

The “Tomato Man” in Retrospective

V.J. Ballester-Olmos

Introduction

UFO-related imagery is powerful, it is the reason it definitely attracts me. Fantastic (in its full sense) air machines and colorful humanoids repeatedly appear in any collection of UFO and flying saucer photographs. And FOTOCAT, being an archive of 13,000 reports of this category, is packed with it. A pair of stills under the tag of “alleged alien body-crash of 7/7/48” have rested in my files since the end of year 1980, and this is the excuse for the present entry. I am basically doing a selected literature review to highlight the existing major information sources, one that might be of interest to UFO students and historians. Also, to add my own bit of data.

The Story

On November 21, 1980, a tri-group paper entitled “Alien Body Photos: An Updated Report” was published by the Coalition of Concerned Ufologists, i.e., the Mutual Anomaly Research Center and Evaluation Network (MARCEN), the UFO Information Network (UFOIN), and the Ohio UFO Investigators League (OUFOIL), headed by their respective leaders Williard McIntyre, Dennis Pilichis and Charles J. Wilhelm, the first from Maryland, the other two from Ohio (USA). In an introduction to the report, McIntyre wrote:

...after exchanging three letters with a gentleman in Tennessee, we received from a him a letter in mid-December 1978 that came with an 8x10 glossy print of a lot of debris and the charred remains of some type of body...the letter contained a challenge to identify the contents of the photo. We promptly fired off a letter giving our guess that it showed that remains of a light aircraft crash and its burned pilot. The response came in early January 1979 in the form of a three page, typed-single spaced letter detailing a fantastic odessey [sic] of a young Navy photographer flown to Mexico in 1948 as part of a team to document the crash of a 90-foot diameter “flying saucer” and its dead pilot. A fantastic adventure unfolded in those three pages ending with the writers concern for his own security since he was still in the service and fearful of prosecution for breaches of security.

The identity and background of the sender was checked and found proper; by the end of November 1979, once MARCEN had guaranteed in writing his anonymity, the source provided the original negative, which was analyzed by Eastman Kodak and other laboratories, which concluded that the picture had been taken at least 30 years before, and that no photographic tampering had been conducted. In May 1980, the source sent a second negative. This time, the body was lying in vegetation on a hillside. By then, in their own admission, MARCEN members “had begun believing this fantastic story.” In August 1980, the source gave permission to make the pictures and the story public, not without warning “of the possible consequences of such a release.” McIntyre wrote next: “Little did we know or visualize the explosion that would really come or who would detonate it.”



Alleged Alien Body Photo # 1
Crash of 7/7/48

After disclosure, all hell broke loose over the Coalition of Concerned Ufologists, and apparently it was intense from the “ufological heirarchy” [sic]. At this point, their stand was: “Universally condemned as hoaxes by skeptics and establishment ufologists alike, the photos remain unidentified....No I personally believe that these photos and the story surrounding them are either completely authentic as told by our source or it is a complete hoax perpetrated in a sophisticated manner...”



The source informed he had 40 negatives more, and MARCEN sent someone to his mail address in San Antonio, Texas, only to find he did not live there, "but was known." *We have since learned—McIntyre finishes his prologue—that this was a mail drop used by the source to protect his actual identity even from us and that the name we knew him and checked out was actually the name of another member of the photographic team that supposedly documented the UFO crash and who has since died.* A call by the source saying he would be in Washington, D.C. by Thanksgiving, when he would be willing to meet them, allowing them to probe his identity and inspect the rest of the negatives, was the last clue as to his whereabouts.

What was the tale narrated by the invisible source? Allegedly (everything from now on has to be taken allegedly, this is, with a good pinch of salt), he was a photographer assigned at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, when he heard that at 13:22 hours on July 7, 1948 an early warning radar tracked an object moving at great speed crossing Washington state flying southeast. When the bogey was near Albuquerque, New Mexico, two F-94s attempted to intercept, in vain. By 14:29 hours it disappeared from the radar screens. It was determined that it had landed or crashed in Mexico, in the state of Nuevo León, between Nuevo Laredo and the Sabinas River, some 30 miles south of Laredo, Texas.

