



The Randle Report

The Myth of Mogul

by Kevin D. Randle

Within three hours of the Army announcing it had recovered a flying saucer near Roswell, New Mexico, a higher headquarters in Fort Worth said it was just a weather balloon and radar reflector. That was the way things would remain until the 1970s when Jesse Marcel, Sr., who had been the air intelligence officer at the Roswell Army Air Field, told friends and UFO researchers that he had picked up the pieces of a flying saucer long ago.

From that point on many of us became interested in the Roswell UFO crash. I contributed to that interest with both magazine articles and books detailing my research into the case, often with the help of Don Schmitt. We learned that the balloon explanation just didn't cover all the facts. We all were loud and vocal about these obvious failings.

In the mid-1990s the Air Force apparently heard us and launched their own investigation into the Roswell crash. They, quite naturally, approached it from a different angle than we did.

Instead of interviewing the living witnesses, the men and a few women who had been involved with the retrieval, they spent the majority of their time interviewing the men who had worked on Project Mogul. Of all the witnesses they could have interviewed, including retired Air Force Brigadier General Arthur Exon, they chose people like Charles Moore, an engineer on the Mogul team and Sheridan Cavitt, the counterintelligence officer at the base in 1947 who had consistently said he didn't arrive until after the retrieval.

But then, Cavitt admitted he had been there and told Air Force investigator Colonel Richard Weaver exactly what Weaver wanted to hear. This is evident during an exchange in which Cavitt said that he recognized the material as that of a balloon immediately. Weaver, instead of asking why Cavitt had not mentioned this to Marcel, who was with him in the

field, Weaver asked if Cavitt was familiar with balloons.

Cavitt then said, "I had seen them. I had seen them." And then, in a bit of memory that is incredible, Cavitt added, "As I recall, I am really reaching back. I think they were equipped with a radio sonde or something like that, that transmitted data from, when it got up to altitude (what altitude I have no idea) [Cavitt's parenthetical statement], and somebody on the ground received it and that way they got some information on what was happening up there."

Weaver said little and Cavitt, having the ball, continued to run with it. He said, "This is all over my head. When I saw it it was to [sic] flimsy to be anything to carry people or anything of that sort. It never crossed my mind that it could be anything but a radio sonde."

So while Marcel is amazed about what he was seeing, describing it as something that had come to earth but that had



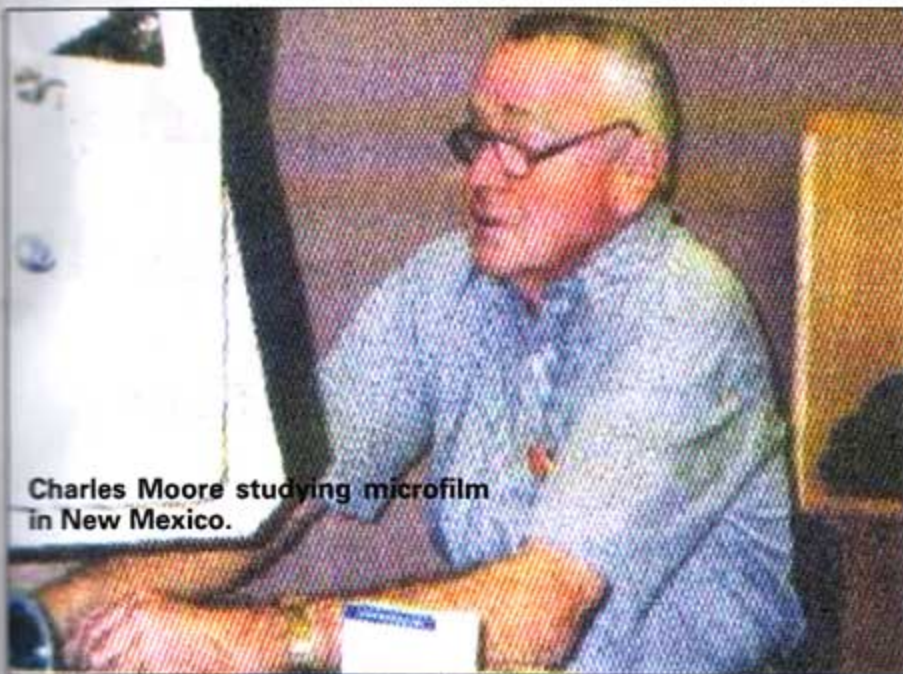
Jesse Marcel, Jr. and the I-Beam.

not been *made* on earth, Cavitt was not. Cavitt didn't bother to tell Marcel it was a balloon, nor did he mention that to the base commander, Colonel William Blanchard, nor anyone else.

And when I talked to Cavitt, he told me quite specially that he had never participated in the recovery of a balloon. He was too busy with his important work.

Ignoring that flawed investigation, let's look at some of the rumors that have spread about Mogul over the years. These would be rumors designed to further the idea that Mogul was so secret that not even those working on the project knew the name and that it was something so special that the men at Roswell wouldn't be able to identify it.

Charles Moore, one of the engineers on Mogul, has been quoted, repeatedly, as saying this. He said that he didn't know the name until 1992 when Robert Todd, a rather nasty man, told him the name. The truth is that anyone who



Charles Moore studying microfilm in New Mexico.

waded through the Mogul documentation included in the Air Force's published account of their investigation—*The Roswell Report: Fact vs Fiction in the New Mexico Desert* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995), if you must know—would have found Dr. Albert Crary's diary.

Crary was the leader of Mogul, and in his unclassified diary he used the term "Mogul". For example, in the December 11, 1946 entry he wrote, "Equipment from Johns Hopkins University [sic] transferred to MOGUL plane."

There was nothing about Mogul that was highly classified except its ultimate purpose, which was to spy on the Soviet Union's attempts to detonate an atomic bomb. The Mogul equipment was off-the-shelf weather balloons, rawin radar reflectors, and eventually sonobuoys or listening devices from the Navy.

