

Review: Andy McDermott-*Dateline UFO: 1947-1997: 50 Years of Ufology*, Paragon Publishing, Bournemouth, U.K., 1997

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The Big UFO Events

A straightforward if not incredulous summary of key events in the study of UFOs, from Kenneth Arnold nine flying saucers, Projects Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book, up to the mass suicide of the Haven's Gate cult in 1997.

A great resource to start with understanding ufology events.

On 24.6.47, Idaho businessman Kenneth Arnold was flying over Mt Rainer in the Cascade Mountains, Washington State, when he saw nine boomerang-shaped aircraft travelling at 1,700mph. He claimed they were bouncing off the air like a saucer.

On 2.7.47, Roswell New Mexico (the location of the USAAF's sole nuclear-armed bomber wing, the 509th), a metallic, sic-shaped object crashed in the desert leaving a fifty-foot record. The craft was occupied but all were dead except for one being.

The army claimed it was a weather balloon, then later the official story admitted to a cover-up to protect a military experiment ("Project Mogul"). In 1995, 'Roswell autopsy footage' was released which turned out to be a hoax.

On 12.9.47 a top-secret investigation of the "Majestic-12" (high-ranking scientists and military personnel). Many believe the M-12 documentation is disinformation.

On 7.1.49, the Godman AFB control tower reported a UFO sighting. Air National Guard P-51 mustangs were scattered in response. On pilot, Thomas Mantell chased the object until he ran out of oxygen, crashed and died. Officially, he was chasing Venus, but there was a later story of a cover up of the Navy Skyhook balloon program. These were Al-coated objects 450 feet by 100 feet.

In February 1949, Project Sign was created to investigate thousands of UFO sightings, including the death of Thomas Mantell. The Pentagon soon replaced it with Project Grudge, which 'closed' in December, but continued until 1952 before being changed into Project Blue Book.

On 11.5.50, The Tzents photographed a flattened saucer with a metallic raised dorsal bulge, in total 70-feet in width.

On 1951, NASA astronaut Major Gordon Cooper said he saw a UFO, which he again claimed on 15.5.63 which was greenish and glowing.

In March, 1952, astronomer Dr J Allen Hynek (Sign and Grude consultant) devised the Close Encounters scale. Of the thousands of cases, Blue Book concluded 22% were unexplained.

On 26.8.53, Orson Welles broadcast H.G. Well's *The War Of The Worlds*.

On 21.8.55, the Sutton family opened fire on the 'Hopkinsville Goblins'

In the Spring of 1960, astronomer Frank Drake began SETI looking in the 21cm hydrogen line as the most likely wavelength to be used by extraterrestrials.

On 19.9.61, The Hill family claimed abduction involving medical experimentation, probing and missing time. These factors occur in 95% of abductee accounts.

In 1961, the Nuclear Engines for Rocket Vehicle Applications (NERVA) programme was created to overcome chemical fuel limitations. Superheated hydrogen would be vented from a reactor out of a nozzle. The main problem was that the hydrogen isotope was radioactive.

On 20.5.67, Stephen Michalak of Ontario Canada saw a 35-foot long craft and was severely burnt when hot air was expelled from its vent upon take off. His burns showed a grid-like pattern.

On 5.11.75, Travis Walton of Arizona claimed to have been shot by a blue beam and taken aboard a UFO having a trio of aliens.

On 19.6.76, the NASA Viking lander discovered a 'face' on Mars called the Cydonai Face.

On 19.9.76, Tehran reported UFOs.

On 15.8.1977, SETI radio telescopes scanning the hydrogen line detected a 'wow' signal, which was thirty standard deviations above background noise.

On 20.8.77 and 5.9.77, NASA's Voyager probe discovered 22 satellites of the gas giants.

On 29.12.80, Bendelshan Forest in Texas saw a diamond-shaped UFO glowing with a bright fiery light and emitting loud flames from its body. Witnesses began to report radiation sickness signs, hair loss, and even breast cancer.

In the Spring of 1980, *Hanger 18* brought the story of the Roswell Crash to the silver screen.

On 4.12.85, Ronald Reagan floated the 'Star Wars' programme idea.

SETI was terminated in October 1993 but was then taken up by the private sector.

On 26.3.97, the Haven's Gate cult of 39 in Ranch Santa Fe, San Diego committed mass suicide. They believed there were incarnated alien beings sent to Earth to evolve to the next level. Their leader was Marshall Herff Applewhite.