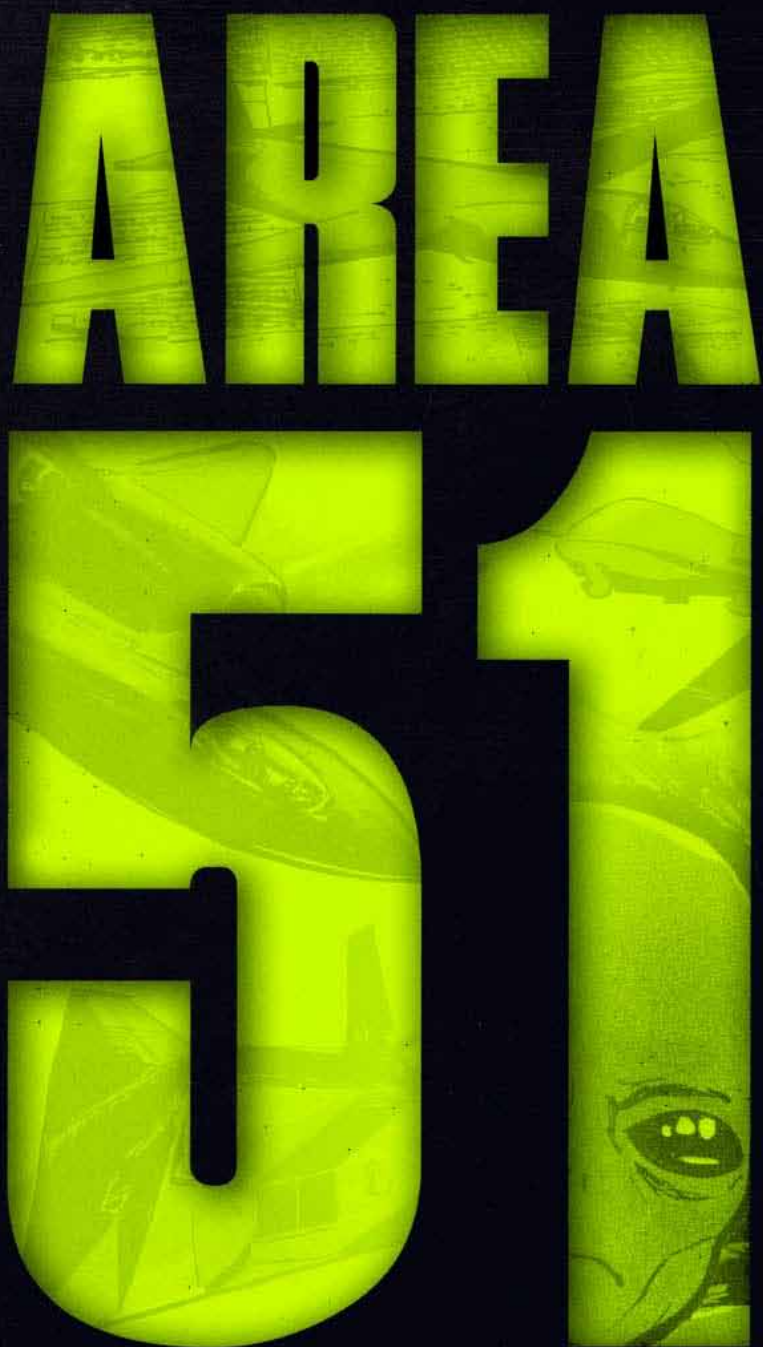


AREA 51

The title 'AREA 51' is rendered in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The word 'AREA' is in a smaller size above the much larger '51'. The numbers '5' and '1' are filled with a collage of various images, including what appears to be a close-up of a person's face, possibly a soldier or astronaut, and other abstract, high-contrast patterns. The entire title is set against a dark, textured background.

**THE GRAPHIC HISTORY OF AMERICA'S
MOST SECRET MILITARY INSTALLATION**

DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN
NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
ILLUSTRATED BY GREG SCOTT

IT IS LOCATED 75 MILES NORTH OF LAS VEGAS, WITHIN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S **NEVADA TEST & TRAINING RANGE**. SINCE 1951, IT HAS BEEN THE SENSATIONAL **TOP SECRET TEST-BASE** FOR CLASSIFIED, NEXT-GENERATION MILITARY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BEYOND THIS POINT
WARNING
PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED

IT WAS WHERE SUCH ADVANCED, TOP SECRET AIRCRAFT AS THE **U-2...**

...**A-12 OXCART**, AND **SR-71 BLACKBIRD**...

