

research director for McDonnell Douglas, appear in the current issue of the Journal (Vol. 12, No. 1, March).

Key arguments made by Jeffrey are:

1. Jesse Marcel, Jr., who handled the wreckage as an 11-year old, gave testimony under hypnosis that shows that it might have been just balloon parts.
2. Sketches of writing on the wreckage made during that testimony compare favorably with writing from a conventional source - flowered tape from a Mogul balloon.
3. The Air Force has released some classified information pertaining to Roswell.
4. Three retired colonels, apparently in a position to have known about a project to examine wreckage, did not know about it.
5. Extraterrestrial spacecraft would be far too advanced and reliable to crash.

Wood argues that Jeffrey fails to consider alternative interpretations of the same facts. An example would be the interviews with three colonels retired from the Air Force who all say that the Air Force did not have a covert program. The author simply accepts this as fact without seriously considering the possibilities that one of them lied or that none of them knew about it. Wood argues that:

1. The testimony, captured on 6 hours of video tape, is significantly inconsistent with an ordinary interpretation. Marcel Jr. himself reportedly rejects Jeffrey's interpretation.
2. The sketches proffered show little similarity in detail and may be based upon contaminated sources, since the hieroglyphic writing had much prior media exposure.
3. The Air Force information, obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, is from a source at the secret level of classification which would be irrelevant to the existence of a so-called "black" project. Almost no SCI (Special Compartmented Information) has ever been released for the public.
4. It is just as likely that the personnel interviewed by Jeffrey were kept totally unaware of the existence of a covert project.
5. Speculation on the reliability of extraterrestrial spacecraft could just as easily include consideration of reliability associated with lightning, mid-air crashes, proximity fused shells, or electromagnetic interference caused by radar.

Swords critiques the Jeffrey viewpoint on Roswell's alleged crashed disk from the position of a student of the early document exchanges between Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Intelligence Division and the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force in the Pentagon. This historical research is germane, because Jeffrey admits that it was the reading of three of these documents that changed his entire opinion on the case from strongly "pro-crash" to completely and uncompromisingly "anti." Swords' analysis goes deeply into the background which gives meaning to these documents, and concludes that Jeffrey's interpretations (due to lack of analysis and historical context) are in error in every case.

Swords also comments upon the second main element of Jeffrey's piece, a videotaped hypnotic experiment with one of the prominent case witnesses.

Swords was one of only five ufologists privileged to view these tapes, and reports that all but Jeffrey interpret the information on the tapes non-prejudicially to the authenticity of the case. Swords sets the debate in its contrasts before the interested public for the readership to decide.

A detailed response by Jeffrey will appear in a subsequent issue.

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