



Frank Kaufmann (1926-2001)

Frank Kaufmann, one of the most controversial of the Roswell UFO crash figures died in February, 2001, leaving many questions. What he said was true, then any explanation for the Roswell UFO crash, other than the extraterrestrial, vanished. His first-hand account of the craft, of the bodies, and of the extraordinary efforts by the military to hide the facts leaves no other explanation. That is, of telling us the truth.

Kaufmann was originally from New York and had studied art there before the Second World War dragged him to New Mexico. An accomplished artist and his many paintings hung throughout his house. They ranged from landscapes to still life to a few admittedly unskilled eye, they reflected a very talented man.

During the Second World War, Kaufmann served in the Army Air Forces as an enlisted man. He rose to master sergeant, according to me, and never suggested that he held a commission. He suggested that he was involved in some sort of intelligence work that was never fully explained. He talked of Soviet spies coming up through Mexico, of the Norden Bombsite that was so important for intercepting and chasing intruders off what was then the Roswell Army Air Field and later Walker Air Force Base.

He mentioned his association with Brigadier General Martin F. Scanlon, who did have an association with intelligence work. Scanlon had been an attaché to the American embassy in London, whose job it was to spy on the German attempts to rebuild. When Scanlon was called back to the United States where Hap Arnold, who was commanding the Army Air Forces, asked him to help, he would become, much later, Air Force intelligence.

These links, between Scanlon and intelligence, and between Scanlon and Kaufmann, provided some measure of validity to the story he said much later. Kaufmann knew Scanlon, who had served at Roswell, and he was well aware of Scanlon's intelligence work.

After the war, when the size of the military was being reduced, Kaufmann remained in place in Roswell. He was, however, discharged from the Army and apparently, hired by the Army as a civilian, doing the same job he had done before his discharge. This, according to records, was as a clerk in the Personnel office. According to the documents, he left active service on November 7, 1945, and remained at the base on December 12, 1947. He quit to take a new and I would assume a better job in Roswell.

All of this would be unimportant to us if Kaufmann hadn't said that he was involved in the retrieval of an alien craft in July, 1947. He might have some involvement in the case from Walter Haut. Although I don't remember the exact words, Haut said that he might be a man to talk to, and, as far as I know, no one else had done that.

I called him on January 4, 1990 and conducted what is probably the very first interview that Kaufmann granted. He was, as I remember, reluctant to provide information and answered some of the questions with what would eventually become his stock answer when asked a question. "Well, I don't know."

He told me that he had been assigned to the base in January, 1942, and remained there throughout the war. He said, "I was separated in 1945. Then I was frozen for two years. So, I was out there [at the base] as a civilian for two years."

During this interview, Kaufmann first mentioned Robert Thomas, who supposedly knew something about the UFO crash. Kaufmann said that Thomas had been a warrant officer. Later, Kaufmann would suggest that Thomas was actually a brigadier general in the Air Force because Thomas

didn't want to draw attention to himself.

When I asked about a military assignment for Thomas, Kaufmann said, "He had something to do with security... Top echelon they took, when they found a lot of this equipment... everything had to be cleared through him first. Robert Thomas..."

Kaufmann and I talked for a few more minutes. Now, reading over the transcript of that first conversation, I can see that I was looking for, and Kaufmann, sharp as he was, certainly would have picked up on those hints. He also pointed out, as we talked, that he had seen the *Unsolved Mysteries* episode that dealt with crash. He also hinted that he had discussed this with Walter Haut. If he ever needed priming for his story, that certainly was more than enough information.

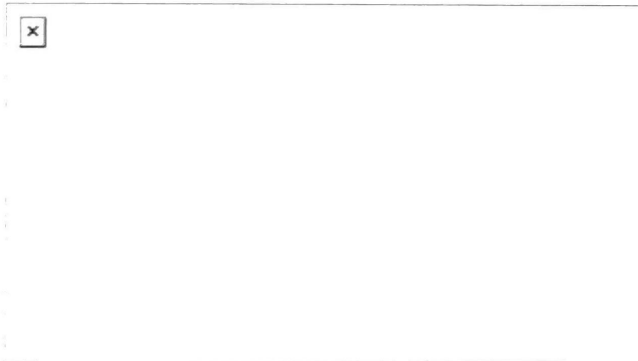
But there is also a note that was interesting. Kaufmann, talking about the show, said, "There was one thing that came to mind program." He then explained that he didn't like the scene in which Jesse Marcel, Sr., after collecting debris on the Brazel (Foster) ranch, returned home with it so that he could show it to his wife and son.

