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RANDLE DUMPS -- AND DUMPS ON -- SCHMITT

By Robert G. Todd

In a to-whom-it-may-concern letter, dated September 10, 1995, Kevin Randle, half of the Center for UFO Studies' (CUFOS) Roswell "investigation" team, scrambled to distance himself from Donald Schmitt (the other half of the team) and what Randle claims were Schmitt's numerous lies. Randle also sought to distance himself from what Randle generously characterized as incompetent research performed by or for Schmitt, but which Randle claims did not find its way into one or both of the Randle-Schmitt books on the overblown Roswell incident.

After recounting details of numerous falsehoods uttered by Schmitt, Randle cautions the reader not to believe anything Schmitt says.

While heaping scorn on Schmitt, Randle blows his own horn by proclaiming: "Everything I put into the books, I knew to be the truth because I researched it myself, or I had checked to make sure the documentation existed."

Randle now has a convenient scapegoat on whom he can pin every false claim, fact, characterization, or other mistruth that appears not only in their two books, but the countless articles the CUFOS "investigators" wrote for the *International UFO Reporter (IUR)*, the official propaganda organ of the Center for UFO Studies (a.k.a. "The Ministry of Truth"). But how truthful has Randle been?

After reading their first book, *UFO Crash at Roswell*, and finding numerous claims of a dubious nature, I wrote to Schmitt about one of those claims, which appears on page 7 of their first book:

The government cover-up extends to the public records of the Air Force UFO investigation as well. These records were released in 1976, and the file on Roswell contains but a single press clipping. No letters, no investigative forms, no official weather balloon explanation, nothing but that lone clipping. The file for the recovery of an actual weather balloon in Circleville, Ohio, a week before the Roswell event, contains far more documentation on its particulars. Where is the material that should be in the Roswell file?

Prior to the involvement of the CUFOS "investigators," Roswell "researchers" had always claimed the Blue Book records made no mention of the Roswell incident. Eager to see the files on both incidents, I looked, and looked, and looked. The index to the Blue Book cases listed neither incident, and after looking through the actual case files, these two mystery files still couldn't be located.

I wrote to Donald Schmitt and explained that I wasn't able to find the file either for the Roswell incident or the Circleville case, and asked him to tell me where they were located.

Schmitt never replied to my letter, but Randle did, by letter dated December 9, 1992. He explained

that he "did most of the work on the section of the book" in question. He also said:

I went back and re-read page 7 and realized that it wasn't as clear as it could have been. There is no file in Blue Book that relates to Roswell specifically. The only mention of Roswell actually appears in a newspaper clipping for a case from Idaho on July 10, 1947.

He also said:

I also see that I didn't make it clear that the "file" on Circleville is not part of the Blue Book system other than a mention inside another case in the newspaper clippings that are filed with it. We meant that the clipping on Circleville contains more detail.

So, finally, one of the CUFOS "investigators" had fessed up -- well, almost. It wasn't a lie that there were Blue Book "files" both on the Roswell incident and the Circleville case -- with the reader being misled into believing the "file" on Circleville contained letters, investigative forms, and an official weather balloon explanation, while the Roswell "file" contained "nothing but that lone clipping" -- it was merely a lack of clarity that was confusing.

In contrasting the contents of these two imaginary "files," Randle and Schmitt were suggesting that the differences in the contents suggested something sinister in the official handling of the Roswell incident. The clear implication of their remarks was that the Circleville "file" contained letters, investigative forms, and the official weather balloon explanation, while the "file" on Roswell contained nothing but a single newspaper clipping. The truth was that there was no Blue Book file on either incident, that the nonexistent "file" on Circleville did not contain official letters, investigative forms, or weather balloon explanation, and that there was, in fact, no difference at all in how these two cases were handled in the Blue Book files. Each "file" consisted of a "lone clipping."

Randle's feeble -- if not downright insulting -- "explanation" for this sad affair was that the newspaper clipping on Circleville -- over which the Air Force had no control -- contained "more detail." That "explanation" is worthy of being characterized by using Randle's own words, the very words he used in accusing Schmitt: "He was caught and tried to lie his way out of it."

I wrote back to Randle and observed that what he and Schmitt published in their book appeared to be more than a simple lack of clarity. It seemed to be a deliberate lie intended to cast the Roswell incident in a more sinister light. Randle took great offense at my suggestion, and refused to cooperate any further. When I inquired about other dubious claims they made, including the claim about the missing military personnel files, neither Schmitt nor Randle replied. Since CUFOS' "investigators" had also claimed that their research materials were available at CUFOS for verification, I contacted CUFOS only to be told that

the materials in which I expressed an interest either were not at the Center, or Schmitt and Randle were not disposed to cooperate with me because I had accused them of lying. Later, in the pages of CUFOS' propaganda organ, Randle would claim he didn't allow me access because he wanted to protect the copyright of his materials, despite the fact that he and Schmitt -- and presumably CUFOS -- had made materials freely available to parties more friendly to their position, and Randle continues to do so to this very day. So, either CUFOS' "scientific director" lied in response to my repeated requests for access, or Randle lied. I leave it to those two to fight it out amongst themselves to see who will take the blame for the lies -- and the selective use of rewards and punishments they deem so crucial to the "scientific method."

Also of interest is the fact that, although aware of this supposed lack of clarity, neither Randle nor Schmitt -- nor CUFOS -- took any action to correct the public record.

Reproduced on this page are the complete contents of the Blue Book "files" Randle cited on page 7 of his first "Book of Roswell" -- ostensibly co-authored with Donald Schmitt.

If the past is any indication, we can look forward to a third "Book of Roswell" -- written by Randle alone. Hallelujah!

Flying Star Lands in Ohio

Circleville, Ohio, July 5 (AP).—Folks in Pickway County, who have been following the "flying saucer" mystery, became excited today when Sherman Campbell found a strange object on his farm.

It was in the form of a six-pointed star, 50 inches high and 48 inches wide, covered with tin-foil. It weighed about two pounds. Attached to the top were the remains of a balloon.

The Port Columbus Airfield weather station said the description tallied with an object used by the Army Air Forces to measure wind velocity at high altitudes by the use of radar.

Above, the Project Blue Book "file" on the Circleville, Ohio, radar target case, according to Kevin Randle

Daily News Tribune, July 10, 1947

Saucers, If Any, Fading Away To Blue Yonder

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

Every report that one of the discs 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 disc" had been found on a New Mexico ranch. The "disc" turned out to be the remnants of a weather observation balloon, of a type used by the Army.

At Boise, Idaho, Dave Johnson, aviation editor of the Idaho Statesman, reported he had taken motion pictures of a black object he said might be a disc. He said he was able to get only about 10 feet of film before the object disappeared in the sky.

Above, the Project Blue Book "file" on the Roswell incident, according to Kevin Randle.