

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Place: Mary Ester, FL

Date: 31 May 95

I, Roland H. Lutz, CMSgt, USAF, (Ret), hereby state that James McAndrew was identified as a Lieutenant, USAFR on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will, make the following statement. This was done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement.

I enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1947 and transferred to the U.S. Air Force in 1958. In June, 1958 I was assigned to the flight surgeon's office at Holloman AFB, NM as an Aero Medical Technician. I served several tours in Southeast Asia and retired from the Air Force in 1974 as an Aero Medical Superintendent.

On May 20-21, 1959 I was assigned to provide medical coverage for a balloon training mission that took off from Holloman AFB and ended with a crash near Roswell, NM. Capt Joe Kittinger was training two other pilots, Capt Fulgham and Capt Kaufman. I followed the balloon in an ambulance during the night and at daybreak I followed the balloon in an H-21 helicopter. Just after daybreak I saw the balloon crash and the three pilots were dumped from the gondola. I immediately informed the helicopter pilot and we landed in a field on which cattle were grazing. I recall the rancher was upset because the helicopter was frightening his cattle and some cattle had gotten out of the field.

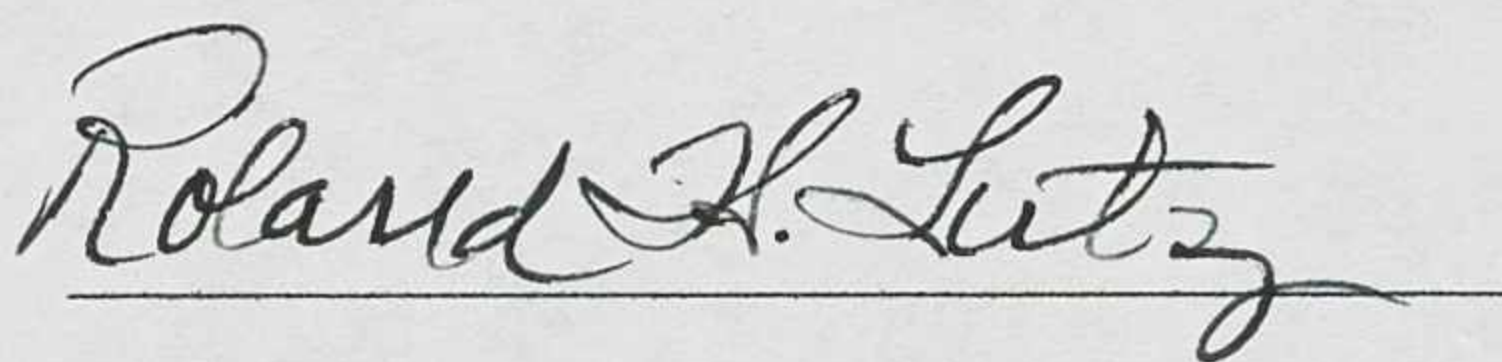
I assessed the injuries to the pilots and recommended they be taken immediately to the closest hospital which was at Walker AFB, approximately 5 to 10 minutes away by helicopter. Capt Fulgham's head was swelling due to a hemotoma he received when the gondola struck him. Capt Kittinger was cut on the face and was bleeding, Capt Kaufman was uninjured. At Walker I remember a telephone conversation with a flight surgeon who told me to "go home and sleep it off". He apparently did not believe my story of three Air Force pilots that were victims of a balloon crash. However, I was able to convince him and he treated Capt Fulgham and Capt Kittinger. While at the hospital Capt Fulgham's head had swelled enormously and his eyes were beginning to turn black.

I do not recall that anything unusual occurred at the hospital at Walker. I remember the three pilots sitting on a bench in the hallway waiting to be treated. I do not remember that Capt Kittinger was involved in an altercation with anyone while at the hospital, if he had, I would have known about it. Capt Kittinger was concerned with getting medical treatment for his injured crew member, Capt Fulgham, and returning to Holloman. I also do not recall a black NCO accompanying Capt Kittinger while we were at the hospital. I do not remember a nurse assisting in the treatment of Capt Fulgham or Capt Kittinger. I also do not remember a male civilian or any personnel or vehicles from a mortuary, and I do not recall any remains in body bags in the hospital.

I was present the entire time when the events described here took place. I am certain that this event had nothing to do with "space aliens" or any other irregular activity that would require a cover up. It was a balloon crash and nothing else.

