



Did a crashed flying saucer seed the technology of tomorrow?

The Future Began at Roswell

One summertime event in New Mexico which sadly did not happen this year due to the pandemic, usually brings in international attention: the famous **Roswell UFO Festival**. In years past, it's been a happy mix of street fair and something like a sci-fi convention, attracting both serious UFO buffs and people just wanting an unusual weekend diversion.

Why should anyone celebrate the legendary deadly crash of a ship from beyond? The impact it had on our world (pun intended) might just be found within our shiny computers. With the news so grim and UFOs being taken **ever more seriously** by **Washington** these days, the *Portal* takes a break to look at what went down at Roswell in July, 1947, and how it might have already shaped our modern world.

Why Roswell?

Roswell is a friendly little city on the Eastern plains of New Mexico in the heart of ranching and dairy country, yet it had a strong association with advanced technology before the alleged crash.

Dr. **Robert H. Goddard**, the father of American rocketry, made it his headquarters when his rockets grew too powerful for the East Coast. Drawn by our vast prairies and clear weather, he launched 56 rockets over 12 years there before World War II. One of his vehicles still stands in front of the town library.

By July of 1947, Roswell was in the middle of the most exciting technological developments of the day. Walker Air Force Base there was home to the **509th Bomb Wing** – the elite unit that dropped the first atomic bombs on Japan; the *only* military unit in the entire world with nuclear capability at that time.

New Mexico was also home to the lab that made the bomb, **Los Alamos**, and where it was tested, **White Sands Missile Range**. In 1947, **Werner Von Braun** was there, launching his **captured V2** rockets. To track them and guard it all, a network of very powerful **radar stations** constantly scanned the sky.

Rockets, radar, and nukes are things that UFOs seem to have a **lot of interest** in to this very day, so it's no wonder they were drawn to the region. And indeed, there were **sightings before** the crash

probably took place in the middle of a violent thunderstorm. What then **happened** is still debated.

The **basic story** is now widely familiar. Mac Brazel, a rancher from north of town, approached the sheriff with some unusual debris he found scattered across a field right after the Fourth of July. "**Flying saucers**" were very much in the news – the term had just been coined after the very **first nationally publicized sighting** in Washington state. Rewards were offered for more information.

The sheriff contacted the base, which sent out two intelligence officers, one of whom was Major Jesse Marcel. They brought back more wreckage. The base commander, Col. William Blanchard, quickly authorized a **press release** saying that the Army had captured a flying disk and packed Marcel off to his superior at Ft. Worth with the debris. There a **photo op** of a surprised Marcel with the remains of a radar reflector from a weather balloon killed the story.

That an intelligence officer in the most advanced outfit in the world did not **recognize** a weather balloon was played down. The crash was **quickly squelched** until the late UFO researcher and lecturer **Stanton Friedman** heard about Marcel in the late 1970s, tracking him down to **break the story** anew.

Jesse claimed that the actual weird metallic materials he found had been switched for the junk in the photos. He'd shown the real stuff on his way back to the base from Brazel's ranch to his wife and son, **Jesse Jr.**, who later became a **respected** military doctor and a **well-known witness** who confirmed it.

According to Marcel and other **witnesses**, the debris from the ranch mainly consisted of light, silvery metals, some that could not be bent with a sledge hammer, and other pieces that could be crumpled in the hand before springing back to their original shape, along with small I-beams covered with strange glyphs. **Debunkers** have gone to **great lengths** to try to explain away all these things.

The story balloons

In the decades following, many **more witnesses** came out. The story soon centered on a wrecked ship apparently found beyond the field of scattered debris Mac Brazel encountered. There, several small, dead grey aliens – and possibly even a survivor –

were supposedly discovered. Other stories came out involving other ships, or sites, including one out on the **Plains of San Agustin** to the west, near where the **Very Large Array** radio telescope is now located.

