

February 23, 1959

Dear Mr. Caswell,

I appreciate your efforts in trying to bring to the public attention the facts concerning flying saucers, but I must advise you that many sequences are yet to be fulfilled before the public generally will be able to accept the reality of the people from elsewhere.

I have no objection ~~XXX~~ to your efforts to have my articles published by your local paper but I would request that ALL biographical material concerning myself be omitted. I feel that the articles themselves should stand on their own two feet. I have no objection to having my name appended or a reference to my HOME address.

For your information EVERY nation on this planet has been officially informed of the existance of the space craft and their occupants from elsewhere, and as nations they must accept responsibility for any lack of action or for any official position which they may take. There is nothing more to be done ~~XXXXX~~ along these lines, and effort in this direction is effort wasted.

Since you are not too far from North Bay I would suggest that you might find Mr. Richard H. Frampton 32 Gertrude St. West, worth getting in touch with. He and two friends visited me last fall and I found them most interesting.

Yours sincerely



W. B. Smith

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In defence of Wilbert Smith

by RONALD CASWELL.

THE LETTER WAS dated February 23, 1959 ...

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UNQUOTE.

Many sequences are yet to be fulfilled —

It was during my 3 years' residence in a gold-mining town in Northern Ontario that I decided to write Wilbert Smith, to see if he could help me in any way in my group work and approaches to the newspapers regarding flying saucers, and to ask for information on recently-reported UFO activity. I talked with newspaper editors, and Mr Smith was agreeable to have some of this articles published in the local press, — with one proviso only. That biographical details were excluded from the account; though his name and home address might be used. He wanted the text of the articles to stand on its own two feet, not to influence readers with his qualifications.

His friendliness and dedicated sincerity have remained with me as one of the strongest supports in my own small efforts to spread the news of the flying saucers.

Wilbert B. Smith died five years ago, on the 27 December 1962.

Perhaps it could not be more appropriate, in detailing part of the life of this Canadian scientist, than to use some of the words of the Editorial — In Memoriam in the Winter-Spring 1963 issue of „Top-side“, the bulletin of the group founded by Mr Smith, the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club, (now the Ottawa New Sciences Club.)

„Wilbert Brockhouse Smith was born in Lethbridge, in the province of Alberta, Canada, on the 17th of February 1910. He displayed early in life an eager interest in the nature of things and at the age of fifteen wrote a treatise on the controversial concept of perpetual motion. He was also the author of several scientific novels. After having obtained his B. Sc. and M. Sc. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of British Columbia, he joined the staff of radio station C.J.O.R. Vancouver in 1935, where he remained for four years and became chief engineer. In 1939 he joined the Department of Transport of Canada, where he continued his work in the

Broadcasting field and deserved much credit in advancing the technical aspects of broadcasting in Canada. He participated in the development of Frequency Modulation and Television Broadcasting agreements between Canada and the United States of America.

„During World War II he was engaged in the engineering of Canada's war-time monitoring service. In 1947 he was responsible for the establishment of a network of ionospheric measurement stations throughout Canada. In 1957 he was appointed Superintendent of Radio Regulations Engineering, responsible for the engineering aspects of all matters concerning the use of radio in Canada, including equipment standards, radio relay stations, broadcast facilities and interference studies.

„In December of 1950, following his request to the Department of Transport, Project Magnet was authorised and permission granted to make use of the Department's laboratory and field facilities, in a study of Unidentified Flying Objects and the physical principles which might be involved. Unfortunately, the program was plagued by well-meaning but misguided journalists, to an extent where those who were involved in the project, and the Department, found themselves in an embarrassing position. Project Magnet was therefore officially dropped in 1954 and continued to operate strictly as a private venture.

„His interest in UFOs was but one aspect of his activities. Although a sceptic by nature, he welcomed new ideas and encouraged their discussion. His investigations carried him into the field of physics, philosophy and religion. As an engineer, he was foremost in his field and the holder of several patents. He undertook a thorough study of gravity and devised several gravity-control experiments which produced limited but encouraging results. His correspondence was voluminous. The depth of his insight was well reflected in both his correspondence and his conversation, and he was known for his ability to express himself clearly and convincingly on a wide variety of subjects, both orthodox and unorthodox —“
UNQUOTE.

