Menzel's book was a deliverance from these embarrassments.

By the following April, Hull writes Nash, "that I do believe in the existence of flying saucers, that my few weeks of alienation of affection from the cause was occasioned by the mesmeric words of Dr. Menzel; that since then, and mainly through your logic, I had renounced him and his theories." He states he had even offered a challenge to Menzel to debate him on TV. "I am confident that

history will prove Menzel a scientific ostrich and a regret which I shall take to the grave is my inability to meet the man, face to face, and atone, at least in part, for the injustice I dealt many of my honest, sincere colleagues when I momentarily deserted them to listen to the heresies of Menzel and to endorse his book. Today his book reads like the foolishness it is but when I first read it and reported it to my readers it fulfilled the craving in my heart that only the common sense and indisputable evidence of men such as you dispelled. My plea? Insanity." The debate failed to happen. Menzel had other plans.

The record of correspondence makes it perfectly clear that by April 1954 Hull had become a believer again, mainly from negative feedback by people like Captain Nash and Donald Keyhoe. Hangar One's tale of the 1956 sighting turning him from leading debunker to a broken man is pure fraud – guesswork and prejudicial filling-in betraying a shallow understanding of the facts. It is in service to the creation of a morality tale. Debunking is hazardous. Ufos makes fools of skeptics. In truth, Hull was a believer and his seeing ufos four times points to an opposite hazard in his declared enthusiasms.

Hangar One's dramatization of Hull's sighting has some additional problems. Hull's November 1956 sighting over Alabama happens at 10:10 P.M. at night. The re-enactment has the orb in a day-time sky, framed by cumulus clouds. The narration quotes Hull accurately but partially. Beyond the darting motions, the rapid right-angle turns, a period of hovering in front of the plane, and the breathtaking angle over the Gulf, one part of the experience is not quoted. That is when the "strange light began another series of crazy gyrations, lazy 8's, square chandelles, all the while weaving through the air with a sort of rhythmic, undulating cadence, the likes of which neither Pete nor I had ever seen." The language seems more appropriate to an Elvis performance than what one would expect of a vehicle engaged in reconnaissance of strategic assets, the favored theory of that era.

Another odd feature of the encounter is that during the two minute encounter, there was no indication of a closing or widening of distance despite the plane traveling ten miles in the interval. The control tower saw nothing, but clouds were present and the radar had not been energized. That lack of wider corroboration is unfortunate, but probably not problem enough to deny something was physically present from which light was shining. It is especially unfortunate that co-pilot Peter Macintosh seemingly never wrote an independent statement of what he saw – at least I didn't find one in the papers archived on-line. Basically we must take it on faith that he experienced the ufo the same way and it seemed as strange to him as it did to Hull.

The re-enactment does not do justice to the complexity of the testimony. The on-screen orb fails to display what I would call crazy gyrations and undulating cadences. It represents it a dumbing-down of the strangeness, presumably for economy or credibility. Even as presented, the pointlessness of the behavior is a bar to seeing it as evidence for anything sensible. Hull emphasized two points in his published account of the sighting for Civilian Saucer Investigations (July 1957). There was a motion downward and a return motion upward – implicitly Hull was making an argument it came from space and returned there. As ETH arguments go, there is a pleasant simplicity in this emphasis. But the emphasis does not erase the bizarreness between the bracketing endpoints. How does an assumption of extraterrestrial origins 'explain' or jibe with such crazy kinetic acrobatic imagery? Later generations can add another layer of questions. Why wouldn't interstellar visitors prefer orbital imaging? We know it is both possible and capable of acquiring usable intelligence. Why go to the trouble of descending to within a couple miles of earth and then leave without landing? It seems like a waste of extraordinary amounts of energy for no obvious benefit.

Hull does not tell us much about the shape or form of the ufo. It is a bright light – a brilliant blue-white color – but he sees no structure nor a vehicular shape. This is just another of the sort of poor-quality "nocturnal meandering lights" of no scientific value that the Richardson Panel complained there were too many to bother with. Such tiresome vagueness promises no progress whatsoever. Such too-distant views are precisely why Project Blue Book was getting nowhere. These encounters were not close enough to learn anything useful. Even the location points to the meaninglessness of the encounter. Hull's own description of the location underlines the point: "southern Alabama you know that it is pretty desolate country, with few inhabitants and only a few small hamlets between Mobile and Montgomery up in the middle of the state." There is nothing of strategic value there – no military targets, nuclear facilities, major industrial plants. Nothing is there worth hovering over for even a second.

In the abstract, parsimony would prefer Hull's ufo sighting claims in total represent a set of serial mis-identifications magnified by psychological enthusiasms. That Hull's 1956 experience began with an actual meteor seems an obvious starting thought. The initial direction of left to right across the stated south/southwest vector of the flight path is a natural fit to a meteor streaking away from the radiant of the northern Taurid meteor shower which normally peaks around November 12th each year. The meteor probably burned out near some celestial body, possibly Mars (magnitude -1.01 but a bit high) or Fomalhaut (lower but notably dimmer at +1.25), that was roughly consistent with the plane's flight path quoted as "We were flying south-southwest..." These are admittedly rather too dim to be a true match Hull's description reading, "It was an intense blue-white light, approximately 7 or 6 times as bright as Venus when this planet is at its brightest magnitude." However, Hull's writing is possibly ambiguous enough to allow the intensity of the meteor's brightness was being given in that line rather than the perceived brightness of the hovering and acrobatic image. Here, again, is why the absence of a second independent account matters. It might have proved helpful in deciding how plausible such a reading actually is.

In the moment, proximity and shift of attention might allow them to think the separate objects are the same one. Gordon Thayer in the Condon study suggested the acrobatics seen by Hull were 'image-wander.' Autokinesis would be another term for this. The eye generates illusory motion when against a blank background. The failure to close or widen distance with the object reinforces the assumption of a celestially distant object. The movement over the Gulf probably presumably requires some third object, a second meteor maybe, appearing as clouds blocked whatever object had accounted for the acrobatic light. It's clunky as explanations go

and if someone cares to present a better, appropriately mundane, guess, I'll confess no interest in defending it. Just please don't tell me it is some deep cosmic anomaly worthy of mystery worship and fawning nit-picking analysis. Four-time experiencers warrant an above-average level of doubt. Ultimately, it is only the comedy of MUFON's fraud in presenting Hull as a leading debunker and true skeptic that made me spend even this little effort in thinking about it.

