

Sign Oral History Project

Oral History Interview with Doyle Rees (Col. USAF, ret.)

Date: October 1999

Interviewer: Thomas Tulien

TRT: 60:00 minutes

Format: BETA-SP (two tapes)

Transcription: Candy Peterson with additional editing by Rod Brock and Tom Tulien.

Copyright: AFS/Dialogue Productions LLC, and the *Sign Oral History Project*.

NOTICE

This is a transcript of a tape-recorded interview conducted for the *Sign Oral History Project* and is essentially a transcript of the spoken, rather than the written word.

RESTRICTIONS

This oral history transcript may be read, quoted from, cited, and reproduced for purposes of research. It may not be published in whole or part except by permission of the copyright holder.

Thomas Tulien

Sign Oral History Project

DR: Doyle Rees

TT: Thomas Tulien

DR: The green fireball was a hell of a mystery—that's for sure.

TT: But as far as you know they never acquired any instrumented data?

DR: They never what?

TT: Like triangulation or anything?

DR: Oh, no. Well, the damn things went so fast, you see.

TT: Yeah.

DR: See, I lived in Albuquerque. And I was sittin' on my back patio when me and my wife saw one. It came across - probably above Sandia - and going like a bat out of hell. It was green, and kinda scared the hell out of us. Because we'd already been reading about them.

TT: Was there any sound with it?

DR: No sound, no.

TT: That's the thing.

DR: Yeah.

TT: ...how can they be going through the atmosphere without making a hell of a lot of sound?

DR: Well, you've read about the big meeting at the Atomic Energy Commission?

TT: Oh - on the subject?

DR: Yeah.

TT: Yes.

DR: And there - I was always interested in the - we were sitting in the meeting, and they brought in all these scientists. And here walks in Edward Teller and set down across the table from me. I almost fell out of my chair. But he had a theory on it.

TT: Was it a good one - Teller's?

DR: Well, not too good. I well remember, he said it was a- he thought it was a [pause] - the name slips my mind now. He thought it was a possibility coming from Russia.

TT: Oh, yeah.

DR: Experimenting.

TT: Like the V-2 or something like that?

DR: No, he - pencil gun. It was called a pencil gun. I'd never heard of that.

TT: Pencil gun - really?

DR: With many stages. So he figured they'd burn out one stage and then another one would take force, and so...

TT: Yeah, I'd never heard of that one - "pencil gun."

DR: Well, that he just pulled it out of the air, so I don't know.

TT: [Pause, paper shuffling] I'm just about ready. There was some photographic activity on April 27th and the 24th of May.

DR: Of what year?

TT: 1950.

DR: Oh, yes. Did they get a photograph of the green fireball?

TT: [Reading]. Simultaneous sightings by both cameras were not made, so that no information was gained. On August 30, 1950, during a Bell Aircraft missile launching, aerial phenomena were observed over Holloman by several individuals. However, neither Land-Air nor project personnel were notified, and therefore no results were acquired.

DR: Oh, yeah.

TT: Oh, here's the [pages turning] - apparently the Cambridge Research Laboratory was involved? That makes sense - Cambridge Research Laboratory?

DR: Oh, yeah - I've heard of them, yeah.

TT: Do you remember a guy named Mirarchi?

DR: What?

TT: Dr. A. O. Mirarchi-

DR: Oh, no - I don't know that.

TT: Here's some other stuff I'll leave with you.

DR: Oh. Well I'd like that. Especially this old report of mine - so long ago.

TT: Yeah, must be something to see your signature from...

DR: [laughs]

TT: ...50 years ago.

DR: [laughs] Yeah, that wasn't yesterday!

TT: Can't remember what you were signing, right?

DR: Yeah, yep - that wasn't yesterday.

TT: Can you just give me a "one, two, three"?

DR: Are you ready to start?

TT: I am.

DR: You don't mind if I record it, too, do you?

TT: Not at all. If you'd like, I can send you a copy of this, too.

DR: Oh, will you?

TT: Yeah.

DR: Oh great, great.

TT: I can send you a video copy if you want.

