I

Interviews / Statements

1 Statement of Witness Sheridan W. Cavitt
2 Statement of Witness Irving Newton
3 Col Albert Trakowski interview
4 Statement of Witness Charles B. Moore
5 Transcribed interview Professor Moore
6 Statement of Witness Attielstan F. Spilhaus
7 Affidavit Bessie Brazel Schreiber
8 Affidavit Jason Kellahin
9) Interview - Cavitt

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 24 May 94 Place: Sequim, Washington

I Sheridan W.Cavitt, 456-18-5501, AO411148, hereby state that Richard L. Weaver was identified to me as a Colonel, USAF. I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement.

I was a Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) Special Agent for the US Army Air Force who was initially assigned to Roswell AAF following my graduation from CIC school at Ft. Holabird, MD, in late June or Early July, 1947. Shortly after arriving at Roswell , New Mexico in that time frame I had occasion to accompany one of my subordinates, MSGT Bill Rickett, CIC, and Major Jesse Marcel, Intelligence Officer the 509th Bomb Group, to a ranchland area outside of Roswell to help recover some material. I think that this request may have come directly from Major Marcel. I do not know who may have made the report to him. To the best of my knowledge, the three of us traveled to the aforementioned ranch land area by ourselves (that is, no other persons, civilian or military, were with us). I believe we had a military jeep that Marcel checked out to make this trip. When we got to this location we subsequently located some debris which appeared to me to resemble bamboo type square sticks one quarter to one half inch square, that were very light, as well as some sort of metallic reflecting material that was also very light. I also vaguely recall some sort of black box (like a weather instrument). The area of this debris was very small, about 20 feet square, and the material was spread on the ground, but there was no gouge or crater or other obvious sign of impact. I remember recognizing this material as being consistent with a weather balloon. We gathered up some of this material, which would easily fit into one vehicle. there certainly wasn't a lot of this material, or enough to make up crates of it for multiple airplane flights. What Marcel did with this material at the time was unknown to me, although I know now from reading about this incident in numerous books that it was taken to Eighth Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth where it was subsequently identified as a weather balloon, which I thought it was all along. I have reviewed the pictures in the 1991 Book by Randle and Schmitt on the UFO Crash at Roswell wherein Marcel and Ramey are holding up this material and it appears to be the same type of material that we picked up from the ranch land. I did not make a report of this incident to my headquarters since I felt that the recovery of a weather balloon was not a big deal that did not merit a written report. In the same referenced book by Randle and Schmitt I was reputed to have told Rickett (on Page 63) that we were never there and this incident never happened. The book seems to imply this was in some sort of conspiratorial tone; however it is more likely I told him not to mention it to our headquarters because we had wasted our time recovering a balloon. I only went to this area once and recovered debris once and to the best of my knowledge there were no other efforts to go back there. If there were, they did not involve me. There was no secretive effort or heightened security regarding this incident or any unusual expenditure of manpower at the base to deal with it. In fact, I do not recall the incident being mentioned again as being any big deal and I never even thought about it again until well after I retired from the military when I began to be contacted by UFO researchers. Many of the things I have mentioned to these people have either been taken out of context, misrepresented, or just plain made up. I did know both Jesse Marcel and Bill Rickett very well (both are now deceased). I considered them to be good men, however both did tend to exaggerate things on occasion. With regards to claims that we tested this material by hitting it with sledgehammers without damaging it, I do not recall any of us doing so. I also did not test this material for radioactivity with a Geiger counter (or anything else). I do not recall attempting to burn any of this debris but my wife tells me she recalled that Jesse Marcel, his wife and son did have a small piece that they held over the fire when we had a cookout . In short, I did help recover some debris near Roswell, New Mexico in the summer of 1947. I thought at the time and think so now, that this debris was from a crashed balloon. I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from anyone, either the US Government or the American public. I have never been sworn to any form of secrecy by anyone concerning this matter and I have received authorization from the Secretary of the Air Force to discuss with Colonel Weaver any information of a classified nature that I may have concerning it. There is no classified information that I am withholding. I have never been threatened by the US Government or any of its subdivisions, or by any persons, not to talk about this incident with anyone, and in fact I have talked to a number of private researchers. My bottom line is that this whole incident was no big deal and it certainly did not involve anything extraterrestrial.

Sheridan W. Cavitt

CONTINUATION SHEET FOR AF FORM 1168 AND 1169

THIS PAGE USED FOR SIGNATURES ONLY

I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all pages and corrections, and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

WITNESSES:

Mary D. Carth
(Signature)

417 Dungeon Mews, Sequim WA
(Address)

(Signature)

(Address)

(Signature)

Sequim, WA
(Address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this

24 day of MAY 19 94

at SEQUIM

Richard L. Weaver
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

RICHARD L. WEAVER COL USAF
(Type Name, Grade & Title of Person Administering Oath)

STATEMENT OF SUSPECT/WITNESS/COMPLAINANT

(THIS FORM IS SUBJECT TO THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 - SEE REVERSE)

	SUSPECT
XX	WITNESS/COMPLAINANT

SECTION I. STATEMENT INFORMATION

DATE	TIME	LOCATION (Bldg/Room No.) AND INSTALLATION	UNIT TAKING STATEMENT	REPEAT (If Known)
21 Jul 94	1630	AFOSI Detachment 401 Randolph AFB TX	AFOSI Detachment 409?	OFFENSE COMPLAINT

SECTION II. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION *(Print or Type)*

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	SSN	STATUS/GRADE
NEWTON, IRVING	471-14-1064	USAF(RET) O-4

LOCAL ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)	DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (If Required)	TELEPHONE
222 Diftwind Drive San Antonio TX 78239	4 Apr 20	HOME (210)655-5829 DUTY:

PERMANENT ADDRESS OR HOME OF RECORD (Include Zip Code)	MILITARY ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER	DEROS
Same as Above	USAF Retired	N/A

SPONSOR INFORMATION (Name, Grade, SSN, Organization, Duty Phone)

N/A

SECTION III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFENSES AND 5TH AMENDMENT/ARTICLE 31 RIGHTS ADVISEMENT (Suspect Only)

1. I have been advised that I am suspected of the following offenses: _____

_____

by _____ (Rank and Full Name) who identified himself/herself as a _____ (SP, special agent, etc.) and advised me that I have the following rights according to the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution/Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice *(suspect initials on line next to each statement).*

_____ a. I have the right to remain silent - that is to say nothing at all.

_____ b. Any statement I make, oral or written, may be used as evidence against me in a trial or in other judicial, non-judicial, or administrative proceedings.

_____ c. I have the right to consult with a lawyer.

_____ d. I have the right to have a lawyer present during this interview.

_____ e. I may obtain a civilian lawyer of my own choice at no expense to the government.

_____ f. I may request a lawyer any time during this interview.

_____ g. If I decide to answer questions with or without a lawyer present, I may stop the questioning at any time.

_____ h. MILITARY ONLY: If I want a military lawyer, one will be appointed for me free of charge.

_____ i. CIVILIANS ONLY: If I cannot afford a lawyer and want one, a lawyer will be appointed for me by civilian authorities.

2. I have read my rights as listed above and I fully understand my rights. No promises, threats, or inducements of any kind have been made to me. No pressure or coercion has been used against me. I make the following choice *(suspect initials on line next to appropriate statement):*

_____ a. I do not want a lawyer. I am willing to answer questions or make a statement or both, about the offense(s) under investigation.

_____ b. I do not want a lawyer and I do not wish to make a statement or answer any questions.

_____ c. I want a lawyer. I will not make any statement or answer any questions until I talk to a lawyer.

3. I fully understand my rights and that my signature alone does not constitute an admission of guilt.

_____ (Signature of Suspect)

_____ (Signature of Witness/Interviewer)

I was asked to provide this statement, by Lt. Col. Joseph V. Rogan who advised me, he was assisting in an investigation at the behest of the Secretary of the Air Force, for the GAO, to look into facts concerning what has become to be known as "The Roswell Incident".

As I recall it was July 1947, I was then a Warrant Officer with seven years service. I was the only weather forecaster on duty in the Fort Worth base weather and flight service center. The base weather covered only the base the flight service center covered most of the southwest states. I received a call from some one in General Ramey's office who asked that I go to the General's office. I informed him that I was the only forecaster on duty and could not leave. Several minutes later General Ramey Himself called and said "get your ass over here If you don't have a car take the first one with a key".

I was met at the General's office by a Lt Col or Col who told me that some one had found a flying saucer in New Mexico and they had it in the General's Office. And that a flight had been set up to send it to Wright Patterson AFB OH., but the General suspicioned that it might be meteorological equipment or something of that nature and wanted it examined by qualified meteorological personnel.

The Col and I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer. I was told it was.

Several people were in the room when I went in, among them, General Ramey, a couple of press people, a Major, I learned to be Major Marcel and some other folks. Someone introduced Major Marcel as the person who found this material.

I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target. I believed this because I had seen many of these before. They were normally launched by a special crew and followed by a ground radar unit. They provided a higher altitude winds aloft. We did not use them at Fort Worth. However, I was familiar with them because we used them and their products on various projects in which I was involved. These were used mostly on special projects and overseas. The balloon was made out of a rubber type expandable material and when launched was about six to eight feet across. When the balloons got to altitude they expanded to twenty feet or more. The target was used for radar reflections and I believe each leg of the target was approximately 48 inches. It resembled a child's Jack (like a child's ball and jacks set) with a metallic material between the legs. The legs were made of material appearing to be like balsa wood kite sticks but much tougher.

While I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. There were figures on the sticks lavender or pink in color, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason. He did not convince me these were alien writings.

I was convinced at the time that this was a balloon with a RAWIN target and remain convinced.

I remember hearing the General tell someone to cancel the flight the flight to Wright Patterson.

While in the office several pictures were taken of Major Marcel, General Ramey, myself and others.

I was dismissed and went to my office to resume my normal duties.

During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: *10 U.S.C. 8013; 44 U.S.C. 3101; and EO 9397.*
PRINCIPAL PURPOSES: *Used to record information and details of criminal activity which may require investigative action by commanders, supervisor, security police, AFOSI special agents, etc. Used to provide information to the appropriate individuals within DOD organizations who ensure that proper legal and administrative action is taken.*
ROUTINE USES: *Information may be disclosed to local, county, state and federal law enforcement or investigatory authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution or civil court action. Information extracted from this form may be used in other related criminal and/or civil proceedings.*
DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: *SSN is used to positively identify the individual making the statement and as a conduit to check past criminal activity records.*

SECTION IV. STATEMENT

THIS PAGE USED FOR SIGNATURE ONLY. TEXT OF STATEMENT BEGINS ON PAGE 3

SECTION V. SIGNATURE/OATH

"I hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make this statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence, or unlawful inducement. I swear (or affirm) I have read this statement, initialed all pages and corrections, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

(Signature of Person Making Statement)) *(Signature of Witness/Interviewer)*

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 21st **day of** July **19** 94.

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

TION VI. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTINUATION PAGE(S)

Use plain bond paper *(both sides optional)*. **At the top right of each page, print or type:** *"(Last Name of Individual making the Statement) on (Date)."* **At the bottom of each page, print or type: "Page____ of ____ Pages". The individual must initial the top and bottom entries and sign his/her name at the bottom of each page.**

*U.S. Government Printing Office: 1991 — 281-451/40139

3

Colonel Albert Trakowski
29 June 1994

Q: We have connected independently from several other researchers the fact that Mogul is probably responsible for the so-called Roswell incident... The Air Force position on that is that it was a misidentified balloon. The balloon was not a weather balloon, but was then a classified project, Project Mogul, which has since been declassified.

What we have not found is any documented evidence that there was a planned cover story related to Project Mogul. Jim has culled through literally millions of pages in various archives and repositories trying to find some sort of documented evidence where somebody at some level has stated that a cover story of weather research or weather-related activities would be used for Project Mogul, the real purpose of which was nuclear detection...

(Pause)

A: ...All of that is to say that I know these people, and I know of what their involvement was, so I can at least give credibility and corroboration to what it was they did and where they fit in the picture.

There have been several writers who have been interested in this story and they have been in touch with me. I have given them a lot of words, and in some cases documents that I had in my personal files. They were at first a Charles Todd, from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, who was writing a story, and I never quite could determine whether he was on the side of the believers in UFOs or was writing to refute the believers. That I really was unsure of. One thing, he did appear to be sincere in getting the facts that surrounded the matter.

Another was a Charles Ziegler, a professor of physics at Brandeis University who was writing a monograph or perhaps a book on the history of nuclear weapons detection. It figured, of course, that Project Mogul would come into view. So he had done a great deal of documentary searching and had found some documents that I did not have. For example, the original letter form Maurice Ewing to Carl Spaatz, then Chief of Staff of the Air Force. And some of the original letters of General Spaatz directing the establishment of Project Mogul. All of this apparently Charles Ziegler apparently found, and I did not have them at all.

Another fellow recently came into view, a Carl Pflock from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He appeared to want to substantiate the existence of the UFO incident as a UFO. I have a tape here, a one-sided tape, my half of the conversation only, with him. You're welcome to listen to that.

Charlie Moore has been in it since the beginning. Charlie was not a general project scientist or engineer on Project Mogul. His efforts were confined to the development of the constant level balloons which were the instrument carriers for the devices that we hoped would pick up the sound waves operating in the sound channel in the stratosphere. The constant level balloon was the lifting mechanism, and Charlie was the principal in the development of that.

All of these things I have recorded on this tape to Mr. Pflock and also on the tapes that I made for Ruth Liebowitz, the historian at the Air Force Cambridge Research Center.

Maybe the best thing to do before plowing over all this old ground would be to consider some specific questions you may have. In the course of that, the history may come out.

Q: Were there any documents, or were there any directions either from yourself or from someone else up the chain to develop a cover story for Mogul?

A: Not to my knowledge, no. I have never seen such a document nor have I ever heard of any effort to develop a cover story for Mogul. The security of Mogul was a great concern of mine from the very beginning, because it was like trying to hide an elephant in an open farmyard -- almost ludicrous.

Q: Both Dr. Spilhaus and Professor Moore had indicated that they did use weather research as essentially cover stories when asked questions about what they were doing.

A: Correct. That we did. I'm aware of that. But it was not a policy. It was, if anything, a lash-up idea on the spur of the moment. And indeed, it was obvious. I may have been involved in using such a story myself, but to the best of my recollection there was no official stimulation or documentation of doing that. If you find such a document I, indeed, would be surprised.

Q: In the course of the research projects you worked on, in that time frame, the post-war period, would they give you a cover story on any particular project, even other than this one? Would they say this is what you do, to say this? Or would they kind of leave it to you, that it was a classified project and you just didn't discuss it and you just avoided questions?

A: The latter. I have no recollection of a cover story being used on any project that I was involved in, or that a prefabricated cover story existed. No. I never encountered any such thing. We simply treated the security classification

straight and did all we could to adhere to it.

Q: So you, as the project officer, you knew that Mogul was a Top Secret...

A: Did I know it? There was no way to avoid it. I was the project officer, succeeding Colonel Duffy, and all that history is in the tapes that I made for Ruth Liebowitz. I came into being as the project officer on Project Mogul about November of 1946. I had considerable background in nuclear weapons detection using devices that I had developed in the Signal Corps. I was an Air Force officer assigned to the Signal Corps as part of Colonel Duffy's office. Much to the chagrin of the Signal Corps hierarchy, I was appointed a laboratory chief in the Signal Corps for purposes of developing instrumentation that the Air Force required, and I did that. In connection with that instrumentation I conceived of an application of that instrumentation for use in detection of nuclear weapons. We conducted field experiments which at best were controversial, and at worst showed no positive result.

So my studies took me into the nuclear weapon problem. I had a background in physics, in nuclear physics and high energy physics and modern physics, so I had some understanding of what was going on. I then took over the development of the original weather radar prototypes that the Air Force required in 1946. I did that in 1946. From that position, I was transferred to Colonel Duffy's new position as project officer for Project Mogul in the Watson Air Force, Watson Laboratories. I took up that task, I believe, around November. Those dates I think are specific in the tapes I made for Ruth Liebowitz. November of 1946. Colonel Duffy was reassigned to Wright Field and I was the project officer. I was Top Secret control officer in addition to other duties. It being the only Top Secret project at Watson Laboratories at the time, probably ever. I remained project officer of Project Mogul through or move of the laboratory from Watson Laboratories at Eatontown, New Jersey, to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and combined my laboratory, which was then known as the Geophysical Research Directorate, with that of John Marchetti's Electronics Research Directorate, and the two components made up the Air Force Cambridge Research Center.

I continued in my position of the Director of the geophysics component until May of 1949 when I was relieved of the duty at my own request and returned to school at MIT.

Q: Up until '49 were you still on Project Mogul?

A: Yes, indeed. And Project MX-968.

Q: You were on-site in New Mexico when Charlie Moore was doing most of his work. Some of the early launches out of Alamagordo?

A: Yes. Jim Peoples and I went down to Alamagordo in earl July 1947 to assist and observe the prototype launches being done by Charlie Moore and his crew from New York University.

Q: You said you went in July of '47, so you were there only in July. Was that early in July?

A: Yes, it was early in July. Again, I think those dates are in this tape of my conversation with Mr. Pflock. It was early in July. The Roswell incident occurred after I returned back to Watson Laboratories. I wasn't involved in it at all. Really the only thing that I knew about it, after it happened, was that Colonel Duffy called me on the telephone from Wright Field and gave me a story about a fellow that had come in from New Mexico, woke him up in the middle of the night or some such thing with a handful of debris, and wanted him, Colonel Duffy, to identify it.

Q: Did he identify who the person was?

A: No, I don't remember the person at all. I don't remember who came from New Mexico, no.

Q: Someone came from New Mexico with this debris?

A: Yes, I believe that's correct.

Q: They came to his quarters?

A: Yes, at Wright Field, yes. He had quarters on the base at Wright Field.

Q: His family there?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he identify the type of debris?

A: He just said it sure looks like some of the stuff you've been launching at Alamagordo and he described it, and I said yes, I think it is. Certainly Colonel Duffy knew enough about radar targets, radio sondes, balloon-borne weather devices. He was intimately familiar with all that apparatus.

Q: What was his position at Wright Field?

A: He was on the staff of General Tom Reeves who was Director of the Electronic Subdivision of the Air Materiel Command, and under whose purview the Watson Laboratories was run.

Q: Why did they bring this debris to Colonel Duffy? Why didn't they bring it to someone else?

A: Probably questions about who knows about this project, put to people at Alamagordo. I'm not sure. I can't answer that with any firm knowledge at all.

Q: So you had no idea there was an "incident" until Colonel Duffy called you, and you were back in Massachusetts at this time?

A: At that time we were at Eatontown, New Jersey. But what you said is correct. I had no knowledge of the so-called "incident" until Colonel Duffy called me.

Q: Do you recall what day you actually departed Alamagordo?

A: No. No, I don't. I have a full file of my TDY orders upstairs. Right off-hand I can't tell you, but I was back in Watson Laboratories for several days before Colonel Duffy called me.

Q: Do you recall there being a Major Pritchard on-site?

A: I remember the name, yes.

Q: Did he work for you at Watson Laboratories?

A: No. He didn't work for me. I don't recall him working for me. I only had one major working for me, and I was a captain. He was a dull fellow... Right off-hand I can't remember.

Q: You were the Chief of the Applied Propagation Subdivision.

A: Yes.

Q: I've seen the organizational chart, the way those things go...

A: I was.

Q: You were at the top, and then down below, as a technical adviser, below your name on the chart is Major Pritchard.

A: Is that so? I don't remember. I simply don't remember. But if the chart says that, I'll go along with the chart.

Q: Major W. D. Pritchard. On July 10th in the Alamagordo newspaper, there's an article where it shows, it doesn't say when this was taken, but it says a Major Pritchard and his balloon group are demonstrating to reporters what these balloons and the various radar reflectors look like. Now Charlie Moore took a look at that and he said, "I don't recall there being any other balloon group in New Mexico or in that area at the same time we were there."

A: I think Charlie's right. I don't recall any either.

Q: So we were trying to figure out whether Major Pritchard was maybe a counter-intelligence type person or maybe he was there reviewing the security procedures, or maybe he was there for the promulgating, the cover story of weather balloon and weather research, so that Mogul would not come out in the open. Because the article in the paper talks about the use of reflectors for tracking purposes, the radar reflectors for tracking purposes, but never comes out talking about Mogul and the instrumentation that you all were using for nuclear detection or the tests that were being conducted.

A: Could Major Pritchard have been attached to or some way connected with the base weather station at Alamagordo?

Q: Well, sir, we don't know, but he is identified in that newspaper article as being a public information officer. When we traced that name back to your organization, we thought he may have been essentially undercover himself. We don't know that it's the same person, even though it's the same name.

A: I'm afraid that I can't offer any positive knowledge here.

Q: Were you associated with any counter-intelligence people in Watson Labs or...

A: Not to my knowledge. If some were around, they were spoofing me because I didn't know it.

Q: Were there any other types of intelligence persons on your staff or the staff of Watson Laboratories?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: So the only people you had were actually civilian researchers...

A: And a few military officers, yes.

Q: Signal Corps and Army Air Force?

A: All the officers that I had on my staff were all Air Force. No Signal Corps at all.

Q: A couple more names that came off that news article where they're displaying the balloon launch. It's Major W. D. Pritchard, Major C. W. Manglin, Lieutenant Siegal, and a Captain L. H. Divack.

A: None of those names are in my memory, firm in my memory at all.

Q: You were aware of the previous Colonel Duffy's predecessor, Major Crane...

A: I never met Richard Crane. I knew him only by the path of debris that he left behind. I never met him.

Q: When you took over, was there any worry about security on the project? That it was possibly a problem, there was a problem or there could be a potential problem that may warrant scrutiny by Air Force intelligence or security people?

A: We were aware of the delicacy of security on the project, and the reason was obvious. You could not conduct field operations of the size that we had without somebody asking questions. Anybody with a pair of 8x50 binoculars on the side of the mountain could look down and see what was going on and that, of course, would prompt questions, and we were aware of that, and didn't really know what to do about it except to go on doing our job and taking care of things as they occurred. But we were aware of the sensitivity and of the weakness of security in the Project Mogul. Not from the people in it, disclosure by the people, but simply the obvious activity that could be observed.

You can't fill a balloon that's give or take 60 feet high, without somebody seeing it.

Q: When you were at Alamagordo and some of the various balloons were being launched, what was the largest array that you saw out there?

A: You mean payload?

Q: No, the entire assembly. The balloons, payloads, reflectors...

A: I didn't observe any of the reflectors, and if I did, they were so common place that it wouldn't have stuck in my memory. The neoprene balloons bearing reflectors were just common occurrences. I wouldn't have lodged any of those observations in memory because they were just too common.

Q: Charlie Moore had indicated that some of the balloons they tried during the early experiments were relatively new types of reflectors that probably had never been used in New Mexico before, the M307B model. And that Ed Istvan had gone to several, essentially toy manufacturers, to try to get some of these reflectors made.

A: That's correct. I don't know that Ed Istvan... Ed Istvan got out of line. He may have told you this, and I don't mean to tell tales about Ed, but Ed was a very... Indeed, every man on Colonel Duffy's staff was very energetic. It was the Signal Corps' responsibility to procure those targets. Not ours and Colonel Duffy's office. However, to accelerate the activity of the Signal Corps and spur them on to action, our Air Force officers in Colonel Duffy's office, were literally on the backs of the Signal Corps people who did the job, and oftentimes did things that they shouldn't have done and were out of channel, so to speak. It was on such an occasion that Ed Istvan acted to line up contractors for these targets. He got into a considerable amount of, shall we say, controversy with the Signal Corps because he was out of line.

Q: Do you recall any of the contractors he may have worked with?

A: No, I don't remember them by name. They were not within my purview at the time. As I have told others, including Mr. Pflock, we had an outstanding expeditor on our staff, on Colonel Duffy's staff, by the name of John E. Peterson. Jack Peterson was a major at the time. He was a pre-war graduate of Harvard Business School, and he knew business operations inside and out. Again, he was an extremely energetic fellow. He was very, very valuable and successful at breaking loose stuck contracts and stuck production and things that weren't moving as fast as they should. During the war that was very important.

