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# U.F.O. HISTORICAL REVUE

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NUMBER 13

EDITOR: BARRY GREENWOOD

SEPTEMBER 2009

## FROM OUT OF THE PAST

TIME: September 2006. *The U.F.O. Historical Revue* was buried along with the airships of the 1890s. But like many UFO stories, UHR is back from the dead. As old-style print journals disappear from the newsstands, digital technology allows special interest topics like unusual aerial phenomena to survive through small publications like this without the expense of hardcopy production. The same digital technology now allows us to do research like never before. Billions of pages of information are at our fingertips. With a few clicks we can retrieve government documents, read old newspapers and see detailed photographs. While UHR slept a waterfall of information rained from cyberspace virtually daily, bulging out research binders and folders with the most astonishing events that would otherwise have remained lost or delayed indeterminately. This assortment of oddities should flow into the open again.

At the same time we note that many names from the past have left us in recent times. John Keel, Richard Hall, Robert Todd, Al Chop, and a host of other researchers and witnesses are lost to us now, except for the results they left behind. It remains for others to continue to unearth and sift what is out there to be discovered, that which those before us did not have the time to reach. It is thought that a revived UHR can help fill the void from the loss of Hall's *Journal of UFO History*.

The original plan of UHR was to deal exclusively with pre-1947 aerial phenomena, i.e. aerial phenomena of the distant past. But as I look around it seems that what used to be modern times are rapidly becoming the distant past. There are many adults now who don't have clear memories of even the 1980s. So while the primary focus will still be aerial phenomena of long ago, there will still be occasional forays into the late twentieth century if the need arises. Matters relating to government documents (something about which the editor has had a periodical prior to this one) will be given

special pages in UHR also when a need arises. There is no release schedule at the moment. "Belief" in UFOs does not exist within these pages. Such phenomena are noted, researched and reported, but no exotic theories will be endorsed lest UHR join the overcrowded bandwagon of believing answers for which there is inadequate evidence, a chronic problem of this topic for over 60 years now. In this nation that embraces extremes there is nothing wrong with taking a position that while UFO reports are interesting and worthy of investigation, there is no need to force a square conclusion into a round question.

There can be such a thing as going forward by looking back. So it begins again.

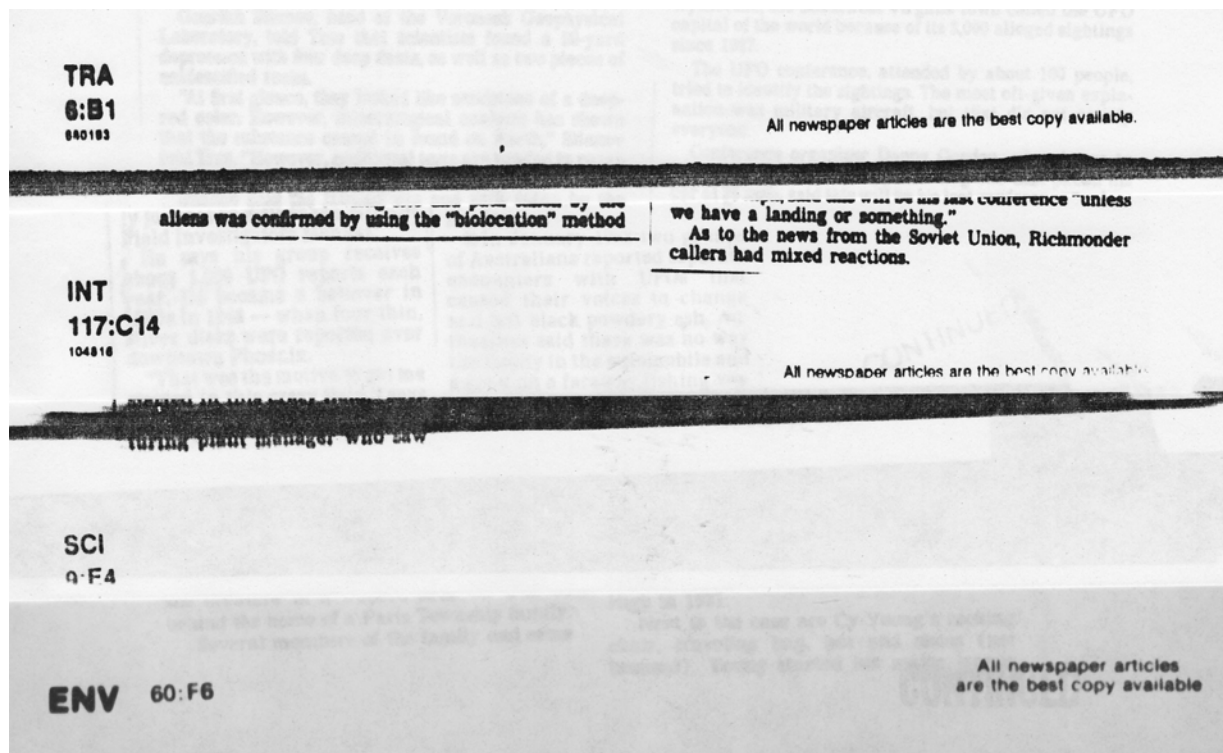
## FBI ACADEMY RECORDS REVEALED



During the time of publication of the book *Clear Intent* by Larry Fawcett and myself, I was also a member of Massachusetts MUFON, a state chapter of the Mutual UFO Network. Occasionally tidbits of information regarding government UFO secrecy would come the way of the organization. A good deal of these leads would be junk but a few were worthy of additional inquiry.

In 1986, the director of Mass MUFON, Jim Melesciuc, received a communication from his brother in Washington, D.C. It seemed that while exploring the library of the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia he came upon unusual records. On microfilm were numerous examples of press coverage about UFOs over a wide range of years.

Jim's brother decided to do a comprehensive search of the film since he knew his brother was interested in the topic. His first pass yielded eighty articles that were copied and sent to Jim. Subsequently, there were further visits to the Academy, ultimately filling five folders with UFO press coverage from 1978 to 1991. The clippings dealt with a wide range of subjects, from UFO secrecy to sightings to feature articles about personalities. One was even critical of the government's management of UFO reports.



### FBI Academy Subject Categorizations

From all appearances, the microfilm was created to inform future FBI agents about the UFO topic. How the press coverage was collected is unknown. There seems to be no labeling of the clippings by a press agency. Each item was cut and pasted to fit an 8 ½ X 11 sheet. In the lower left corner of each sheet is a number description, looking like a roll and frame number to locate a particular clip when needed. Four sets of a letter code also appeared on the sheets, their way of subject categorization. One of the codes,

"INT" hasn't been identified but "ENV" seems to stand for "ENVIRONMENT," and "SCI" stands for "SCIENCE" (see above).

The most interesting code was the fourth. "TRA" appeared on most of the sheets. This code was clearly defined because on many pages it was spelled out: "TRANSPORTATION." It isn't known whether or not the record keeper was trying to be funny but the category stood and was used nevertheless.

With no evidence that a clipping agency collected press for the FBI Academy up to the early 1990s, were there instructions to FBI field offices in the nation's cities to assemble UFO clippings, send them to an FBI administrative office where they would be processed and microfilmed? The finished product would then be sent to the FBI Academy (and elsewhere?). So we wonder: Why was money budgeted, and instructions given, for a government agency to preserve UFO information long after the end of the official investigation?

