

The Cowflop Quarterly

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☆☆☆ BLUNDER ALERT ☆☆☆

The September 1, 1995 (Vol. 1, No. 2) issue of *The Cowflop Quarterly* incorrectly cited the date of the "Bolender Memo" as 20 December 1969, when in fact it is dated 20 October 1969. The "memo" ultimately led to the termination of Project Blue Book in December 1969. The one-man editorial "staff" of *Cowflop* deeply regrets this unforgivable error.

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ROSWELL RECORD FOUND

In the July/August 1994 issue of the *International UFO Reporter (IUR)*, Kevin "Wrong Way" Randle, who earned his nickname by reading government documents upside down and sideways in the hope he could get them to say something other than what they actually said, slipped yet another ridiculous article past the unseeing eyes of "His Royal Blindness," Jerome Clark, chief propagandist at the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), and putative "editor" of *IUR*.

Incredibly, "Wrong Way's" article claimed that Colonel William Blanchard, commander of the 509th Bomb Group and Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) at the time of the Roswell incident, not only didn't go on leave on July 9th, as claimed by newspaper accounts and the July 9th Morning Report for 509th Bomb Group headquarters, but that the leave he supposedly never took started on July 8th, and not July 9th. Randle claims that the leave that supposedly never happened was nothing more than "a cover for Blanchard's activities revolving around the [alien spaceship] crash," and that the leave was intended to free Blanchard "to respond to the situation as necessary without having to worry about awkward questions from reporters." According to Randle, Blanchard "would not want to be off the base and out of town when the biggest event of the twentieth century took place, unless his leave was part of the cover-up."

Randle's article referred to several documents, including one incorrectly cited as Headquarters, 509th Bomb Group, "Special Order" No. 9, dated July 8, 1947, which said that Lt. Col. Payne Jennings (Blanchard's second-in-command) assumed command of RAAF effective July 8th. In actuality, the document was *General Orders (GO) No. 9*, which the Air Force kindly reproduced in *The Roswell Report: Fact vs Fiction in the New Mexico Desert* (which can be purchased from the Government Printing Office). In Randle's cartoon world, GO No. 9 is *proof* that Blanchard went on leave on July 8th and not on July 9th, as alleged by Karl Pflock, who Randle sanctimoniously accuses of not "reviewing all the relevant documents or testimonies" before arriving at his conclusions.

Why is this "proof"? Because, Randle claims, "Eighth Air Force would not want to create a situation whereby two commanders were on station at the same time." Yet, using that comically twisted "logic" peculiar to Randle, he also proclaims that "Surely [Blanchard] would not want to be off the base and out town when the biggest event of the twentieth century took place . . .," and claims that the non-leave leave freed Blanchard "to respond to the situation as necessary . . .," clearly implying that Blanchard was in charge.

It appears from this contrived nonsense that Randle thinks Blanchard was in some strange quantum state that placed him both on the base and off the base at the same time, and placed both Blanchard in charge and Jennings in charge at the same time. Randle's nonsense aside, the fact is that *nothing* prevented Blanchard from being on the base after Jennings assumed command. Jennings would have been making the

decisions and giving the orders, rather than Blanchard. Only one of the men would have been in charge, even if both men were present on the base. Randle seems to be suggesting that, whenever Blanchard went on leave, he had to leave the base immediately in order to avoid upsetting 8th Air Force, who, Randle claims, wouldn't want two commanders "on station" at the same time! Clearly this claim is absurd on its face, and demonstrates how desperate Randle is to mislead the public into believing that every event that occurred at RAAF around the time of the Roswell incident had something to do with the Roswell incident, as if all other government business simply ceased due to the "biggest event of the twentieth century." Every aircraft that flew into RAAF carried high-ranking visitors who were there to support the cover-up, and every aircraft that left RAAF carried alien spaceship debris or alien bodies to secret locations throughout the United States. The normal (although not necessarily routine) activities of the 509th stopped dead in their tracks so that all base personnel could institute the massive cover-up, so the Roswell promoters would have us believe.

Consequently, Randle's contention that Jennings' assumption of command on the 8th *proves* Blanchard's non-leave began on July 8th is *utter nonsense!* The fact that such an absurd claim originates with a former military man (who presumably *should* know better), makes it inexcusable. It's just another in a long list of attempts Randle has made to "explain" away uncomfortable facts that tend to show his claims about Roswell are little more than exotic fantasies.

Although Randle's article mentions the July 9th Morning Report that documents Blanchard's leave as beginning on the 9th, the article made no mention of the Morning Report for Monday, July 28th, which documents Blanchard's return to duty from his leave, effective Saturday, July 26th. Blanchard's leave was documented in *two* Morning Reports, and not just one.