The Mexican military was notified of the incident and at 18:30 hours the U.S. Army and Air Force were onsite. A Naval Intelligence officer who was in Mexico City heard about that and planted himself on location by 20:10 hours. It was he who, after surveying the site, got authorization for the source's photographic team to be airlifted to the site. They were told they were going to the site of a top secret airplane crash, where they arrived at 02:15 of the following day.

There they saw "the remains of the frame and structure of a disc shaped craft still smouldering and smoking some 12 hours after it had crashed." What they observed and photographed was "an unearthly shaped craft made up of earthly looking debris" (a contradiction in their own terms, but this is ufology!). It was perfectly circular, about 90 feet in diameter, 28 feet in thickness at the center and tapering off to 5 feet thick at the perimeter.

Only one body was found, severely burned. It was 4 feet, 6 inches long [1.37 m]. Its head was extremely large for the body size by human proportions. The eyes had gone from the fire and the eye sockets were much larger than in humans and wraparound to give 180 degree vision. No visible ears or nose, but openings there. Two arms longer than in humans and the hands had four claw-like fingers. Well, other minutely-detailed data abound, as the writer-source certainly liked to spin a story. The first negative supplied was cut up, representing something like one sixth in size of the original, because of the recognizable persons appearing in the other portion of the complete photograph, as per the sender.

The GSW Probe

The Coalition report includes an initial analysis by Ground Saucer Watch, which concluded that “there is evidence of the ‘creature’ being severely burned and mutilated as a result of an obvious accident...signs of rigor mortis are indicative of the time after death...the time is calculated at 12 hours [appropriately, added emphasis]...measurement of the head and jaw bone are on the face...and a careful study of the extremities...compared to foreign pathology records, revealed a commonality between these measurements and that of a laboratory monkey...the wreckage [sic] materials revealed common ‘terrestrial’ geometric shapes and signs of manufacture...the size of the creature is 836 mm...there is evidence of a horny sheath covering the toe portion of the primate. The nail, which is covered by hair, is very similar to that of a monkey.” Report signers Fred Adrian and William H. Spaulding wrote that *It is the consensus of the GSW photographic review staff that the photographs represent a misinterpretation of a normal laboratory monkey (either a rhesus or orangutan) that has been badly burned and partially dismembered.* GSW associated this to illegal rocket tests of the U.S. Government over Texas populated areas.

The solicited GSW conclusion provoked a headache in the Coalition of Concerned Ufologists, who actually believed it was a dead alien! They immediately suggested that Spaulding was manipulating the case “trying to mold the evidence to fit his own personal theory advanced on national television that UFOs are not extraterrestrial and originate from mundane sources on Earth.”

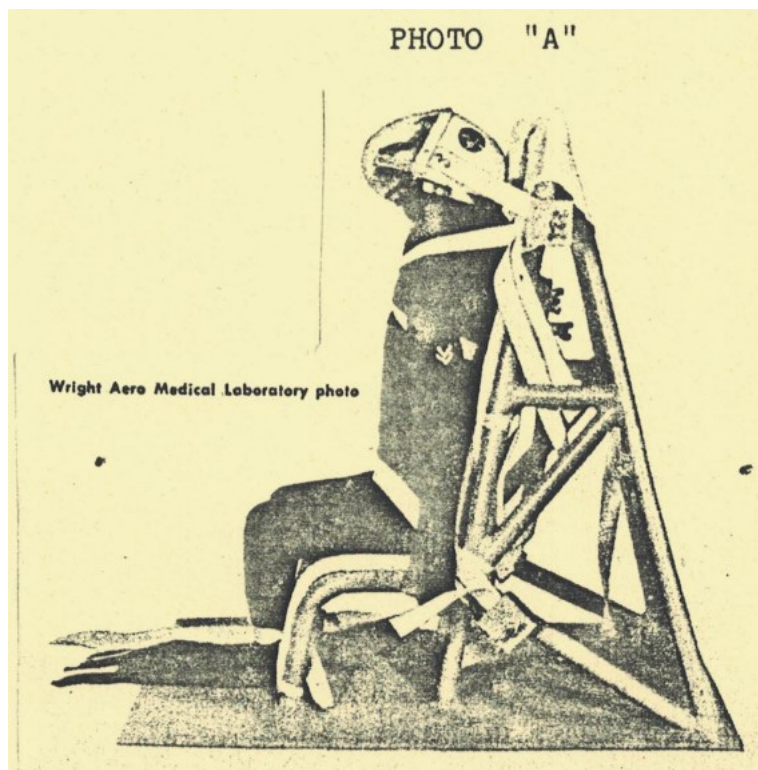
The Coalition found out that the first United States rocket experiment with German V-2s with a Rhesus monkey aboard was on June 11, 1948, launched from White Sands, and the monkey died before launch. Apparently, that V-2 went astray and landed in Mexico, but it hit Juarez, some 800 km NW of Nuevo Laredo and close to White Sands. Also, the US-launched V-2's maximum range was ~110 km, while the distance from White Sands to the flying saucer crash point was not less than 900 km. Another counterargument was that the size of a primate is about 2 feet (0.61 m), shorter than the calculated length for the ‘creature’ by GSW (0.86 m). (Did no one think that 0.86 m does not match either with the 1.37 m figure stated by the source?) For the Coalition, there was no evidence of any tail in the photograph either.