This leads to two points, one of which is that the equipment was well known to the men in Roswell. They had all seen weather balloons before. Remember Cavitt's comment? They had also seen rawin radar reflectors which were made from aluminum foil, balsa wood, and twine. These had been used, for example, during the unit's participation in Operation Crossroads, the Bikini Atoll atomic tests in 1946.

The Mylar balloons which would eventually be used by Mogul were not in New Mexico in June and July 1947. Someone had suggested that these Mylar balloons, of a new type of material, might have fooled some of those men in Roswell when they first encountered them. While that might be true, it is irrelevant here because there were no Mylar balloons to be found and confused with an alien spacecraft at the time of the Roswell crash.

So, had it been Mogul that had fallen onto the ranch managed by Mack Brazel, it would have been neoprene balloons and possibly rawin radar targets. Both items were well known to the men at Roswell.

And I say *possibly* because, according to Crary's diary, Flight Number 4, the culprit according to the Air Force and the debunkers,

had been canceled. According to what Charles Moore told me, they couldn't put the helium back in the bottles so that when a flight was canceled, they stripped the equipment and let the balloons go. If that was the case, the debris would have been made up of neoprene balloons strung together in an array, but nothing that would have been so unusual that Marcel and others couldn't have easily identified what it was.

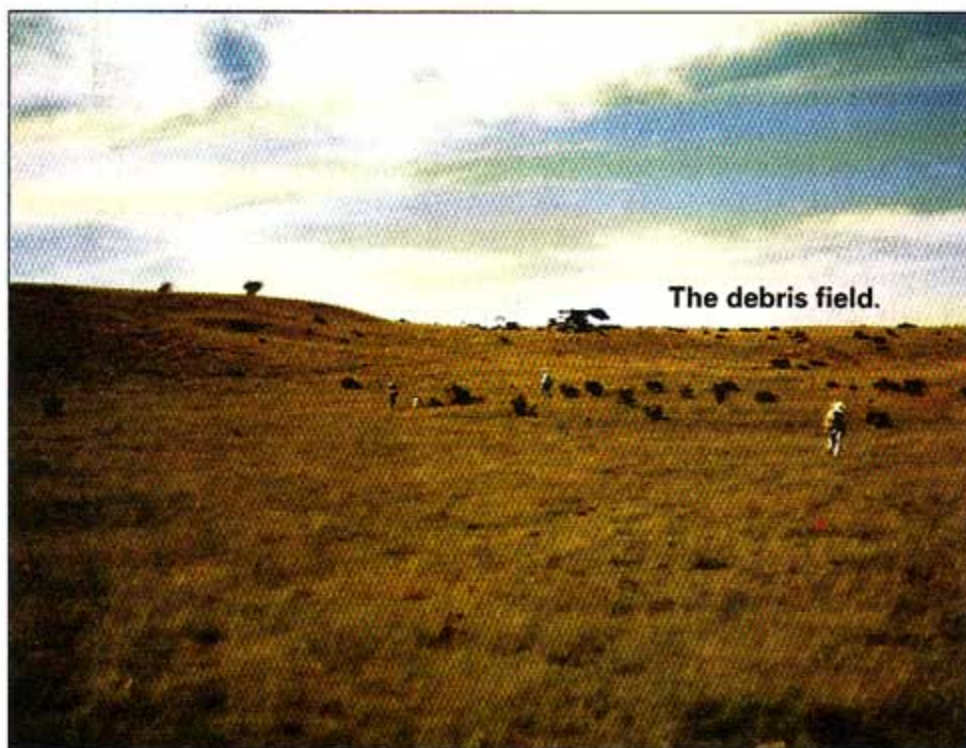
The second point is that the men of Roswell knew about the Mogul arrays. Moore said that he and a colleague or two had traveled to Roswell to enlist their help in retrieving the balloons. Moore said that the soldiers were not inclined to assist, but whether they helped or not, they knew about Mogul because of this visit.

There was also a requirement by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)—forerunner to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)—that each launch be preceded by an announcement in the NOTAMs. These were Notices to Air Men about possible hazards to aerial navigation. In other words, they weren't launching the balloons from a secret location with no notice about them.

They were telling everyone who traveled the airways in New Mexico for a living that these balloon arrays were out there. So, the men at Roswell were familiar with the balloons and radar reflectors and they knew about the array launches because those were publicized by the CAA. This seems to erase the notion that the launches were made in secret, using equipment was secret.

But what about some of the other things being claimed about the balloon flights? One of those issues was the strange hieroglyphics seen by Jesse Marcel, Jr. which were explained in the same undocumented way as much of the rest of Mogul. According to the Air Force, among others, there were in fact strange symbols on some of the tape used to strengthen the radar reflectors.

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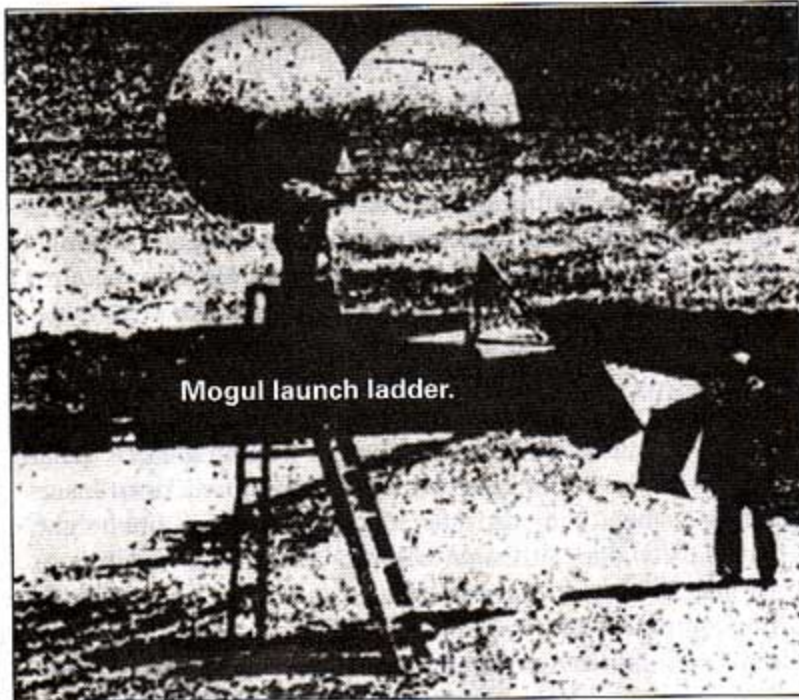


The debris field.

