

BOOK REVIEW: THE CRASH OF THE CENTURY?

© *By Paul Whitehead, FSR Director and Consultant*

The year 1997 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of a curious incident.

Perhaps two new books, each featuring new and exclusive "testimony", will edge us towards a clearer resolution of the mystery about the much-discussed alleged crash of a UFO near Roswell, New Mexico, some time just before July 3, 1947 (the date when the first pieces of debris were found on the property of William "Mac" Brazel, the Foster Ranch).

(1) CRASH AT CORONA

Corona was a sleepy spot sweltering in the heat and dust of a New Mexican summer. Just the place, in fact, for a sci-fi film producer to select as the location for an alien spacecraft crash. Throw in a very important U.S. military airfield, Roswell, near by (some 75 miles or so distant), and you have the chief ingredients.

***Crash At Corona*, by Stanton Friedman, nuclear physicist, and Don Berliner, aviation/science writer, comes in hardback at US\$19.95 from the publishers, Paragon House, 90 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. The ISBN Number is 1-55778-449-3, and publication date was 1992 (Advertised in FSR 37/4).**

Friedman interviewed more than 100 witnesses over a period of ten years, and he has concluded that an alien spacecraft did indeed crash at Corona. He spoke to those who claim "first-hand experience with the spacecraft's remains", and he included in his book "the exclusive testimony of Gerald Anderson, who recalls seeing a crashed disc and its occupants at a *second* crash-site 150 miles to the west, on the Plains of San Agustin". (It seems that wreckage was distributed over the two sites, while the main craft, plus actual dead bodies and at least one live alien, were found at San Agustin. It does not yet seem quite certain whether or not there were also any bodies at Corona. An alternative theory seems to have prevailed for a while that possibly *two* craft had been involved, perhaps in a collision).

Inevitably the book gives us an exposé of military and governmental cover-ups. It also provides information on the alleged original members of *Majestic 12*, the "supersecret group of scientists, military, and intelligence personnel" whose job it was, we are told, to study this crash, as well as UFOs in general, for the American Presi-

dent. (The existence of such a group has been called into question by some, but anyway that is another story).

Crash At Corona claims to be the most thorough and up-to-date examination of America's best-documented UFO encounter. It is certainly packed with detail, as indeed every account of Roswell so far has been, and the new revelations may mark another step (the final one?) on the road towards understanding what Corona/Roswell was all about.

However, some equally fascinating material comes towards the end of the book. Here, the authors discuss the implications of contact with a superior race from beyond Earth; how aliens may in fact have already been here for hundreds if not thousands of years; and what they may need from our planet. But, the authors have to admit, we may be no nearer to knowing any more about the alleged occupants of UFOs than we were at the time of the crashes in New Mexico in 1947.

At any rate, if we are to believe the witnesses of the "aliens" found at San Agustin, our planet has indeed, most emphatically, received a visit from aliens!

"I thought they were dolls. I didn't think they were real, even though I'd seen this one moving and reacting", says one witness, (Gerald Anderson). The "spacecraft" was a circular silvery object "jammed into the hillside".

(2) UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL

The second new book about Corona/Roswell is *UFO Crash At Roswell*, by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt. It is a paperback, price US\$4.95, and the publishers are Avon Books, Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. The ISBN number is 0-380-76196-3. Publication date: 1991. (Advertised in FSR 37/4).

Randle is a former helicopter pilot and U.S. Air Force Intelligence Officer. Schmitt is Director of Special Investigations at the Center For UFO Studies founded by Dr. Hynek. Between them, they have amassed their own persuasive 300-page story, billed as "At last... the complete, uncensored, and indisputable true story of America's closest encounter".

The two books dovetail in fascinating ways. Friedman/Berliner mention that early in 1991, Kevin Randle "interviewed Miss Barbara Dugger, granddaughter of George and Inez Wilcox. *The Sheriff*

(George) had died when Barbara was quite young, but she lived with her grandmother while going to college, and became very close to the elderly but still dynamic Inez Wilcox". According to Barbara Dugger, "My grandmother said: 'Don't tell anybody! When the incident happened, the Military Police came to the jailhouse and told George and me that if we ever told anything about the incident, not only would we be killed, but our entire family would be killed'".

