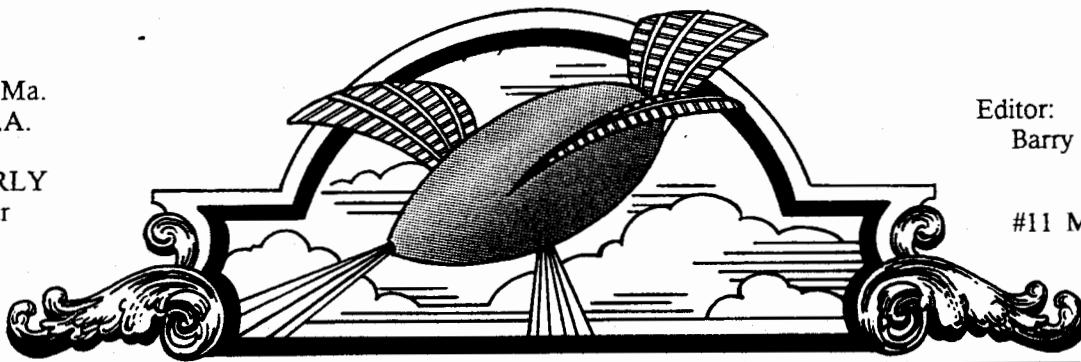


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U.F.O. HISTORICAL REVUE

AN OBSERVATION ON THE RAMEY MEMO

On July 8, 1947, at Fort Worth Army Air Field in Texas, the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force had charge of broken debris from Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico. The debris was an assortment of metallic foil and sticks initially thought to have been wreckage from a "flying disc" or "flying saucer." It was certainly a sensational find if true.

Press coverage had churned for over a week about flying saucers up to that time. Questions were being posed to the military as to what was happening. The army air force needed to get a grip on a problem that was growing out of control. With the Roswell incident, a chance was available to defuse the excitement.

General Roger Ramey, head of the Eighth Air Force, decided to put the debris on display in an office and invited the press to take photos. The coverage was expected to show the public that the Roswell debris was nothing more than a downed weather balloon and that there was nothing about which to worry. The flying saucer craze in fact did begin to abate after coverage of Roswell.

For thirty years little more was said about Roswell. But in the late 1970s, questions were raised about the weather balloon explanation, based upon the impressions of some formerly involved in Roswell, that full details of the military's investigation had not been revealed. It was the belief of these witnesses that the debris found was part of an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

One of the more recent debates between believers and skeptics about the true nature of the Roswell UFO revolves around the press opportunity afforded by General Ramey on July 8th. One of the participants was a photographer for the Fort Worth Star Telegram newspaper, J. Bond Johnson. Johnson took six photos of different set-ups of the debris and poses by General Ramey, Major Jesse Marcel, the Roswell Army Air Field intelligence officer, and Colonel Thomas DuBose, Ramey's chief of staff.

In one of the photos, Colonel DuBose and General Ramey appear with Ramey stooping over debris on the floor. In Ramey's hand is what appears to be a document with printed text, the text being at the very limit of visibility. For a number of years, Roswell researchers in favor of the extraterrestrial explanation have tried to interpret the text of the Ramey document by enlarging and enhancing the photograph.



Original J. Bond Johnson photograph showing Ramey holding the document (Courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries).

Since the document's appearance in the Johnson photo is circumstantial, it was never intended to have been shown clearly. So we have, upon extreme enlargement of the image, roughly eight lines of fuzziness that are virtually impossible to read except for perhaps a few words or word groupings. There have been as many different interpretations as there are researchers attempting to interpret!



Exhibit One: Two contrasting enlargements of the Ramey document to show as much detail as possible (Courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries).

Recently while watching one of the many documentaries produced on Roswell research, the document enlargement was shown again. I looked at the image for perhaps the hundredth time since the Ramey document became newsworthy. But this time seeing it suggested something familiar, not about the interpretation of the words but about the shape and appearance of the text. That is, the document followed a familiar format that I had seen in the past.