I suggested that it wasn't actually classified at that point, but Kaufmann said, "It was classified." That told me something about the very least, he understood how these things were supposed to work rather than how civilians believed them to work. Officially classified material with family and friends.

I also pointed out that Marcel had known that the debris was not made on Earth. Kaufmann asked, "How would he know?"

These were a couple of things that bothered Kaufmann. He played the whole thing close to the vest, giving little in the way of answers, mainly, I believe, because he didn't know who I was or why I was asking the questions.

That was Frank Kaufmann, however. Hinting that he might know something more than the rest of us, hinting that he was never quite confirming it. I should also point out that in this conversation, Kaufmann told me that he had been an enlisted man in the military, not a civilian employee of the government at the time of the crash. It was only later that some would say that Kaufmann had been a colonel in intelligence, but he never mentioned anything like that to me and I don't know where those ideas came from.



Frank Kaufmann at the aircraft hangar at Roswell where the alien bodies were alleged to have been kept overnight in 1947,

I met Frank Kaufmann in person not long after that, on Super Bowl weekend, 1990. We, and by we I mean Don Schmitt and I, went to his home in Roswell. We sat in the living room and discussed the case to some extent. He then walked us around, showing us the paintings meaning those that he had painted. They filled the walls of most of the rooms.

There was one that he seemed to be very fond of. It was mostly reds and browns, showing large trees late in the year, with a face superimposed on the trunk of one of the trees. I thought it looked more like an elf than anything extraterrestrial. It was a painting, and I mention it here only because, Kaufmann showed us the painting only two weeks after I first spoke to him, but as if it had been painted a long time before that. Later he would hint that the face resembled that of the alien creatures he had seen in 1947.

After that, when I made it into Roswell, I would call Kaufmann and we would go to breakfast, usually that the Roswell Inn. information about his involvement, slowly, at these meetings. Finally I asked if we could videotape one of the meetings and he his back yard and discussed the Roswell case, with him on one side of the table, and Schmitt and I on the other.

Kaufmann's story did evolve over time. Finally he said that he had been involved in this from the beginning, that he had been c General Scanlon, and asked to drive over to the White Sands Proving Grounds (now the White Sands Missile Range) and see radar. Kaufmann said that they watched something flit around the sky periodically, but that radar coverage wasn't all that gre capabilities of the radar and the local, mountainous terrain.

Kaufmann said that they stayed in the radar room for twenty-four hours, arranging a signal with the operator so that they coul the latrine. There was a mirror set so that the operator could shine a light on it and those outside would know that somethir going on inside. When Kaufmann told me this, I thought of the scene from Real Genius in which they bounced a laser beam c window and across the campus, and described it that way later. Sceptics laughed and Kaufmann pointed out that it had been a a single flashlight. I am fully responsible for the bouncing light description.

This radar watch, according to Kaufmann, was called off, and he returned to Roswell. Within twenty-four hours or so, the objec Kaufmann said that the radar screen lighted as the craft exploded. Some experts said that a bursting of the craft would not ha on the radar, but there are two ways to explain it. One, when the craft exploded, it sent out a burst of electromagnetic radi frequency as that used by the radar. The set, reading that burst as a return, would display it in a bright blob of light. Since thi signal would fade and the image on the screen would fade. Transponders in commercial airliners can paint the screen in a sim pilot needs to communicate with the controlling radar and flight following center.

Or two, the craft fragmented about the time the maximum signal had been sent so that it painted each of those fragments, d the screen. It was something that had happened in the past and explains why bombers, attempting to avoid detection some quantities of "chaff." In other words, they fill the sky with tiny bits of metal and the radar screen is filled with the blobs of Kaufmann said that they knew the craft was down, they had a good idea where it was down, and they were going out to loo radar coverage in the area, and given there might not have been ground based radars in Roswell, it seems hard to believe tha known that it was down, or even where it might have crashed.

