

ceptions of the populace. Maybe it still is. Some insiders suggest that more recently it has just been the remnants of the Cold War gotten out of hand. We started out trying to convince the Soviets that we had some “extraterrestrial capabilities,” or at least an ongoing relationship with “other sources” that provided us with advanced means to defend ourselves. Some folks in the system just “didn’t get the word” and continue to pump out sometimes absurd explanations of events observed by hundreds or thousands. “It’s hard to disengage gracefully, and after all, how does the government tell the American people that it has been lying to them for so long?”

One can’t help coming to the conclusion that whatever is happening here is a big deal.

The Missing Times is not a tract—it is a study. It is a carefully researched revisionist view of history that never steps over the line. Every time that one thinks that Hansen has dealt a little unjustified speculation into the mix, he pulls out a study, interview, example or document that substantiates what he has said. In the end, he too wonders if the big secret just might really be too threatening to broadcast.

This book makes it clear that history, like science, is a moving target and that what we think we know about the past (or the present, for that matter) is subject to what we have been told ... and the humans who do the telling always have an agenda. Sometimes they also have the tools, the processes, the funding and the relationships to very effectively mask the truth.

So what’s real?

JOHN L. PETERSEN

President and founder, The Arlington Institute
Arlington, VA

johnp@arlingtoninstitute.org

The Roswell Encyclopedia by Kevin D. Randle. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. 402 pp. \$15.00. ISBN 0-380-79853-0.

My research interests tend to focus on parapsychology, but all anomalous phenomena fascinate me. For instance, ufology and especially the Roswell Incident of 1947 have intrigued me so much that I have conducted limited studies on these topics. The Roswell case is particularly interesting on two levels: the *evidential* (this case could ultimately be a “smoking gun”) and the *psychological* (this case could ultimately be an illusory “smoking gun”). There are a multitude of general books, popular magazine articles, and media documentaries on the Roswell case. A few peer-reviewed scientific and scholarly papers have also appeared in such sources as the *Journal of Scientific Exploration* and the *Journal of UFO Studies*. The authors responsible for this body

of literature vary in their credibility, expertise, and point of view. It is no wonder, therefore, that no firm resolution has come to the Roswell case.

Given this state of affairs, one could legitimately question whether the field really needs another book on Roswell. My first reaction is “no,” but I amend that thought by stating that the field does not need a book that is more of the same. *The Roswell Encyclopedia* is clearly and admittedly skewed toward the “pro-UFO” side of the Roswell debate, but it is not more of the same. Instead, this reference book takes a decidedly lucid and journalistic look at the case and acknowledges data from both proponents and critics. This is what a newcomer to the case demands, and it is what the field could stand more of. Kevin Randle does not provide the reader with a comprehensive history of the case, but rather the purpose of the book is to do the following:

Begin at a point that is beyond the basics and provide the latest, and the best, of the Roswell information. Look at it from the point of view of the best information available, whether pro or con. Attempt to give that information without a ‘spin’ put on it. Ask the right questions so that the case can be understood by those who have not devoted months, or years, to its study (pp. VI–VII).

Randle succeeds admirably in his goal, although he does give a “spin” to some of the evidence. I was expecting nothing less, however, because Randle gives the reader the benefit of his expertise and impressions with respect to some of the more controversial material. For example, a particularly hot research issue in the Roswell case involves the analysis of a “memo” held by General Ramey during the famous press conference in which Ramey debunked the previously described crashed saucer debris as a weather balloon. Some researchers using high-tech software and equipment claim to be able to decipher some of the content on that memo. Not surprisingly, such advocates of the case state that the memo describes a scenario that is consistent with a UFO cover-up. Drawing on his background in psychology (Randle holds a Ph.D. in psychology), Randle is quick to point out the shortcomings and potential biases in these studies. Therefore, the “spins” that Randle does impart on some of the material are welcome additions. In some places readers might get the mistaken impression that Randle is skeptical that Roswell was anything but a weather balloon. In other places, the reader will feel that he is a hardened believer that Roswell was a UFO cover-up.

Make no mistake—Randle believes that Roswell involved a crashed extraterrestrial craft. Yet, he is not willing to accept blindly any piece of evidence that seems to support his belief. He is critical of any claim until it is proved, and this attitude comes through nicely in the book. Furthermore, Randle’s quick and sometimes forceful rebuttals or defenses of some data actually bring to light the real cover-up surrounding the Roswell case, namely the investigators and the internal politics of the UFO field. Many proponents of the Roswell case need not worry that the government is hiding information from

them (undoubtedly it is and you do not need to be paranoid to understand this). Neither does the government need to worry that information will be discovered and disseminated by UFO researchers. Why? In general, it seems that researchers of the Roswell case do not work together and share information. When they do share information, they often cannot come to a consensus about its merit or meaning. The subsequent debates (i.e., fights) among the investigators keep the book publishing market alive and well, but it kills a legitimate and responsible search for the truth of what happened near Roswell.