Roswell researchers generally acknowledge that the document is most likely a teletype message, one of those raw news transmittals that I had become accustomed to seeing after handling thousands of government UFO documents during work with CAUS and the writing of "Clear Intent." As seen in Exhibit One above, one can see part of eight lines of text plus a single-term ninth line resembling a signature. It was the placement of this "signature" that was familiar to me. The single term on the ninth line appears after the eighth line ends as follows: period, full letter space, full line space down, then the term is typed out. Examples of military teletypes can be seen in Exhibit Two.

The ending of these messages is in fact a time/date line showing when the message was sent. A great majority of such teletype messages ended this way, enough so that it would be more than reasonable to judge the Ramey document to be a teletype. Now relevant to this particular story is what kind of teletype was it? Was Ramey holding a secret, sensitive military teletype with details of aliens, or was he holding a mundane

continued on page 6

WOW V UFKK NR12 WD R R

FROM CG AFTRC BARKSDALEFLD LA 220111Z

TO CG AAF WASH DC

G R N C

GG09640 THIS COMD COMMITTED TO FURNISH HELICOPTERS CERTAIN AIR
FORCE STATIONS IN CONNECTION AIR FORCE DAY ACTIVITIES PD REQUEST
AUTHORITY TO DEVIATE FROM FLYING REGULATIONS REGARDING MINIMUM
ALTITUDES AS PRESENTLY AUTH FOR HELICOPTER TNG FLIGHTS BE EXTENDED
TO INCLUDE FLIGHTS BETWEEN HOME STATION AND DESTINATION STATIONS IN
CONNECTION AIR FORCE DAY PROJECTS

0140Z

RA227

WOW V URIH NR11 WD

FROM CG SCOTT FLD ILL 161453Z

TO CG ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON DC

GRNC

EAR-R 684 REQUEST INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER PERSONNEL ORDERS
RATING COLONEL JAMES H HOWARD ZERO FIVE ONE ONE NINE THREE SEVEN HAVE
EVER BEEN PUBLISHED PD COLONEL HOWARD WAS RATED PILOT PER PAR ONE TWO
PERSONNEL ORDER TWO SIX HQ AAF DID THIRTY JANUARY FORTY THREE END
BROWN CO SCOTT FLD AIR RES TNG DET

1539Z

Exhibit Two: Pages four and five show examples of military teletype. Note the lack of punctuation that is typical of such messages. Note also that the source of the message precedes the body of the message. They are not "signed" as has been suggested by some researchers.

UA43

/8/

NOV V WAR NEWS/16 WD

FROM/ AUG GA 273/ STANLEY COMMANDING OLIVER CH AUGUSTA GA 161727Z

6946

TO COMMANDING GENERAL

AAF AC-AS-1

WASHINGTON DC ATTN AFFMP-2

GR NC

REQUEST DISPO INSTR FOR PVT GARTH W MERRILL 11127815 MOS 316 UNSENT-
ENCED GARRISON PRICKPRISONER LAST ASSIGNED 77TH AS GP CLARK PI NOW
QUAL FOR GEN SERV PD MOS AUTHORITIES AND HQ THIRD ARMY REQUEST SUBJ
EM BE TRANSFERRED TO AN APPROPRIATE AAF INSTALLATION FOR TRIAL PD
REQUEST IMMED REPLY ATTN AAF LIAISON OFFICER THIS HQSP. END MEDFO
AAF

1728Z

WA43

0

CD39

NOV V UCG NWA43

FROM CG FIFTH ARMY CHICAGO ILL 311355Z

TO COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES WASHDC

GRNC

FOR AIR AG REQUEST AVAILABILITY BETHEY JAYDE FARNUM FOR TRANSFER AS
CLERK TYPIST CAF DASH 3 PD-IF NO REPEAT NO OBJECTION ADVISE PRESENT
DESIGNATION CNA GRADE CNA SALARY CNA TITLE OF CIVIL SERVICE REGISTER
FROM WHICH COMPETITIVE STATUS ACCORDED PD SECOND REQUEST END ALFSI
DASH C 01241

1610Z

document of no military importance? Newspaper offices were using teletypes with similar formatting of text (see Exhibit Three), using time, date and often an abbreviated source, the initials of the reporter. The most significant difference is that while newspapers used civilian time formats (AM, PM), the military used "Zulu" or Universal 24-hour time for their endings.