**Transportation**  
(Phoenix) Arizona Republic, January 12, 1979

## CIA documents unveiled on UFO reports

By CHARLES KELLY

The Central Intelligence Agency apparently feared in the early 1960s that unidentified flying objects, sightings could mask Russian air attacks, according to information reportedly acquired in a lawsuit against the CIA.

The CIA also was worried that UFO sightings could be used by the Russians for "psychological warfare."

The information, part of hundreds of documents supplied to Ground Saucer Watch by the CIA in December as the result of a freedom of information suit, was given to The Arizona Republic by William Spaulding.

Spaulding, a senior engineer at Allresearch, is head of GSW-West, the western branch of the UFO investigation group.

He will deliver a talk at 7:30 tonight at the Adams Hotel on the CIA documents and other information about UFOs developed by his organization.

One of the documents supplied to The Republic consists of three typewritten pages with obliterated notations at the top and bottom of each page. Spaulding said the pages are part of a CIA report written between 1950 and 1956.

The pages contain the assertion that it is "against fact and logic" to believe UFOs are spacecraft or devices developed by Russia or the United States.

However, "there is a fair proportion of our population which is mentally conditioned to acceptance of the incredible," the document says, adding that this poses two problems.

"Our air warning system will undoubtedly al-

ways depend upon a combination of radar scanning and visual observation," it says.

"We give Russia the capability of delivering an air (apparent misspelling of "air") attack against us, yet at any given moment now, there may be current a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial. At the moment of attack, how will we, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom?"

The document also noted that no reports of UFO sightings had surfaced in the Russian press, despite worldwide sighting reports.

"This could result only from an official policy decision and of course raises the question of why and whether or not these sightings could be used from a psychological warfare point of view either offensively or defensively," the document says.

Spaulding said he took that to mean the Russians might pretend UFOs were super-craft developed by their country.

Among other documents are what appear to be U.S. State Department correspondence and reports from U.S. embassies and military personnel regarding UFO sightings in various parts of the world, including the United States, Canada, Morocco, Tunisia and Iran.

One detailed report concerns a sighting on Sept. 19, 1976, near Tehran, Iran, in which two F-4 Phantom jet fighters pursued a large UFO that seemed to send out smaller craft. The planes lost power in their communications systems from time to time during the pursuit, and one plane lost power in its weapons panel when the pilot tried to fire a missile at one of the UFOs.

Spaulding said the documents provide "absolute proof" that the CIA has been involved in probing UFOs since 1949.

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## RAMEY MEMO REDUX – LINE 5

After a lull in interest, there has been a recent renewal of discussions about the “Ramey Memo” on Internet lists. The usual banter was swapped as to whether or not the document (as I will call it from here on as there is no evidence that it is a memo) is a top-secret message regarding Roswell aliens or merely a teletype taken from a newspaper office in Fort Worth, Texas.

For those unfamiliar with the Ramey document, it is a folded piece of paper held in the hand of Brigadier General Roger Ramey, head of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force based at Fort Worth, Texas. On July 8, 1947, photographs were taken of Ramey, his chief of staff, Thomas DuBose and Roswell AAF officer Jesse Marcel Sr. by J. Bond Johnson, a Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* photographer, in response to an AAF press release that the debris recovered from the alleged Roswell UFO crash was a weather balloon. The debris itself was displayed in an office for Johnson to photograph, which he did and his pictures were widely distributed the next day in national newspapers.

One can see in photo prints that the document being held has lines of text at the edge of visibility. Attempts have been made over the years to enlarge that portion of the photograph. The text however remains at the extreme limit of resolution. A few words do seem to be visible, asserting the document’s relevance to the Roswell incident, but little else is clear.

Readers of UHR will recall that I dealt with this debate in the March 2004 issue, titled, “An Observation on the Ramey Memo.”

(<http://www.greenwoodufoarchive.com/uhr/uhr11.pdf>)

In it I offered the possibility that the document showed signs of being a teletype dispatch, typical of a news wire taken from a newspaper office rather than being a military/government document with details of the recovery of an exotic machine possibly from another planet. Not surprisingly some Roswell proponents of the extraterrestrial notion reacted with anger. Nevertheless, it didn’t seem that there was any hard consensus beyond a few words as to what the document said.

On August 26, 2009, it was a hot summer afternoon. Not much could be done in the heat so I sat for a while to stare at a blow-up of the Ramey photo to once again take a try at picking out words to recognize (see Figure 1). This had become a regular part-time activity for some UFO researchers since the photo was enlarged years ago. The possibility of revealing sensation evidence of UFO reality and government cover-ups through this document was irresistible for those who have been involved in such research for decades. All one had to do was decipher the distortions and blobs that characterized the text. For my part, in between stares I pulled old clipping volumes of Roswell coverage to remind myself of the reporting on the story for July 8-9, 1947. I tried running the picture through a variety of Photoshop computer enhancements by brightening or darkening the image. It was to no avail. “How would anyone ever get this mangled, messy text deciphered,” I thought. It seemed unlikely that muck could be enhanced! Wasn’t there anything better to do on a nice summer day?

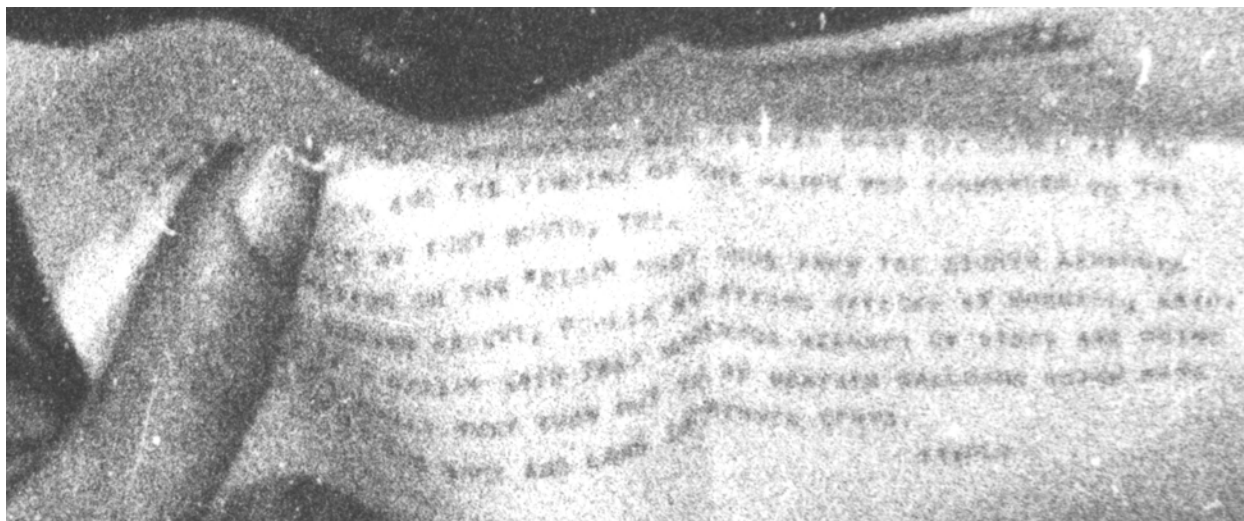


Figure 1 – Raw, blown-up image. All letters in such teletypes are capitals.  
(This and all Ramey photo images courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram collection, Special Collections Division, University of Texas at Arlington Library)

Getting a little weary I noticed a cardboard pair of 3-D red/blue glasses from some leftover movie I had once seen hanging from a holder above my computer screen. Looking at it I said, “Oh, why not.” The idea of using them seemed rather pointless, as I was not even looking at a 3-D picture. But nothing was being accomplished otherwise. I put it on.