In the *GSW News Bulletin* of April 1981, pages 10-13, the Adrian-Spaulding report was published in a pun-intended article by Spaulding entitled “Get the Monkeys Off My Back!”, which included some additional content.¹ It disclosed that the “Maryland-based organization has published a feeble counter against the original analysis, based on both biased and erroneous information.” GSW presented new facts to “this almost-silly incident”:

¹ http://www.cufos.org/GSW-Bulletin/GSW_Bulletin_1981_Apr.pdf

(a) A continuing analysis of the first photograph revealed that the burnt-effect of the dead alien head is “attributable to blistering on the space helmet worn by the monkey [see the following photo]. A fastening snap on the helmet has been discovered which is identical to early-space devices worn by test animals. The lighter or whitish marking on the deceased monkey is attributable to the area where the safety belt and buckle would have protected it from the intense heat/fire affects in the crash. A dark, strand-like substance covering both bodies has been tentatively identified as burnt nylon, the material used in “spacesuits” for test animals.”

(b) Certain remarks made to the media by McIntyre are labeled as “misinformation to strengthen his already weak case, by casting doubts on the photographic evaluation.”



From the GSW report.

To close the monkey hypothesis, it is known that “the United States launched flights containing primate passengers primarily between 1948 and 1961 with one flight in 1969 and one in 1985.”² Apes, macaques and monkeys were used to that end.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monkeys_and_apes_in_space



Ape named “Able” launched to space in 1959. Image borrowed.³

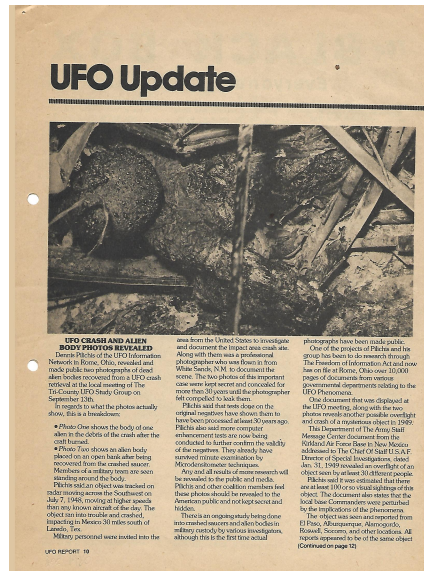
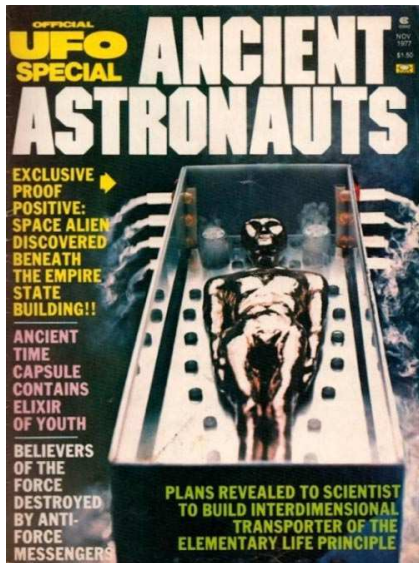
Impact in UFO Media