For their part, Randle and Schmitt acknowledge that it was Stanton Friedman himself who was responsible in the first place for alerting the world to Roswell/Corona. Had it not been for Friedman, who had chanced to meet one of the witnesses in 1978, and filed away his information, "nobody would have heard of Roswell, New Mexico, or of the events that had taken place there in the summer of 1947".

The MUFON JOURNAL in the USA has continued to attribute great importance lately to the UFO crashes at Roswell/Corona and elsewhere, with a series of notable articles by Stan Gordon (on the Kecksburg crash of 1965) and by the experienced hypnotherapist John Carpenter, who has concentrated on investigating and questioning the Roswell/Corona eyewitnesses, including Gerald Anderson.

Randle and Schmitt also mention Gerald Anderson, who, as a six-year-old child, had seen the "dolls" (including one still alive) at the second crash site (San Agustin). Questions surface about Anderson's testimony, which, given the fact of his age at the time, is not surprising, but we understand that what he says has not been proved fraudulent.

One of the main questions, which emerges in both books, is: *what were those bodies?* Was it all a ghastly mistake, involving monkeys, or "small" people (humans), who had been up in a balloon or a rocket that had crashed? *Or were they "aliens"?* *The testimony appears to show that they were not human, and not monkey/ape.*

Unless a story so elaborate as to defy all understanding has been cooked up by the U.S. military authorities in order to cover up something else, the conclusion is that humans did indeed meet aliens in 1947, in that hot desert country of New Mexico.

Corroboration of eyewitnesses' statements, plus the dogged determination of researchers to pursue the Roswell Case to a satisfactory conclusion, have combined to produce these two further excellent books — capable perhaps, after all these years, of unveiling still more about the mysteries of Roswell?

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR: This means that Roswell/Corona/San Agustin is now by far the best documented (at any rate publicly) of all the alleged U.S. crashed UFO cases, and we know that these were quite numerous and the numbers of craft and dead bodies held by the U.S. Government are said

to be surprising.

The first book about Roswell was Berlitz and Moore's *The Roswell Incident*. I don't know who issued the American edition (1980), but Granada Publishing brought it out in England in the same year. It was an excellent start, though naturally various features were bound to be later proved inaccurate or inadequate. Charles Berlitz seems to have got the lion's share of the credit for writing it, but we now know that Stanton Friedman and William Moore — its co-author — had done all the really hard work of investigation. Inevitably of course the two new books have improved upon the picture as given in 1980.

But Friedman, Berliner, Randle, Schmitt and Moore are not the only investigators who have dug long and deeply in these murky realms of "Crash/Recovery", and nobody should forget the name of another thorough and tenacious pioneer, Leonard Stringfield, the real "doyen" of all "Crash/Recovery" experts, who, between July 1978 and 1989, has compiled and issued at least six splendid *Status Reports On UFO/Crash Retrievals*. We managed to reprint the entire text of the first two of these Reports in earlier issues of FSR, and Status Reports III, IV, and V (and maybe a VIth.?) are still available from Mr. Stringfield, 1412 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227, USA. See also our article, *Leonard Stringfield's Reports On Crashed Discs And Dead Occupants*, in FSR 33/3 (1988), and Leonard's own last report for us, *UFO Crash Retrievals: The Concept Of Proof*, in FSR 37/4 (1992).

Next, we must also add that no summary of the "crash" aspect of our subject would be complete without mention of two further books that still seem to us to be of great importance. one of these is *UFO Crash At Aztec: A Well Kept Secret*, by William Steinman and Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens, published in 1986 by UFO Photo Archives, P.O. Box 17206, Tucson, Arizona 85710. (I am fully aware of the fact that nowadays all the experts seem to dispute the possibility that there *ever was* a UFO crash at Aztec. However, I do not forget that one of the very first reports that we published in FSR, in 1955, was Hughie Green's own amazing account of what *he* heard, on his car radio, about a UFO crash at Aztec one day late in June or early in July 1947, as he was driving across the USA. *I am not yet convinced that there was no crash at Aztec.* Hughie Green, an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force at the time, has always seemed a reliable person. FSR has been in touch with him subsequently to our issue of his story when we launched our journal in 1955, and so far as I know he has always stuck to that story, which was electrifying.