That second ufo experience in 1957 has been looked at by NARCAP and a tentative conjecture was offered that a high-altitude research balloon popping could account for parts of it, with, again, coincidental meteors accounting for the rest.

Hull's heretical skepticism was a dalliance lasting mere weeks. He was a follower, not a leader. I saw no evidence he ever publicly debunked a single case with an original explanation of his own creation in his short life. He was killed on April 6, 1958 in a plane crash caused by icing problems. MUFON better hope ghosts are not real. Nobody can doubt Hull's soul would express offense at the insult MUFON did to his memory. Beware vengeful spirits haunting Hangar One. Go git'em, Joe.

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9. The Hangar One episode can be watched on their site -- <http://www.history.com/shows/hangar-1-the-ufo-files/videos/hangar-1-the-ufo-files-unfriendly-skies> Hull's incident starts at time index 26:00.

Outlining Some Imagery Enhancement Principles and Introducing the Spatial Domain (ii)

by Geoff Quick

In the first part of this article we looked at the concept of resolution from principally the radiometric (or “gray level”) aspect of imagery. It was demonstrated how this could be made more interpretable by enhancing information contained within the image that was not normally perceivable by the observer.

The concept of resolution in imagery interpretation is multi-dimensional. The axes of resolution of imagery also spread across the spectral domain (“color”), the temporal domain (the time interval(s) between images being captured) as well as the spatial (“detail”) domain which we introduced at the end of (i). Incidentally this last domain is often commonly and incorrectly touted as “the resolution” of imagery, in disregard of the other three imagery resolution domains.

The important concept of spatial frequency outlined in (i) enables us to address characteristics contained within the spatial domain of an image.

To recap:

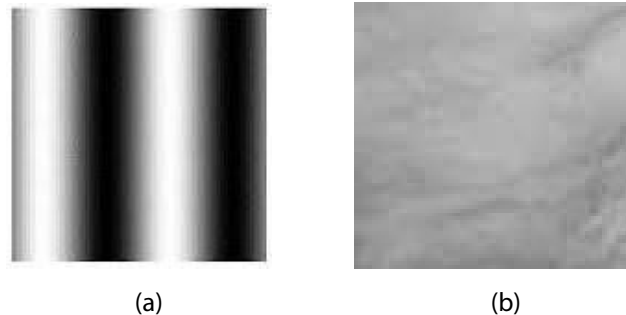


Fig. 1. Low Spatial Frequency Component (a) across “x” axis of image e.g. cloud (b)

This representation of a spatial frequency component shows a typical low frequency sine wave typified by gradual changes across the image, such as with overcast cloud.

The sine wave pattern shown above can be expressed in a simple concept that involves three possible variables, The spatial frequency, the amplitude (positive or negative), and the phase.

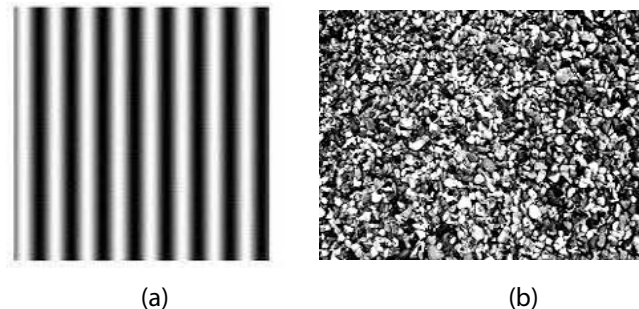


Fig.2 . High Spatial Frequency Component (a) across “x” axis of image e.g. pebbles .(b)

In contrast this spatial frequency component typifies a more densely packed variation in radiometry across the image. The representation of an image in terms of all the spatial frequencies contained within it brings in a branch of mathematics that enables us to transform the representation of an image from the normally perceived spatial domain (i.e. “picture”) across to the frequency domain. The formula by which we convert, or transform, an image from one domain to the other is referred to as a domain transform and the most commonly used of these is the Fourier Transform.

Joseph Fourier (1768-1830) was a French physicist who developed a range of functions, based upon frequency, which are used in many branches of mathematics and science. In digital imagery the image can be seen as a function of two variables (the pixel value is the function, its “x” and “y” co-ordinates the two variables). The Fourier transform can display a new representation of an image, based upon the spatial frequency components, and preserving all the information in the original image. Complicated functions can be represented in this way and worked upon in an easier manner.

We can represent these frequencies graphically by redisplaying the image information in terms of the spatial frequencies contained within it in the frequency domain, rather than as a pixel matrix in the spatial domain..

So, for our first case above, the low spatial frequency across the image can be represented as seen below:

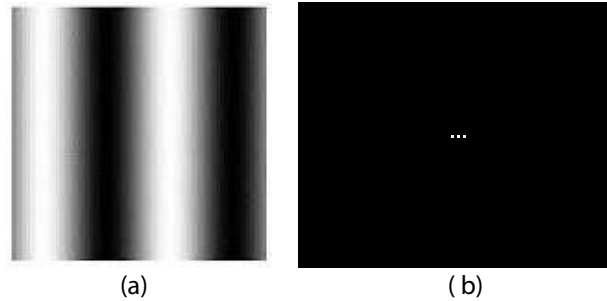


Fig.3. Low spatial frequency (a) across image "x" axis expressed as a frequency component (b).

Note that the center point –the origin (which actually represents the mean brightness level or signal amplitude in the image) is bracketed by two points close in, i.e. indicating a low spatial frequency . This pair of points represents a particular spatial frequency in the image along the "x" axis. Also note that these two points are symmetrical in distance from the origin. This opposing symmetry of frequencies always appears in an image expressed in spatial frequency terms.

It is perhaps helpful to note at this point that this is not just abstract theory. If a lens has a slide of Fig. 3(a) above placed at its focal length and a piece of frosted glass put at its focal plane then a beam of coherent (i.e. laser) light shone through the lens will produce an image identical to that at Fig. 3 (b) above on the glass. The lens is actually performing the transform operation optically.