Oddly enough using the 3-D filters somehow injecting a small amount of clarity into the image, much like a pair of yellow sunglasses, (as has been advertised on TV) seems to make the landscape much clearer. It was certainly not enough to make the blobs more readable but it was enough to make patterns stand out more. I focused upon the portion of the Ramey document that seemed to be a little clearer than the rest. It is an oval area on the left side of the text, a short distance from the right side of Ramey’s thumb that obscures part of the document’s text (see Figure 2). A few words like “...AT FORT WORTH, TEX.” and “...THE ‘DISC’..” seem to stand out enough to gain a general consensus as to these decipherments (see Figure 3).

On the next line down where “THE ‘DISC’” seems apparent, what I will call “line 5” out of the total of eight lines visible on the image, the previously mentioned oval area of visibility had text a bit easier to read, that I attribute to that part of the document perhaps being a little closer to the camera lens by means of its appearance of being held in a rumpled manner by Ramey and folded in an arch toward the lens.

I kept looking with the 3-D filter and noticed a pattern, a pattern that seemed familiar. But before I continue, a bit of explanation is needed about the length of words.

To check their letter lengths, I used "letter stacking." The lines of text formed on a machine, like a teletype or an old typewriter, have regular spaces between letters, words and lines. With letters poorly focused and defined, making them

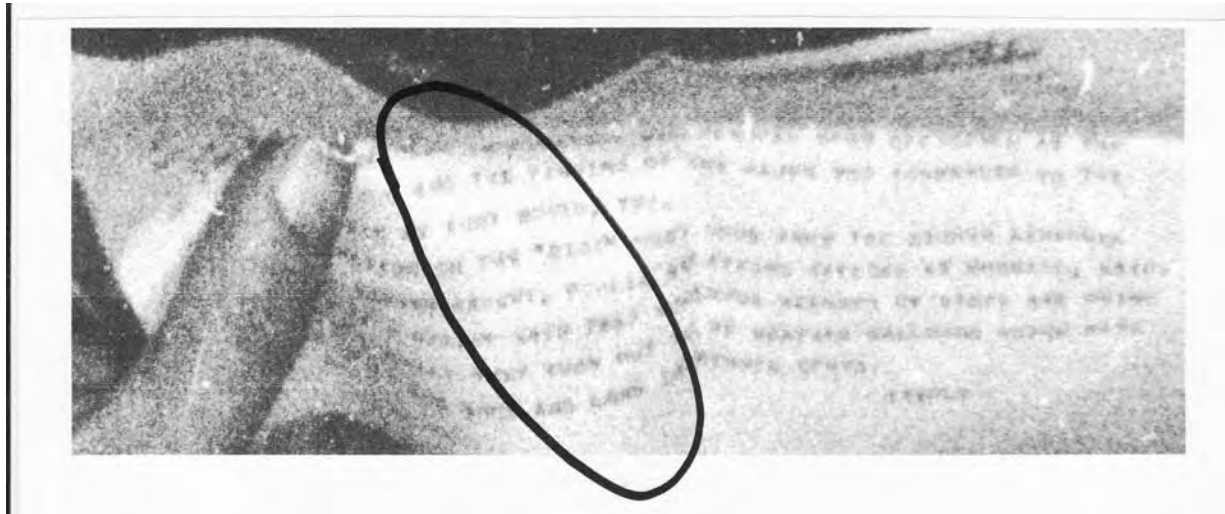


Figure 2 - Oval Area of Clearer Letters.

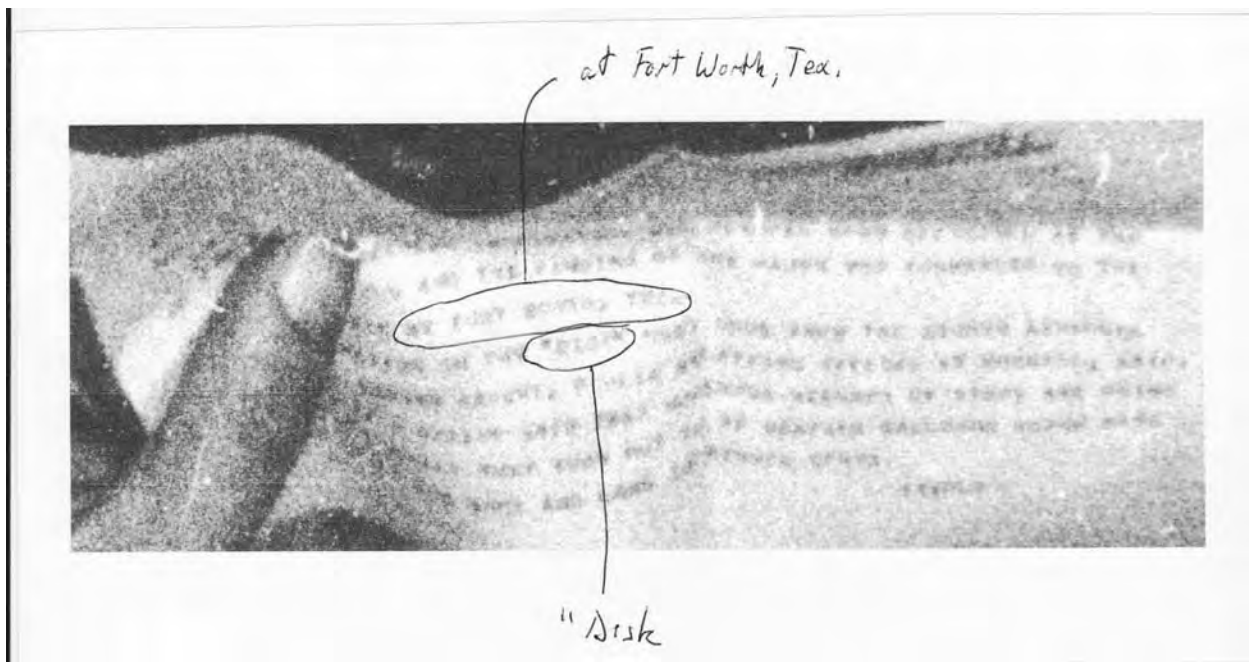


Figure 3 - Recognizable Words.

virtually unreadable, the number of characters in each word could be measured by running a straight vertical line from the centers of letters above and below the line in



question to the centers of letters of the words in that line (see Figure 4). It is like placing a grid over the page and counting the letters and spaces that give your word length. It can even work when the page of a piece of paper is curved in the manner that can be seen in this document.