How would it be considered that Ramey was holding an ordinary newspaper teletype? It is evident in an online interview in 2001 with J. Bond Johnson by Dennis Balthaser (see: www.truthseekeratroswell.com/interview_James_Bond_Johnson.html) who asked Johnson:

DB: "Finally, another researcher seems to remember a statement you made that the paper in General Ramey's hand was a press release that you handed to General Ramey. Can you verify this as a true statement you would have made in a previous interview? If yes, please explain."

JB: "Yes, that was an early speculation of mine that I might have handed Ramey the copy of the AP "flash" my editor had given me regarding the Roswell crash craft being flown to Fort Worth. Obviously I was in error in that speculation."

The "error in that speculation" can be attributed to the fact that Johnson was involved in forming a research group called RPIT (Roswell Photo Interpretation Team) with a number of other researchers. This group has decided that the wreckage was unlike any material that would fit all conventional explanations offered to date (Mogul balloon, weather balloon). Also, RPIT researcher Neil Morris has interpreted the message along a similar fashion to other interpreters (Burlson, Carey/Schmitt, and Rudiak) in putting a "secret military message" spin on the document. So the later speculations overrode the earlier speculation. Curiously, researcher Balthaser, who considers Roswell to be a persistent mystery, has suggested, "James Bond Johnson who took the photographs in Ramey's office in 1947 has embellished his involvement in interviews done with Kevin Randle and myself on separate occasions."

(see: www.truthseekeratroswell.com/ed080503.html)

Another matter concerning the difference between military and journalistic teletypes is in punctuation. Periods, quotation marks and commas are items relatively alien to military teletypes, hardly used at all except when quoting other messages. But they are quite common to journalistic teletypes (see Exhibit Three).

Even though there has been disparity in interpretations of the message's content some of the words and phrases seem a bit readable. Four of the Roswell message interpreters (Rudiak, Burlson, Morris and Carey/Schmitt) are in general agreement that line 3 of the message contains the phrase ".....AT FORT WORTH, TEX." to end a paragraph and line 4 contains the word "disc" or "disk" in quotes. It appears to me that way as well. (see: www.thefortworthphotographs.freeserve.co.uk/ftw-pics/new-1/rmysignal/rmysignl)

Considerable doubt remains about any deciphering of the rest of the message. However in both of the quoted examples above, punctuation exists in the form of quotation marks, a comma and a period. Such liberal use of punctuation is far more typical of a journalistic teletype. Johnson originally reported that the message he gave Ramey was a "flash" message from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram offices, a journalistic

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THE RADAR MEN SAY THEIR SCREENS LAST NIGHT PICKED UP SOMETHING THAT SEEMED TWICE AS BIG AS AN AIRLINER...TRAVELLING AT AN ESTIMATED 15-HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR. THE OBJECT HOVERED OVER PARIS BRIEFLY, THEN DISAPPEARED AT HIGH SPEED.

A PILOT FLYING FROM PARIS TO LONDON SAYS HE SAW AN OBJECT, INTERMITTENTLY SPITTING RED FLAME. HE SAYS IT PASSED SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET ABOVE HIS PLANE AND DISAPPEARED INTO CLOUDS.

AK156P

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT ALL STORIES CONCERNING FLYING SAUCERS AND OTHER SUCH OBJECTS," SAYS MEFFMORE. "BUT TODAY'S SIGHT CHANGED MY MIND."

SOMMER---THE OTHER C-A-A OFFICER---PUT IT THIS WAY---"IT'S UN-BELIEVABLE, BUT TRUE."

LL953P10/9

W SUCH A CASE OF TWO METEORITES FALLING TOGETHER WITHOUT BEING
E HARD TO DUPLICATE IN HISTORY, W HE SAID.

W I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT, W HE ADDED. W I'M ALMOST
INCLINED TO ASK THOSE FELLOWS OUT IN NEVADA (WHERE ATOM BOMB TESTS
HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY) WHAT THEY ARE DOING. W

AA teletype 11-9-57

ARDICKES, WHO HAS BEEN FLYING FOR 42 YEARS, SAID THE OBJECT WAS
A DULL RED, ABOUT THE SAME COLOR AS THE COLLECTOR RING AND
ASSEMBLY OF A PLANE GETS. THE OBJECT THREW NO FLAMES.