The ufological community is like an ill-assorted family, and the 3-group coalition faced numerous other rows with colleagues, commencing with the “authority” on dead humanoids, Len Stringfield, he who disqualified the alien dead body pictures because they did not match with what he thought were “real” alien bodies, in particular the photos of an alien creature found in secret chambers beneath the Empire State Building (cover of *Ancient Astronauts* magazine, November 1977). Poor Stringfield was a guy most prepared to put up with a lot. He spent all his life swallowing as true every tale of UFO crashes and dead bodies he was told by innumerable anonymous sources. In this case, it was a Larry Barns from New Jersey who took a model to the offices of the publisher of AA. “[He] brought in a doll 4 inches long and had it photographed by then editor Jeffrey Goodman. These photos were later used on the cover and inside the magazine. Over lunch they made up the story of an alien being buried under the Empire State Building.” This quote—a situation witnessed by Timothy Green Beckley—comes from a letter he sent to Dennis Pilichis dated November 4, 1980.

Since August 1980, the Coalition promoted and featured the pair of photographs in local and national newspapers, TV stations and UFO outlets. It triggered a cascade of articles in UFO media, in the States but also in foreign revues, avid for sensationalism. UFOIN (D. Pilichis) submitted the information to *UFO Report*,

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monkeys_and_apes_in_space#/media/File:Able_air_and_space.jpg

where it was published in December 1980, pages 10 and 12. The article strictly followed the tale as written by their unknown source and unequivocally the photos were stated as showing “the body of one alien in the debris of the crash after the craft burned.” The initial skeptical position has vanished. As for the magazine editors, they considered it to be “the breakthrough ufologists have been waiting for...and then again it could be something else entirely!”



UFO magazines covering dead aliens. Left: *Official UFO*. Right: *UFO Report* (see text above).

MUFON and Stringfield

The—by then, largest UFO organization—Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) also entered in the controversy, indirectly, with the publication of an article by Leonard H. Stringfield in the December 1980 issue of *The MUFON UFO Journal*, pages 11-16 (“Status Report on Alleged Alien Cadaver Photos”). Conspirative-minded, Stringfield complained that his own 29 sources for retrieval of crashed saucers had dried all of a sudden: “I cannot help but wonder—he wrote—if someone in a powerful position pressed the “silence” button.” Therefore, he found suspicious the timely disclosure in August 1980 of a set of photos showing a burnt alien body, under the auspices of Williard McIntyre. He attacked the GSW’s conclusion that it was a monkey used in early military rocket tests, calling it “disinformation.”

Apparently, he did not value the contrary posture by McIntyre and his partners. As a matter of fact, he talks of a “master plan” to discredit “any photographs that may surface showing alien cadavers, and beyond that, any serious research into the story of crash/retrievals.” In a follow-up to that article, in the MUFON journal of September 1981, Stringfield published “The Puzzling Case of the Cadaver Photos,” aimed to “re-state my position as it relates to my continuing research into this sensitive and controversial issue...because of the constant noise of criticism, insult and baseless rumors.” The author, in paranoid mode, did not believe it was coincidental that he and Charles Wilhelm (part of the Coalition), both from the

Cincinnati area, came up with individual sets of photos displaying dead alien bodies at the very same time: "Think of the odds against this coincidence." Another unbelievable "coincidence" is that back in September 1980 there began a "broadside of blatant attacks against my photos, my work, my credibility," Stringfield said. I am not into details of that persecution, however I can but imagine that the response by rational people to pictures of aliens in a refrigerated chamber, like the ones he defended, would be nothing less than a plain laugh. Matter-of-factly, all purported evidence accumulated by Stringfield for crashed and retrieved saucers over the years, resulted in nothing but smoke. His sources were always pulling his leg. A grievous example of gullibility and intellectual blindness.

Stringfield called the reaction of the Coalition members a "selective vendetta" because he had termed their photos a hoax. And he reacted in this familiar way: "Certainly, I would not characterize Wilhelm or Pilichis or even McIntyre as secret agents, but if there is a conspiratorial meaning in the pattern of coincidental events, is it possible that all three were unwitting stooges for somebody else pulling their strings?" Evidently, there are people who live in another world, in a cloud of self-delusion.