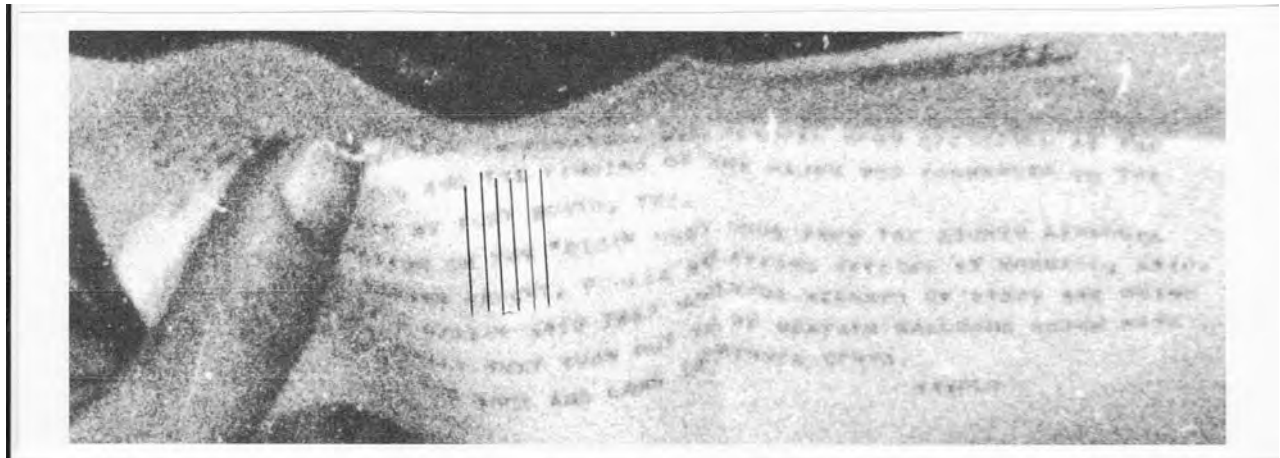


Figure 4 – Letter Stacking. A known phrase on line 3 (“Fort Worth”) used as a guide shows “HAUGHT” two lines below as having six letters.

With this in mind, and a 3-D filter at the eyes, a pattern was noticed. The second word in line 5 (see Figures 5 & 6), a six-letter word, gave the strong impression of ending in “GHT.” Thinking this was an artifact of the 3-D filter I took it off and looked again. The impression was still there. A six-letter word ending in “GHT” didn’t make much sense. “SOUGHT,” perhaps? But the article was supposed to be about something that was already found. But then I recalled one of the clipping volumes.

Having just previously read clips in between pondering the photo, I went back and flipped through it again. There was a press clip from the San Mateo CA *Times* of July 8<sup>th</sup>. Late edition papers for the 8<sup>th</sup> had carried the breaking Roswell debris news. Reading down the clip I saw this: “Lt. Warren Haught, public information officer at Roswell said....” And the quote continued to his press release. “HAUGHT” stood out like a sore thumb. It was a six-letter word with a “GHT” ending in an article related to Roswell. As long-time Roswell pundits notice here, “Lt. Warren Haught” should actually be “Lt. Walter Haut,” the “PRO,” or Public Relations Officer, at Roswell Army Air Field. The press had butchered Haut’s name, probably in the rush to published news about Roswell. In the first rush of publicity after Haut sent out a press release on the recovery of a flying disc, the base and Roswell media were bombarded with phone calls from world media about the story. Most certainly, one or more wire reporters heard Haut’s name and spelled it phonetically, not even getting the “Walter” right.



In the Ramey document, we don't see the word "WARREN" clearly in the text. But through letter stacking I've determined that the area before "HAUGHT" is a six-letter word and, based upon the use of the word "HAUGHT" in the press coverage, "WARREN" is the most likely fit in that area.

Line 5 was beginning to fall together in a sensible fashion. I looked at the rest of the line. It was obvious that there was a comma after "HAUGHT," then words and punctuation of the following lengths appear: six, nine, seven, two, seven, comma, four, period. I compared the San Mateo Associated Press (AP) extract with the letter

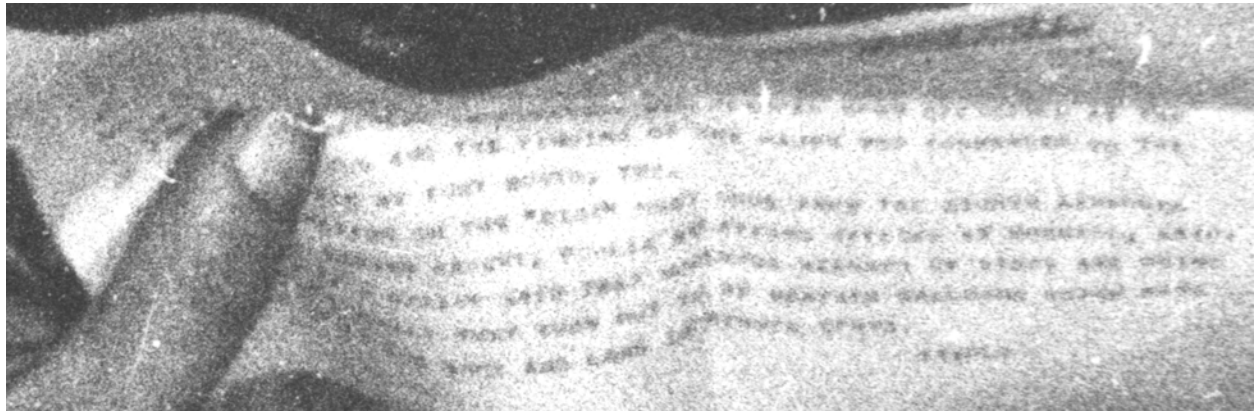


Figure 5 – As clear as this text gets. The two arrows points to the first and last letter each of "HAUGHT," fourth line from the bottom.

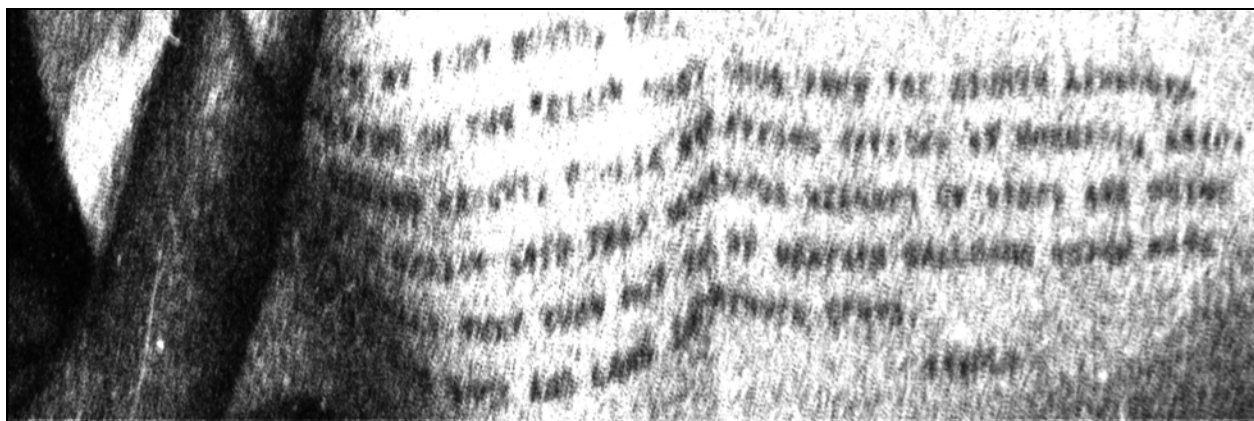


Figure 6 – Stretched vertically, enlarged and darkened image to sharpen words. Two arrows point to the first and last letters of "HAUGHT," fourth line from the bottom. Credit: Victor Golubic

counts, verified through the letter stacking. To my astonishment all the words matched, except for one, the nine-letter word. "Information" in the article didn't seem to fit, being eleven letters long (see Figure 7). What else could fit "public (blank) officer?"