It is easy enough to understand how the considered findings in this field, unorthodox — even fantastic — as they were, of a man of W. B. Smith's scientific background, could generate friction of a kind among his contemporaries, who could see their own standing diminished in the „heretical“ theories expounded by this much-too-straightforward man.

Some of this „friction“ shows through at the end of an article by Mr Smith, about a newly discovered phenomenon, for which, on suggestions claimed by him to emanate through certain physical contactees from space people, he and his group had built certain recording devices.

„— It would therefore appear that this business of reduced binding would stand quite a bit of further serious investigation. Unfortunately, because of the unorthodox source of this information, efforts so far to obtain official recognition have resulted in more letters being added to the „crank file.“

Could one imagine the arrogance of those who placed in the „crank file“ experimental material and findings of a man of proven scientific ability in his field? This, surely, is part of the fundamental truth of the flying saucer „opposition“, the negative attitudes of those in office who fear and ridicule the unorthodox and attempt to negate the results of honest research.

Wilbert Smith was *not* an arrogant man. There is something very revealing in his manner of writing. In an article describing his beginnings and methods in UFO research, he wrote: „— I started the investigations out of curiosity and as an extreme skeptic, fully expecting the phenomenae to be due to man-made or natural causes —“

He went on to explain his initial findings which raised all kinds of queries in his mind as to the entirely alien pattern of events. Working with other scientists who were likewise intrigued by the phenomenon, he came to the conclusion that: „— we had established the reality of the craft from elsewhere, and of the intelligences associated with them, and while we were able to establish that these people all told the same story, was that story the truth?“

He continued: —

„The inevitable conclusion was that it was all real enough, and that these people from elsewhere were probably just what they claimed to be. The science however was definitely alien and possibly forever beyond our comprehension. So another approach was tried, the philosophical, and here the answer was found in all its grandeur!

„I will not go into detail on the many revisions in ideas and basic thinking which had to be undergone, beyond stating that there were, indeed, many. The people from „elsewhere“ displayed great patience and understanding in helping me to overcome many of the prejudices and stores of misinformation which I had spent many years accumulating. I began for the first time in my life to realise the basic „ONENESS“ of the Universe and all that is in it. Science, philosophy, religion, substance and energy are all facets of the same jewel, and before any one facet of the jewel can really be appreciated the form of the jewel itself must be perceived.

„One of the most important things I had to realise was that we are not alone. The human race in the form of MAN extends throughout the Universe, and is incredibly ancient. Also, its appearance in physical form is but one of its many manifestations along the path of progress. Our civilization here on this Earth is only one of many that have come and gone. This planet has been colonized many times by people from elsewhere, and our present human race are blood brothers of these people. Is it any wonder that they are interested in us? To orthodox thinkers this may seem strange, but not nearly so strange as our ideas on evolution!

„The question might be asked, „If these people really are our brothers and are interested in our wel-

fare, why do they remain so aloof?" We have been given the answer. There is a basic law of the Universe which grants each and every individual independence and freedom of choice, so that he may experience and learn from his experiences. No-one has the right to interfere in the affairs of others. In fact, our Ten Commandments are directives against interference. If we disregard this law we must suffer the consequences, and a little thought will show that the present deplorable world state is directly attributable to violation of this principle."

UNQUOTE.

For those who have read George Adamski's story, these findings of Canadian government scientist Wilbert Smith will come as a revelation. Smith's findings were the result of a number of methods of investigation, one of which included close examination of the accounts of contact claimants, and a kind of questionnaire „interrogation“. In this, Smith was almost unique in the ranks of „scientific“ investigators, who, in the great majority, totally ignore and, in fact, scorn the possibility of contact having been made. From a number of these questionnaires Smith was able to establish a certain pattern; by eliminating those „contactees“ whose claims were inconsistent with a particular coding of related answers to questions, obtained from entirely unconnected and apparently trustworthy sources, as a basis for further investigation.