As you read the entries in *The Roswell Encyclopedia*, the politics of the field become painfully apparent. These politics have significantly tainted how some investigators interpret data—a phenomenon not unfamiliar to the larger scientific community. Yet, here it significantly clouds what could be one of the most important cases in ufology. To a newcomer, a glimpse of the politics in this case is quite valuable in understanding many entries in the encyclopedia. These entries span key historical figures in the case, backgrounds of the current researchers, the testimony of the main eyewitnesses, and alternative explanations for the case. What is missing are a reference section and a general bibliography that newcomers like myself should consult in order to gain a working knowledge of the basics of the case. Since this is an encyclopedia, these omissions are understandable. Nevertheless, I have taken an unorthodox approach and requested such a bibliography from Randle himself explicitly for this book review. He was happy to serve the *JSE* readership, even without seeing the contents of my report.

In the first few pages of Randle's introduction we are told that both proponents and skeptics agree that something crashed in the New Mexico desert in the summer of 1947. This fact is indisputable, but the explanations of what crashed have reached mythical proportions. Regardless of any evidential value, aspects of this case have become modern folklore—urban myths in the making. Randle makes the astute point that these myths are perpetrated by *both* proponents and debunkers of this case. The book therefore attempts to separate fact from fiction, but it is not intended to solve the case. However, the book hopefully will motivate the appearance of new researchers who are up to the challenge, and who are not be blinded or obligated to the politics of previous investigators. Even if your primary research interests are not related to ufology, this book is a sobering and dare I say entertaining look at the status of the Roswell case. And if you read between the lines (in some instances you do not have to), the reader will understand how one of the most possibly important events in human history has been “victimized” by some of the very people that advocate for its investigation. In both its content and attitude, Randle's encyclopedia is thankfully not more of the same.

JAMES HOURAN

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry
Jhouran@siumed.edu

Randle's Bibliography

Air Defense Command Briefing, Jan 1953, Project Blue Book Files.

ALBERTS, Don E., and PUTNAM, Allan E. *A History of Kirtland Air Force Base 1928–1982*.

Albuquerque: 1606th Air Base Wing, 1985.

ANDERSON, Ted. *Alleged diary for July 1947*.

BARKER, Gray. "America's Captured Flying Saucers—The Cover-up of the Century," *UFO Report* (May 1977).

———. "Archives Reveal More Crashed Saucers." *Gray Barker's Newsletter* (14 March 1982).

———. "Von Poppen Update." *Gray Barker's Newsletter* (December 1982): 8.

BARNETT, Ruth. *Personal Diary, 1947*.

BECKLEY, Timothy Green. *MJ-12 and the Riddle of Hangar 18*. New Brunswick, NJ: Inner Light, 1989.

BERLITZ, Charles, and MOORE, William L. *The Roswell Incident*. New York: Berkley, 1988.

BINDER, Otto. "The Secret Warehouse of UFO Proof." *UFO Report*.

BLOECHER, Ted. *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. Washington, D.C.: Author, 1967.

BLUM, Howard. *Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991.

BREW, John Otis, and DANSON, Edward B. "The 1947 Reconnaissance and the Proposed Upper Gila Expedition of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University." *El Palacio* (July 1948): 211–222.

Briefing Document: Operation Majestic 12, November 18, 1952.

BRITTON, Jack, and WASHINGTON, George, Jr. *Military Shoulder Patches of the United States Armed Forces*. Tulsa: MCN Press, 1985.

BROWN, Eunice H. *White Sands History*. White Sands, NM: Public Affairs Office, 1959.

CAHN, J.P. "Flying Saucer Swindlers." *True*. (August 1956).

———. "The Flying Saucers and the Mysterious Little Men." *True* (September 1952).

CAREY, Thomas J. "The Search for the Archaeologists." *International UFO Reporter* (November/December 1991): 4–9, 21.

CARPENTER, John S. "Gerald Anderson: Truth vs. Fiction." *The MUFON UFO Journal* no. 281 (September 1991): 3–7, 12.

———. "Gerald Anderson: Disturbing Revelations." *The MUFON UFO Journal* no. 299 (March 1993): 6–9.

CAMERON, Grant, and CRAIN, T. Scott, Jr. *UFOs, MJ-12 and the Government*. Seguin, TX: MUFON, 1991.

