

THE UFO CRASH/RETRIEVAL SYNDROME STATUS REPORT II: NEW SOURCES, NEW DATA. PART 1.

The firsthand witness report: A study of humanoids and the anonymous human factor

Leonard Stringfield

Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence — Anonymous

TIME passing will not erase from my mind a climactic of events so strange and sobering that the world I thought I knew would never again seem the same.

It all began with the publication of my book, *Situation Red, the UFO Siege* (Doubleday, 1977) in which I made references to reported crashes of UFOs and the recovered alien bodies. In surprising response, information relative to “retrievals” surfaced from new sources. This led me to July 29, 1978, the day I stepped up to the lectern as guest speaker at the MU-FON ninth annual Symposium in Dayton, Ohio, to deliver my paper, “Retrievals of the Third Kind,” pointedly subtitled, “A Case Study of Alleged UFOs and Occupants in Military Custody.”

Since Dayton, new informants continue to emerge; people, like my earlier firsthand contacts, who want no open, active part in UFO research. Independent from each other, they, ever so cautiously, share sensitive information about their alleged roles in a retrieval operation, or claim to have been in an authoritative position to have seen the deceased humanoid entities under a variety of “need to know” circumstances. One of my most enduring and informative contacts is medical; others formerly served in the C.I.A. and in key positions of the military. Indeed, the knowledge I have gained since my book from diverse, creditable sources is extraordinary.

It is beyond the scope of this paper to review all the behind-the-scene events prior to and since the Dayton affair. However, I hasten to say that what began as a simple research report, featuring an update on alleged or legendary retrievals of crashed saucers and little men, soon gave way to a venture into seeming fantasy. The more I probed into old and new leads the deeper I became enmeshed in an inconsistent world of real people on one end; and on the other, the unreal tales they told.

Just as unreal, or so it seems, were some of my own experiences during these probes. One, no longer a hushed incident, was my close encounter with a “phantom” force at the Dayton symposium. There, before going on stage my life was twice threatened. On both occasions word came through an intermediary, once by phone at 4.30 a.m. on July 29; the other by

physical confrontation just moments before my address. Uninformed of the threats, I spoke for nearly 2 hours. However, the moment I finished I was suddenly whisked off stage by three armed plainclothesmen with walkie talkies, escorted to the Stouffer Hotel, where I held a prearranged press conference, then again escorted to my room which, not of my choosing, was in the process of being changed with a lady tenant on the far end of the hotel. I was advised not to reveal my new room number to anyone and not to leave its premises. In effect, until dinnertime I was detained, incommunicado. I missed everyone I had arranged to see, including a medical person with information.

A real threat, or a scare tactic? To this day it is unclear if I was being protected from a lunatic adversary, or if the whole episode was a ploy to deflect potential informants in the audience from reaching me. I had indications beforehand, while preparing my “Retrieval” paper that someone connected with the C.I.A. was concerned about some of my sensitive material and how far I might go with it. He advised that the use of some data in my possession could be risky and for my own safety I “should always stay in crowds.” Months later, the same C.I.A. employee, who had been helpful in many ways, said he had the answer for the threats in Dayton. Investigation, he said, showed that it was all a part of the shenanigans of a movie studio who possessed secret documents and film about the retrieved craft and entities, and fearing that I would steal their thunder before their release date, they tried to intimidate me into cancelling my talk.

Whatever the intent of my would-be-assailant or of the Intelligence Community, my role and objectives in research have since changed. To me, the key to truth lies in what we may call the UFO crash/retrieval syndrome. Lights in the sky, close encounters of all kinds, and even the grotesquerie of abduction cases have all lost priority. Time, with its influx of new data from new and old reliable sources, now affirms my belief that beyond my fingertips and perhaps forever unreachable, is the evidence extraordinaire — the alien cadavers and the craft. In my opinion, if all the officially suppressed information were released suddenly in one package it could have an unpredictable

psychological but a profound philosophical impact on mankind. But, no matter how it would be released, I also believe that the human mind has been so conditioned to stress since World War II that a worldwide Wellesian panic is not likely.