Wilbert Smith's findings over the years of his investigations show a remarkable similarity in many ways to the information George Adamski received in face-to-face meetings with the Space Brothers, information which was to become the basis of Adamski's so-called Cosmic Philosophy.

Information such as:

The human race abounding throughout the Universe.

Our present civilization being one of many here on Earth.

The colonization of Earth from outside by these „blood-brothers“.

The basic universal law of „non-interference“ in the independence of others; of individuals, of nations, of planets.

This being the main reason for our visitors apparent reluctance to „force the issue“, to force Governmental and public recognition of their presence in our skies, which they were obviously quite capable of doing.

Wilbert Smith also came to believe in the fact of re-incarnation, a viewpoint liable to cause many to look upon him with suspicion, despite the fact that many millions of people in the Eastern countries hold this as a part of their religion. This belief was shared by Adamski, and is also held by another great UFO pioneer, „father-of-the rocket“ Professor Hermann Oberth.

I asked Adamski once, referring to these remark-

able „co-incidences“ of extraterrestrial data shared with the Canadian scientist, whether he had ever met Wilbert Smith. GA answered: „I had a very short introduction to Professor Smith when I was in Canada but there was not much said at the time. I would not even know if he might remember me.“

Certainly Wilbert Smith's findings were not based on the account of George Adamski.

Smith had a habit of calling his extraterrestrial „helpers“ — The Boys Topside. He referred to them as „the people from elsewhere“ or „our friends from elsewhere“. It was a remarkably frank acceptance of alien intelligences, but, mark you, on a human plane, a solid plane, though we understand that The Boys Topside always used a „middle-man“ as contact. And whereas Adamski, for example, denoted the planets from whence his contacts came, i. e. Venus, Saturn, Mars, etc, — I believe that it was only in private that Wilbert Smith conjectured in this way. And Professor Oberth, in an interview in Denmark, where he was asked his views on reincarnation: „Do you believe that, perhaps in 50 years' time. you will find yourself on Jupiter and I on Mars — or the other way round?“, answered: „Yes, it is not impossible.“

Wilbert Smith worked on a number of scientific experiments, the lead-up to which, in each case, was suggested to him by non-scientific „contactees“; these experiments were in an entirely alien branch of research, results of which proved them 100 per cent valid.

Telling me of the work of his group in Ottawa, he wrote:

„Several of our members are interested in basic research and we are busy trying to learn something of the science of these people from elsewhere. Needless to say we are all in the kindergarten, but we are learning and have uncovered quite a bit of interesting material, all of which can be substantiated by rigid laboratory experiment.“

It was as the instigator and head of the Canadian Government's UFO investigation program, Project Magnet, that he became known in saucer research circles. Major Donald Keyhoe, director of NICAP, a large private UFO research group in the United States which does not take kindly to „contact“ stories, several times met Mr Smith on his various visits to the States. Keyhoe wrote glowingly of the Canadian scientist in several of his books and could not speak highly enough of his work, despite the fact that Wilbert Smith was convinced that contact had been made with human extraterrestrials. Keyhoe's denigration of, and many verbal attacks on, George Adamski, bears witness to the former's attitude in this regard, an attitude typical of those who can find merit in the academically-educated but not in the unacademically.

Of Project Magnet, Wilbert Smith wrote in another article:

„Project Magnet was authorized in December 1950, following a request made to the Canadian Department of Transport by W. B. Smith, for permission to make use of the Department's laboratory and field

facilities in a study of unidentified flying objects and physical principles which might appear to be involved.

„The Program consisted of two parts. The first part was the collecting of as much high quality data as possible, analysing it, and where possible drawing conclusions from it. The second part consisted of a systematic questioning of all our basic concepts in the hopes of turning up a discrepancy which might prove to be the key to a new technology.