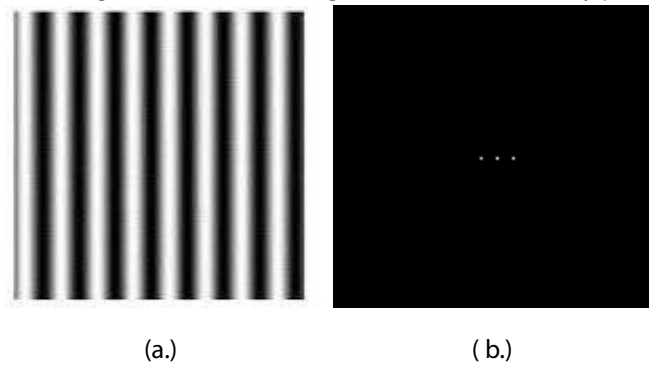


Fig. 4. Higher Spatial frequency (a) in "x" axis i.e. across image , expressed as a frequency component (b).

Do note that in Fig.4. above the two points are more displaced outwards towards the left and right edges then in Fig. 3.,being representative of a higher spatial frequency.

So far we have only looked across the image. If we now rotate 90 deg. and look up and down the image's spatial frequencies, precisely the same transformation occurs in the "y" axis , we just have to rotate everything accordingly thus:

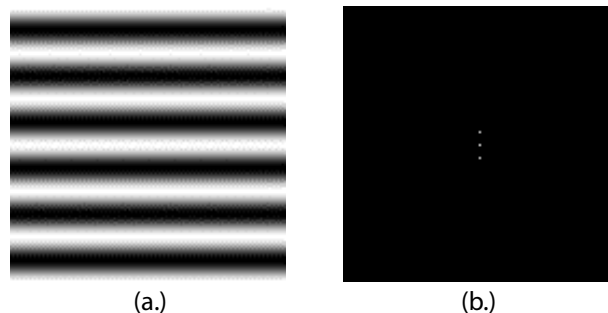


Fig. 5. Spatial Frequency in "y" axis i.e. up and down image (a) expressed as a frequency component (b).



Fig. 6. The same rules apply through 360 degrees in the plane of the image .

So, if we add all the of spatial frequencies in all orientations in the x,y, plane to get the Fourier transform of an image , we typically end up with an expression of the image in the frequency domain as looking something like this:

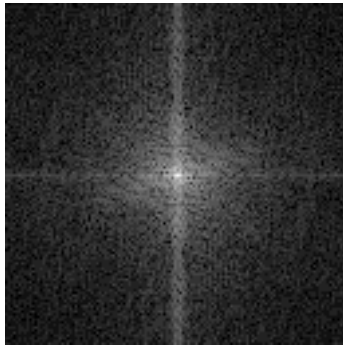


Fig.7. Typical Fourier Transform of an image.

This representation of an image in the frequency domain contains all the original spatial information. Indeed if the Fourier transform is inverted (i.e. "reversed") the original image will be faithfully reconstructed in the spatial domain . The original picture information is all intact. Note the brightness along the "x" (horizontal) and "y" (vertical axes) these indicate an image with distinct vertical and horizontal features, such as one might see in doors or windows for example.

In the transform the low spatial frequencies are towards the central origin and the higher spatial frequencies ranging out to periphery. So if ,for example, we wish to reduce high spatial frequency "noise" we can remove the outer parts of this frequency domain transform before running the inverse transform. Thus an image can be "smoothed". As we are letting the low spatial frequencies dominate in the image, this process is often referred to as "low-pass" filtering.

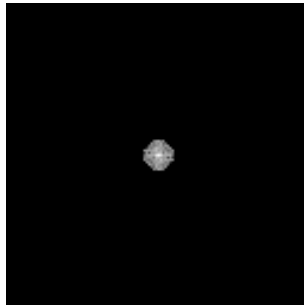


Fig 8. "Low Pass" Fourier filter.

Conversely removing lower frequencies close to the center will "sharpen" the image for the observer. (a.k.a."High Pass" Filtering)

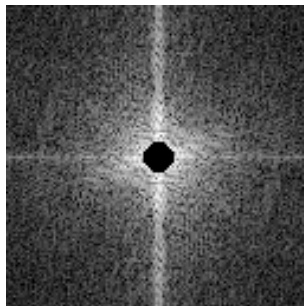


Fig.9. "High Pass" Fourier filter.

So, to recap, the various changes in radiometry across the image in all directions are open to be detected and measured in terms of spatial frequency . In a manner conceptually somewhat analogous to that used to group pixels by their radiometry (as outlined in the earlier paper) instead of their physical positions (x,y,) in an image.

The spatial frequency components of an image can be re-plotted from low to high on new "x" and "y" axes across the frequency range. Although looking nothing like a "picture" all the information in the original image is retained and the image can be reconstructed back in to the spatial domain by reversing the process. The varying spatial frequencies can be attenuated in order to make the image more interpretable , however no additional external information is added to the image.

However it is not necessary to always move an image from the spatial domain to the frequency domain in order to perform filtering operations . The image can be directly and specifically filtered in the spatial domain by a process known as image convolution. This operation, in essence, looks at the relationship of a pixel to those pixels around it. It is often referred to as a neighborhood operation.

In this routine each pixel is systematically looked at in turn and its relationship with the pixels around it weighted. The end result being an image that can be high pass, low pass or edge enhanced in a number of ways. The mathematical instrument that looks at and adjusts this relationship is called a convolution kernel or, alternatively, a "mask" in some texts.

Here is a schematic diagram of a typical convolution kernel or “mask”.

-1	-1	-1
-1	16	-1
-1	-1	-1

Fig.10. A typical convolution kernel.

Several points can be noted. This kernel covers a 9 element matrix of 3x3 pixels centered on the pixel being weighted at value 16 in this example – which is of a typical high pass filter incidentally. Many convolution kernels are of this size for a number of reasons, primarily because the small size is easier to implement compared to bigger kernels, e.g. 7x7, 9x9 up to 25x25 or more for some specialist low-pass operations that generate exponentially greater number of calculations: hence the practicability of working in the Fourier domain for some complex tasks. However, some of the bigger sizes can be approximated by performing a series of 3x3 convolutions.

The convolution kernel scans the image from top left, pixel by pixel, row by row as can be conceptually visualized below.