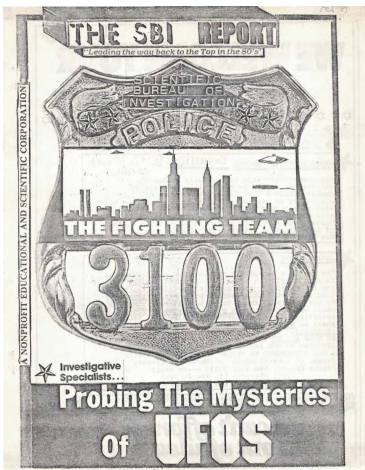
The SBI Evaluation

Next is *The Scientific Bureau of Investigation Report* (Pete Mazzola, editor) for February 1981, touching upon this subject in the cover and interior pages 2-3. It also reproduced a clipping from the *Morning Journal* of August 30, 1980, when the tri-UFO-group started spreading the story and the pictures. This UFO fanzine displays a tremendously ridiculous logo including the word POLICE and stars within an official-looking badge and "investigative specialists" in the cover that makes readers associate it to FBI. Well, they had their own "analyzation" of the photographs, that concluded that they fell short from 2 to 8 years to year 1948, they were genuine "to their specific purpose and then misinterpreted incorrectly by the researchers involved," measurements for the fur-covered body were 0.97 to 1.12 m and from 23 to 34 kg of weight, the being wearing a helmet made of see-through glass, two black hoses of 1.3 to 2.5 cm appear to be attached to back of helmet, the military-looking outfit is revealed not to be military after photo enhancement. Finally, their opinion, based on the data relevant to the being, agreed with that of Bill Spaulding/GSW. This was monkey business for the FBI, excuse me, SBI of New York. The precision of deductions they were able to make from the photos from these amateur investigators from their Staten Island "laboratories" is to be "praised." Their conclusions went as far as to suggest that Coalition leaders "were duped into believing the photos to be true....intelligence gathering agencies of the U.S. used this ploy to continue ridicule of the phenomenon" or, as second alternative, "researchers involved perplexed hoax...[for]...satisfying their own egotistical motives." I do not know what is worse. Anyway, cockfighting.

Other Articles, National and Foreign

The issue of February 1981 of *UFO Report* revisited the theme on its pages 10 and 12 with info supplied by Ohioans Pilichis and Wilhelm, this time without

acknowledging McIntyre. The update basically copied the imaginative account by their unknown source, as if it was the Bible. No signs of critique in their review at all. In the article, they criticized their critics (Springfield and MUFON), without mentioning them. The GSW report was included almost in full. The monkey hypothesis was not refuted or discussed but curiously interpreted: “Was the government misleading our source? Was he led to believe, along with the rest of the recovering team that they were documenting a UFO crash, when in reality they were using this as a cover story for their own secret experiments?” Rampant paranoia. This seed in UFO circles would grow in the following years, reaching to the crazy state of affairs we are contemplating today (lamentably also visible in US politics, incidentally).



CONCLUSIONS

*Being in photo most likely represents a species of the ape family, and perhaps used for governmental research project during the early 1950's. As a result of the obtaining of these photos either of two hypotheses are evident: one, the researchers involved were "duped" into believing the photos to be true, initiating story released to the media. It can easily be assumed intelligence gathering agencies of the U.S. used this ploy to continue ridicule of the phenomenon and enhance animosity amongst fellow researchers and organizations. Two, researchers involved perplexed a hoaxed story in respect to the true identity of the photos for the primary reason of either gaining attention or recognition for their organizations or satisfying their own egotistical motives. The SBI seriously hopes the latter hypothesis is not true, since UFOlogy has advanced several steps and needs not return to the bottom of the ladder because of stupidity or impatience from our own peers involved in the research of UFOs. ******

Cover of SBI Report and its Conclusions.