DR: Oh, wonderful. Well that's better. I'll turn this off.

TT: Okay, where were you born? Are you from Utah?

DR: Yes, yes. I was born out in the valley, here [Logan, Utah]. My father was a schoolteacher and a farmer. So I was raised on a farm.

TT: Farming and teaching, huh?

DR: Yeah.

TT: Did you serve in World War II?

DR: Yes.

TT: At what point did you go in to the - [military service]?

DR: Well, I went to the Utah State University over here, and got a commission in the Army. And I was in Washington D.C. studying law when I was called into the service. I had just about finished law -and I was preparing for the Bar Examination when called into the service. So I stayed in all the time. And I was with the Office of Special Investigation with the Air Force.

TT: So, when you initially went into the Service where were you stationed?

DR: To begin with?

TT: Yeah.

DR: Well, first North Carolina. Then Hawaii - I was with the Pacific Ocean Area Headquarters at Hawaii. I was headquarters Commandant for General Richardson who was in command of the Pacific Ocean Area. And then when the war was over, I came back, and was transferred - that was with the Army - I was transferred to the Air Force. That's when I got into the OSI.

TT: Oh - in '47?

DR: Yes. The Office of Special Investigation.

TT: Yeah. So you were doing intelligence work throughout that whole time?

DR: Yes, it was set up - The Office of Special Investigation was set up for the Air Force, copied after the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They brought over General Carroll who was J. Edgar

Hoover's right-hand man. And he stayed. He came in as a colonel and finished his career as a three star general - tremendous man. [Hoover's Special Assistant Joseph F. Carroll was assigned to head OSI, eventually retiring from the Air Force as Lt. General.]

TT: Yeah.

DR: And he set up an organization copied after the FBI, investigating all major events occurring with them and affecting the Air Force, which included all counter-intelligence. So, that's how we got into the UFO deal.

TT: That was set up out in Washington - so you were one of the branch offices? How did the structure work?

DR: Well, the Office of Special Investigation was under the Inspector General of the Air Force, and it was centrally located. And we had, I guess, 24 different districts throughout the United States, and you had a commander in charge of each one. When I transferred to the Air Force, I became the commander of 17th District at Albuquerque, New Mexico, which covered the Air Force bases in Arizona, western Texas and New Mexico. And that's how we got into the UFO investigations.

TT: What was your function? Did you run that office and how many people were under you?

DR: Well, I had five detachments - one in Texas, two in New Mexico, and two in Arizona. We conducted [investigated] all major offenses affecting the Air Force - fraud against the government, and counter-intelligence, and background investigations. And we actually did the same thing for the Air Force that the FBI was doing for the civilian organization - [trails off] - or world.

TT: So you were doing the FBI's job within the ranks of the Air Force.

DR: Within the Air Force.

TT: Yeah.

DR: That's a good way to put it. Course, my first assignment was District Commander of District 17. That's where I got started.

TT: Okay. Could you talk a little bit about the transition of how the Air Force went from a CIC to OSI?

DR: Well, as much as I can tell you. When the Air Force was organized and set up as a separate service, they took part of CIC, which became OSI. So some of the agents who were CIC automatically became OSI. So, all of my detachments were manned by personnel who had been CIC. With few exceptions - the commanders and things like that - which was not so.

TT: So that was a structural change within the Air Force?

DR: Yes, and of course many districts had former FBI agents working for them. We recruited an awful lot of former FBI agents.

TT: Oh, for their experience?

DR: Yes, experience. They knew the ropes.

TT: What happened to the CIC files at Air Force facilities?

DR: Oh, I don't know whether I can tell you that. I don't remember that we got any of 'em. I assume that the Army CIC retained all the files. That's my guess.

TT: Yeah, okay.

DR: I don't think we had any.

TT: Apparently - this is coming from Jan - apparently there are no files that he has been able to locate.

DR: I don't know of any - I don't.

TT: Okay. He wanted to know if they transferred over to OSI, or, or did they go to the Army?

DR: Well that's a good question. I've never thought of it before. But as far as I know, we never got any of them.