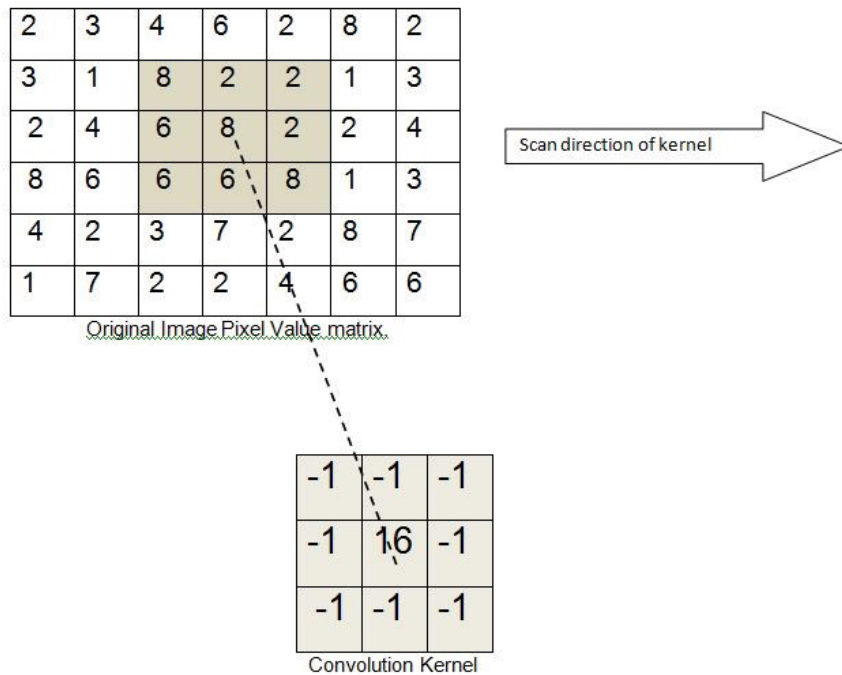


Fig 11. Schematic of Convolution Kernel Scanning an image Pixel Matrix.

The convolution kernel addresses each image pixel value in turn as it reads across the rows and down the columns of the image. Above we can see that is centered on a pixel with a gray level value of “8”. We’re using single digit figures here to keep the math in check, incidentally.

The input value for the pixel is “8”. Now each of the nine pixels covered in the original matrix is first of all multiplied by the weighting value in its corresponding position in the kernel. The top left pixel in the grayed out section of the image has the value 8. This is multiplied by the top left value in the kernel which is “-1”. So $(-1) \times 8 = -8$.

The kernel then adds all of these values up for the nine pixels covered as shown schematically below:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(-1 \times 8) + (-1 \times 2) + (-1 \times 2) \\
 &+ \\
 &(-1 \times 6) + (16 \times 8) + (-1 \times 2) \\
 &+ \\
 &(-1 \times 6) + (-1 \times 6) + (-1 \times 8)
 \end{aligned}$$

The sum total of all these values is (128- 40) i.e. 88

This kernel then divides this figure by the sum of all the values contained within the kernel itself i.e.(16-8) = 8

$$88/8 = 11$$

"11" is then inserted in to the output image in the place of the original pixel value of "8" and the kernel moves on to the next pixel in the original image and repeats the process. .

This is a typical example of a high frequency pass kernel, in which relatively lower values become lower whilst the higher values become higher. A kernel with these characteristics reversed will act as a low pass or "smoothing" filter.

It might be helpful now to look at a couple of image enhancements in order to illustrate these operations in practice .

We can start by looking at a copy of one of the most famous " UFO" images of the '50's (and the very first one seen by the author at a tender age).

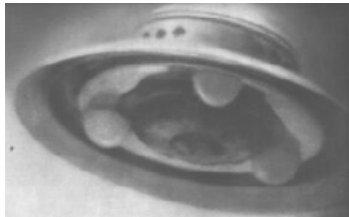


Fig.11. George Adamski " Flying Saucer".

If this image is high pass filtered by a convolution kernel similar to the one used in the example above, a more "crisp" image emerges.

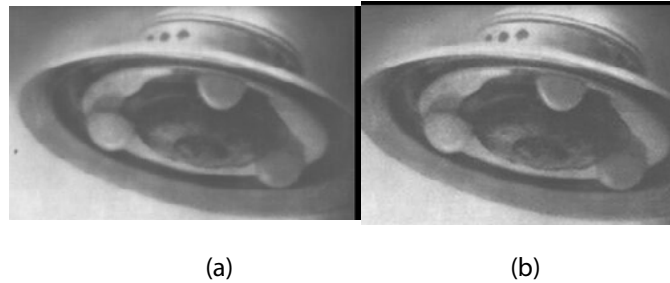


Fig 12 .Original Adamski Image (a). High pass filtered (b).

Note, however, that although the rim of the saucer and the edges of the apparent windows appear sharper the "noise" in the image is also more apparent, for example in the background area towards the lower left of the picture. This process is somewhat analogous to adjusting the bass and treble output on a music sound system. The desired result can be heard, but all the original information is still there in the recording.

A typical edge enhancement convolution kernel can bring our features as illustrated below:

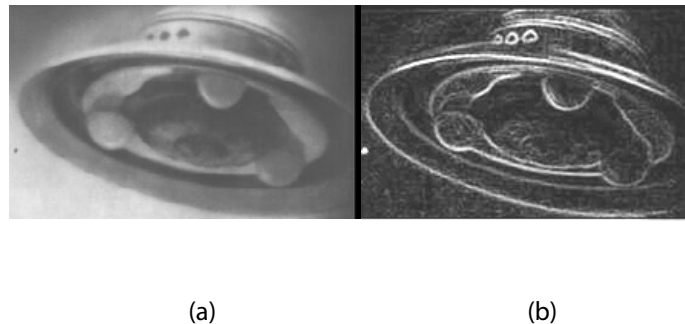


Fig 13 .Original Adamski Image (a). Edge enhancement filtered (b).

In practice the edge enhancement routine is usually added back in to the original image in many cases to improve its appearance for many applications, ranging from imaging satellites to personal digital cameras.

In a future article we will look at some practical examples of the application of imagery enhancement techniques in UFO imagery.



Space Report

As usual, there were quite a few space activities that produced UFO reports in March-April. I found it refreshing to note that Peter Davenport correctly identified nine UFO reports as being produced by the rocket body re-entry on 23 February. Thanks to a heads up from Ted Molczan, he was also correct in identifying sightings produced by the second stage of an Atlas 5 second stage venting fuel in orbit. However, he did not identify the sightings that were produced by the launch itself.