The Randle Report

continued from page 14

While the Air Force would push this theory without corroboration and the debunkers would latch onto it, there is no proof it is true. The fact is that no one has ever produced a sample of this novelty tape used on the balloons.



Mogul launch ladder.

Examination of the photographs of one of the radar reflectors that was displayed on General Roger Ramey's office floor, which allegedly is debris picked up outside of Roswell, does not show them. Of course, if the symbols were lightly printed, then they might not have been of sufficient density to be revealed on those photographs:

This also does not take into account the descriptions of the symbols provided by Jesse Marcel, Jr.; according to what he told me, they were embossed on the thin I-beam-like structures that he saw in 1947. *Embossed*, rather than printed.

The symbols claimed by the Air Force were floral designs with a definite Japanese influence. Jesse Marcel said there were a variety of symbols, and there was no hint of flowers. Marcel's description is, of course, rejected as being a fifty-year-old memory while the Air Force descriptions are embraced even though no samples have ever been presented.

The latest of the myths to circulate is that Mogul had been successful and that it actually detected the first Soviet atomic detonation on August 29, 1949. This proves the value of Mogul and underscores the reason that it was so highly classified.

I have traced—well, David Rudiak pointed it out to me—this rumor to an article printed in the *New York Times* on September 18, 1994 and written by William Broad. He suggested, "The Soviets detonated their first nuclear bomb in August 1949. Mogul detected it, most experts interviewed about the program said."

But there is no source for this quote other than Broad's claim that most experts interviewed said Mogul worked. In all my conversations with Charles Moore, he never made that claim. In fact, the massive Air Force report that suggests Mogul as the culprit does not validate the claim. All we know for certain is that every source that I checked suggested the Soviet atomic

blast was detected by seismic readings and increased radiation readings in the atmosphere. No one credits Mogul.

Not long after the Soviet detonation, Mogul was canceled. It was said to cost too much and while they had succeeded, more or less, in creating their constant-level balloons, they couldn't be sure of where the winds would blow them. Once the balloons lifted forty or fifty miles into the sky, the winds could be blowing in a direction opposite to that on the ground. It was just too unreliable to use balloons.

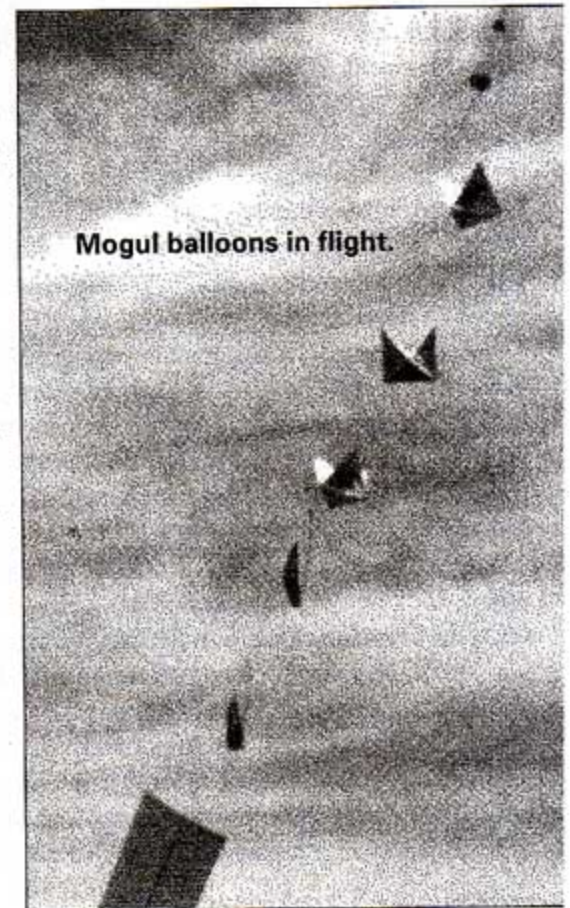
Mogul, at least the New Mexico balloon launches, was of no real intelligence value. That means, simply, that even if the Soviets had been interested in it, they would have not been able to deduce the ultimate purpose of Mogul. They would just know that scientists and engineers in New Mexico were launching long arrays of balloons, some of which stayed aloft for hours at a time.

It was considered of so little intelligence value that pictures of the Mogul launches appeared in newspapers around the country starting on July 10, 1947. One of the pictures showed a man on a ladder holding onto a neoprene balloon. Charles Moore told me that was the ladder that he had bought with petty cash for use by the Mogul team once they had arrived in New Mexico.

The Mogul myth was created because it was impossible to believe that military men would not be able to identify an ordinary weather balloon when they saw it. Mogul added a nice cloak of mystery to the balloons, suggesting something strange enough that it would not have been readily identifiable. But the truth is that Mogul was just a weather balloon and a radar reflector. Or maybe I should say weather balloons and radar reflectors. It certainly wasn't the sort of clandestine program that it has been made out to be.