TT: Um, okay. So, were you getting UFO reports right from the beginning at OSI?

DR: Was I what?

TT: I mean, this was, what - 1947 - we're talking about right?

DR: Yes. Well, 1948 when I was transferred, yes.

TT: 1948, okay. So that's when the office was established at Kirtland?

DR: Yes.

TT: At that time was it called Kirtland?

DR: Oh yes. That was my first assignment out there from Washington D.C.

TT: Okay. Were you aware of the green fireballs at that time? Was that one of the reasons why the office was set up there?

DR: Oh no, no. It was set up all over the United States to take care of any investigation. And of course, that just fell into our lap, that uh-

TT: Was that an issue from the beginning?

DR: Yes, yes. I went there in the fall of 1948. And I would say right from the beginning till I was transferred in 1950 to the Pentagon. And we did investigate an awful lot of reports of flying saucers or UFOs - whatever you want to call them - and green fireballs.

TT: Were you involved in any of the investigations at Killeen Air Base?

DR: Well, involved only that I would direct it. I didn't go out and do any of the personal investigation, but I would direct what had to be done, and I, of course, reviewed all the reports, which I had to review before they were signed. When they were signed, they went to Washington and one copy to the commander of the base where the investigation took place.

TT: Did you know about the night-light sightings at Killeen Base? You know - Camp Hood? Did you know that there were sightings in mid-'49?

DR: No, no, I wasn't.

TT: Well, connected to that, did you know that in '49 - I think this was in Texas, too - that the Army set up a UFO observation network?

DR: No, I don't remember that I did.

TT: I'm not sure they were ever successful in doing that.

DR: No, I don't know. I don't remember if I did know.

TT: Let's talk a bit about the green fireball sightings. That was an ongoing phenomenon the whole time you were at Kirtland?

DR: Well, soon after I got there, when the reports started occurring. And there was lots of 'em. Lots as you probably know. Particularly up towards Los Alamos.

TT: Yeah, it's odd that they were occurring around that facility.

DR: Yes, and that caused lots of concern. And that was, as you probably know, the reason that they held the big conference at Los Alamos to try and resolve what it was.

TT: When was that?

DR: Well offhand I don't recall, but I'd say it was 1949.

TT: Okay.

DR: And of course they invited all the intelligence and counter-intelligence agencies to Los Alamos where they held the big meeting. And they brought in, oh I'd say four or five of the top scientists to listen to what had been observed. And, of course, my men, and the FBI, and the Army all explained what their people had seen - where it was and what they seen, and described it. And then the scientists asked many questions. And of course, as I mentioned, it was very interesting to have Edward Teller walk in and set down across the table from me - one of the greatest scientists - who developed I guess most of the hydrogen bomb. He was the man back of the whole thing. And

he did have quite a few questions to ask. But they were, I think, disturbed, as well as everyone else, with no particular answer for it.

TT: Did they believe it was connected to the Los Alamos facility?

DR: Well, that was the speculation. And as I mentioned, I was interested in Edward Teller's view on it. He says, well, as best he could come up with, what I - he said it was "a pencil gun." I don't know where he got the term or whether he had ever heard of it. But he figured it was a possibility coming from Soviet Union - that it would have stages. One stage would burn out and the other would take on. And that was his - which is what he wondered about.

TT: Yeah, so what you were seeing was maybe the final stage of that?

DR: Well yeah, if it burned out, that was the final stage. And, of course, I guess most of these did burn out, as I remember. The one that I observed did burn out, or it was gone all at once. But it was-- [trails off]

TT: You mean it just disappeared?

DR: Well it was green, and it was traveling from north to south, right over Sandia base, as near as we could tell. We were sitting on our back porch, my wife and I, when we observed it. It was going awful fast, but it - before it got out of sight - it seemed to burn out all at once.

TT: Yeah, well they never did find any -

DR: No, no, nothing was ever found. And of course Dr. La Paz spent a lot of - took a lot of air samples with our aircraft to see if he could find anything in the air that would describe anything, but it was always negative.