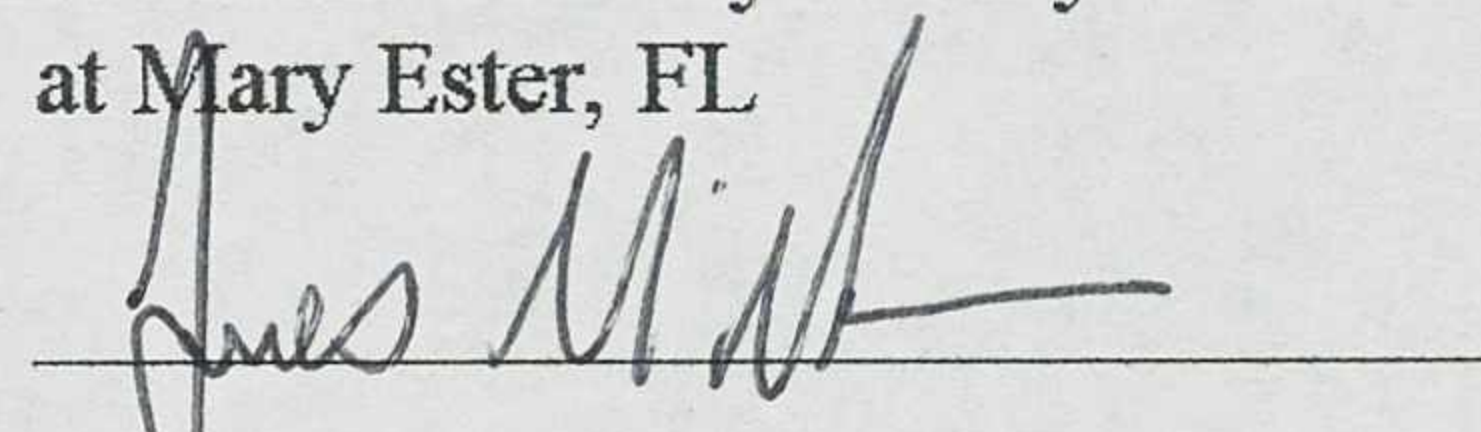
I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold or provide misleading information to the United States Government or the American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by U.S. Government persons concerning refraining from talking about this matter.

SIGNED:



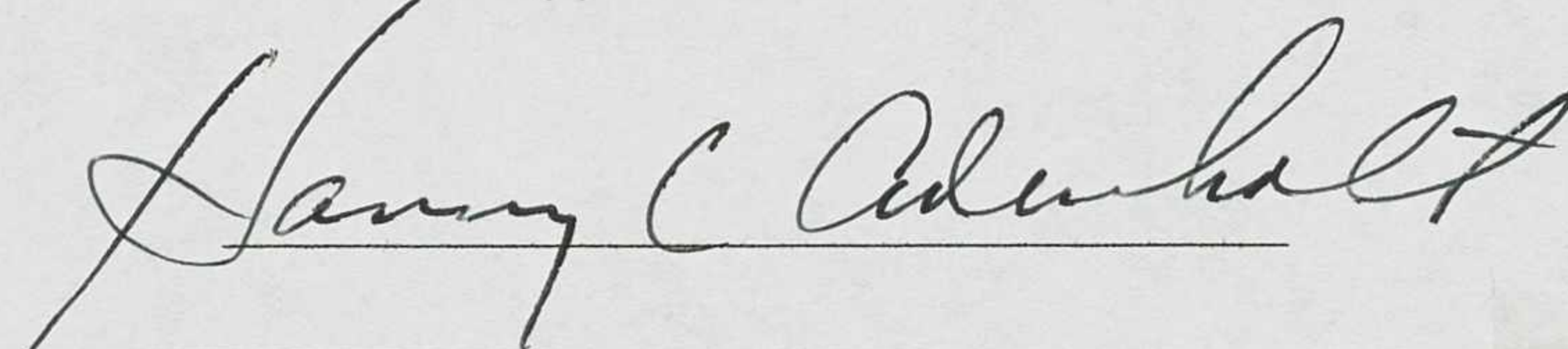
Roland H. Lutz, CMSgt, USAF, (Ret)

Subscribed and sworn before me, an individual authorized to administer oaths this 31st day of May 1995 at Mary Ester, FL



James McAndrew, 1st Lt, USAFR

WITNESS(s):



Harry C. Aderholt, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Chief Master Sergeant Hap Lutz (Ret)

31 May 1995

Interviewer: 1st Lt James McAndrew

Q: I sent you in the mail a copy of a report we wrote last summer at the Secretary of the Air Force's office where we were asked by the GAO to investigate or do some research on something that's known as the Roswell incident. I sent you that. Did you have a chance to review that?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: For the record, I'd just like you to state your name.