It didn't take long to find out. After flipping a few more pages in the clipping book, it was evident that a number of other press stories from different newspapers had

chosen to refer to Haut the "public relations officer." The nine-letter word fits! We can now say that the Ramey document, line 5 reads:

"....WARREN HAUGHT, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AT ROSWELL, SAID."

The photographer, J. Bond Johnson, originally said that he took a flash AP wire dispatch about Roswell from the teletype machine at the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*



Figure 7 – Press coverage illustrating characteristics evident in the Ramey document.

Left and middle: San Mateo CA *Times*, July 8, 1947.

Right: Lowell MA *Sun*, July 9, 1947

and brought it to the office where the debris was to be photographed. He had said that he handed the dispatch to Ramey before the pictures were taken. Johnson later recanted on this testimony when he became involved with a group called "RPIT," or "Roswell Photo Interpretation Team." RPIT had concluded, among other things, that the debris in the photos showed evidence of symbols like ancient Egyptian glyphs on the foil-like material, that beams had symbols in bas relief that were possibly made of ceramic material. How a ceramic material could be deduced from a photo is a mystery but no less odd than the other RPIT conclusions. Johnson responded to the question of

his contradiction as to whether or not he handed General Ramey the document by only saying, "Obviously, I was wrong." It is not that obvious why he was wrong!

It is also important to note that when dealing with journalistic teletype messages, they send long text, short text or fragments of information that later can be refined and rewritten. They don't necessarily go into the finished product, a newspaper article, exactly the way they came off of the wire. Unless one has the exact original "flash" message from a particular wire teletype machine, it can be difficult finding a perfect match of lengthy text to something like the Ramey document.

Context is all-important too. One might be able to see shapes in the letters that resemble, but don't exactly look like, the letters they are supposed to be. Words can be seemingly deciphered, but unless they fit into a meaningful sentence they can't account for much understanding.

The key determination in this finding is the word "HAUGHT." It is reasonable to see the shapes of these letters in both the raw and enhanced versions of reproductions of the document. "Enhanced" does not mean that words were altered in any way. The document is bad enough for those with good eyesight, very difficult for those without it. So darkening of the text is an aid to seeing the letter shapes better.

But what if this reading isn't correct? Let's say I am just employing wishful thinking in seeing the "GHT" at the end of the six-letter word? Then there is no case. I have tested the interpretation on others who have agreed that the Ramey document word does appear that way. A critic might say, "So, just friends trying to please you!" I decided to consult the website of the most ardent booster of the Ramey document as supporting Roswell as a flying saucer crash with alien bodies, David Rudiak. He once referred to my writing on the Ramey document as "totally bogus."

(<http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2009/05/general-ramey-and-his-memo.html?showComment=1242162060000>)

Rudiak examined thirteen versions, including three of his own notions, of what other researchers believe the Ramey document says. Looking at line 5, five versions agree with "AT ROSWELL." One agreed with the word "SAID" at the end of the line. One (Rudiak) agreed in an early interpretation with "OFFICER," but later changed it. One agreed with "PUBLIC." No one had "RELATIONS," surely a difficult read being in a fold in the paper and without other context yet deciphered. One person interpreted "GHT" as "SOUGHT." Most importantly, Rudiak himself saw the "GHT" but believed it to stand for "WRIGHT," as in Wright Field, Ohio, where the Roswell debris was supposed to have been taken. But Rudiak couldn't construct a smooth flowing sentence out of it. In all cases, the interpretations made little contextual sense as they built broken phrases, or the letter/space counts fit poorly. Bogus is as bogus does!

([http://www.roswellproof.com/Ramey\\_memo\\_compare.html](http://www.roswellproof.com/Ramey_memo_compare.html))

Let's ponder all this here. I'm trying to think of a good reason why "WARREN HAUGHT" would appear in a classified, top-secret government teletype about flying saucers and alien bodies being picked up and shipped to other government facilities. We have what pro-Roswell-as-ET advocates claim is the most top secret event in U.S. history, classified on a par with, or above, the H-bomb (if you accept the Canadian

Wilbert Smith memo of 1950). Yet in what is supposed to be one of the earliest official bits of documentation on the secret, it draws on information from a public relations officer at Roswell instead of intelligence information on the debris, bodies, technology or whatever other science could be involved. And it then proceeds to badly mangle both of his names!

Would the military not know the names of their own personnel in top-secret messages? Worse still, would they rely upon a known journalistic error, leading to the absurd situation of U.S. Army Air Force intelligence depending upon the newspapers for part of its information on its own personnel along with the Roswell event? It is absurd. Then why is Walter Haut's mangled name in the supposedly secret government document?

Given the context of line 5, it appears that the document is depending upon information from "WARREN HAUGHT" as a source to be read. Why would this have to be in a classified teletype when it could be read in the newspapers? And what would he have to tell military intelligence needing to be classified top secret that they don't already know about the alleged crash: to which newspapers he was sending his press release? There is a great deal about this that doesn't make sense if the Ramey document were a classified message.

If the Ramey document were not a classified message but a news wire, none of the above secrecy scenario would matter at all. Which option would Occam's Razor cut off?

In summary, it has been demonstrated that:

- Line 3 of the Ramey document has a phrase "...AT FORT WORTH, TEX."
- The words "...THE 'DISC'.." with DISC in quotes appears on line 4.
- The phrase "...WARREN HAUGHT, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER AT ROSWELL, SAID." is the best reading of line 5 of the text because the word count, letter count, punctuation and meaningful context fit and make sense. It is very likely that this phrase refers to the text on line 4.

All can be shown to come from journalistic news accounts rather than from military/government documents. If you do not think this interpretation is fitting, I offer a challenge: have line 5 make grammatical sense with different letters, words and phrasing.

Much credit is due Mary Castner, Victor Golubic and Joel Carpenter for valuable computer assistance and comment.

## EMBLEM VISIBLE ON THE RAMEY PHOTO

It is noted that in the upper left corner of the Ramey document is a shape or emblem that resembles either a depiction of the Liberty Bell or an old-fashioned telephone (see Figure 8). It is unclear what this might represent. Speculation has run from an old stamp to “Buy War Bonds,” using the Liberty Bell as an appeal feature, to a slip of office memo paper attached to the teletype that may have been a “You-Had-A-Phone-Call” type of message to the receiver. J. Bond Johnson had testified that he was told by the city editor at his newspaper to go to the base to meet General Ramey. Was it details of the appointment written on a small memo paper and attached to the wire that Johnson said he took with him? Perhaps. A Liberty Bell image might suggest a government image but there are features in it suggesting something other than the famous ringer (see Figure 9). All of this is still being explored. Virtually nothing can be read in that area of the document.

