

ROSWELL & THE CIC AGENTS

The Rodeghier Interview of Bill Rickett

by fran ridge



CIC Agent Sgt. Bill Rickett

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One of the things that impressed me the most about the Roswell witnesses was the testimony of the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) agents, especially Maj. Jesse Marcel and Master Sgt. "Bill" Rickett. The only other CIC agent that was at the debris field 80 miles NW of Roswell at the Mac Brazel ranch with Marcel, but later denied he was even there, was CIC agent Captain Sheridan Cavett. But the second crash site 40 miles NE of Roswell had additional official witnesses, including Marcel, Cavett, and Rickett. The evidence indicates that Sgt. Edwin Easley, and another person by the name Sgt. Robert Darden, both played a very important role at Roswell in July of 1947. All of these men were of an elite group known as the 509th, the only atomic bomb group in the entire world in 1947.

July 2, 1947, 80 miles NW of Roswell, New Mexico

The first part of the Roswell incident involved Maj. Marcel and Captain Cavett going out to the first debris field site with rancher, Mac Brazel. That's a story in itself which I detailed in my paper

https://www.nicap.org/papers/ridge/Ten_Days_In_July.pdf

In early July of 1947, the military, now knowing the exact location of the crash, begin to move in with a carefully selected team for the recovery of the craft. It is still very early morning. Unlike the MPs of the 1395th Military Police Company at the RAAF, who are used for general base security under the command of base Provost Marshal Major Edwin Easley, the MPs of the 390th ASS, under the command of Major Robert Darden, hold higher security clearances, which are required for guarding the "Silverplates", -the atomic bomb-carrying B-29s. When the UFO impact site is discovered north of town, MPs of both the 390th and 1395th are rushed to the scene to secure it and are posted along the western

edge of Highway 285 from Roswell in the south all the way to the hamlet of Ramon in the north in order to prevent civilians from reaching the crash site five miles west of the highway. The MPs of the 1395th also compose the outer ring of armed guards circling the crash site. MPs of the 390th form an inner ring of armed guards circling the crashed UFO and its occupants. Because they are close enough to see the crash scene up close and personal, the higher security clearance MPs of the 390th are required for this task. PFC Ed Sain is in the 390th ASS. After a long night's duty at the base, Sain is just about to "turn in" when the chief of security, Major Darden, bursts into the barracks: Darden: "C'mon Boys! We've had a crash."

My question to my Roswell Team was, where did I get this? I wasn't sure.

Tom Carey:

I remember writing something like that. It must have come from "Witness To Roswell".

Fran Ridge:

Yeah. I'm pretty sure Rickett told the truth and had better recall than some think he had. I'm glad you posted that paragraph. Randle talked to Easley and Easley didn't talk very much. If he had he would have mentioned Darden. So Easley didn't have the only cordon around the site as some thought he had.

Tom Carey:

Rickett was the first one to mention a Major Darden to us as being at the crash site that Cavitt drove him to. We always thought that he was mistaken and really meant Major Easley. When I interviewed PFC Eleazar Benavides of the 390th Air Service Squadron some years later, I asked him what his job was at the RAAF, and he answered that it was guarding the Silverplate bombers. I then asked him who his boss was, and he said that it was the 390th's Security Chief, Major Robert Darden. I then interviewed several more airmen who were actually MPs who also guarded the Silverplates, but they belonged to the 390th Air Service Squadron and not to Easley's 1395th MP Unit. Darden is not pictured in the 1947 RAAF Yearbook, and also not in the 1947 Roswell City Directory (the data for which was collected in 1946). I did, however, come across Darden's name in one of the RAAF Morning Reports from that time period. My conclusion is that Darden was rotating into a new duty station (the RAAF) at the time of the incident and was sticking close to Easley to "learn the ropes." So, in the end, Rickett was right.

Fran Ridge:

I think Darden was rated higher, as described by the original mention of him running the inner cordon. In that case it looks like he was brought in from the outside like some others were right after the crash.

Tom Carey:

Both were Majors. The 390th MPs were entrusted with guarding the A-bomb-carrying Silverplates while the 1395th MPs were not and did more police-type

work. One job seems more important than the other to me. What you suggest might be true - or not -, but I don't care to speculate on it. Talking with Eleazar Benevidas, I got the impression that Darden was already his boss at the RAAF prior to the incident's occurrence.