TT: There was some talk, I know, about somebody having noticed that, or having found copper particles in the air. That was Dr. William Crozier.

DR: Oh, was there? I didn't know about that.

TT: Yeah, never heard about that?

DR: No.

TT: So nothing was ever detected in the air, huh?

DR: As far as Dr. La Paz - while I was there - the trips he made in our aircraft taking samples of the air - he didn't find anything.

TT: Okay. What did La Paz think these things were?

DR: Well, his speculation was a lot like the rest of ours. It was just one of those things where he didn't have a clear answer to it.

TT: Yeah. He was sure dedicated in pursuing it.

DR: Oh, he was very dedicated man, yes.

TT: What was he like? Were you personal friends with La Paz?

DR: Well, not socially, but we were good friends because he would come to my office, oh, I would say some weeks two or three times. And so we'd see him, and he attended a lot of our meetings, he was a man that I admired very much.

TT: Were you working - did you have a professional relationship with him, or just associated with him?

DR: Well, nothing - he was under contract to the Air Force.

TT: Okay.

DR: But he was so interested - he wanted to work with us. So he did everything for us free, gratis. But we were investigators, a subject that he was widely interested in. So he was sort of an advisor to us all the time. And he did work with our agents with some of the research that was done. When we were set up stations to observe the sky to see if anything happened, he was involved in that all the time.

TT: Yeah, and were those ever successful?

DR: No.

TT: Why weren't they successful?

DR: Well, you send someone out to look for it, at night, and you set there all night and not see it - the next morning, maybe there's one. Something like that you see. It's one of those things. You are lucky if you go out to look for it and find one.

TT: Yeah, it's the same with all UFO sightings.

DR: Yes. [Both chuckle.]

TT: What was La Paz like? Give us some background on Lincoln La Paz.

DR: Well, I always thought that maybe he had Spanish background. He rather impressed me that way, but I don't know. He was a very friendly guy. I say a very intelligent man and very eager. Lots of ambition. And it seems like he was interested in anything that came out of the sky - might say that.

TT: Yeah, he had been pursuing meteorites for quite a while.

DR: Yes, yes. But a very pleasant man to talk to and deal with.

TT: So you weren't personal friends with him? You didn't go to parties together and so forth?

DR: Yeah, that's right. Yeah, we were just good friends.

TT: Okay. How extensive was the investigation of the UFO's or green fireballs during the time that you were there? What was the attitude at OSI about this whole phenomenon?

DR: Well, it's kind of hard to say. It's hard to investigate something of that kind. You'd investigate to write down exactly what they saw and all the details of it. But that's about as far as it could go, was talk to the people that did observe 'em. And we, of course, put those all in our OSI reports and sent them to Washington.

TT: Did you have any interaction with the projects at Wright Field? At ATIC?

DR: No, we didn't. We heard a lot about it, there. But I assume that our headquarters sent our reports to them. That is my assumption. I'm sure they must have.

TT: So you never had any contact with Grudge?

DR: No, none at all, none at all from out there.

TT: What did La Paz think these green fireballs were?

DR: Well, he was just about as puzzled as the rest of us. It was something that stimulated his thinking, and he wasn't satisfied until he found the answer, which I don't think he ever did. Well, I'm sorry he didn't.

TT: Yeah.

DR: But it certainly stimulated him.

TT: Yeah. Were there any indications that they were U.S. experiments?

DR: Well, only talk. Could it be something so super-secret that we were experimenting with? But that was only talk. We never knew of anything.

TT: Yeah - or Teller's comment that they could be Russian, well-

DR: Yeah.

TT: That leaves many questions. [Both chuckle.] You weren't out there in 1954, but they sort of staged a comeback in the early 50s, green fireballs did.

DR: Uh, say that again.

TT: Well, I mean, the fireballs were in the late '40s, maybe through '51, right?

DR: Yes, [unintelligible] until the time I left. I never did follow it after that. And I left the middle of 1950.

TT: Yeah, apparently they made a small comeback in the middle of 1954, and La Paz was saying that they were being reported in Alaska and Canada.

DR: Oh, I didn't know that.