Mogul does not answer the question of what fell near Roswell. All it does is divert attention away from the truth, and in the end, I guess that would make Mogul a success. Finally, it becomes worth the cost. UFO

Kevin Randle is a former Army aviator, Air Force intelligence officer and is a retired lieutenant colonel. He has been studying UFOs for nearly forty years and is the author of numerous books and magazine articles on the topic. His blog *A Different Perspective* can be found at www.KevinRandle.blogspot.com

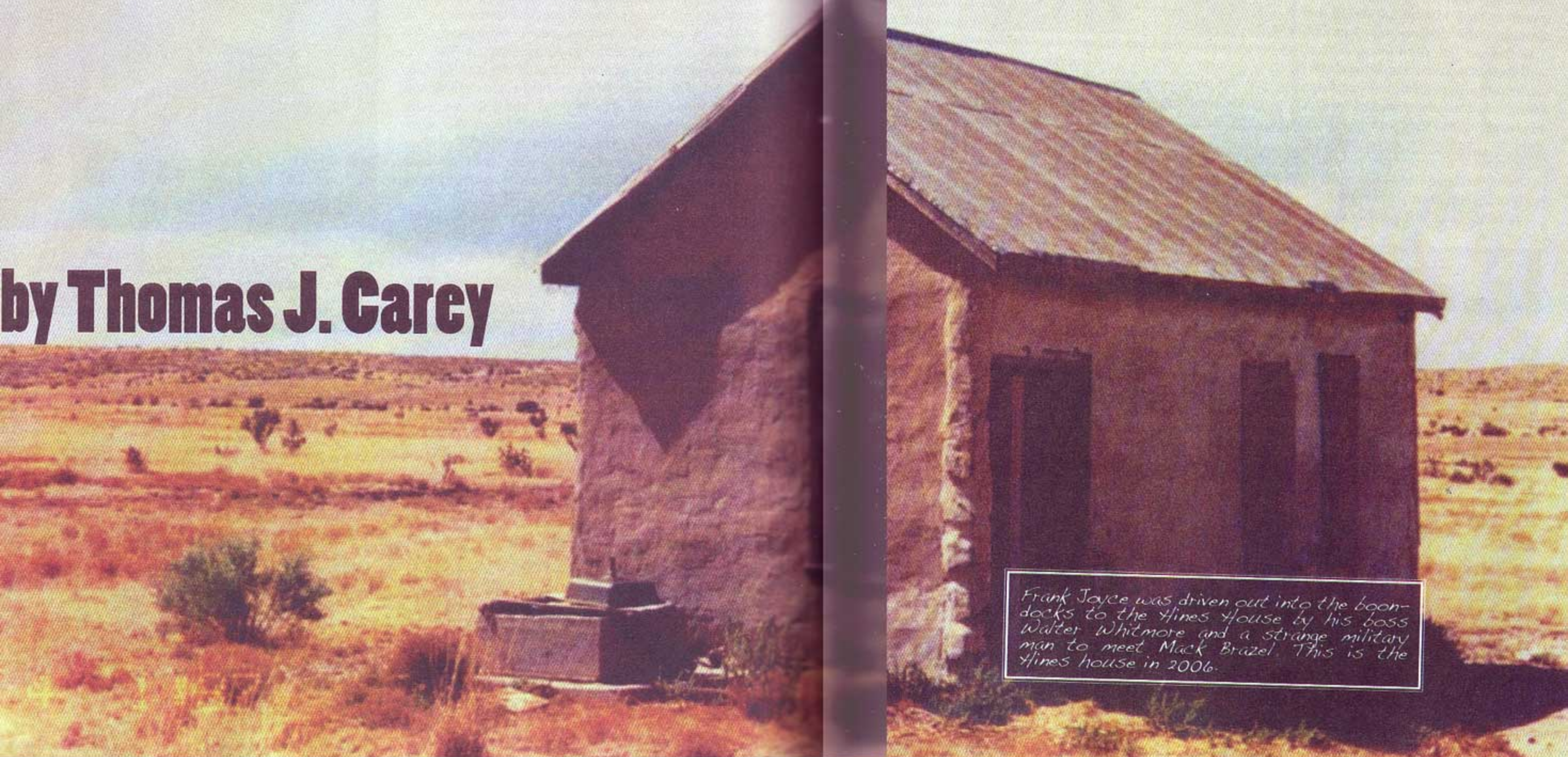


Mogul balloons in flight.

Killing Rosell

'I never saw my [unclear] so scared!'

by Thomas J. Carey



Frank Joyce was driven out into the boon-docks to the Hines House by his boss Walter Whitmore and a strange military man to meet Mack Brazel. This is the Hines house in 2006.

"It's the biggest story since the parting of the Red Sea. You can't cover it up!" So exclaimed newspaper reporter Ned Scott to Air Force captain Patrick Hendry as he pleaded to be permitted to phone in the story that the Air Force had discovered a crashed flying saucer embedded in the arctic ice near the North Pole.

Scott's outburst had been triggered by Captain Hendry's refusal to allow him to send out such an explosive report without first securing authority from his commanding officer at the next higher headquarters at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. In the meantime, he simply denied Scott the use of government equipment—a mobile military telephone—to transmit the story.

No threats. No arrests. No brainwashing. No sequestering of the reporter to keep him on ice and in the dark until the all-clear was sounded.

In the end, after the flying saucer and its thawed-out rampaging super carrot with a penchant for human blood had been destroyed by an arc of electricity, the Air Force appeared only too happy to have reporter

Scott tell all to an anxiously waiting world. The preliminary warning then delivered by the prescient Scott at the very beginning of his reportage, however, still reverberates today.

"To all those listening to my voice, I give you a warning. To everyone, everywhere, watch the skies! Keep looking ... keep watching the skies."

