



EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
**LIFE**

# **Alien Encounters**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Fiction or Fact?

**O**n the morning of December 1, 1987, retired police officer Philip Spencer headed across a foggy moor in Yorkshire, England, to visit his father-in-law, who lived a 30-minute walk away. Spencer carried a camera so he could take pictures of the moor, but what he captured on film was more exciting than scenery: a humanlike creature less than 4 feet (1.2m) tall with greenish-gray skin.

When Spencer first spotted the creature, it was scrambling over some distant rocks, but after noticing him, it ran away. He gave chase and managed to take a single photograph of it before it disappeared into some brush. Shortly thereafter Spencer saw what looked like a spacecraft rise out of the brush. Before he could take a picture of the craft, it flew away.

Excited, Spencer rushed to a one-hour photo development shop. There he discovered that because his film had been made for taking pictures of

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to a report from the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, DC, there may be as many as 10 billion trillion planets capable of supporting the creation and continuance of some kind of life.

Roswell incident, as it is now commonly known, have also talked about seeing the aliens and/or their spaceship.

## The Crash

The Roswell incident began after a thunderstorm on the night of July 2, 1947. The next morning ranch foreman William Ware “Mac” Brazel found an area of debris on the Foster ranch approximately 30 miles (48km) north of Roswell, New Mexico. The debris field was about a quarter mile (0.4km) long and hundreds of feet wide, with a gouge in the ground about 10 feet (3m) wide, 500 feet (152m) long, and 18 inches (46cm) deep, and the debris consisted of hundreds of pieces of what looked like a cross between metal and rubber. Having never seen any material like this and knowing that a military airfield was nearby, Brazel concluded that the debris was a new substance from an experimental craft that had crashed during the thunderstorm.

Brazel took some of the debris to the local sheriff and asked him to call officials at the military base. Shortly thereafter, two intelligence agents showed up to examine the material. One of them, Major Jesse A. Marcel, had never seen this material before either, so he sent some samples to the military base, and his superiors subsequently sent soldiers to guard the crash site. By this time, rumors were spreading that the debris was from an alien spacecraft that had come down during the storm.

At first the government seemed to support this position. After the press got word of the crash, officials confirmed to reporters that an alien spaceship had crashed on the Foster ranch and added that the debris had been taken to a military base in Fort Worth, Texas, for further

### DID YOU KNOW?

Every year during the July 4 weekend, the city of Roswell, New Mexico, hosts the Roswell UFO Festival, an event that brings together people interested in all aspects of alien encounters and includes discussions by leading ufologists.

## Alien Cemetery

Sometimes while excavating ancient sites, scientists discover remains that appear to be extraterrestrial. For example, in the late 1930s dozens of 4-foot-tall bodies (122cm) with unusually large heads were discovered in caves along the Tibet-China border, and in 2009 Swiss anthropologist Hugo Children announced the discovery of a cemetery in central Africa holding over 200 7-foot-tall bodies (213cm) with unusually large heads. The anthropologist theorized that these were aliens killed by a virus after establishing a colony on Earth. However, he refused to reveal the location of the site, saying he wanted to protect it from outsiders until further studies could be done. Skeptics say this secrecy suggests the site does not exist, but if it does, they argue, then the bodies and all similar ones are nothing more than the remains of humans with genetic abnormalities.

silver-gray jumpsuits with no buttons, snaps, or zippers. Some saw the aliens on gurneys, some on the ground. Some said the beings appeared to have been bandaged. A few witnesses said the dead aliens smelled odd, perhaps from a preservative known as formaldehyde, and a mortician near the military facility said he had received a phone call from someone there asking how to preserve alien bodies.

Both a nurse and a pathologist who had worked at the military hospital stated they had personally examined the dead aliens, and several military officers insisted they saw the pathologist's report, which included photographs of the aliens. A photographer claimed to have taken pictures of the aliens when they were lying dead on tarps near the Foster crash site and of the wreckage as well. A soldier who had guarded the Foster crash site also claimed to have seen the dead aliens, as did a soldier who escorted the bodies to the hospital; the escort believed that one of the aliens had been alive. A secretary at the air field, Norma Gardner, said she typed reports on autopsies of the aliens and saw the bodies once they had been preserved in a chemical solution.



# FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

## Books

William J. Birnes, *Aliens in America: A UFO Hunter's Guide to Extraterrestrial Hotspots Across the US*. Avon, MA: Adams Media, 2010. This book offers a guide to places across the United States that have become famous for UFO sightings and alien encounters.

Thomas E. Bullard, *The Myth and Mystery of UFOs*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2010. For more advanced readers, this book offers detailed information about various UFO-related theories.

Jerome Clark, *Hidden Realms, Lost Civilizations, and Beings from Other Worlds*. Canton, MI: Visible Ink, 2010. Written by an expert in the paranormal, this book includes information on UFOs and extraterrestrials as well as other paranormal topics.

Preston Dennett, *UFOs and Aliens*. New York: Checkmark, 2008. This book for young adults provides interesting information about UFOs and extraterrestrials.

John G. Fuller, *The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours "Aboard a Flying Saucer."* New York: Dial, 1966. This was the first major work on alien abduction, publicizing the phenomenon by documenting the case of Betty and Barney Hill.

David M. Jacobs, *Secret Life: Firsthand Documented Accounts of UFO Abductions*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992. For more advanced readers, this provides interesting firsthand accounts of alien abduction.

Philip Klass, *Bringing UFOs Down to Earth*. New York: Prometheus, 1997. Written by a leading skeptic, this book for young readers provides guidelines for thinking critically about UFOs.

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