All that stuff went to **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base** in Ohio. Not even **Sen. Barry Goldwater**, a **major general** in the air reserve, could find out anything about what happened there. But in recent years, **deathbed statements**, including one by the officer who wrote the press release, Lt. Walter Haut, **confirmed** that there was a crash and bodies, too.

Everybody agrees that *something* came down that July 4th weekend, the question is *what*. The Air Force, after **losing communications** records with the base from that time, **changed their story** from a weather balloon to a top-secret balloon and added crash-test dummies dropped from planes years later. Other explanations were even more **outlandish**.

In 1984, a TV producer, Jaime Shandera, received an **anonymous package** bearing an Albuquerque postmark that contained a roll of film. On it were 8 photos of typed pages, now called the **Eisenhower Briefing Document**. This was a report **supposedly written** as background for the new president by the ultra-top-secret group studying the Roswell remains.

Called "**Operation Majestic Twelve**" or **MJ12** for short, the allegedly highly-classified project was named after the dozen eminent scientists in charge, led by none other than Dr. **Vannevar Bush**, head of US military scientific research during WWII, who had predicted the personal computer and the internet.

After the document was finally publicly released, respected researcher on cattle mutilations and UFOs, **Linda Moulton Howe**, said she'd also been shown similar papers by **Richard Doty**, a **controversial** Air Force counterintelligence officer at Kirtland who allegedly tried to sabotage a documentary of hers.

This made the briefing document seem all the more **dubious** but it was just the beginning of a **small flood** of leaked papers, covering everything from **instructions** on retrieving debris to reports on what was found inside. **Debate** still rages on which, if any, were real, and what their purpose really was.

There have been **likely-hoaxed alien autopsy** films, lots of **false witnesses**, the number of **sites** and **bodies** has multiplied, and the original crash site is now a **tourist attraction**. It's **more impossible** than ever to determine what the truth behind it all is.

They came from Roswell

But what if something was found there that did revolutionize human life, so widespread and with an influence so immensely profound that it has been overlooked? Turns out there *are* several such things that might have been developed from Roswell debris: the **transistor** and the **integrated circuit**.

In 1997, ***The Day After Roswell***, by **Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso** was published, just a year before his death. The author said that transistors and silicon chips, along with **Kevlar**, **fiber optics**, **heads-up displays**, **lasers** and **particle beams**, **night vision**, and **stealth technology**, were **all derived** from Roswell.

These claims caused an immediate sensation, not least because of the **highly credible source** – Corso had been chief of the **Foreign Technology Division** at the Pentagon in 1961, and before that a staff member of the **National Security Council**. Sen. Strom Thurmond "**regretted**" his glowing forward to the book after he found out it was all about UFOs.

Corso claimed he was tasked with spreading alien tech around to defense labs, letting them think it was just foreign-made gizmos they were to back-engineer. Among these were wires that emitted light and curious Oreo-like wafers, from which **fiber optics** and **integrated circuit chips** came. Together these form the basis of modern computers and of the high-speed communications between them.

Chips are vast collections of transistors on silicon wafers. Proposed a few years after Roswell, the basic problems weren't solved until 1958. **Transistors**, the essential microscopic switches powering these chips, were said by Corso to have been farmed out right after the crash, long before his time on the job.

Transistors were **supposedly invented** at **Bell Labs** in late December of 1947, a few months after the crash. But Corso was not alone in denying that origin either. About the same time, **Jack Shulman**, a PC entrepreneur, independently published his **own story** on how transistors really came from Roswell.

Corso said he finally revealed the secret for "the kids" who would need it, speculating that the seeding may have been deliberate, a test perhaps; though as a military man, he worried about the aliens' intentions. His last written words come from a **manuscript** he was working on just before his death:

*The events of 1947 and the push we gave them in the 1960s, has opened up an unlimited horizon. Just to name a few – a new approach to genetics, understanding causes and leading to cures for cancer and AIDS, and other advances challenging man's ingenuity.
Truly a new world if you can take it.*

Keep watching the skies, fellow New Mexicans!



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5021 Indian School NE, Suite 600, Albuquerque, NM 87110