Falcon 9 rocket launch

At 10:50 PM EST, on March 1, a Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral. There were four reports from Florida listed in the National UFO reporting center (NUFORC) that were related to this launch.

The first came from Sunrise, Florida near Fort Lauderdale. The time of the sighting was listed as 2200 but it matches the characteristics of the launch:

Watched orange/white object with a red tail following it that would come And go moving north to south Changed direction heading east Lost it cause it dissipated and than could see a cloud with a dim light moving opposite direction of other clouds.¹

The next sighting came from Miami, Florida. This was listed as 22:55, which is only a few minutes after liftoff. The details leave a lot to be desired but it appears to describe the rocket's appearance to the casual observer.

A red trail caught my eye as I was driving home on the highway. Looked like a plane that was red with a red trail. I soon realized that it wasn't moving and I stopped my car. I watched as the object trailed turned to a gray or white color and disappear. The object turned to a white light. A plane flew by at high altitude. The object started moving at a rapid pace. It slowed down again and just disappeared. I watched the sky for a few minutes after to see if it would reappear. Nothing happened.²

The next observation came from Kissimmee, Florida, south of Orlando. The witness describes the object descending, which is what appears to occur as the rocket goes downrange. The sighting time was 2300.

Fireball looking sphere object coming towards earth for about a minute then turned and went back up towards space for about another minute or two and just disappeared³

The final sighting from Orlando, Florida, was interesting because the witness described himself an expert on identifying rocket launches. The time of the sighting was listed as 22:14.

We was in the parking lot close to mco and a super orange bright light show up from the horizon disappearing way up... I know the pattern of flight of the airplane I lived her since 2010 and is a unusual route to se a craft... The weird thing looks like is coming from north-east (cape Canaveral) I check the NASA launch schedule and nothing come up for today....⁴

They apparently did not look close enough because there was a launch scheduled and it wasn't scrubbed.

These observations are lacking in details that could conclusively identify them as rocket launch observations but the coincidence that they were made close to the time frame as the Falcon 9 launch indicates this was the source of their reports.

Atlas 5 launch March 12

This launch was from Cape Canaveral at 10:44 PM EDT on March 12. This produced a few reports in the NUFORC database. The first was from Coral Springs, Florida, north of Miami, at 23:00.

While on my way home I needed to stop off at the grocery store. As I turned north extremely high in the sky the most unusual fire orange color object moved in an eastern through the sky. I have seen the orange colored objects twice before but this one was more comet shaped whith what I can only describe as a tail. I was so amazed. Before I could video the object I lost site of it in some cloud I guess. But

this thing appeared to get brighter and then dim out slightly.⁵

The next report came from the north of the cape, near Daytona Beach. The time listed was 22:45 and the description is what one would expect from the launch.

Looked up at the sky and saw a round orange ball traveling toward me just to the immediate south of my house, and to the immediate west of the Halifax River. As the object got closer to me, 4 strobe lights appeared to flash approximately every 3 seconds. As I exited the screen room, an orange tail appeared behind the object and it turned due east toward the river and ascended quickly into the sky until it disappeared.⁶

As in the Falcon 9 reports, these reports, while not precise, do appear to describe the Atlas launch. There is no reason to suspect they were observations of anything else.

Atlas 5 second stage

The March 12 Atlas launch also produced UFO reports when the second stage was seen venting fuel in orbit as it made a pass over the US around 4:30-4:40 UT (12:30AM EDT/11:30 PM CDT/10:30 PM MDT/9:30 PM PDT). Astrophotographers in several locations recorded the event. Both MUFON and NUFORC received UFO reports of this event.

10:30 PM Troy, Montana

My wife and I set outside every chance we can to watch meteors and there was a lot of activity last night we saw over 6 or so. My wife then looked over to her left and at the tree top of one of our trees was a glowing like perfectly round object. At first it was very bright it was about the size of our outside table. It had a star like object inside of it that moved along with it. As it moved slowly in a very horizontal line to the North it grew in size and there were no clouds at all in the area, it just appeared out of nowhere! As it was moving it grew larger in size slowly and on the very outside edge there was another star like object that went into the center of the other star object. Our dog [Item Moved/CMS/nd] who also sits outside at night with us took off under our trailer so what ever it was it scared her. My wife went into the house to get our sons to show them what we were seeing and they also were mind blown by what we saw. This is not the first time we have seen something out of the ordinary But it is the first time we had seen something of this nature. It finally disappeared to where we could not see it anymore. From here on out we are going to try to film anything we see like this, unfortunately all our cameras are out of date so we could not get it on film. This is truly something not of this planet! I can draw you a sketch and send it via email if your interested in looking at it, Just contact us back and we would be more than happy to do so⁷

9:30 PM Oxnard, California

When I first observed the object it appeared to be in lower orbit flight or very high altitude flight. It had a plasma type cloud surrounding it. Once I began to track the object it suddenly started descending at an incredible rate of speed. It continued to descend changing into a more "cloud-like" appearance. Once it was about the size of a basketball it started moving towards where I was located. As it approached it began changing from a cloud to a solid object. It was enormous. I'm approximating the size to be at least a mile in width. It came to rest directly over where I was located. It also turned the exact color of the sky until it was undetectable. I lost visual on the object after that.⁸

9:45 PM Stockton, California

I had stepped outside into the back yard at around 9:45PM when I noticed a bright blue fluorescent colored sphere in the North sky and was flying erratically in a North Easterly direction. The object was flying relatively low but there was no sound of a propulsion source. I noticed the object make several short changes in flight path which made for an erratic pattern of flight. I called to my wife who was in the back room of our house to come see this beautiful looking blue light in the sky. In the time that my wife took to step out of the house which was approximately 45-50 seconds the light had traveled a considerable distance. She was able to make out the light seconds before it disappeared. The objects bright blue almost fluorescent color was what initially caught my eye and was different than anything I have ever seen before. The bright color of the sphere plus the fact that it made no noise was also very strange. The sphere's flight pattern was erratic and made several changes in flight path as it traveled, unlike an airplane or helicopter? I felt that what I was witnessing was something unlike any known aircraft that I have ever seen before. I am a veteran of the US Army with 9 years active duty and nothing in my experiences have I ever seen anything like what my wife and I witnessed that night on March 13, 2015. The sphere continued flying in a North Easterly direction and continued making changes in flight path until it disappeared from sight. I had left my phone in the house otherwise I might had been able to capture the sighting in a video! The total amount of time that the sphere was seen in the sky was about three to three and a half minutes.⁹

Thanks to Ted Molczan, Peter Davenport was able to identify the two UFO reports he received that described the event.