The above scenario, of course, was happily played out in one of the greatest science-fiction thrillers of all time, the



and followers of the Roswell story are aware, on July 8, 1947 the U.S. Army Air Forces located near Roswell announced that it had captured a downed flying saucer on a ranch not far from town. Later that same day, however, the next higher Air Force command located in Fort Worth, Texas retracted that story by convening a press conference to tell the world that it was all a big mistake, that what had been found was not a flying saucer at all but a common weather balloon made of rubber, tinfoil, and balsa wood sticks.

The men of the 509th Bomb Group, the only atomic strike force in the world who ended World War II by dropping atomic devices on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, had been fooled and had acted precipitously with their ill-advised press release. Just the kind of people you would want with their fingers on the atomic trigger!

End of story. Well, at least for the time being ... say, for the next thirty years.

Ever since I teamed up with Don Schmitt in 1998 to continue a proactive investigation of the 1947 Roswell events, we have uncovered a number of startling things not previously known. One of these involves the Killing of the original flying-saucer story by the Air Force.

Evidence has been steadily mounting regarding the extent

and the extreme measures the Air Force employed to institute a cover-up of the en-

Army Finds Air Saucer On Ranch in New Mexico

Disk Goes
To High
Officers

By Ned Scott

The Army Air Force has today announced a flying disc had been found on a ranch near Roswell, N. Mex. The object was found by a ranch hand, according to the Army.

'Flying disc' turns up as just hot air

Fort Worth, Tex., July 9 (AP)—An examination by the Army revealed last night a mysterious object found on a lonely New Mexico ranch was a harmless high-altitude weather balloon, not a grounded flying disc.

Army Knocks Down Disk—

IT'S A WEATHER BALLOON

Device Is Only
A Wind Target

Object Found in N. Mexico
Identified at Fort Worth

It is the most important news since the discovery of the flying disc near Roswell, N. Mex., in 1947. The Army Air Force today announced that the object found on a lonely New Mexico ranch was a harmless high-altitude weather balloon, not a grounded flying disc.

Killing the Roswell UFO crash story in the press was the first priority of the plan from Washington, and the press was only too willing to comply.

the Roswell event—the crash and retrieval of a bona fide UFO and its unfortunate crew from another world—by attempting to enforce the silence of everyone, military and civilian alike, who had been involved in its discovery or recovery, especially those who had seen the bodies.

As we recounted in our book *Witness to Roswell: Unmasking the 60-Year Cover-Up* (New Page Books, 2007), we now know from the posthumous release of the sealed statement of Walter Haut, the former Roswell Air Base public information officer in 1947 who issued the infamous flying-saucer press release, that the Air Force had decided upon a cover-up strategy on the very same day that it had issued the crashed-saucer story and that the strategy as well as the initial press release had been orchestrated from Washington.

This ends the decades-old debate of whether the initial flying-saucer press release had been the result of a local faux pas by Roswell base commander Colonel William Blanchard or his intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel. The plan's implementation was communicated to Colonel Blanchard through his boss, General Roger Ramey, commanding officer of the 8th Air Force that was headquartered at Fort Worth Army Air Field, to which Blanchard's 509th Bomb Group in Roswell was attached.

It would ultimately involve the use of security personnel not only from Roswell Army Air Force but from Alamogordo AAF, Kirtland AAF in Albuquerque, Fort Bliss in El Paso, as well as units from White Sands and dark suits from Washington, D.C. itself. And whenever there was especially dirty business to conduct, there was a go-to guy already in place on the ground at the 509th who was up to the task. And then for good measure, if his work needed punctuating, there was another fellow at the ready who could be flown in at a moment's notice from Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio to do just that.

As planned, the July 9, 1947 newspaper headlines blared out the new cover story: "Gen. Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "It's Just a Weather Balloon!" Most accounts also prominently featured a photo of General Ramey or Major Marcel kneeling beside a degraded rubber weather balloon on the floor of the general's office, accompanied by a brand new tin-foil radar target that someone had attempted to tear apart. Close-up computer enhancements of the photos of General Ramey reveal a severely torn left thumbnail of obvious recent origin.

July 10 and 11 saw public demonstrations of weather-balloon launches all over the country put on by the Army Air Forces and the Army Signal Corps to attempt to explain away not only Roswell but all UFO sightings that had occurred over the previous two weeks. These launches were duly covered in

most major newspapers, and a caption headline in the *Arizona Republic* said it all: "Mystery of the flying discs solved."

As far as press interest was concerned, by the weekend of July 12 the Roswell story was a dead issue. But what about all the other people—military and civilian—who knew better? What about them?

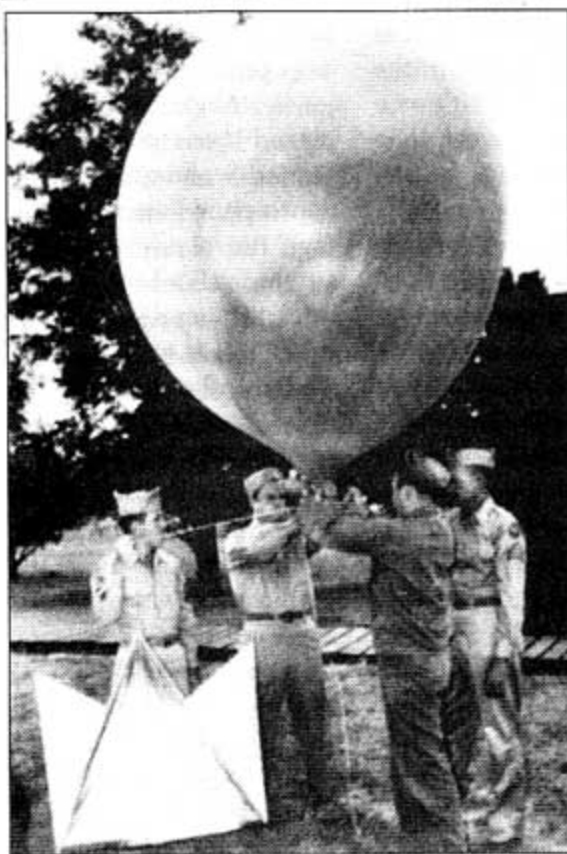
It should be pointed out that in 1947 our government and military establishments were held in the highest regard, perhaps their highest in our nation's history, by just about all of its citizens. It had just vanquished the Axis powers in a terrible and costly war, and in doing so it had emerged as the world's preeminent superpower, and unlike the other victors, with its homeland unscathed.