According to Randle, Blanchard's non-leave leave allowed him to visit the "crash" site on July 8th, a date Randle attributes to "available information," information not otherwise identified in the article. So, assuming Blanchard's "cover" leave actually began on July 8th, as Randle claims, and ended on July 26th, as the Morning Report says, exactly where was Blanchard for those 18 days, and what was he doing? Did he go out to the "crash" site, pitch a tent, and spend the next 18 days picking up the pieces of the "alien spaceship" himself?

Early in my inquiry into the Roswell incident, I sought out teletype messages that were sent to or from RAAF around the time of the non-event. My search ended when no messages surfaced that made mention of the incident, and it became increasingly apparent that communications between RAAF and Fort Worth (and between Fort Worth and Washington, D.C.) were handled via telephone, and not by teletype.

Contrary to the proclamations of the General Accounting Office (GAO) and Congressman Schiff, not all RAAF outgoing messages from that critical time period were destroyed. Back in 1991, I located one outgoing message, dated July 9, 1947, from the Commanding Officer, RAAF, to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces (AAF), Washington, D.C., among the incoming messages of AAF headquarters. Although the message makes no mention of the "Roswell incident," it is relevant to the case, thanks to Randle's fiction writing. A complete copy of the message is reproduced as the last page of this issue of *The Cowflop Quarterly*. The full text of the message reads:

REGARDING TWX [teletype message] AFDOI ONE FIVE ZERO DATED SEVEN JULY COLONEL WILLIAM H BLANCHARD AND MR OLIVER LAFARGE HAVE

APPOINTMENT WITH GOVERNOR [sic] MABRY FOR NINE JULY TO REQUEST HIS PROCLAIMING OF AIR FORCE DAY PD [period]

The message appears to have been transmitted at 1502Z (Greenwich Mean Time), or about 8:00 AM (MST) in New Mexico. So, at about eight o'clock on the morning of July 9th, somebody at RAAF (probably Lt. Col. Jennings, who had assumed command of the base sometime the day before) was telling AAF headquarters that Blanchard had an appointment with Governor Mabry for that very day, to request that the governor make an Air Force Day proclamation.

The designation "AFDOI" apparently stood for the "Air Force Director of Information." Unfortunately, the July 7th AFDOI message did not surface as a result of my request, but we may reasonably assume that the DOI was coordinating all activities associated with the nationwide celebration of Air Force Day, and that the July 7th message asked Blanchard about arrangements he was making.

In his book, *Roswell in Perspective*, Karl Pflock reported that he had located an Associated Press (AP) item published in the July 10, 1947, edition of the *Albuquerque Journal*, concerning Blanchard's leave. Dated July 9, the AP item said that "William Blanchard, commanding officer of the Roswell Army Air Field, left here today [July 9th] for a three weeks vacation in Santa Fe and Colorado." Presumably Blanchard drove to Santa Fe by automobile.

According to the July 9th edition of the *Albuquerque Journal*, in a story datelined July 8th, Governor and Mrs. Mabry were scheduled to leave on July 9th "on a week's automobile trip to Salt Lake City," to attend the governors' conference scheduled to begin on July 13th. Presumably Governor Mabry met with Blanchard and Lafarge before departing on his trip.

Further evidence that Blanchard did indeed go on leave and was "off the base and out of town when the biggest event of the twentieth century [supposedly] took place" can be found on page one of the July 18, 1947, edition of the RAAF base newspaper, *The Atomic Blast*, produced by then-First Lieutenant Walter Haut's public information office. It prints the text of a "recent" telegram Blanchard sent to the 509th congratulating them for winning first place in the 8th Air Force Group Competition. According to the *History of Headquarters Eighth Air Force* for July 1947, scoring for the competition was completed on July 11th. As a result, Blanchard's telegram had to have been sent sometime between July 10th and July 18th. That he sent a telegram clearly shows he was "off the base and out of town."

Additional evidence which establishes conclusively that Blanchard was "off the base and out of town" can be found in another AP story, datelined Santa Fe, July 14th, published in the July 15th edition of the *Albuquerque Journal*, which reported that "Acting Governor Joseph M. Montoya today [July 14th] proclaimed Aug. 1 as Air Force Day in commemoration of the Army Air Force's 40th anniversary, and the week of July 21 to 27 as New Mexico Aviation Week." The story went on to say:

Col. William H. Blanchard, commanding officer of the Roswell Army Air Field, and Oliver Lafarge, Santa Fe author who was with the Army Transport Command during the last war and who now represents the Airforce Association, a national organization of ex-air force men which is trying to organize a "wing" in New Mexico, were present.