A: My name is Roland H. Lutz, Chief Master Sergeant, Retired, United States Air Force. I live at 707 Crestwood Street, Mary Esther, Florida.

Q: We're going to discuss a particular incident in 1959. But if you could just give a brief overview of your training and positions you held in the Air Force.

A: Let me start at the Navy. In fact, I enlisted in the Navy in October 1947. I spent some 12 years in the Navy. In 1958, I transferred over to the Air Force from the Navy. My first assignment was to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico as Air Medical Technician with the Flight Surgeon's Office.

I subsequently became the NCOIC of the Flight Surgeon's Office, and my collateral duties were at the Human Tolerances Branch at Holloman Air Force Base as a sled test subject, riding the sleds periodically and working in the research lab, out there with Colonel Stapp, Captain Ely Beeding, and also I was associated with Captain Joe Kittinger, the Man-High Project, wherein I covered his balloon jumps over the ranges of New Mexico. And as well, his sort of medic assistant on many of his incursions, and the balloon. Those were my primary duties.

I also flew search and rescue for incidences on the ranges in and around Holloman Air Force Base.

in that particular mission, in that project, and explain what you remember about that day, that mission.

A: I was assigned that mission by my flight surgeon, Les Eason, a captain at that time, now out of the Air Force and retired, of course. A doctor, flight surgeon. He asked me to cover this particular mission from Holloman Air Force Base over the San Andreas mountains to Roswell, New Mexico, and the surrounding area of Walker Air Force Base. It was a balloon of three individuals involved in the gondola. Captain Kaufman, Captain Fulgham and Captain Kittinger as the pilot of the balloon.

The purpose was to train these individuals in balloon handling and touch and go's and so forth and so on. And my mission, of course, was to cover them medically if there were any incidents that might occur during this mission.

So they launched, and I launched my [ambulance]. Followed them over the mountains at night, and the following morning I took up in a helicopter, an H-21 helicopter. It was during this time, I don't recall, right at daybreak, somewhere around there.

But I peered out the window of the helicopter and saw a dust devil catch the gondola as they were doing touch and go's, and dump all three occupants from the gondola.

I asked the pilot to land immediately, and I responded to their needs immediately, and noted that Captain Kittinger was bleeding. Not profusely. Primarily from cuts and bruises, and from whatever kinds of weed he might have tangled with. Captain Fulgham, the leading edge of the gondola had caught his helmet. I knew that he was in dire straits. Captain Kaufman looked reasonably well.

So I preceded to put them in the helicopter and respond to Walker Air Force Base.

It was this time, when the helicopter landed, that... Ostensibly, this man had prize cattle, the rancher on this...

Q: It's always prize cattle. (Laughter)

A: Right. He came running at the helicopter and me shaking his fist and shouting, "My cattle have broken the fence. Go round them up."

I told him I wasn't a cowboy, that I was a medic and I had some injured people. He was not concerned about us, he was concerned about his cattle, of course.

I remember vaguely the cattle breaking the fence, and hopefully they would not come towards us, and they didn't.

But then we went into Walker Air Force Base and took my patients in there, as it were. My first thing was to call a flight surgeon, of course. I called the duty flight surgeon at home. I told him I had three people that were injured in a gondola accident, and I don't recall the flight surgeon's name, because it wasn't important at the time. He said, "Go home and sleep it off." I guess he thought I'd been drinking all night.

So I called the second flight surgeon, and I got the same initial response. "Hey, I'm having fun sleeping. Go sleep it off," essentially. The words not exactly to that, but the same thing.

I finally called the hospital commander and told him, and he said, "I'll be right there, Sergeant Lutz." That's when he responded to the urgency of the matter.

It was then that they were taken into... Of course they were taken into the emergency room, but we had some minor problem with the security of the thing. I was not involved with that, however. My concern was these three individuals. I was staying with them, whatever happened. I remember that, and being with them until they got into the emergency room for a complete checkout when the hospital commander finally got there.