TT: Yeah.

DR: I've always wondered about it, but it was outside of my field. After I left I went to the Pentagon, so-

TT: Yeah, okay. Here's one. In about 1955, Hynek told Isabel Davis that La Paz was out of favor with the Air Force. Do you have any comments on that? Again, you weren't out there at the time but - you know who J. Allen Hynek is?

DR: Well, I can't believe that he would be, but who knows? Ah, maybe he was too inquisitive about something and that may have put him out of favor, but he certainly did cooperate with us 100%, and was very eager to help us.

TT: Following Kirtland, you went to the Pentagon?

DR: Yes.

TT: And then what were your duties there?

DR: Well, I was doing staff work then relating to all major investigations affecting the Air Force. I knew - the UFOs or the fireballs - I never heard any more about them. That is, nothing official.

TT: For the remainder of the time you were there.

DR: Yeah, I'd read the newspaper about them, but that's all. Course it was handled secretly, so I wouldn't have had a reason to know.

TT: Yeah, it was classified.

DR: Yeah, yeah.

TT: Yeah, in fact, you know, it wasn't until the 1970s that the Blue Book files were released.

DR: The what?

TT: It wasn't until the 1970's that a lot of that information began to be released.

DR: Yes right. Back then - like so many things, it was - as I recall, most of these reports were all confidential or secret. I don't remember of any being top-secret, but they were handled pretty carefully.

TT: Do you remember a Dr. Joseph Kaplan?

DR: Oh, yes.

TT: You do. Could you talk about him a little bit?

DR: Well, it's so long ago. But he was - as I recall - an advisor to the Air Force on certain scientific matters. And, as I recall, he was sent to Kirtland. And, again - I believe this is correct - he and I and Dr. La Paz, and one of my other officers, went to this meeting at Los Alamos. And he was in on the meeting. He was a very intelligent man - that was my impression, and of course a top scientist. But that's about all I know. I think Dr. La Paz already was well acquainted with him, and so he came to look into the situation. But, that's all I know.

TT: Yeah. Apparently Cabell had ordered Kaplan to - let me see here [pause] - a project that was kept secret from Grudge at the time under Cabell's order. You didn't know that that was the case at the time?

DR: No, I don't know. I just know that he came there. And, as I recall, he went to the meeting with us - he and I and my officer, and La Paz.

TT: Did you also know a Theodore Von Karman?

DR: Well I've heard a lot about him, yeah. I never did know him.

TT: Okay. You met Bill Moore at some point. Was that during the Roswell investigation?

DR: Well, I would say - and I'm going to guess - it was about sometime in 1963 after I retired, and he came from California. We spent two hours, I guess, down at my office talking about the same thing you and I are talking about. And he had lunch with us. I remember my wife asking if he'd ever heard of this particular book on UFOs, and he says, "Oh, I wrote it!" [both chuckle]. And he went out to his car and got a copy and endorsed it to my daughter. But we had a very pleasant visit. And I had quite a bit of correspondence with him from time to time. And I did see him on several TV shows.

TT: Yeah, that's one person I'd - [break in tape continuity.]

DR: I don't offhand remember all we talked about - maybe flying saucers or UFOs in general. But he called me from Canada, and we talked, I guess, for over an hour. But then we had quite a bit of correspondence after that which I do have copies of, if you're interested.

TT: We're primarily interested in that early - well, our focus is on '47 to '69, you know.

DR: Oh, yes.

TT: That's in that early history, up until the point when the Air Force got out of it.

DR: Yes.

TT: You know, with the Condon Committee.

DR: Yeah. Well, my correspondence with him would have been in the 1960's, as I remember.

TT: With Bill Moore?

DR: Well, with Moore and Friedman, yes.

TT: Let me pause for a second here.

DR: [Laughs]

TT: What was he involved in?

DR: Well -

TT: Maybe he's got Lincoln La Paz's files in his [unintelligible].

DR: [Laughing] Yeah. Well, I came after the Roswell incident. I came out there after that.

TT: Were you aware of that at the time?