Then, finally, of course, you cannot discuss UFO crashes without mentioning the famous and very early book by Frank Scully, *Behind The Flying Saucers* (U.S. and British editions in 1950). *Because this was the very first account of a UFO crash, and whatever the errors in it, as re-told by Frank Scully, who*

was anyway not a UFO researcher but simply a writer on matters to do with the theatre and variety, the fact remains that — as we now know — the entire account is based on solid, factual material conveyed to Frank Scully by someone who “was in the know”, and who has been named.

TODAY WE HAVE PLENTY OF PROOF THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WERE DESPERATELY WORRIED OVER SCULLY'S BOOK. NO WONDER THAT THEY WENT TO SUCH LENGTHS TO MOCK AND VILIFY SCULLY, AND NO WONDER THAT THE BOOK NEVER

GOT RE-PUBLISHED IN AMERICA (THOUGH, ODDLY ENOUGH, HERE IN BRITAIN GOLLANCZ ISSUED TWO EDITIONS OF IT. AND THEN QUICKLY FORGOT ABOUT THE SUBJECT AND NEVER AGAIN DID THAT LEFT-WING PUBLISHING FIRM ISSUE ANYTHING ABOUT UFOS).

NO WONDER TOO THAT, AFTER SCULLY HAD DIED, CAPTAIN RUPPELT, THEN IN CHARGE OF BLUE BOOK, SAID TO HIS WIDOW; “FRANKLY, MRS SCULLY, I MUST TELL YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND'S BOOK WAS THE ONE THAT GAVE US THE MOST TROUBLE!” G.C.

BOOK REVIEW: UFO CHRONICLES OF THE SOVIET UNION

© By Captain Gordon Millington,
Ret'd., B.A. Hons., T.Cert. RAEC,
FSR Consultant



UFO CHRONICLES OF THE SOVIET UNION: A COSMIC SAMIZDAT, by Dr. Jacques Vallée, PhD., published March 1992 by Ballantine Books, New York, NY 10022, ISBN 0-345-37396, hardback. (US\$ 18.00, Canada \$24.00).

A new book by Jaques Vallée ought to be an event in ufological publishing, but if European readers of this book open it in expectation of something new and interesting they may be disappointed, for the work seems not to have been primarily intended for them. It was published in the USA and apparently directed mainly at those who find any alternatives to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origins either novel or startling. In Europe, there are now few such to be found.

The book shows convincingly that UFO events similar to those reported from the rest of the world have been and still are also occurring in the former Soviet Union, thus confirming what readers of FSR have long known. It takes the form of a narrative alternating between picaresque travelogue and episodic ufological reporting. Vallée recounts his journeys with Mlle. Martine Costello, science reporter of *Le Figaro*, as sponsored guests of

the Soviet Press Agency *Novosti* in January 1990. He speaks of his “extraordinary journey to Moscow for an unprecedented series of meetings with the major researchers of the UFO mystery in the Soviet Union,” and adds that “nothing there happens easily or by chance.” This reminds us that in 1990 the monolith of the Soviet Union was still intact, as were also its party lines. “Glasnost”, was then little more than another of the words whose meaning had to be transmitted to the French investigators by their *Novosti* interpreters supplied by the KGB.

The writer's acknowledgements to the “many kind and helpful people” who assisted him make it clear that this visit was a carefully arranged presentation, especially devised to present to these ambassadors of western ufology an official view of certain areas of Soviet science, in particular their space programme and the embarrassing UMMO stories of Voronezh released world-wide and perhaps inadvertently by TASS in 1989.

Vallée described their first interview as one that “set the stage for the frankness and the extraordinary scope of the revelations that would come in the following days.” The theatrical metaphor was most appropriate when the curtain went up on *Novosti's* vice-chairman introducing Professor