In fact, page one of the July 25, 1947, edition of *The Atomic Blast* carried a photograph of Acting Governor Montoya seated at his desk in the Santa Fe State House, signing the Air Force Day proclamation, with Lafarge and Blanchard witnessing the event. *The Atomic Blast* identified Lafarge as "one of New Mexico's 'best selling' authors and a Lt. Col. in the Air Force Reserve."

So, it appears that Blanchard was in Santa Fe from at least July 9th, when he and Lafarge were scheduled to meet with Governor Mabry to request the Air Force Day proclamation, to at least July 14th, when Acting Governor Montoya actually signed the proclamation while Governor Mabry was out of town attending the governors' conference in Salt Lake City, and while

the "biggest event of the twentieth century" supposedly was being covered up at Blanchard's base, from which numerous airlifts of debris from one or more alien spacecraft supposedly were being made -- while Blanchard was off attending to the far more important matter of arranging for the Air Force Day proclamation.

Yeah, sure. The only thing more amazing than anybody (other than Jerome Clark) actually believing Randle's cowflop is that former First Lieutenant Walter Haut, whose public information office published *The Atomic Blast*, either does not recall these events, or, for unknown reasons, has chosen to make no effort to set Randle straight on his comically fictionalized version of "history." Perhaps Haut is unaware of Randle's article.

According to the *Combined History of 509th Bomb Group and Roswell Army Air Field*, for July 1947, "The [Office of Public Information's] main project of the month was making all arrangements for a successful Air Force Day. Lt. Colonel Oliver LaFarge, Air Reserve Corps, at Santa Fe, made arrangements for Colonel Blanchard to visit the Governor of New Mexico and ask him to declare Air Force Day in New Mexico on 1 August."

How is it possible that Haut doesn't recall these facts when Air Force Day was his "main project of the month" back in July of 1947? It's already clear that Haut knows more about the non-alien nature of the Roswell incident than he seems willing to state to members of the public. Perhaps he no longer finds it advantageous to recall too much of what he once knew, now that he's the president of "The International UFO Museum & Research Center" in Roswell, which has been a boon to the city.

Contrary to Randle's absurd assertions, Blanchard did go on leave on July 9th, 1947, and returned to duty on July 26th. He spent that leave in Santa Fe, where he and Oliver Lafarge met with Governor Mabry on July 9th to ask the governor to proclaim August 1st as Air Force Day in New Mexico. Blanchard and Lafarge were present in Santa Fe on July 14th when Acting Governor Montoya signed the proclamation, and even had their picture taken with Montoya. Presumably Blanchard drove on to Colorado for the remainder of his leave. Sometime between July 10th and July 18th, Blanchard sent a telegram to the 509th to congratulate them for winning first place in the 8th Air Force Group Competition, a contest Blanchard missed because he was on leave.

Strangely enough, I find myself agreeing with Randle when he proclaims that "Surely [Blanchard] would not want to be off the base and out of town when the biggest event of the twentieth century took place . . ." Yet the evidence is overwhelming that he was off the base and out of town. Therefore the "biggest event of the twentieth century" was not occurring at the base, because no alien spaceship crash occurred.

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ROSWELL RECORDS DESTROYED?

During the past five and a half years, in searching for records pertaining to the Roswell incident, I have examined thousands of pages of records that list Air Force files that were retired to records centers operated by the National Archives. These "Records Shipment Lists" often list files by number and title, and generally show the dates covered by the files, and when the files were retired to the records center. In the past two years, shipment lists have surfaced that list the contents of 36 boxes of research and development files transferred in August 1960 to what was then the Air Force Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, including files that were created and maintained by the Air Materiel Command (AMC). These 36 boxes of records (referred to as an "accession") appear to have been correspondence files maintained according to the old War Department Decimal Filing System, and among the records listed were two especially interesting files with the following titles:

000- Flying Discs- "Sign", "Grudge"
1947-1950

MX-1011 - "ROCKFISH", "MOGUL" Projects
Acoustical Research (1946 thru 1950)

By RLB/IM NARA, Date 6/7/91.

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6/7/91*

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FA236

NOV 7 1947 NR1 WD

FROM CG RAAF ROSWELL NEW MEXICO

091502Z

TO CG ARMY AIR FORCE WASHINGTON D C

C R N C

CO-169- PD REGARDING TUX AFDO1 ONE FIVE ZERO DATED SEVEN JULY
COLONEL WILLIAM H BLANCHARD AND MR OLIVER LAFARGE HAVE

APPOINTMENT WITH GOVERNOR MABRY FOR NINE JULY TO REQUEST
HIS PROCLAIMING OF AIR FORCE DAY PD END

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