For the record, no one in UFO research, the media or the scientific community has been privy to share certain portions of my cumulative data; thus they, understandably, remain skeptical. The whole story of my experience in this endeavour may never be told, mainly because of the sensitivity of some of the names, places, and subject matter. To stress a point in summary: I know, firsthand, that my continued quest for UFO crash/retrieval information is a venture that can be as risky and frustrating as it is rewarding.

Through patience, keeping confidences, and playing the game in a posture of low profile, I feel at this writing that I have progressed substantially since my first paper in gathering new, vital, and corroborative information. Unlike my first paper, this one draws principally on information collected from firsthand sources.

Status Report II, will not attempt to correct a number of errors that appeared in my first paper. However, it is important for the record that exceptions should be made relative to three of the original Abstracts:

In Abstract 1, the year of the incident should be corrected to read, 1950 instead of 1948. Other amended data concerning this case I understand will be revealed by researcher Todd Zechel, through other media.

In Abstract 8, the retrieval incident dated 1973 should be corrected to read 1953.

In Abstract 21, Seymour-Johnson, a Navy Training Station, should be corrected to read Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, located in Goldsboro, North Carolina, instead of Norfolk, Virginia.

My goal, of course, in this phase of research, is to obtain information from the firsthand source. Such prime material, used in this monograph, is specified as Class "A", and is recorded as Cases A-1 through A-10 in the text. New leads, or other pertinent material, are presented as Class "B", which are recorded as Items B-1 through B-14.

It should be noted that many abstracts appearing in my first paper, "Retrievals of the Third Kind," are of the Class B type and are not included for review in this monograph.

Case A-1

During the summer of 1977 I was asked by a local business executive, a former Naval Intelligence Officer, to speak on the UFO at the September 1st meeting of the Cincinnati Chapter of the World Wings held in the Administration Building of Cincinnati's Lunken Airport. During the Question and Answer pe-

riod, following my talk, one member of a group of 25 pilots arose and brought up the legendary subject of recovered alien UFOs and occupants. His comment, I thought, indicated that he was unusually well-informed on the matter, so I asked that he standby for a chat later. When the crowd finally disassembled he led me to the privacy of a back room which was dominated by a huge topographical map of the United States.

Staring at the map he said bluntly, "I have seen the bodies." Still looking at the map and noting my protracted silence, he pointed vaguely to an area inside the State of Arizona. "There's approximately where the saucer crashed," he said. "It was in a desert area, but I don't know the exact location. I'm almost positive it happened in 1953."

The pilot was my first encounter with a firsthand witness. As he stood at the map with a straight-on glance, he impressed me as a person who is sincere and forthright, possessing a no-nonsense character. "I saw the bodies at Wright-Patterson," he said. "I was in the right place at the right time when the crates arrived at night by DC-7."

As we lingered at the map he recalled that he had stood inside a hangar at a distance of about 12 feet, peering at five crates on a forklift. In his judgement, the crates appeared to be hastily constructed and were made of wood. In three of these, little humanoids appearing to be 4 feet tall, were lying unshrouded on a fabric, which he explained prevented freeze burn from the dry ice packed beneath. As a number of Air Police stood silent guard nearby the crates, he managed to get a reasonably good but brief glimpse of the humanoid features. He recalls that their heads were hairless and narrow, and by human standards were disproportionately large, with skin that looked brown under the hangar lights above. The eyes seemed to be open, the mouth small, and nose, if any, was indistinct. The arms were positioned down alongside their bodies, but the hands and feet, he said, were indistinct. When asked about their attire, he said they appeared to be wearing tight-fitting dark suits, and, because of the tight-fitting suit, there was one revealing feature — a surprising feature. One of the humanoids appeared to him to be female. He said, "Either one of the aliens had an exceedingly muscular chest or the bumps were a female's breasts." Later, he learned from one of the crew members, with whom he bunked at the barracks, that the body of one of the aliens was believed to be that of a female.