CATOE, Lynn E. *UFOs and Related Subjects: An Annotated Bibliography*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1969.

CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY. "MJ-12: Myth or Reality?" *Just Cause* (December 1985).

———. "Confirmation of MJ-12?" *Just Cause* (June 1987).

———. "The MJ-12 Fiasco." *Just Cause* (September 1987).

———. "More On MJ-12." *Just Cause* (March 1989).

———. "MJ-12 Update." *Just Cause* (June 1989).

———. "Conversation with Dr. Sarbacher." *Just Cause* (September 1985).

CLARK, Jerome. "The Great Crashed Saucer Debate." *UFO Report* (October 1980): 16–19, 74, 76.

———. "Crashed Saucers—Another View." *Saga's UFO Annual 1981* (1981).

———. "Crash Landings." *Omni* (December 1990): 91–92.

———. "UFO Reporters. (MJ-12)". *Fate* (December 1990).

COOPER, Milton William. *Behold a Pale Horse*. Sedona, AZ: Light Technology, 1991.

COOPER, Vicki. "Crashed Saucer Stories." *UFO* 6, no. 1 (1991): 15.

———. "The Roswell Case Revived: Was It An Alien Saucer." *UFO* (January/February 1991): 25–29.

CRARY, Dr. Albert, *Personal Diary, June–July 1947*.

CREIGHTON, Gordon. "Close Encounters of an Unthinkable and Inadmissible Kind." *Flying Saucer Review*. (July/August 1979).

———. "Further Evidence of 'Retrievals'." *Flying Saucer Review*. (Jan 1980).

———. "Continuing Evidence of Retrievals of the Third Kind." *Flying Saucer Review*. January/February 1982).

———. "Top U.S. Scientist Admits Crashed UFOs." *Flying Saucer Review*. (October 1985).

- DAVIS, Richard. "Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash Near Roswell, New Mexico." Washington, D.C.: GAO, 1995.
- DENNETT, Preston. "Project Redlight: Are We Flying The Saucers Too?" *UFO Universe* (May 1990): 39.
- DOBBS, D.L. "Crashed Saucers—The Mystery Continues." *UFO Report* (September 1979).
- EBERHART, George. *The Roswell Report: A Historical Perspective*. Chicago: CUFOs, 1991.
- ECKER, Don. "MJ-12 'Suspected Forgery,' Air Force Says." *UFO* 8, no. 3 (1993): 5.
- EDITORS OF LOOK. "Flying Saucers." *Look* (1966).
- EDWARDS, Frank. *Flying Saucers—Here and Now!* New York: Bantam, 1968.
- . *Flying Saucers—Serious Business*. New York: Bantam, 1966.
- Eighth Air Force Staff Directory, Texas: June 1947.
- ENDRES, Terry, and PACKARD, Pat. "The Pflock Report in Perspective." *UFO Update Newsletter*. Vol. 1 No. 5 (Fall 1994), 1–6.
- Flint (Michigan) City Directories 1945–1950.
- FOWLER, Raymond E. "What about Crashed UFOs?" *Official UFO* (April 1976): 55–57.
- Genesee County (Michigan) telephone directories 1945–1950.
- GILLMOR, Daniel S., ed. *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. New York: Bantam Books, 1969.
- GOOD, Timothy. *Above Top Secret*. New York: Morrow, 1988.
- . *The UFO Report*. New York: Avon Books, 1989.
- . *Alien Contact*. New York: Morrow, 1993.
- HALL, Richard. "Crashed Discs—Maybe," *International UFO Reporter*, 10, no. 4, (July/August 1985).
- . "MJ-12: Still Holding Its Own Through Thickets of Debate."
- (ed). *The UFO Evidence*. Washington, D.C.: NICAP, 1964.
- HAUGLAND, Vern. "AF Denies Recovering Portions of 'Saucers.'" *Albuquerque New Mexican* March 23, 1954.
- HAZARD, Catherine. "Did the Air Force Hush Up a Flying Saucer Crash?" *Woman's World* (February 27, 1990): 10.
- "History of the Eighth Air Force, Fort Worth, Texas," (Microfilm) Air Force Archives, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
- "History of the 509th Bomb Group, Roswell, New Mexico," (Microfilm) Air Force Archives, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
- HOGG, Ivan U., and KING, J.B. *German and Allied Secret Weapons of World War II*. London: Chartwell, 1974.
- HUNNEUS, J. Antonio. "Roswell UFO Crash Update." *UFO Universe* (Winter 1991): 8–13, 52, 57.
- HURT, Wesley R., and MCKNIGHT, Daniel. "Archaeology of the San Augustine Plains: A Preliminary Report." *American Antiquity* (January 1949): 172–194.
- JOHNSON, J. Bond. "'Disk-overy' Near Roswell Identified As Weather Balloon by FWAAF Officer," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 9, 1947.
- KEEL, John. "Now It's No Secret: The Japanese 'Fugo Balloon.'" *UFO* (January/February 1991): 33–35.
- KENNEDY, George P. "Mercury Primates," *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics* (1989).
- KLASS, Philip J. "Crash of the Crashed Saucer Claim," *Skeptical Inquirer*, 10, no. 3 (Spring 1986).
- . "Roswell UFO: Coverups and Credulity." *Skeptical Inquirer* 16 no. 1 (Fall 1991).
- KNAACK, Marcelle. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Air Force Aircraft and Missile Systems*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Air Force History, 1988.
- LAPAZ, Lincoln, and ROSENFELD, Albert. "Japan's Balloon Invasion of America," *Collier's*, January 17, 1953, p. 9.
- Library of Congress Legislative Reference Service, "Facts about UFOs," May 1966.
- MACCABEE, Bruce. "Hiding the Hardware." *International UFO Reporter*. (September/October 1991): 4.
- . "What the Admiral Knew." *International UFO Reporter*. (November/December 1986).
- MCLELLAN, Mike. "The Flying Saucer Crash of 1948 is a Hoax," *Official UFO* (October 1975): 36–37, 60, 62–64.
- MCDONALD, Bill. "Comparing Descriptions, An Illustrated Roswell." *UFO* 8, no. 3 (1993): 31–36.