Don Schmitt:

I concur with Tom as Benavides told me the same. We had concluded very early in the investigation that the 1395th was used strictly for general security on the outlying and peripheral areas of containment. The 390th handled security at the actual sites concerning the crash incident, whereas the 603rd was part of the actual recovery operation. (Schmitt had personally interviewed CIC agent Rickett down in Seminole, Florida on four separate occasions before and after Mark Rodeghier. His testimony remained totally consistent. - Ridge)

Fran Ridge:

So either way, we are all in agreement that Darden was there, was important even though Easley never mentioned him, and Rickett swears Darden's job was for his team to guard the inner circle.

Kevin Randle:

Darden is in the RAAF base telephone directory for 1947. When Don and I interviewed Cavitt in Sierra Vista, he mentioned Darden as the Provost Marshal. In July 1947, that was Easley. As the Provost Marshal, Easley was responsible for the law enforcement on the base, which means that, technically, Darden worked for him. They were of equal grade, but Easley held the superior position... which is not to say that Darden didn't operate as the commander of his unit, only that his immediate superior in the chain of command was Easley. When Easley rotated out, Darden assumed the position of Provost Marshal.



Maj Robert Darden

Fran Ridge:

So Darden, who at one point didn't seem to be a player because he wasn't listed in base records, apparently WAS there. And since Easley didn't say much (said he couldn't talk about it) never mentioned Darden or anyone else.

Sometime around the time of my open heart surgery in 2013 I was going through a file box that had some rather thick folders. One of those was a lot of emails and other items about Roswell. There was a transcript of an interview that Mark Rodeghier of CUFOs had done in 1990 with Bill Rickett and I stopped what I was doing and read it. What made me think was I was able to remember things myself from the late 40's because of how things can create such clear memories like where we were when President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Well, in January 1950 I was 7 years old when a house on Bowman Terrace exploded and I remembered everything about it. So much for age and ability to remember things.

We now get into the meat of this paper, the detailed testimony of expert witness CIC agent Bill Rickett who told us more about the second site, the impact site 40 miles NE of Roswell than anybody. Rickett was one of those guys who could tell you what he said to somebody or they said to him 40-50 years prior. What he had to say to Mark Rodeghier was quite voluminous and covered his whole career, but what he told us about Roswell was more than any of the other CIC agents. You have to realize that the interview took place in January of 1990 and Rickett was older than I am now, and I'm 81.

Here is what Rickett's testimony tells us from his taped interview with CUFOs.

Master Sgt. Rickett, (who reminds me of movie star Rock hudson) had just returned from an assignment at Carlsbad, NM. He tells us more about Darden.

Mark Rodeghier:

CIC Agent Lewis Rickett usually ate either at the NCO club or over at the officer's club or the airman's club. The policy at CIC (later OSI) was for agents to be seen in these places, any time. If someone wanted to talk to them they wouldn't want to talk to a total stranger. Rickett liked to tell them where the CIC office was, and lots of times they would come in looking for him.

CIC Agent Sheridan Cavett, who had been to the debris site with Marcel and Brazel on Monday, (and told us he was never there), also attended the staff meeting on Tuesday morning, returns and meets up with Rickett at his office at the base about 1:00 - 1:15 PM. It's a beautiful day.

Cavett:

I want you to go with me.

Rickett:

Where you been? You and Marcel went out of here with some old farmer.

Cavett:

Some old rancher, not farmer. He said he was going to show us something so we both headed out there (Brazel Ranch NW of Roswell). But I've got something to show YOU.

Rickett:
Where are we going?



The only picture of Capt. Sheridan Cavett

Cavett:
To the boondocks.

Rickett: We'll get stuck in the sand.

Cavett:
No, there's a half-way road out there. I don't believe what I've seen, and I just thought it would be advisable to have another set of eyes on this.

They requisition a staff car (not usually good for travelling off the road into sand). The military, knowing the location of the final impact site had moved in for the recovery of the craft and bodies two days before. . Most of the debris had been removed but the site was still heavily secured. The trip took them thirty to forty five minutes.

Rickett and Cavett arrive near the final impact site and are a short distance down a hill not far from all the activity. There are four or five military vehicles, up about a half a mile or so down the road.

Rickett:
What's going on up there?

Cavett is silent for a while, staring ahead as he drives onward.

Rickett:
I don't recognize this place.

Cavett:
You'll see. And Darden's even got some of HIS men up there.

Rickett realizes something important is going on. Major Robert Darden is Chief of Security. So they drive up to the first checkpoint, which is Maj. Edwin Easley's MPs.. The guards look at them and one of them confronts Rickett.

Guard: You know, me, Ole?

Rickett: Yeah, hell yeah, I believe I do.

