

NEED TO KNOW

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Printed in the United States of America Distributed by W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. www.pegasusbooks.us or so at the time, managed to see the photos. The dead bodies looked 'spindly' she said, and were about 3.5 feet tall.

Another event is reported to have occurred at Exelgroud, near Gdynia, north of Gdańsk, on the Baltic coast of Poland, on 18 July 1943. Daniel Léger, conscripted by the Germans for work at a labour camp in Exelgroud, came across a highly unusual aircraft, partially embedded in sand dunes. Shaped like a 'colonial hat', it was estimated to be about 6 metres in diameter. Several square portholes with rounded edges were spaced on the upper section. No insignia, seams, weldings or connections were apparent. Beside it was a woman – presumably the pilot – trying to free the craft from the sand. She seemed to sense Léger's presence.

Dressed in a tight-fitting, one-piece dark brown suit, she appeared to be about 1.75 metres tall, with long blonde hair, a slim waist and broad hips. Léger assumed she was a German Air Force pilot, since a number of Luftwaffe pilots were based in Exelgroud at that time. Her features were regular, with white skin and slightly slanted, Asian-like eyes. She addressed Léger in an odd language he could not understand.

Shortly afterwards, when the sand had been cleared, the aviatrix boarded her craft. A slight rumbling sound could be heard and two rings on the craft began to rotate, one clockwise and the other anti-clockwise. A dark stripe separating the rings became luminous and began to vibrate, at which point the craft rose from the ground slowly, then suddenly accelerated at a speed far higher than any German aircraft with which Léger was familiar. The witness is rated highly by Jean Sider, one of France's leading researchers.²⁰

In the spring of 1944, it is claimed that a UFO came down at Kaneohe Naval Air Station on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The claimant, a young construction engineer with Headquarters Company 112, US Navy Sea Bees, reported seeing a grounded, silver object with a smoothly 'pock-marked' surface, surmounted with 'a transparent dome containing a gold-coloured device which spun at various speeds'. The claimant was interrogated by federal investigators who asked specific questions in a way that indicated knowledge of a previous event.²¹

In August 1945, nearly five weeks after the world's first atom bomb was detonated at the Trinity site in New Mexico's Jornada del Muerto Desert on 16 July 1945, two young boys, José Padilla and Reme Baca, were doing various chores on the Padilla Ranch at San Antonito, near San Antonio, New Mexico, when they saw a brilliant light, accompanied by a crunching sound. Eventually, they came upon a long gouge in the earth, at the end of which lay a dull grey avocado-shaped craft, with a protuberance towards

one end, which could be seen through the smoke from its burning wreckage. Scattered among the debris were pieces of shiny tin-foil-like metal. A piece that had become lodged under a rock unfolded itself instantly. It was kept at the ranch home for a number of years.

Through a gash in the side of the craft came signs of movement. Strange humanoid creatures were moving around in quick, darting move-

ments, making squeaking sounds.

It was getting late, so the boys headed back on their horses to the ranch home to tell Faustino Padilla what had happened. He reacted somewhat casually, saying that he and others would check it out in a day or two – an odd reaction to an air crash and injured occupants (wherever they came from). Two days later Padilla Sr, accompanied by State Policeman Eddie Apodaca, headed for the crash site in two vehicles, directed by the boys. As the terrain became increasingly rough, the group hiked the rest of the way. At first, nothing could be seen, as the craft had been covered with dirt and debris. The creatures had gone, and the huge debris field had been largely cleared and raked over, although the craft remained where it had come to rest. Evidently the Army had learned of the incident.

A Sergeant Avila turned up at the ranch home later and explained that an 'experimental balloon' had come down on the Padilla property and they needed to bring in some equipment to remove it. A crane and low-boy trailer were used in the recovery operation, which lasted several days. Periodically the boys watched what was going on from a secluded position. One night, when the craft was, surprisingly, unguarded, José Padilla clambered on to the low-boy, went inside the craft and prised a 'souvenir' from what appeared to be a bulkhead.

In Seattle, I carefully examined and photographed the souvenir. It appears decidedly terrestrial, a point conceded by the witnesses. Looking like a bracket of some kind, it is 12 inches long, weighs 15 ounces and contains a number of holes for fasteners of some kind. A section cut off for analysis, as well as acid tests, reveal the metal to be 200-series aluminium, or similar. A smaller, semi-circular piece, believed by the witnesses to have come from the craft, was found years later at the ranch entrance. Tests indicate 330/380-series aluminium (or similar).²²

The proliferation of sightings in the Second World War was not coincidental. I have no doubts that the reason for this lay in the inauguration of the nuclear age on Earth, necessitating increased surveillance and strategic reconnaissance by advanced intelligences. In my opinion, it is probable that

some of these intelligences reside on Earth or use it as a base, which would explain their concern for the welfare of the planet, per se. I believe that these intelligences have had space-travel capability for millennia – and I have no doubt that species of quite different extraterrestrial origins are also coming here.

In a report by the US Air Force's second official UFO investigation, Project Grudge, in 1949, intelligence specialists speculated on the correlation between the dawn of the nuclear age and the increase in visits:

'Such a civilization might observe that on Earth we now have atomic bombs and are fast developing rockets. In view of the past history of mankind they should be alarmed. We should, therefore, expect at this time above all to behold such visitations...'23

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