

Reflections of a UFO Investigator by Kevin Randle. San Antonio, TX: Anomalist Books, 2012. 270 pp. (paperback). \$15.95. ISBN 9781933665566.

This book was a “fun read” since it provided new (to me) details of the life and investigations of a man who has been investigating UFOs longer than I have, even though he is younger. Although this is not an autobiography, he presents enough of the key events in his life so that one can see how his thinking about the UFO phenomenon developed as the years went on. Of particular importance in this book are the cases he discusses and his present opinions of them.

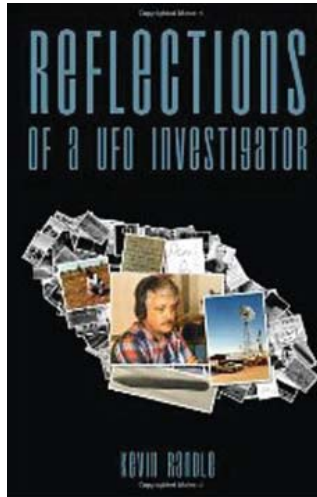
He devotes a considerable amount of space to what may be his longest and most important investigation, that of the “Roswell Incident” (whatever may have crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, in June or July 1947). Although I have not been a Roswell investigator, I have followed the story as it developed starting in 1979. Kevin became interested in Roswell about ten years later and subsequently, with Don Schmidt, carried out an investigation that was largely independent of the investigation already carried out by Stan Friedman, Bill Moore, and others. Kevin and Don had published two Roswell books in the early 1990s, so I was pleased to see presented in this book an overall review of what has been discovered since then, as well as rebuttals of the arguments put forth by the skeptics. Information in this book shows why his opinion still is that, at the very least, it was not a Mogul (or any type of) balloon and could have been some sort of “ET” craft. (This had been my opinion since 1980 when I first learned of the testimony by Jesse Marcel, the Roswell base security officer who handled the material found at the crash site.)

Kevin’s and my investigations crossed paths in the case of the crash story told by Robert Willingham. I included this story in my article entitled “Immediate High Alert” because researcher Todd Zechel had told me that he had, in the latter 1970s, checked Willingham’s story and had even made a videotaped mini-documentary (with the help of Japanese documentarian Jun-ichi Yaoi) of Willingham being flown over the area of the supposed crash. Furthermore, according to Zechel, the crash took place on or about December 6, 1950. This date was important because it fitted with a bonafide FBI file document, dated December 8, 1950, that said the Army Counterintelligence corps had been placed “on immediate high alert” for any information related to flying saucers. Furthermore, there actually was a high alert in the Pentagon and White House (Truman Administration) during the morning of December 6. The reader can find the whole story on this mysterious alert at <http://www.brufac.8k.com/IHAlert/IMMEDIATEHIGHALERT.html>

To date no one knows (so far as I know) whether or not the government-wide alert was a result of flying saucer sightings, and no one knows why the FBI was told about the immediate high alert, but the important things to note here are that the alert was real and was not related to or based upon Willingham's story, which Kevin has shown to be not true. So, if you read the above article, ignore the part about Willingham.

One further correction: In the last chapter Kevin points out that most of the cases he has investigated have turned out to explainable one way or another, but there are a few which aren't. One case he cites is the Trent photo case (McMinnville, Oregon, May, 1950) which I extensively investigated over a period of several years in the 1970s. This case includes photos that are so clear that either they are a hoax or they show the "real thing" (disc-shaped flying object). Kevin correctly points out the skeptics argued that it must be a hoax because shadows on the eastern garage wall could only have been made by the sun in the early morning, thus invalidating the claim by the Trents that the pictures were taken in the evening. Kevin has written that I claimed that the shadows were a result of "random light scattering." This is not what I claimed. As part of my detailed analysis, I discovered that the shadows could have been made by a brightly illuminated cloud east of the garage, and I also showed that the shadow size and brightness were not consistent with sun illumination in the morning. Details of this long investigation are at <http://www.brumac.8k.com/trent2.html> and <http://www.brumac.8k.com/trent1.html>

To conclude, UFO researchers and investigators will appreciate the updates on the numerous sightings discussed in the book, and everyone will appreciate Kevin's insights gained from his years of studies and investigations of the UFO phenomenon.



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