„Unfortunately, the program was plagued by well-meaning but misguided journalists who were looking for spectacular copy, or copy which could be turned to political account, to such an extent that both those who were working on the project and the Department of Transport found themselves in an embarrassed position. (Subsequently, the Canadian Government became embarrassed by questions being asked in the Canadian Parliament about the Shirley's Bay station.) Consequently, when the Project Magnet Report was made and permission sought to extend the scope of the investigation through Federal financial support, the decision was finally made in 1954 that this would not be advisable in the face of the publicity from which the whole project had suffered.

„Project Magnet was officially dropped by the Department of Transport in October 1954, although the Department indicated its willingness to permit the continued use of laboratory facilities, provided that this could be done at no cost to the public treasury. The project has been continuing under these conditions, and to this extent may be said to have gone underground. The Government of Canada are not participant in the project and not in any way responsible for its conclusions.“

UNQUOTE.

Though not in his life-time, it seems that this was the point later to be used by spokesmen at the Department of Transport to discount Wilbert Smith's findings and to belittle the program which he had carried out. Possibly in line with the general policy of „de-bunking“ the flying saucers in the U.S., as recently disclosed by Dr. James E. McDonald of the University of Arizona, the Canadian governmental department concerned has since spoken of Project Magnet as a „hobby“ of Wilbert Smith's, for the purpose of which he was allowed to use certain facilities, and upon which he was only to spend his own free time. Correspondence with officials in Smith's former division of Telecommunications has resulted in a rather pathetic attempt to cover up the governmental part in the Project. Wilbert Smith did, in fact, propose the project, and for this he must be given due credit. But the subtle denigration of his work and its importance is a guideline on the tactics and subsequent policies adopted by not only his own government but others, including the British and U.S.

A well-known French engineer and UFO researcher, Aimé Michel, wrote in his book „The Truth About Flying Saucers“:

„With the funds supplied by these two depart-

ments, (Ministry of Transport and the Department of Military Research), the observatory has been established at Shirley's Bay, about ten miles west of Ottawa. It is directed by Mr Wilbert Smith, Telecommunications Engineer at the Ministry of Transport and electronics specialist. Some of the electronic apparatus installed at Shirley's Bay by Mr Smith himself is „absolutely secret and unknown,“ according to a communique of December 2nd, 1953.

„Mr Smith has gathered round him a team of specialists in various branches of science: Dr. James Watt, a physician from the department of military research; Mr John H. Thompson, another telecommunications specialist; Professor J. T. Wilson, of the University of Toronto; Dr. G. D. Garland, the Dominion Observatory's gravitation expert, and other research workers.

„It was actually made known in December 1953 that the project had the strong support of two of the highest Canadian scientific authorities: Dr. O. M. Solandt, President of the Military Research Department, and Mr Dean Mackenzie, ex-President of the National Council of Scientific Research.“

UNQUOTE.

The nature of Wilbert Smith's findings was sure to bring coals of fire upon his head from certain authorities and individuals. As we have seen so often in the history of our society, so it began to happen to Wilbert Smith. Yet strangely he was up-graded from his position at the time of the Project's inception, which was engineer in charge of the Transport Department's broadcast and measurement section, telecommunications division, to become Superintendent of Radio Regulations Engineering, which position he held until the time of his death.

Yet, before he died, he too began to experience the „brush-off.“

Many were the experiments he and his colleagues worked on, at the behest of the „people from elsewhere“, — the „Boys Topside“, as he began to call them. Gravity-control experiments, new types of drive units; — many of the results proved the fallibility of the science Smith had been trained to follow throughout his life. Old concepts were proved wrong, new „alien“ concepts were brought to light.

An example of the „brush-off“ attitude adopted towards Wilbert Smith's work was shown in a letter quoted in the July-August 1964 issue of the well-known Flying Saucer Review.

Mr Wilfrid Daniels, a British UFO researcher, had made certain inquiries of Canadian authorities regarding the authenticity of Project Magnet.