La Recherche is a Paris-based French language popular science magazine covering recent scientific news. It is published by the Société d'éditions scientifiques (the Scientific Publishing Group). The July-August 1981 issue included a two-page article (pages 884-885) by Michel Granger devoted to this case. Under the title “A quite particular extraterrestrial,” it printed the main alien picture, and the Coalition rapport was abstracted, as well as the GSW study. Pros and cons regarding the alien and the ape theories were discussed. Granger finishes by saying: “We bet that ufologists will cling to these slender arguments for a long time; they are used to this exercise in this case and, by a sort of masochism, find reason for their stubbornness facing the official science which opposes them with common sense and critical mind.”

New Report

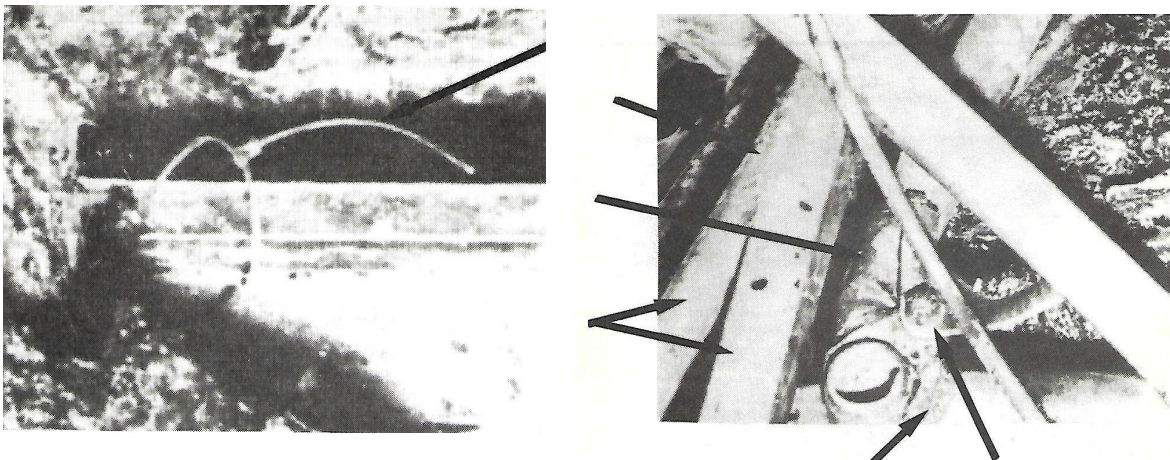
The last article by Pilichis and Wilhelm, noted above, seemed to indicate that the Coalition of Concerned Ufologists had ended their partnership. In 1982, Charles J. Wilhelm, director of OUFOIL, released a 53-page report: “An Investigative Report Into the Alleged [sic] Alien Body Photos.” In the Editorial, he wrote that the previous report by the tri-group Coalition had been published in haste, without OUFOIL being consulted during its make-up. Not only that, in their checking of the story they had found several discrepancies, in fact “a dozen flaws” which were

ignored by the other members of the Coalition. OUFOIL decided to release its own report, marked as an “independent investigative report.” It started with a section to meticulously dissect McIntyre’s introduction in the Coalition report, basically stating that they never had access to the supposed identity of the source for alleged protection purposes; they were refused a copy of the agreement with the source; the claim that a microdensitometer test had been conducted was questioned on the basis that only a print, not a negative, had been received at that time; the Kodak analysis claimed by McIntyre was also put in doubt and a letter by Kodak dated January 26, 1981 informed that “...the negatives you describe were not sent to Kodak for analysis by either Dr. McYntyre [sic] or anyone else.” It was even denied that a MARCEL representative was ever sent to check the source credentials on site, and finally it threw a serious accusation: “Perhaps the real truth is that there is no source at all. That the real source is Mr. McIntyre himself” [What an unexpected twist of events!] OUFOIL characterization of the November 1980 Coalition report was: “full of contradictions, undocumented facts and just pure hog wash” (their emphasis).