Thus, in the victorious, pre-TV world of 1947, our country was much more unified in nearly every aspect of its daily life and outlook than it is today. When our government and especially our military spoke to us, we chose to unquestioningly believe them by nodding our heads in agreement.

The Cold War with the Communist Bloc nations of Eastern Europe and Asia was just beginning, and anxious Americans looked to their government and the military to protect them. Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan were just names on a map somewhere else in the world, and the deep divisions their mere mention would foster in our country were still years, if not decades, in the future.

If the cover-up were to succeed, the Air Force knew it had several distinct target groups to silence, with the first being the national and international press corps. As we saw above, this was achieved with remarkable ease and little effort via General

Gilding the lily. In the days following the newspaper headlines denying the original crashed saucer story, the Air Force and Signal Corps conducted mobile balloon launches to try to explain away Roswell as well as all other UFO reports.



Ramey's phony makeshift press conference of July 8, 1947, plus a few balloon launches in the days following.

The sole demurring voice was an editorial in the July 9, 1947 *Roswell Daily Record* that wondered if the Army [Air Force] was guilty of still keeping its secrets. Other than that, the compliant press appeared eager to close the book on Roswell and by extension, a subject it didn't understand and didn't like reporting on: flying saucers.

The local Roswell media was another matter since there were people within its ranks who knew what really happened out in the desert north of town. Radio station KSWs reporter Johnny McBoyle, after a chance meeting with Mack Brazel, the Corona, New Mexico rancher who first found and reported the UFO crash to authorities in Roswell, somehow made it out to the crash site on his own only to be taken into custody by the military but not before he had seen enough to know that what had crashed was not of this earth.

McBoyle was then taken back to the base, and while the Air Force was deciding what to do with him, he quickly tried to phone in the story to his sister station KOAT in Albuquerque to get it on the Associated Press news wire. The attempt was short-circuited, however, when the teletype wire was jammed by the FBI so that nothing more could be transmitted, and McBoyle himself was restrained from further reporting the story.

Apparently convinced by his captors that it was a matter of national security, McBoyle later denied that it ever happened, left Roswell, and moved to an Idaho farm for the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1991 within weeks of his wife's passing.

In 2001 I interviewed McBoyle's son and daughter-in-law, only to learn that they were unable to ever get their father to speak about what happened at Roswell in 1947. Try as they might, for years and even while on his deathbed he would not speak about it and, according to them, not even to his wife! What could have caused a person to behave that way?

Those who question that an incident such as the Roswell UFO crash could not have been kept secret for very long should look to Johnny McBoyle for their answer. As an aside, the person to whom McBoyle was speaking on the telephone in his aborted attempt to report the story, a woman at KOAT radio in Albuquerque by the name of Lydia Sleppy, in 1972 became the first person to ever speak publicly about Roswell after 1947.

Frank Joyce was an announcer for Roswell radio station KGFL in 1947. By chance, he was the first media person to interview rancher Mack Brazel soon after the latter came into town to report his find.

During that telephone interview Brazel told Joyce of finding strange wreckage on his ranch and that "maybe it was one of them flying saucer things people have been talking about." He also told Joyce about finding "little people" someplace else not too far from the main site.

Joyce did not believe the story at first, but he nevertheless now knew that there had been a crash of something out in the desert that possibly involved small bodies. When the Air Force learned of this conversation from Brazel during his week-long incarceration at the Roswell base "guest house," Joyce became a target for silencing.

But, how to do it? As everyone knows, it's only during times of war or Martial law in extreme emergencies that the military has direct authority over civilians, and neither obtained at Roswell in 1947. The answer was to first cajole and then to threaten a few well-placed town leaders in Roswell to do the military's dirty work for them.

It worked. Faced with the potential loss of his broadcasting license if he didn't cooperate, KGFL radio station majority owner Walter Whitmore, who had been sequestering Mack Brazel at his home while obtaining Brazel's exclusive story—which Whitmore's station planned to air as a scoop—handed Brazel over to the military without a fight.

Along with the presence of a military guard, he also helped to escort Brazel around town to the major media outlets to lend an air of credibility to Brazel's new weather-balloon story that the military wanted him to tell. It was during this Magical Mystery Tour that Brazel confided to Frank Joyce at KGFL: "They weren't green!"



Walter Whitmore, Sr. was majority owner of Roswell radio station KGFL in 1947. He became a government accomplice in suppressing the burgeoning UFO crash story in the press under threat of losing his broadcast licence if he did not cooperate.

Apparently not satisfied with Joyce, who had earlier in the day told an officer who was trying to silence him where he could go, the military ordered Whitmore to take Joyce "for a ride" somewhere for further "enlightenment." That somewhere turned out to be none other than the Hines House on the Brazel-Foster Ranch, the same ramshackle bunkhouse that Brazel, Jesse Marcel, and Sheridan Cavitt had spent the night at a few days prior before heading to the debris field.

After alighting from Whitmore's car, Whitmore told a perplexed Joyce to enter the bunkhouse. Once inside, Joyce stood around wondering what was going to happen next when the door opened and in strode Mack Brazel. "I was just wondering," Brazel addressed Joyce. "You weren't planning on saying anything about what I told you the other day, were you?"

"Not if you don't want me to," replied Joyce. "Good, because if you do, it will go hard on me. And you." With that, Brazel started to leave, but stopped at the door and turned around to face Joyce. "You know, don't you, that our lives will never be the same?"