- MOORE, Charles B. "The New York University Balloon Flights During Early June, 1947," The Author, 1995.
- MOORE, William L., and SHANDERA, Jaime H. *The MJ-12 Documents: An Analytical Report*. Burbank, CA: Fair Witness Project, 1991.
- MUELLER, Robert. *Air Force Bases: Volume 1, Active Air Force Bases within the United States of American on 17 September 1982*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Air Force History, 1989.
- National Security Agency. *Presidential Documents*. Washington, D.C.: Executive Order 12356, 1982.
- NEILSON, James. "'Secret U.S./UFO Structure.'" *UFO*, 4, no. 1, (1989): 4-6.
- "New explanation for 1908 Siberian blast." *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January 25, 1993.
- NICKELL, Joe. "The Hangar 18 Tales" *Common Ground* (June 1984).
- NICKELL, Joe, and FISCHER, John F. "The Crashed-Saucer Forgeries," *International UFO Reporter* 15 no. 2 (March/April 1990): 4-12.
- . "Further Deception: Moore and Shandera," Unpublished paper, The authors (1993).
- "No Reputable Dope On Disks," *Midland (Texas) Reporter Telegram* (July 1, 1947).
- NORTHROP, Stuart A. *Minerals of New Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1959.
- O'BRIEN, Mike. "New Witness to San Agustin Crash." *MUFON Journal* no. 275 (March 1991): 3-9.
- PACKARD, Pat, and ENDRES, Terry. "Riding the Roswell-go-round." *A.S.K. UFO Report Vol. 2*, No. 1, 1-8.
- PFLOCK, Karl. *Roswell in Perspective*. Mt. Rainier, MD: FUFOR, 1994.
- . "In Defense of Roswell Reality." *HUFON Report* (Feb. 1995) 5-7.
- . "Roswell, A Cautionary Tale: Facts and Fantasies, Lessons and Legacies." In Walter H. Andrus, Jr., ed. *MUFON 1995 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* Seguin, TX: MUFON, 1990: 154-68.
- . "Roswell, The Air Force, and Us." *International UFO Reporter* (November/December 1994): 3-5, 24.
- "Press Release—Monkeynaut Baker is Memorialized," Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL (December 4, 1984).
- "Project Blue Book" (microfilm). National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- PRYTZ, John M. "UFO Crashes" *Flying Saucers* (October 1969): 24-25.
- RAAF Base Phone Book, Roswell, NM: August 1947.
- RAAF Yearbook, Roswell, NM; 1947.
- RANDLE, Kevin D. *The UFO Casebook*. New York: Warner, 1989.
- . *A History of UFO Crashes*. New York: Avon, 1995.
- RANDLE, Kevin D., and CORNETT, Robert Charles. "Project Blue Book Cover-up: Pentagon Suppressed UFO Data." *UFO Report* 2 no. 5 (Fall 1975).
- RANDLE, Kevin D., and SCHMITT, Donald R. *UFO Crash at Roswell*. New York, NY: Avon, 1991.
- RANGLES, Jenny. *The UFO Conspiracy*. New York: Javelin, 1987.
- "Report of Air Force Research Regarding the 'Roswell Incident'," July 1994.
- "Rocket and Missile Firings," *White Sands Proving Grounds*, Jan-Jul 1947.
- RODEGHIER, Mark. "Roswell, 1989." *International UFO Reporter*. (September/October 1989): 4.
- RODEGHIER, Mark and CHESNEY, Mark. "The Air Force Report on Roswell: An Absence of Evidence." *International UFO Reporter* (September/October 1994).
- ROSIGNOLI, Guido. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Military Insignia of the 20th Century*. Secaucus, N.J.: Chartwell, 1986.
- RUPPELT, Edward J. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. New York: Ace, 1956.
- SCHAFFNER, Ron. "Roswell: A Federal Case?" *UFO Brigantia* (Summer 1989).
- SCHMITT, Donald R. "New Revelations from Roswell." In Walter H. Andrus, Jr., ed. *MUFON 1990 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* Seguin, TX: MUFON, 1990: 154-68.
- SCHMITT, Donald R., and RANDLE, Kevin D. "Second Thoughts on the Barney Barnett Story." *International UFO Reporter* (May/June 1992): 4-5, 22.
- SHANDERA, Jaime. "New Revelation about the Roswell Wreckage: A General Speaks Up." *MUFON Journal* (January 1991): 4-8.
- SHEAFFER, Robert. *The UFO Verdict*. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus, 1981.
- SMITH, Scott. "Q & A: Len Stringfield." *UFO* 6, no. 1, (1991): 20-24.
- "The Space Men at Wright-Patterson." *UFO Update*.