Jack monitored the procurement of these radar targets, and I believe Ed Istvan either worked for or alongside of Jack Peterson, and I remember when they finally... Now this was all not under my purview, but I worked in the same building with them, and I knew Jack very well, he was a very good friend and we talked and joked with each other a lot. I remember so clearly when the contractor for these targets was selected and Jack thought it was the biggest joke in the world that they had to go to a toy manufacturer to make these radar targets. Then it was

even a bigger joke when it turned out that because of wartime scarcities of materials, the tape that they used to assemble these targets, the reflecting material on the balsa frames was some kind of a pinkish purple tape with hearts and flowers designs on it. This was, again, a big flap.

Q: Did you ever see any of those?

A: Yeah, I saw some of them. Not in connection with my work, but they were around the office. The prototypes were around the office and the first production runs were there.

Q: So you would say it's a limited number of a few runs maybe.

A: I have no idea how many hundreds were made, or even thousands. But like everything else that goes into production, they have a limited production to begin with until they work out the bugs, and then they go full blower in the high production.

Q: Do you remember a rough span of times that you remember seeing these? When you saw the first one and when you saw the last one?

A: It was probably 1944 or 1945. It was probably late in 1944 when the first ones were produced.

Q: Where did you see those? What part of the country?

A: Right there at Signal Corps. We were all working at that time, and John Peterson had his offices in a location called the Toms River Signal Laboratory, which was actually located on the jurisdictional lines between Siegart and Spring Lake, New Jersey. It was an old night club that the Signal Corps had rented for the purposes of doing remote experimentation.

Q: The Siegart Inn?

A: Exactly. That's where John had his office, and I was there for a time doing work on developing the operational procedures of the SCR-658, the radio direction of wind, meteorological data. Rawin sonde I did most all the work on developing how to use that instrument, and it was done there at the Siegart Inn.

Q: Do you recall any other physical attributes about the radar reflectors, the balsa wood? Charlie Moore had indicated that the material had been coated in something like Elmer's glue which made it much more durable. Do you recall anything like that?

A: No, I don't. I didn't concern myself with that except as an observation to the side. The radar targets were geometrically elementary. They were three intersecting planes -- X, Y, and Z. The geometry of them was such, as you well know, that any incident wave would be reflected exactly, precisely, in the direction from which it came. So they were simple. I don't recall any of the details of how they were made or what materials were used or the coatings or anything. At the time it wasn't within my range of job.

Q: Did Colonel Duffy inform you officially? When he said he called you, was this like an official...

A: No. It was just an informative call. There wasn't any official transmission of knowledge nor expected action to result from it.

Q: Did Colonel Duffy consider this to be some sort of security violation?

A: No. Not to my knowledge, no. It's part of doing business.

Q: So he wasn't particularly upset, and he didn't require a formal explanation.

A: No.

Q: So that's the first you were aware, when he called you. None of your technicians had mentioned it to you?

A: No. Not to my knowledge.

Q: Did you have any interaction with the people at 8th Air Force such as General Ramey or anyone else who may have been at Roswell Army Air Field?

A: No. I don't recall any interaction with them, no.

Q: What about Dr. Crary or Dr. Peoples? Do you know if they had interaction with those folks?

A: I don't recall any, no.

Q: At some point in Project Mogul did you utilize equipment based at Roswell Army Air Field?

A: No, we had our own aircraft based at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Q: Did you ever have a rawinson receiver at Roswell?

A: Not to my memory. No. We may have, but the specifics on that, I don't recall.

Q: Can you think of any reason why Dr. Peoples would meet with one of the bomb squadron commanders at Roswell in September of 1947?

A: Probably to arrange air drops of bombs as signal sources for testing the Mogul sound receivers. We had a fellow that was assigned to the electronics test squadron at Fort Dix by the name of Duff, Eugene Duff, who was an ordnance expert and he may have been involved in arranging bomb drops which would have been exploded in air as a sound signal source for the purpose of testing the Mogul receivers.

Q: Did you also procure aircraft from Middletown, Pennsylvania?

A: Yes. I believe our electronic squadron was moved from Fort Dix to Middletown. To Olmstead Air Force Base. When that was, I can't exactly pinpoint, but it was probably some time in 1947. Gene Duff, our ordnance man, was a part of that group. I don't know whether Gene Duff still lives or not, but he is a name that you might look into. Eugene Duff.

Q: Has anyone asked you to explain what happened at Roswell? In your opinion, what happened?

A: Until these recent inquiries, I don't recall anyone asking me to explain. I don't recall it ever coming up for me to answer in connection with the Mogul tests. I don't recall that. You know, things happen every day, and you treat crises from moment to moment as though they were so much cord wood. They aren't all worthy of memory. But I don't recall it.

Q: Other than our conversation here today, has anyone ever discussed with you not talking about Mogul? It's essentially declassified, it is no longer a classified project, but has anyone in the government -- the Air Force, the Army, Department of Energy or anyone else, ever said don't discuss this?

A: Absolutely not. No such thing.

Q: What we're trying to do is make sure we are open to the General Accounting Office and to the American public in general when we publish our reports. So all the people that we've discussed this with, we want to make absolutely sure that someone has not come to them and said you're going to get in the cover story, because we want this to be as open as possible and get this thing resolved once and for all. There are going to be those, as you stated, the true believers, who may not accept what

we have to say, but we just want to try to get everything out in the open.

A: It's about 45 years since all of this happened. Even at the time, as I mentioned a moment ago, one gets very busy in a project of this sort and you treat rather large events as they come, and you give them action and then you go on to the next one. All of them don't stay in memory.

Q: We understand that you've been contacted by various people such as Mr. Pflock and Mr. Todd and we do appreciate you spending some time with us in this endeavor. We think it's very valuable for those people who were actually on the scene to provide their accounts of what actually occurred. It is valuable to us and we do appreciate that.

A: I wish I could be of more help on this thing. Apparently, things like this die very hard. (Laughter)

Q: Did you ever hear of any intelligence people getting involved in this thing? Colonel Duffy mentioned that some of the people at AMC maybe wanted...

A: No, I don't. Certainly no intelligence people... Certainly I was not involved with any intelligence people in this matter. If I was, I don't recall it. Colonel Duffy and the group at Wright Field protected me greatly, and I know that. They never said that, but I know they did because they left me free to do the project. And anything that would interfere with getting that project done as quickly as could be done, they would try to steer it away from me. I know they did that. Again, they never said that, but the action was obvious.

(Pause)

A: ...I was assigned for about two months to AFOC-1. Then Colonel Benjamin Holtzman, later General Holtzman, pulled me out of AFOC-1 and sent me to Baltimore because the Air Research and Development Command had just been organized, and I arrived on the scene while they were still trying to find chairs and desks. we worked in the old Sun Newspaper building in downtown Baltimore.

Q: They had intelligence personnel there, didn't they

A: They may have. I'm not aware of that. Then after I left the headquarters of ARBC in Baltimore, I spent four years at the Air Force Research and Development Command Office in Brussels, Belgium. Following that, I spent over three years on the Air Staff in the Pentagon.

Q: What year did you retire?

A: On my birthday in 1963. I then went into industry, and I worked for EG&G, a high technology company based near Boston, and I became a Vice President of one of their subsidiaries. I became the project manager and developer of the National Space Science Data Center at Goddard, in Greenbelt. I built that and set it up.

Then when the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, was formed in December of 1970, I was invited to join the newly formed EPA, and I did. I accepted the position. I went into the EPA as a Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Research and Development. Then in 1973 and 1974 I was made Assistant Administrator for Research and Development in the EPA, the position from which I retired in 1982.

Q: Then did you have interaction with Spilhaus in your civil service career?

A: No. Oh, I met with him. Spilly was a consultant, and he even in his advancing age he was still an enormous source of ideas. If you brought him into a meeting as a consultant, surely somewhere along the line he would offer an idea that was useful. So he found a lot of contact throughout many organizations, particularly in those related to geophysics. Meteorology, geology; I know the worked with the U.S. Geological Survey, a very, very fine organization, and with NOAA. Those are two that I know he continued relationships with. But I had very little contact with him.

Spilly was a very intimidating character. I lived with him for awhile.

Q: Were you involved in his exploits in North Africa, out there in the desert with him?

A: No. Nor in China.

Q: He had quite some stories about some of his past exploits.

A: No matter where he went, he gathered stories.

(END)

December 1993

A LIST OF SOME OF THE USAAF PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEATHER EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN'S SCHOOL AT SEA GIRT INN DURING 1944 AND 1945.

Atlas, David	7420 Westlake Terrace #810, Bethesda, MD 20817	301 469 6295*
Austin, George E.	26406 Dunwood Rd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274	310 375 7213
Brooks, Herbert B.	11039 N. 105th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351	602 977 5715*
Decker, Fred W.	827 NW 31st Street, Corvallis, OR 97330	503 753 7271
Duffy, Marcellus	4 Collins Court, Barrington, RI 02806 (deceased 1992)	401 245 2839*
Fletcher, Joseph O.	1550 High Street, Boulder, CO 80304	303 449 3141*
Holland, Joshua Z.	5609 Glenwood Road Bethesda, MD 20817	301 652 3018*
	13211 Blue Hill Road, Silver Springs, MD 20906	301 933 5028*
Istvan, Edwin J.	1216 Swan Harbour Circle, Fort Washington, MD 20744	301 292 2342*
Kellogg, William K.	**	
Kellogg, William W.	445 College Ave., Boulder, CO 80302	303 443 5086*
Moore, Charles B.	P.O. Box 1333 (1011 Cassity St., NW) Socorro, NM 87801-1333	505 835 0975
Rhodes, Walter F.	**	
Rudd, Donald H.	2903 Jarvis Drive, El Paso, TX 79935	915 592 8936*
Peterson, John E.	**	
Schneider, Charles S.	RDD 2, Box 5440, Manchester, ME 04351	207 626 0554
Spilhaus, Athelstan F.	P.O. Box 1063, Middleburg, VA 22117	703 687 6579
Swingle, Donald M.	1765 Pomona Drive (P.O. Box 160), Las Cruces, NM 88001	505 522 5197
Tibbets, O. J.	8711 E. Pinnacle Road, #201, Scottsdale, AZ 85255	602 951 3376
Trakowski, Albert C.	6231 Edgewater Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041	703 820 9530
Wanta, Raymond C.	92 Barnard Ave., Watertown, MA 02172	617 926 8764*
Winchell, Robert W.	1393 Palisades Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272	310 454 6849

* Addresses and telephone numbers as listed by Digital Directory Assistance in January, 1993.

* * No address available.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 8 Jun 94 Place: Socorro, NM

CBM

I, Charles B Moore, hereby state that Jeffrey Butler, was identified as a Colonel, USAF and Jim McAndrew, was identified as a Lieutenant, USAF on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will, make the following statement. This is done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement. C B M.

CBM

I was the Project Engineer for the NYU balloon project during the 1947 time frame. I was not aware that the project had the name MOGUL until 1992 when I was contacted by an individual who was working on some research related to the "Roswell Incident" and the relationship to the NYU balloon project. Our only purpose for the NYU group was to develop constant level balloons. In the early flights at Alomorgodo, starting in June, 1947, we used radar targets to track the balloons (not all the balloons had targets). Some of the targets were apparently manufactured by a toy or novelty company. Ed Istvan was the procurement officer and he had contacted some company that extruded toothpaste tubes as well as radar chaff. The early balloons were made of neoprene and manufactured primarily by the Dewey Almy company in Cambridge and the Kaysam company. Dewey balloons were dip type and the Kaysam ones were cast in a mold. The neoprene balloons were susceptible to degradation in sunlight turning from a translucent milky white to a dark brown . Some of the material would almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days. The balloon material and radar target material would be scattered after returning to the earth depending on the surface winds. The balloon material also had a peculiar acrid odor due to plasticizers and anti-oxidants. There is a recollection from another procurement person (Peterson) that he had obtained radar reflectors from a toy manufacturer. I have a specific recollection of reinforcing tape applied to the seams of the reflectors that had some symbols such as arcs, flowers, circles and diamonds. These were pinkish in color. To my knowledge, there were no radar reflectors in New Mexico in 1947 like the ones we used until the NYU group arrived. The Columbia group was primarily involved in developing low frequency microphones for long range detection of explosions. There was intense pressure for these developments, the constant altitude balloons and the microphone gear. I was involved in 1945 in China-Burma-India for the installation and maintaining of weather equipment in the war against Japan. Our subsequent work with the balloons and microphones was highly classified and we didn't know that there was a project name until 1992. Concerning the make up of the balloon trains, we used braided or twisted nylon lines--there were no monofilament lines during the 1947 time frame. Some of the balloons in early June carried radar targets for tracking purposes since we did not have radiosonde receivers with us.Some also carried sonobouys for detecting the pressure waves where we didn't have the Watson Lab microphone gear. All the radiosondes were coverend in white painted cardboard; I don't recall the color of the sonobouys but I believe they were covered in metal. On review of the photos in the Randle/Schmitt book, the material looks like one of our balloon and target assemblies. The wooden beams were made of a balsa wood that had been coated in an Elmers-like glue. The targets had eyelets where the various strings were attached. The 307(B) model was more of an aluminum foil material than the 307(C) model, which was more of an aluminized paper. The targets we used appeared more fragile than the later

CBM

CBM

model. I think that Flight #4 was the flight that was launched out of Alamogordo on June 4, 1947. This is based on Dr. Crary's actual diary of the launch and other events. This is also one of those events where we went to multiple radar targets because we were not having good success with single targets. This flight was with multiple balloons and targets and may have had a sonobouy (black box?). The Watson Lab gear was the microphone equipment specifically for MOGUL. The idea was proposed in a 1945 letter from Dr Ewing (Woods Hole and Columbia) to Gen Spaatz that we might be able to detect nuclear blasts via pressure waves and low frequency microphones. This was developed from a study of the 1883 Krakatoa explosion where the pressure waves circled the earth seven times. Dr Crary was sent to Ascension island (the antipodol) to attempt to detect the Crossroads shot for Operation Crossroads on Kilohuea or Bikini. He didn't get anything. In December, 1946, Dr Crary was sent to Alomogordo to run the field stations for MOGUL. There were several ground microphone sites for detecting blasts (bombs) detonated off the New Jersey coast. He also initiated activities off Bermuda and Panama. Dr Crary and Dr Peoples were the advance people and scientific monitors for our project. Dr Peoples told us to use the cover story of meteorology and to enforce the need-to-know--in fact I had been reluctant to discuss any of this until only a few years ago. Your letter (SAF/AA) is the first official document I've seen that says this is declassified. Concerning the Japanese balloons, we did not use any of them for MOGUL. We didn't pattern our work after the Japanese balloons. We were very secretive of our work, but the cover story was not a detailed developed cover story. Our new hires were not even aware of the purpose. They thought they were just handling meteorological equipment. Any of the flights that had "tags" would have stated, "Research Balloon Flight, Request Return to NYU". The "service flights" for Dr Peoples were specific ones carrying the microphone gear. The radar test flights were not recorded. There was a lot of pressure to develop the constant level balloons. The tracking was to be done by the Watson Labs radar for the V-2 launches, etc. Starting in early June, 1947 the 307(B) targets came from NYU. We also launched TNT on some of the balloons to simulate airbursts for detection. All of these balloons were accounted for. These and the radar test flights had no tags--we did not want these to be associated with our project and the explosive ones would all be destroyed with pressure switches. To my knowledge, the NYU group were the only ones using balloons in New Mexico during this time but others were involved in other activities so debris from rockets, aircraft dropsondes, etc. may have been found throughout this area. Initially we did not coordinate any of our balloon launches with the Civil Aeronautics Administration. We had no contact with any of the Roswell personnel-- although Crary or Peoples may have. There were two July 8th press releases: in the earlier release, Col J D Ryan stated that radar reflectors were being used to track balloons for wind information. July 8th is the same day the NYU group returned to NYU, so we had no contact with the Roswell personnel when the announcement was made concerning having found the "discs". When we heard the news back in New York, we joked that they probably found one of our balloons. From that time up until about 1980, no one, officially or otherwise made any contact with me concerning the possible association between MOGUL and the "Roswell incident"(it was in about 1980 that William Moore contacted me and asked questions about balloons making "gouges" in the earth). The July 10th Alomorgodo News article shows a demonstration of some of our multiple balloons and target trains. We had no one there so it was surprising to see this. It almost appears that there was some type of "umbrella cover story" to protect our work with MOGUL.

C.B.M

C B. M.

I can think of no other explanation for Roswell than one of our early June service flight balloons. If one of our balloons went down there was no shroud of secrecy about it. We would attempt to recover the flight gear when possible, but the reflectors, balloons, and microphone equipment was expendable. We went to no great effort to recover the equipment and we certainly would not cordon off an area where one of our balloons went down. We would sometimes send out 3-4 men to recover the equipment if we knew where it went down. The July 10th Alomorgordo News report was a good cover--it does not appear to be a coincidence--I don't know who may have initiated it. Trakowski does not recall being involved in a cover story in one of my conversations with him. In New Mexico during 1947, all of our balloon operations were launched from Alamogordo AAF. CBM.

CBM I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from either the US government or American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by US Government persons concerning refraining from talking about this situation. CBM

SIGNED:

Charles B. Moore

_____

WITNESS(s):

_____

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized to administer oaths this
8th day of June 1994 at Socorro, NM

Jeffrey C Butler

JEFFREY C BUTLER, COL, USAF

James McAndrew

JAMES MCANDREW, 1LT, USAF

Transcript from 8 June 94 Interview with Professor Charles B Moore

Professor Charles Moore (A)
Project Engineer - Project Mogul
Colonel Jeff Butler
Lieutenant Jim McAndrew } (Q)
8 June 1994

A: ...Dr. Spillhouse, who you may have met, was really the Director of the project. (Spilhaus)

Q: We talked with him last week. He sends you his regards. He's a very interesting man to chat with.

A: But I was essentially the project engineer and a graduate student, whereas he was Director of Research at New York University at that time.

Q: We have gone through many of the various technical documents related to Project Mogul and some of the other work that you and Dr. Spillhouse and others have done with the Constant Altitude balloon projects. According to Dr. Spillhouse, he said you would be the technical expert as it related to those types of projects in terms of the materiels involved, the instrumentation, that sort of thing. Is that a pretty accurate statement?

A: I think that's correct.

Q: What we're really here for is to discuss this that came out in the newspaper and the General Accounting Office's investigation of how we deal with records, the acquisition, and ultimately disposition. There is an allegation that the Government is involved in a conspiracy and coverup of something that occurred in 1947, which is the allegation of their being some sort of flying disk, flying saucer, UFO, what have you.

A: That's correct.

Q: Of course the people who put out things such as this journal, MUFON, Mutual UFO Network, the books that have been written by William Moore, and Randall Schmidt, and others, a lot of the popular television shows, they've just exacerbated the situation where a lot of things, quotations, some of your quotations taken out of context. One of the individuals, Sheridan Cavitte, who at that time was a Counter-Intelligence Corps officer at [Roswin] Army Airfield who actually went out with Jesse Marselle to recover some material that has been alleged to be the results of a UFO which Colonel Sheridan specifically states looked like a weather balloon to him.

(Roswell) (Marcel)

A: I'm aware that he had been there, but I'd understood that other quotations had been attributed to him.

Q: Yes, sir. As we go through this, I believe I've got a copy of essentially a statement he made to Colonel Weaver, whom you've talked with also. Colonel Weaver talked with Sheridan Cavitte two weeks ago. So a lot of the statements that have been attributed to Sheridan Cavitte, he says they're taken out of context. He refutes a lot of the information that appears in these various books.

What I'd like to do, even though this is out of a popular UFO type of magazine, is there are some statements attributed to individuals concerning the material that was found, supposedly by Mack Prizelle, somewhere northwest of Roswin, New Mexico. They talk in terms of materials that look like metallic foil, and specifically that "could not be bent or broken."

(Brazel)

As we've gone through the various research, what we believe to be Project Mogul was probably involved in this incident. The materials that were being used in Mogul included, of course, not only the polyethylene balloons, but included the neoprene balloons at some point, the various types of radar reflectors, the instrumentation that was being used. Is there any type of material from that project that you can think of that would be pliable, would be bendable, but could not be torn? Could any of the polyethylene or the foil-like radar reflectors, could that be the case?

A: Let me get a picture for you. This is a radar reflector manufactured in 1953. It's the ML-307C.

Q: Which is a little different from the B model that was used in 1947.

A: Where this looks like a pine stick, the material on the ones we had, this was all balsa and somewhat smaller in diameter, but the configuration, with one exception... This configuration of corners, these corners were the same thing. Here's a picture of this sort of target being used in 1948, and you can see we are launching multiple targets beneath this balloon.

Q: Is this the same type of target as this, or is this the B model?

A: This is the B model we flew in 1947 and 1948. Those are pictures of the B model. If you look, faintly along here you can see a sort of a discoloration, and that's where my memory of the reinforcing tape was that they talked about. The B models, as I remember, did not have these three veins up here. You don't see particularly any suggestion in other photographs I have, I don't remember these which would make the thing rotate in flight.

(vanes)

But this, in the B models was more like an aluminum foil with a heavy laminated paper. So the material they talk about, I think, was derived from some version of this.

Q: They talk in terms of the material, being able to crumple it and releasing it, and it would unfold by itself and not leave any creases. This material looks like it would almost be like aluminum foil, would crease and remain creased.

A: It does have this paper laminate, and the paper, I think, was maybe a bit tougher on the earlier thing. But I have no explanation for the fact that it couldn't be bent with a sledge hammer, as one of the people said, and couldn't be...

Q: Burned.

A: I think some of the balsa wood was dipped in something like Elmer's glue, and as a result had some sort of a glue coating on it which would make it somewhat resistant to burning.

Q: I know in Colonel Weaver's discussions with Sheridan Cavitte, they talked about the aspect of burning. He did not recall burning anything, but then his wife indicated that there had been one night they'd been out and had a barbecue and had a few beers and that Jesse Marselle just took a piece and stuck it in the barbecue and then pulled it back out. So if that's what they're using to say it wouldn't burn, that's what we consider typically testing a material for burning or not.

A: I need to say here, you need to qualify everything I say with the memory of almost 50 years ago. I will say things that are to the best of my memory, but on the other hand, should other evidence indicate my memory is faulty, I readily accept that. So I'll state things to the best of my memory, but...

I have a memory that there was something like Elmer's glue... There was a problem in attaching this to the paper behind.

Q: Going back to the reinforcing tape and things, there were discussions concerning unusual symbols and almost like hieroglyphics -- purple, pinkish in nature, that sort of thing.

A: I don't know if I sent Colonel Weaver a copy of the sketch.

Q: No, we did not see that.

A: Robert Todd, who has been a person very interested in trying to get to the truth of this, asked me to make a sketch of

what I remember. A couple of years ago, or a year or so ago, I made this sketch, and this is my memory of what was there.

I do remember every time I prepared one of these targets for flight, I always wondered why these figures were on the tape. There was always a question of why they were there. When this purplish-pink marking on the debris came up, I immediately remembered this sort of marking. Other people, I have a letter here from one of my technicians, who says oddly he remembers the same marking. You, perhaps, have talked to Albert Turkowski...

(Trakowski)

Q: We have tried to reach Colonel Turkowski, and he has not returned our calls. We've left messages on his answering machine, and there's been no response.

A: He may be out of town. I did visit him last October, and he made the point that... He was our project officer. He and I served together under Colonel Duffy in the Air Force Liaison Office in 1943 to... Well, I went overseas in '44 but Turkowski stayed and took a commission in the Air Force when it was offered and was the project officer on Mogul. I have some paperwork here from General LeMay's files in which after the war a number of people were to be sent overseas because they had not had overseas duty. There is a history of Colonel Turkowski. Perhaps you have it from the Pentagon files already, from the AG files.

Q: We have some records, yes.

(Watson)

A: Anyway, Albert Turkowski was the Watchman Laboratory project officer on this. When I raised this question to him he said he had talked to John Peterson, one of Colonel Duffy's procurement men, and they were joking about these markings on the tape. I have a letter that I can give you a copy of in which I quote Turkowski in saying, "What do you expect when you have your targets made by a toy factory in Manhattan?"

Q: So essentially, the original targets were made by a toy company?

A: Well, it's either a toy company or a garment manufacturer in the garment district in Manhattan, or it was by a novelty company. I talked to Ed Istvan who was another one of the Air Force liaison office people who stayed in. Istvan lives in your area. I can give you documentation on these things. Istvan says that it was some outfit that extruded toothpaste tubes and he got involved with them because they made radar chaff. In the early days of this effort, there were a number of different targets made. I don't have them here, I have them downstairs, there were a number of different forms the targets

were made. One idea was just the inside of a meteorological balloon, to put radar chaff and adhere it with glycerine. Just wet the inside of the balloon with glycerine and then shake in dipoles cut to the proper halfway length. When the balloons were inflated, these would be all on the inside, coating the inside of the balloon. This didn't give nearly the sort of target that the cornoreflector gave.