Following that, I saw Captain Fulgham on several occasions, and I knew then that his head was swelling. We thought about, me being included in the conversation, me not being the person that was going to do it, but aspirating the hematoma that had occurred

around his head which at this time had grown to enormity. Of course his eyes had blackened, the sockets around it had turned black as a result of the blood collecting around it. The hematoma had gotten larger. Talk of aspiration was done, but then we decided, I think, somewhere in this conversation, to put him in an aircraft that was safe to fly him in from there to Holloman Air Force Base and perhaps take that task at that point.

We got an aircraft, C-54 type. I did not go in the aircraft. Captain Kittinger, Captain Kaufman did. I responded back to my, I called my boss, Major Joe Gainey who was hospital commander at Holloman Air Force Base, gave him an overview of the details, told him everything was well in hand, and asked him to relay this message to Dr. Eason. I told him as much as I could about the incident.

Somewhere along the line, I also mentioned that this was a classified mission. I don't know what the classification was. I still don't know what the classification is, for that matter. They told me it was classified to the extent that, I guess to keep onlookers and this type of thing away, but there was no secrets involved in the thing, or they wouldn't have flown over the mountains or into people's cow pastures.

That's about all I have on the thing.

I remember there was... I've been asked if there was a nurse there. I don't recall a nurse being there. And a black sergeant. I don't recall any black sergeant being there whatsoever. I remember some folks scurrying around after they finally took note of the fact, yes, that we did have somewhat of an emergency here. They were more in awe of what the circumstances were than they seemed to be in taking care of the matter. So I tried to pitch in and be an assistant medic as well as... Since it was not on my turf, I sort of laid back on those things.

Q: I'll just ask you a few specifics.

A: Sure.

Q: You kind of remember it the way the other guys did. What I'll ask you about is, when you saw the accident, do you remember if there were other Air Force people on the ground that were in the area, other than the three pilots in the balloon?

A: I have to be very frank with you. I don't. I simply don't. Undoubtedly they were, but it was not to my... That probably was not a point of my interest. My interest was getting into the helicopter and covering them. No, I simply don't.

Q: You said you were in the helicopter and you followed them during the daylight, but then you mentioned an ambulance?

A: No, no. I took the ambulance.

Q: You...

A: I wasn't in a helicopter all the time.

Q: At night time you were in the ambulance?

A: Yes, over the mountains. I followed their red lights on the gondola. Their running lights.

Q: So you were in the ambulance...

A: I drove the ambulance. I started off in an ambulance, right, and drove it over the mountains.

Q: Were you, did you see them take off from Holloman?

A: Oh, yeah. I saw the whole thing. Then I followed them. That was my mission.

Q: You watched their lights and...

A: Right.

Q: Then at daybreak or thereabouts, you transferred from the ambulance to the helicopter?

A: That's right.

Q: When they were dumped out, you looked them over, saw that you had an injury, got them on the helicopter...

A: I made a cursory examination right away, right. I could see that Fulgham's head was starting to swell right way. It was a sudden onset type of thing. The blow was so traumatic that the injury response was swelling of the head almost immediately. I could see that.

I did not remember... I may have, but I don't remember moving his helmet, or his helmet got knocked off. I don't remember that. I know it's important, probably, to the investigation, but I don't remember. It may have been one of the things I did as a result of it. If it was still on, I would have removed it because of the swelling to prevent further injury. That would be my first reaction.

Q: So from the time the gondola hit the ground until the time you got there, how long was that?

A: Minutes.

Q: Do you know about where this happened?

A: I know it happened in a rancher's cow pasture.

Q: In relation to Walker Air Force Base?

A: It wasn't that long... No, five to ten minutes flight, perhaps, at the most.

The excitement of the time and the shock of the thing even happening probably preoccupied my senses as well. My concern was them, and that's all I focused on. I wasn't thinking about time or when it started or when it happened or anything like that. I know it was early in the morning. I do know that.

It had to be early in the morning, to back up what I said about the doctors' not wanting to respond and not come to the

emergency room. It couldn't have been that far away, either, because it was still light when this incident happened, and it was still light when I got there and still early when I got there. That's the thing I guess I'm trying to verify.

Q: When you got to Walker, do you remember where the helicopter landed?

A: No. Because it wasn't that far from the hospital area. I know that. I don't remember where the hospital area was.

Q: Do you remember any security people meeting the helicopter?

A: No, I don't.

