

Well Intentioned Lie

by Suzy Hopkins

White lies are a necessary part of our society. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy. More importantly, we tell white lies to our children or spouses or friends to avoid hurting feelings or to be polite.

When the American public was told we were at war with Viet Nam because we had to stop the communist menace in that country so other countries wouldn't follow their lead was that a white lie? The Pentagon Papers show a different motive. 50,000 Americans and 2,000,000 Vietnamese were killed in a fight with no winner. Did the authorities think it was better for the Americans to be shielded from the truth?

We Americans were told there were "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq using this as the reason we were at war for ten years and in the process lost 4,804 Coalition soldiers and hundreds of thousands of natives. After two years of investigation the Iraq Survey Group concluded there are no credible indications that Baghdad has produced chemical munitions since 1991 and there is no stockpile. So was this a white lie, well intentioned, to get support for the war?

When the UFO crashed to the earth and pieces of it were touched and seen by many in Roswell, New Mexico it was covered up by the military. Was this a well intentioned lie so people wouldn't panic?

Lies, and white lies. Who do you believe?