My informant also heard from the crew member that one of the entities was still alive aboard the craft when the U.S. military team arrived. Attempts were made to save its life with oxygen, but they were unsuccessful.

Another issue, an important one: How was the military able to track the crash? Said my informant: The crew member told him that the UFO was picked up

by special tracking equipment at Mt. Palomar in California. My informant claimed that he had later heard a report that the retrieved craft, found intact, was also sent to Wright-Patterson. He had no more details as to when or by what means.

Comment:

I have had a dozen or more private talks with my firsthand informant since our initial meeting as reported in Abstract 8 of my first paper. During this period, I knew him as a dedicated family man and by occupation, an engineer. He had also made several trips to Wright-Patterson for treatment of a medical disability. Without notice, in the Fall of 1978, he and his family moved away leaving no forwarding address. His military career was extensive, having served as Warrant Officer in the Army, during which time he was assigned Wright-Patterson in the early 1950's. In recent years he was in the Reserves as a Flight Commander in the Air National Guard.

My informant seemed well informed about the UFO but had never desired to participate in open research to share his knowledge. In my opinion, he seemed to be keenly aware and able to separate fact from rumour. Of the latter, he heard that a UFO (foo fighter) had been retrieved in England by the 8th Air Force, during World War II. Having a top security clearance, he claimed to have seen photos at Wright-Patterson of a retrieved UFO and a close-up showing strange glyphs on its body which he described as looking like Sanskrit. He was also aware of the consequences of talking too much about secret subjects, and often referred to reprisals such as confinement at a base in the U.S. which he dubbed the "Turkey Farm."

In August, 1978, I requested an affidavit, or a tape, describing his 1953 experience for my private records. He declined because of his oath of secrecy. I then asked for a posthumous statement. His response was that he would have to check with his Security Office. Belatedly, he got the expected answer: "You have seen nothing, heard nothing, and you sure as s . . . can sign nothing!"

That was the final word.

According to my informant, plus the testimony of two secondhand witnesses described in Abstracts 5 and 7 of my first paper, 1953 was either an active year for several UFO crashes, or, all three were describing one event. All three describe the area of impact in a desert region and two named Arizona as the site.

Case A-2

Significant in this case is that the testimony from a secondhand source of information was substantiated when I reached the firsthand source. To achieve this took time and a stroke of strategy and luck in reaching

the real source for a commitment. This case was first reported in Abstract 16 of my previous paper, the erstwhile informant being the wife referred to as SI. In review, her information revealed to me in August 1977 follows:

The year was 1973 when Carl, a Sergeant in the Air Force, an Air Policeman, was called to duty during the night. He was driven to a certain location, then was blindfolded. She said, he recalled that he was led across a field of wet grass, then was helped down a flight of stairs and escorted through a long corridor. At a certain point, he was halted and his blindfold removed. There, he was issued instructions about his mission and where to stand guard. To his shock, he was in a room with ranking officers and plainclothes specialists who were viewing three small humanoid bodies. The aliens were dead and were stretched out on a table. She remembers Carl telling her that the bodies were about 3 feet tall, their heads abnormally large, and they seemed to have short fuzz on the top of their heads. The skin, she said, was an off-white or cream. She could recall no other facial features described by Carl, admitting that the only time Carl had talked about his experience was while they were courting. That was in 1975. At that time, she said, he seemed shaken by it.

"I believe he was dramatically affected," she said, adding, "One time he told his sister about it and she just laughed. Since, then, he refuses to discuss the matter with anyone, even me."

On several later occasions when I called Mrs. SI, I asked to speak to Carl. One night he was present, sitting at a table drinking coffee, when I called. I remember she asked him if he would be willing to talk with me about his experience, but he declined. Said SI when she returned to the phone, "He said he's not allowed to talk about it, and that he will tell everything he knows after President Carter makes an announcement."