DR: No, I wasn't. And one of my top officers was down at Roswell at the time, you know. You've probably heard of Sheridan Cavitt, have you?

TT: Yeah.

DR: Well, he was one of my top officers, and they've always - the people I've talked to - have always suspected that he was holding out. That his lips were sealed. And he told me - and I have lots of correspondence here with him - where he says, "I don't know anything." He says, "If I'd have known, I would have told you." But that may not be so - I don't know. If you're sworn to secrecy, maybe he's got to keep - maybe his lips are sealed, I don't know.

TT: So he was stationed there in 1947?

DR: Yes, he was my detachment commander at Roswell when I took over. And, of course, he was there at the time of the - this Roswell incident. But he said he didn't - He'd been accused of going with the Provost Marshall there out to observe the result of the crash.

TT: Was that Rickett or something?

DR: Well Rickett worked for him. And he was an enlisted agent, and a fine agent that worked for Cavitt. But they accused Cavitt of going out with this Provost Marshall with him to - but he said, "No," he didn't do that.

TT: Yeah.

DR: So he didn't know anything, and I have - I don't know anything other than what we've discussed.

TT: Yeah, well, nobody seems to.

DR: Yeah.

TT: What else can we discuss - There was only one sort of conference on the green fireballs, and that was at Los Alamos, huh?

DR: That they were talked about at - I mean, see, our intelligence agencies and counter-intelligence agencies all met once a month. So did the Army and the Air Force and FBI. And that would always come up during those meetings. But that was the one main big conference that I know of, and the only one that occurred when I was there. Yeah.

TT: How is it you ended up being... Were you trained for intelligence work? Is that what you were doing during the war?

DR: Well, to a certain extent. Course I had studied law and business, and I had been intelligence officer for a regiment, and things of that kind. Of course - after that my experience during World War II led me a little into intelligence all the time. But I wasn't specially trained. I didn't go to any special schools for it.

TT: How come they appointed you out at Kirtland?

DR: Well, of course, the district that you're appointed to has many investigations: Fraud against the government, which I was really familiar with; background investigations; major criminal investigations; all of those things tie right in with your law background and everything. So, the UFO - is something that, just counter-intelligence. Ah, this comes into your district, and you may not be specially trained for that, but you're trained as an investigator. Of course I had been to quite a few schools. And that - later on I was commandant of the Air Force investigative school in Washington D.C. - but that was later on.

TT: Were there any particular UFO cases that you remember during your tenure? Do you remember any cases that stand out in your memory at the time?

DR: Oh, I - along this line? Yes. Well, I remember one we investigated was - it finally got to us, I'm guessing - a couple of months after it occurred. Some Mexican sheepherders down southern part of New Mexico had observed a flying saucer that come in and set down, according to them. And burned all the grass underneath it. And that's the story by the time we got it. A couple of months later, there were no signs of the burning of the grass, but the Mexicans, the sheepherders, were pretty firm about what they had seen. That was one. Another one was - that turned out to be, yeah, of no consequence. Some of the Indians in New Mexico were observing lights at night. But after we investigated it, and it was up in the mountains where they were seeing it and it was determined that it was white rock of the mountains getting a shine from the moon is what we considered. But a lot of them that we investigated - when you get to the bottom there's nothing to it. But then a lot of the other ones, there was no answer to it.

TT: Yeah.

DR: Ah, we had quite a number where Air Force pilots had observed - and those were in our reports - where they had observed. One time I remember a formation flew right along with him - that's a report he gave.

TT: And was it your job to interview the pilots?

DR: Oh, yes - you bet.

TT: What was your impression of these pilots' reports? I mean you'd assume that they'd know what they're looking at.

DR: Well, they'd have to be awful intelligent men. You can say generally they'd be very intelligent or they wouldn't be a pilot. So, they had no reason not to tell the truth. I'm convinced that they saw something. Now, that's about all you can say about it. They said they saw these flying formations right along with them and they must have saw something. But who knows? If you could take a picture of them then you'd have something to go on.

TT: How many of those reports were you getting during that time? Were you getting many pilot reports?

