

Preliminary Report

Toward Consideration of an Alleged Crash and Recovery of an Unknown Aerial Craft Near the Villages of Socorro and San Antonio, New Mexico on May 31, 1948

by

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OVERVIEW

In late 2002 a journalist and former Special Education teacher, Mr. Edward Gerhman, contacted me and suggested that I accompany him to an alleged crash site of a flying disc, that he claimed was located near the communities of Socorro and San Antonio, NM. At that time and until summer, 2004 I declined his invitation.

Mr. Gerhman had become interested in the infamous *Alien Autopsy* film as provided by Ray Santilli. His initial casual interest in this film led him to personal investigations as to the possibility that both the alleged film and the crash site, which was photographed by an unnamed USAF photographer, were in his opinion, an actual event.

Using the verbal and written description of the alleged USAF photographer, Mr. Gerhman spent considerable time in New Mexico attempting to locate the site in question. Other researchers of Ufology had also attempted to locate the alleged site, but seemingly to no avail. However, in the summer of 2002, Gerhman and his brother discovered what they assume to be the crash site as described by the cameraman.

On September 12, 2004 I accompanied Ed Gerhman to the alleged crash site. I did so for several reasons. First, as a recognized historian of Ufology and having lived in New Mexico for over two decades, I felt it would be irresponsible not to at least take the time to actually look at the site myself, since I live near the area and to make my own preliminary assessment. Secondly, Mr. Gerhman, as a layperson in Ufology, should receive benefit of the doubt as to what he claims is the alleged crash site by a researcher (myself) taking an on-site observation. Lastly, it is not uncommon in the field of ufological research to have non-ufological researchers contribute to the knowledge field.

At the time I agreed to accompany Mr. Gerhman to the site, I specifically related to him that my preliminary analysis of the site should, in no way, be construed by him that I believe the site is an authentic area where an unidentified flying object crashed. Further, that my interest is strictly from an historical position.

During my examination of the alleged crash site, I obtained samples of various rock and wood specimens for future analysis. Extensive photographs, by a professional photographer, of the area and specimens were also obtained while I was on-site.

The Ray Santilli Autopsy Film and Crash Site

There is no doubt that the films depicting what appears to be an alien undergoing an autopsy by medical personnel and an addendum of an alleged recovery of an unknown aerial vehicle, has been one of the most controversial areas of modern ufological research. There is no definitive proof, to date, as to the authenticity of the films and the name of the cameraman has been withheld by Mr. Ray Santilli. However, this preliminary report will not deal with the alleged filmed autopsy of an alien, but will remain strictly focused on the description given by the USAF cameraman who claims to have been to the site of the alleged crash/retrieval in 1948.

This researcher has no position statement on the authenticity of the alien autopsy film, nor the film depicting the crash site and artefact recovery in 1948, at this time.

Location of the Alleged Crash Site



As located by Ed Gerhman, using directions given by the cameraman, the alleged crash site lies Southwest of Socorro at the entrance to Nogal Canyon. The canyon being a popular geological area for rock collectors and is an isolated area. It takes approximately 45 minutes to reach the site after leaving Socorro.

There are two roads which lead to the site. One is more recent that can be used easily, but the older road allegedly used by the cameraman, is no longer used except by local ranchers who lease the land for their cattle from *the U.S. Bureau of Land Management*. Prior to ranchers use of the road, it was used extensively by mining companies who exploited the area during the early years of the 20th Century. Evidence of mining is comprehensive throughout the area.

This original road was driven by Ed Gerhman and myself in order to check the markers as related by the cameraman in his description of the sites location. All prominent markers were visible except for the bridge, which no longer appears to exist. However, looking at the site it is readily apparent there was, at one time, an approach to both sides of the arroyo. The bridge, as described by the cameraman, was wooden. Thus, it is easy to surmise that the bridge either collapsed from non-repair or had been dislodged and broken up by the action of heavy water passing through the arroyo over the last half century. No maps have been located to date showing the bridge location. It is felt that excavation might possibly show evidence of the supports for the bridge. Even without the bridge the road followed very closely the description given by the cameraman.