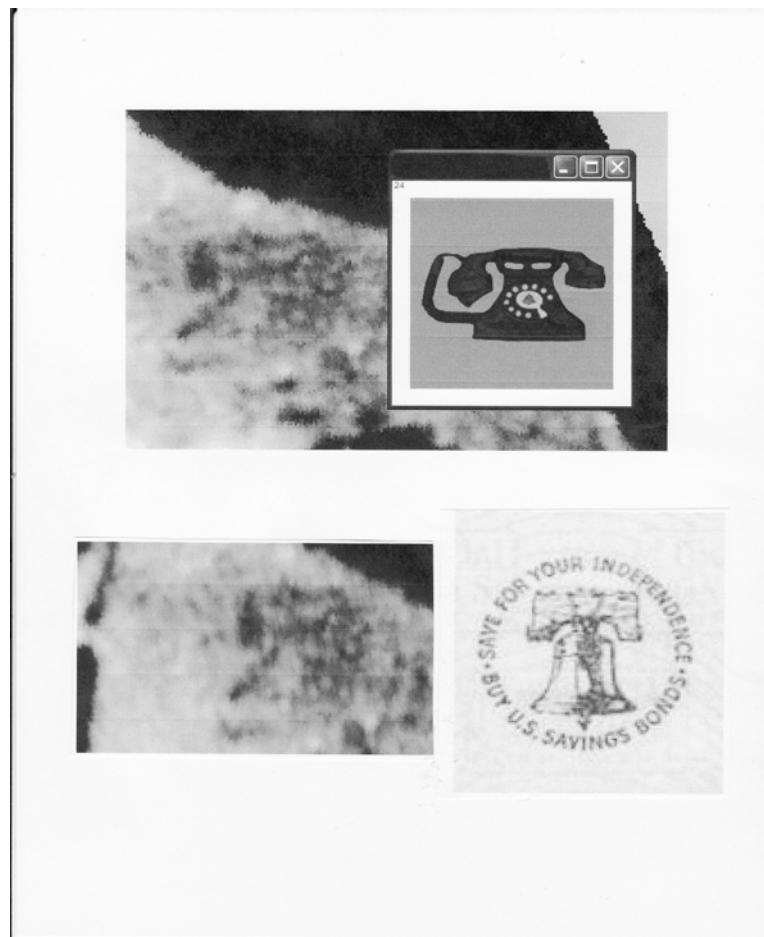


Figure 8 – Upper left corner of Ramey document with the image of telephone or of the Liberty Bell? Credit: Victor Golubic

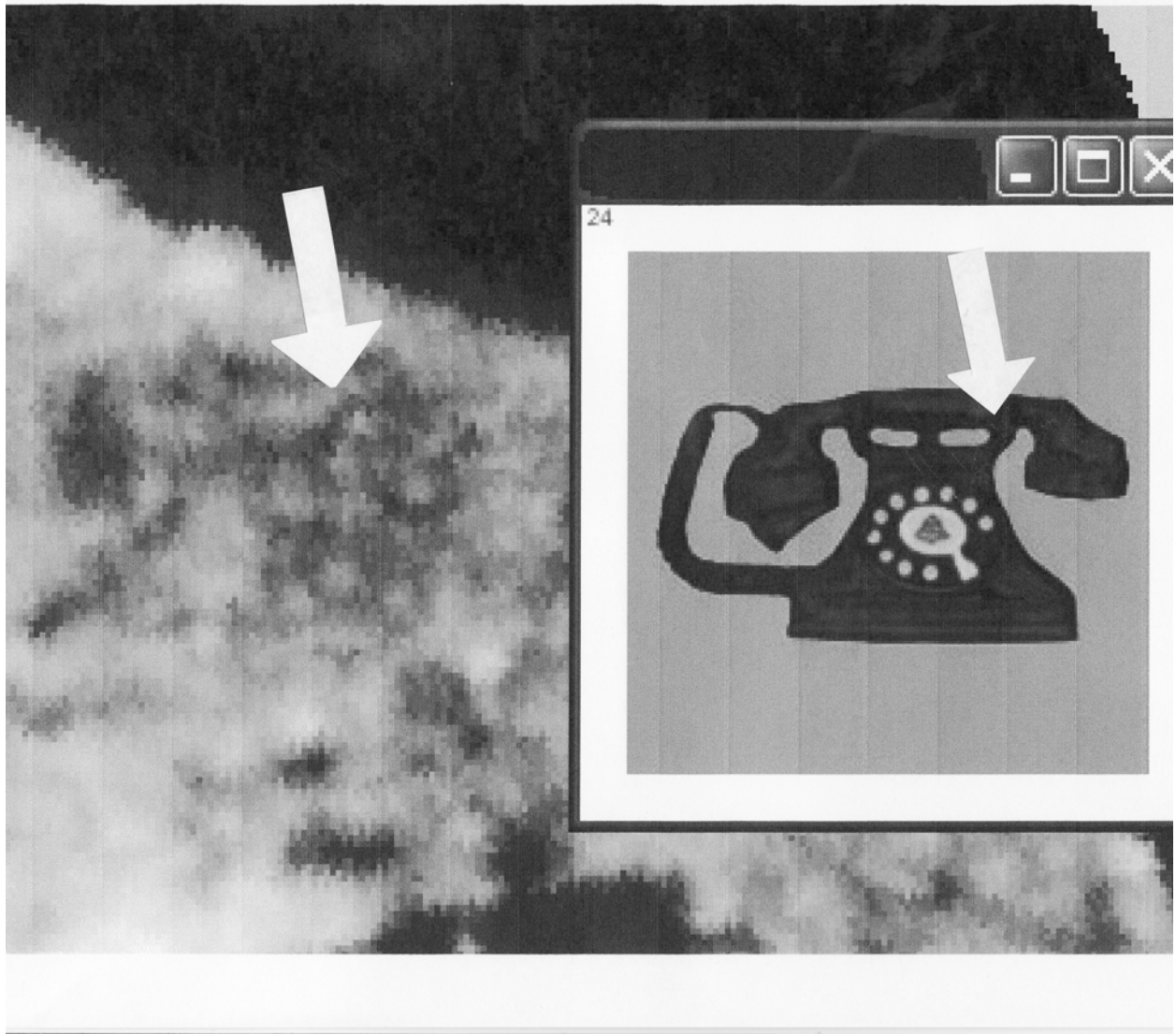


Figure 9 – The Liberty Bell has one connecting structure to its wooden yoke, in the center of the yoke (see Bell illustration in Figure 8). The Ramey image however suggests two to three structures leading from the “base” to the “receiver,” particularly off the corners of the top of the base as suggested in the telephone image. No such support exists for the Liberty Bell. The yoke does not hang below the top of the Bell, as suggested in the Ramey image. Also, the Bell’s top portion corners are curved from the sides to the top rather than angular. Credit: Victor Golubic



## ADDENDUM

Several pages of sample news coverage of the Roswell incident follow. They demonstrate further that much phrasing appearing in the Ramey document is repeated in the news reports. There is little discussion in these early accounts of the Roswell story the way we have known it since the late 1970s. Instead we see discussion of much smaller amount of debris, consisting of sticks, foil, rubber, and no bodies.

# AAF Finds 'Saucer', But Wishes It Hadn't

## Fate Pricks New Mexico Discovery

The mystery of the flying saucer was almost solved late yesterday for about three hours. It was exciting while it lasted, but all that came out of it was some red faces in the Army Air Forces. The mystery continues. It was about 5:30 P. M. (EDT) when Lieut. Warren Haught of the AAF's public relations office at Roswell Field, New Mexico, issued his first pardonably pompous statement that "the many rumors of the flying disc became a reality when the Intelligence Office of the 509th (atomic) Bomb Group at Roswell Field was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc."

### General Nuisance

His announcement was on the nation's wires and radio in no time, and in another few minutes generals in Washington were on the telephone with questions and cautious comment. Swiftly the story unfolded. Lt. Haught lost control of it almost immediately as the discovery passed through channels from Lt. Haught's superior, Maj. Marshall, to Maj. Marshall's superior, Col. W. B. Blanchard, to Col. Blanchard's superior, Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, who sent the disc to Wright Field, Ohio, for a going-over by experts.