Kaufmann said that they drove north out of town, turned off on a side road that was little more than a scraped area acros headed to the west. There was a dull blue glow that pinpointed the location for them.

Once they were on the scene, in a bowl-shaped valley with some kind of strange, triangular-shaped craft impacted in the roc unsure about how to proceed. The area was checked by a man with a Geiger counter, found to be relatively free of radiatio moved forward.

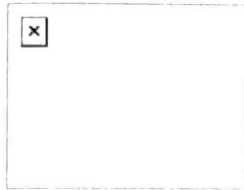
Kaufmann said that the craft was about fifteen or twenty feet wide at the widest and shaped like a triangle with rounded edg had a hexagonal pattern that Kaufmann said he thought might be some kind of power cells.

Outside the craft was one body, sitting next to the cliff, looking as if it had walked over to take a nap. This creature, according about five feet tall, had a head slightly larger than a human head, and eyes that were slightly larger than human eyes. It look peace with the universe. Kaufmann said that the look on its face, and its seeming peace, always bothered him and was the on out over all others.

When they were convinced that there was no danger from radiation, they moved in and examined the area. Kaufmann said th charge, giving orders about the best ways of recovering the craft and the bodies. Kaufmann said that they cleaned the area c bodies to the base first, and then loading the ship onto a truck to be driven to a hangar. The craft was extremely light.

According to Kaufmann, there was a core of nine men commanded by Thomas which included Kaufmann, who had the biggest responsibility for the craft and the bodies. Although Kaufmann hinted that he had bee important of the nine, it would seem that his role was one of the smallest. He simply didn't have the technical expertise, auth for a large role. Instead, he might have been involved simply because he was there and Scanlon, as well as Thomas, knew they could trust him to keep the secret.

Once the craft and bodies had been removed, experts in camouflage were brought in to hide the signs of the crash. When completed, the military moved off, away from the scene.



Drawing of alleged crashed UFO by Frank Kaufmann

Kaufmann, nearly fifty years later, took me to where he claimed the craft had crashed. It was on a ranch now owned by Hub Co the land had belonged to the McKnight family. Near the road that today leads to the crash site is an old, abandoned house, with if it had stood there in 1947. Kaufmann said they had passed no house but he seemed to think they had come into the desert fr

The International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell explored this avenue in the 1990s. They located a McKnight, and had him sign an affidavit about that aspect of the incident. Although he hadn't lived on the ranch in 1947, he was quite familiar with the area and that all the local residents talked to one another. Had there been a UFO crash on the ranch in 1947, that he would have heard about it but he remembered no family discussions of anything concerning UFOs.

McKnight also suggested that the only place to cross the Macho River area as you headed west from the highway was near Roswell. Anyone living there in 1947 would have seen the military as they drove in and out. Again, McKnight claimed that if anything had crashed that area, even though he was a small child in 1947 and didn't live in the area himself, he would have known that something had happened. That he didn't, suggested to him, that nothing had happened so that Kaufmann's story was in error.

There are, however, some subtle reasons to believe that Kaufmann might have had this inside knowledge. First, he didn't try to claim he had been on the debris field, an area about 75 miles northwest of Roswell, and one that was well known by the 1990s. Instead, he gave me a location closer to Roswell, but one that was hidden to the west of Highway 285. To that point, no one had suggested a crash site in that city.

Once he had shown it to me, I began to search for corroboration of it, as well as the timing, which Kaufmann had tossed a claim that corroboration came from an officer I had known for a number of years and who also claimed inside knowledge. After Kaufmann showed me the impact site, I asked this officer if he could show me, on a map, where he believed that the object had crashed. I provided him with the location as offered by Kaufmann.

That officer spent twenty minutes going over the maps, cross checking himself. From discussions we had in the past, I believe he would show me a site out west of Roswell, maybe off Highway 380 as it wound its way out toward Ruidoso. Instead he pointed at a location within a couple of miles of what Kaufmann had shown me. The officer said, "Without a better map, that's as close as I can get."

Given that he knew nothing about what Kaufmann had told me, and given that I don't believe he or Kaufmann knew anything interesting that he would select, more or less, the same small section of New Mexico real estate. It was a thin corroboration of what Kaufmann had said, though it was, by no means definitive.