With that, Brazel left, and Joyce never laid eyes on him again. Joyce then rejoined his boss outside and noticed that the military man who been in the back seat of the car on the trip out to the ranch was now gone. Whitmore and Joyce drove back to Roswell in silence.

Apparently still not satisfied that they had truly silenced Joyce to their liking, Joyce maintained that he was then hauled off against his will to a hospital in Texas and basically "put on ice" for a year without so much as a diagnosis being offered. When they let him out, he was told not to return to Roswell, which he didn't.

Instead, he went to Albuquerque to start a new life and became a well-known newsman and features reporter at KOB radio and television there, retiring in 1997. According to Joyce, he never spoke of Roswell for decades after the UFO crash, and it wasn't until after he had retired from KOB that he revealed the rest of the story about Mack Brazel finding bodies in addition to wreckage to Don Schmitt and me in 1998. Frank Joyce passed away in 2008.

For obvious reasons, the military personnel who knew the truth of what really happened at Roswell and were involved in the UFO recovery operations, either directly or indirectly, were the easiest people for the military authorities to silence. With direct authority and control over their lives through the channels of command, it was relatively obvious.

The Roswell airbase went in a lockdown mode to control entrance and exit soon after authorities realized what they were dealing with, and the base remained in lockdown, from what we have been told, for a period of about a week. Even airmen on the base who were not involved in the UFO recovery could sense that something big was taking place.

But with Roswell Army Air field being our country's first SAC base whose mission it was to drop the atomic bomb in time of war, they knew not to ask too many questions nor to discuss their activities on the base with their families when they went home. Although we have received anecdotal accounts of at least three suicides taking place on the base at the time of the incident as well as several off-base hunting accidents occurring soon thereafter, we have so far been unable to verify these.

Officers were briefed separately, but the bulk of the airmen on the base—the enlisted men, including NCOs—were herded into the large hangars at the south and east end of the base, squadron by squadron, and unceremoniously read the riot act. As one squadron commander put it to his assembled troops: "Whatever you've been hearing lately, it's not true. There's no flying saucer. Nothing has happened! But if you think you want to keep talking about it or learning more about it, you can read all about it in Leavenworth!"

Faced with the choices of a stiff prison sentence at hard labor, a transfer to an undesirable duty location, a reduction in rank or

a dishonorable discharge—which in those days would forever remain a stain on one's record—the message got through loud and clear. Combined with a natural sense of honor, duty, and love of country all wrapped up in a blanket of national security, most of the men and women of the 509th, members of America's Greatest Generation, remained silent for the rest of their lives and took what they knew with them to their graves.

What we have found interesting in attempting to interview military witnesses to the 1947 events, however, is how they break out as to who is most likely and least likely to talk to us. From the hundreds and hundreds of interviews we have conducted over the years, some general comments can be made. With a few exceptions, those least likely to talk have been the officers, including NCOs, and the higher the rank, the less the chance.

Brigadier General Arthur Exon and Lieutenant Colonel Philip Corso are two exceptions from this group who have gone on the public record. Among the enlisted ranks, an interesting dichotomy became apparent when it came to who was likely to talk to us—and who would not—that had nothing at all to do with rank.

We found that those who remained in service long enough to retire on a military or government pension have by and large refused to talk. Even when told of Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall's 1994 amnesty for Roswell veterans, most still refuse to budge: "I'm retired, and I like it that way."

The most common response we receive from members of this group, however, is simply, "I don't remember anything."



The architect of the Roswell cover-up was most likely General Hoyt S. Vandenberg in Washington, D.C. and not General Roger M. Ramey in Fort Worth, TX.



Air Force Lt. Arthur Philbin of the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell Army Air Field was employed by the Air Force to apply the hammer to local civilians when Sheriff Wilcox refused.

"Anything?"

"That's right."

Two notable exceptions are former Air Force Sergeants Earl Fulford, who was part of the clean-up crew, and Elias Benjamin who went public under a pseudonym in our 2007 book when he told of accompanying the alien bodies to the base hospital. And after telling his story for the TV cameras in an episode of the SyFy Channel's *SciFi Investigates* show in 2006, his first words to us were, "Do you think I will lose my pension?"

By far, the most fertile field that we have mined in our Roswell investigation has been that of the enlisted men and women who were stationed at Roswell at the time of the UFO crash but who did not make military or government service a career. When we interviewed them years later, they were not living on a government pension.

It is from this group that the most numerous Roswell witnesses—too many to name—are derived. To underscore the point being made here, I would point out that two of the most important witnesses to Roswell were former Major Jesse Marcel, the RAAF base intelligence officer who broke his silence about Roswell in 1978, thereby kick-starting the civilian investigation of the 1947 events, and former First Lieutenant Walter Haut, the Roswell base public information officer who issued the infamous press release and who later told all posthumously in a sealed statement that was featured in our *Witness to Roswell*. Both men were officers, but neither was a retired career officer living on a government pension.

By far the biggest challenge for the military authorities was how to silence the civilians who had direct knowledge of the UFO crash, especially those who had seen or knew about the bodies. Like most airplane crashes out in the desert, it's civilians in the form of the outlying ranchers and their family members who reach the crash sites first.

And in the case of the Roswell UFO crash, it was no different. It was Mack Brazel, the foreman of the J. B. Foster Ranch near the town of

Corona in Lincoln County, who was the first to visit the debris field crash site on the morning of July 4, 1947 accompanied by a neighbor boy, seven year-old Dee Proctor.

It would be two days before Brazel would make the long dusty drive to Roswell in his



Sue Farnsworth today.

ancient pickup to report it. In the meantime, as word of the crash got around to the other ranchers, many of them hopped in their buckboards and pickups to see for themselves and perhaps grab a souvenir or two as well.

