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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Some Questions about Your Book on Roswell

From: [DRudiak@aol.com](mailto:DRudiak@aol.com) [David Rudiak]  
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 1998 19:13:54 EST  
Fwd Date: Wed, 18 Feb 1998 10:51:39 -0500  
Subject: Re: Some Questions about Your Book on Roswell

>From: [KRandle993@aol.com](mailto:KRandle993@aol.com) [Kevin Randle]  
>Date: Mon, 16 Feb 1998 20:31:21 EST  
>Fwd Date: Tue, 17 Feb 1998 09:25:58 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Some Questions about Your Book on Roswell

C. Bond Johnson wrote that he was misquoted in the Randle/Schmitt book:

>>"THE BOND JOHNSON FACTOR ...At that time I was briefed on the  
>>idea that it was not a flying disc as reported but in fact was a  
>>weather balloon that had crashed.... Almost the first thing that  
>>Ramey said was, "Oh, we've found out what it is, and you know,  
>>it's a weather balloon." p. 125.

>>FACT: I have been quoted in the past as making statements similar  
>>to these. There is no basis in fact as to these remarks, I never  
>>have made any such statements since this does not in any way  
>>coincide with any recollections or records that I have of my  
>>visit to General Ramey's office on 7/8/47.

Kevin Randle replied:

>I wonder if he would like to hear the tape again. Not only did he  
>make comments similar to these, there are exactly what he said. I  
>have the tapes with the comments and I was careful in the  
>transcription because this was at the time that Moore and  
>Shandera were talking about their new star witness. At that point  
>Johnson moved from having seen only a weather balloon to having  
>photographed the real debris. But the point is, I have the  
>comments on audio tape and know exactly what he said. When  
>confronted with that information, he stuttered and evaded, but  
>had no answer, accusing me of getting the quotes wrong.

>What he said to me, once again on tape is, "I posed General Ramey  
>with this debris. At that time I was briefed on the idea that it  
>was not a flying disk as first reported but in fact was a weather  
>balloon that had crashed."

I side with Kevin Randle on this one. Johnson's original quote that Ramey was telling him it was a weather balloon is, in fact, completely backed up by contemporaneous news accounts. On the other hand, his more recent statements that Ramey didn't put out a weather balloon story until after he (Johnson) had returned to his newspaper office doesn't seem to be supported by documentary evidence.

That this debate has become somewhat acrimonious is unfortunate, because overall Johnson seems quite open to finding out what happened that day and even accepts the possibility that there could have been a UFO crash that was covered up. He isn't a knee-jerk debunker.

First of all, it's important to establish a basic timeline of

what happened. Surviving wire messages indicate that the original AP wire story on the press release went out at 12:26 pm, Roswell time, or 1:26 in Fort Worth and 2:26 in Washington. Johnson remembers being called out to the base at around 4:00 pm and being admitted to Ramey's office at around 4:30 pm (Fort Worth time). That leaves roughly three hours between the press release and when Johnson took his photos. A lot happened in those three hours.

The N.Y. Times reported:

Celestial crockery had the Army up in the air for several hours yesterday before an Army officer explained that what a colleague thought was "a flying disk" was nothing more than a battered Army weather balloon. (The "Army officer obviously refers to weather officer Irving Newton)

...WITHIN AN HOUR after Lt. Haught (sic) had given new impetus to the "flying saucer" derby, his boss, Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, had a somewhat different different version of the flying disk.

He said that while it was true it had been seen on a ranch, no one had seen it in the air; it was "of flimsy construction." apparently made "of some sort of tin foil." ...In Washington, Lieut. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Deputy Chief of the Army Air Forces, hurried to his headquarters' press section....

Similarly, Dick Pearce of the San Francisco Examiner wrote:

The Army Air Force sent a shiver of excitement across a saucer-conscious Nation yesterday with the announcement that an actual flying disc had been found... Not until three hours later did the saucer shatter on the rock of hard fact...

Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, deputy chief of the AAF, hurried to the AAF press section in Washington and personally took charge as newspapers and wire services clamored for details....

WITHIN AN HOUR telephone lines into sparse New Mexico were jammed... (The Examiner did not call Sheriff Wilcox. Surmising that the find had been flown to Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey ... The Examiner telephoned him. FIRST TO REACH HIM, The Examiner got a complete description of the "disc" from him, together with HIS EXPRESSED SUSPICION THAT IT WAS JUST PART OF A WEATHER BALLOON. His description tallied with that of radar reflectors sent up every day at Oakland.

(As a result, The Examiner was able to give a prosaic name to the Army's saucer LONG BEFORE the Army itself corrected the boner of its public relations officer at Roswell.)

A weather officer attached to the base weather station at Fort Worth inally was called in, took one look at the tangled mess of aluminum foil, strings, and wood and made definite identification.

Plans to fly it to the AAF laboratories at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, were abandoned promptly.

