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SMITH

"My personal opinion is that they are spacecraft."
Wilbert Smith, 1959.

"Don't take my work for it, ask some of your scientists down in the States - that is, if you can get them to talk. I think you'll find your government is working feverishly on it."

Smith to Major Keyhoe, 1953.

The following is compiled from ^{two dozen} a dozen and a half associates, co-workers and friends of Wilbert Smith over ten years. In most cases names are not used for the following reasons: 1) almost ^{most} all had received no classified information from Mr. Smith 2) all ^{most} wanted nothing to do with what they considered "past history" or what they considered "Wilbert's interests" 3) almost all had connections either to the military or government, "for a very valid reason, we (mainly government employees) were not in a position to provide this, even though we had the evidence to substantiate Wilbert Smith's statements." 4) no one person provided any more than a small bit of information, and it seems pointless to make them public. Arthur Bray, the keeper of Smith's files, does however know who provided the leads.

CLOSE ASSOCIATES

The solitanship board that took over Topside - following Smith's death stated

evidence to support the untactful material

There were five groups of people that had varying degrees of knowledge about Wilbert Smith's activities. Listed in the order of those who knew the least to those who knew the most are the following groups. The vast majority of these people were still alive during the investigation and were talked to.

- i) Smith government co-workers (about twelve people)
- ii) Topside members (about fifty people)
- iii) Project Magnet Magnet co-workers (about twelve people)
- iv) ^{Scout & Top Scout DRB people working in the problem}
- v) The Inner Circle (seven people)

eight

because Wilbert B. Smith was the first to identify ^a Vennevar Bush as the head of "a small group" working on the flying saucer program, and because he also identified Dr. Robert Barbacher, it is important to determine exactly what Wilbert ~~Smith~~ actually knew.

Much has been written about Smith and many rumors have circulated about what he did and said. Much of which has been written however is incorrect. The best example of this is that Wilbert Smith died of a brain tumor and therefore anything he might have said ^{regarding the reality of the "saucers" and their origins} was caused by this condition. This story has been published by people on both sides of the UFO debate. In reality Smith died of "abdominal cancer". (1) As one close associate stated "Wilbert's illness had nothing to do with his research or beliefs".

Investigator Grant Cameron attempted to track down every rumor

The second more damaging story that has circulated about Wilbert B. Smith is related to his contactee status, and the involvement of topside with ^{the study of} such things ~~such~~ as automatic writing. Peter Millman famous astrophysicist at the Canadian Dominion Observatory, and leading skeptic of the reality of extraterrestrial flying saucers stated "Wilbert started out with a logical program, but later became involved with spiritualism. he died in 1962 believing that he was going to continue his UFO research in another realm." (2)

in Canada.

The "spiritualism" referred to by Millman began very early rather than near the end of Smith's life, and centered around Smith's contact with AFFA. Smith never published AFFA's name, nor did topside members after Smith's death.

in the source investigation

However, most of the contacts took place with people Smith investigated rather than with Wilbert Smith himself. "There have been quite a number of alleged communications with intelligences claiming to be extraterrestrial. I have followed up each instance to the best of my ability. . . . The procedure in checking contacts was to ask a number of innocuous but significant questions and compare the answers with the answers to the same questions obtained through other contacts'. . . . Altogether some hundred or more questions were involved."

Am Wilbert Smith's own words

Smith tried to investigate all the contactees of the time. Some contactees were quickly ruled out. "Among the contacts that might be classed as authentic," Smith stated, "the results were spectacular, to say the least. There was almost complete agreement."

AFFA was one of these spectacular cases and there may have been as many as a dozen people across North America in contact. "As far as I can remember," one of the members of Smith's inner circle people stated, "there were actually only two contacts between Smith and AFFA."

Some of the topside members were into ^{Researching PARAPSYCHOLOGY} ~~spiritualistic things~~ and they would approach Smith with their discoveries. Smith's favorite expression, according to a member of the inner circle was "God provided - man divided", and therefore no idea was ignored no matter how bizarre. However the inner circle member continued "Smith was a very skeptical scientist. When someone would come with a discovery, he would always say, 'Good, now work on a scientific experiment to prove it.'"

himself
Smith believed that all scientific disciplines would all fit together into one model given sufficient evidence

The first contact with AFFA occurred early, shortly after Smith's conversation with Sarbacher and the now famous Smith Top Secret memo. It is quite evident from the evidence that not only was Smith pursuing this line, but so were the Canadian and US governments.