This all could well have happened, but my concern was these three individuals. Whatever, I knew what I had to do and I knew what I was going to do, and that was what I was primarily concerned with. I don't remember meeting any or having any conversation with any, or anybody telling me we couldn't do this or couldn't do that. No, I don't.

Q: When you got to the hospital, you told me you don't remember any involvement with a nurse.

A: No, I don't. I got almost immediately on the phone. I sat them down in a hallway, as I recall. There was sort of a bench-type thing. Joe Kittinger might have sat on the left or right, and Fulgham probably was in the middle, and Kaufman was probably on his side -- more or less to look after him. I went immediately for the phone to get a flight surgeon down there. Joe was in enough sensibility that he could take care of the others if anything happened during my absence to get on the phone. That's when I got on the phone and told them I needed a flight surgeon. So for all intents and purposes, I was away from them probably for five to six minutes, trying to get somebody down there to peer at them and examine them.

Q: Were there other people in the hospital?

A: There were. I saw people around me, but no one seemed to be the individual to take on... Like I shouldn't have been on the phone, for instance. Somebody else should have been on the phone. But no one seemed to take an interest. And I'm not demeaning them, don't get me wrong. It just seems like... They were all quite confused, what was going on. I didn't have time to explain to them. I may have mentioned that, "Yeah, we've got three people here injured. I need a flight surgeon." But since no one reacted, I reacted, as I'd been trained to do.

So as you said before, you said the doctor said "Sleep it off."

A: Two of them.

Q: Was this odd to them for you to say there were three Air Force pilots that were flying a balloon that were injured? Was that it?

A: Yes, it was completely unknown to them. They had no idea... Who the hell's in a balloon, you know.

Q: They weren't involved in any of the experiments over Holloman.

A: No, no. And of course, apparently, no one was either forewarned or told that we were coming. Guess who's coming to breakfast?

Q: So you didn't remember a nurse, and you also said you did not remember a black NCO.

A: No, I do not.

Q: The story that's been told is that a black NCO was accompanying an angry red-headed captain. Does any of that...

A: Nothing jells there with me. Number one, he was not angry, he was, if anything, probably the calming influence to all of us, if you're talking about Joe Kittinger.

Q: Would he be the one you'd think would be the red-headed...

A: Oh, yeah. He's got shock red hair. Absolutely.

Q: Bright red hair?

A: Oh, yeah. A little gray in it now, but for all the things he's been through, he deserves it. (Laughter)

Q: So you don't remember any black NCO accompanying him with a clipboard, walking around.

A: No. No, I do not. I would have challenged that. Why would he even be doing that when I couldn't even get people to assist.

Q: In your group that you remember you were working with, there were the three pilots -- Kittinger, Fulgham and Kaufman.

A: Yes.

Q: You.

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember the helicopter pilot? Was he at all involved, did he stay with the airplane?

A: I can't tell you.

Q: But in your little group that went to the hospital, no other guy came with you to assist you or to assist...

A: Not that I remember. I wish I could say yes, but I just don't remember. Because I followed them right through the scenario that I gave you. The bench. As I recall, they were all three on a bench. Joe was on one end or the other, and I can't remember. I'm going to call it the left end of the bench, and Kaufman was on this end, and Fulgham was in the middle.

That's the way I perceived it, and told them I had to go get a flight surgeon. I remember telling Captain Kittinger I had to get a flight surgeon. "Go ahead," you know.

Q: Do you remember Colonel Kittinger, or Captain Kittinger at that time, getting involved in any altercations while he was there?

A: No. Absolutely none.

Q: Do you remember a male civilian that he had a discussion with or...

A: No, I didn't see any male civilians there. If there was a civilian, it may have given the appearance of a civilian if it was anybody dressed in whites that may have worked in or around the emergency room or the office there.

Q: Did you see anyone there -- I don't know how you would tell -- but did you see anyone there or any equipment that you'd identified as being from a mortuary or a mortician?

A: No, thank God. That would have been rather awesome. Come to haul the bodies away before we even save them.
(Laughter)

Q: When you were in the hospital that day, did you see any human remains that were being transported in a body bag?

A: No.

Q: Were you in a particular hurry when you were there, or not in a hurry?

A: Hurry? No, I wouldn't classify it as a hurry. I was in a position of concern. I wasn't in a hurry... My concern, of course, was that these people got attended to. That may have given the appearance of being in a hurry. But any emergency situation always gives the appearance of hurriedness.

Q: Did you participate in the treatment of Fulgham?