(half wave)

(Corner)

But anyway, Istvan initially went to New York hunting for a source of supply and came across a company.

(Pause)

A: ...much of which we can copy and make it easier for you. These are balloon fragments, things that held balloons [up] after they'd been exposed to the sun.

Q: Is this the neoprene type or the...

A: That's the neoprene type. I have the polyethylene type...

Q: Is this from the '47 era?

A: That's a balloon probably from the '50s. That's a K-San balloon. The kind of balloons we used then were the (inaudible) derricks balloons, and that's the way they look after they've been out in the sun. That's about three weeks' exposure to sunlight here in New Mexico.

Q: So the polyethylene really is degraded by sunlight.

A: That's neoprene. All that's neoprene.

Q: This almost looks like ashes of paper.

A: That's right. And there's a big point in some of the recovery that the material was black...

Here is the list of the people who were assigned under Colonel Duffy in the Air Force liaison office. Istvan's name you'll find in there. He ended up being in the Titan program and, I think, retired as a lieutenant colonel maybe back in the '70s.

Schneider was the administrative director of our project. He and I worked together. He was in Maine, and was not really technically involved. I have letters from him if you're interested in seeing them. He says he has no memory of this.

A person who was heavily involved in developing this whole radar thing was Colonel Joe Fletcher. I wrote him a letter asking for his help and he essentially says he doesn't remember much.

Q: He's also been hounded by some of these UFO...

A: And by Todd and by me.

Q: So it appears as though you, yourself, have done some extensive research into this particular incident.

A: Until two years ago, I was quite convinced one of our polyethylene balloons we didn't recover caused it. Then I got this newspaper, Todd sent me this, and I immediately saw there's no way that could be a polyethylene balloon.

(eyelets) Q: W.W. Brizelle mentions islets which appear in the reflectors. There's also, on the polyethylene balloons, the shroud however you had it hooked on there. There's islets around the base. There was a ring at the neck of the balloon and then there were attach points to that ring, were there not?

A: But there were no islets.

Q: I believe there were. I've reviewed the New York University documents and there's a very clear depiction in one of them of islets.

A: Okay, I was thinking of the later... Here are the NYU reports, the originals of them.

Q: In one of the configurations they clearly show islets in the drawing.

Q: Going back to Brizelle, you state that you think it could not be one of the polyethylene balloons. He indicates in this newspaper article that he actually found the debris in mid-June, however it didn't subsequently come out until July.

A: You're right. That is in one of the polyethylene balloons, you're correct. I fall back on my plea that my memory isn't...

Q: It comes into depending on what Brizelle was speaking about.

A: There are clearly islets here. In fact there's a little swivel.

He talks about the smoky gray rubber...

Q: Which these samples here, as you say, if they'd only been out for a short time, a matter of days, smoky gray, that's a very good description of what they looked like.

A: And when you first retrieve it it has a bad odor. And people talked about there being a burned odor.

We need to talk about these neoprene balloons because they came in different... There were two manufacturers -- one, Dewey & Olney in Cambridge manufactured with a dip process and they had very much the appearance, if you will, of a condom. They were an ivory colored jell. The Kaysam company in Patterson made a cast neoprene emulsion into a mold, and then they inflated the mold. They had to put a lot of plasticizers so they could take this wet jell and inflate it and make it into a meteorologic balloon. This is a Kaysam balloon here, which I think is not a good candidate.

Q: Kaysam?

A: A guy named Sam Kay formed a company and it was called Kaysam. In fact I have, and you're welcome to them...

(Pause)

A: Kaysam balloons because of the way they were made, and this jell that had to be inflated had this ring, cardboard ring put in them. That's the neck of a Kaysam balloon, and here are more modern Kaysam balloons, the sort that are still being flown.

Q: These are just used for the typical meteorological type balloons.

A: Carry radio (inaudible), that's correct.

Dewey & Olney have gone out of the business and Kaysam bought them out. Here's a Kaysam balloon that is made by a dip mold. This is somewhat indicative, I think, of the way one of those balloons of the type we're using. As you can see on exposure just to ordinary light, they discolor. But these are balloons that were made probably in the '70s. As they change with plasticizer and anti-oxidants for ozone, they certainly change in appearance. The balloons we...

I have pictures here, pictures in the hangar. There, as you can see, these are the ivory colored balloons of the sort we were flying. This is the balloon you just found the islets on in the

hangar. These are pictures from the 1947 era where we're getting ready to fly the 15 foot H.A. Smith balloon.

Q: The reinforcing tape on these balloons, these polyethylene balloons, we were told is a type of acetate. It had none of this symbology, is that correct?

A: None at all.

Q: So the symbology on the tape was only related to the radar reflectors.

A: That's correct. Here is a later model polyethylene balloon, and it's a little thinner than the ones we were flying, but there's a polyethylene balloon.

Q: It looks like polyethylene sheeting that I would use to cover up...

Q: I've also heard the early balloons described as carrot bag quality. Material they would use in a carrot bag. Dry cleaner bags.

Q: Dry cleaner bags. We think of them as being very fragile, but materials from this time frame have been described as durable -- something you couldn't tear with your hands.

A: That's about two mil polyethylene here.

Q: Obviously, you could tear this.

A: This was four mil. These balloons that we had... That's Flight 8. These are the little balloons here that are seen from the air.

Q: From a B-17?

A: I think this was a C-45. We did, indeed, have B-17's attached to us, and C-54's. But I think this was trying to chase Flight 8 down. This was one of the candidate flights that I thought might have been, until two years ago, I thought might have been an explanation for what occurred.

Q: Why did you change your mind at that point?

A: Because of that newspaper report right thee.

Q: Because of him saying that he actually found the material in mid-June?

A: No, because he said it was balsa sticks and smoky rubber and had those curious markings on that. That's a very vivid memory I have of these markings on the radar targets we flew.

Q: You said you often wondered why those markings were on there. Had you ever resolved that for yourself?

A: Only what Albert Turkowski told me, that our friend John Peterson, the procurement man, was just joking, "What else do you expect when you have your targets made by a toy factory?"

Let me go back, if I may. Colonel Duffy was assigned to extract meteorological equipment out of the Signal Corps in 1943. There was a great argument that went on between the Army Air Force and the Signal Corps. The Signal Corps didn't want to let any meteorological equipment out until he thought it was perfect. At the same time, General Arnold was expanding for a global war, and was trying to get meteorological equipment all around the earth. So Colonel Duffy got assigned to expedite the equipment. As various of us graduated from the meteorological cadet schools, he took those of us with engineering backgrounds and assigned us to bird dog various things within the Signal Corps engineering laboratories. I got assigned to... I ended up with some appendicitis and got pulled off of an overseas shipment, and while I was recovering I got assigned to prepare this manual that Colonel Duffy, he was unhappy with the rate at which Signal manuals were coming out so he wanted a loose leaf arrangement to send things out. So I got assigned to prepare this manual.

At the same time, then Captain Fletcher was assigned... Duffy had heard that weather was giving trouble to radar, so Colonel Duffy just turned around and said, "Gee, you mean radar can pick up weather?" And ended up with Captain Fletcher being assigned to both convert this for looking at storm clouds and also to make wind measurements. There was a big problem, the Weather Bureau prior to World War II determined upper winds merely by releasing a pilot balloon, following with the (inaudible), and estimating the rate of rise, and then from the elevation and azimuth angles and the assumed height after a certain time, to calculate what the winds were.

Q: Is that the Boford Scale?

A: Well, Boford was Navy, that was the Navy...

(Pi Ball) Q: Like taking a pieball reading now.

A: Exactly. It was called a pieball then and it is now. Colonel Duffy pushed very heavily to get electronic means for

measuring winds aloft. There were two approaches. One, use a radar target, and the SCR-584 with which you may be familiar -- the early gun-laying radar. Colonel Duffy talked to the field artillery that was procuring through the Signal Corps, gun-laying radar, the SCR-584, which is, that's this radar right here.

Q: We've seen that photo before.

A: This is Spillhouse's book. So Fletcher ended up with a whole bunch of his own 2nd lieutenants around. There was a Jud Tillett from whom I have a photograph showing an earlier model target, the A Model target. Istvan was one. There are a bunch of them listed. This listing is for you if you'd like to have it.

(Tibbett)

Tibbetts ended up being the big installer of radar and, in fact, was assigned down to the Tulerosa Range Camp to make wind measurements for the Trinity shot, the test in 1945. As far as I know, that was the first time these targets had been used in New Mexico. Tibbetts, who until recently lived in Albuquerque, he's now moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. Tibbetts says that he did not ever fly this kind of target in New Mexico, which will be of interest with you when they talk about, that people should have known what a target looked like.

Q: Right. There were discussions concerning having radar targets, but supposedly the B Model and subsequent models were brand new, had never flown anything like that in this area.

A: According to Tibbetts, the A Model had bit aerodynamic drag. It was a flat plane of aluminum foil and had two triangles coming down that made a corner reflector. The A Model looked like... Then across here was that. This is one surface, this is another surface, and this is yet another, and they were held by strings from these four corners. Obviously, trying to take something that's almost a meter in cross section, a meter on a side, take it sideways up through, gave a lot of drag, and it took a lot of lift to make the balloons rise very rapidly.

So instead, somebody came up with this smart idea of this other arrangement of a corner reflector that had much less drag. These, according to Tibbetts, weren't distributed until something like November of 1945. As far as I know, as you will see in the various correspondence, there were no SCR-584s which were required to track them, issued to the weather services here in New Mexico. Obviously, after the Trinity shot, there was no bit military operation that required wind determination in New Mexico.

Q: So essentially you'd say there were no radar reflectors in New Mexico until 1947 until this appeared?

A: That's my opinion.

Q: Was Major Pritchard doing any kind of balloon project?

(Dyvad) A: No. He and Dived and others were at Watson Laboratories. I understand from Turkowski that Alamagordo Army Air Field was about to be closed down as surplus. The people at Watson Laboratories seized on it and were able to keep it on active status for two projects -- one, the radar project from (V-2) Watson Laboratories that was set to track the B-2's being flown from the proving ground across the Tulerosa Valley; and Project Mogul.

I joined the NYU group in January of '47, and while I was finishing up at Georgia Tech I had talked to my chemical engineering professors, I'd already been recruited by Duffy and Spillhouse, and I asked if you wanted to make a balloon of non-extensible material, what plastic would you use. My professor named Grubb told me you ought to consider polyethylene. It's a new plastic just now becoming available. You can heat seal it. It has a lot of desirable properties.

So as soon as I got to NYU, I began talking to everybody I could find in Manhattan -- DuPont, all the sales offices...

Q: We saw your listing.

A: I was concerned with where we could get the plastic and who we could get to manufacture the balloons. I was in my 20's, just a recent graduate. I knew nothing about manufacturing. But we did try to get a manufacturing company that would fabricate balloons for us.

During that period we heard of the Navy project that was going on at General Mills where Jean Get was planning to make a flight to 100,000 feet. General Mills at that time was making balloons out of a Goodyear film called pliofilm. It was a vinyl chloride that just went to hell when exposed to sunlight. It really came apart. So I'm very proud that we began pushing them for polyethylene balloons. With some difficulty we got Otto Lindsen who was the entrepreneur and promoter, working with Get, and we got him to make these balloons you see here in the design that was being planned for Project Helios, with the pliofilm balloons. At the same time we got an entrepreneur who was even faster acting, and that was this fellow A.J. Smith. A one-man shop. He would do anything for money. He, indeed, did. With no

great technical background, he made a number of these balloons for us.

Q: Kind of a garage type of affair where he would sit down and make them one by one and...

A: I don't know. He got some girls and got some assembly workers, for a contract from us. Anyway, we got these balloons going, made visits to Minneapolis to push General Mills. The pressure from the Air Force was enormous. There was a similar problem, of course, in developing microphones that would pick up low frequency sound waves with Columbia. There was much enthusiasm, in testing these microphones.

Q: How did you come to join the Army Air Force?

A: When World War II broke out I applied for pilot training, and so did everybody else. Because I was a senior at Georgia Tech in a chemical engineering course with a fair amount of thermodynamics and other things, I got diverted into the meteorological cadet program. I still wanted to be a pilot but I got diverted into the meteorological cadet program, and the next class that I could join didn't start until December of '42. I joined up sometime in '42. So I went through the meteorological cadet program and found I was a lousy forecaster, but I did end up, when Spillhouse came recruiting for people with engineering background, I got recruited into Colonel Duffy's liaison office.

Q: Was that directly for General Arnold's staff?

A: I was assigned, believe it or not, to Headquarters, Air Force... I still have the Headquarters Air Force [rondelles]. I ended up being assigned to Headquarters, Army Air Force. I was a second lieutenant.

Q: So you got recruited by, at that time, Captain Spillhouse.

A: Right, and I got sent to the Weather Equipment Technician School in Spring Lake, New Jersey, essentially Fort Monmouth. When I finished the training course for radioson and for maintenance of equipment, I was headed for North Africa, and I had a medical problem. When I got out of the hospital, I was assigned back to Colonel Duffy. I remained there. I finished this manual in '44. I was commissioned in September of '43, finally, and then finished the school in November, was assigned to write this manual which was finished in the summer of '44, and then I got an assignment to China.

(radiosonde)

Q: With Dr. Spillhouse?

A: No. I ended up being the weather equipment officer for CBI and the Spillhouse came over later. At that time the war was going very much better. Spillhouse and Duffy had a long range storm detection system, the spheric system, the predecessor of what's used now for lightning detection, the storm scopes, and the LLP. If you're familiar with LLP, the lightning location system...

Q: Used by the Weather Service.

A: We have one of the stations here on campus. And we actually have, if you're interested later on we'll go over and show you, we have a map of the lightning strokes over the entire U.S. as they occur. We have a read-out right here in our laboratory.

Q: So you're doing that work from China?

A: Spillhouse came over with the spherics net, it was called, and got a station installed in Chianting, China to work, of course, for the bombing of Japan. So Spillhouse came over I think the summer of '45 is when he came over. We had the radio wind, the ra-wind, the SCR-658s, we had a number of them that were being installed. We had one up in Yunan in the communist area; we had several of them in China for getting good wind measurements. Spillhouse had been involved in that. I think by '45 it was clear that things would be over relatively soon. We thought we'd be back in '48. In any event, he got an assignment over to 10th Weather in the summer of '45 and came over.

Q: At what point did you ever hear the term long range detection?

A: That's a good question. I didn't know the name Mogul until Robert Todd told me two years ago. I'd never heard the name Mogul -- the classification was that high. I knew what we were doing. When Helgeland was exploded in April of '47, we had balloons in the air. We launched balloons out of the Watson Laboratory, actually Eatontown, what had been the Eatontown Signal Laboratory, but I think it was now Watson Laboratory. In any event, we launched a string of balloons, even though we (constant-) didn't have [contra-level] balloons, we still carried microphones aloft and a C-54 orbited overhead and followed the balloons out to sea. I have no idea about the results that they got.

Q: Did you number that balloon flight?

A: No, we didn't.

Q: Not a letter or a number?

A: Wait a minute. The answer is I don't know.

Q: If you did give it a letter or a number would it be on... There are some of these flights that appeared to have no sequence number and they were talking in terms of being service flights and the impression that we got was that the service flights were either test flights just to check the balloons out or they were the highly classified flights where the information was not being logged into essentially an unclassified document.

A: You notice that Flight 1 was made from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Q: The football field there?

A: LeHigh, exactly. That's where we did it, from the football field. And we did this because a professor at NYU had just gone to head up the physics department at LeHigh and he invited us over. His name was Frank, Butler keeps coming to mind, but I'm not sure that's the right name. Anyway, we went there and that was for an early, early attempt for Helgeland. I think the Helgeland explosion got scrubbed, but we had balloons in the air from this and we were woefully not ready. We had all sorts of problems. We adopted the balloon technique that a cosmic ray investigator at NYU, a fellow named Sergei Korf, we adopted his technique and we had a lot to learn. We got our hands torn up with nylon line being pulled through it as we couldn't hold the balloons down in the wind...

Q: Speaking of nylon line, were these braided type lines or were they monofilament type lines?

A: Neither. I think initially we used either parachute cord, which was braided. I don't remember the details of what we used, but we rapidly used that the radioson cord we used was not strong enough at all to hold the forces that came, so we went to what was called lobster twine. We used a lot of lobster twine that was twisted, a laid line that was used in lobster nets.

Q: Do you recall there ever having been some sort of monofilament similar to the monofilament fishing line in any of the projects?

A: I think there was none available at that time. My memory, the answer is yes, we've used an awful lot of monofilament and we use it now all the time.

Q: But at that time you don't think it was available?

A: I think it was not available.

Q: The early nylon line, would it have degraded, such as the balloon material degraded, and maybe fused in the hot sun?

A: I doubt it. If we had any it would have been white, which would have been a high (inaudible), would not have absorbed a lot of sunlight.

Q: There were discussions about what appeared to be unbraided or unstranded fiber type lines. It's been alluded to that that was the precursors to what we use for fiberoptics today. The materials that were found. That's why I asked about the monofilament line.

A: A lot of what we used early was a linen cord, not twisted, and it was indeed, a brown, a dull brown color. But because it was designed just for radioson balloons, and we rapidly exceeded its strength. So very quickly, and I don't know when, but we very quickly went over to this twisted lobster twine.

To answer your question, there are three flights that are missing here -- two, three, and four. I've identified Flight 4. Flight 4 was a flight we made, and you don't have it there, but Flight 4 we made in Alamagordo something like June 2nd or 3rd of 1947. The reason I have it identified is I have Albert Crary's diary. The scientific end of the group was heavily based from Columbia University. It was Dr. James Peoples who was an employee of Watson Laboratory, and there was an Albert Crary who had been a graduate student under Dr. Ewing.

Q: Who later also was an employee of...

A: Who was then an employee of Watson Laboratory. I have Crary's diary. Here is a translation...

(END OF SIDE)

A: ...Here is the diary starting May 24, '47, and on May 28 he has "B-17 from Watson with Mirs, Hackman, NYU and Alden, they plan to test fly balloons tomorrow. Other gang with recording equipment due to leave Watson Laboratories Saturday. Got everything ready for Hermes Rocket today."

May 29th. "Mirs and Hackman got balloon ascension off at 1:00 p.m. today without plane to follow it. Don and Godby out to Donyo. Bill and I out to E. White Sands to record Hermes."

I've marked the key things here with red, and then I've given you a page without my red if you have any need for that.

June 1st, "C-47 with Moore, Schneider and others from NYU, also Irewin, Minton, Olson, NYU men worked on balloons, north hangar."

June 4th, "Out to Tulerosa Range and fired charges between 0-0 and 0-6" something. "No balloon flight again on account of clouds. Flew regular sonabuoy mike with cluster balloons and had good luck with receiver on ground but poor on plane." I think that's Flight 4 right there.

Q: So that's June 4th.

A: As to that flight made by Mirs and Hackman earlier, we have no record of it here in the NYU summary.

Q: If he flew that on June 4th and it carried the microphones, the radar reflectors, that would have been with a neoprene type balloon.

A: There were no plastic balloons delivered until the 28th or 29th of June that year. So everything as evidenced on the Helgeland flight that we made and the other flight, they were all meteorological balloons prior to late June.

Q: That would have also had the B Model reflector, this type of reflector, but the B Model?

A: My memory is that Jim Peoples, because we were being sent down by B-17 and by air, didn't let us take the radioson receiving equipment which at that time was very heavy. It was like a 500 pound rack with a receiver, frequency meter, recorder, etc., and we weren't allowed to use that. Instead, the idea was that Peoples would provide tracking on the balloons with radar targets and so on. So this is where I think the radar targets come in. If you look in these reports you'll find here statements, radioson reception, and you'll see 60 percent with recorder, 50 percent without recorder, 100 percent without recorder for June 5th. A hundred percent without recorder.

So I think we tried the radar targets, as I remember, our contact who was a Captain Larry Dived found that they weren't able to track our flights at all. They had a radar that was entirely aimed at looking at the missiles. To look at slow moving balloons with poor signal return was difficult for them. So we started off with making single target flights. I think we went to multiple target flights, and still didn't have any success, so I began putting radiosons and then just audibly, as the tones would change, I would log it on a piece of paper. I'd count the pressure... Are you familiar with radiosons?

Q: Somewhat.

A: The commutator with the pressure contacts, etc. I would count contacts and record it and you'll see in some of these flight reports, there's two different interpretations possible, depending on what the contact sequence was. An ordinary radioson is very good for something that's going one way. But for something that's going to go up and float, you can have ambiguities. You don't know if it went up or down when you get the next pressure contact switch. You'll find that sort of uncertainty in describing the report.

So I'm quite sure that as a result of the failure of the radar tracking, I went back and started using radiosons even though I didn't have the right equipment.

Q: You mentioned a few moments ago the Watson Laboratory gear, the microphones, and it was also Columbia that was developing the low frequency microphones. You had all of that gear on these balloons, is that correct?

(sonobouy) A: No, not on all of them. That mention of a sonabuoy microphone, in the early... While the improved low frequency microphones were being designed and built, we flew on balloons, believe it or not, sonabuoys used to detect submarines. We were flying sonabuoy microphones on the balloons.

Q: But the material that's been identified as Watson Lab gear shows up as very generic in all of these reports and things. That was all part of Mogul also, is that correct?

A: That's correct. I think what happened is because the Watson Laboratory radar wasn't very successful, I think we made a number of flights like this. I think I sent a sketch like that to you. We made a number of flights like that which was an unorthodox use of radar targets, and it's my opinion that the thing that caused the debris that was picked up was probably from a cluster of meteorological balloons carrying a cluster of targets.

When something like the idea of a cluster balloon was not only to carry the weight, but was also to keep the target in the air for a long time. If one balloon burst, we still would have enough buoyancy for awhile to keep the thing airborne. When it would come to the ground this would drag along the ground and get shredded, but this would still be carried downwind until another balloon would burst, whereupon this one would start getting shredded. So I think the explanation of why things were over such a large area was, indeed, because it was a cluster, it was multiple targets and cluster balloons.

Q: Of course the issue of the large area has been different in different reports. Different people have stated the 200 yards, Cavitte in his description, described it in terms of his living room which was not that large.

A: Even a single target, if it came down, wouldn't have filled a single living room, but a multiple target, begins dragged sideways and then blown transversally by any later winds, could have filled a reasonable area.

Q: And left pieces of debris everywhere. Depending on...

A: What the wind did.

The description that Brizelle gives here that everything would weigh about five pounds when it was all together, is more than you would have gotten from a single balloon.

Q: Those were measured in terms of 300 to 500 grams or something like that?

A: Three hundred and fifty only. At that time we didn't have any bigger balloons than 350 grams, so the balloons would have been 350 grams.

Q: About one pound.

A: Correct. And the targets are nominally maybe a quarter of a pound.

Q: Those targets are only four to five ounces?

A: Here was the specification spelled out for it. Approximate weight, 100 grams. These, as I say, are somewhat heavier than the ones we had.

Q: You indicated that the balsa wood was coated with some sort of glue such as Elmer's glue.

A: That's my memory. It wasn't completely coated. Some of it was and some of it wasn't.

Q: Some of the balsa wood is fairly dense, as far as being durable, and one of the descriptions concerning this "wood-like" material was that you couldn't dent it with your fingernail. So if you have a fairly dense balsa wood coated with a glue, it may be quite possible that a person would not be able to put their fingernail in it.

A: That's correct. It's my memory that the reflective material was more aluminum foil than here. These are second or third iteration targets, as evidenced by this picture, wherever that picture is down in here of the 1948 flight. It certainly looks more aluminum-file like.

(foil)

Q: What year were you discharged from active duty?

A: '46.

Q: Before you left active duty, while you were still working with Duffy and Spillhouse, did they invite you to join the staff at New York University, or to continue your studies there?

A: I came back from overseas and was assigned to Colonel Duffy's, he had a little flight attachment assigned to him with a B-29 and a B-25 and some other aircraft. I ended up being the executive officer of a flight attachment at Newark Airport. I got back from overseas in February of '46, I think. After getting out of the replacement depot, I got assigned back to Colonel Duffy and was assigned at Newark. I went on terminal leave something like July of '46 and went back to Georgia Tech and finished two quarters. I had two quarters to finish at Georgia Tech. While I was at Georgia Tech I began working with a microwave, an anonymous propagation research group that turned out, oddly enough, was under Colonel Duffy's direction. I didn't know it. It had nothing to do with my getting deployed there, but I had a student assistanceship working on that.