The first came from Stevensville, Montana at 22:00

A circular cloud growing to double concentric circular clouds with a yellow/orange colored object in the center of the cloud. Radius of cloud approximately between 5 to 10 moon diameters at maximum extent.

Object moved with cloud and cloud became fainter and larger over a period off 15 min but could still follow faint colored object as it moved very very slowly across the star background. Sighting occurred first east of the star, Sirius and moved north east in the sky. Thought initially it was a supernova but could see an object in center of cloud move with 10x50 binoculars.¹⁰

The other sighting came from Fallon, Nevada at 21:16.

*A pinpoint of light just below canis minor was slowly engulfed by a small white blurry puff. I pointed it out to my husband. We watched the object move in an accelerating straight line towards Regulus, just under Jupiter. As it moved steadily across the sky, the puff of whitish mist around it steadily grew in circumference. A tiny pinpoint of light could always be seen at the center of the growing "puff." The object moved steadily across the sky toward Regulus (I whipped out my star tracker app to track it), it suddenly slowed and came to a stop just under Jupiter. The puff continued to increase in circumference and dissipate. The object then began to move slowly again towards Regulus. As it approached Regulus it again slowed, stopped. The tiny pinpoint of light could still be seen, the white puff around the object had now grown in size to such a circumference it could barely be seen. The light then disappeared as the puff of white completely dissipated."*¹¹

It is good to see that Ted Molczan is providing good information to Peter Davenport. One hopes that MUFON is also doing their homework. Otherwise, these sighting might appear on an episode of "Hanger one" as a mass sighting.

The other launches these past two months were daytime events and did not involve many UFO reports because they occurred in daylight.

I know what I think I saw

Once again, we see that space activities can, and do, produce UFO reports. I am not trying to show the witnesses as being incompetent or stupid. What I am trying to demonstrate is that they often do report events that happened but can fool themselves into thinking they saw something exotic or will make errors in their reports that can mask the true source of the report. The witnesses and the UFO promoters will say, "They know what they saw" but is what they reported an accurate reflection of what they truly saw?

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July 2, 1960

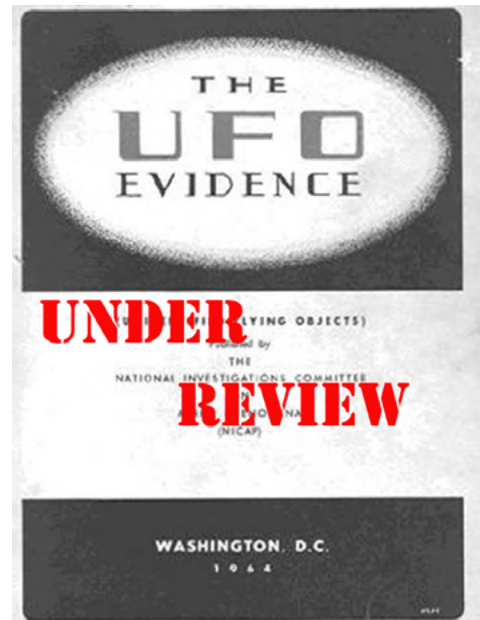
The UFO evidence describes the event as follows:

*July 2, 1960--Nr. Maiquetia, Venezuela. Pilot and crew of Venezuelan Airlines Super-Constellation arriving from Spain, reported plane was followed by a luminous UFO. [X]*¹

Section X gives us some further details but falls short of providing specifics.

*July 2, 1960, near Maiquetia, a Venezuelan Airlines Super-Constellation was arriving from Spain about 3:00 a.m. Flying at 10,000 feet about 20 degrees N, 68 degrees W (near Puerto Rico), the pilot and crew noticed a bright luminous object angling toward the plane at about their altitude. After paralleling the plane for several minutes, the object suddenly shot away at terrific speed. The pilot reported the sighting to the press upon landing.*²

The source of this report is Ultimas Noticias; July 3, 1960. I could not find any articles regarding this event in the newspaper archive but the UFO investigator of July-August 1960³ stated that the duration of the sighting was twenty minutes and not "several". Project Blue Book did not have any other information regarding this sighting but they did have another sighting at the same time from an observer in San Juan, Puerto Rico.⁴ This observer reported seeing a UFO, which he described as being "bigger than the biggest star" and "a thin powder puff" moving towards the southeast at a 40 degree angle. After six minutes it faded from sight.



FLYING SAUCER
On July 2, 1960, at 3:18 A.M., I observed from the terrace of my residence, which faces east, a white form moving in the sky. This form was circular and whitish and many times bigger than the biggest star in sight. It was not bright nor did it have clearly defined borders like a circle drawn on paper. It can be compared with a thin powder puff. Focusing on it with a small telescope I saw something like shafts of light emerging from a center or core.
I called my wife who was sleeping and she also saw this form moving in the sky.
It was not an airplane, nor a star or planet, nor the reflection of a searchlight. The night was clear and the stars were visible. I live in a place where the residences have big lots and it is quiet and peaceful.
The form was at an approximate angle of 40 degrees from the horizontal plane and was moving slowly at approximately 40 degrees from the vertical—to the southeast. It faded gradually and disappeared completely at 3:24 A.M.
I am an attorney at law, also a pharmacist, and when I was discharged from the army I had the rank of captain. These remarks are made only to demonstrate that I have some training in observation and objective analysis. — A. L. Garcia Martinez, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Solution

The source of this UFO appears to be man made. The aircraft was flying near Puerto Rico, which is along Cape Canaveral's Eastern test range. A check of the Astronautix chronology produces the following entry:

*1960 July 2 - . 06:58 GMT - . Launch Site: Cape Canaveral. Launch Complex: Cape Canaveral LC11. LV Family: Atlas. Launch Vehicle: Atlas D. LV Configuration: Atlas D 60D. Research and development launch - . Nation: USA. Agency: USAF. Apogee: 1,800 km (1,100 mi).*⁵

This indicates the launch time was 2:58 AM EDT/1:58 AM EST. If the aircrew was using the local time of the sighting, they were using AST (Puerto Rico did not observe DST), one hour ahead of EST, which means the time of observation was the same approximate time as the launch. The booster and warhead would have moved towards the southeast just like the San Juan witness described.

