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### Korff on Roswell (2)

From: **Greg Sandow** <[gsandow@prodigy.net](mailto:gsandow@prodigy.net)>  
Date: Sun, 25 May 1997 13:10:56 -0400  
Fwd Date: Mon, 26 May 1997 02:53:58 -0400  
Subject: Korff on Roswell (2)

Now I'll look at Kal Korff's treatment of Maj. Edwin Easley, the Provost Marshall at the Roswell air base, a job that put him in charge of the base's military police.

Before going on, though, I want to restate one ground rule. I'm not taking a stand here on what really crashed at Roswell, or, for that matter, on the overall worth of Kal's book. I'm just commenting on three passages, in which he discusses things I know a little bit about.

On to Easley. Kal has one piece of new information, the source -- and thus, the importance -- of which is oddly buried in his footnotes. This is that Easley "had a tendency to place himself in events at which he was not present." The source for this, according to the footnote, is Easley's physician. And while I give Kal full credit for finding this out, I must fault him for not telling us more. How long did this doctor treat Easley? How well did he know him? How often did Easley's memory confabulate in this way? What was the context of his confabulations? Without this information, there's no way to know what Korff's new data means. Did Easley imagine he was at family functions he'd actually missed (a relatively harmless invention), or did he speak of major trips, let's say, which in reality he'd never taken (which would be a lot more serious)? I'm sensitive to these matters partly because my own mother is 91, and has been losing her memory for the past two years. Right now I wouldn't trust her recollections even of things you'd think would be engraved in her brain cells, like the birth of her two children. But a year ago this wasn't so. Kal hasn't told us enough about Easley to let me know what to make of the new data.

Moving on now to Easley's alleged role at Roswell, Kal writes the following:

"Kevin Randle interviewed Maj. Edwin Easley shortly before his death. After initially refusing to confirm to Randle that he was even there at Roswell, Randle claims that Easley on his deathbed eventually confessed that not only had he 'been there,' but that he had also seen alien bodies. Indeed, the authors write, 'Easley was reluctant to talk of bodies, but finally, before he died, said that he had seen them. He had been close enough to them to know they weren't human. He called them "creatures."' [For punctuation fans -- after 17 years of professional writing, I think this is the first time I've ever had to use three levels of quotation marks!]

Kal then says, in much the spirit of his remarks on Pappy Henderson (see my previous message, "Korff on Roswell (1)"), that Randle wasn't present when Easley died, and that thus we have nothing but "Kevin Randle's 'word'" for what Easley said. "Until Kevin Randle is ever able to provide evidence and/or documentation to back up his

statement," Kal concludes, "Easley's alleged deathbedremarks cannot be considered as credible evidence for the extraterrestrial nature of the Roswell incident."

Kal, however, is not accurate in stating what really happened between Easley and Randle, or where Randle got his information. This perhaps isn't entirely his fault, because the sequence of events isn't completely clear in Randle's books, either; you have to dig in footnotes and appendices to fully comprehend it, and even then I'm not sure that everything is completely understandable until you look at Evin's files. Still, Kal should have checked and/or written more carefully, and not allowed himself to print such an inaccurate -- and, I'm afraid -- misleading summary of what Easley really said.

Here's the true story. Kevin (as you won't understand from reading Kal's summary) interviewed Easley three times by phone. In the last of those conversations, Easley -- by no means on his deathbed -- told Kevin that the crash had involved an extraterrestrial craft. Later, when he was very sick and close to death, he murmured something about "the creatures," in a context that made it clear he was talking about Roswell. Admittedly, Kevin wasn't there, but --as Kal again doesn't tell us -- he has a reasonable source for the information. Kal wouldn't have known this from either of Kevin's books; I only know it because I found the document in Kevin's files. It's a letter from (if my memory is reliable here) a Dallas physician who knows Easley's daughter. Supposedly Easley's daughter showed her dad a copy of the first Randle/Scmitt Roswell book, with a comment something like "Dad, you're in this." Easley, very sick and soon to die, replied simply by saying "The creatures..." which I grant sounds like something out of a bad horror movie.

But on the other hand the event may well have happened. The logical next step for Kevin would have been to call Easley's daughter to confirm this. I don't know whether or not he did; he's guilty of sloppy work if he didn't, since as unchecked third-hand information, the letter from the man in Dallas isn't conclusive evidence by itself. Still, Kal was far too hasty here. If the source of Kevin's information wasn't clear to him, he should have picked up the phone and asked Kevin about it. (I'm not getting into the dispute between Kal and Kevin about what Roswell material was or wasn't available through CUFOS. If Kal couldn't get what he wanted through CUFOS, a call to Kevin was the logical, in fact inevitable next step. Had I been writing this story for a newspaper or a national magazine, no editor I've ever worked for would have let me publish until I'd made that call.)