Quoting Flying Saucer Review:

„Mr Daniels, on April 29, 1964, received from the Canadian Government's Department of Transport in Ottawa the following reply to his enquiry. The letter is signed on behalf of Mr F. G. Nixon, Director, Telecommunications and Electronics Branch. The letter reads as follows:

„Your letter of April 2 requesting clarification of whether the Department of Transport investigated unidentified flying objects between 1950 and 1954 and whether Mr W. B. Smith was in charge of such an investigation has been referred to this branch for attention.

„In reply to your question we would reiterate that at no time has this Department carried out research in the field of unidentified flying objects. As stated by Mr Dupuis in Hansard on December 4, 1963, a small program of investigation in the field of geo-magnetics was carried out by the Telecommunications Division of this Department between 1950 and 1954. This minor investigation was for the purpose of studying magnetic phenomena, particularly those phenomena resulting from unusual boundary conditions in the basic electro-magnetic theory.

„Mr Smith operated this small program of investigation in the field of geo-magnetics; but he also had a personal interest in this matter and he was permitted to use, in his spare time, the specialized equipment employed for the investigation during periods when it was not required by the Department. This personal project was at no expense to the Department, nor did it have any Departmental sponsorship, it was merely a private effort on the part of Mr Smith.

„We trust the foregoing will clarify any misunderstanding about the activities of this Department in the field of unidentified flying objects.“

UNQUOTE.

The insistence on the „small program of investigation“, — „— this minor investigation —“ and again „— this small program of investigation“, surely shows a certain superfluity unbecoming to a governmental department.

The mention of Smith's „— personal interest —“ — „in his spare time —“, „this personal project —“ and „merely a private effort on the part of Mr Smith —“; all these reiterations and denials in one short letter indicate, surely, a certain hysteria on the part of someone chosen to refute known facts. And someone must have bothered Mr Dupuis about it, too, to cause him to bring it up in Parliament in 1963, nine years after the „small program of investigation“ was closed.

The cover-up is continued in a reply to a request by a technological student in England, made to the same department, who asked merely for help and information on field theory, to assist in work on which he was engaged at the time. The student mentioned „the report on a project started in December 1950 and officially wound up in 1954.“ He mentioned Project Magnet and Mr Wilbert Smith. He did not mention UFO's or flying saucers at all. I know that this young man is working on experiments in field control, and this was his sole reason for writing to the department concerned.

The reply came, dated March 23, 1966.

„Dear Sir, — In reply to your recent letter request-

ing information on unidentified flying objects, I regret to advise that we are unable to be of assistance to you. The late Mr W. B. Smith, who was employed by this Department, was quite active in that field but his activities were purely a personal hobby and we have no Departmental information on the subject, Yours Truly,"

(and signed for Mr F. G. Nixon.)

Once again, „purely a personal hobby.“

What must be considered a downright insult to the memory of this respected and dedicated man was contained in an article on UFO's published in the „Peterborough Examiner“ issue of the Canadian „Weekend Magazine“, dated November 12, 1966.

In an article by R. J. Childerhose, himself a one-time pilot in the R.C.A.F who presented a photograph taken by himself of a UFO hovering in clouds, appeared the following:

„Over the years various governments have set up investigative bodies. In a most un-Canadian fit of scientific zeal, the Federal Government allowed employee Wilbert Smith, to set up „the world's first scientific flying saucer station“ at Shirley's Bay, near Ottawa, in 1953.“ (This is not the correct date — R.C.)

„At that time Smith was a respected expert in communications. The government allowed him the use of some magnetometer and gravity-recording devices for his personal UFO researches.“ — (Once again, one can perceive the source from which Mr Childerhose drew his information. „- for his *personal* UFO researches.“ — R.C.) — „Smith hoped to correlate reports of UFO activity with scientific proof of the event.

„Nothing ever came of it and the government withdrew its support in 1956.“ — (again the wrong date — R.C.)