All the MPs are armed, either with 45's or Thompson submachine guns. When they first arrived, there must have been five or six men, positioned there by Provost Marshall, Edwin Easley. But as they get on up the road, another hundred yards, there is at least 25 or 30 people out there, all Darden's men. The men are scattered. Some of them are out three or four hundred yards, all out in a big circle, here and there, on top of the little dunes, all are just standing there. Darden doesn't want anybody else wandering in there.

But Easley's MPs still check their I.D.s. Easley or Darden would crucify them if they hadn't. They're not taking any chances.

After showing their IDs at the checkpoint along the road Cavett & Rickett approach the next group of men and Darden comes over.

Darden:

You can't say anything about this to anybody, and I didn't talk to you about any of this. I want to shoot some more pictures. Marcel is going to be out here later, and I just thought it would be advisable for somebody else to see it. Don't walk anywhere until I tell you.

Rickett stops in his tracks.

Darden:

Well, what does it look like to you? What's this whole place here look like?

Rickett:

This is kind of hard to believe. It looks to me like something landed here. But if it landed here, I don't see any tracks. I don't know how anything could land here and not leave tracks. The sun is pretty bright. Have you been over there? Don't you see what I see? Looks like there's.....I guess that's metal.

Rickett at that time was approximately fifteen to twenty feet from various closer pieces.

Rickett:

Is it hot? (radioactive) Can you touch it?

Darden is shaking his head no to the first question:

Darden:

Yeah, be my guest. That's what I wanted you to ask me.

As for the strange wreckage, it was very similar to that found by Marcel and Cavett on the Foster ranch; thin, light, and strong. Rickett picks up a piece of it, a slightly curved piece of metal, real light. It is about six inches by twelve or fourteen inches. Very light. Rickett crouches down and tries to bend it

Cavett looks over at Darden and laughs.

Cavett:

Smart guy. He's trying to do what WE couldn't do.

Rickett:

What in the hell is this stuff made out of? It doesn't feel like plastic and I never saw a piece of metal this thin that you couldn't bend or break. Some of the edges on some of the pieces, they're kinda curved in a little bit on the edge. Whatever it was.....

They walk around a little bit and Rickett asks:

Rickett: What are they doing up on the hill?

Cavett:

Well, I figure we walk over there.

They always kept a pair of walking shoes just in such a case so they put them on and head towards the hill.

Darden warns them:

I just don't want anybody coming in here until after you fellows have seen this, and Major Marcel gets back, later in the afternoon. We took all the pictures of the whole area. Everything you see, it's on film. They even tried to estimate this shallow place, right in here, where all this is, how much is it but on the other end? If you will, if you've noticed, we've already run a string through here, try to stay close to that marker. If he (pointing to Rickett and talking to Cavett) can't, if he insists, if he wants to do something else, let me know and we'll run another one over.

Rickett walks around and sees pieces in various places, different sizes but not too many of them very large. Something anywhere from four or five inches to a foot. He can't imagine what it is. So, then he walks over and talks to one of the MPs:

MP: Sir! What do you need over here?

Rickett:

I just wanted to walk from here over to there.

MP:

It looks like, just like you're over there and I'm over here. No different.

Rickett:

Well, what's on the other side?

MP:

Well I know what you're talking about. I don't know what we're doing, but I do know this. I never talked to you in my life, not out here.

Rickett:

What you see out here, you never saw it.

MP:

That's right. They told you the same thing.

Rickett:

Well, you didn't have to tell me that. In the first place, I don't know what the hell is going on.

MP:

I see you got your boss with ya.

Rickett:

Well, let's say I work with him.

MP:

We just want to keep any.....if there happened to be some rancher...cowboy or rancher, up from this direction, maybe see the vehicles over here or something..... keep them outa here.

In any case the bodies are gone and the "pod" or "cabin" is also gone. Since Rickett never saw bodies or a craft at any time it just might have been a "test" to make sure the only thing observable was the debris debunked by Ramey at Fort Worth.

Maj. Marcel returns from Fort Worth to his home in Roswell just one day after he had displayed some of the true wreckage to his wife, "Vi" (short for Viaud), and son, Jesse Jr. Upon his return, Marcel informs both of them that he was no longer able to talk about it with them. He also tells them that they cannot have the samples he had left with them Tuesday morning



CIC Agent Maj. Jesse Marcel

Later in the day Marcel comes to the new impact site driving a little pickup vehicle. They drive around and gather all the debris they can find. Rickett confronts Marcel.

Rickett:
You must have had your whole office out here.

