

'Day After Roswell' - masterpiece of disinformation - turns 20 this year

Retro Book Review and Commentary by Emil Venere

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This year marks the 20th anniversary of *The Day After Roswell*, billed as the first book to provide "conclusive evidence" that ET crashed in the desert in July 1947.

It would be tempting to dismiss the book, written by retired U.S. Army Col. Philip J. Corso with an assist from veteran ufologist William Birnes, as the product of delusional thinking. However, that would be a gross mischaracterization. *The Day After Roswell* is a hugely important work, a prime example of disinformation, expertly developed, executed and promoted.

There are few such examples in ufology of former military personnel publishing books and going on speaking tours about having had contact with space aliens or alien technology. They don't claim to have merely seen UFOs, mind you. This is multi-sensory, full-frontal alien contact. Moreover, these on-the-record testimonials of unambiguous ET encounters involving military personnel would appear to be a uniquely American phenomenon. But, I digress.

Corso served a long and distinguished military career. He fought with Gen. George Patton's army against Rommel in North Africa; became a captain in Army Intelligence and served on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff in Korea; was named to President Dwight Eisenhower's National Security Council; and ran the Foreign Technology desk at the U.S. Army's Research and Development department at the Pentagon.

So, ostensibly, *The Day After Roswell* makes no sense whatsoever. A dedicated military officer. A staunchly loyal patriot, yet he decides to spill the beans on a conspiracy orders of magnitude greater than the Pentagon Papers and Watergate combined?

The ultimate betrayal, right? Unless, of course, it's not.

In the book Corso drops this bombshell: For two years in the early 1960s, as head of the Foreign Technology desk, he managed a transition of advanced alien technologies into the military-industrial complex.

"Today, items such as lasers, integrated circuitry, fiber-optics networks, accelerated particlebeam devices, and even the Kevlar material in bulletproof vests are all commonplace, yet the seeds for the development of all of them were found in the crash of the alien craft at Roswell and turned up in my files fourteen years later," Corso asserts. He also claims there "was a single file cabinet that I inherited because of my intelligence background. That file held the army's deepest and most closely guarded secret: the Roswell files ..."

This ET trove allegedly contained flexible glass-like wires, wafers etched with microcircuits, alien contact lenses for night vision, a Kevlar-like cloth and a laser blowtorch. His boss, Lt. Gen. Arthur Trudeau, director of Army Research and Development, asked Corso to “use the Army’s ongoing weapons development and research program as a way to filter the Roswell technology into the mainstream of industrial development ...

“Among the book’s sensational revelations: Gen. Nathan Twining, reportedly a member of Majestic 12, orchestrated a Roswell cover-up and a top secret operation to “Identify the nature of the phenomenon and assess its military threat” to the nation; the Nazis also had alien technology and used it to design the famed Horten flying wing aircraft, and Twining confirmed this from Wernher von Braun; the microcircuits found in the crash debris were turned over in 1947 to research engineers in industry, leading to the invention of the transistor that very year; and alien-derived advances helped the United States win the Cold War.

Corso also claims to have seen alien bodies in coffins delivered to Wright Field in Ohio. He describes “a four-foot human-shaped figure with arms” and “bizarre-looking four-fingered hands ...” enclosed in thick glass containers and submerged in a blue liquid. Meanwhile, authorities labored righteously to keep the story quiet to prevent a repeat of the panic that resulted from the 1938 “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast narrated by Orson Welles.

Here’s a reality check:

- It would have taken months just to design an experiment to begin studying a technology presumably from an alien civilization. Then it would have taken years to collect and interpret the data. Yet, Corso attributes technological advances in 1947 to Roswell.
- The first laser was built in 1960, but Corso didn’t become head of Foreign Technology until 1961, when he supposedly began seeding alien tech into the military and industry.
- The principle behind fiber optics was first demonstrated in the 19th century by physicists right here on Earth. Innovations leading to modern optical fiber and optical communications occurred throughout the 20th century.
- Kevlar was developed at DuPont, which also produced nylon, Teflon and Lucite (Plexiglass). Were these other synthetic marvels also inspired by the Roswell debris?
- The key breakthrough in integrated circuits came in the late 1950s. Again, before Corso supposedly began seeding alien tech into the mainstream.
- The reason people panicked over the Orson Welles broadcast was because aliens had just invaded New Jersey and were on their way to your house. People wouldn’t flip out en masse if they were told that a few hapless aliens crashed in the desert and were all dead. So if there’s a conspiracy it’s not being perpetrated on the public’s behalf.

Therefore, it’s all nonsense, and Corso likely knew it was all nonsense.

We can deduce this from at least one important clue: the claim that the transistor’s appearance in 1947 was somehow influenced by events at Roswell. It’s obvious that whoever developed the

underlying conspiracy theory behind the book had to devise a way to resolve a major kink in the story: Corso was to have begun seeding the alien tech in the early 1960s, but the transistor was invented in 1947. So how might they account for this discrepancy? Just concoct something about the military sharing this alien microcircuit booty with research scientists way back in 1947. An awkward fix, to be sure.

In the end, we are still stuck with the question of why. And the only logical conclusion is that there has been a concerted effort to reinforce the association between UFOs and aliens, despite evidence to the contrary. Perhaps this is because many sightings are possibly related to above-top-secret U.S. military technology, and the public is unlikely to make this connection if the citizenry is fully ensconced in the ET hypothesis.

Unfortunately, we can't interview Col. Corso to learn why he wrote the book because he died shortly after it was published. However, if anyone can provide any insights, feel free to drop me a line at (e.venere@comcast.net or venere@purdue.edu).