„Dr. Peter Millman, head of the National Research Council's upper-atmosphere branch, knew and respected Wilbert Smith as a scientist. „Wilbert started out with a logical program,“ he said, „but then later became involved with spiritualism. He died in 1962 believing that he was going to continue UFO research in another realm.“

„Topside, the magazine of the New Sciences Club, which was started by Smith, continues to reflect his interest in the occult. The mimeographed quarterly contained other-world message from „the Space Brothers.“

UNQUOTE.

To connect spiritualism and the occult to flying saucers is a favourite pastime of sceptics. Here an apparent believer in saucers has used the term when referring to a contact claimant, for whom some „believers“ hold an almost religious hate complex. That the „Space Brothers“ might conceivably be a name given to human, flesh-and-blood contacts from other planets would be past the comprehension of such as write criticisms of those who believe in the existence of alien visitors to Earth.

That Wilbert Smith's years'-long examination of, and investigation into, the phenomenon of the UFO's, should be so arrogantly cast aside by his contemporaries is the ultimate in human egotism.

For reasons known best to themselves, Wilbert Smith's earlier associates in the Ottawa saucer group declined to offer public denials of this kind of misleading article. They would give it the silent contempt which it deserved. The pity was, that, as the public did not know of this silent contempt, then the public was left to believe that Wilbert Smith was, after all, only a poor spiritualist who got led astray. Unfortunately for some, furtive „brush-off“ moves and overemphatic denials often rebound on the heads of those who issue these denials.

Now we discover that the Canadian authorities had a very REAL interest in flying saucers. Canadian Defence Minister Paul Hellyer has recently disclosed that „the Canadian government 13 years ago made available the defence research board experimental station at Suffield, Alberta, as a landing site for Unidentified Flying Objects.“

„The special Canadian committee, checking out reports of UFO sightings over Canada, ceased to function about 10 years ago, according to Mr Hellyer.“

The interview with the Defence Minister, reported in the „Ottawa Journal“, goes on: „The investigations in recent years have been cursory and on a hit-or-miss basis, it is understood.“

(This obviously indicates that the earlier investigation was a more thorough affair. — R.C.)

„The proposed NRC (National Research Council) study committee will check into the current crop of UFO sightings and presumably seek to determine whether there is a justification for launching a new scientific investigation of the UFO phenomena.

„Wilbert Smith, who died a few years ago, was a member of the earlier committee. He was to become an expert in Canada on UFO research and investigation. He set up at Shirley's Bay near Ottawa a specially designet apparatus that could detect and record any metal object passing overhead —“

UNQUOTE.

And so Wilbert Smith WAS a member of the earlier government scientific committee investigating the UFO phenomenon.

The Canadian Government, despite the impression of disinterest allowed to circulate in past years, in line with other governments, DID AND DOES HAVE AN INTEREST IN FLYING SAUCERS, enough to authorize the top secret project of a flying saucer landing-ground in one of the restricted defence zones.

And Mr C. P. Edwards, former Deputy Minister of Transport, (and, as such, a head of the Telecommunications and Electronics Branch of the Department of Transport), was a supporter of Wilbert Smith's UFO research work during the days of Project Magnet, when files were actually kept at the Department's offices in Ottawa.

IT WAS MR EDWARDS WHO OFFICIALLY
CLOSED DOWN PROJECT MAGNET.

„For your information EVERY nation on this planet has been officially informed of the existence of the space craft and their occupants from elsewhere, and as nations they must accept responsibility for any lack of action or for any official position which they may take —“

Are these the words of a crank or a spiritualist? Or are they words that now ring true more than ever before since they were written all those years ago?

Perhaps now, before it is so late as to be worthless, others who know far more than I about the work of this dedicated Canadian pioneer, will find the guts to speak out —

IN DEFENCE OF WILBERT SMITH.



Caswell

In a Feb 28, 1958 letter from Dr. Olavo
Fontes to Col. Lorenzon.

- approached by two men from Naval Intelligence
- two hours

1) All governments and military authorities
throughout the world knew that flying saucers
existed and that absolute proof of this existed.

2) All military authorities and governments through
the world are informed of the situation. There is an
exchange of information through intelligence services
and top level military conferences that are held periodically
to discuss new developments on the subject.