DISAVOWAL -- General Ramey went on the radio to quiet the furor.... etc.

And the Washington Post wrote:

For three hectic hours last night, the Army Air Forces ... thought it actually had possession of one of those fabulous "flying saucers." ...The mysterious will-o'the-wisp really exists -- so said an announcement from Roswell Army Airfield's public relations officer. Then a few hours later and nearly two days after the "disc" had been in official hands, it was rudely exposed as an imposter.

Rushed from Roswell to Eighth Air Force Headquarters at Fort Worth, Tex., by B-29, it puzzled AAF officers there. They were

about to fly it on to the Army's experimental center at Wright Field when an Army warrant officer [Irving Newton ] identified the object. It was part of a box - kite type of weather balloon used by United States Weather Bureau and Army meteorological stations all over the country.

But then the story went on later...

...Under the personal direction of Lieut. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, acting AAF chief, who dropped into the Washington, AAF public information headquarters in the midst of the excitement, they burned up the wires to Texas and New Mexico.

They got from Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey ... a description of the object. It was "of very flimsy construction -- almost like a box-kite", made of wood and with a cover "like tinfoil."...

RAMEY SAID HE HADN'T ACTUALLY SEEN IT HIMSELF AS YET. HE WENT TO TAKE A LOOK, AND CALLED BACK THAT IT WAS ABOUT 25 FEET IN DIAMETER. He said he was shipping it on to Wright Field, Ohio, but would have one of his meteorological officers look at it first...

Let's put these stories together. The N.Y. Times says Ramey was putting out a different version "within an hour" calling the device flimsy and made of fin foil. The S.F. Examiner also suggests that they contacted Ramey "within an hour," and they were the first to reach him, even before Vandenberg and his people in Washington. The Examiner, however, clearly has Ramey saying that it was part of a weather balloon, and further suggests that Ramey was also using the radar target explanation at this time. This was also obviously well BEFORE Irving Newton, the meteorological officer, was ordered to Ramey's office to put his official stamp of approval on Ramey's story.

In all three stories, Gen. Vandenberg is also mentioned as putting in a brief appearance at the Pentagon public relations office. When could Vandenberg have done this? His secretary's diary details a crowded afternoon schedule of appointment and phone calls. However, a preplanned meeting with Air Marshall Goddard at 3:00 on "4 subjects," however, does not appear to have been kept, since there is no summary of the meeting, as there are for other appointments and phone calls of the day. Thus, there is possibly a short gap in Vandenberg's schedule, from 3:10 to 3:25 PM, enough time for Vandenberg to have ducked into the Pentagon press room and put in his reported appearance. This is "within an hour" of the press release, in line with the news stories.

At that point, calls were made to Ramey from the Pentagon press room. Ramey first describes the flimsy boxkite made of wood and tinfoil, but then says "he hadn't actually seen it yet." Then the Washington Post reports that "he went to take a look, and called back that it was about 25 feet in diameter."

There are two remarkable things in that statement. First of all, Marcel had yet to arrive from Roswell with the real debris. He was still airborne. So how could Ramey go take a look at something that wasn't there? And second, Ramey claims the boxkite was "25 feet in diameter." In fact, this strange description was still being put out by Army public relations people into the night. Yet there was nothing in the Fort Worth photos, balloon or radar reflector, that was anything like "25 feet in diameter." Again, this indicates that the object Ramey was claiming to have just looked at was nothing but a creation of his own imagination. The real debris simply wasn't there to be looked at.

Finally, here is an interesting description of events I found in the little known newspaper, New York PM:

Higher headquarters proved to be Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey... who had the Roswell "saucer" last night and was preparing to ship it to the laboratory at Dayton, Ohio, because still higher authorities had so ordered.

RAMEY SAID HE COULDN'T LET ANYBODY LOOK AT THE THING OR

PHOTOGRAPH IT BECAUSE WASHINGTON HAD CLAMPED A "SECURITY LID" ON ALL BUT THE SKETCHIEST DETAILS.

"The object," he said, "is in my office right now, and as far as I can see there is nothing to get excited about. It looks to me LIKE THE REMANT OF A WEATHER BALLOON AND A RADAR REFLECTOR."

Here Ramey is very EXPLICITLY calling it a singular weather balloon and a radar reflector. And also note that he says he hadn't let anybody see or photograph it yet. So this statement also had to have been made BEFORE Johnson took his photos or weather officer Newton made his identification.

In summary, Ramey likely started putting out the weather balloon/radar reflector story within an hour of the infamous press release, well before (like 2 hours before) reporter Johnson ever stepped into Ramey's office, and even before Marcel arrived in Fort Worth with the real debris. Under the circumstances, it is hard to believe that Ramey also would not have told Johnson of the weather balloon/radar target explanation. He was certainly telling other members of the press this story before Johnson got there.

One wonders what happened to make Johnson change his mind about all this and start accusing Kevin Randle of misrepresenting his original testimony.

David Rudiak

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