DR: Well, quite a number I'd say - quite a number. A number - another one where we thought we had photographed a green fireball in it. On the film - it looked like really a fireball. But after it was finally analyzed - I think it was analyzed in Washington - it was a thumbprint on the film.

TT: You're kidding.

DR: It had all the indications of a flying saucer. I'm trying to think of some others that we - and there were so many of them that I - It's been so long ago, and I really don't recall any others.

TT: So tell us a little more about your green fireball sighting. How long did it last?

DR: Oh. Well, it would be very short time, because we observed it over this - over to the left - over to the north, going like a bat out o' hell - really. But it was a green fireball. It was below the mountain, above Sandia. Appeared to be above Sandia - it may be it'd been beyond them.

TT: So you could see the mountain - the mountain was behind the fireball?

DR: Well, as I remember, yes. And it didn't seem to be - to have much altitude. But it was going awful fast, and it - I would say from where we were to us, it would seem about the size of volleyball. That was about the size from where we were. And how far it was - 10, 15, 20, 30 miles - I don't know. But it was certainly very obvious. Green, going fast, and then burnt out.

TT: What sort of green? Bright green, Kelly green?

DR: Yes - pale green, I'd say.

TT: Pale green.

DR: Yeah.

TT: Did it look like it was on fire?

DR: Well, it was just awful bright and going fast. I didn't see any flames coming out or anything like that. It just - it just a ball.

TT: How long did it last?

DR: Oh well it, I guess -- I'm guessing only -- but maybe two minutes.

TT: Oh, yeah.

DR: Because we saw it from there and disappear over here, when all at once it went out.

TT: Was it horizontal to the Earth?

DR: Yeah, yeah completely.

TT: Was it.

DR: Yes, completely.

TT: So from that you would assume it's not a meteorite?

DR: Oh yeah, very definitely. It's something that you can't explain. Yeah. And of course, my wife and I both saw it, and so -

TT: So you watched it for two minutes. Was that a normal time for to see these things, or were people seeing them for shorter duration?

DR: Well, of course that's the only one I ever did see, and we reported it. That's in some of the OSI reports. But it's just like - very similar to all the other reports: The color, the elevation and everything seemed to all fit about the same.

TT: What was the attitude in the Air Force during the time that you were out there in the early years? What was the attitude in the Air Force towards this phenomenon?

DR: Well -

TT: What was the attitude you got at OSI?

DR: OSI was pretty concerned about it, particularly when Los Alamos became so concerned - they were really concerned. And, as far as we were concerned, we were very concerned. My immediate commander was General Carroll in Washington D.C. I know that he was concerned. He came out at one time, on a regular visit. And I remember telling him about them, and he was very interested. Other than that, I don't know. I assume the Air Force was pretty much concerned, but I never did know what went on at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I never did get any information on that. Later in my career, I spent three years at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and knew a lot about intelligence and counter-intelligence activity that occurred there, but I never heard anything about this subject. So, I don't know whether they had those - the results of the crash of the flying saucer - whether they had it there, and whether the little green men that they talked about were there. If they were, I never did see 'em. [Chuckles heartily].

TT: You've been looking at this phenomenon for fifty years, what's your attitude about it these days?

DR: About?

TT: About the phenomenon in general?

DR: Well, I would say this: I'm not convinced that there are UFOs. I'm convinced that people are seeing something that they are accused of being UFOs. Some of the testimony of the people that have observed them, and my own observation - it's something you can't just laugh about and forget about. They did -people that were honest and trustworthy - make awful sincere, honest reports on what they saw. I don't know. I'm not convinced that there are flying saucers. Yet, I'm - I can't understand, if there isn't a strange phenomenon going on, why people are seeing them. Not only in New Mexico or the Southwest - but all over the world. They're observed them all over the world. So, it's strange. But then it's strange, if there is such a thing - why haven't we had concrete evidence to show that there is? That would be my thoughts.

TT: Yeah, it is odd too that the whole thing began during the time that we developed nuclear capability.

DR: Yes, yes.

TT: And you know, the green fireballs around Los Alamos.