While the plane was about 1,000 miles from Cape Canaveral, it was also along the track of the missile, which was launched towards the area near Ascension island (target area was 1.3833 deg S latitude, 12.17 deg W. longitude)⁴. According to the flight test report

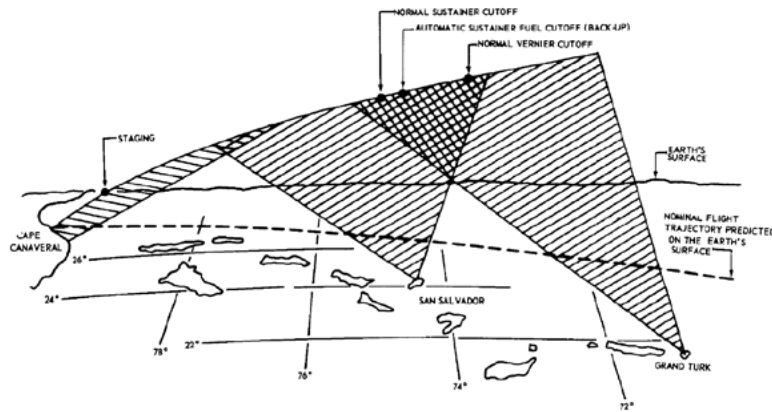


FIGURE 7.5-3 DOWNRANGE COVERAGE BY RANGE SAFETY COMMAND
ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY TRANSMITTERS

for this launch, the sustainer engine ran longer than normal (308 seconds vice 247 seconds due to a loss of pressure)⁶. The valve was closed at an altitude of about 225 miles and down range of 538 mi (459nm)⁷. Based on the track, this is north of San Salvador island in the Bahamas.⁸ This is about 550 miles northwest of the airplanes position. It would have been a bright light that appeared over the northwest horizon and reached a peak elevation of about 20 degrees at the time of Sustainer Engine cutoff. If the plane was flying in a westerly or southwesterly direction, it would have been off the starboard side of the aircraft. The San Juan observer indicated that the booster was still visible after sustainer engine cutoff as a large white object moving across the sky until 3:24 AM. In my opinion, this is the source of the UFO report and the case can be considered closed unless somebody can provide additional evidence that suggests otherwise.

Notes and references

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701 CLUB: CASE 1482 JULY 17, 1952

Don Berliner describes this as:

July 17, 1952; Lockbourne, Ohio. 11 a.m. Witness: Air National Guard employees. One light like a big star was seen for 3 hours, but disappeared when an aircraft approached. Also seen the night of July 20, 22 and 23²

While this sounds interesting, there are clues in this summary that suggest there may be an explanation. I was hoping the Blue Book file might contain the information that would make identification possible.

Blue Book's report

The Blue Book file contains a two page report written by Major Edward Wittmer of the 91st strategic reconnaissance squadron. His report, while brief, has enough information, in my opinion, to help identify the probable source.

The primary witness, William W. Stevenson, in this report was recently discharged from the USAF. This, apparently, made him a reliable observer. Major Wittmer summarized the sighting as follows:

1. *A circular shaped object giving the appearance of a star appeared somewhat smaller than an average airplane on immediate horizon. It was florescent and its most recent sighting the outer rim gave off an orange and green glow. The object as it came into the line of vision looked like a speck and then took on its final form. On the latest appearance it left a trail of reddish cast to side while moving and often remained stationary for long periods of time.*
2. *Stevenson observed the phenomenon at 0100 (0600Z) to 0400 (0900Z) EST? on Thursday 17 July, Sunday 20 July, Tuesday 22 July and Wednesday July 23. On Thursday 17 July he saw the object for a total length of time of one half hour from 0100 to 0130. The other mornings the object was sighted for varying periods of time. Wednesday 23 July it was seen in position for two (2) hours. William O. Havens, the other source, a neighbor, was also in attendance with Stevenson and confirmed his observation.*
3. *Both visual and weak field glasses were used in the observations from the ground.*
4. *The observers were ten (10) miles due north of Lockbourne Air Force Base and the object was moving north and south ten degrees from due east at a distance of three (3) miles and approximately five thousand (5,000) feet above the ground.*
5. *Both men were recently discharged from the USAF. Stevenson is a Sergeant Major of the 8166th Air Base Squadron of Ohio National Guard and Havens is Commanding Officer of the same unit. They are working in a civilian capacity on the air base. Stevenson continuously referred to object seen as "he".*
6. *The cloud coverage on Thursday and Sunday mornings was seven-tenths (7/10) to complete with a low ceiling. On Wednesday it was CAVU.*
7. *The observers could not give an explanation for their sightings but were positive it was not a star.*
8. *No physical evidence.*
9. *No interception or identification action taken.*
10. *When an airplane took off from or landed at Port Columbus, the object would disappear beyond human sight. On Wednesday 23 July the phenomenon did not disappear as planes from Port Columbus passed over it and it seemed as large as a plane.*
11. *On Monday 21 July 1952 at 2150 hours our observer also noticed to the south of Columbus proper an object that he called a "space ship". His neighbor who was watching with him, gave the object the name of "space ship" as she was looking through field glasses.²*

From this description we can determine that the primary UFO was visible in the east around 0600Z (0200 EDT). it stayed in the eastern sky for the duration of the observation. The repetitive nature of the sighting on subsequent nights around the same time indicates this probably had an astronomical explanation.

Because weather may have been a factor, I decided to obtain weather observation data for Port Columbus airport on the mornings in question. As noted in the report, sky conditions were not exactly perfect each night but the sky conditions were clear enough during the times in question to keep the door open for an astronomical explanation.

Date	0500Z	0600Z	0700Z	0800Z
July 17 ³	fog	clear	unknown	light rain
July 20 ⁴	drizzle	clear	fog	fog
July 22 ⁵	unknown	clear	clear	unknown
July 23 ⁶	unknown	clear	clear	clear



Examination of Stellarium reveals an obvious source to the sighting. The planet Jupiter rose just before 0600Z and was at an azimuth of 70 degrees. By 0900Z, its azimuth was 99 degrees. The disappearance and reappearance of the UFO probably had more to do with clouds and weather than it attempting to avoid aircraft from Port Columbus airport. This appears to be confirmed by the fact that the UFO did not do this on the one morning that there were no clouds.