- STEIGER, Brad, and STEIGER, Sherry Hanson. *The Rainbow Conspiracy*. New York: Pinnacle, 1994.
- STEINMAN, William S., and STEVENS, Wendelle C. *UFO Crash at Aztec*. Boulder, CO.: Author, 1986.
- STONE, Clifford E. *UFO's: Let the Evidence Speak for Itself*. Calif: The Author, 1991.
- . "The U.S. Air Force's Real, Official Investigation of UFO's," private report: The Author, 1993.
- STORY, Ronald D. *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1980.
- STRINGFIELD, Leonard H. *Situation Red: The UFO Siege!* Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1977.
- . *UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome: Status Report II*. Seguin, TX: MUFON, 1980.
- . *UFO Crash/Retrieval: Amassing the Evidence: Status Report III*. Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1982.
- . *UFO Crash/Retrievals: The Inner Sanctum Status Report VI*, Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1991.
- . "Roswell & the X-15: UFO Basics," MUFON UFO Journal No. 259 (November 1989): 3–7.
- TODD, Robert G. "MJ-12 Rebuttal," MUFON Journal (January 1990): 17.
- TODD, Robert G., RODEGHIER, Mark, GREENWOOD, Barry, and MACCABEE, Bruce. "A Forum on MJ-12," *International UFO Reporter*, (May/June 1990): 15.
- VALLEE, Jacques. *Dimensions*. New York: Ballantine, 1989.
- . *Revelations*. New York: Ballantine, 1991.
- "Visitors From Venus," *Time* (January 9, 1950): 49.
- WHITING, Fred. *The Roswell Events*. Mt. Rainier, MD: FUFOR, 1993.
- WILCOX, Inez. personal writings 1947–1952.
- ZEIDMAN, Jennie. "I Remember Blue Book." *International UFO Reporter* (March/April 1991): 7.

Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe by Karl T. Pflock. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2001. 331 pp. \$25.00.

No other single UFO case has generated so much heat and ultimately as little light as the alleged crash and retrieval of a UFO near Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947. Some see it as one of the sacred pillars of ufology, following just weeks on the heels of the field's very first sacred pillar—pilot Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947, report of nine, silvery, high-speed objects in the Pacific Northwest. Others see it as the classic example of a UFO investigation gone horribly amiss, plagued by shoddy research, unreliable witnesses, and an unwillingness to countenance any data that indicated a non-extraterrestrial explanation.

Or at least that's the way Karl T. Pflock views Roswell. A former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and intelligence officer for the Central Intelligence Agency, Pflock is no stranger to the subject. He is a New Mexico State Section Director for MUFON—the Mutual UFO Network—and author of a previous monograph, *Roswell in Perspective*, along with numerous other UFO and related articles.

This much is known with absolute certainty. On Tuesday, July 8, 1947, the following press release was issued to the local media, picked up by the wire services, and then reprinted around the world:

The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air