The news caught AAF headquarters flat-footed, but Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, deputy air chief, got on the job and the telephone and produced details.

### Far from 'Phony'

The disc, it developed, was discovered about three weeks ago by a rancher named W. W. Brasell, whose place sounds like a paradise. It is 30 miles from the nearest telephone and farther than that from a radio.

Brasell is one of the few men in the country who never had heard of a flying saucer when this thing came down and scattered over

about a square mile of his land. He kicked it under a clump of mesquite and forgot about it. Came Saturday, night last week.

(Continued on Page Two)

## 'Saucer' Isn't AAF's 'Dish'

(Continued from First Page)

and Brasell went in to see the sights in Corona, N. M., and there, of course, he heard about what people have been seeing for days.

Brasell cut short his visit to town, hurried home, dug up the remains of his discovery and high-tailed for the sheriff's office in Roswell. That was on Monday.

### ARMY TAKES OVER

The sheriff turned him over to the Army at Roswell Field. The Army sent him back to his ranch under escort and carted his find back to the field.

Col. Blanchard took one look at it and sent it to the general at Fort Worth. It was "of flimsy construction," the Colonel said, "something like a box-kite covered with tin foil."

Gen. Ramey, who saw it later, said it was so badly battered he couldn't tell whether it had been shaped like a saucer. But it didn't seem to have had a motor and it didn't look big enough to carry a man.

By that time the story was rolling up, but the faster it rolled the more skeptical some people began to get. Down through channels, the story started back to whence it had come.

Gen. Ramey cancelled a scheduled radio broadcast on the Fort Worth station. Then he announced that he would go on the air after all. He did.

His brief talk exploded the solution of the mystery and left the flying saucers right where they had been all the time—way up in the middle of the air.

### SPOILS ALL THE FUN

A warrant officer named Irving Newton, whom nobody had thought to consult, since he is only a weather forecaster at the Fort Worth army station, took one look at the disc and said it was a weather balloon.

Weather stations are sending

## Flying Pie Plates Rain on Richmond

RICHMOND, Va., July 8 (AP)—Dozens of "flying discs" soared over midtown Richmond during the afternoon rush hour today and several were recovered by astonished residents.

The "discs" were paper pie plates—as differentiated from the "flying saucers" sighted in recent weeks, and were propelled by jokesters from the top of a tall building. The structure: that of the Virginia State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

them up all the time, he explained, and this one might have come from any one of 80 stations all over the country.

When they're rigged up, he said, they look like a six-pointed silver star, and they sail along like kites with a radar keeping tabs on them. Used to use them himself, he said, back on Okinawa.

Army weather experts in Washington discounted any idea that such weather targets might be the basis for the scores of reports of "flying discs."

Brig. Gen. Donald N. Yates, chief of the AAF weather service, said only a very few of them are used daily, at points where some specific project requires highly accurate wind information from extreme altitudes.

Anyhow, adding everything up and dividing by two, it seems that a "flying saucer" just isn't the Army Air Forces' dish.

THE BOSTON HERALD, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1947



San Francisco  
Examiner  
July 9, 1947

# Flying Disc Found By Air Corps Only A Weather Balloon

## Discovery Turns Out to Be Radar Reflector

By DICK PEARCE

The Army Air Forces sent a shiver of excitement across a saucers-conscious Nation yesterday with the announcement that an actual flying disc had been found near the cradle of the atomic bomb in New Mexico.

Not until three hours later did the saucer shatter on the rock of hard fact. It was the box kite radar reflector of a weather balloon.

But while the mistake lasted, it was a honey.

### TELLS OF FIND—

The first sober announcement of the discovery was made by the Roswell, N. Mex., Army Air Field. It said definitely that "the many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday, and went on to declare that the disc had been found on a ranch near Roswell.

Roswell refused to give any more details, saying only that the disc had been rushed along to higher headquarters.

Roswell's announcement sent high brass from coast to coast scurrying to telephones for more information.

### PHONE JAMMED—

Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, deputy chief of the AAF, hurried to the AAF press section in Washington and personally took charge as newspapers and wire services clamored for details.

Within an hour telephone lines into sparse New Mexico were jammed. Three London newspapers called Sheriff George Wilcox at Roswell, together with "every big newspaper in the United States, the radio networks and others."

(The Examiner did not call Sheriff Wilcox. Surmising that the find had been flown to Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, commanding general of the Eighth Air Force at Fort Worth, Tex., The Examiner telephoned him.)

(First to reach him, The Examiner got a complete description of the "disc" from him, together with his expressed suspicion that it was just part of a weather balloon. His description tallied with that of radar reflectors sent up with weather balloons every day at Oakland.)

(As a result The Examiner was able to give a precise name to the Army's saucer long before the Army itself corrected the boomer of its public relations officer at Roswell.)

A weather officer attached to the base weather station at Fort Worth finally was called in, took one look at the tangled mess of aluminum foil, strings and wood

and made definite identification.

Plans to fly it to the AAF laboratories at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, were abandoned promptly.

### DISAVOWAL—

General Ramey went on the radio to quiet the furor. While he was at it, he threw in this disavowal:

"There is no such gadget (as the disc) known to the Army—at least this far down the line."

H. W. Gwyther, assistant supervisor of the Pacific Weather Project here and an expert on the weather balloons, expressed belief that they explain many of the flying saucers seen by the public.

Many of the weather balloon radar targets are flat, with a hexagonal or star shape, would look like discs when spinning, and would reflect light strongly because of the aluminum foil.

Shortly after 7 p. m. last night hundreds of San Leandro residents reported seeing a silver object in the sky over San Leandro. People stopped their automobiles on the main street to watch it. They said it hovered over the city for a time, then rose abruptly and exploded in a shower of bright colors.

The Weather Bureau said a balloon was released at 7 p. m. and tracked by radar. It passed over San Leandro and burst at 7:24 p. m., the bureau said.

(Discs reported seen elsewhere. For details and pictures see Page 3)

Port Arthur Tex  
News  
July 9 1947

HUR NEWS

## Army, Navy Open Drive To Put End to 'Disc' Rumors

By United Press

Reports of "flying saucers" whizzing through the sky fell off sharply today as the Army and Navy began a concentrated campaign to stop the rumors. One by one, persons who thought they had their hands on the \$3000 offered for a genuine "flying saucer" found their hands full of nothing.

### Remnants of Balloon

Headquarters of the Eighth Army Air force at Fort Worth, Tex., announced that the wreckage of a tin-foil covered object found on a New Mexico ranch was nothing more than the remnants of a weather observation balloon. AAF headquarters in Washington reportedly delivered a "blistering" rebuke to officers at the Roswell, N. M., base for suggesting that it was a "flying disc."

A 16-inch aluminum disc equipped with two radio condensers, a fluorescent light switch and copper tubing found by F. G. Harrison near the Shreveport, La., business district was declared by police to be "obviously the work of a prankster." Police believed the prankster hurled it over a signboard and watched it land at Harrison's feet. It was turned over to officials at the Barksdale Army airfield.

U. S. Naval Intelligence officers at Pearl Harbor investigated claims by 100 Navy men that they saw a mysterious object "silvery colored, like aluminum, with no

(Turn to Page 5, Column 5.)