ARDICKES HAD ONE WORD FOR "WHOEVER" IS BUILDING THESE THINGS
LIKE OF WHICH HE SAW LAST NIGHT.

"I THINK THEY'RE DANGEROUS FLYING AROUND THE AIRWAYS," HE SAID.
"IF ONE GOT OUT OF CONTROL, IT COULD CAUSE AN ACCIDENT. THIS
WATCHED WAS UNDER CONTROL ALL RIGHT."

ARDICKES SAID HE CHECKED THE VARIOUS AGENCIES WHICH HANDLE TRAFFIC
AND WAS INFORMED THERE WAS NO OTHER PLANE KNOWN TO BE IN THE AREA.
HE THOUGHT THE MACHINE WAS RUN BY A LITTLE JET AND STEERED BY
GYROSCOPES.

"IT WAS NOTHING FROM MARS," HE SAID. "I THINK IT WAS JUST A
LITTLE FLYING MACHINE."

4/28--T1216P

4-28-57

Exhibit Three: Examples of journalistic teletypes showing message endings. Note the use of punctuation.

teletype. Knowing that raw teletype, or "flash" messages, can be rewritten partly or in full, and paragraphs can be juggled, it may not be possible to find a verbatim original of the message to which Johnson refers. However it can be shown that the few readable portions of the Ramey memo also appears in news stories being published on Roswell. Exhibit Four is a section of a Nevada State Journal story about Roswell on July 9th. Note that the end of the paragraph matches perfectly the phrase from line 3 of the Ramey document. "Disc" is used in quotes in a Roswell story from the Oxnard (CA) Press Courier for July 8th.

Two interpretations of the document (Rudiak, Carey/Schmitt) have the message being held by Ramey as ending with the teletype signature "Ramey." If the document is a teletype, how is it that Ramey received the message from himself? In a legitimate military teletype, Ramey's name or other designation would have appeared in the address line preceding the body of the message, not after where the time/date line appears. In fact of hundreds of messages checked, not one was signed off as an individual, like "Ramey."

Given these examples, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the possibility of the Ramey memo being a newswire teletype is at least equal to or greater than the possibility that the document is a secret discussion of Roswell "aliens." It also raises questions about the various exotic interpretations of the message as supportive of extraterrestrials being discovered in New Mexico.

Oxnard, Ca.
Press-Courier
July 8 1947

Nevada State Journal
Reno
July 9, 1947

Nevada State Journal
Reno Nk.
July 10 1947

... that might have been an army weather-kite. Helium balloons have been used for weather recording for the past seven or eight years.

They said it had been sent to Fort Worth by superfortress for trans-shipment to the AAF experimental center at Dayton.

AAF commanders in New Mexico refused to permit the object to be photographed on the grounds that it was "high level stuff," although Ramey indicated he was not attaching too great importance to the find pending an investigation.

Col. William H. Blanchard, commanding officer of the Roswell army air base, who specifically described the discovery as "a flying disc."

He said the disc had been forwarded to higher headquarters, presumably the commanding general of the 8th air force at Fort Worth, Tex.

'SAUCER' STIR IS DYING OUT

Reports Are Dropping To a Trickle

CHICAGO, July 9. (U.P.) — The mysterious "flying saucers" all but disappeared today.

Every report that one of the disks had been found was proved false, and the numbers of reports from persons who claimed to have seen saucers in the sky dropped to a trickle.

Army air force headquarters in Washington was reported to have delivered a blistering rebuke to officers at the Roswell, N. M., air base for announcing yesterday that a "flying disk" had been found on a New Mexico ranch. The "disk" turned out to be the remnants of a weather observation balloon, of a type used by the army.

Army Grabs New Mexico Flying Disc

BULLETIN

ROSWELL, N. M. (U.P.)—Possession of a "flying disc" was disclosed today by the intelligence office of the 309th Bomb Group of the Roswell Army Air Base.

Officers at the base say that the "disc" was flown in a Superfortress to "higher headquarters" undisclosed.

The intelligence office reported that it gained possession of the "disc" through the cooperation of an unidentified Roswell rancher, on whose ranch it landed, and George Wilson, sheriff at Roswell.

Exhibit Four: Press stories containing phrasing like the Ramey document (circled areas).