Earlier efforts to locate the crash site alleged by the cameraman has been attempted by other researchers, but they obviously stopped short of the area of interest and based their locations on areas approximately four miles north of the site located by Ed Gerhman. Therefore, it must be assumed that Mr. Gerhman was the first to discover the current site of the alleged crash using the description given by the cameraman. To my knowledge I am the only ufological researcher to have actually been on site since Mr. Gerhman's discovery.



Previous researchers who have attempted to locate the alleged crash site made it as far as this sign. The site is located just beyond the Bianchi Ranch, which is East of this sign approximately 3 miles.

Before descending into the alleged crash site area, which is below the Bianchi Ranch to the Southeast approximately one mile, we came to the old homestead

which is no longer used. However, another rancher is located directly West of the old homestead site.



This is a view of the first building located next to the road, with the main building to the right. The Magdalena mountain range can be seen in the background.

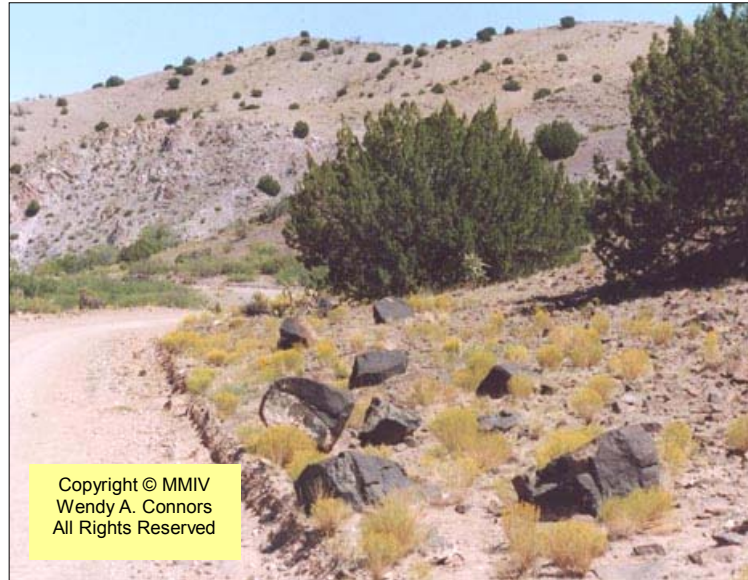


Above photograph is of the main ranch house just right (NE) of the first structure. East of this structure is the road leading to the arroyo and canyon where Ed Gerhman first located what he believes is the dry lake bed and crash site as described by the cameraman.

The Bianchi Ranch lies above the canyon area and is the last area with structures prior to entering the alleged crash site, which is Eastward and below the ranch.

Entering the Alleged Crash Site

Following the road next to the Bianchi Ranch, we descended into the arroyo/canyon area. The photograph below shows the descent into the canyon area. Close attention should be given to the rocks along the side of the road.



At this point the alleged crash site is approximately a half mile below the spot the above photograph was taken. The road is not the original leading into the area, as the flooding of the arroyo over the fifty plus years of the alleged crash, has left only traces of it to the far left.

What is interesting about this photograph are the rocks next to the road. I examined them closely and found that they had been scorched on one side only and contained clear delineations of the burns from front to back. In other words the rocks are charred on the west side of the rocks and not charred on the opposing side. The scorch marks are not recent as no residue can be rubbed off the rocks with the hand or on a piece of paper.

Further, there is little evidence that the scorch marks are from a ground fire, as the photograph below shows the clear delineation of the burn pattern. Ground fire would have charred the rocks from all sides if the ground brush was heavily concentrated, which it is not, as usually found from wildfire burns. As to the possibility of the scorch marks being from lightening, this can be discounted, since all the rocks from this point to the bottom of the road show the same burn pattern. It appears that the heat source passed above and across the rocks into the arroyo area. There are no such burn patterns prior to this spot, nor beginning at the Bianchi Ranch buildings.