(detatchment)

I made some report, and my name came back in front of Colonel Duffy in September, I think, of '46, and I got asked to come up to his office. I think he was still at Bradley Beach, Sharp River Hills Hotel there near Belmar, New Jersey. When I was there, who should come in but Spillhouse. They told me they had a problem involving balloons and asked if I would be interested in working with them, and they offered me a graduate assistanceship at NYU, and I wanted to go to graduate school in physics, so I was delighted to have that opportunity. That was either September or October of '46.

Q: So Spillhouse, since he was on the staff there, he invited you to come to New York University.

A: Yes, he did.

Q: So you went to New York University when?

A: Right after Christmas. January 1, 1947. The program had already started. I presume you have all the details. I have

(Spaatz) a copy of (inaudible) letter to General Spotch. I presume you have all of that.

Q: I believe we do, but I'd still like to review it and make sure it's the same letter.

A: In any event, there was a big push. I guess after Operation Crossroads the first nuclear test in the Pacific was in July of '46, and Crary, because of the long range detection concept, Crary was sent to Ascension Island which is the (antipode) anthopode for, as close as they could get to the anthopode for Bikini, and failed to detect any signal from Operation Crossroads, from the nuclear explosion.

Q: You mentioned detection. What drove the aspect of detection? Was it because of our test?

A: Yes, our test was being used as a signal source. The question was in order to detect any Soviet test, could we detect our own tests. So Crary was essentially sent to Ascension to see if he could detect the nuclear explosion.

Q: He was unsuccessful.

A: He was unsuccessful.

Q: What method did he employ?

A: Low frequency microphones on the ground. Are you (Krakatau) familiar with the Crackatoa measurements?

Q: No.

A: In 1883, Crackatoa, near Java, made an enormous explosion and the pressure wave from that went around the world seven times, and was picked up and... There was a report, a big analysis by Lord Railey and others...

Q: A volcanic eruption?

A: Volcanic eruption. Here are the isocomes of the pressure waves from Crackatoa as it went out. From the time it took the signal to go out and come back, he went to the antipode which is around Colombia or Venezuela, and came back as a big spherical wave. It went back and forth around the earth. The British investigators were able to show that there was a duct up (tropopause) around the tropopod, and the speed of sound, as I remember, was something like 310 meters per second instead of the regular 334 that we had at sea level. From that they could deduce the

temperature of the medium in which the sound was propagating and it was something like minus 25.

Q: How was this detected as a pressure wave in that time frame?

A: Barograph.

Q: What year?

A: 1883. This is what prompted Ewing.

Q: I'm familiar with barometer-type measurements being used to measure that pressure wave and the fact that it traversed the earth, you said seven times.

(Maurice) A: Mars Ewing had been an oceanographer at Woods Hole and had found a similar acoustic duct in the ocean. You may be familiar with what's called Sofar. In 1945 he wrote a letter to Spots suggesting this might be useful in detection of Soviet activity.

Q: The 1945 letter was kind of the initiative as a means of detection.

A: That's correct. That caused the Army Air Force to begin this research.

Q: How did you come in possession of it?

A: Todd. Todd does everything.

Q: Did he say where he got these documents?

A: Freedom of Information, I think.

Q: It looks like National Archives. I believe I have this letter.

So Ewing was at Woods Hole...

A: And was going to head up the geophysics department at Columbia. These are subsequent documents of people in the Air Force considering the desirability of it.

After Crossroads there seemed to be an enormous push to try to put microphones into the sound channel. During WWII, the Signal Corps had had laid on them the requirement to develop a constant level balloon. It had not been very successful. I knew a bunch of people in the balloon branch.

The reason I got into balloons is that while I was working on this manual there was a great problem in the winter of '43 with the supply of gum rubber cut off, meteorological sounding balloons weren't flying very well. In the summer time, the balloons would go through the depth of the troposphere, but in the winter time, the balloons began bursting down at levels of 15,000 feet or so because the neoprene wouldn't stretch at low temperatures. Somewhere Spillhouse came up with the idea, talked to somebody in the Weather Bureau, that maybe you ought to heat the balloons. He told a couple of us second lieutenants, that I wonder if that would work. We got a blow torch and a mop bucket and we had a radioson, and he was in charge of the Air Force push on radioson technology. I was his leg man on that. We put a blow torch on a mop bucket and heated the water to boiling and flew the balloon. Much to our surprise, the balloon went to about 60,000 feet.

Q: So it stretched without rupturing.

A: It turns out that neoprene crystallizes and you can make it back into an amorphus state with high elasticity. Elasticity changes as a function of the degree of crystallinity. By heating, we removed that.

(boilers) In any event, there was a group in Spillhouse's detachment known as the balloon [burlers]. The Signal Corps, it turned out, was very unhappy with this idea. They wanted no interest in it at all, and their manual doesn't use it. But that was my introduction, that's how I got attached to ballooning, as a result of doing this simple thing for Spillhouse.

It's of interest, in the Holloman report there's a big talk about boiling balloons. That's certainly a heritage of the association from our early balloon boiling days. When you look at the instructions on the modern balloon, you see that it is really a physical effect that can be controlled.

Q: You went on board at New York University, and you immediately set out, as documented in the reports, acquiring the various materials, [putting out bids], things of this nature. At that point you were working at New York University under the direction...

A: Spillhouse was the nominal principal investigator and director of the project, but he just turned us loose.

Q: So you were the project engineer?

A: I was the project engineer, and Schneider was the project administrator. We employed a lot of students, a lot of

people that we could, and were a mixture of trying to develop a constant level balloon and providing service flights for Peoples. Peoples was entirely our contact.

Q: He would come to New York University?

A: He would go down to Red Bank. He'd call and say he wanted certain things, can you do it, so we made this flight out at Lehigh and then we made the Helgeland flight down at Red Bank, and he wasn't really happy. There were all sorts of constraints flying balloons in the New York City area even then.

Q: All the problems with air traffic and getting FAA, or their equivalent at that time, approval, etc.

A: So up in the stratosphere above my level, a decision was made that we go to Alamagordo, and there would be a big flight. We had balloons promised, but even ahead of that time people wanted to test microphones. He had Crary already, about from December of '46, I think Crary went to Alamagordo and ran a field station and...

Q: That field station was for ballooning in general?

A: For Mogul. It was more than that. Crary was operating sound-ranging microphones on the ground there. He was having bombs dropped off the New Jersey coast and trying to pick up the acoustic signals in New Mexico.

Q: He was having the bombs dropped in New Jersey, off the coast, and trying to detect them in New Mexico?

A: That's correct.

Q: What technique? Balloon borne?

A: No. We were the balloonists. This was all ground-based stuff. There was also an operation in Bermuda. Then later you'll find...

Q: Crary also initiated that?

A: He was in charge of it. He was running it. They went and got a whole bunch of 500 pound bombs out of the Earl Ammunition Depot in New Jersey. Later you'll find that they did a bunch down in the Canal zone. Then eventually they went to Alaska.

Q: This was prior to '47?

A: The New Jersey, and I think the Bermuda operation, you'll find a hint in this diary I gave you, you'll find a hint about Bermuda and so on in there. He was talking about trying to measure the sky waves coming in.

If you're interested, we can go extract, there's a paper in the Journal of Meteorology in something like '47.

Q: I believe I have that. Is that the same one?

A: No, this is by Crary.

Q: Crary did quite a few publications for Red Bank and then for Cambridge Labs.

A: Correct. But you'll find one, I think it's either '74 or '49. If you want we can go over to our library and make you a xerox of it.

Q: I'm familiar with that one.

A: It's very circumspect as far as classified matter.

Q: So Peoples and Crary had Columbia University affiliation?

A: Well, Watson. They were derived from Columbia. Both of them were derived... I think Peoples got his PhD under Ewing at Columbia, and Crary didn't get his doctorate until later.

Q: You said Crary's ground station was Alamagordo, but he was actually doing explosions in Alaska, off Bermuda, Panama, the Jersey coast.

A: In the late '46, early '47 era, he was in Alamagordo, in and around Alamagordo. He was very concerned about explosions off the Jersey coast and I think off Bermuda. The Panama Canal operation I think was not associated with Alamagordo at that time.

Here's a nice paper that came through courtesy of Todd. In '48 there was a big operation in the Pacific for Operation Sandstone, and we were heavily involved in that. Here's the Fitzwilliam... Schneider and J.R. Smith... My chief associate technically was a fellow named Dick Smith, James Richard Smith, who unfortunately, died two years ago. Smith and Schneider and some other of my associates went out on Sandstone to Quadulane, Guam, and then Oahu.

Q: I've seen that in publication. I have to acquire it.

A: You can xerox it.

Q: Moving chronologically, Professor Ewing had affiliation with Woods Hole, and he was a meteorologist by trade?

A: No, oceanographer. He was a physicist, a geo-physicist.

Q: What was he doing at Columbia?

A: I think he ended up head of the Department of Geo-Physics. I don't know the details.

Q: For the AMC contract he was developing...

A: He, as we, were contractors.

Q: He was developing the acoustical...

A: That's correct.

Q: That acoustical gear, this is a later flight but it's a fairly good depiction. It shows payload here, and payload is mentioned in a lot of the reports without any further elaboration, what the payload was. That was primarily the low frequency microphones...

A: That was their euphemism for...

Q: So as not to be able to talk about what was then a classified payload.

A: Here are the sort of instruments. A chamber with a leak in it, and then a method of sensing the pressure inside the chamber. That affected the frequency of an oscillator that came to ground. That's the sort of thing that was developed at Columbia.

Q: Dr. Spillhouse also mentioned about trying to detect particulate matter.

(Tracer) A: That was another operation. A tracer lab, have you come across Charlie Ziegler at Brandeis?

Q: No.

A: He worked for a tracer lab and is just bringing out a book on the early detection system.

Q: That was Project Center. MX-968.

A: There was another one that followed on this to measure krypton. It was called Grab Bag in our lexicon.

(Bequeath) Q: Did you ever hear of the project Bequeet?

A: No. Being a civilian and outside, I was more knowledgeable, essentially, of the intent and what was required rather than the project names.

Q: What type of clearance did you hold?

A: At various times I had Top Secret and Q and I don't remember exactly when I got various clearances. I also had a clearance with the CIA.

Q: So at this time in New York University you were cleared but you had no need to know.

A: I knew exactly what we were doing. I knew about Helgeland. I knew, just being an atmospheric physicist, I knew (duct) about the sound doc channel and I knew what we were doing, but I just didn't know any of the operational details and I wasn't concerned with them.

Q: From a security standpoint, did anyone ever discuss with you, other than the letter that I showed you stating that this is now unclassified, did anyone ever tell you never to discuss any of this with anyone?

A: I can't say they did.

Q: It was just a matter of enforcing the need to know what classified project...

A: I guess I was aware this was highly classified, and having been in the military was aware this wasn't something to be discussed lightly. But no, I can't say that...

Q: The reason I ask the question is there are some statements made in the various publications and books -- the popular press, about people being threatened not to talk about things they had seen or that sort of thing. I just wanted to see if there had been anything stated to you never to discuss any of the activities either related to this project or any other project.

A: There's a gray area here. I was certainly aware that what we were doing in Alamagordo was highly classified and was well aware, and I guess had been perhaps encouraged to have a suitable cover story to explain what we were doing.

Q: So you were encouraged by whom to have a cover story?

A: Probably by James Peoples, who was our scientific monitoring... As you may be aware, there is a former colonel, later General DuBose, who makes a statement that something was a cover story. When I read this, I was not at all surprised. I interpreted that as saying someone was covering up on Mogul. That was my interpretation when I read what was attributable to General DuBose. So from his point of view, there were certainly no threats, but we were aware we weren't supposed to be talking.

Q: So was it Dr. Peoples then who actually actively said use meteorology as a cover story, or...

A: I don't remember the details, to be truthful...

Q: But it was kind of a natural thing to think of in terms of meteorology?

A: We were careful around NYU with the various technicians we hired. We kept our knowledge of what we were doing to ourselves. It's certainly mu memory that we were aware that this was classified, but we weren't threatened. We were just instructed that this sort of information was not to be passed out, even though the technical aspects we understood. So the answer is yes, we very well understood this was classified; and second, there was no physical threat or anything like that. We were instructed not to talk about it, and until Todd told me that Mogul had been declassified I was very reluctant to say anything about it.

(my)

Q: Anywhere in the early days were you ever aware of involvement by General LeMay?

A: Not at all.

(AFOAT-1) Q: Not at your level. How about the [Eight Float One] study group?

A: I became involved with them later on Project Grab Bag and others, and I knew a bunch of people in [Eight Float One] -- Doyle Northrop... I knew that, but later ballooning got even more heavily involved in various classified things.

Q: Where were your duty locations involved with [Eight Float One]?

A: Probably at General Mills.

Q: Not ever in Washington?

A: Oh, yeah. I visited people in Washington.

Q: Just for the record, Major Marselle later worked at [Eight Float One]. Do you recognize him at all?

A: Not at all. The people I was involved with were civilian scientists. If we looked at a list of people at Northrop, Doyle Northrop sort of sticks in my mind, and there are other names I've seen related to that. Yeah, I knew that guy, but I never knew Marselle.

Q: So you went, moving into Mogul, you did go on the June and July field trips.

A: I ran them.

Q: How many did you go on? All of them?

A: I didn't go to the one in the Pacific. If you look at the planning on the Project Fitzwilliam, my name was listed as the person as being there. Then suddenly, I'm not. What happened, my people got taken away from me and I had to recruit brand new people to help me fly balloons into Alamagordo during the April and May 1948 operations. So I had new personnel, and we went up and down the Rio Grande Valley trying to launch balloons so they would pass over the ground stations at Alamagordo.

Q: During that early period, before you had your full complement of various types of balloons, did you ever use any of the Japanese balloons? We were given the impression there were at least a few of the Japanese balloons made available.

A: I got very interested in the Japanese balloons and communicate, and I have pieces of the Japanese balloon downstairs if you're interested in seeing a piece of it. And I've got translations. I met the chief of the Central Meteorological Office, a Dr. Wadati, and he put me in contact, so I have extensive files on the Japanese balloons.

Q: But were any of those used as precursors to Mogul or...

A: None whatsoever. That was part of a promotion that... When I went to General Mills, Windson who had been the great entrepreneur, had gotten fired. He'd gotten caught in a prevarication about whether or not the Navy was going to provide money. He was replaced by a fellow named Frank Jewitt. Jewitt recruited me out of graduate school. We really promoted balloons. That's part of the balloon promotion.

Q: None of the Japanese balloons were actually used as far as a precursor to Mogul or anything like that.

A: That is absolutely correct.

Q: But you had them available for study, but you didn't launch them.

A: No, they didn't have any.

Q: In the New York University report it says that you were provided two Japanese balloons.

A: That's interesting, because I have no memory of them whatsoever. Spillhouse may have. But I have no memory that I ever saw them. In the spirit of being given proper scientific credit, in the paper that you have, the Journal of Meteorology Paper, we, heavily written by Spillhouse, credited the Japanese with doing, with their trans-Pacific flights. So what we were doing certainly was based, came after what they had done, and we didn't want to take credit away from them. But I'm told that on my own, completely free from this, I talked with Wadati and others on a Japanese balloon. I've never seen a Japanese balloon that I know of, I've never seen the payload, but I do have fragments of the Mulberry Favor.

Frankly, we did not depend on the Japanese balloons. The Japanese just preceded us. But we didn't pattern what we were trying to do on what the Japanese did. After all, they had opaque balloons, and my belief from the beginning is balloons ought to be transparent so they don't absorb sunlight so at sunset you don't have the cooling and the ballasting. So we owe nothing to the Japanese other than the fact they were ahead of us.

Q: You went on these field trips. When you left, getting back to the cover story, you were the project engineer. Did people come to you and say you need to put something together in case one of these things falls in somebody's hands?

You didn't.

Did you brief your people, your personnel, when they were there, that they if should go into town for food or something if someone says "Why are you there?"...

A: We were certainly secretive and not talkative, but at the same time...

Q: In other words, was there a developed cover story where everyone got together, discussed what you were going to say or not say concerning the various activities that were going on at Alamagordo and other locations?

A: That's a good question. I have no memory of such a thing. I'm just aware that we were under very strong stricture not to encourage speculation on what we were doing.

Q: So is that pretty much maybe a condition of hiring? I notice you used a lot of former military people. Did you just tell them at the outset, "This is a classified project for AMC?" Or were they not read on to the project at all?

A: By and large, people thought we were flying balloons for the Air Force.

Q: As far as they were concerned they were just launching meteorological balloons?

A: That's correct.

Q: They didn't particularly quiz you about the microphone you hung in there or...

A: No.

Q: The balloons that you did launch for Project Mogul and some of the other test balloons, without the actual instrument packages, did they have reward tags, "Return to New York University," or "Return to Roswell Army Air Field," or to Alamagordo Army Air Field or anything like that?

A: The ones that we wanted to get back, which were the test constant level balloons and the ones that had microphones on them, by and large, they did have NYU reward tags on them.

Q: Dr. Peoples, whoever was directing you, was there ever any concern voiced that this is a top secret object we're sending into the atmosphere and we're not sure where it's going to come to earth. Did they ever express any problem with that, that wherever it came down, it came down?

A: I think the argument was that when it came down, it would be mixed in with our other gear, and it was just part of a flight that was to be recovered by NYU. He thought nobody would interpret what those sorts of instruments would be.

Q: So the tags were kind of generic, like a meteorological tag, say. "This consists of meteorological instruments..."

A: "This is a research balloon flown by New York University..."

Q: Were you doing other research? When you went to New Mexico was there another agenda other than the top secret project?

A: None whatsoever. Our whole life revolved around the NYU constant level balloon project. We were developing constant level balloons, and the service flights for Peoples just sort of got hidden in that.

Q: The service flights were which ones?

A: The ones carrying the microphones.

Q: So specifically that term was used for the microphone flights from...

A: That's right. You'll notice when you look at this, that the flights out in the Pacific don't even get mentioned. There's just no report on the flights in the Pacific, and the flights in '48 that we made for Sandstone, there are some flight numbers recorded, but there are no details at all provided.

Q: That was Grab Bag?

A: No, Grab Bag was to grab stratospheric air to measure the krypton 85...

Q: Essentially particulate detection and gaseous...

A: That was gaseous. The particulate was, I think we were less involved in grabbing particulates. There have been thousands of flights made, and certain people did carry cascade impactors and other things, but that was a minor part of what we did, whereas Grab Bag was a very measure effort.

Q: That was in '48?

A: That was more '50 odd.

Q: Was that Fitzwilliam?

A: No, Fitzwilliam was entirely acoustic detection. Again, very long range detection. Fitzwilliam was spring of '48. There were various code names, and thanks to our friend Todd, I've learned about the code name got termed Black Heart and a whole bunch of odd names...

Q: Black Heart, Rock Fish. He may be wrong on that part. He may be right, but...

A: I heard Mogul got converted into Rock Fish. But I heard the detection part of Fitzwilliam ended up being called Black Heart.

Q: He may be in error on that.

A: As I say, I'd been much more concerned with the technical aspects than the military operations.

Q: This is one of the technical reports and it's talking about the various flights, and this is the report that lists all of the numbered flights and it talks about, it says, "Excluded are the flights made to test," it's technical report number one, "Excluded are those two tests' special gear in launches which were not successful."

A: Right.

Q: So the special gear that's referred to here is the microphone gear?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: There's another passage that talks about the intelligence gear. Was that considered also...

A: Did we make such a faux pas as that?

Q: It's in there.

Q: I have the classification letter from July of '46. You might want to review this. Maybe your friend has shown that to you.

A: No, I've never seen this.

Turkowski argued that even the name Mogul was classified, and he said it had the same classification as the Manhattan Project had, which surprises me, because in various reports that Todd has sent me, such as the monthly progress reports from the people at later Holloman Air Force Base, Mogul appears in things that are no higher classification than confidential, but Turkowski insists that Mogul was super classified.

(END OF SIDE)

Q: This is a copy of the letter you wrote to Colonel Weaver. One of the things that you talk about in this letter was that the radar test flights were not reported, which is exactly what we were discussing a moment ago in your kitchen. Would you go over again what you just described as far as this particular test flight that occurred? What we just went through in there.

A: As I said initially, the essence in trying to develop constant level balloons, we needed to know what the altitude was. At the same time, we were under a lot of pressure to carry the test microphones for the Watson Laboratory and Columbia people. We got into an operation at Alamagordo in early June of 1947, in which we were required to make flights in which the tracking of the flights would be provided by the Watson Laboratory Radar that was already in place at Alamagordo for tracking the V-2s and other rockets the Ordnance Corps people were flying over at White Sands. So we came down to fly balloons in early June, in which the tracking of the flights was to be done by radar, tracking corner reflector targets, which I think we brought with us. I don't have any evidence of this.

Q: So you made your plan in New York to fly... Your primary research was the acoustical detect...

A: That's correct.

Q: Secondary was refining the technique of constant level balloons.

A: And that was on hold until we got the delivery of the polyethylene balloon that was scheduled for the end of June. So the first of June we came, really, just for the test flight of microphones, doing service flights for Watson Laboratories.

Q: To fly the balloons in association with...

A: To fly meteorological balloons, tracked by a Watson Lab radar on the ML-307B targets that I think we brought with us.

Q: And you launched these balloons in conjunction with V-2 firings?

A: Those went independently. Albert Crary was monitoring the V-2 firings.

Q: That was with the ground microphones?

A: You're right, I beg your pardon. As you'll find in the diary, that we launched Flight 8, these cluster balloons, we launched those at 3:00 o'clock in the morning for a V-2 firing.

You're quite right. I'd forgotten that. We launched those in the morning, then the rocket got scrubbed while Flight 8 was in the air, and we were out of plastic balloons that day in early July -- this is jumping ahead to early July -- and we inflated meteorological balloons for the delayed firing of the V-2 rocket on the afternoon of July 3rd, you'll see. Then there was an accident over at White Sands and the V-2 got scrubbed a second time. What was Flight 9, we launched Flight 9, as you will see in here, as a dummy flight, and it probably had radar targets on it.

Let me just read this. This is Crary's summary for the week of 30 June-5 July 1947. "Balloon tests 7, 8, 9, and 10 off this week. Test 7 slated for July 1 postponed to July 2nd because equipment not ready. A hundred tanks with helium obtained from Amarillo Monday evening. Turkowski went over in a C-54 and picked them up. Also radioson receivers set up by NYU but sonabuoy not operable. Test 7 at dawn, July 2nd, with pieball. One hour, first falling with the autolights. Winds were very light, and balloons up between base and mountains most of the time. Included a cluster of met balloons, followed by C-54 several hours, and finally landed in mountains near road, south quadroft. Before gear could be recovered, most of it had been stolen. Station operating in north hangar, Cloudcroft and Roswell. Shots made repeatedly at Site 4 and picked up goods from north hangar and from Cloudcroft for awhile. Nothing from Roswell.

"On Thursday morning, July 3rd, a cluster of GM plastic balloons sent up for V-2 recording, but V-2 not fired. No shots fired. Balloons up for some time."

Q: What is a shot?

A: Explosive on the ground.

Q: You were doing explosives on the ground in New Mexico too?

A: Crary.

Q: So Crary would give you the signal, he'd say at 0400 I'm going to launch a balloon, and at 0500 I'm going to...

A: No, he wouldn't launch a balloon. I'd launch a balloon. What Peoples would do is say I want a flight up tomorrow morning. So the NYU group would get ready to make a flight, and then Crary would go out with his crew and fire explosives up and down the Tulerosa Basin while our balloons were in the air.

Q: So you had multiple explosions on the ground, the V-2...

A: And explosions on the East Coast.

Q: On the East Coast, Caribbean, and you had those timed so you knew when those were going to take place and you were simply waiting for...

A: They had them timed and we balloon types just fit into the schedule. But the master, the timing, bringing all this together, we knew nothing about. We were just scheduled to fly balloons.

Q: But you did want to launch early morning for the light winds.

A: We did want to launch early in the morning for light wind. We had freedom to tell them what we could do and what we couldn't do. We actually on this, in addition to everything else, we actually flew blocks of TNT on free balloons and fired them while we had other balloons in the air.

Q: Did those have radar targets on them also?

A: Probably.

Q: Were those detonated by...

A: By a pressure switch.

Q: Were those tracked? Was there some sort of log that would tell you where those particular balloons were? You wouldn't want to just release TNT to float anywhere, would you?