## Army, Navy Fight 'Disc' Tales--

(Continued from Page 1.)

wings or tail," sail over Honolulu at a rapid clip into Tuesday. The description fit a weather balloon, but five of the men, familiar with weather observation devices, swore that it was not a balloon.

Then it disappeared . . .

"It moved extremely fast for a short period, seemed to slow down and then disappeared high in the air," said Y-1C Douglas Kacherie of New Bedford, Mass. His story was corroborated by S-1C Donald Ferguson, Indianapolis, Y-3C Morris Kzarome, Lacrosse, Wis., S-1C Albert Delancey, Salem, W. Va., and Y-2C Ted Pardue, McClain, Tex.

Adm. William H. Blandy, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, said like everyone else he was curious about the reported flying saucers "but I do not believe that they exist."

Lloyd Bennett, Oelwein, Ia., salesman, was stubborn about the shiny 6.5-inch steel disc he found Tuesday. Authorities said it was not a "flying saucer" but Bennett said he would claim the reward offered for the mysterious disc.

There were other diehards. Not all the principals were satisfied with the announcement that the wreckage found on the New Mexico ranch was that of a weather balloon.

### Cycle of Excitement

The excitement ran through this cycle:

1—Lt. Warren Haught, public relations officer at the Roswell base, released a statement in the name of Col. William Blanchard, base commander. It said that an object described as a "flying disc" was found on the nearby Foster ranch three weeks ago by W. W. Brazel and had been sent to "higher officials" for examination.

2—Brig. Gen. Roger B. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air force said at Fort Worth that he believed the object was the "remnant of a weather balloon and a radar reflector," and was "nothing to be excited about." He allowed photographers to take a picture of it. It was announced that the object would be sent to Wright field, Dayton, Ohio, for examination by experts.

### Weatherman's Verdict

4—Later, Warrant Officer Irving Newton, Steltonville, Wis., weather officer at Fort Worth, examined the object and said definitely that it was nothing but a badly smashed target used to determine the direction and velocity of high altitude winds.

5—Lt. Haught reportedly told reporters that he had been "shut up" by two harassing phone calls from Washington.

6—Efforts to contact Col. Blanchard brought the information that "he is now on leave."

7—Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, intelligence officer of the 509th Bombardment group, reportedly told Brazel, the finder of the object, that it "has nothing to do with Army or Navy so far as I can tell."

### Other 'Finda' Recounted

8—Brazel told reporters that he had found weather balloon equipment before, but had seen nothing that resembled his latest find.

Those who saw the object said it had a flowered paper tape around it bearing the initials "D. P."

Newton said four of the wind sounding devices were released daily by every Army weather station in the nation. The incident aroused the possibility that other of the mystery discs have been weather balloons reflecting the sun at high altitudes as they were carried briskly along by the wind.

### Devices Are Described

The devices, composed of a 50-inch synthetic rubber balloon and a star-like device that looks like a box kite, can attain a height of 60,000 to 70,000 feet. They may drift any place. High altitude pressure usually explodes them. Instruments they carry are set to break loose at medium altitudes and fall near the observation station.

Ramey made a radio broadcast over a Fort Worth radio station to deny that the object found in

New Mexico was a "flying disc." He said it was the remnants of a tin-foil covered box kite and a rubber balloon. He said the kite originally carried instruments, but that none was found with the wreckage.

In addition to the Army weather balloons, hundreds of others are sent aloft daily by government forecasters. U. S. meteorologists at Chicago said about 80 large balloons five feet in diameter, and hundreds of others from 18 inches to two feet in diameter were released in the nation every day.

However, the weathermen couldn't agree on whether people were seeing the balloons. The Chicago forecasters said the balloons rose too rapidly. J. C. Huddle, Kansas City weather man, said he considered them a "likely source" of some of the reports.

"On a clear day, I've seen our white balloons several miles high," Huddle said. "They can be seen for a long distance and at about 600 feet high they give the illusion of moving very fast."

Foreign newspapers were having a good time kidding the "flying discs."

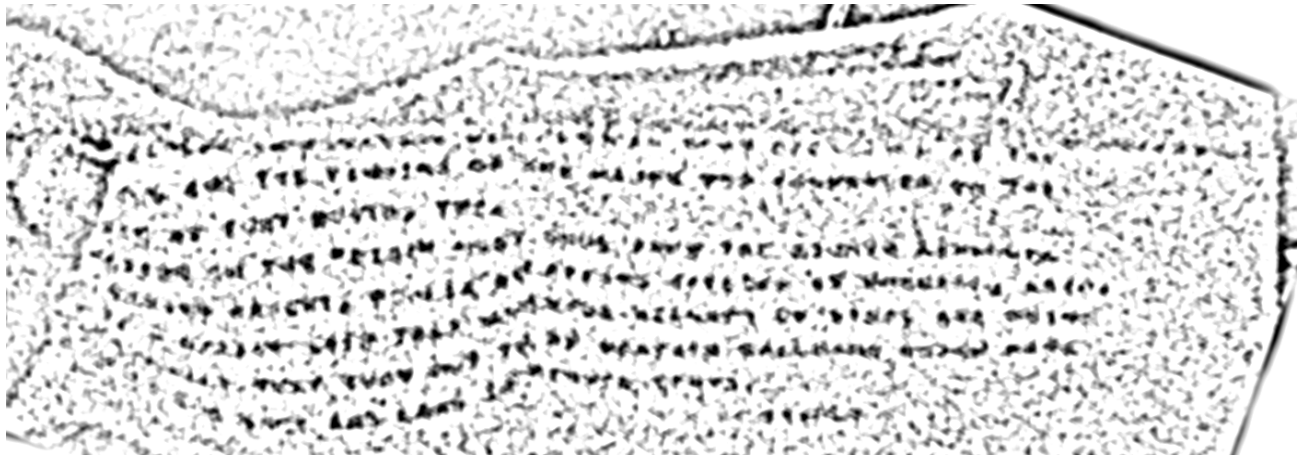
A cartoon in El Universal, Mexican City, show a farm couple watching discs in the clouds with the husband saying, "Don't be alarmed, they're just tortillas (round, plate-like Mexican bread). You know their price is sky high."



Here, much enlarged, one can see "...HAUGHT, PUBLIC RELATIONS..." three lines from the top, first complete word. The first line has "... FORT WORTH, TEX." The second line has "DISC" in quotes. Credit: Victor Golubic.

One can see the difficulty in reading the Ramey message in any way shape or form. Reducing the text consolidates the background noise on the paper, clashing with the letters. Enlarging the text emphasizes the roughness of the poorly focused letters.

Joel Carpenter has provided an interesting overlay animation of the Ramey document at: (<http://www.greenwoodufoarchive.com/RameyImages/rm2anim.gif>)



And finally a photocopy/smart sharpen effect<sup>1</sup> done in Photoshop CS2 was tried to give density to the text and suppress background noise. Credit: Mary Castner. In all these examples the same basic words we've discussed are visible.

## UHR Expands

The editor is beginning a new website: (<http://www.greenwoodufoarchive.com/>). A great deal of bibliographic information on UFO history has been posted within the "Inventory" section. Also, runs of *Just Cause* and UHR will be appearing. I will be adding more to it as time goes along.

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<sup>1</sup> The enhanced images in this article were from photos obtained from the University of Texas, September 2002 by Mary Castner. Due to the difference in camera settings and lighting when each requested print is made by Special Collections enhancements applied to one photo may not have the same effect when applied to other Ramey prints obtained.