The next few photographs show the burn pattern more closely and shows in detail the delineation of the burn pattern.

The three photographs below show the unusual burn patterns on the rocks leading into the alleged crash site. Views are shown West to East.

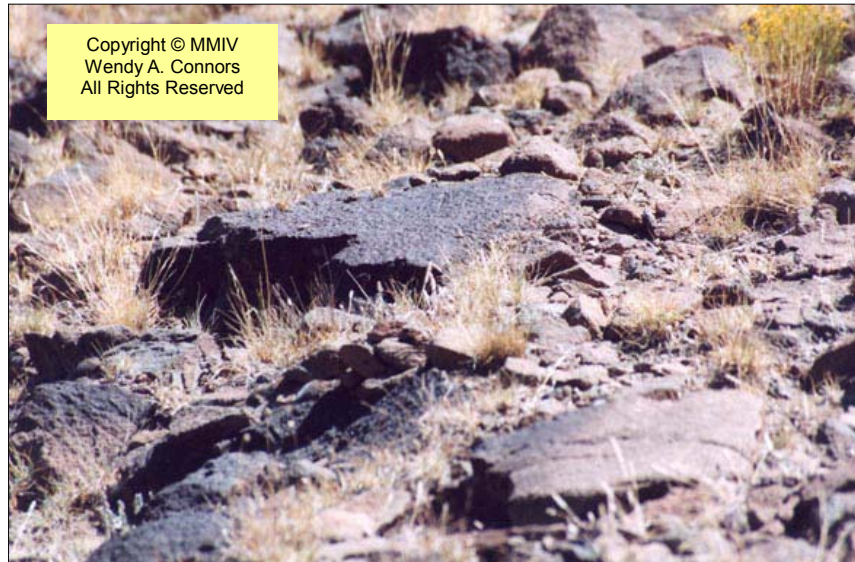
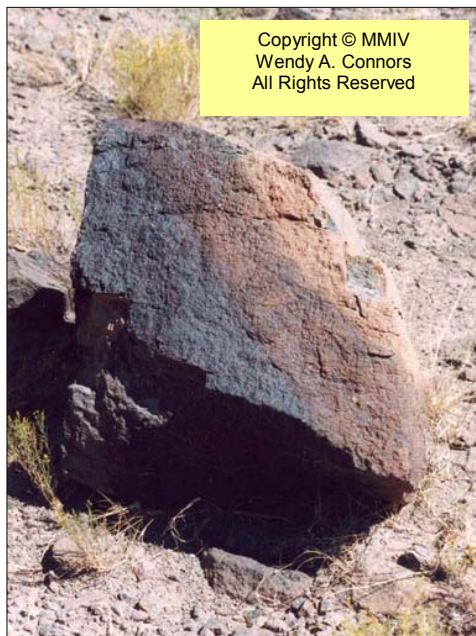