A: They wouldn't float. The balloons would just go up until they burst. And we were on the edge of the restricted area. So the answer is yes, we did.

I'll have to get back to this. The radar tracking turned out to be abysmally poor. I don't know why, but they were abysmally poor. That's why I got off onto this part of it. And when you asked me the V-2 question...

Let me finish this, and then we'll get back to what you asked.

"Thursday morning, cluster of GM balloons sent out, V-2 not fired, no shots fired. Balloons up for some time, no recording. Pieball showed no West winds. Balloons picked up by radar, WS."

I presume that means White Sands. You'll find this hard... and hunted by somebody's name I couldn't get. It looks like Maryalls' "C-54, located on Tulerosa Range by air. Out PM with several NYU men by weapons carrier, but we never located it. Rocket postponed until 7:30 p.m. Thursday night," which was the third. "But on last minute before balloon went up, V-2 was called off on of accident at White Sands. Sent up cluster balloons with dummy load. Balloon Flight 10 on dawn, July 5th, had gone out with C-54, again with Moses and Dufeld to hunt for Flight 8 but not sure was found then."

(note) Then I added a not here, "Flight 8 was never recovered."

(single Smith) "C-54 went to El Paso July 4th and picked up singlesmith plastic balloon and GM cluster plastic balloons."

So the answer is yes. We did try to coordinate the balloon launchings for the V-2 firings, and Crary would also take that as a time of opportunity to go out on the desert and fire TNT. He had vast stocks of explosives available to him.

Q: Was that primarily on the White Sands range, or did he go out into other areas, say Northwest of Roswell? Did he contract with any of the ranchers to use these locales, other than the actual missile range itself?

A: I think all the explosions he made were coordinated with the White Sands Proving Ground people. Alamagordo Airfield, later Holloman, was just on the fringe of the proving ground at that time. Crary sent his men to all sorts of places -- over to Roswell, to Artesia, to Hagerman, up and down the Pecos River area. He had a place you'll read about, Fabians, Texas, which turns out to be just down the Rio Grande from El Paso, maybe 50 miles. Then he had Don Edmondson went to Silver City frequently. Then he had some place he called Donna, Las Cruces is in Donna Anna County, but I don't know where his Donna site was. But I think he had microphones scattered all around in central New Mexico and West Texas. But the explosions were all created either on the White Sands Proving Ground, or there were V-2 rockets, or they were things coming from...

I won't take the time now, but he talks about cruises, which apparently are, maybe they were cruisers firing off the Jersey coast.

We got off into this, we were talking about tracking, and we went down to, in early June, to make service flights which were to be tracked by radar, and the radar was unsuccessful. It's my memory that we made a number of flights just to test out the radar. These would not have had a reward tag on them. These

were throw away flags. Once a target like this comes down from high altitude or drag, you don't want it back. It's my memory we didn't want to have anything traced back to us, if we weren't going to go out and pick it up.

Q: So you just kind of let the material lie wherever it fell?

A: We shot a balloon into the air and didn't want to do any more. There are some pictures of our going out to recover things. On one of the early flights we went out east of Roswell, and I remember beyond the Bottomless Lakes, going out in oil well country, picking up one of our flights that had come down. We aggressively tried to recover our own flights.

Q: So were you directed to that location by aircraft?

A: By the aircraft.

Q: Did they give you a lat and long, landmark?

A: We talked to them by radio. The transmitters on these microphones were so low powered that, believe it or not, they had B-17s just orbiting under our balloons with receivers aboard the aircraft, and we, of course, would talk to the aircraft, and they'd tell us when things would come down. So it was a coordinated operation.

Q: So you had explosions or V-2 going through. So the aircraft had recording devices. You had the acoustical pickup on the balloon and the aircraft had the recording device that would record the sounds.

A: That's correct. Would record the signal from the balloon.

Q: In what media was it recorded on?

A: Brush recorders. [Strip charge] recorders feeding out at high speed. You'll see in here, you'll see the sort of records.

Q: The graphic representation.

A: The recorders looked like that.

Q: So that was recorded on the aircraft and then...

A: That's correct. As you'll see, they said they had receivers at Roswell, at Alamagordo, and they had them on the airplane.

Q: But most of the detection was via the aircraft because of the low power receivers.

A: Most of the reception, the detection, was really... The balloon received the acoustics, and sent it down by radio to the aircraft. It often didn't work. That was the reason why for Operation Sandstone in April and May of '48, we went up and down the Rio Grande Valley... Here are some of the pictures. There's a ground cloth for the balloon to be laid out. There's a balloon being inflated, just getting ready. So we tried to get up wind.

That's a device from White Sands that was picked up around Carazoso and was reported in to us, and we thought it was one of ours. So I took a weapons carrier and drove up there. We were aggressively trying to recover our equipment and that just happened to be something that was on the ground. The technician that had been in that group, remember the [Marginal] tape, Herbert Crow. That's a picture he took when we were aggressively trying to recover a load. That turned out not to be ours.

Q: What is it, and who did it belong to?

A: It probably was flown on a rocket or by Marcus O'Day who was the chief scientist at Watson Laboratory. Dr. O'Day. You'll see, when you read the Duffy thing, where Duffy thinks maybe there were things that were flown by Dr. O'Day. Anyway, that just happens to be a picture in the collection of NYU photographs.

Q: So there were a lot of other people flying balloons or launching...

A: Not balloons. We were the only balloon flyers. That came down by parachute. But there were a lot of rockets being flown in the early days there, and a lot of high altitude aircraft. Duffy says there were drop sons.

(dropsondes)

Q: So it could be that some of the material found may not have been associated with a balloon. It is possible it could have been some other type of material. But the description that Brizelle gives the impression that it is the smoky rubber of a balloon that's been in the sunlight.

A: That's circumstantial. That fits exactly with what would have been done, and orthodox use of radar targets would not

have produced what he found. But you're quite right, there's debris that was reported to us that...

Q: ...some sort of cylindrical instrument, though, that's obviously an instrument package of some sort.

A: It had a plexiglass, it looked like maybe it had a UV sensor. There was some optical equipment under the plexiglass dome that was shattered...

Q: You're familiar with the popular literature about the various crash sites. There's one crash site, two crash sites, three crash sites and all that craziness?

A: Yes.

Q: What I'm thinking is we may have two incidents here, where they collected your debris from your radar targets, and then there may have been another something else not related to a balloon.

A: There could have been other things from White Sands. This was on the edge of the proving ground. There's a story behind this, and that is that a rancher, whose land had been taken from him to form the proving ground, had cattle that were still on what had been his land. He had found this while he was looking for his cattle, I can show you on the map if you're interested. Anyway, he called in to Alamagordo about this. So I went up to see if it was one of our missing balloons. While we were there, a range security guard came on the rancher and really castigated him for breaking the law, coming back onto the range. So this was really on the range. It would be hard for me to understand how the sort of operations, which I knew, could have fallen as far away as these other sites you talk about. This was really on the northeast corner of the range, just west of the town of Carazoso.

Q: So that's not too far from here.

A: Here's the northeast corner. [Looking on map] Right on this road, right about there is where that load there was found. Here is where the Brizelle finding was, just north of this bend of the road here, and there's Roswell.

Q: You're talking in terms of sites around Corona and in that vicinity. So it's quite possible that there had been other types of debris from the proving ground or...

A: As I say, I find it hard to think that something... While we may have been flying TNT on balloons and being very

carefree about it, I really doubt that a thing of any military significance would have fallen this far away from the proving ground. It could have, but...

Q: Other than your balloons.

A: Oh yeah, those first flights we didn't even coordinate with CAA. Peoples was so eager to go get those measurements, that these were going to be flown from a restricted area and he didn't worry about it. We later, before the Civil Air Board in El Paso, but that was two or three months later.

Q: When you went on the field trips, what was the chain of command at that point when you arrived? Who did you report to?

A: We were somewhat self contained, but we got housing provided by, I guess Crary was our contact, if you will. Some way or another, barracks were made available for us to live in at Alamagordo.

Q: Would anyone at Roswell Army Air Field have known about your activities, what your purpose was?

A: Not at all. In fact, we went over and tried to get into the weather station at Roswell and because of the atomic bomb security of the 509th, as I remember, we couldn't even get on the base. We drove up in a weapons carrier to the Roswell Army Air Field, and tried to get on the base because we wanted to go to the weather station, wanted to see if we could put a radioson receiver there. As I remember we got turned away.

Q: But you ultimately did put a radioson receiver there.

A: In a motel. We just worked out of motels in Roswell.

Q: I thought I saw you had a radioson receiver on Roswell Army Air Field.

A: Again, forgive my memory, but I do remember being turned away. But if you can find it, I'd be glad to have my memory refreshed.

Q: I saw that you had a copy of the 509th Bomb Group history. In the 509 the Bomb Group history from September I saw a meeting where Dr. Peoples met with LTC Joe Briley, 8:30 with the Bomb Squadron Commander, 509th, Air Group Roswell. Do you know why Dr. Peoples would meet with the squadron commander of a B-29 outfit?

A: Only if he wanted to get in to put a receiver on the base there. That would be my guess. We had a big operation. We went back to Alamagordo in September. We had our first 20 foot diameter General Mills balloons. We had a very successful set of balloon launches in Alamagordo in September of '47. My only guess is trying to have a down-wind receiving station.

Q: There are some other names mentioned that I can't recall.

Q: What about then Colonel Blanchard and General Ramey? Do you think they may have had any knowledge of what your ultimate purpose was?

A: I think not. I want to say something about Colonel J.D. Ryan. He was Chief of Staff of the Air Force later, but "Dr. Peoples, Murray Hackman, and First Lieutenant Thompson from Air Materiel Command, were out at the field to inspect Air Materiel Command installations and to confer with LTC Briley."

Well, well. Hackman was one of our radioson operators. There's Colonel John D. Ryan right there. That's interesting.

On the morning of this famous press release, July 8th, in The Roswell Daily Dispatch, there is a statement about a flying disc being identified, and Colonel J.D. Ryan who is on the staff of 8th Air Force said that the Air Force was now using radar targets to measure winds aloft in some stations.

I find that of interest because apparently in reading some of the various things that happened in General Ramey's office, apparently someone that afternoon did think this was a radar target that had been brought in. But the Roswell morning paper clearly showed that there was a knowledgeable person in Fort Worth.

Q: Is that in the article, the 8 July article, that Ryan made the statement?

A: Yes. Maybe not the article you're talking about.

(Haut) Q: Is this the one that William Hote...

A: No, this is that morning, not that afternoon. (Pause to look for clipping) There's Newt Goldenberg, you mentioned him earlier in one of our conversations. That's one of our altitude controls.

Here's the morning paper, "Report flying disc found." Down here is about Colonel J.D. Ryan, and he mentioned the existence

of radar wind measuring equipment in the Air Force. If you want a copy of that...

Q: Then there's, subsequently, no mention of the radar targets until General Ramey discusses it on the 9th, talking about the material being a balloon.

A: On the afternoon of the 8th. It may have been published on the 9th, but...

Q: You're right. Evening of the 8th. Examination by the Army revealed last night, a high altitude weather balloon. General Ramey, Commander, 8th Air Forces, cleared up the mystery.

A: In these pictures here, don't show these flaps. This, I think, is my step ladder that I used to reach high targets, when we have these big balloon trains going way up in the air. Here again, is an unorthodox use of radar targets. We did that, and as far as I know, other people didn't.

Q: Did you ever use radar targets with the polyethylene balloons?

A: Yes, sir. In fact somewhere I have a picture where we flew a missile, we launched a missile for O&R Special Devices Center in 1949. I have a picture showing the targets up and down the balloon train there.

Q: Do you remember trying to pin down some of these flights that could possibly cause this misunderstanding? You talk about putting a target with the neoprene balloons, but at that time you also launched them with the polyethylene?

A: This picture I showed you right here. This is a polyethylene balloon.

Q: So you used a visual by the aircraft to watch the balloon? It would circle underneath.

(Watson) A: The aircraft circling underneath were really to pick up the microphone signals. That was part of the Washington Lab operation. Our operation, we depended on radiosons and where we could get radar tracking for tracking air balloons. But the aircraft operation here was entirely to support Project Mogul. We didn't consider ourselves Mogul because I didn't even know the name.

Q: The summary of flights...

A: That's one of the flights with the mixed interpretations because of the radiosons.

Q: In one column it says "tracking percent." Then sometimes it will say by aircraft.

A: That's true.

Q: So "aircraft observation", was that a visual observation or an electronic?

A: That's really saying did we have aircraft on it or not, and what percentage. Here the B-17 was on it for 40 percent of the time. Indeed, that was the aircraft tracking for the Mogul operation.

Q: That was for the electronic data gathering.

A: That's correct.

Q: Not observing the balloon to tell you where it went down.

A: That's right. Well, we did have the aircraft stay as long as we could. As long as we could end up with that very expensive aircraft chasing an air balloon, we were happy. On the flight that came down east of Roswell on one of these, Flight 5 or so on came down east of Roswell, the aircraft spotted it on the ground for us and told us where to go to look for it.

Q: About 17 miles east of Roswell.

A: Then we had another one, Flight 11...

Q: That's the one that appears to come down northwest of Roswell.

A: Correct.

Q: It appears to have almost come down exactly where they're talking about.

A: That's right.

Q: That's the one where you provided a depiction to Colonel Weaver.

Q: No, that's another one.

Q: That's an earlier one, that's right.

A: Where is that old NYU report? (Pause)

Here it is right here. More or less due west of Walker, Roswell Army Air Field.

Q: Then this graphic conflicts with this graphic, which shows Number 11 coming down... Is that circle the Roswell reporting station?

A: That's about right.

Q: Is this circle a weather reporting station which would be Roswell?

A: You're right.

Q: This has it coming down northwest.

A: What's the origin of this?

Q: It's in the back of one of the reports.

A: It looks to me like it may have been out of this report.

Q: Not every report had this graphic depiction like this which was number eight.

(Pause to look through documents)

A: With those numbers it wouldn't have been in that first report because these flights were much later.

Q: Technical Report No. 1.

A: Right. And Flight 58 and 55 aren't going to be in that early report. They occurred after that report was written.

(Pause)

A: I would say what was in that first report is more accurate than this. This, I think, occurred after I left NYU. It's a general summary. Flight 11 was a very important flight. They got very important data on it -- Crary and Peoples.

Q: Spillhouse based his article from Journal of Meteorology on it.

A: Right, and he wrote a paper in the bulletin. The fact that the balloon trajectory has this hook in it when it went over the mountain ridge...

Q: That's obviously the [ano-cyclonic] winds aloft.

A: Exactly. So he and Bernard Harwitz were very excited about the fact that the balloon at nominal constant level, had a change in direction when the air was forced over the mountain barrier, and they published a special paper on that. So everybody was happy with this flight.

As soon as that flight was made, that was the 7th, and we went home on the 8th.

Q: That would be the reason why there would be no one there in the area who could explain this debris that was brought in. There were no experts there who dealt with this particular type of material or radar reflectors.

A: There was really no contact, at that time, as far as I know, between Peoples and Roswell, and there's no way Roswell, other than my memory of getting turned away by the MPs at the gate, there's no way that the people at Roswell would have known what was going on over at Alamagordo. When we sent people to Roswell, Hackman worked out of a motel to receive.

So the more puzzling thing in line with what you say comes from Crary's diary. Here's what Crary's diary says: "Alamagordo. Balloon Flight 11A, off at 5:07. Big plastic balloon with small auxiliary plastics," etc. "Watson Lab and gear." "Followed" (inaudible) "receiver until about 11. Picked up on radioson receiver at Roswell then followed. Then came down. At 10,000 feet, cap should have punctured plastic. Then it came down near Highway 70, between Roswell and Tulerosa.

"Second balloon, met balloons with radioson up about 6:30. Third balloon with two and a half pound stick of TNT and cap set by pressure element set to fire at 35,000 feet, up at 6:20."

Q: What day is that again?

A: July 7th.

"Surface bombing at Site 4 from 5:45 to 8:45 at 15 minute intervals. (Inaudible) followed main receiver only three-quarters of an hour, but followed radioson about three hours. Thirty-five thousand food implosion? off about 6:55. Vivian got instructions for completing work on Flights 1 to 30 and packed all records and photo. Sent off TWX regarding Bermuda flight

and wrote up memo on it. Worked with Eileen on April 1st rocket plotting HD5 HT SST, whatever [that is]."

July 8th. "C-54 off about 10:30 with 23 people, all NYU, Watson Lab including Vivian, Eileen," and somebody else. I can't tell. "Lieutenant Thompson, Edmondson, Reynolds and myself left. Wrote a report on East Coast flights for Peoples."

Here's 9 July, the time this occurred at Alamagordo. "Worked today on balloon flight. Studied Watson Lab records of them briefly and wrote memorandum to Peoples about results. Left in car this PM later. Flat tire between Roswell and Tulerosa, and stayed there."

July 10th. "Changed tire and went into Roswell. Bought new tire. Off to El Rino, Oklahoma today. Stopped in cafe in Hereford, Texas and met Danny Hard from UGC. Went up to office and saw Bob Cowden, somebody in charge, and supervisor."

That's the end of it. So there's no hint that Crary was involved in any coverup such as this clearly is. This is a coverup right here because they talk about our operations, they talk about our balloons we thought went to Colorado,and they all claim it to be part of Pritchard's radar operation.

Q: But he wasn't launching balloons.

A: He wasn't launching balloons.

Q: So where did they get the equipment to take this picture? Did you leave equipment behind?

A: This is right outside of the hangar.

Q: Those are your people?

A: It's our equipment and my stepladder.

Q: Did you leave equipment there?

A: Yes. Everything

Q: Because you expected to return.

A: We were just going back...

Q: It looked pretty tricky. How did they know how to do that?

A: I just don't know anything about the hierarchy above us. I do know that I worked carefully with a guy named Larry Dived, a pilot, who later became a private pilot, running a fixed base operation in Alamagordo, and got killed 20 years ago. But I know I worked with Larry Dived whose name you'll see here. I don't remember Pritchard at all, but Dived was my contact with the radar. I know they didn't have balloons or anything else, yet they talk about boiling balloons there.

Q: So when you returned in September, did you see that somebody had tampered with your equipment and used up some of your balloons?

A: If it did, it didn't ring a bell.

Q: And no one mentioned it to you. No one said hey, look, we had to do something while you were gone.

A: I think we were just some ignorant, little innocent graduate student contractors on a military base, and things were going on that we didn't know anything about.

Q: So no one approached you to say they had used some of your equipment?

A: Not at all.

Q: This photo that's depicted here n the July 10th Alamagordo News, this could have been taken during one of your actual launches versus...

A: I think not, because they say, the whole article is this was a demonstration. I would have thought, since Crary was a senior person and he and Peoples, Peoples was our contact with the base. But other than Dived, we had no real contact with anyone I remember. I do remember being very disappointed with the radar.

Q: If this were a demonstration sometime on the 9th or 10th of July, prior to this being published, they talk in terms here of these radar reflectors. These particular radar reflectors, as having labels on them. The radar reflectors you were using, did they have any type of labels talking about being property of U.S. Army, or Watson Laboratories?

A: None that I know of. We were strongly encouraged not to mix in the Air Force with what we did. Everything we did had an NYU label. I may be able to dig back in my file somewhere...

Q: So they may have had an NYU label on it. Even the service ones.

A: On service, but on radar test flights, there's no way we would have put a label on.

Q: Those were just shakedown flights. You were just saying hey, what's going to work best to get the data, so let's use some of the equipment we have and see what works, so you'd have someone on the radar and say yeah, this configuration works, this one doesn't. That's what you were doing. Then later on you refined your technique...

A: What we would do is we would put up things and they'd come back and say it didn't work. So we'd scratch our heads and do something else. But we were running that end of the balloon end of the operation. Nobody else was flying balloons around us. There may have been a radioson operation out over White Sands, but there was not one, as far as I know, at either Roswell or Alamagordo. If there had, I would have used them because we were using standard AMQ-1...

Q: But you did coordinate with Big Spring, Texas.

A: Did we?

Q: It's in the report, saying you guys, when you came back to New Jersey, you were sending thank you letters to various organizations that helped you while you were in the field. Big Springs, Texas; some other places that you had coordinated with.

A: Thank you...

Q: The New York University reports are very voluminous. There are three big bound volumes. I have the originals with your signature.

A: You're making my point, that there probably wasn't any other nearby radioson station for us to receive things. I'd forgotten all about Big Springs, but I'm sure we made every effort we could to get radioson reception.

Q: Can you think of, just in general, any other explanation for what became the so-called Roswell incident, other than what we've discussed here as far as potentially your balloon project, which at that time was a very secretive project. Is there any other explanation you can think of?

A: No, and the particulars of this case are sufficiently nearly unique, that I think no one else had anything that could have fit into providing these results. No, we were doing something that was unorthodox, using targets that, as far as I know, had not been flown before in New Mexico. There's no way that the rancher could have ever seen one. And there's no way that either Major Marselle nor General Ramey or General Ramey's people could have come up with providing a radar to substitute for the real debris. I think there's a very high likelihood that the unusual things we were doing provided this debris.

However, all the other stuff that's in, and a lot of the material, I can't explain bodies or material that can't be [folded] by a sledge hammer.

Q: Let's dwell on the bodies just for a second here. It turns out that during this time frame, 1947, 1948, 1949, there were numerous aircraft accidents, a lot of fatal aircraft accidents, in this general vicinity. Did you all ever come across any of those?

A: No, sir.

(END OF SIDE)

Q: There was an accident that took place right out of Roswell, a B-29, two B-29 accidents that resulted in fatal crashes. We were wondering if maybe over time people were beginning to think in terms of those fatal accidents, which essentially scattered body parts, small parts, over areas, where people were getting confused with what occurred in those aircraft accidents with the sensationalism of this UFO story.

A: As I said in my letter, all of us went back to NYU on the 8th of July and we heard about that that afternoon, and we just thought it was one of our balloons. All of us that were in that group have held onto that view for a long time. I do have Crow's letter here. He apparently joined us for that Operation Sandstone pickup crew in '48, but he knew that we knew that we thought the Roswell incident, so-called, was caused by one of our balloons.

Q: Did anyone ever mention it to you once you returned? Did any of the Red Bank folks mention it to you, or even in passing, or told you that maybe you'd better tighten up your procedures or anything of that nature, or a memo?

A: I have no memory. I do think that Peoples had the idea that it was one of our balloons, and it wasn't a matter of tightening up our procedures, it was just one of our balloons we

couldn't recover. As you'll see looking at Crary's diary, there was no frantic effort to recover the earlier flights, even though they had microphones on them. I read to you one about some equipment had been stolen by the time we got there. As you can see in the diary, there's no record that there was any major problem.

Q: So even though the equipment was taken, there was no shroud of secrecy, the MPs didn't come out and close down the area or anything of this sort.

A: No, not at all.

Q: It was just expected in the normal course of research . Expendable equipment.

A: Expendable equipment.

Q: And you had no fear that it was going to be taken by enemy agents or...

A: No, the biggest fear was the thought of loose talking, and we just didn't talk about the purpose of this. We certainly did talk a lot about our balloons, and there was just no security or no concern. We were flying constant level balloons.

Q: For pressure and temperature...

A: For meteorological trajectories. A lot of interest in trajectories.

One thing I should mention is that after I had visited from William Moore around '80 or '81, I wrote Ro Peoples and at that time Jim Peoples was in the Geology Department at the University of Kansas. I wrote him and got a letter back from Ro Peoples saying that he had died. So I wrote her back and said there was considerable interest still in this Roswell incident, and did he ever get called out... I do know that on occasion he got involved in classified things and left us. I asked her did he ever talk to her about anything regarding this debris that had been recovered. Her letter, which I perhaps can find somewhere, was the fact that no, he thought that flying saucers were a bunch of hooey, and he had a very low opinion of people who believed in flying saucers. I did get a letter back from Ro to the response that he had not been, as far as she knew, he had not been involved in any classified identification of something. That had occurred to me that things could have gone on that I had no need to know. I tried to extract that.

Q: So you had no recollection or strong recollection of him, when you got back to New Jersey, discussing it. It caused a lot of fuss.

A: I'm really surprised at this newspaper story because implicit in this is the idea that someone provided a good cover for us, and yet Crary's diary doesn't show that he was involved in it, and I wasn't aware that my contact, Dived, was privy enough to our operations to have carried this out. So this is a bit of a mystery to me.

Q: What would you speculate, how would someone, just circumstances, coincidences, or intentional?