Meanwhile back in Roswell, although Brazel had come into town on Sunday July 6 to report his find to the local sheriff George Wilcox, nothing was generally known about a crash involving a flying saucer until the following day when a second crash site was discovered—with little bodies—just north of town. According to local Roswell book store owner Patricia Rice, "Word of the crash traveled around town in about twenty minutes!"

Like the first site, the second site had been discovered by civilians who then phoned it into the sheriff and fire department in Roswell, both of which preceded the military's knowledge of and arrival at the second crash site. And, prior to the arrival of the military, they got to see everything firsthand, up close, and personal. Without direct authority over civilians, how could these civilians be silenced by those sworn to protect us from foreign enemies?

We know that Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox never ran for public off again. According to his surviving family members, "Roswell [the UFO incident] destroyed him." As we discuss in our just-released new paperback edition of *Witness to Roswell*, we now know why.

The Air Force co-opted and used sheriff Wilcox as its silencer of Roswell civilians who knew too much, especially those who knew about the bodies. In this role, Wilcox became a messenger of death by threatening those witnesses and their families with death if they ever talked. Not a good platform upon which to run for reelection!

In those cases where Wilcox knew a targeted witness too well, for example Roswell fireman Dan Dwyer and his family, and perhaps refused to make the delivery, the Air Force called upon one of its own security personnel in the 509th at Roswell, First Lieutenant Arthur "The Hammer" Philbin, to do the deed.

Philbin had been a New York police officer and a tough guy from Brooklyn in a former life. His threatening of Dan Dwyer's wife and daughter Frankie Rowe with a billy club is well known. He later died a broken, drunken recluse.

Philbin's activities also included visits to the ranchers outside of town. We have first-hand accounts of the military basically ransacking ranches in its desperate search to uncover souvenirs from the crash. Floor boards were turned over. Bags of cattle feed were slashed open, and water tanks drained in the madness.

And of course, lives were threatened into silence. Just to make sure, a few days, weeks, or months later—we are not really sure—the Air Force uncorked perhaps its top thug, a worthy by the name of Hunter Penn, and sent him to Roswell to interview the outlying ranchers to encourage their continued silence. Penn's daughter related that her stepfather, whom she called a brutal person, "had a fascination with ice picks" and thinks he might have used one at Roswell.

In 2008, my coauthor Don Schmitt interviewed a fellow by the name of Bert Schulz during a speaking engagement at a conference in Nevada. Schultz had been a B-29 electrician assigned to the 393rd Bomb Squadron at the Roswell airbase just a few months after the UFO incident.

Aside from the occasional scuttlebutt regarding the incident a few months previous, Schulz told Schmitt about a much more disturbing element, something that soured him on the military as a potential career. "There was still a lot of talk about the MPs harassing civilians over the affair. The MPs got pretty rough with some of the ranchers out there, and they were bragging about it!"

Arthur Farnsworth ran the original Ford dealership in Roswell in 1947. He was the head of a family-owned business that dated back to the early part of the twentieth century to Henry Ford himself. A pillar of the Roswell business community, he was a well-known and well-respected businessman throughout the area.

Arthur and Vera Farnsworth had three daughters; two teenagers as well as one preteen, Sue, age seven. In addition to a home in Roswell, the family also owned a ranch northwest of town. Besides running the Ford dealership, Arthur was known to visit the ranch several times a week to check on things there.

Soon after the publication of *Witness* in 2007, I received an email from a gentleman living in Roswell who said that at a recent Roswell High School class reunion, he ran into a former classmate who told him that her father had been threatened by the military at the time of the Roswell incident. That's all the information he had, so I asked for the contact number of his former classmate if she would talk to me.

A few days later, I found myself talking to the 67-year-old Sue Farnsworth, now a successful businesswoman of her own. She related the following account to me.

Even though she was the youngest of the three Farnsworth daughters, she was best buddies with her dad because both of her older sisters had had bouts of polio and were incapacitated to some extent. Therefore, it was Sue who was the one who

ing a word, he motioned to her to follow him on horseback, and they rode out to a remote and secluded part of the ranch, whereupon he dismounted, as did she.

"Whenever we wanted to discuss something without anyone else hearing, we would go to this spot." Like so many times before, Sue and her father sat down on their favorite rock and stared out at the peaceful desert landscape before them. Like many of her friends in town, Sue had heard the rumors of the flying-saucer crash, but she was not prepared for what her father was about to confide to her now.

"Your father was threatened by the military a few days ago," Arthur Farnsworth told his daughter. Looking around carefully even though they were way out in the middle of nowhere, Arthur Farnsworth continued in a low voice, "What I tell you now you must promise never to tell anyone."

"A flying saucer crashed on another ranch not far from here a few days ago, and the military told us that if we ever said anything to anyone about it, they would kill all of us." He then told his daughter that he had gone out with other neighboring ranchers when word of the crash got around.

"We saw some things we weren't supposed to see." He did not go into any detail with his young daughter and ended the discussion with, "Remember, not a word—to anyone!" That was all he would ever reveal to her.

The two then saddled up and rode back to the ranch house, never to speak of it again. Speaking to me some sixty years later, Sue Farnsworth exclaimed, "He was a strong man who wasn't afraid of anything, but in my entire life, I never saw my father so scared!" Arthur Farnsworth's near-death experience sounds to me like the handiwork of Arthur Philbin or Hunter Penn doing what they did best: scaring people to death. And all this over a balloon? Think about it. UFO

Roswell Auto Co. was the original Roswell Ford dealership, owned by Arthur J. Farnsworth's family since the time of Henry Ford.

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helped her father with the chores at home and out at the ranch. She also shared those special father-daughter times with her father when she needed his counsel.

As Sue recalls it, "At one point in the summer of 1947, I noticed a real somber look cross my father's face, and it didn't go away. In fact, it changed more and more into a look of fear after a day or two."

Unable to contain her concern for her father any longer, Sue asked him what was wrong one day when they were at the ranch. Without say-