Photo 01



◀ Photo 02



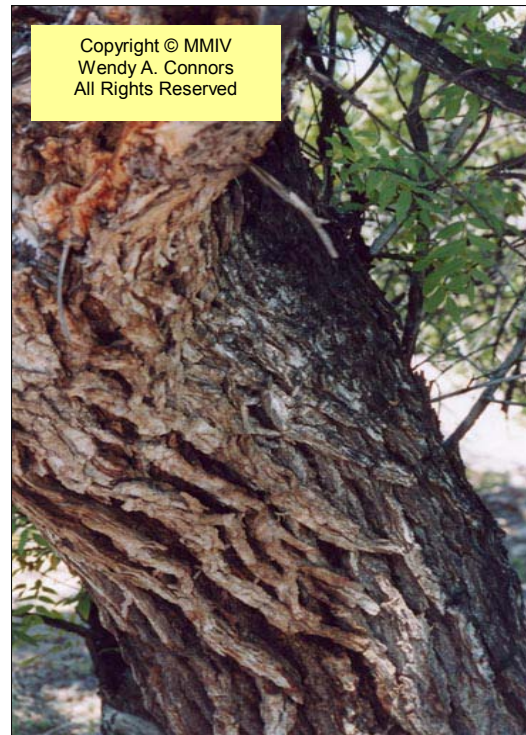
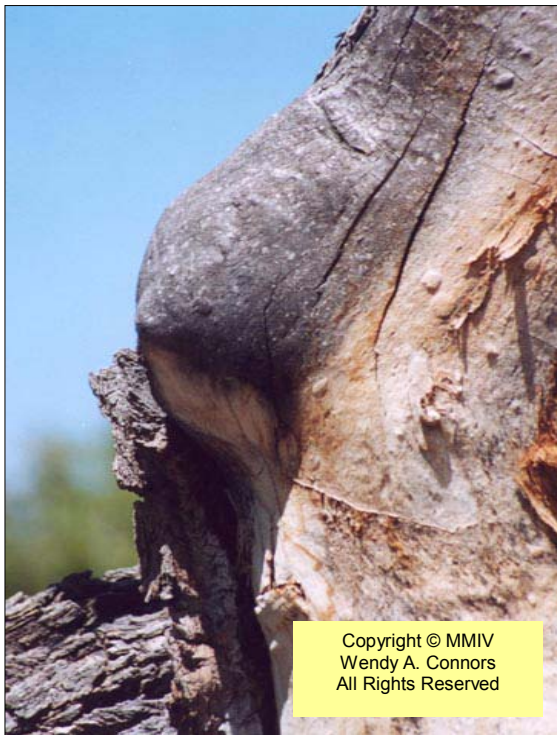
Photo 03 ▲

It should be noted that even though some rocks were moved during grading of the road leading to the alleged crash site the above examples are concurrent up

the side of the hill, approximately 100 feet, as seen in the previous photo showing the entrance road to the site of the alleged crash/retrieval where grading has not been accomplished.

General Characteristics of the Alleged Crash Site

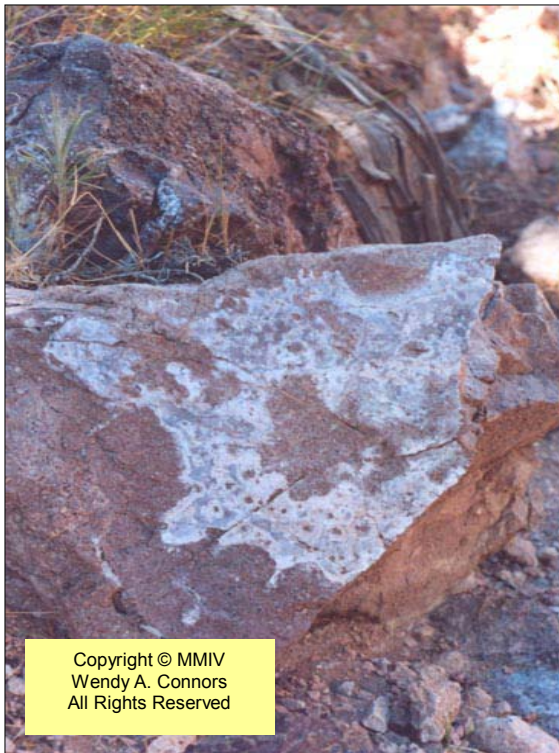
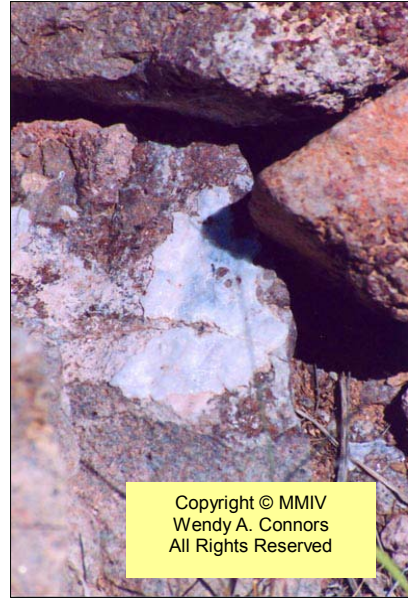
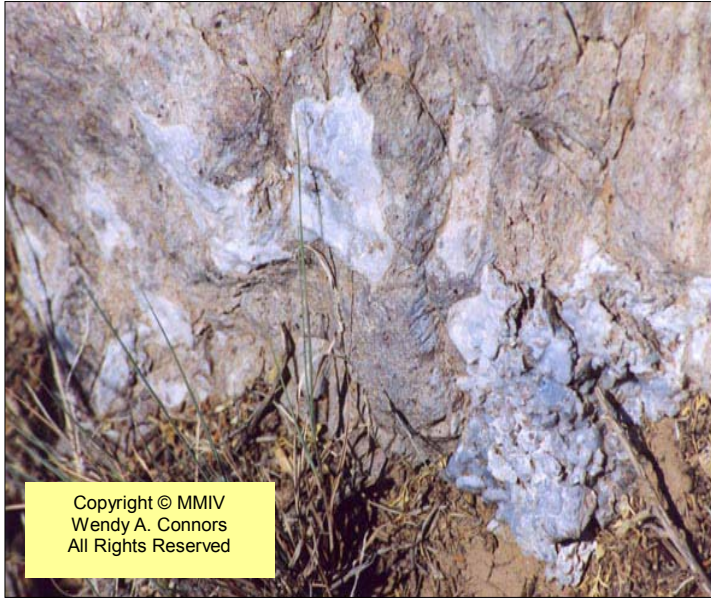
Upon entering the site I encountered, besides a continuation of scorched rocks, trees that appear to have been burned from the top and the burn marks ending before the ground. This was especially prevalent among the walnut trees. As on the rock samples, scorch marks were found on one side of the trees facing west and no burn marks on the eastern side of the trees. The following series of photos show this effect.



