

Roswell!

“Roswell, New Mexico” It’s become a byword for science fiction enthusiasts, weirdos, and the legions who distrust the government. On the night of July 2nd, in 1947, something crashed into the desert outside of Roswell, New Mexico. Soon after, the military closed off the area. The first announcement made by the military was that a flying saucer had crashed. Quickly after this first announcement the story was changed - what was thought to have been a flying saucer was in reality a weather balloon.

The episode was mostly forgotten until 1970 when Jesse Marcel, the major involved with the recovery of the crash, announced that the military's claim that the object was a weather balloon was a lie. Since the announcement, Marcel and dozens of others have maintained that the crashed vehicle was not a weather balloon, that actual alien bodies were recovered, and that they were all threatened into silence. What really happened almost 50 years ago in Roswell?

- 1947 - July 2 - a rancher named Mac Brazel hears a loud crash during the night near Corona, New Mexico
- 1947 - July 3 - Mac Brazel discovers crash debris
- 1947 - July 6 - Max Brazel shows Roswell sheriff pieces of debris
- 1947 - July 7 - Military, including Major Jesse Marcel visit crash site and retrieve some of the debris

- 1947 - July 8 - Brazel taken into custody for questioning. A second crash site is supposed to be found with alien bodies
- 1947 - July 9 - military announce the crashed vehicle was a weather balloon
- 1970 - Jesse Marcel came public stating that the weather balloon announcement had been a cover-up
- 1995 - Roswell alien's "Alien Autopsy" film is published

The two sides eventually squared off: UFO buffs trust witnesses and others with fantastic stories based on 30-year-old memories. That the government made errors and was inconsistent is taken as sufficient evidence that there is a massive conspiracy by the government and mass media. They are trying to conceal the truth from the general public that the aliens have landed. Some even believe that the U.S. government has signed a treaty with the aliens.

Skeptics agree that something crashed near Roswell in 1947, but not an alien craft. Skeptical explanations have varied from weather balloons to secret aircraft to espionage devices. Current conventional wisdom among skeptics is that what was found on the Brazel ranch was part of Project Mogul, a top secret project testing giant, high-flying balloons to detect Soviet nuclear explosions.

So, those are the basics. From there on, it’s anyone’s guess!