Many researchers quote the information obtained through the Canadian Embassy related to Vannevar Bush, and flying saucers being the most highly classified secret in the United States. ^{However} The same researchers, almost without exception, leave out the very next line "I was further informed that the United States authorities are ^{now} investigation along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena" (It is important here to note Smith stated "authorities" or those in charge)

When exactly the contact with AFFA began is not known but in the spring of 1953 the whole affair ~~the whole affair~~ ^{in the flying saucer case} was moving quite quickly. In an interview with Grant Cameron in 1978, a radio technician who had worked with Smith described a bizarre encounter at Shirley Bay ^{which} was run by the Defense Research Board and involved communications. Two of the rumored activities were the interception of Russian communications and the radio reception of ^{messages by} Canadian spies radioed back to what was known as Radio Ottawa. "You have to remember," I was told, "Smith had a high security clearance without the [subject of] UFOs being involved."

"It was Sunday afternoon," the technician said, "and I drove out there [Shirley Bay]. I thought, I'll just drop out and see what the boys are doing. The parking lot was full of cars! The lot was full. You couldn't get near the place! everyone was there - everyone that knew him [Smith] personally."

When the technician arrived inside he found an argument going on. Smith had requested an engineer to make a radio transmission to AFFA. The radio engineer was refusing "I won't make that transmission - that's an illegal transmission, and I'm not going to transmit."

Eventually, the transmission was called off, and Smith would set up non-government equipment for the transmission. According to a member of Smith's inner circle, this was done, but there was never a successful transmission.

On April 9, 1983 Linda Howe, then working on a movie documentary HBO, was told by Richard Doty, special agent for the AF office of Special Investigations, among other things, that in the early years four main agencies, NSA, CIA, Navy and Navy Intelligence and the Atomic Energy Commission, were the key agencies involved in the "flying saucer" ^{unclassified} ~~conspiracy~~.

Smith became involved with two of these groups in the investigation of one particular contactee, Mrs. Swan, in Elliot Maine. ^{the two agencies that would be primarily involved were the Army and CIA. As with other incidents involving Smith many high ranking people were also involved. Swan provided much} Over the years many researchers would write up the "psychic incident" at a CIA building in Washington DC, where AFFA ^{reportedly} flew by the window in the presence of high ranking CIA people. (f)
On a investigation by Grant Cameron, new facts surfaced to show that this bizarre encounter was only the tip of the iceberg, in a long and involved story that again illustrated extreme interest by high Canadian and US officials.

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Coal pits.



SWAN CASE - Project Magnet.

OMIT

The Canadian ^{gov't} version of this story is told in a Winnipeg Free Press article dated July, 1967. Not only were the Americans chasing AFFA, the Canadians were also attempting to ~~make up~~ ^{make up} with the elusive alien.

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However most of the contacts took place with people Smith investigated rather than with Wilbur Smith himself. "There have been quite a number of alleged communications with intelligences claiming to be extra terrestrial. I have followed up each instance to the best of my ability... The procedure in checking contacts was to ask a ~~surprising~~ number of innocuous but significant questions and compare the answers with the answers to the same questions obtained thru' other contacts. Altogether some hundred or more questions were involved."

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③ Wilbur Smith speech March 31, 58

② R. J. Childhouse, "Flying Saucers - Does Someone Up there like Us" 1966.

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Smith to Kugel 1953

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Because Wilbert B. Smith was the first to identify ^{Dr. Robert} Vannoy Bush as the head of "a small group" working on the flying saucer program, and because he also identified Sackbacher, it is important to determine exactly what ~~did~~ Wilbert Smith actually knew.