It is followed by a section to break-down the story itself. They consulted White Sands Missile Base on any air disaster they might have been involved in around July 7, 1948 which occurred in Mexico between Nuevo Laredo and the Sabinas River. The received reply stated: “We have no knowledge of the air disaster you inquired about. Nuevo Laredo is over 500 miles [805 km] from our installation. Additionally, White Sands Missile Range does not investigate such incidents.” OUFOIL also queried about any team sent to photograph the crash, and White Sands’ response was: “There was a photography experiment done with the V-2...However, our records show no special team which performed the functions you described.” They also discovered that the early warning system radar mentioned by the source was not operative in 1948. The Dias Air Base also mentioned by the source was not in operation that year. The F-94 aircraft supposedly in flight to pursue the object did not fly until 1949. The crash area vegetation is similar to what is found in the eastern states of the US, not in Mexico. Blow-ups of the photographs show wiring present (source stated none was discovered) and indicate earthly metal configurations with welded joints. The uniform worn by the officer in the second photograph did not come into existence until 1957, not 1948. Experts very knowledgeable on burned patients at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children (Cincinnati, Ohio) confirmed the photos represented the “incinerated body of a human.” In summary, review of an additional 20 items from the Coalition report ruined it completely, as well as the original story communicated by the alleged source: “45% of the listed items prove the story a hoax,” they concluded.

But, attention, it also uncritically affirmed that “The description of the body is very similar to those given by various anonymous [my emphasis, also to add unverified] medical and military sources, who have been involved with other alledged [sic] UFO crashed with bodies involved.” [My goodness! A well-reinvestigated report is in the verge of being spoiled with this statement, absolutely opposite to reality, as no example of purported evidence of dead humanoids has ever proved legitimate.

A sidenote to mollify Stringfield?] The large OUFOIL report also checked the GSW analysis. To make a long story short, it supported the GSW arguments to confirm the authenticity of the negatives, but it strongly disagreed with its V-2 and monkey conclusion. The report supplied lots of detailed historical information on V-2 experiences in the US that led OUFOIL to conclude that given “the time period in question and the size of the burnt body, we feel that the photos are not of a V-2 rocket tests failure showing a burnt monkey. Its [sic] very possible and most likely the body is that of a human being from this planet in a small aircraft that crashed. The chances are that the aircraft was perhaps a military one.” Finally, the role of Williard McIntyre as probable instigator of the whole affair is seriously considered by background, motivation and actions.



Left: evidence of common wire remains found close to the body's left shoulder. Some type of eyeglasses?

Right: in the craft's structure can be observed a simple six-sided hex nut, tubular piping, angle iron and various welded areas, quite made-in-Tierra.

Timothy Green Beckley is an old-timer of US ufology, a pioneer in the flying saucer and paranormal business (emphasis added), what today would be called an “influencer” in the terrain of nuts-and-bolt ufology. He casually had founded OUFOIL in the early 1970s. He could not but contribute something to this subject, and he did it with the article “Blockbuster Photos...Dead Aliens Found in UFO Crash,” published in *UFO Review* # 9, pages 10-11 (ca. 1981). Introduced as “What may turn out to be the most sensational photographs ever released in the United States endeavors to show the charred remains of a humanoid being that was found among the remains of a UFO that crashed near the Mexican border more than three decades ago,” Green set out the narration as initially presented by the tri-group report in November 1980, side by side with an “exclusive interview” with Charles Wilhelm, when he had not parted company yet with his two other colleagues. Wilhelm still adhered to the original tale as told by the mystery source in all terms with absolute credulity, as he described the “crashed interstellar vehicle,” his numerous talks to the source, “his true identity to become known in a near future,” and confirming statements like these. Replying to a question on why they are sure their informant is not lying, Wilhelm reassuringly declared: “We

checked this out for more then [sic] a year before we released our findings.” Wilhelm next expands on reasons for accepting the authenticity of their source’s credentials and about all the background research they did: “we don’t have any reason to suspect that he’s fabricating,” he admitted. For what we found a little before, this is truly an extraordinary case of conversion from believer to doubtful Thomas.

Other Views

In the Spanish language, a quite comprehensive reference to this case was signed by Mexican UFO researcher Luis Ruiz Noguez. Ruiz, a chemist by profession and the author of a variety of articles and books on photographs of UFO entities in Mexico and abroad, oversaw the 1948 dead alien pictures in *Ovnis extrellados in Mexico* (Crashed UFOs in Mexico), Mina publisher, 1996, pages 8 to 24. Ruiz wrote a detailed expose of most of what has been known about this controversy. Ruiz places this story as another fairy tale of the repeated category of UFO crashes in Mexico, of which he counts up to 25 such volatile incidents in UFO literature! Legend, not fact, in his experienced opinion.