DR: Yes.

TT: You know, that is curious, too.

DR: Yeah, it, it's a strange thing. There isn't an answer to it yet, as far as I know. You can't dismiss it, because of the reports you get from good witnesses. But then on the other hand, why haven't we got the concrete evidence somehow. A photograph- or really a crash.

TT: Yeah.

DR: I have lots of reservations about the Roswell incident. I doubt that it occurred myself. I can't believe that it occurred and it went to Washington, and went to Wright-Pat. And those of us who are in counter-intelligence and intelligence - if that did occur we'd have had rumors of it, somehow. But I never did hear a rumor from within the Air Force that there was anything like that going on. But I hope there can be a resolution to this, and put it to rest. Or, if there is something to this, let's make an all-out effort to resolve it. Because if there are UFOs coming from other galaxies, they have some scientific information that would be awful valuable to us.

TT: Right, we can't go there.

DR: Yes. Maybe they do. It may be a big step ahead of where we are in our efforts to observe the Universe - everything. It may be way beyond that.

TT: Anything you want to add?

DR: No, I can't think of anything other than that. I know that Karl Pflock did make what I consider to be a pretty thorough investigation.

TT: Yeah, he did.

DR: And he found an answer to what might have been the Roswell incident.

TT: Yeah, Moore too, the man we interviewed, Charles Moore. He is convinced it was a Mogul balloon so-

DR: Yes.

TT: He knew where their balloons were at any given time.

DR: Well, you see, they have laughed about the fact of it being a weather balloon. Well, this wasn't a weather balloon according to Karl. This was a radar operation to observe what was going on in Russia and around the other side of the world. And that makes sense to me. It doesn't make sense to me that an ordinary weather balloon would come down and they'd rush it off to Washington. Or hush it up.

TT: Yeah, this thing had a huge long radar array.

DR: Yes. But it's certainly an interesting subject, isn't it? I'm delighted that you're taking an interest in it. I hope that you're able to dig up something that will be concrete.

TT: Well, we'll see. [Both chuckle.]

DR: Yes.

TT: Nobody's been very successful at that for fifty years or so.

DR: Yeah. Well, I'd be interested in what your views are. Have you gone into this pretty thorough? How do you feel about the whole subject?

TT: Well, I don't know - the whole subject's a bit frustrating after a while and I guess my interest has shifted to the early history.

DR: Oh, yes.

TT: The one thing about the early history is nobody can argue that a phenomenon doesn't exist.

DR: Nope [with mirth] - you're right.

TT: So, there's no question that there's a history to the phenomenon.

DR: Oh, yes.

TT: And studying history can provide some clues. You know - certainly to what our responses were to the phenomenon - how we responded to it. And maybe how the political and institutions responded to it, like the Air Force.

DR: Yes, yeah.

TT: Yeah. You know, Jan Aldrich has done a study of just 1947.

DR: Yeah.

TT: You know, looking at - and then sort of analyzing the reports. And, in '47 everybody was seeing everything that people are seeing now.

DR: Yes.

TT: So that the phenomenon appeared "whole," it didn't "build up" over of several decades. Everything was being experienced that people were going to experience relative to the phenomenon for the next decades.

DR: Yes. I don't think our science had developed it that far, that what we were seeing was our own operation. It's a phenomenon without an answer to it. And, there's no question at all but what they occurred. Green fireballs - so many observations of them. And as far as I know, they were all flying horizontal to the Earth. So hard to find an answer to it.

TT: Yeah. And you probably wouldn't observe a meteorite for two minutes.

DR: No. You gotta kinda throw that out, because it wouldn't be traveling the way the one that I saw was, which was certainly parallel.

TT: Yeah. Anyway, I'll send you some information. See, we're part of a group - a historical group. I'll send you - in the next months ahead I'll send you some information about the -

DR: Oh, I'd like that!

TT: Well, thanks for the time and for the interview. I appreciate you took the time to do that.

DR: Well, it's been a pleasure to talk to you. I am very interested in the subject, and I'm delighted that you're making such an effort to do something on it.

[End of interview]