~~No Much~~ of what was said about Smith Much has been written about Smith and many rumors have circulated about what he did and said. Much which has been written however is incorrect. The best example ^{of this} is that Wilbert Smith died of a brain tumor and therefore anything he might have said was caused by this condition. ^{This story has been published by people on both side of the US debate.} In reality Smith died of "abdominal cancer" ① As one close associate stated "Wilbert's illness had nothing to do with his research or beliefs."

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① Topside Number 11, Fall 62 page 1. This was also related to Grant Cameron in a 1978 interview

quickly. In an interview with Grant Cameron in 1978, a radio technician who had worked with Smith at Shirley Bay, described a bizarre encounter at Shirley Bay just outside of Ottawa. Shirley Bay was run by the Defense Research Board and involved communications. Two of the rumored activities were the interception of Russian communications and the site of Radio Ottawa. (where Canadian spies would radio back to.) "You have to remember," I was told "Smith had a high security clearance without the VECs being involved."

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Swan Case - Project Magnet

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AFFA and the Government

Many researchers over the years have written of an alleged encounter between the aliens and President Dwight D. Eisenhower on February 20, 1954 at Edwards AFB. (3) Eisenhower was on a quickly planned vacation to Palm Springs when he mysteriously disappeared one evening. According to

researcher Bill Moore's account of the event "he was returned to Palm Springs by dawn and shortly thereafter he ordered absolute secrecy about anything having to do with UFOs."

The press caught wind of the fact that the President wasn't where he was supposed to be and the rumors began, including the Associated Press which ^{became a report} reported he had died. A late evening news conference was called and Press Secretary James Haggerty stated the President had knocked off a cap on a tooth while eating fried chicken earlier in the evening. The President showed up for church the next morning and the press was contented.

Moore in a follow up investigation was able to determine that there was no supporting evidence for the theory that Eisenhower had disappeared to see the dentist. There was in fact evidence to indicate that the dentist mentioned by Haggerty was not involved. Numbers of witnesses, including Wilbert Smith, would come forward to tell the story that Eisenhower had been flown by helicopter one hundred miles to Edwards's AFB (then MURK) and that the subject of the visit was aliens.

There are two basic versions as to what happened while at Edwards. 1) The President had gone to see a captured saucer and dead bodies in "hangar 27" (4) 2) the President had gone to view five different alien crafts and had talked with the aliens who piloted the crafts. The aliens were described as almost human. It is the second version that Wilbert Smith and the facts would seem to back.

According to Moore's "Focus" account, the Palm Springs vacation "appeared to have come up rather suddenly. In addition, it is a matter of record that Ike had returned from a quail shooting vacation in Georgia less than a week before leaving for Palm Springs." Had Eisenhower gone to Edwards to see a crashed saucer and bodies there would have been no reason to rush the visit. It could have been made part of his regular schedule which would have raised less suspicion.

The Earl of Clancarty, according to the Ruth Montgomery version, had been told by a former test pilot that five different crafts and live aliens were involved. Gerald Light, who claimed to have been involved in a letter to Meade Layne (director of Border Land Science Research Associates), would basically tell the same story. Also in the Montgomery version, a Los Angeles researcher Gabe Green, was told by a sargent that he and a group under the command of a general had open fired on five UFOs at the base at that time. The UFOs, unaffected by the shooting landing on the base "at one of the large hangars."

Lastly many of the accounts, including Smith's, described the fact that the base was sealed off. Leaves were cancelled, and those returning to the base were not allowed back in. If Eisenhower had come to see a crashed saucer this "blockade at the gate" would have been unnecessary. Eisenhower could simply have been brought to the base under another premise and secretly swept away ^{to his quarters} to hangar 27 during the visit to view the wreckage.

If anything, the Eisenhower story seems to back the notion that talking to aliens was not reserved only for Wilbert Smith and the contactees who he investigated. Add to this the following fact. In exactly the same year, 1954, the Canadian Government would plan and try exactly the same thing. This time the initial word of the incident would come not from researchers, but from the Canadian Government itself. (5)

In 1967, Paul Hellyer, then Minister of Defense, would, through a Defense Department Official (identified by Hellyer as the Department 'expert on UFOs') tell a story that would turn out to be fairly accurate. In the Canadian Government version a Top Secret Project had been set up, in which UFOs would be allowed to land at the Defense Research Board Experimental Station at Suffield, Alberta. Here in a one thousand mile restricted track the Canadians would plan and do many Top Secret things such as nerve gas testing and blowing up a small town to simulate nuclear destruction.