More serious, though, is Kal's failure to distinguish between this alleged deathbed conversation, which Kevin didn't hear first-hand, and Easley's alleged admission on the phone that the crash was extraterrestrial, which was supposedly made right in Kevin's ear. Kal also doesn't mention that Kevin talked to Easley three times on the phone, and, maybe most crucially of all, he leaves out one of the most central parts of the Easley/Randle saga, which is Easley's talk about being sworn to secrecy.

Kal alludes to it, indirectly, when he says that Easley initially refused to confirm "that he was even there at Roswell." This statement, on its face, is not even correct, since Easley did state with no hesitation that he was at the base. Of course, Kal is simply using language freely here, and really means that Easley refused to confirm that he was involved in any crash activities. But even then Kal's sentence is misleading, because it leaves out the very crucial why and how of Easley's refusal.

Here's the transcript of the start of Kevin's first talk with Easley: I regret that I didn't copy out the very start of the call, where Kevin introduces himself, and establishes that Easley was stationed at the Roswell base. From that point, however -- and I've omitted very little -- the conversation proceeds like this:

KR: And I understand that you were the provost marshall at one time.  
 EE: That's right.  
 KR: At the 509th. During July of 1947?  
 EE: Yes.  
 KR: You're aware of the incident that took place there in July of '47? The alleged crash of a flying saucer?  
 EE: [Pause] I've heard about it.  
 KR: Do you have any first-hand knowlege of it?  
 EE: About what?  
 KR: Do you have any first-hand knowlege of the incident?  
 EE: I can't talk about it.

KR: Then you do have some first-hand knowlege?  
EE: I can't talk about it.  
KR: [Pause] Uh-huh. [Laughs nervously]  
EE: Uh-huh.  
KR: Well, we have, we have received information from a couple of people that, that you had been out at the crash site yourself as provost marshall. So that was what we were trying to confirm. But you can't talk about it, right?  
EE: Yes.  
KR: Is there anything at all you might be able to tell me that would help me in my search.  
EE: Help you what?  
KR: Help me learn exactly what happened there in 1947.  
EE: Well, you should start with, well, the former commander was Colonel Blanchard, but I think he passed away.  
KR: Yes, he died from a heart attack at the Pentagon.  
EE: Uh-huh.  
KR: And I've talked to Col. Birley, who was the operations officer, and Patrick Saunders, who was the adjutant. And we've been in contact with --  
EE: Have you talked to the intelligence officer?  
KR: Major Marcel has talked, told others what happened. We have some taped interviews with him, talking about what he had seen the days he was there. And we've talked to some of the other fellows who were involved in the counterintelligence end of it.  
EE: Well, I think they can tell you everything you need to know.  
KR: Uh-huh. Can you tell me if you were at the crash site?  
EE: I can't talk about it, I told you that.  
KR: Yes sir, I understand.  
EE: I've been sworn to secrecy, I can't tell you that.

\*\*\*\*

But this wasn't the end of the conversation. Easley stayed on the phone with Randle for quite a while, offering more leads. And he took Randle's calls twice afterward. It's hard -- especially when you hear the tape, and can weigh Easley's tone, and, especially, take the measure of his silences -- not to form the impression that Easley really did know something important, or thought he did, and that he wanted, if not to talk about it, then at least to help Kevin find out everything he could. Why else would Easley offer name after name for Kevin to contact, as he did in the portion of the talk I haven't transcribed? This, I'd think, is greatly significant, even if what crashed was only a Mogul balloon. Easley's testimony helps establish that whatever happened was serious enough for the Air Force to cover up.

Kal doesn't breathe a word of this, and hence has misrepresented both the tone and content of Kevin's interviews with Easley. Kevin, I have to say, made one serious mistake. He didn't tape the conversation during which, he says, Easley finally told his story, and stated that what crashed was alien. (Or, to be absolutely accurate, said that Kevin would be correct to believe such a thing.) So here we really do have only Kevin's "word" to rely on, along with his notes, of course, though when Kevin states (as he did in a previous message here) that his notes ought to be sufficient evidence, I can't agree. Though I trust Kevin's honesty, in something as earth-shaking as this I want a tape.

Here was something Kal really could have nailed Kevin for. But he missed it -- and, as I've shown, garbled the Easley story, as well as making the elementary journalistic mistake of failing to call a source to supply missing information.

Greg Sandow

(It may take me a few days to get to part three of my comments, which will be about General Exon. But maybe that will give Kal time to respond.)

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