A: It's very clear that it was intentional, and there was a better security operation going on than I appreciated at the time. That would be my assessment.

Q: So you believe that someone was privy to your activities...

A: Turkowski was there. I had forgotten, but he reminded me that he had gone on the C-54 to pick up the helium at Amarillo. I asked Turkowski had he been involved in manufacturing a cover story. He kept saying how important Mogul was, how highly classified it was, and how he was really wheeling and dealing. He apparently went down to Fort Bliss, to the commanding general there -- I guess he was a captain at the time -- and had no trouble talking the general into releasing something like maybe several hundred 500 pound bombs for this. At the same time, Turkowski has no memory of a coverup.

Q: He didn't have participation.

A: Whether he was on that C-54 that had 23 people on it or not, I don't know. Crary's list of the people left, there was only one military type, a Lieutenant Thompson, in what you have here.

Q: Who did you report to?

A: Peoples.

Q: Then getting back to talking about quarters and things like that, did you have to go introduce yourself to the commanding officer at the base, or...

A: That's the surprising thing. As far as I know we just never interfaced with the military.

Q: Where were you actually operating from?

A: We operated out of the north area of Alamagordo Army Air Field. This hangar right here, which was a big wooden hangar, on the south side of the ramp in the north area.

Q: That was arranged by Peoples?

A: Crary was already resident there when we had arrived.

Q: That's right. He arrived first to establish the ground stations first.

A: Correct. As you'll see in this, he was already firing explosive for the GR-6, the various sound-ranging microphones.

Q: Did he have a cover story for those ground explosions and the microphones?

A: I don't know. There were very few enlisted men on the airfield. As Turkowski said, it was about to be closed. There was a motor pool, because in the stuff Todd has dug up, there were a bunch of weapons carriers being requisitioned. We certainly had some brand new, good ground transportation that was just turned over to us. We civilians were driving weapons carriers to carry helium around, and to go into town to get meals, etc.

Q: So you operated from Alamagordo Army Air Field. You did not operate out of White Sands.

A: That is correct.

Q: There is a difference.

A: A very strong schism between the ordnance people across the valley 50-odd miles at the proving ground, and the skeleton group at Alamagordo Army Air Field.

Q: So there weren't many people at Alamagordo.

A: Correct. The main people I have a memory of were the people operating what sticks in my mind as either C-5 or an M-5 radar. I knew the Signal Corps designation, the SCR-584s and 270-s, etc., but this was some new radar that had a bigger dish on it and was on the north side of the ramp. It would have been... This is looking toward the south. You can see here, those are some old abandoned, those were barracks used to handle air crew during training of World War II. They were all closed and dusty and we didn't use them. We were in barracks down

somewhere on the main base. But we were just in an enlisted men's barracks down on the main base and there was a mess hall that we ate lunch in, ate our meals. We were up at odd hours, as you can see, these 3:00 o'clock launchings.

Q: Who did Alamagordo report to? You indicated it was Fort Bliss?

A: No. There was a commanding officer, and I'm not sure which command he was in, but the people in the north area were all, if you will, tenants. We didn't use that word, but we were all associated, one way or another with Watson Labs.

Q: So Turkowski then, his reporting chain was...

A: His reporting chain was Watson Lab to Colonel Duffy.

Q: There was no real interface, Turkowski had no real interface with the Alamagordo people or anyone else around 8th Air Force.

A: There were some fancy orders that gave him a position to talk to the commanding officer and get what he wanted, to arrange what he wanted on the basis of orders out of Headquarters Army Air Force.

Q: While you were operating, doing your procedure, did it take a security monitor type person or security officer to come by and just say I wanted to see how you were...

A: No interface at all.

Q: You don't remember any strangers poking around or....

A: No, just absolutely nothing. We were just a little bunch of civilians there on an almost deserted base, doing what we wanted.

Q: Going back to the orders that you mentioned, were these some sort of special orders different from what we would typically see as military orders?

A: You'll have to talk to Turkowski on it, but my opinion is that he had orders that came from a fairly high level that introduced him and let him do what he wanted to. As the research changed, he didn't have to go back and get new orders. He was in the position of doing what Crary and Peoples wanted.

Q: Like Jim and I have blanket orders that say we're authorized to go anywhere, essentially, in the world; but was

there anything specific in those orders that said provide all assistance requested...

A: I suspect so. I too, have had such general orders -- do as someone may deem necessary. In fact I have a copy of my 1944 orders that say such things here. But you'll have to talk to Turkowski. My feeling is that he and Peoples provided the interface to the base and we just weren't bothered. We never saw anybody in security. There was certainly nobody keeping us secure. If anything, we were keeping ourselves secure.

Q: These are the pictures taken in General Ramey's office, 8th Air Force Headquarters by a news photographer of the Fort Worth Star Telegram. It's four pictures that show various people with some equipment, and I'd just like to know what you believe that equipment to be.

A: Joe Fletcher has written your friend Todd, and said there's no question that's a target. The only question is that there are people who allege this is a target that's been substituted for the real debris, and there are also stories where Marchelle said the picture in which he appears are the real stuff, etc. That looks very much like our radar targets. And you'll notice that this does look more aluminum foilish than what I have here. It's my memory that there was good, bright, aluminum metal foil, not painted stuff on the targets we were using. That looks like more than one target to me in the various pictures. That looks like the stuff we were flying.

Q: I think they talked in terms of being a rawin target in this book.

A: It's just radio wind. There are two kinds of radio winds -- the 400 megacycle transmitters tracked by the SCR-658, the old bed springs; and then the radar wind. Ray Win is the right way to say it.

Q: So the rawin would be a radar target that most of the officers and the weather people there would have been associated with, they would have some knowledge of?

A: Not really. As I say, these came out right at the end of the war. The warrant officer, I have a letter that he wrote Todd, I don't know if you've seen it...

(Pause)

Q: We've got this thing narrowed down to just a few flights. There couldn't have been... Due to your time frame,

when you were there, the rancher went on the record of saying he picked it up the 14th or the 15th.

A: The 14th.

Q: So it would have to be in the June field trip, early in June. You had several service flights but you also had, you called them experimental flights. The experimental flights with the testing...

A: The ones in early June were all service flights. In other words, all flights we were making for Peoples, and we had some radar test flights.

Q: So to go with the June 14th date, what type of flight do you think would have...

A: All the balloons launched in that period would have been meteorological balloons, 350 gram meteorological balloons, some of them with radar targets just to test the radar out and some of them, I'd forgotten all about it, but Crary's diary says we had sonabuoy microphones on some of them. So that black box that Cavittes had really began to get my attention.

Q: That would not be a radioson.

A: That would not be a radioson.

Q: What would a radioson look like?

A: It would be a white, usually a cardboard or a plastic box, and the fact that we were involved in radar is because we weren't allowed to have our radioson equipment. We weren't all set up for that.

Q: You said you didn't bring it with you.

A: We didn't bring the receiver. I have to correct myself, we did attach radiosons to them, to the flights carrying microphones because there's a statement in this summary here of radioson reception. Radioson recording. So I take that back. Yes, we had radioson. But we did fly this one mentioned here, on June 4th, out to Tulerosa range, no balloon flight, again, on account of clouds. By that he means none of their flights. Then "Flew regular sonabuoy mike on a cluster of balloons and had good (inaudible) receiver on ground but poor on plane."

Q: I notice early on you were going ahead with the Navy stocked sonabuoy while Professor Ewing was trying to perfect his technique of the low range frequency microphone.

A: Oh, the low frequency microphone, right. That's correct.

Q: He was experimenting with both AM and FM, is that your recollection?

A: In the laboratory, devices for measuring low frequency acoustic waves were well known, but what he was attempting to do was to modify these and devise something to be a throw-away microphone and radio transmitter, so this was to build an instrument for a certain purpose. He actually had a fellow named Joe Johnston, the electrical engineer at Columbia, whose name will come up as the person who did these.

Q: But you think in these early service flights you did have sonabouys.

A: Initially we had sonabuoys, according to Crary. We initially were flying radar targets on the balloons only. Then by about Flight 5, we'd had sufficient lack of results that we began putting radiosons on.

(Pause)

Q: Did he prefer you not give us copies of all this information?

A: Right. He's dug up things with Colonel Duffy and he wants to be sure that they don't get released to the UFO buffs under Freedom of Information. So I think he's going to have it transferred to you as a private communication. I think Colonel Weaver promised that he could arrange it so that it would not come under Freedom of Information disclosure, which may be odd for Todd to be asking, but I thought you'd find that of some interest.

Q: The end report we're going to write is going to be based on official records, and essentially, transcripts such as this. So there will be a lot of things, Cavitte's tape, the transcript will not be part of that. This statement will be.

A: If you remember, there's a note in there from Dave Atlas to Colonel Duffy, a copy of a letter. Dave mentioned somewhere or another that Colonel Duffy took him down in the basement and Colonel Duffy had trunkfulls of documents that were unclassified. I wonder if it would be possible for you to contact Mrs. Duffy...

Q: I was wondering about what she might have.

A: She may have a great deal. Maybe in the Duffy file I have the address and phone number. I think it's Barrington, Rhode Island.

(Looking for name and phone number)

A: Here's a letter Todd got having to do with chasing down modern targets, the people who now make targets, who know nothing about this earlier affair.

Q: We talked with the Signal Corps up at Fort Monmouth and that's where we got the copy of the engineering drawing, which is a copy for you. They said these targets are no longer made. They have a national stock number and they can be made, but they would have to go out and write a new contract for them.

A: This is the C Model. It doesn't show the reinforcements.

Q: The young lady I talked with at Fort Monmouth indicated this drawing pre-dated that time frame. June of '44.

A: I'll be darned.

Q: I found that unusual when she said that was June of '44, and I didn't pick up on the designation being printed on the side. I thought the B Model was a 1947 vintage and assumed, wrongly so, that the C Model would have come later.

A: This, then, is really... So they didn't change the numbers. It does show the little swivel there, in '44. Well, as always, my memory can be improved.

Tibbetts, the radar lieutenant working for Fletcher, said that when they got these in '44 there was a lot of trouble with breakage in the air and they had to go back for reinforcement.

Q: That's where maybe the tape came in?

A: He said that's where the tape came in. Because it certainly doesn't show this. There's just no question in my memory, bad as it may be, that there was a tape there. That impelled me to drag out Herbert Crow's letter. While I'm finding that, here is a communication between Todd and a Warrant Officer Newton, who identified things in General Ramey's office.

(Pause)

Q: It says a material like mylar. Do you have any knowledge of when that term came into use? mylar is a polyethylene, it's a metalized polyethylene.

A: It's not really a polyethylene, it's a polyturpoline...

Q: I'm not a chemist.

A: It's really quite a different thing. We certainly got involved with mylar balloons in General Mills around 1950 or 1951.

Q: Nothing that early, though.

A: I think not. It was really quite a new plastic. This is mylar. As you can see from the appearance, it's really quite different than polyethylene. It's non-extensible, where this really stretches. This scatters light and this doesn't. We have flown mylar balloons and mylar balloons vacuum coated with aluminum, but I think we didn't fly any in this era. It would be my guess that someone is sort of confusing this with later things. There were a lot of mylar balloons carried on rockets, and it was called Jim's sphere. Someone named Jim came up with the idea of increasing the turbulence around a following sphere by putting a little protuberance, little combs out on it. That was Jim's sphere. A lot of them were flown to measure winds in the low ionosphere, flown on rockets, from White Sands. They could well have fallen, but to my memory, it would have been anachronistic, out of times.

Here's a letter to me from Herbert Crow who was one of my technicians in the 1948 operation. These pictures you saw, including that debris, are pictures that he sent to me with that letter and a subsequent letter. These are pictures taken by Crow.

Q: When did Alamagordo become Holloman?

A: Probably about September of '47.

Q: It says HAFB on the back of the truck.

A: Those pictures were taken during the Sandstone operation in April of '48.

Q: I take it the side arm was for protection against rattle snakes?

A: Good question.

Q: Some of the popular writers have alleged that certain persons were turned away by armed guards, etc.

A: Not in our area.

Q: I mean as far as the so-called...

A: Oh, out at the ranch.

(END)

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 3 Jun 94 Place: Middleburg, VA

I Athelstan F Spilhaus, hereby state that Jeffrey Butler, was identified as a Colonel, USAF and Jim McAndrew, was identified as a Lieutenant, USAF on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will, make the following statement. This is done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement.

I was the Director of the NYU Balloon Project and also involved with many other sensitive activities. Until these discussions, I had no indication of what the "Roswell incident" was. I was involved in numerous unusual activities such as reconstruction of captured German rockets, development of drone planes and the like--such as long range balloons. The Army Air Force had seen what the Japanese had done with long range balloons; although not effective as weapons, they did initiate the long-range balloon research which led to use of balloons for the detection and collection of debris from atomic explosion. Although I was involved in sensitive classified programs, I completed secrecy agreements for various projects, and I understand that this activity (Mogul, etc. is now declassified) and I did enforce "need to know". In part, I left NYU because the administration wanted to know too much about the various projects I was involved in (the Bikini test). At one time I was sent by the US government to assist the South Africa meterological efforts and I worked numerous other special missions. Even though the war was over the Cold War had just started and certain things were sensitive. I recall that it was Col Duffy who brought me from the Reserves to active duty. It was during this period that I did become involved in a "UFO case". Some bush pilot had found some pock marks in dry snow in Alaska in 1950. So we flew up and saw peculiar round holes in the snow. We landed and took dog sleds to the site and found craters with a hole in the center. We cored one out of the snow and found a center of frozen conical ice. I began to think of something I had seen in the desert where glass had been formed similarly after a lightening strike (the "fumoroles"). I took one back to the university in dry ice and wrote a classified report. We even simulated a small lightning strike over dry snow (just from the snow blowing over the surface) and came up with conical ice formations. This was the Stony River Incident and it wasn't a UFO. On the December 1947 balloon project reports the "service flights" probably refer to the then Top Security project AFOAT 1 (related to MOGUL) which was to produce a report to the President when the Russians exploded an atomic device and were ready to produce a droppable atomic bomb. We coordinated all the listening posts to determine what stage the Russians were at. Concerning the Watson Laboratory gear, I don't remember the specifics of what that gear was. I recommend you check with Charlie Moore for those details. Many of the projects I just new about in general--these were sensitive times--it was sometimes better not to know too much--I knew about the collection of debris with special planes daily from Eilson AFB to the North Pole and back, PTARMIGAN flights, that lasted through the 50's. Concerning the Japanese balloons, I don't recall any specifics. Nor do I recall whether we had REWARD tags on all the balloons. I went many times to Alomogordo AAF and White Sands--not necessarily for balloon flights. I worked on naval activity such as the thermal affects on SONAR. Concerning actual balloon construction, Winzen of St Paul Minnesota, in association with General Mills, did most of the balloons. General Mills also did some balloon projects. Winzen made the first polyethelene (non-stretchable balloons). Flight #5, I really did not get into the details of the individual flights or experiments. The polyethelene material was very durable--it was designed not to burst--you could push a sharp thing through it but it would be difficult to tear

it with your hands. There was also debris collection on sticky paper. Most of the balloon projects were not concerned with weather--that's why there weren't radiosondes on all the balloons. The "cosmic ray train" was probably just a cosmic ray experiment on one of our ballons. The balloons were made of sections and had tape reinforcements but I don't recall any specifics on the tape material. Mylar was not called that originally--it may have originated as polyethelene. All the polyethelene we use was of a translucent material. Neoprene was used during the war; generally for meterological and artillery firing ballons. The artillery radar tracked the balloons with corner reflectors--this gave the winds aloft to assist the gunners. The radar reflectors were sheets of reflective material and they changed over time but I don't recall the details of the changes. On reviewing Charlie Moore's letter, the acoustic detection relates with the atomic debris collection. The reflectors were for tracking and was made up of a metalized paper or fabric. Charlie explains the flowers--I'd heard about the flowers before, don't remember where--we used whatever we had in the experimental realm. The targets were throw-aways--we didn't put a tag on them, maybe a radiosonde, but not a target. Such a train would make gouges (shallow) as it was dragging the ground. We used meterology as a cover story--it was a natural. It had a purpose beyond the project--we could use the constant level analysis of the constant pressure (isobaric) vs constant altitude to study atmospherics mathematically--therefore using it was natural. Ramey's press conference--the Air Force position makes sense for the mistake that the PIO made in his statements. (All the NYU personnel had left Alomogordo when the "material" was brought in--someone stated that it may have been Col Duffy's and therefore sent it to him at Wright Patterson--not because it was extraterrestial) It is a logical reason to send it (the debris from the desert) there--not because it was special--Col Duffy was a fine officer and I'm sure he'd recognize it. I was not aware of any association between our balloon projects and the alleged "Roswell incident" until this interview. I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from either the US government or American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by US Government persons concerning not talking about this situation .

SIGNED:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized to administer oaths this
3rd day of June 1994 at Middleburg, VA

JEFFREY C BUTLER, COL, USAF

WITNESS(s):

JAMES MCANDREW, 1LT, USAF

AFFIDAVIT

Bessie Brazel Schreiber

(1) My name is Bessie Brazel Schreiber.

(2) My address is 4520 Nicholson Road, Vancouver, Washington 98661.

(3) I am employed as: _____. (✓) I am retired.

(4) William W. ~~"Mac"~~ Mack Brazel was my father. In 1947, when I was 14, he was the manager of the Foster Ranch in Lincoln County, New Mexico, near Corona. Our family had a home in Tularosa, where my mother, my younger brother Vernon, and I lived during the school year. The three of us spent summers on the Foster place with dad.

(5) In July 1947, right around the Fourth, dad found a lot of debris scattered over a pasture some distance from the house we lived in on the ranch. None of us was riding with him when he found the material, and I do not remember anyone else being with him. He told us about it when he came in at the end of the day.

(6) Dad was concerned because the debris was near a surface-water stock tank. He thought having it blowing around would scare the sheep and they would not water. So, a day or two later, he, Vernon, and I went to the site to pick up the material. We went on horseback and took several feed sacks to collect the debris. I do not recall just how far the site was from the house, but the ride out there took some time.

(7) There was a lot of debris scattered sparsely over an area that seems to me now to have been about the size of a football field. There may have been additional material spread out more widely by the wind, which was blowing quite strongly.

(8) The debris looked like pieces of a large balloon which had burst. The pieces were small, the largest I remember measuring about the same as the diameter of a basketball. Most of it was a kind of double-sided material, foil-like on one side and rubber-like on the other. Both sides were grayish silver in color, the foil more silvery than the rubber. Sticks, like kite sticks, were attached to some of the pieces with a whitish tape. The tape was about two or three inches wide and had flower-like designs on it. The "flowers" were faint, a variety of pastel colors, and reminded me of Japanese paintings in which the flowers are not all connected. I do not recall any other types of material or markings, nor do I remember seeing gouges in the ground or any other signs that anything may have hit the ground hard.

(9) The foil-rubber material could not be torn like ordinary aluminum foil can be torn. I do not recall anything else about the strength or other properties of what we picked up.

BBS
9-22-93

(10) We spent several hours collecting the debris and putting it in sacks. I believe we filled about three sacks, and we took them back to the ranch house. We speculated a bit about what the material could be. I remember dad saying, "Oh, it's just a bunch of garbage."

(11) Soon after, dad went to Roswell to order winter feed. It was on this trip that he told the sheriff what he had found. I think we all went into town with him, but I am not certain about this, as he made two or three trips to Roswell about that time, and we did not go on all of them. (In those days, it was an all-day trip, leaving very early in the morning and returning after dark.) I am quite sure it was no more than a day trip, and I do not remember dad taking any overnight or longer trips away from the ranch around that time.

(12) Within a day or two, several military people came to the ranch. There may have been as many as 15 of them. One or two officers spoke with dad and mom, while the rest waited. No one spoke with Vernon and me. Since I seem to recall that the military were on the ranch most of a day, they may have gone out to where we picked up the material. I am not sure about this, one way or the other, but I do remember they took the sacks of debris with them.

(13) Although it is certainly possible, I do not recall anyone finding any more of the material later. Dad's comment on the whole business was, "They made one hell of a hullabaloo out of nothing."

(14) I have not been paid or given or promised anything of value to make this statement, which is the truth to the best of my recollection.

BESSIE I. BRAZEL SCHREIBER

Bessie I. Brazel Schreiber — Sept 22, 1993
(Signature and Printed Name) (Date)

Signature witnessed by:

Pamela J. Carey
Pamela J. Carey — 9-22-93
(Signature and Printed Name) (Date)

PAMELA J. CAREY
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COMMISSION EXPIRES
AUGUST 1 1994

AFFIDAVIT

Jason Kellahin

(1) My name is Jason Kellahin.

(2) My address is 112 Malaga Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

(3) I ~~am employed as:~~ Was a Practicing attorney and (x) I am retired.

(4) I am a native of Roswell, New Mexico, where, at the age of 12, I started working for the *Roswell Morning Dispatch*, sweeping out the back shop after school. Shortly before World War II, I was named editor of the paper. After the war, I became an Associated Press (AP) reporter, later going to law school and entering into practice in 1951. In July 1947 I was a reporter in the AP's Albuquerque bureau.

(5) On July 8, 1947, someone in Roswell called our bureau with the news that the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) had announced the Army had "captured" a flying saucer on a ranch in Lincoln County. Although I may have taken the call, I do not remember doing so. The story was put on the wire, and AP headquarters in New York ordered our bureau chief to send someone to get more information. He sent me and, because he thought there might be a photo opportunity, our wire technician and photographer, R. (Robin) D. Adair. We took our portable wirephoto machine with us.

(6) Our first stop was the Foster ranch, where the discovery had been made. At the ranch house, we found William "Mac" Brazel, his wife, and his small son. It was Brazel who made the find in a pasture some distance from the house. He was not happy about the attention he was getting and the people traipsing around his place. He said if he ever found anything again, he would not tell anyone unless it was a bomb.

(7) Brazel took Adair and me to the pasture where he made his discovery. When we arrived, there were three or four uniformed Army officers searching some higher ground about a quarter to a half mile away. Apparently, they had been there for some time.

(8) There was quite a lot of debris on the site--pieces of silver colored fabric, perhaps aluminized cloth. Some of the pieces had sticks attached to them. I thought they might be the remains of a high-altitude balloon package, but I did not see anything, pieces of rubber or the like, that looked like it could have been part of the balloon itself. The way the material was distributed, it looked as though whatever it was from came apart as it moved along through the air.

(9) After looking at the material, I walked over to the military men. They said they were from RAAF and were just looking around to see what they could find. They said they were going back to Roswell and would talk with me

JK.
9-20-93

further there. They had a very casual attitude and did not seem at all disturbed that the press was there. They made no attempt to run us off.

(9) Adair and I, Brazel, and the Army men then drove down to Roswell, traveling separately. Late that afternoon or early evening, we met at the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record*, the city's afternoon newspaper. The military men waited on the sidewalk out front, while I and a *Record* reporter named Skeritt interviewed Brazel and Adair took his picture. (Adair also took photos of Brazel and the debris at the ranch, but these were never used.) Walter E. Whitmore, owner of KGFL, one of Roswell's two radio stations, was also present during the interview. Whitmore did his best to maneuver Brazel away from the rest of the press.

(10) After interviewing Brazel, I spoke with the military people outside and then went over to see Sheriff George Wilcox, whom I knew well. Wilcox said the military indicated to him it would be best if he did not say anything. I then phoned in my story to the AP office in Albuquerque. The next morning, Adair transmitted his photos on the portable wirephoto equipment.

(11) I have not been paid or given or promised anything of value to make this statement, which is the truth to the best of my recollection.

JASON KELLAHIN

Jason Kellahin — Sept. 20, 1993

(Signature and Printed Name) — (Date)

Signature witnessed by:

Michele Guardagnole — Sept 20 1997

(Signature and Printed Name) — (Date)

My Commission Expires June 9th 1997

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW OF SHERIDAN CAVITT
(Note: RW = Col Richard L. Weaver; SC = Sheridan Cavitt; MC = Mary Cavitt)

RW: Today is the 24th of May 1994. I am in Sequim Washington. I am Colonel Richard L. Weaver and I am talking to Lt Col Sheridan Cavitt, US Air Force, Retired. Also present in the room is his wife, Mary. Colonel, you don't mind that I tape record this do you?

SC: Go right ahead.

RW: O.K. thank you. What I would like to ask you is to confirm you were with the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) (at that time of the US Army) in 1947?

SC: Yes...the Army Air Corps...right.

RW: When did you get transferred to Roswell, Sir?