Because of her illness, and SI's wish not to be involved in UFOs again, a long gap of time elapsed before I chanced a call to check on her well being. Her health restored and sounding cheerful, I then brought her up to date on my successes and failures in the pursuit of retrieval stories. But when I asked to speak to Carl, she reiterated his reluctance to talk about his 1973 experience. "He won't talk," she said, "He was too emotionally affected."

Already knowing of Carl's place of employment, and that his on-duty schedule was subject to change, I asked her for the time of day he could be conveniently reached. I hinted that I might call him "on a long shot." She obliged, but offered no encouragement.

On October 17, 1978, a well-timed call reached Carl at work during a coffee break. Without hesitation I announced my purpose, cited some strong data from other sources relative to his experience and assured him that his name or identity would never be dis-

closed. After a long silence, Carl, with seeming reluctance, confirmed his experience and described the scene he witnessed while on guard duty. While his information generally agreed with that expressed by his wife, he also revealed that the facial characteristics of all three entities were similar and that the skin was the same colour as a "drowned cadaver just brought out of the water."

When asked about his reaction to the event, he said in a low voice, "I was shocked. I'd rather forget it." He offered nothing more, nor did I want to press the issue. I felt that I had achieved a real breakthrough. Carl was now a firsthand witness.

Comment:

My informant, Carl had no information concerning the actual retrieval operation, but undoubtedly the recovered bodies came from a recent crash incident. I have no reason to question Carl's veracity; his behavioral reaction to my questions and voice intonation told the truth. Carl does not want any part of active UFO research, and prefers to be left alone and not bothered by the subject. When I later checked for confirmation with an Intelligence source about the 1973 retrieval, I got, "No Comment."

Case A-3

On June 29, 1978, my son-in-law Jeffrey Sparks, then an Assistant Professor at St. Leo College, Dade City, Florida, informed me that he had talked with a person who had witnessed the alien humanoids at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1966. According to Jeff, his contact held a responsible position in a financial capacity with a private firm in Tampa, and had formerly served in Army Intelligence. He gave me the individual's name and where he could be reached.

On July 5, 1978, I talked with Mr JK at length concerning his functions in Intelligence; what he had observed at Wright-Patterson AFB, and many other aspects of UFO crashes and retrieval operations. He also made reference to the computer bank, or "dump file," which contains secret information about UFOs dating back to 1948.

JK, whose duties were connected with the Nike Missile, related to me the following data:

- He observed nine deceased alien bodies preserved in deep freeze conditions under well-lighted, thick glass enclosures. The bodies were short in stature, about 4 feet in height. They appeared, under lighting, to be grayish color in skin tone. The area where the bodies were preserved was under heavy guard, inside and out. He was told while viewing the subjects that 30 bodies were held in preservation at that time at the air base.

- He did not see, firsthand, alien craft stored at Wright-Patterson AFB, but was told that such craft were on the base. He was also told that an alien craft was held at Langley AFB, Virginia, and another at McDill AFB in Florida.

- He knew of three key areas in the 1960's where certain secret UFO research operations were conducted other than at Wright-Patterson AFB. Bases cited were Langley, Avon Bombing Range — a part of the McDill AFB complex near Sebring, Florida; and at Seymour-Johnson AFB, in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

- At certain military bases, highly trained mobilized units were in a constant "ready" state for dispatch to any area in the U.S.A. to recover downed or crashed UFOs. These special forces, at the time, were known as the "Blue Berets" which can operate secretly and effectively by using diversionary tactics to prevent public interference. Such diversions include creating power blackouts.

- During the Vietnam crisis, during JK's tenure of service, five crashes of UFOs occurred between 1966-1968 in the Tri-State area of Ohio, Indiana (near Evansville), and Kentucky. There was one known incident of a retrieval of three alien bodies. During this alleged incident, there occurred a skirmish with the alien forces by our military units. This was triggered by the uncertainty of the aliens' intent. Hostility was presumed, said JK. The location or time of these incidents were not disclosed.

