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UFO UpDates Mailing List

P-47: Ruppelt The Liar?

From: Jan Aldrich <jan@CYBERZONE.NET>
 Date: Fri, 23 Apr 1999 16:53:05 -0700
 Fwd Date: Sat, 24 Apr 1999 10:46:16 -0400
 Subject: P-47: Ruppelt The Liar?

Ruppelt's Report On UFOs is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a scholarly book. It is a popular account, which was ghost written for him, with no references .

I have never subscribed to the idea that Ruppelt is some kind of hero of ufology.

His superiors, peers, and subordinates all said he was a hard working guy.

His book has a lot of things that we would not have known about if not for him, or it would have taken years to piece together the information. The best example was the Top Secret Estimate of the Situation. Beside Ruppelt's account, there are few references to this report.

That said, Ruppelt's book leaves a lot to be desired concerning UFO history. Much of his early history seems to be from impressions he gained talking to personnel at WPAFB. He seemed to know nothing about AIR 203 or JIC report. (The JIC pub might have still be classified during his tenure. AIR 203 was unclassified.)

He did not get his information on the Mantel case directly from the Project Sign files as he talks about peering at microfilms that were hard to read (the Project Sign microfilms?) (I was able to look at the paper files for 1947-1949 at the National Archives.) It seems that possibly Ruppelt did not get access to these paper files during his tenure if he had to use microfilm copies to read about early cases.

His note taking, memories of events and his ghost writer who may have wanted to jazz things up could all figure into his problem getting some facts straight.

The Air Force was not forthcoming with information for almost 2 decades on UFOs. One of the first big break throughs was Don Berliner's effort to obtain The Project Grudge/Blue Book Reports #1-12. Berliner and NICAP almost had to pull a sit in to get these things. (Other previous efforts, such as Davidson (and others) successful attempt to obtained Project Blue Book Special Report #14, are notable. There were other transfers of information. Bloecher's and McDonald's trips to ATIC also revealed additional official information.) It was difficult to check Ruppelt's information until the Air Force became more open about UFO matters. (Bloecher was able to get information from USAF PIO, Major Carl Hart on cases that Hynek had slipped to CSI, NY.) The Project Blue Book files were not readily available

for years after Blue Book closed.

Some of Ruppelt's information is all wet. In newspaper articles about his book, he repeated the contention that there were no evidence of unexplained objects were there were accurate information on speed, size, and altitude. Brad has previously noted that is untrue.

Ruppelt's misreporting of the Robertson panel's recommendations, I have discussed elsewhere.

Ruppelt did blow the whistle on the phony hype about the Air Force's widely publicized distribution of the "gird cameras" to control tower. The cameras did not work.

Ruppelt hyped the 4602d AISS entry into UFO investigations. In actually, their investigations were not well done, a junior officer and one enlisted man at headquarters were constantly sending back intelligence reports to get the detachments to complete them correctly.

Ruppelt was writing a popular book which was reworked by a ghost writer and cleared by the Air Force. To get it by the Air Force he might have change some material. He did have a ghost writer who had no background in UFOs. So, was this out and out lying and covering up? I don't think so. He was not writing history, either. His stated purpose for the book remember, "was to help the Air Force." So it would seem that he neither helped the Air Force nor wrote an accurate history.

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