General layout of the area appears to closely resemble the drawings made by the cameraman. As the arroyo flows eastward, it rounds a bend and enters into the canyon about a half a mile away. There was prevalent evidence showing the arroyo has changed course over time, which is inherently natural during flooding from the Magdalena mountains into the canyon area.

Most noticeable is the splattering of what appears to be a bluish-green concentration of mineral over the rock faces composing the crater of the site. Appearing much like that found along stalagmites and stalagmites in a cave. The materials appearance is much like hot wax having been splattered over the area. This substance, at certain places, appears to have been melted over the rocks. I

could find no evidence of the substance on the opposite side of the rocks I viewed. I took various specimens from the site as well as photographs that clearly indicate the splattering effect. Since I have yet to have these specimens analyzed independently, I will defer judgment as to what the mineral appearing material may be at this time. The following photographs clearly illustrate the substance and the splattering/melted effect. Below is a sampling of photographs showing the substance on the rock faces.



This splattering/melted effect of the substance on the rocks was not found outside a general area of approximately one quarter mile by one quarter mile and did not seem to be a consistent pattern within this area. In other words, it was on some large areas of rock face and not on others. All rock faces containing this effect were in the open and I found no evidence of this material below the rock and sand lines in the large areas I observed. It is probable that some rocks, having been dislodged from the sides of the escarpment, may be found containing the material in the arroyo's washout areas, but would not in itself, denote that the material was on both sides of the rock.

Summary Conclusions

It is difficult to provide as much detail as possible with only one visit to the site. Hopefully, this preliminary report will show that the area in question is intriguing at the minimum; perhaps more than that with all aspects considered.

Ignoring the Santilli alien autopsy film entirely and focusing solely on the alleged crash site as described by the cameraman, chance of such a match of description and locating the site using said description, seems plausible based upon the number of correct correlation markers and the site itself, which seems more than just random chance.

At this time it is not possible to actually relate to the site as a factual crash site of an unknown aerial object in 1948. However, looking at the terrain and the uniqueness of the scorch marks and unknown material covering the rocks in such an odd fashion, dictates that the site should be considered of prime interest to the field of Ufology, since the description of the site location by the cameraman matches extremely well to the literal site itself.

September 20, 2004