- Said JK, "Since 1948, secret information concerning UFO activity involving the U.S. military has been contained in a computer center at Wright-Patterson AFB. At this base, a master computer file is maintained with duplicate support backup files secreted at other military installations." Said JK, "Get the complete 'dump file', both the master and the support backup files and you've got all the hidden UFO data."

Thus, substantive UFO data are not available through the Freedom of Information Act, nor on file at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Comment:

I have had a number of long talks with JK since July 1978, which was reported in Abstract 21 of my first paper. Some additional information he related concerning certain technical phases of his former work is not included here on his request. One of our chats revealed that he was stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB when Barry Goldwater had visited the base hoping to get permission from General Curtis Lemay

to see the UFO evidence stored there, but was denied. Said JK, "This refusal caused quite a fiasco on the base."

While visiting the University in Dade City, Florida, for a lecture in April 1979, I was unable to meet JK, as arranged, however, I was surprised that following my talk, waiting to see me privately, was a former member of the elite "Blue Berets." I remembered JK had pointed out the functions of this covert service.

The next day, CAM, the ex-"Blue Beret," visited my daughter's home, and alone, we talked about the elite force, its make-up and functions — and some of his experiences in Vietnam behind enemy lines. Although he had never participated in a UFO crash/retrieval, he was aware that one of his fellow members had had the experience. Details were scanty, but CAM recalls that his friend referred to his participation in the recovery of a "big head" from an alien craft.

My last talk with JK was September 12, 1979, at which time he was doing well as proprietor of his own business. He reaffirmed as true all of his past claims.

Case A-4

My informant is self-employed after serving a long career with the Air Force, retiring with the rank of Major. He was a pilot, as well as filling other special assignments. During the mid 1950's he served in an official capacity with the Ground Observers Corp (GOC), at which time I was asked by the Air Defense Command to screen and report UFO activity by code name, FOX TROT KILO 3-0 BLUE. During this active period, I was often in communication with the Major.

My informant called me in the winter of 1979 when he learned from Tom Shell, newsman for ABC-TV in Los Angeles, that I had been considered by that network to be interviewed for a major TV production featuring the UFO. My informant said he recommended me, having known of my former work in the GOC and as publisher of ORBIT in the late 1950's. During one of our several discussions of the UFO problem, when I cited some of the medical information relative to the recovered alien humanoids, he confided that in 1952 he had attended a high-level secret meeting at Wright-Patterson AFB and saw in an underground chamber one of the deceased alien bodies in deep-freeze preservation.

My informant recalls some of the physiological characteristics of the corpse from his yesteryear observation, but admits details are vague. He said the body, with its long arms positioned straight down alongside it, was about 4 feet tall. The head was large by human standards, and the skin on the face appeared smooth and gray. No bone structure was evident; eyes were open, no hair. The feet, he said, were like an orangutan.

My informant stated he had visited the Air Force's

underground complex in Colorado Springs and that some of the UFO material that had been stored at the Wright-Patterson depository had been transferred there. He also admits having seen a portion of an Air Force movie which showed an alien craft imbedded in the sand of a desert-like region. Aware of this film I asked if he saw the portion showing the deceased bodies. (See Case A-9). He said that at the time of the movie review, he was preoccupied with other business and missed seeing that portion.

My informant disclosed that he is aware of secret Air Force orders in the early 1950's which directed pilots on UFO intercept missions to shoot down or ram their target. He did not know of any successful mission of this kind which forced down or caused a UFO to crash. In one instance, he said, he was aware of an incident when a UFO was surrounded by jets but by its highly evasive tactics, it escaped.