SC: I went to Roswell after going to the CIC School in Baltimore, Maryland, at Camp Holabird...in 1946. I do not remember the month. My wife might. It was in the Fall was it not?

MC: June of 47.

SC: June?

RW: I think on your records you graduated in June of 47.

SC: From Holabird?

RW: Yeah, Holabird.

SC: O.K...I told you my dates are slipping my mind.

RW: That's O.K...I have the same problem.

SC: It's hard to remember July 47. I hadn't been there very long.

RW: Did you know a Major Jesse Marcel who was the Intelligence Officer during Roswell at that time?

SC: Oh yes. I knew Jesse, his wife, and his son. We were very close friends. We were in the same building in the CIC office, which was next to the intelligence office. We associated socially as well as business.

RW: Sir, you were the senior officer and the commander at the detachment there at Roswell?

SC: Yes, I guess you could say that. I was the only commissioned officer. I had two enlisted agents "working for me" quote end quote.

RW: Who were the enlisted agents that worked for you?

SC: The senior was a Master Sergeant by the name of Rickett and the young agent, Jack Williams. I later had some other people working for me after CIC deceased and OSI took over for the Air Force...the investigative agency.

RW: That actually came, I think, in September when the Air Force first stated. You were one of the charter members of OSI, as I understand?

SC: Yeah, over from CIC and OSI; and then I went to OSI school later.

RW: You reported through your chain of command? You didn't report to General Blanchard, the Base Commander? You reported like we did in OSI through the separate chain of command, as I understand it; is that right?

SC: Yeah, our parent organization was 700 CIC and I believe that there...they had sort of a branch up in Colorado at that time, but I think most of our work was sent directly back to Bolling at that time. I am a little fuzzy on that because I wasn't in the organization very long, you know.

RW: OK. General Blanchard was the Base Commander and everyone else in the 509th basically reported to him then?

SC: Oh yeah. Colonel Blanchard.

RW: Oh yeah. Excuse me, Colonel Blanchard.

SC: He was the Wing Commander of the 509th, right. I didn't report to anybody on the base.

RW: Just like in OSI?

SC: Yeah, I associated and coordinated stuff with Marcel and I had no responsibility to Blanchard or Marcel.

RW: Do you recall an incident that happened during the early part of July when you were asked to accompany Major Marcel to go recover some wreckage of anything?

SC: Well, there again I couldn't swear to the dates, but in that time, which must have been July, we heard that someone had found some debris out not too far from Roswell and it looked suspicious; it was unidentified. So, I went out and I do not recall whether Marcel went with Rickett and me; I had Rickett with me. We went out to this site. There were no, as I understand, check points or anything like that (going through guards and that sort of garbage) we went out there and we found it. It was a small amount of, as I recall, bamboo sticks, reflective sort of

material that would, well at first glance, you would probably think it was aluminum foil, something of that type. And we gathered up some of it. I don't know whether we even tried to get all of it. It wasn't scattered; well, what I call, you know, extensively. Like, it didn't go along the ground and splatter off some here and some there. We gathered up some of it and took it back to the base and I remember I had turned it over to Marcel. As I say, I do not remember whether Marcel was there or not on the site. He could have been. We took it back to the intelligence room...in the CIC office.

RW: What did you think it was when you recovered it?

SC: I thought a weather balloon.

RW: O.K. Were you familiar with weather balloons at the time?

SC: I had seen them. I had seen them. As I recall, I am really reaching back, I think they were equipped with a radio sonde or something like that, that transmitted data from, when it got up to altitude (what altitude I have no idea) and somebody on the ground received it and that way they got some information on what was happening up there.

RW: O.K.

SC: This is all over my head. When I saw it it was to flimsy to be anything to carry people or anything of that sort. It never crossed my mind that it could be anything but a radio sonde.

RW: How did you get the report that the material was out there?

SC: That I don't recall. Looking back on it, I imagine somebody called the 509th. The 509th called Marcel and said there is something over here, wherever. and then...more and more thinking back on it now he must have been...I must have been with him...."lets go out look and see what the hell..."

RW: Did you just make one trip out to the area?

SC: I can't recall ever making more than just that one trip.

RW: And you think it was you, Marcel, and Rickett?

SC: Well, I not sure it was Marcel but I know Rickett was...

RW: Rickett was there? When you got back with this stuff you turned it over to the Intelligence Office. What happened then?

SC: Nothing, as far as I'm concerned. I don't think I even made a report. Our CIC had gone by... 700 CIC was the CIC Headquarters.

RW: 700 CIC was the Headquarters?

SC: Yes, I don't think I even made a report to them, which I normally would if there was anything at all unusual.

RW: Do you remember the newspaper? It actually was, I think, July 7, 1947, where this now famous newspaper says they found a "flying disc" in Roswell? That was actually the Roswell paper, that was the first one. How about you, Mary, do you remember that at all?

SC: I don't remember it. We took the local paper to get some weather reports.

MC: We were so new there. In fact, I think I had just been there just maybe just a few days because I had been up to my sister's wedding and I don't think at that time we might not even been taking the paper. We heard no...

SC: I don't remember anything in the paper.

MC: We heard nothing. Of course, we didn't associate with people on the base, either.

RW: Yeah, I understand.

MC: We were brand new. Jesse and Salazar were best friends. At that...starting about the first of July on.

RW: After you found this, Sir, do you remember any sort unusual activity occurring? Like a big military alert, or people going out to the base and large numbers of high security?

SC: No. The reason I wouldn't have been involved in anything like that, if there was any activity like that, I was Counter Intelligence Corps, this didn't have anything to do with counter-intelligence. It looked to me, somebody lost a weather balloon. I couldn't care less...tough luck.

RW: But when you went out and saw this material, there was no doubt in your mind that it was some sort of man made material? And, you though at the time was a weather balloon, some sort of balloon?

SC: When I first saw it.

RW: When you said the wreckage wasn't very much, could you, was it as long as your house here, or just a small little clump?

SC: Maybe as long as this room is wide.

RW: So, twenty feet maybe?

SC: Some here, some here, some here. No concentration of it. No marks in the ground, dug up, anything hidden, or anything like that, just out on the territory around the bottom of New Mexico, just good for growing sheep - they don't eat too well.

RW: Yeah, I don't imagine. They probably have to eat on the run out there. Do you remember at the time the article or the photo of General Ramey and Marcel holding up a piece of material? Have you seen that since that time?

SC: Oh yeah, I have seen it, yeah, but at the time I don't recall seeing anything like that.

RW: In that photo, actually there are four separate photos there, Marcel, I think in two of them, is holding up material. Does that look like the material that you picked up out in the desert? Actually it's in this book if you don't mind...

MC: I was going to say that I think it's in there.

SC: I don't remember...Yeah, Yeah, that's...

RW: The first picture is actually with Jesse Marcel and that's General Blanchard and...

SC: I think this was taken at the Headquarters at Carswell.

RW: Yeah, that's right. That's correct.

SC: And I obviously...Marcel took it to Fort Worth. Yeah that's the...

RW: Yeah. That doesn't look like they substituted anything from what you found?

SC: No, No.

RW: Is this about the extent of the material? I realize you can't see all of it in any of the pictures. Or was there large...could you fill up an airplane with it?

SC: Oh, good God! You couldn't fill up (unintelligible) with it. Yeah, I can't tell what those sticks look like. But, as I recall, to me they look like bamboo or some sort of very small lav type material ripped out.

RW: Could you break them or bend them, or...

SC: I didn't try.

RW: O.K.

SC: It was someone else's balloon as far as I was concerned. I didn't want to fool around with it.

RW: After you picked that up and you turned it over to Marcel, did you ever hear anything more about this? Did people from Washington come and talk to you about it? Did you have to swear any security oaths or debriefing statements?

SC: I don't remember anybody from Washington coming there. It's possible that somebody came over to talk to Marcel that I didn't even know about. To my knowledge, no. Certainly nobody from Washington. I would have, I think, remembered that. Someone from the headshed coming down and talking to me. Certainly, I would have. And I was not sworn into any secrecy ever about any of this stuff.

RW: So, as far as you are concerned, none of this was ever classified? There was no attempt to, I use the word, "cover up" this information or to classify it?

SC: Well let's put it this way: as far as I knew, I never heard anyone say, "Don't talk about this and its hot stuff." I think Marcel, would...I'm sure he would have told me something.

RW: Would he have? Did he ever say anything to you after this incident occurred until the time he left? Or, anywhere up until the time he died?

SW: Oh, Rich, dealing with him there in the office or the next office to him so he probably said something about it. That he had taken it down to Ramey or something. But, nothing that would, you know, stick in my mind of importance. Do you understand what I mean? If he had said something like, "I took it to 8th Air Force Headquarters, General Ramey was excited; they were going to take it to Wright-Pat" (or wherever they allegedly took it). Oh, I'm sure I would have remembered that.

RW: It had been alleged in a number of books, including the one by Randle and Schmitt, that there were a number of airplane flights back and forth of C54's and B29's going into Wright-Pat and Kirtland, or to Fort Worth. Back and forth, loaded up, with very tight security, hauling this wreckage. Do you recall any of that going on?

SC: None...Nothing.

RW: And then its indicated (and not directly quoting) Some counterintelligence people from Washington or Andrews (as they said in the book) had come out there and apparently done photographs or crime scene searches or whatever. There was nobody else out there from CIC or Counter Intelligence Corps that you knew of? Other than Rickett?

SC: Not to my knowledge. Not to my knowledge. I made a booboo. I said it was 700 C at Bolling. I believe now that you mentioned Andrews, it could have been Andrews. But no nobody came out. Maybe they did, maybe they didn't talk to me. CIC did some crazy things in those days, shuttling some people around.

RW: But it would have been likely, had you been involved in recovering something kind of special that they would have talked to you?

SC: Yeah, I think they would have asked me, "Cav, what did you see"...right.

RW: Did Rickett ever talk to you about this again?

SC: No...I don't think so. I don't think so. Right about that time just before OSI was formed and we all were absorbed into OSI. I think he went on a special undercover job up to...maybe somewhere to an Air Force Base up here in Washington.

MC: Fort Lewis, I think he...

SC: Was it Lewis or McChord? I don't remember. Anyway, he went on to an undercover assignment, and that's what I said about CIC doing some crazy things. They didn't even tell me. I was his boss locally and they didn't even tell me that he had gone up. He use to be a mechanic at one time, Rick did, in the Air Force; the Air Corps. I think they wanted to...they were having some trouble with their planes being what they thought were sabotaged and they asked him to go up there and try out the machine...like an airplane mechanic, which he could do pretty good. Outside of that, I don't know of anything that Rick did.

RW: One of the things that was mentioned in this book...and I don't know how much you read it, is that Rickett some time later that Fall apparently went with a scientist by the name of Doctor LaPaz, and he accompanied him and they went around to various places. Dr. LaPaz was a well known person...

SC: I knew of him. I never met LaPaz personally, but I knew what he was.

RW: Did Rickett go with him that you recall; accompany him around?

SC: He could have, but it certainly didn't stick to my mind. It wouldn't be for any extended time I don't think, because we needed him around the office.

MC: The Ricketts were friends of ours too; and his wife and I. I don't remember Mack ever saying anything.

SC: Mack was his wife.

MC: ...that he was gone for a long time.

SC: He could have, but Rickett would go off the deep end every once in a while. He was a fantastic story teller. He worked for an insane asylum up in the Washington DC area. I think his wife worked there, also. He would sit around and tell some of the most hilarious, ridiculous stories about things that happened in this nut house, so to speak.

RW: Was that St. Elizabeth's? That's the big government mental institution.

SC: I don't know. It's in the Washington DC area. I forget since I was there in the Washington area for awhile but I never did get acquainted with the insane asylum.

RW: It's always best to keep it that way.

SC: No, well I put it again, he might have gone off with LaPaz for a few days, but I can't imagine what excuse I would have been given as to why he'd be out goofing around with an astronomer. LaPaz was a well thought of individual in New Mexico and, I imagine, all over the United States. He had quite a reputation.

RW: He did quite a bit of work for the Air Force, as I found through research.

SC: Contract work or something...Yeah.

RW: But there was nothing that you knew of that he did as a direct result of this incident on the stuff that you recovered out there?

SC: No. Of course, I could have been held in the dark about it; but as far as I know, no.

RW: O.K. I went through and pulled out wherever, in this book UFO Crash at Roswell by Randle and Schmitt, this is a 1991...I pulled out wherever you were identified. They never identified you by name except in the credits when they interviewed you, but they always referred to you as the "Senior CIC man" and "Senior CIC agent". They identified Rickett and Marcel, of course, by name. There are many things that are in the book that people said that you said or implied that you said, without directly saying that "Colonel Cavitt told me such and such."

SC: Yeah.

RW: I pulled a couple of these out and just ask you if you can comment on it to see how they ring with your memory of the incident. "The second fellow we interviewed" (this right from the front on page six) "was an agent in the counterintelligence corps. He accompanied another intelligence officer on the initial trip to the crash site and we believe wrote a report of the incident for his superiors in Washington"...implying that was you, since you were the senior guy.

SC: I'm just reading this end quote "book." No, No. I assume...I assume when I read this thing for the first time that they sent me a big deal, you know...

RW: An autographed copy?

SC: An autographed copy and all that. No, I didn't say all like that.

RW: On the next page, on seven, again referring to you: "At first this intelligence agent refused to admit that the event had occurred at all. There had been no newspaper story, no fuss, not even the recovery of a weather balloon. After much prodding, that he was going to admit that something came down and was recovered, and but that was as far as he would go. He admits no

personal involvement even though other reliable sources gave him a central role. That kind of sums up everything in...

SC: No. No. From the very start, when these clowns started hounding me, Randle and Schmitt, I told they accused me of covering up and having signed a security...

RW: Berlitz and Moore?

MC: Now, you see, he was here at the house. I've heard numerous deals on the radio when I'm listening at night and all this, all of this, has been...

SC: I told these guys when they first talked to me, I said: "I have taken no security oath. I'm under no obligation to not tell you anything, because, as far as I was concerned, it wasn't anything other than a weather balloon." And, I said: "I want you to quit inferring that I am staying silent under an oath of security." And, finally, I think about two years, later Randle told me: "Hey, we believe you." It was getting ridiculous. I was getting so sick and tired of this garbage.

RW: Yeah. I sensed a little of reluctance when I first called up and..."like, Oh no, here we go again" type of thing.

SC: I did, really.

MC: He gets so many phone calls. I usually answer the phone and say: "Who's calling please?" And then, I don't know whether...come and write a book...

SC: You've hear of Pflock?

RW: I know who he is, yeah.

SC: He's our chief debunker. I lean toward him.

MC: Rich, have you got, read, Randle and Schmitt's latest book?

RW: I've not. I've tried to find it and I haven't been able to find it.

MC: It just came out in April.

SC: They haven't sent me a copy yet. I think they are mad at me.

MC: Didn't they tell us that they found some new information and it wasn't at the spot that...

SC: Right. Right.

RW: Yeah. As I understand it, the new information (and this may not be quite right, since I haven't read it, this is hearsay) is that there was this crash...what they call the crash site,

apparently, where you were at and picked up this material, and then there is another one 120 miles or so away.

SC: A richochet.

RW: Yeah. Which at one time was on the Plains of San Augustin and now it has apparently in this new book been changed to a location closer to Roswell. And, that's where these bodies were supposedly recovered. I think their new research has to do with that aspect of it.

MC: Well we haven't seen it, but I know it came out in April.

RW: O.K. Lets see; also on the same page it said: "The CIC responded to the phone call. Jesse Marcel was one. "The intelligence and the CIC responded to the phone call. Jesse Marcel was one of them. Colonel William Blanchard and the other officer suggested that Marcel and CIC agent accompanied Brazel to the ranch to see what was there." Brazel, of course, was the farmer who apparently came in and made the original report.

SC: Yeah. To the best of my recollection, I never met the rancher, Brazel.

RW: O.K., because as I go through here you'll see that you're accused, I say "accused"; claimed, to have been with him on a number of occasions and basically, it was alleged that the Army Air Corps had imprisoned him, if you will, for about a week and kept him away from everybody. Not that you personally did, but the Army Air Corps in general: "The trip to the ranch took the rest of the afternoon...they were forced to stay in a small cabin with no electricity no running water...the next morning they headed out into a field were Brazel had found the debris." So, this would have been you and whoever else accompanied you.

SC: Totally, made up, or fabricated, or whatever. I didn't have any experiences like that of spending the night out on the ranch.

MC: Eating a can of beans...

RW: Eating beans...yeah, that is, in fact, mentioned in one of the...

SC: Yeah.

RW: O.K. Now this: "Marcel would later say that the material was like nothing he had ever seen and the metal was as thin as newsprint and as light as a feather. It was flexible but very strong. He tried to dent it with a sledge hammer but Marcel and the CIC agent tried to burn it but it would not burn. It was lighter, stronger and more fire resistant than any of them had ever seen. Marcel, along with the counterintelligence agent picked up as much as they could and begun loading it up in Marcel's convertible and the counterintelligence agent's Jeep Carryall vehicle with a rear box." So, apparently, according to Marcel's version of the story (and I don't know when this was given, sometime after 1978) you hammered on it and tried to rip it and did other stuff with it and it was like nothing you had ever seen.

SC: No.

MC: I remember we were at the Marcel's house and I can remember Jesse had something had something on the pad...and then went out to...and took it out onto the back porch. And, I remember that (unintelligible)

RW: Was it some sort of material, metal material or...

MC: And it's in one of these books and then they...and as little Jesse said, they cemented over that...

RW: Oh yeah...O.K. I remember that.

MC: I can still visualize the stove of where they were and we were out there.

SC: No, he could have had some there at the house.

MC: I honestly do remember that.

RW: O.K. Was it like tinfoil type stuff or do you recall...

MC: I don't remember.

SC: I remember. He could have had some there at the house and it was, and it looked like a foil of some sort, and he could have tried to burn that and it didn't burn very well, I don't know. I don't remember that. I can't why imagine he'd be beating on it with a hammer for, but it doesn't make sense.

RW: One of the other things that I'll just jump to real quick was that you had tested the material with a Geiger counter. Did you ever have a Geiger counter?

SC: No.

RW: Now that's not standard OSI/CIC issue that I was aware of.

SC: Honest to God, no!

RW: I've never seen a Geiger counter myself, but I didn't know if you knew what one was.

SC: I had never seen one...what CIC would...No, absolutely.

RW: That comes a little further...did you have a Jeep Carryall, was that...?

SC: No.

RW: When you went out to the site, do you remember how you got out there?

SC: I don't. It was a possibility we could have taken a Jeep. Marcel had gotten a Jeep...Marcel had gotten a Jeep.

RW: Just a regular Jeep?

SC: Yeah. out of the motor pool, but certainly no Carryall.

RW: O.K. Then it said: "After Marcel had gone to Fort Worth and came back Marcel challenged the CIC man who had remained at the base asking to see (your) report. Marcel was told that the report was now classified and he wasn't authorized to see it and it was on its way to the Pentagon if he had a problem with that he could take it up with the Pentagon."

SC: Negative.

RW: O.K. "Blanchard, who was still at the base...ordered Marcel to accompany the rancher back to Corona," You said you never saw...and then you said you were going to...you never saw the rancher from what you told me previously?

SC: No.

RW: Or dealt with him personally?

SC: I certainly don't remember ever meeting Mr. Brazel or Brazzel, whatever his name was.

RW: O.K. Here is where they talk about the Geiger counter. You have already said that you didn't test anything for radioactivity because you didn't have anything to test it with.

SC: No.

RW: Oh. Then Marcel said there was a wire-like material that looked like monofilament fishing line. Do you recall any of that?

SC: Oh, no. It sort of tickles a little bit of remembrance of, you know, of all this junk foil, I would call it, and the sticks and so forth. There probably was some line of some sort there to hold it together, I guess.

RW: What they...

SC: What was supposed to have been with that I...

RW: Well where they go with that, later on, is that this is where we developed fiber optics from. That this is, was, in fact, fiber optic cable which was, of course, unheard of in 1947.

SC: Yeah.

RW: Yeah. We were still dealing with copper wire. You can bend light with fiber optics, and that's where we got...we (the world) got fiber optics from that material which we reverse engineered. That's the implication.

SC: O.K...I didn't see any of that, but there could have been some wire or nylon or something.

RW.O.K. "Together Marcel and the Counterintelligence agent walked around the entire perimeter looking at clues. It took them most of the morning to do it because of the size of the field they started collecting material at the outer edge of the field and moved in toward the center." So, this implies that this was a pretty major undertaking that you and Marcel - in order to examine all of this stuff took a long time because of the volume of the material. This is what I imply from that.

SC: If it were true, you know, the size of the rancher's field they are sometimes a section that are miles square, maybe larger. No.

RW: But there wasn't material all over?

SC: No.

RW: You are right. You could walk into New Mexico forever with...

SC: Oh Lord! Ranches are big out and down in New Mexico. No,...I didn't spend any extended time down there at the site.

RW: O.K. Then, on page 55, it talks about there was discussion that this may have been a foil parachute from a V-2. Were you aware that they were testing, we were testing, V-2's at that time out of White Sands?

SC: Oh yeah. I went down to a couple of launches. One abort and one launch.

RW: O.K. But there was no doubt in your mind that this was not part of V-2 or any other type of rocket when you saw the debris in the field?

SC: No. No. I never had any idea that it was anything with the V-2. They told us down at the V-2 site that they weren't shooting them toward Roswell, anyway. Of course the sent up a few of them and they had an awful lot of aborts. They had to detonate them or pull the trigger...shortly after they got off the launch pad because they went awry, shall we say.

RW: Yeah. Apparently one went awry and went into Mexico, too. They already found that later.

SC: No, I had no idea, no suspicion, that it came from Holloman. Holloman is that...

RW: It was White Sands.

SC: It was White Sands. Holloman base. Alamagordo.

RW: O.K."Marcel would take some of the sample to Fort Worth to show Ramey. In the mean time, the CIC man would head back to the crash sit with some MP's showing them exactly where this field was and to round up the rancher. There were now additional questions for him." This implies that after you came back you took some MP's and went back up there.

SC: I went back down there? No. No.

RW: So you were just there the one original time and you didn't go back with any MP's, the rancher or anybody else?

SC: No.

RW: O.K. "Marcel would go to Fort Worth and the CIC man would stay behind to lead the clean up detail at the site another reason they send Marcel was the CIC had there own chain of command that reported to Kirtland in Albuquerque rather than Fort Worth and although Blanchard outranked the CIC agent (meaning yourself) a phone call to Kirtland could have gotten his orders overturned." So, this implied that you reported to Kirtland, which I know, of course, we did later when District 17 was formed.

SC: Yeah, OSI.

RW: Yeah, but at that time you didn't necessarily - the CIC did not report to Kirtland?

SC: No. No. Kirtland was just another Air Base as far as we were concerned down at Roswell. They weren't part of SAC. They weren't anything to do with us CIC - wise or nothing.

RW: O.K...Here is where Rickett comes into the picture, and Rickett makes a number of claims that basically...I don't know if Rickett is still alive or not.

SC: No, Rick is dead now.

RW: O.K. Because I...(Unintelligible)

SC: No, he is dead and I think now maybe his wife might be now. We use to exchange Christmas cards up until a couple of years ago when he died. Two or three years ago.

RW: So, he died two or three years ago? OK. He makes a number of claims that, at least Randle and Schmitt; and when I say "Randle and Schmitt I'm not trying to pick on them or to imply that

they're doing anything different than any of these other people...they just happen to have the most current stuff on the street.

SC: Trying to write a book.

RW: "Rickett, the Provost Marshal"...excuse me...page 61. "According to Lewis Rickett, one of the CIC Agents, he, with the commander of the CIC shop, drove a staff car from the motor pool and returned to the crash site. They were followed by a second car carrying several MP's. An MP did ask for identification because neither of the counterintelligence men were in uniform." So this would have been the second trip, which you said you did not take. But, he did apparently go with you on the first trip?

SC: Rickett?

RW: Rickett...Yeah.

SC: Yeah.

RW: And I assume at that time, just like in OSI, you did not wear uniforms for the most part?

SC: I didn't even have any uniforms.

RW: Yeah. I know the feeling. For the first eight years in OSI, I think, the only uniform I had was my mess dress. "But Rickett, the Provost Marshal and the senior intelligence officer walked into the debris field, examined the wreckage. Rickett said it looked like metal and asked if it was radioactive"...and you said it wasn't. That was page 62. This is on the, you would have been on this now second trip again, O.K.? On page 63: as they prepared to leave the crash site the CIC agent told Rickett: "You and I were never out here. You and I never saw this. You don't see any military people or military vehicles out here. Rickett agreed saying yeah, we never even left the office." Now that's the little quote they have out also in the..