While the observers were certain that what they were seeing was not a star, they probably were not aware that bright planets like Jupiter, Venus, and Mars at opposition tend to be quite spectacular to the casual observer. Since they have a significant angular size they do not twinkle as much, if at all, making them appear “unstar-like”.

Bonus sighting

There was also another UFO reported documented in the report that happened on July 21 at 2150 EDT. It was described as being south of Columbus as seen from their position. Since they were on the east side of town, near the Port Columbus airport, Columbus center was to the west/west-southwest. If the UFO was to the south of the city, then they were looking towards to the south or southwest. It seems possible that they mistook another planet or star for a UFO.



Stellarium presents us with some good candidates for the UFO sighting. To the southwest, was the planet Mars at an azimuth of about 220 degrees and a magnitude of -0.1. Antares was at an azimuth of 192 degrees and had a magnitude of +1. Spica and Saturn were further west around magnitude +1. Mars was the brightest and most obvious of the celestial objects in the direction of Columbus. Additionally, being a planet, Mars would not twinkle as much as the surrounding stars and would, again, give the appearance

of an object that was “not a star”.

Solved?

In both cases, I am pretty confident that the source of these sightings involved astronomical objects. Since Blue Book was overwhelmed with sightings in the summer of 1952, it is no surprise that this was not solved. This should be reclassified as probably Jupiter and, for the bonus sighting, probably Mars.

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UFOs on the tube

The return of Hanger one

It is hard to believe that Hanger one got another season. Apparently, the public enjoys being told wild stories that lack any proof but sound real enough. I only watched one episode. Unlike last season, I just have lost the patience with this sort of thing. Besides, the new season of "Game of Thrones" was much more entertaining. This show introduced another UFO promoter with an acting background, Melissa Tittl. Like Dwight Equitz, she was brought in because they appeared to need some good acting to sell some of the nonsense they were going to peddle.

The program starts with an event that transpired in Vietnam on June 15, 1968. A patrol river boat encounters some UFOs that they thought were enemy helicopters. What transpires is a battle with the helicopters, where the "helicopters" spray the patrol boat with conventional machine gun fire (not laser beams). While the MUFON says these "helicopters" were actually alien spaceships, the truth of the matter is that one of the crewman, James Steffes, says differently in his book, "Swift boat down". According to him, they responded to the destruction of another patrol boat, PCF-19, which had been hit by missiles, exploded, and sank. Just a few hours before, his boat (PCF-12) had pulled up and helped repair the radar for PCF-19. They then saw the helicopters in the moonlight. Steffes specifically states they were NOT alien spacecraft in his book and his use of the term UFO was specifically meant to indicate earthly aircraft of unidentified origin. He refers to these as helicopters with a round nose and, apparently, two crewmen inside. PCF-12 survived the encounter but MUFON tried to link this to another event the following night.

The HMAS Hobart was in the same area and was attacked by these UFOs the following night. In this attack, the UFOs fired missiles at the Hobart and killed crewmen. According to MUFON's experts, the UFOs had taken missiles fired at them by Phantoms and then "reused" them to strike at the Hobart. The crew of the Hobart appear to be convinced that they were hit by missiles from US aircraft in a friendly fire incident. Are we to believe the men who were there or a group of UFO aficionados wanting to appear on television?

After presenting these two events, MUFON experts then stated that UFOs were studying our methods of engaging in warfare. After Vietnam, the US military told its pilots not to engage UFOs because they "can't win". George Filer states he is aware that Air traffic Controllers (ATCs) divert air traffic away from UFOs. I find this to be proof that ATCs don't want midair collisions with unknown aircraft. No ATCs or documentation was presented to confirm this claim.

The show then proceeded to an incident in April of 1951, where a company of soldiers engaged an alien spaceship, which counterattacked and made the entire company sick and incapable of fighting. The implication is that radiation was used to injure the company. The source of this information is a Private Wall, who told his story to UFO investigator John Timmerman decades later. There are no records of this anywhere that I am aware of and none were presented. Because this happened during a time where the US was considering use of an atomic bomb to change the battlefield stalemate in Korea, Richard Dolan views this event as a threat. According to him the UFOs were warning us to not use nuclear weapons because they were more powerful than the Atomic bomb.

Another Korean war event mentioned was in September of 1950 near Incheon. In that instance, three jets on a mission engaged UFOs that were 700 feet long. These UFOs apparently disabled their weapons so they could not fire back. We are told the only reason the jets were not shot down was because they did not fire at the UFOs. Again, the show presents no evidence to support the claims that this event actually happened this way. George Filer states that UFOs never attack but they are here to save our planet! If that is so, why did the UFOs make attacks in Vietnam and Korea? Filer added that any pilot, who engages a UFO does not survive yet we are not shown any evidence that any pilot has ever been shot down by a UFO.

The Rendlesham event followed with Jim Penniston telling his story of what happened. As expected, none of the actual evidence was mentioned. We only saw the sketches from Penniston's magic notebook and the not the sketches he actually made in 1981.

A final event described was a March 19, 2003 event in the Little Zaab valley of Iraq. In that instance, Kurds saw F-16s attacking ground positions and Iraqis firing back. The Kurds noticed strange lights, which supposedly caused the F-16s to leave. No documents are presented, which this makes the story anecdotal. Even without confirmation, Melissa Tittl pontificates this means that the military is still trying to avoid engaging UFOs. A more likely explanation is that the F-16s had expended their ammunition/fuel and had to return to base. There is no evidence that the "unidentified lights" had anything to do with the actions of the F-16s.

MUFON sums up their conclusions by stating that UFOs are studying our war making ability and are trying to send us a message. Jeremy Ray said they are telling us we are a danger to ourselves. Brian Mathieson added that the message is to stop us from killing ourselves and there is a better way to live. Doesn't this sound like the message the contactees were making back in the 1950s?

I found the second season of Hanger one to be no improvement over the first season even though we were promised by MUFON that they would focus less on sensationalism. This is just "ancient aliens" in another form. I have seen enough of Hanger one and will waste no more time on it. I recommend others to do the same.