Comment:

In support of the Major's information concerning tactical operations involving the UFO and interceptors of the USAF, Mildred Biesele, of Salt Lake City, Utah, who serves as Contributing Editor for the MUFON UFO Journal sent me the following item, typical of other reports known to me since the early 1950's, in her letter of October 2, 1979, quoted in part, as follows:

I heard you speak at the MUFON Symposium in Dayton last year and I am interested in your research on "Retrievals of the Third Kind" . . . I gave a talk at a local library last week and in the discussion period following, a fellow told me that when he was a gunner in the Air Force he had emptied his guns on a UFO and had taken pictures with his gun camera that clearly showed the shells exploding against the side of the craft. He said the camera was taken off the wing of his plane when it landed and the pictures developed. At 2 a.m., a couple of military policemen came and got him out of bed and took him to the base auditorium. They ran the 17 seconds of movie of the UFO over and over and questioned him, and two other crew members until 10 a.m. He was warned never to tell anyone what had happened . . . He said he had a wife and family, a good job, and a lot to lose. He seemed afraid of the C.I.A., and wouldn't even give me his name . . .

Case A-5

Following my second lecture, April 6, 1978, before the Cincinnati Chapter of the World Wings Association, a gathering of 50 or more pilots, I was approached by a member of the association who knew of a "person at work" who, in turn, knew about crashed UFOs and occupants. As reported in Abstract 19 of

my previous paper, I promptly got in touch.

On April 18, 1978, I talked with former Air Force Sergeant MS of the 97th Bomber Wing. He was prepared to relate information from a high-ranking Intelligence source relative to the retrieval of alien craft and humanoid occupants allegedly maintained at Wright-Patterson AFB. He also related a sobering story about a landing on an Air Force base, also from the same source. MS, while serving at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1977, made close acquaintance with Major General "T," who was assigned at Wright-Patterson for top security work in the Logistics Command. His rank and the nature of his work entitled him to a plane at his disposal at all times. He and the General's daughter (name known to me) were seriously lovelorn, and on that basis were frequently together. This allowed MS to be a guest at the General's home where he and the general had private chats.

From General "T," according to my informant, details were disclosed concerning a UFO that had crashed in the southwest region of the United States in 1957. At that time, General "T" was a Lt. Colonel. According to the General, radar had confirmed that an alien craft had crossed the skies over the United States at great speed. It was tracked to the point of its crash. The area, as in most cases, was "roped off", and a military unit summoned (with canines) for maximum security.

From the damaged craft, four humanoid bodies were recovered with great difficulty because of the inability to penetrate the craft's metal structure. The deceased bodies were found badly burned, some parts so severely that certain features were indistinguishable. However, the suits they wore — appearing silver — were not damaged by the obviously intense heat endured inside the craft. Said the General, "The suits were fused to the flesh."

According to the General, the four bodies, approximately 5 feet in height, were sent to Wright-Patterson AFB where he had seen them in a deep-freeze morgue, kept at approximately 120 degrees below zero for preservation. The only other anatomical feature described by General "T" was that the heads of the aliens were large by human standards. Facial features were erased by the heat factor.

The craft? The General related that scientists assigned to the task of dismantling it ran into difficulty. To get inside they concentrated on an area where a fissure or crack had resulted, probably from impact. Shipment to Wright-Patterson, he said, quoting the General, "Was by rail, using two military conveyance rocket cars, properly camouflaged and classified as 'rockets'."

On another occasion, MS as a guest of the General at his home, while alone, was shown a Top Secret document concerning a landed UFO. The incident occurred at Nellis AFB, Nevada, 1968, and MS expressed disbelief when he read the report. Stamped

TOP SECRET, as he recalled, it read, in part: Large UFO hovered over Nellis AFB for three days. Three small alien craft were observed separating (or being ejected) from parent craft. One landed on the air base grounds. Sent to greet the landed craft was a Colonel with security detachment properly armed. There was no mention of an attempt to assault the craft. While waiting for a sign of intent, a humanoid was observed to disembark from the craft, which was described as "short and stocky." Then a beam of light was directed at the Colonel. The Colonel was instantly paralyzed, according to the report. Orders then came from the officer next in command for his detachment to fire, but their weapons jammed. The UFO was observed to retreat to its parent craft and then departed. The Colonel was hospitalized. The only recall by the Colonel, as MS remembers from the report, was that he could rationalize the event only in terms of mathematics, as though an attempt at communications had been conducted in this manner.