Marcel:
Mine and Don Yeager's both. Yeager's holding up the fort, both offices.

Marcel, being the base intelligence officer, works out of the CIC office at Roswell AAF. (Counter-Intelligence Corps). Captain Cavett and Master Sergeant Bill Rickett also work there. Yeager's office is across the hall.

The MPs don't lift a finger. They are still in the same position as when Rickett & Cavett arrived.

Marcel and his group converse, and Cavett, his group and Rickett talk.

Rickett:
It's kind of hard to believe there's something like this even possible, that something comes in, disintegrates. But it didn't blow, it just vaporized. It just....

Cavett: Yep. But what about the pieces?

Rickett: Yeah, what about the pieces?

Cavett:
Well you know, just remember (and Darden was standing there too) you and I never saw this. You and I have never been out here. We don't see any military people out here. We don't see any vehicles out here.



The Command Staff - Front Row: L to R: Capt. Loren Straw, supply; Maj Donald Yeager, Intelligence; 1/Lt Lloyd L O'Neil, adjutant; Capt. William F. Joyce, photo operations; Capt. Len C. Kappil, analysis; Capt. William W. Robinson, still photo, air operations.

Second Row - L to R: Maj. Gilbert Warrenton, documentary photography; Maj James J. Gaylord, executive; Lt. Col. Samuel Gershon, engineer; Col P.T. Cullen, commanding; Lt. Col. Richard Leghorn, deputy commanding; Maj George Birdsong, Jr., Operations; Capt. William E. Vaughn, engineering. Not pictured are Capt. Arthur Smith, personnel; Maj Charles Wilson, photo lab; Col. Richard Cunningham, photo operations; Maj Perry Thomas, photo engineering; Capt Norman Dick, reports; and 1/Lt. David Lowe, public relations.

Maj. Donald Yeager

Rickett:

Yeah, that's right. We never left the office, in fact.

They are back at that office in Roswell by 5:30 PM.

So, much of what we know about Roswell in the form of details comes from the testimony of CIC Agent, Master Sergeant Lewis Rickett. Rickett saw the debris but never saw any bodies. The transcript we have from that interview conducted by CUFOs Research Director, Mark Rodeghier in 1990 was a major breakthrough. Rickett's association with Dr. Lincoln LaPaz in trying to trace the path of the object a year after the crash led to many discoveries and some mind-boggling final comments.

Rickett:

Well, I always felt that they hadn't really solved the mystery of where they come from. Now, that's my theory. If La Paz was sitting right there where you are today

he would probably tell you the same thing It's something unknown that you can't defend against. You can't build something (like it), even today, we think that we know.

Rodeghier:

How did it make you feel back in 1947 when La Paz told you what you may have already suspected, that he thought this was an alien, you know, spacecraft? How did that make you feel, though?

Rickett:

It certainly didn't make me feel very good. He says well, you and I are in the same boat. He says, the thinking person, if its true, what we think is, let's pray as long as you and I live, and for generations to come, that they are real friendly. Evidently these are just probes, sent all around.

Fran Ridge:

Then Rickett said something that confirmed what he had mentioned elsewhere in the interview, about he and LaPaz had interviewed some ranchers, and at least one rancher had mentioned seeing a UFO in trouble being escorted by two other UFOs!

Rickett:

I would hope that my generation, your generation, generations to come, if they are indeed friendly, if they have, if they're robots, he says what might have happened is maybe **one of those three** he says, had control people in it. And the other two were probably flying here and taking pictures and come on in making a sweep, see. Because we'd gotten sightings of these lights and things all over the world. Its not just in the United States. If La Paz were alive today and at the same age he was then, he'd have a field day.

Rickett, and a lot of others were kept out of the loop and were never told about the bodies, which is/was the smoking gun. The date is unknown, but sometime in the fall a few years after the Roswell incident, CIC Agent Bill Rickett's wife sells their home. The furniture is shipped to the new location. When it arrives, a box is missing. Rickett receives a phone call from the CIC office at Roswell. His friend, Joe Worth, (now OSI) is on the line.

Rickett:

Joe, we got all of the boxes except one. All the items and boxes on the list are numbered and one is missing.

Wirth:

Don't worry, Rick, we're flying the box out. What's in it?

Rickett:

Hell, I'm not sure WHAT it is!

Wirth:
Valuable?

Rickett:
She packed it. I wasn't there when she did it. But, I want to ask you something.

Wirth:
Fire away.

