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 Ramsey 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 Ramsey 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 Ramsey 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 Ramsey document to be a teletype. Now relevant to this particular story is what kind of teletype was it? Was Ramsey holding a secret, sensitive military teletype with details of aliens, or was he holding a mundane

continued on page 6
FOV V UFRC 12112 UD R R
FROM CG AFTRC BARKSDALE FLD LA 22011112
TO CG AAF WASH DC

CRNC
GG09646 THIS CMD COMMITTED TO FURNISH HELICOPTERS CERTAIN AIR
FORCE STATIONS IN CORRECTION AIR FORCE DAY ACTIVITIES PD REQUEST
AUTHORITY TO DEVIATE FROM FLYING REGULATIONS REGARDING MINIMUM
ALTITUDES AS PRESENTLY AUTH FOR HELICOPTER TWO FLIGHTS BE EXTENDED
TO INCLUDE FLIGHTS BETWEEN NOTE STATION AND DESTINATION STATIONS IN
CORRECTION AIR FORCE DAY PROJECTS

0140Z

HM227

MOV V URIN NR11 WD
FROM CG SCOTT FLD JLL 161435X
TO CG ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON DC

CRNC
EAR-R 654 REQUEST INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER PERSONNEL ORERS
RATING COLONEL JAMES H HOWARD ZERRO 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 DTD 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.
REQUEST DISPOSAL INSTR FOR PVT GARTH V HERBELL 11127815 NON 316 UNGENDED GARRISON PRISONER LAST ASSIGNED TTTF AS CP CLARK PI NOW QUAL FOR GEN SERV PD HOS AUTHORITIES AND BD THRD ARMY REQUEST SUBJ EM BE TRANSFERRED TO AN AppROPRIATE AAF INSTALLATION FOR TRIAL PD REQUEST DIED REPLY ATTN AAF LIAISON OFFICER THIS HOME END INFO

AAF
17267

UAA3

0

CD39

UOV V UCC NEFAS

FROM CE FIFTH ARMY CHICAGO ILL 3112532
TO COMMANDING GENERAL ARMY AIR FORCES WASHDC

FOR AIR AG REQUEST AVAILABILITY DETROY JAYDE FARNUM FOR TRANSFER AS CLERK TYPEST CAC DASH 3 PD IF NO REPEAT NO OBJECTION ADVISE PRESENT DESIGNATION CAA GRADE CAA SALARY CAA TITLE OF CIVIL SERVICE REGISTER FROM WHICH COMPETITIVE STATUS ACCORDED PD SECOND REQUEST END ALFSI DASH C 612941

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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 Ramsey 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 Ramsey’s hand was a press release that you handed to General Ramsey. Can you verify this as a true statement you would have made in a previous interview? If yes, please explain.”

BJI: “Yes, that was an early speculation of mine that I might have handed Ramsey the copy of the AP “flash” my editor had given me regarding the Roswell cash 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 RPIR (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, RPIR researcher Neil Morris has interpreted the message along a similar fashion to other interpreters (Burleson, Carey/Schnitt, and Radak) in putting a “secret military message” spin on the document. So the later speculations override the earlier speculation. Curiously, researcher Balthaser, who considers Roswell to be a persistent mystery, has suggested, “James Bond Johnson who took the photographs in Ramsey’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 (Radak, Burleson, Morris and Carey/Schnitt) 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 “drk” in quotes. It appears to me that way as well.

(see: www.thefortworthphotographs.freeserve.co.uk/ftp-pics/new-1/romsignal/romsignal)

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 Ramsey 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 AIRPLANE...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 SPOTTING RED FLAME. HE SAYS IT PASSED SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET ABOVE HIS PLANE AND DISAPPEARED INTO CLOUDS.

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

SOMER---THE OTHER O-A-A OFFICER---CUT IT THIS WAY---"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BUT TRUE."

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NOR A CASE OF TWO METEORITES FALLING IN CALIFORNIA, HE SAID. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT."

THEY'RE TEND TO ASK THOSE FELLING OUT IN NEW/n WHERE ATOM BOMB TESTS HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY. WHAT THEY ARE DOING IN THE

ARDICKES, WHO HAS BEEN FLYING FOR 12 YEARS, SAID THAT IN A BULL RED, ABOUT THE SAME COLOR AS THE COLLECTOR-DING AT ASSEMBLY OF A PLANE GETS. THE OBJECT, THERE NO PLANE.

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 AIRPLANE." IF ONE GOT OUT OF CONTROL, IT COULD CAUSE AS INCIDENT."

"HE WAS UNDER CONTROL ALL RIGHT."

ARDICKES SAID HE CHECKED THE VARIOUS AGENCIES WHICH HANDLE 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 OYSTER COPTER.

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

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

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teletype. Knowing that raw teletype, or “flash” messages, can be rewritten partly or in full, and paragraphs can be jiggled, 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 dissection of Roswell “aliens.” It also raises questions about the various exotic interpretations of the message as supportive of extraterrestrials being discovered in New Mexico.

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