A different interpretation for the photographs is that advanced by US engineer Larry Robinson of Indiana University. For its originality, I quote him in full: “The helmet is a motorcycle or auto racing helmet, not a pilot’s helmet, not an aviator’s helmet for that period. Aviation helmets necessarily had large earphone headsets and ear seals built into them, so the pilot could use the radio with the helmet on. They are missing from the helmet in the picture, as are the holes and fitting needed for their installation. Also, parts of the rear fork of the motorcycle are in the picture. The pipes are part of either a tent structure common here, or of a carnival ride. Both use that kind of construction. I figure the motorcycle crashed at a fair or a race, striking the tent or carnival ride. There is a circular plywood structure under the body, which suggests a carnival ride. Part of the folding card table is also visible, as is some Romex (which makes me doubt the date as being 1948).”⁴

The British author Jenny Randles in *Fortean Times* of May 2006 (page 28) wrote that “...the extent of the tissue damage does not preclude that it is human and evidence (often cropped out of shot) of what looks like a pair of spectacles implies this is the tasteless abuse of an image of a test pilot trapped in a fire after a plane crash.”

Conclusions

Either an aircraft pilot or the victim of a motorcycle accident, all points to a mundane origin of the unfortunate person depicted in the stills. A logical, down-to-earth, rational assessment of the whole issue seems simple, at least to me: old pictures (late 1940s or early 1950s) of an accident where the man was badly burnt. Sweetened with a false flying saucer crash story. What looks like a mystery novel must simply come from someone who wanted to make a good laugh out of gullible ufologists, if not an internal, self-built hoax to create publicity for a UFO group or

⁴ Larry Robinson, e-mails to V.J. Ballester-Olmos, April 1, 2002, and March 27, 2003.

personality. What amazes me is how the recipient of the photographs, who had made a realistic evaluation at the first sight of them, radically changed it to an alien scenario on the basis of an unverified narrative. It shows a pitiful eagerness of belief, if not something even more embarrassing.

Can anything else new be added in this controversy? I think so. Disregard the GSW monkey hypothesis (and, therefore, the accompanying V-2 test). We center on the body's cranium. According to a review done by our consulting expert Andrés Duarte, the head of the "Tomato Man"⁵ looks quite similar to a human skull seen from above, as it can be seen in various resources found in the net.⁶ On the other hand, the monkeys' crania seen from above that are shown in the following pages⁷ do not look much alike, "therefore I think it is a person and not a primate,"⁸ Duarte establishes for comparison.



Left: Human skull. Right: Monkey skull.

To sum up, the two mystery photographs presented here obviously depict a lifeless human body out of context. The reason why only a small piece of the complete film was sent from the anonymous source attempted to hide the normal environment

⁵ According to Ron Schaffner, "Robert Easley is credited with coining the term "Tomato Man," <https://web.archive.org/web/20130819133741/http://web.archive.org/web/19991115054253/home.fuse.net/archive/site/tomato.htm>

⁶ <https://www.pinterest.cl/pin/489133209510585229/>
<https://www.dreamstime.com/top-view-above-human-skull-isolated-white-isolated-human-skull-top-view-image117589062>
https://www.123rf.com/photo_117336760_top-view-of-human-skull-isolated-on-white-background.html

⁷ <https://www.furaffinity.net/view/1980021/>
https://pressbooks-dev.oer.hawaii.edu/explorationsbioanth/chapter/_unknown_-4/
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2020/november/new-species-of-monkey-is-already-critically-endangered.html>

⁸ Andrés Duarte, e-mail to V.J. Ballester-Olmos. June 13, 2021.

surrounding an accident, aircraft, motorcycle, or whatever. In this regard, this is fake ufology at its best.

This article has been based entirely on published records collected in my files since 1980. It comprises what I consider to be the best and most well-informed sources of information on this controversy. It is not intended to be an in-depth study of the photographs or the flying saucer story, but a literature trip on the circumstances wrapping this specific case of an alleged alien corpse, for the benefits of students who did not know the real deal in terms of bibliography.