In a similar vein, Kaufmann had told me, as he had others, that the crash took place late on the evening of July 4, 1947. Corroborating that suggested the crash took place on July 2, but that, according to what William Moore wrote in, *The Roswell Incident*, was based on a report by Dan Wilmot, of an object over Roswell on July 2. There certainly was no reason to connect the debris reported by Mack Brazier seen by Wilmot.

When Kaufmann made his claim that the crash took place on July 4, it did make sense out of one aspect of the case. William Moore wrote that he, and his father, had seen the flying saucer fall toward the ground. When they went out to search for it, along Highway 285, Roswell and tried to turn off, to the west, they found military police guarding the roads.

Under the conventional wisdom developed by Moore and others, this meant that Woody saw the object on a Wednesday and

father waited until the following Tuesday, after Brazel had been into Roswell, before they went in search of the object. Under the supervision of Kaufmann, the object fell on a Friday and the military cordon went up on Saturday. Woody and his father would have been there the next day, rather than nearly a week later. Logically, it made more sense.

There is one other, similarly subtle corroboration. One of the MPs, interviewed by me nearly fifty years after the event, said that he was directly involved in the retrieval, either as a guard or participant. He did, however, hear his fellow MPs, returning to the base, talking about the flying saucer. He told me that he hadn't believed them, until he read about it in the newspaper.

This means that there had been guards, witnesses, and retrievals prior to Brazel coming into town and prior to the publication of the story in the Roswell Daily Record. This corroborates the time line provided by Kaufmann and suggests that he was providing informed recollections rather than inventing a tale that was influenced by the publicity surrounding the Roswell case.

Kaufmann has offered some documentation to prove his involvement, though he has been tight-fisted in releasing any of it to researchers. In 1997, he showed me a letter, signed by Edwin Easley, the Roswell Daily Record editor in 1947, that, if verified, would end discussion about the UFO crash. Here was a document that made mention of the unusual material recovered, suggested that the bodies recovered did not appear to be human, and that the debris was unlike anything seen before. This document, if verified, was the smoking gun of Ufology.

Kaufmann did not allow me to have a copy of it. I would have attempted, at that point to verify Easley's signature, the manufacture of the typewriter, and attempted to find other, similar documents. Although Kaufmann promised me a copy, I never received it. For researchers, the lack of copies renders the document useless to us. The existence of it is heresy, and there is nothing to authenticate it.

I will note two things about that letter, however. I know precisely what it says, and I know that several others have seen it. I know that Kaufmann had such a letter and not that it was an authentic document signed by Easley.

And that sums up, nicely, the Kaufmann enigma. There are aspects of his story that seem to prove his veracity. There are some aspects that seem to be telling the overall truth but that he might have stuck himself into the story in a role of greater importance than he has. At the same point, there is no one to contradict him.

On the other hand, these little corroborations might be nothing more than coincidence. Kaufmann, having worked with General Scanlon, unaware of his intelligence background, could have plugged him into the story because Scanlon was a real general and Kaufmann was long dead.

And, while Kaufmann might not have been overly familiar with the Roswell story when he was first identified in the early 1990s, by the decade he was well involved in it, having granted interviews to CBS and to a variety of foreign documentary makers. He became jaded, demanding money before he would sit down in front of a camera. Asking for compensation for an interview might invalidate the claims, but it sure raises suspicions in the minds of many.

With the Roswell case, some of the early witnesses, those that seemed to have solid tales, have fallen in recent years. They have been challenged, but those challenges have often hinged on small, trivial discrepancies between a story told ten or fifteen years ago and today.

Kaufmann now skates with those with a semi-official status. He had been assigned to the Army, but as a civilian. He had been in the Army, but promoted to a GS-11 when he was assigned to Roswell as a civilian. The GS-11 is the civilian equivalent of a major. If he knew Scanlon, and the others brought in, if he had worked with them in the past, then it is easy to believe he was included because they knew who he was and knew that it could be trusted.