SC: Now what page is that on?

RW: That's on page 63.

SC: 63? No. Now I could have said something facetious like that after we got back to the office, after I was convinced that it was a weather balloon, or some such contraption. I didn't know, naturally. I could have said after we got back to the office: "Rickett, this has been a big boondoggle. I don't even want 700 CIC Headquarters to know we wasted our time on it. Forget we ever did it." I mean I could have...

RW: O.K.

SC: said in a facetious way: "Lets make out like it never existed, because we're wasting our time." But I didn't say it in such a way that it would be this is so highly classified we won't have anything to do with it.

RW: O.K. On page 86, it said: "The counterintelligence people came into Roswell on a special flight from Andrews Army Air Field on July 8.". So that, to me, implies that this would have been your CIC Headquarters also sent some other people out there.

SC: Yeah. Right. That's what it sounds like.

RW: Yeah, but you said you would have known if anybody from Washington had come into your area, sort to speak. More than likely.

SC: Well I certainly hope so. We were secretive and so forth, but I think they would have touched base with me, since obviously if they talked to Marcel he would have probably said something to begin with, but they would have wanted to know what I knew. No, I...

MC: Of course Jack Williams was there. Jack could have been on some of these...

SC: No Jack was young and sort of scatterbrained, as you well know. And I never relied much on him for anything. He's the type that would read a book while he was on a road trip driving his car. He'd finish a book while driving...

RW: While he was actually driving?

SC: Oh sure.

RW: Sounds like the people driving on 95 in Washington there in the traffic jam.

MC: There weren't many people on the road.

SC: Jack rabbits. No. No disrespect to Jack, but he just wasn't a solid citizen as far as I'm concerned. And if anybody from headquarters CIC came in I'm positive they would have checked in with me.

RW: O.K. The page that's kind of devoted to you, if you will, is on 171 and it said that "Schmitt suggested the possibility that the crash had been a V-2 or A-9, (which is one of derivatives of the V-2, that we were playing with at that time). Schmitt asked if there had ever...if they had ever retrieved anything like that anywhere in New Mexico. Never, he said any rocket going off course would be destroyed by the range officer and they wouldn't have wanted to risk injury to civilians on the ground. Randle asked if he remembered any talk at all about a flying saucer. He (meaning you) insisted that nothing at all happened. The former CIC man hadn't heard any rumors about a crash. All this, including the story shown on "Unsolved Mysteries", was a bunch of garbage. Schmitt and Randall spent two hours with the man, he told them that any reports he wrote in the

normal course of his duty was sent to Washington not 8th Air Force in Fort Worth. He was attached to the 509th, but his chain of command was different than the 8th Air Force, that's..."

SC: That's one of the few true stories they had in this book.

RW: "In fact he talked about many things willingly. He said the ranks of CIC agents were all classified at the time" (I know that's the way it was in OSI for years) "It didn't look right to have a Master Sergeant investigating a Colonel so no one on the base, except for a few clear to know, had any idea of what he or any of the others were. (Of course, that's the way we did business.)

SC: True.

RW: "He provided names of others who might be able to help and he described his normal unclassified duties at Roswell, but according to him the crash and recovery had never happened. There was no investigation on the Foster ranch, no mystery flight, and no discovery of alien bodies, nothing." Now we are getting to the part were they make you sound like somewhat of a conspirator. It said, "Randall said he and Schmitt had literally two dozen witness' to the special flights out of Roswell and the special clean up operation on the ranch. Something must have happened, the CIC man finally conceded, but I don't know what it was. As they left, the CIC man asked them, if you boys found something that affected national security would you keep it to your self? The former CIC man grins, and said 'very good'." So, somehow, by that remark, I imply that this was kind of, "I know something that you guys don't and if affects national security so we're not going to tell you." That's the way that I interpret what they wrote. Because, the rest of if just kind of recounts the way we did business, even when I came into OSI twenty years after that.

SC: You think they're talking about me there, "the former CIC man?"

RW: Yeah.

SC: If I said that, I probably said it really meaning that if these guys trying to make a buck writing their sensational book run into to something that really affected national security, I meant don't put it in a book.

RW: Yeah. OK.

SC: Turn it over to somebody.

RW: But you weren't implying that this incident affected national security and you weren't going talk about it?

SC: Oh, no! No way.

RW: OK. I see you have some materials you brought out here. That looks like one of you basic agent classes. Is that one of your basic agent classes there?

SC: No, that was the old District Office 17, OSI.

RW: Oh. OK.

SC: So this is after. Dr. Pflock sent me that. I got it out when Pflock sent it to me. This is Rickett.

RW: OK.

SC: And that is Jack Williams and that's old Cavitt. Down on the lower left.

RW: Oh. OK.

SC: That's me, and these are the two boys that were with me there at Roswell. I have them all identified and who's no longer with us. This thing that Pflock sent me, this picture. It says that Jack Williams is deceased. No wonder why somebody didn't contact him. I didn't even know he was dead. We were not friends. He was a Staff Sergeant, and a good honest kid, I think.

MC: A smart guy.

SC: What?

MC: Really, he was quite intelligent.

SC: Oh, yeah. He read. Read books while he was on road trips.

RW: Well the names I recognize from here that were still: are Doyle Rees and John Stahl.

SC: Doyle is still alive. I have a letter from him.

RW: I think he's in the Association of Former OSI Agents.

SC: Yeah. Right.

RW: And I am also a member of that so I see a lot of that. So, I see a lot of their letters and stuff, pictures that they send.

MC: We get correspondence from Doyle. Chris' son called him not long ago. He had a hole in one on his eightieth birthday.

RW: Oh, is that right. Was it his first one?

SC: I'm sure it was.

MC: Nice, nice man.

SC: He is a nice man. And a nice family. I don't know what the date on that is. Letter from Doyle, it says: "When you call the press conference to tell the world, let me know, because I want to be there." So, I just got reams of this stuff from books.

RW: Do you mind if I look through that real quick?

SC: Oh, heavens no. I got it (Unintelligible)

RW: Stanton T. Freidman?

SC: Freidman or whatever.

RW: Yeah, he doesn't like me a lot. He writes me nasty letters.

SC: He called me a couple of times. I could hear him a little bit, but it wasn't good enough for me to try to strain my brain. He apologized a little later. He wrote me back and said sorry we had a bad telephone connection. On your end!

RW: O.K. Here is the stuff about Schiff that I referenced earlier. Asking the GAO to look at this. Karl Pflock...

SC: You know, you can look at any of that. You can have copies. As a matter of fact I don't know what I'm going to do with it.

MC: Oh, your sons want it.

SC: Oh, I don't know.

MC: Oh, yes they do. Joey said last night maybe Dad could make a fortune out of being a hero.

SC: Well, if I wanted to make a little money I could have imagined a lot of things and cooperated more.

MC: Well, that's what Doyle said.

SC: With these authors and so forth I could be given royalties for a long time.

RW: Oh, this was out of the Global Reliance. I don't remember seeing this in there. Oh, Karl Pflock wrote this for the Global Reliance.

SC: Have you ever seen that clipping?

RW: This one on Rickett here?

SC: Yeah.

RW: No, I never saw this.

SC: I don't know what that is from.

RW: "But at least one surviving member of the recovery team actually handled the material, (Unintelligible). Eighty two year old Lewis Rickett. 'Cavitt had been there the day before, but he wouldn't tell me what was going on until we got there.' With armed troops standing guard Rickett wandered through the security phalanx and saw metallic debris scattered in an outer circle with a diameter of 25, 30, or 40 feet."

SC: It must have been Rickett sort a flipped of little bit. See this was something that he...an interview he had shortly before he died, I think.

MC: Well, when they interview Rick he was older and trying to make people remember things that happened umpteen years ago is pretty hard.

SC: I have probably received an awfully lot more than that, Rich, and threw it away. Sorry.

RW: So these people have been pretty much tracking you down on a regular basis then?

SC: Oh, yes! Mary can verify that. She said she had been home when she got telephone calls.

MC: I have talked to some of these fellows myself.

SC: Yeah, if I'm not here she talks to them. Blabber away, and she gives it right down the line. "Have they ever tried to influence you to say that I am lying or holding anything out?"

MC: No. I just tell them that you are telling the truth.

SC: They don't believe you when you tell the truth.

RW: I guess they don't. That's the problem we have with this whole line of inquiry and attempt to look this. It is very hard to prove the negative. It is hard to prove that something <u>didn't</u> happen, because you don't document stuff that doesn't happen.

SC: No, it is pretty hard to, difficult, but a good imagination can. These boys have it.

MC: The picture that was in the Roswell paper, as I said, we had just gotten there so we probably had to start subscribing to it. But nobody passed it around.

RW: Well let me tell you what's in the official records that we found so far. So you will have feel.

SC: Please, do.

RW: We did this, as investigators would, logically. We figured, "where would this stuff be"? So we went to all the different records. Working for me I have a group of reservists who are declassification experts. They are excellent researchers. They spend their whole time dealing with records, so these people know where all this stuff is buried. So, we have been to all the major record centers. The Archives and nuclear records (ranging from unclassified to TS nuclear stuff because the 509th was the only nuclear unit in the world at that time. So, some of there records were TS and still are.) That is because they have never been declassified. Anyway, we found that there was no airplane crash that could account for this. Just to show you how unsafe it was to fly at that time, there were six airplane crashes in less than a month in New Mexico alone in 1947, and that doesn't include the rest of the United States. We were lucky to have six.

SC: Remind me to double back on that. Go ahead with your story and I'll tell you another little story.

RW: We found no indication of a V-2 launch that is not accounted for. There was one scheduled on the 3rd of July and that was scrubbed. There was no indication that there was some sort of nuclear accident at that time where we either dropped a weapon or did something stupid, which we had to consider during that period of time, but there is no indication of any of that happening. Weather balloon themselves are; (although they have a "return to" type of thing on them) supposed to crash. I mean, they go up and then sooner or later they're going to come down. Right? Now what we did find, however (and I not implying what you saw up there), but its a possibility. There was a project run by New York University, out of Holloman at that time. It was a balloon experiment that lasted for years. But at the time a portion of it was Top Secret. It has since then be declassified. It was called Project Mogul.

SC: Never heard of it.

RW: Mogul was designed to run balloons at very high altitudes with extremely sensitive acoustic sensors (what we were looking for were nuclear test on the part of the Russians, because we thought the Russians had gotten the bomb) so you needed high enough and far enough so, and at a constant altitude, we could see...because there were no satellite (Unintelligible) they had a couple Mogul balloons and several of those are unaccounted for during that period of time. They are very large in the sense that some of them were up to 600 feet long, not one gigantic balloon, but a series of balloons, because as they went up to altitude some of them broke off, and some of them dropped ballast and they were very sophisticated. They had a lot of tin foil on them and a lot of different things. Mogul is a possibility. We found a couple of researchers from New Mexico that we are in contact with now because they kept private records in some regards. But, of course that was a Top Secret project at the time and we don't know if Blanchard knew about that or not: (we don't have any indication that he did). And that they used the weather balloon in an attempt to cover the other balloon which was a classified project.

SC: Yeah, that is possible. I didn't know about that particular thing. I just knew weather balloons went up and measured. This was my first impression. I didn't know anything else, so O.K., that's it, forget it. The thing that disturbed me is why they cannot shoot down this story about the little bodies and so forth that were allegedly taken to Wright-Pat or some place.

RW: Wright-Pat, right.

SC: And put in a sealed (unintelligible) or so forth. And the only thing, Rick might have gotten confused about something. You mentioned crashes. We had one there at Roswell. They practiced this air to air refueling, which was just, I think, getting into real high-tech stuff as far as I knew.

RW: B-29's?

SC: Yeah. And they were refueling them. We had one rather, rather hell! Where the plane that was being refueled for some reason or other pitched up when they were either getting to attach the cord, or the other one came down, which doesn't sound logical, I think it's more apt to have went up. One or both of those planes crashed. I forget what direction it was up from Roswell, but I went out to that crash at the request of Marcel; maybe Blanchard, and I probably took Rickett with me. We had bodies all over the place, and it was a sad thing. We recovered some fingers, of course, there was one hell of a big fire after it happened. I collected a bunch of hands, fingers and so forth, trying to identify them. At the time I thought this was sort of stupid. They had a list back at the Operation Office. Other than identifying body parts so that some guy's wife would know that she had part of her, used to be, former husband. And I don't remember where we sent those things for identification. I remember going into the office after that trying to get prints off of these old shriveled up fingers and so forth. What good it would do, I don't know. I didn't know then, but I was wonder if maybe Rick got confused that maybe this was some of the bodies. I doubt it, but it is just a possibility. But I don't know why they can't trace down those bodies.

RW: Well, that is the ultimate part of the quote "cover up" that we're involved in. You and I would probably think as OSI agents if you recovered a body that is unusual, that would generate a whole bunch of paperwork. We are a paperwork society. I mean, it may be classified with a bazillion stamps on it, but it would generate a lot of study and things. And we have not been able to locate one piece of anything to indicate that is so.

SC: It boggles my mind that we would not be able to find anything. The Air Force having the...I mean we were close knit and it seemed that there had to be a trail and pick up and eventually end there in that grip, or whatever they put these bodies in.

RW: But did you ever hear of any talk of that type of stuff when you were at Roswell?

SC: Down there. No.

RW: When did all of this first surface, in your life? After you picked up the original stuff and you went on to your career. When did the UFO part first surface in your life?

SC: You mean this sort of stuff?

RW: Yes. Was it with Berlitz and Moore?

SC: Our son sent this book to us.

RW: This is 1980, I think. Yeah 1980.

MC: A lot of that has been debunked by the other two guys.

SC: Well, I don't remember where Joey got this book.

MC: They bought it, they bought it. And he came by to see us and we had just back from fishing and you had one of your cluster headaches. And I did most of the talking here, because Cav was having his cluster headaches.

SC: I had another cycle of cluster headaches. Similar to migraine.

RW: I understand those are really painful.

SC: I am about to come out of it, although I had one last night, and I was awake all night long.

MC: Don't you think that is it. I never even gave it a thought.

RW: Until Mr. Moore and company showed up, around 1980 time frame?

SC: Yeah.

MC: 16 September 82 that he was here.

RW: O.K. Now from my research (not of AF records, but of popular literature records) Friedman is the guy who ran into Marcel down in Louisiana in 1978, because Friedman had been a UFO researcher for years. He ran into Marcel and from his interview of Marcel it got Berlitz and Moore interested, and that's when Marcel then started talking to all of these different people. And then it has kind of grown since then.

MC: And then of course, it's too bad apparently, you see little Jesse was about 11. Cav never told me anything. He said I'll never tell you anything then you won't spread anything. We always wondered how little Jesse knew so much. To us it should have been business. Neol (Marcel's wife) apparently was not able to give any information after Jesse died.

RW: Yeah. The son is mentioned in a number of publication, because he claimed his dad brought this stuff to his house and they hammered on it and...

MC: Which I remember seeing.

SC: He was a smart little devil, his son.

RW: He is a doctor, I think.

SC: Is he is a PHD type of doctor or a Medical doctor?

RW: Yeah, I though he was a medical doctor.

MC: He is an MD, but his brother was medical type technician.

SC: They were a smart family. I always thought Marcel was just a little on the outer scale.

RW: Since you were friends with both Marcel and Rickett, is there any explanation that they would (in your mind, since you knew them) tell these stories and get this interest generated?

SC: No.

MC: I wouldn't think purposely, would you darling?

SC: Not purposely, no. I gave you a little insight on Rick, he could sit and tell stories that last hours.

MC: They were visited by a lot of people, more than we were. Handier to some people, being in Florida where they were. She would write on cards, so and so has been here, but I don't think purposely they would try to make up tales for being heroes or glorifying anything.

RW: Let me ask you officially for the record. Did you take any kind of security oath, promise, sign anything, or verbally agree to anything not to talk about any of this, that occurred in New Mexico?

SC: No. I told you that awhile ago. I'll take an oath on that. I swear.

RW: O.K. Has anybody in the US Government, the Air Force, or anyone connected with the Government, ever threatened you if you said anything about any of these incidents that something would happen to you, your family or anybody else?

SC: No. No way.

RW: O.K.

SC: I am telling the truth, and I have told all of these other people the truth. That, I don't know anymore than what I told them, and I don't know anything about any "little men", or anything. I am a pretty stupid person, when I say "I don't know anything."

RW: Well, I appreciate having to ask you some of these questions, even after you told me that...

SC: I know you have to.

RW: But, we want to do this officially, because as near as we can tell nobody ever has before.

SC: I certainly wish you good luck. I hope you can convince these people.

RW: Well, it is going to be difficult, because like I say we have nothing other than this one formerly classified project that was occurring out there at the same time that was even a little bit "funny", if you will...

SC: Yeah. Had I known about that, Rich, at that time I would have probably hooked it up with that instead of a weather balloon.

RW: But, a balloon is basically a balloon. Some of them are bigger and some of them are smaller.

SC: Some do some things, some of them do others.

RW: One of the things that they mentioned, going back to the balloons for a minute, was what Marcel called "hieroglyphics". It was something that was written or printed on some of the debris. Do you recall any of that?

SC: No. But in reading over some of my other garbage here, I have seen some hieroglyphics. I don't think there were any claims that these were the Roswell deal. Were there?

RW: Marcel claims.

SC: Marcel says so?

RW: However, the day after the original flying saucer article in the Roswell paper, there was a follow up article where they interview Brazel (the rancher), and he described this stuff almost similar to what you did, almost like basal wood type of sticks and tin foil type of things. Then he said some had what appeared to be Scotch tape with little purple flowers stamped on it. Apparently at that time, as near as we can tell, one of the balloon manufactures did use some type of tape that had some sort of flowers on it. It is possible, I guess, that somebody could mistake...

SC: I don't remember anything like that.

MC: I think there is a picture in one of these...

SC: Well, some of these authors, Mary, you got to remember, they will skip from the Roswell incident to something that happened someplace else in the United States and they get a little confusing. You just read through it. I remember something about some hieroglyphics, not on that one. I didn't see anything. I do not remember any writing at all on the thing. But if Marcel saw something, maybe he did.

RW: Did you know Haut, Lt. Haut? The public affairs guy at the time?

SC: Just vaguely. What was he, base information, or something of that sort?

RW: Yes.

SC: Not close at all. As a matter of fact I couldn't even describe him. I got a picture with a tall fellow and I didn't know much about him, at all.

RW: Is there anything else that you can recall or like to add?

SC: I have been thinking about it ever since you called, and said you were coming out.

MC: It is a shame that Don Yeager was in the office with Jess.

SC: Yeah. Is he dead now?

MC: I don't know.

SC: But he won't know a thing, Mary. He wouldn't know a thing.

MC: He wouldn't have known anything with Jesse?

SC: No. No. Jesse didn't trust Don very much. I wouldn't want (unintelligible). He was trying to keep up, but couldn't. He just wasn't a reliable sort of individual.

MC: So Jess probably wouldn't have...

SC: No. No. I don't even think he even talked to Don about it. There was another Captain in the Intelligence office at the time who I always thought was a very sharp individual, his name I don't remember his first name...Carl was his first name, Macamer. He ended up as a full Colonel.

MC: Now we gave Randall their names. We gave them everything we could think of.

SC: Yeah. Carl might be dead now. I always thought he was a pretty smart individual.

MC: Carl was the last we knew.

SC: Somewhere up in the North, wasn't he?

MC: He is our generation. He would have retired.

RW: Did he switch over to the Air Force too, when he...

MC: Who Macamer?

RW: Yeah.

MC: Oh, yeah. He was in the 8th Air Force.

RW: So when you all just went over to the USAF when it formed in September?

SC: He went right along with the 8th Air Force, becoming USAF. We being OSI, well...

MC: He was always Air Force. He was always Army CIC, or was he?

SC: Who, me?

MC: No. No. Carl.

SC: Carl wasn't even in the CIC. He was in intelligence. He was just in the intelligence office there at...He was under Marcel. He was under Blanchard. He was under Ramey. Wasn't that the General's name over at the 8th Air Force, Roger Ramey?

RW: Yeah, that's right. In fact, they named a SAC base in Puerto Rico after him.

SC: The things that Ramey and Blanchard used to! Blanchard came over to the Philippines. I think he was IG in 1963 or 4 and I was District Commander of the OSI District 42 in the Philippines. We had a few chuckles together and...

MC: Do you recall once when we were some place and Roger, and Ramey and I were dinner partners. I think it was Greece. You were on one of your many trips.

RW: Blanchard was the IG, you're right.

SC: He and Ramey, I don't know what he was after the commander of the Eight Air Force, but he and Blanchard use to have some...(unintelligible). Oh Lord! I knew these guys pretty well. No. I don't know anything about any crashed space ships. I don't know anything about any little men.

MC: I am quite sure that we never gave it a thought until that book.

RW: I'll tell you what, if you can indulge me for a few minutes and let me set up my computer. Do you mind signing a statement. I'll make it very short. (unintelligible).

SC: Sure. You bet. Yeah.

RW: And we'll just make a kind of quick summary statement if you can bare with my computer skills here.

SC: I'll prick my finger and sign it in blood.

RW: I don't think we'll require that.

MC: Rich, it always seems funny to us with all these, if these things happened. How can 30 or even 3 people keep something a secret?

RW: Well, I would kind of like to know how they did it, because in my real job we handle all the Special Programs that do keep all the secrets. And we would like to figure out how they do it so we can duplicate it. Because it is very hard to keep secrets, as you well know.

MC: But you see, I am talking about civilians and other people who were in on these bodies going to the morgue and all that. (unintelligible) some grave digger from the funeral home or whatever...

RW: Well, of course, Randle and Schmitt do claim that those people are out there and that they have interviewed them. They list a whole bunch of them. Now, we're not trying to go after them and undo every interview they had done. That is not our point. In fact, you are the only person we have gone out and interviewed, because you're always reputed to be the guy...one of the two or three people that was there picking up the stuff...

MC: And he is the only one that is still living.

RW: That is right.

MC: That is what Doyle Rees said on his post card. He said you better keep this going. If anybody likes publicity as he...(unintelligible)

SC: But what he was saying, all of these guards...

RW: He claims that he had interviewed a number of these people and said that they did guard something and there were a number flights. Now, we have never found the flight records to substantiate that, so I don't know where they have. If they have.

SC: The crew chiefs on the airplane that are making these flights. They went with them. Flight Engineers?

MC: It will be interesting for you to get Randle and Schmitts last book.

SC: Their latest book? They promised they're going to take it easy on me.

RW: Well, I have tried to find a copy, because, among other things, that have happened, is that people keep changing the dates of when things happened.

MC: And sites!

RW: Yeah. And that makes it very difficult when you are try to track down records. If you are looking between this period of time and all of a sudden they change the period of time.

MC: Well, when they came here about 14 months ago they sat right there and we became good friends down in Sierra Vista and we would tell them everything we know, honestly. We gave them gobs of names. They sat down and said we have something new, something different. Something happened at this site and it was not on the same date. So, you could have one of your researchers get that book, and research that.

SC: You are very well aware of the good guy bad guy approach of when they interrogation.

RW: Oh, yes.

SC: Well, I got a perfect example of this with Randle and Schmitt. Randle is the outgoing, buddy-buddy type and this Schmitt he'd sit over their and he'd look over at me like this (while Randall is asking me a question), "you lying Cur." Particularly down in Sierra Vista. They just grated on me.

RW: You probably had done that a time or two yourself. You would know what he was doing.

SC: Not really. Let him type up this deal that I...

RW: Yeah, I don't want to take up all of your time.

MC: We have all day. I'll go down and get a hamburger or...

RW: If you don't mind, if you got a plug in over by the table. I need two plug ins to make this thing work.

SC: You need two?

RW: One for the computer and one for the power supply.

SC: O.K.

RW: If that is possible. Although the cords are a lot longer than this one, hopefully.

SC: Where would be the best place?

RW: In fact, I can probably...

MC: (unintelligible)

SC: Your cord is not all that long.

RW: (unintelligible)

SC: Is that tape recorder still running?

RW: Yeah, let me shut the tape recorder off. Its about 12:30 here on the 24th.

SC: Well, you're not interrupting anything here.

RW: O.K. We'll just do this. I'll make it a short one which just kind of summarizes what we have already talked about.

SC: Good.

END RECORDING