Rickett:
This kinda reminded me of something. Some time back Marcel boxed something up and Cav and I had to sign for it before they put it on a plane. Speaking of missing boxes.....

Wirth:
Now, you stop it, right there. Didn't no airplane come in there. Didn't anybody get anything. (he calms down) And we haven't found out yet if there WAS a box, or what it was.

Rickett:
OK, OK.

These were troubled times. By the end of 1962 the Cuban Missile Crisis would steal the headlines and be the number one topic on radio and TV. It had been 15 years since Rickett last saw Joe Wirth, who was now with the Park Police.

Wirth:
You know, you almost got me in a little bit of a bind, but, I think we covered ourselves.

Rickett:
That box disappeared? Planes come into that base all the time, the boxes rode on an Air Force plane. Couldn't anybody get court-martialed for a thing like that?

Wirth:
Let's walk out through here in the parking lot. We'll talk for a minute

They proceed to the parking lot.

Wirth:
I'm not military, now, but I'm Park Police. I hold my reserve commission. You know, honest to God, they haven't found yet just what that was, what that metal was.

Rickett:
Well, it looked to me like, you know what Monel looks like?

Wirth:

Yeah, but Monel would be too heavy. I've seen some sheets of Monel, and they'll give a little bit.

Rickett:

Well, maybe someday we'll all know. If we don't nuke ourselves out of existence.

Even without the Roswell crash there is enough evidence to convince most people of the UFO presence and proof of the earlier concerns. Some of the most dramatic and telling incidents involve sightings over the world's nuclear sites and missile installations. With over 600 witnesses reporting the Roswell story we have had a peek at those who are doing the watching. These beings, way ahead of us, are apparently mortal and they appear to have exhibited a long-term interest in humans on planet Earth. And somebody ON this Earth is determined to keep this Top Secret.

There was another incident that Rickett described in his interview but the chronology has to shift to the time right after the Air Force used Marcel to explain away the crash debris at Fort Worth:

Rickett and Cavett go to the base and Marcel is working with some boxes. While they are there Marcel closes a box, wraps it up, tapes it up, and puts it inside another box, then tapes that up. He then gives it to Cavitt and Cavitt gives him a receipt for it. This routine gesture would seem to suggest all things normal, but that doesn't prevent Marcel from trying to get some answers. After his humiliating press experience at Fort Worth, and orders to go along with the coverup, Marcel confronts the officer who had accompanied him to the Foster ranch with Mack Brazel to first investigate the crash, the head of counterintelligence for the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), Captain Sheridan Cavitt.

Marcel:

Cav, I want to see the report of what all happened here while I was in Fort Worth.

Cavett:

What report? I don't know what you 're talking about.

Marcel:

Cav, you know what I'm talking about.

Cavett:

Hey! I can't help you.

Marcel:

Cav, I outrank you!

Cavett:

Sorry, Jesse. I take my orders from Washington. If you don't like it, you can take it up with them.

On that brusque note, the CIC officers put an abrupt end to the debate. It should be pointed out that CIC NCO Lewis "Bill" Rickett is also present at the heated exchange. To him, the discussion is out of character for both men; the Marcells' and the Cavitts' are good friends.

Marcel then says to Rickett:

I want you to go with me. There will be a plane here this afternoon. (He points at the box) They're coming in for that box.

For some reason Marcel doesn't make it and the other two CIC agents are waiting near the runway. That afternoon an unscheduled flight from Bolling Field (Washington, D.C.) arrives at Roswell. The C-54 lands, is gassed up, and the copilot walks toward Rickett and Cavett. Three or four other people get out and walk around. As Rickett walks around the copilot walks toward Rickett and Cavett. Three or four other people get out and walk around. As Rickett walks over to the aircraft the copilot looks at him and Rickett looks at the copilot. Rickett just shakes his head. The pilot then shakes his head and comments, "Nice seeing you." Cavett gives the copilot the box. Apparently both of these men are CIC because they both have to sign for it.

After all the formalities Cavett and Rickett are alone again.

Cavett:

Why did that copilot look at you? I looked over, and I saw you shaking your head at him.

Rickett:

I KNOW the guy! Know him real well. I've flown with him. I didn't WANT him to recognize me. He's from Andrews (AFB).

There could be other "gems" in that transcript I might have overlooked. If so, I would gladly update this paper again. Someone out there reading this report might have the time to click on the link below and read the entire transcript. My accidental reading of it eleven years ago when I was writing my own memoirs was an amazing experience. I think about this event all the time.

<https://www.nicap.org/roswell/Rickett-Rodeghier.pdf>

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