So, Kaufmann's tales remain almost totally uncorroborated. If he was whom he claimed, then explanations for the Roswell crash, extraterrestrial, are eliminated. If he is not, then one of the best witnesses, one who claimed to have specific inside knowledge, is eliminated. At this point, I believe Kaufmann was who he claimed and that the Roswell crash was alien. At the moment, that is the most sense.

From: Lorraine Dvorak <gandalf9002002@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu Dec 26 08:31:16 2002 (PST)
To: presidentialUFO@canada.com
Subject: UFO - Out of the BLue

Lori Cordini here, from UFO Facts

You mentioned footage of a UFO near Edwards AFB-California

Did they give a date? What did it look like?

If you are an old-time member, please bear with me...if you are a new member:

I was a witness to a crashed off-world craft in 1972 near Edwards AFB. There is limited information from "professional researchers" and I have only one other witness who has come forward. I am in continued search for more information. The other witness was an airman who accompanied the wreckage and two dead bodies to Wright-Patterson and he can remember fall foliage in Ohio. There was a third body, alive at the time. Her whereabouts is unknown to the witness. I was drugged and interrogated at the time, and my memory has just begun to come back beginning in 1996, still fuzzy, however.

Any information would be helpful. At one time, I was obsessed with obtaining information, but have now begun to just accept whatever I can retrieve! Meaning--I have gotten on with my life, but it was a long process of assimilation, adjustment, acceptance, anger, stress, now at last I have come to a peaceful state!

-lori cordini

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Re: "Alien Interview" To Air

SkeptInq@aol.com

Wed, 2 Jul 1997 11:26:47 -0400

- **Messages sorted by:** [date] [thread] [subject] [author]
 - **Next message:** SkeptInq@aol.com: "CNBC To Feature CMI Media Stock Fund"
 - **Previous message:** SkeptInq@aol.com: "Joe Nickell On Dateline, MSNBC and Bohannon Show"
-

Subj: "Alien Interview" To Air
Date: 97-07-02 11:09:16 EDT

EXTRA, a tabloid television news magazine akin to HARD COPY, called CSICOP today desperate for skeptical analysis of a video they plan to run nationally on today's (Wed) syndicated shows.

According to the producer, the video was smuggled out of Area 51 and is footage of a live alien captured and held by the government since 1989. The smuggler of the video is interviewed on the show, face hidden from the camera.

EXTRA had seen Joe Nickell on 20/20 during the alien autopsy controversy and had loved his analysis. Having called at 130pm, EXTRA had Joe on a plane to NYC by 230pm for an evening interview. Check your local listing for today's EXTRA air time.

[Note: see the [article](#) for pictures and audio clips -Webmaster]

ALSO

Today (WED) live at 8pm MSNBC, Joe Nickell and CSICOP chair Paul Kurtz will engage in an hour-long program with some of the UFO world's most infamous believers. Joe will start the program pitted against Jim Marrs on the topic of Roswell.

Dr. Kurtz will finish the program debating either Rael or a representative of the Unarians on the topic of UFO mythology as religion.

In addition, Joe Nickell is scheduled to be live on ABC On-line tonight at 9:30 pm. Go to: <http://www.abcnews.aol.com/>

- **Next message:** SkeptInq@aol.com: "CNBC To Feature CMI Media Stock Fund"
- **Previous message:** SkeptInq@aol.com: "Joe Nickell On Dateline, MSNBC and Bohannon Show"

Extraterrestrial Biological Entities (EBEs) 1, 2, 3 and Jarod

EBE-1

EBE-1 was the first of the EBEs to be seen by the military. It was reported to be a small, white, humanoid figure with a long, thin neck and a large head. It was seen in the desert near the Groom Lake area in 1966. See also EBE-1

EBE-2

EBE-2 was the second of the EBEs to be seen by the military. It was reported to be a small, white, humanoid figure with a long, thin neck and a large head. It was seen in the desert near the Groom Lake area in 1966. It was reported to be a female. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. See also EBE-2

EBE-3 and aids

EBE-3 was the third of the EBEs to be seen by the military. It was reported to be a small, white, humanoid figure with a long, thin neck and a large head. It was seen in the desert near the Groom Lake area in 1966. It was reported to be a male. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. It was seen by a group of military personnel who were on a mission to the Groom Lake area. See also EBE-3

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Jarod

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