Comment:

I made a check on General "T" at Wright-Patterson AFB. They had no entry of his name as having been stationed there, however, when MS (and a witness) called the Accounting and Finance Section at Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado, to obtain the General's new address in the area he had planned to retire, he was refused on grounds of the Privacy Act. But, the General's name was on record. To authenticate the General's report on the Nellis AFB incident, I checked with an Intelligence source and obtained confirmation. (See Case A-6).

During August of 1978, MS tried several times through other military friends to make personal contact with the General, but to no avail. On September 28, 1978, to check on a detail about MS's personal life, I called his employer and talked with the comptroller, the person who arranged our contact initially, and learned to my surprise that my informant had suddenly left his job three weeks before. The Comptroller said that MS had a service-related back disability and had gone to Wright-Patterson AFB for corrective surgery. MS has since become unreachable, having left no new home address or phone number.

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To be continued in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.

"Scientists are quite as ordinary, pig-headed, and unreasonable as anyone else, and their unusually high intelligence only makes their prejudices all the more dangerous."

Professor Hans J. Eysenck

THE THING THAT GOT INTO THE HOUSE

Jennie Zeidman

LYNN M. is 31 and single, an extremely attractive young lady who is a doctor of medicine, currently in residency in haematology at the Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She describes herself as a "night person"; most alert and at her best intellectual and physical capabilities in the "wee hours". She has a long history of ESP communications with her younger married sister, and it was from her sister (with whom I work) that I first heard of Lynn's experience. I met and interviewed her in February 1980.

On a Saturday night in June 1979, the two ladies were house-guests of their parents in Bordman, Ohio, an upper-class suburb of the industrial city of Youngstown. The occasion of the week-end gathering was the wedding of a cousin. As usual when spending the night, Lynn slept on a sofa in the "family room", a lounging area extension of the kitchen of the large and comfortable "ranch" home (a common one-storey style of architecture in America). The time was about 3 a.m. The others of the household had long retired. Lynn had been watching a film on the TV — a boring romantic adventure — and had decided that although she was still not sleepy, she had better turn in so as to be ready for the festivities of the following day. She turned off the TV and was half reclining on the sofa.

June in Ohio can be quite warm. The house central air conditioning was operating and therefore all doors and windows were firmly closed. The sofa backed against a large permanently sealed window facing

west onto a small park-like glade. The night was calm, with no storms or electrical activity about. The draperies were open.

Suddenly Lynn became aware of a flashing light, originating, she was certain, from outside the house just under the soffit, or roof overhang. "A firefly," she thought immediately. The little insects are common in Ohio in early summer, and she was totally familiar with their appearance and behavior.

The light flashed again. No, it was not a firefly; it was much too bright, illuminating quite an area, reflecting from the soffit around it. The object emitting the light was much too large, and the light itself, although yellow-white like a firefly, did not evince the firefly's brightening-dimming luminosity curve. It was either *on* — "as bright as a 60-watt bulb" — or it was *off*, with no intermediate variation in luminosity.

The young physician sat upright, watching with increasing curiosity. *The flashing object appeared to come through the window pane into the room*, crossing in front of her, not more than three feet from her face. It still had some of the characteristics of an insect — she was unwilling to relinquish the firefly hypothesis — but now, because of its size, it looked more like "the fuselage of a dragonfly"; no real wings, no real head, yet somehow still insect-like in appearance. Then, as it crossed over her legs and out into the room it took on a flat, two-dimensional aspect. Now, instead of an insect in size and configuration it resembled a large