A: I went in the treatment room. I don't think I participated in the treatment. I remember Joe being sewed up cosmetically with 6-0 silk. I remember that. he probably got into the bramble bush out there or whatever they call it. I remember vaguely him being sewed up in a couple of places. I remember his eyes, also.

He was concerned because he had a flight physical a couple of days later coming up. As I wrote in some of the articles I've written about the incident, I told him he didn't have any concern. This is all after the fact, now. But he was worried about not passing the eye part of the thing because his eyes were closing on him after the trauma that he sustained. But a lot of it was precipitated, too, by the suturing that was done. No.

I may have participated in taking care of some of their garments or something like this. But again, when you're on other people's turf, you don't know their routine, you don't know what their medical suture trays are or anything. You just don't go in and contaminate their emergency room, no.

Q: Do you remember how many doctors treated Captain Fulgham?

A: I'm going to say one. But I can't swear to that. I think when the bell finally tolled, and people realized that there was an aircraft incident, non-dirigible aerostat incident, that people finally got out of bed and responded. After the hospital commander came down there and started shaking the trees, yeah. But I don't remember them coming in there half dressed or anything like that. But I feel confident they did respond, yes.

But at this point I probably was out in the waiting room, or calling my doctor at Holloman, too. I could have been on the phone, you see. I gave him a full report, as much as I could.

Q: Where was this phone you were using?

A: I don't know. It was in one of the offices located near the... Not in the emergency room, but located very close to it.

Q: The doctor that treated Fulgham and Kittinger, was he a regular staff doctor there? Do you think he worked there?

A: It's hard for me to say. Undoubtedly assigned to Walker, if that's what you mean.

Q: Yes.

A: Nobody that we brought with us, no.

Q: Do you remember how you left?

A: You know, I may have gone back on that aircraft, but I don't remember.

Q: Did you leave by helicopter?

A: I could have done that, too. I just simply don't remember. I wish I could be more specific about it. I could have gone back on the C-54 I don't think I did. I remember going down to the flight line with Fulgham and Kaufman and saying goodbye, or more or less waving them off. I probably went back on the helicopter. I just don't remember.

Q: So you think they left on a fixed wing aircraft from Walker?

A: Yeah. This is one of the requirements I asked for, was an aircraft that could be pressurized because of his head injury. I specifically remember asking for a pressurized aircraft if we were going to fly him anywhere. Not in a helicopter that went to altitude. Any amount of pressure after the sustained injury would cause further injury.

Q: Could this be, looking at his official medical record from his file, he was... after he got initial emergency care at Walker, he then, when they got back to Holloman, he was admitted to the hospital by Dr. Eason.

A: Yeah.

Q: Then about four days later he was released, he was TDY to Holloman, so he was released back to Wright-Patterson.

A: Right.

Q: I guess what I'm asking is, was he... Colonel Kittinger and Kaufman and Fulgham, they remember getting like a transport type airplane to go back to Wright-Patterson. Do you think you could be confusing his transport back to Wright-Patterson?

A: I could be. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Q: But you remember this plane, for lack of a better word, was a special flight?

A: Yeah. Absolutely. It was definitely for that purpose, as I recall.

Q: I guess that takes care of 1959. Now I'd just like to ask a question. You said you'd written about this.

A: Yes, I have.

Q: You showed me something you had written in...

A: Air Commando Newsletter. I first wrote this article in September of 1993. I wrote a sequel to this in the March issue of 1994.

Q: Did you know this was involved in this Roswell incident?

A: Absolutely not.

Q: What made you decide to write about it?

A: I write stories, and I try to bring interest to the membership about some of my exploits over the years. This happened to occur to me. Having seen Captain Kittinger on many

occasions, and having served with him since this 1959 incident, and him being the individual... I guess and his ongoing exploits, crossing the Atlantic in a balloon. I thought it would be keen to our readers to write this story.

Q: So this incident stuck out in your head as being something...

A: It was a high point in my life. Absolutely.
(Laughter)

Q: So there were no serious injuries, so it was kind of, looking back, it was kind of hilarious...

A: Yeah, since everybody's alive and well, absolutely. I wish all the other stories had the same ending.

Q: I think that's all I have. If you have anything you'd like to add.

A: I wish I could be more specific, as I told you, but that's all I remember and if anything occurs or jobs my memory again or since, I'll certainly be glad to get in touch with you and pass it on. But that's all I have.

(END)