

The mystery of 'Majestic-12': Proof of UFO visit or an elaborate hoax?

Data claims 4 aliens' died in 1947 crash

by Martin Bailey
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The bodies of four aliens from a crashed flying saucer were recovered 40 years ago, according to a government "document" obtained by a British researcher recently. A bitter debate is now likely to develop among UFO experts over the existence of a mysterious committee, code-named Majestic-12, which is supposed to have examined the aliens.

The top-secret briefing paper claims that an CIA Director Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter reported that "although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from those observed or posited in homo-sapiens."

The document, which The London Observer obtained from Timothy Good, Britain's leading UFO researcher, purports to be a briefing paper for President Eisenhower on Operation Majestic-12, also known as MJ-12. Good, in his book "Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up," published this year, claims that MJ-12 is a committee of senior U.S. officials which investigated and then covered up reports of flying saucer crashes.

UFO writer Barry Greenwood, however, suggested that the document is just a sophisticated fraud.

"I obtained the document two months ago from a reliable American source who has close connections with the intelligence community. I am convinced of its authenticity," Good said Saturday.

"There are some things that look wrong with the White House memo, for example it is unsigned. It is just possible that it was manufactured by someone wanting to prove

the existence of MJ-12 and then inserted into Air Force Intelligence records which had recently been opened up to the public," he said. "The hoaxer could then have ordered a copy from the National Archives which would carry the official declassification stamp. MJ-12 may well have existed, but more research is needed to authenticate the documents."

The Eisenhower briefing paper, dated Nov. 18, 1952, claims that the MJ-12 committee had been formed by his predecessor, President Truman, on Sept. 24, 1947, as "a top secret research and development/intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the president of the United States."

The 12 members of the group are said to have included Hillenkoetter, Defense Secretary James Forrestal, Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining, leading U.S. atom bomb scientist Dr. Vannevar Bush, biophysicist Dr. Detlev Bronk, and astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel. All 12 are now dead, and none of them ever spoke publicly about the recovery of aliens.

The document reports that on June 24, 1947, "disc-shaped aircraft" were sighted in the United States. "Little was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico located approximately 75 miles northwest of Roswell Army Base (now Walker Field).

"On July 7, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site.

"All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time which had elapsed before their discovery," the Eisenhower briefing paper claimed.

"A covert analytical effort by Gen. Twining and Dr. Bush acting on the direct orders

of the president resulted in a preliminary consensus (Sept. 19, 1947) that the disc was most likely a short-range reconnaissance craft... a similar analysis of the four dead occupants was arranged by Dr. Bronk.

"Dr. Bronk's team has suggested the term 'Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities,' or 'EBEs,' be adopted as the standard term of reference for these creatures until such time as a more definitive designation can be agreed upon.

"Implications for national security are of continuing importance in that the motives and ultimate intentions of these visitors remain completely unknown. In addition, a significant upsurge in the surveillance activity of these craft beginning in May and continuing through the autumn of this year has caused considerable concern that new developments may be imminent.

"It is for these reasons, as well as the obvious international and technological considerations and the ultimate need to avoid a public panic at all costs, that the Majestic-12 Group remains of the unanimous opinion that strictest security precautions should continue without interruption into the new administration."

Inquiries at the National Archives, the archives of Truman and Eisenhower, and the National Security Council archives have not managed to authenticate the briefing paper.

There is, however, new evidence that a group called MJ-12 did exist. This is a White House memo to Twining informing him about an "MJ-12" briefing for Eisenhower. It was declassified Jan. 12, 1987.

If the White House memorandum is genuine, this proves the existence of an MJ-12 group whose responsibility could have covered UFOs. This would then strengthen Good's view that there was a coverup.

On Saturday an Air Force spokesman denied any knowledge of MJ-12 and said that investigations into UFOs had ended in 1969.