There was according to Canadian Government story a special committee involved with the Top Secret UFO Project. Project Magnet which Smith ran was only at a confidential level. Smith's work with the Defense Research Board was only cleared to Secret, and the special committee was not Project Second Storey as many have assumed. The head of Second Storey, Dr. Peter Millman, in a letter to Grant Cameron, stated "I certainly have heard vague rumors about some attempt to build a UFO landing site in western Canada, but that was absolutely all I knew about it." (6)

The identity of this Top Secret committee will probably always remain a mystery, as the Canadian government claimed it had destroyed the records in 1957. In 1979 even the Project itself disappeared. Yurko Bondarchuk, a Canadian researcher, was told "we have no record of any such project . . . from the information I have, we never had one." (7)

The Canadian government story was "that several groups became convinced that some unknown beings were trying to make contact with the earth. One group made strong representation to the committee . . . because there had been attempts made by Canadian and US Air Force planes to shoot down the UFOs the flying saucers had been reluctant to land. It was argued, if there was ever to be any contact, the

hazards had to be removed. The UFOs had to be provided with a safe place. Accordingly, in an effort to give the 'believers' a chance to demonstrate the existence of flying saucers trying to make contact with the earth, the Defense Research Board Station was designated as a landing area. The step brought no results . . . insofar as the committee was concerned no evidence had been produced to prove their existence."

Researcher Grant Cameron approached members of Smith's inner circle with the story, and although it appeared some knew of the story, only one would volunteer to tell the other side of the Canadian ^{Op.} story.

Wilbert Smith had approached the "government" with the evidence he had for the existence of AFFA. This would have included the Eisenhower story which Smith had investigated and had witnesses to. It is not known exactly when in 1954 this Top Secret Project began, but if it occurred after July 26, Smith was also in possession of the three day investigation he, US Admiral Knowles, and John Hutson (Security Officer Bureau of Aeronautics, US Navy) had conducted with Mrs. Swan in Elliot, Maine.

material he had placed in front of D.O. Solomoff in Nov. 20, 1950, and material he had received from high ranking officials in Washington DC

Smith negotiated with two departments, the RCMP and what was described to Cameron as "the government." The plan was to land AFFA at Suffield, as opposed to the government version which implied any UFO that happened to be listening to Canadian communications would make its way to the base.

AFFA (as he had demanded during the three day Swan investigation) wanted protection if he were to land. There was to be no interference from Canadian or US planes. Smith went to the RCMP and the government and both agreed that AFFA would be allowed to land without interference.

Up to this point in the story both versions agree

Following this AFFA wanted a guarantee from the parties involved that once he had landed and talked to whoever was to represent the Canadians, he would be allowed to take off unhindered. The RCMP agreed to this condition, but when Smith approached what was described to Cameron as the "government" a cabinet meeting was held to discuss AFFA's demand. When the meeting was over the "government" stated that they could not give a 100% guarantee that AFFA would be allowed to take off once he had landed at Suffield. Smith immediately cancelled the planned landing.

The Canadian government correctly stated that nothing ever landed. They simply twisted the explanation as to why nothing ever landed. Many requests were placed to the RCMP and to the defense department for records of the Top Secret project. These were all come back "no information." Cameron requested that "monstrous"

In following up on this story, both Grant Cameron and Arthur Bray pursued Paul Hellyer for the name of the "Department expert on UFOs" who had leaked the story. He reportedly had

acquiring then Lloyd Axworthy. Axworthy did not completely outline what action he had taken to get on America but stated on two occasions "I can't help you."

been a RCAF Officer in 1954 on the Top Secret committee, and had moved up to a high Defense Department Official in 1967 when the story was leaked to the media. Hellyer responded to both researchers stating that he remembered the story, but he couldn't remember the name of the official in his department who had told the story to the press. Hellyer concluded his letter "I can assure you there is no UFO cover up, at least on our side of the boarder." (8)