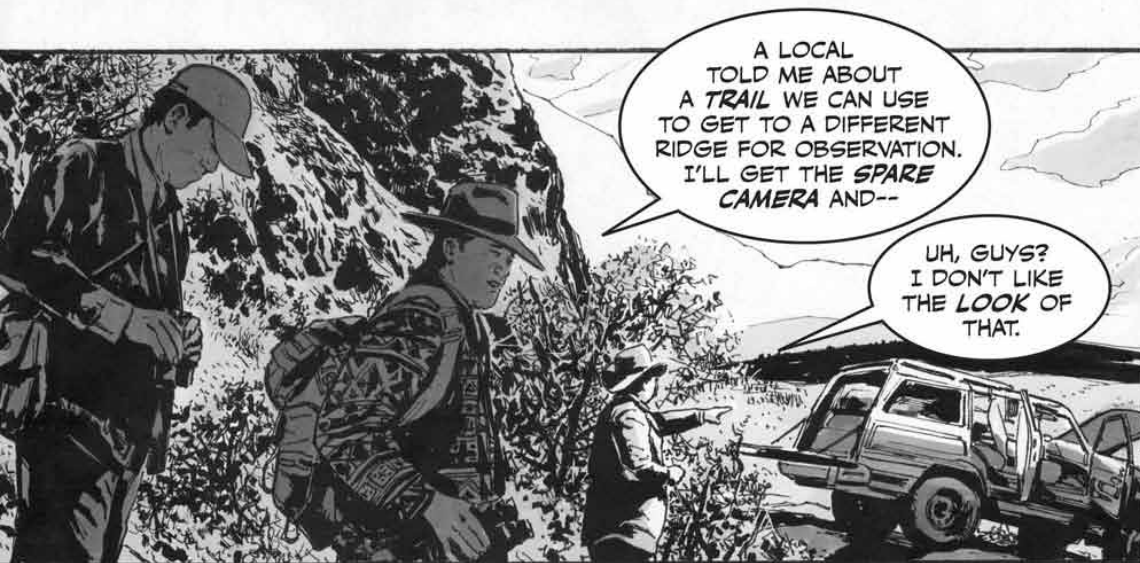
...AND THE WORLD'S FIRST STEALTH FIGHTER JET, THE **F-117 NIGHTHAWK**, WERE ALL TESTED.

BUT, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY **DENIED AREA 51'S** EXISTENCE, IT BECAME THE LOCUS FOR **CONSPIRACY THEORIES**--THE BIG THREE BEING...

THE **LUNAR LANDING HOAX**.

UFOS, **ALIEN BODIES**, AND **CAPTURED LIVE ALIENS**, HIDDEN IN A SECRET UNDERGROUND COMPLEX.

AND A GIGANTIC **UNDERGROUND BUNKER AND TUNNEL SYSTEM**, CONNECTING MILITARY FACILITIES AND NUCLEAR LABORATORIES FROM **EAST COAST TO WEST COAST**.



A LOCAL
TOLD ME ABOUT
A *TRAIL* WE CAN USE
TO GET TO A DIFFERENT
RIDGE FOR OBSERVATION.
I'LL GET THE *SPARE*
CAMERA AND--

UH, GUYS?
I DON'T LIKE
THE *LOOK* OF
THAT.



AWWWW,
SH--

LOOK
OUT!



K-POW!



I THINK WE'D
BETTER JUST *CLEAR*
OUT BEFORE SOMETHING
ELSE HAPPENS.

IN JULY 2013, THE CIA FINALLY *DECLASSIFIED* AREA 51'S EXISTENCE AND RELEASED
THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO ITS HISTORY.

AFTER 62 YEARS OF DENIAL,
THE *TRUE STORY* OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S MOST FAMOUS,
AND MOST NOTORIOUS, SECRET
FACILITY CAN FINALLY BE TOLD.



CHAPTER ONE THE ORIGIN OF AREA 51: FROM ROSWELL TO OXCART

KIRTLAND AIR
FORCE BASE,
NEW MEXICO,
NORTH OF THE
WHITE SANDS
PROVING
GROUND,
EARLY JUNE
1947...

WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING ON--
YOU'VE GOTTA
SEE THIS!

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE,
SERGEANT?



TWO HIGH
PERFORMANCE
AIRCRAFT JUST
ENTERED OUR
AIRSPACE--

IDENTITY?

UNKNOWN!
DEFINITELY NOT
OURS!

I NEED
TO ALERT
THE C.O.!

--CLOCKED
THEM AT AIR
SPEEDS UP TO 1,200
MILES PER HOUR...
WITH HOVER
CAPABILITY!

THEY'RE...
GONE!

*COMMANDING OFFICER



CAPTAIN KENNETH
CHANDLER WAS
ORDERED TO TAKE
TO THE AIR AND
INTERCEPT THE
UNIDENTIFIED
INTRUDER.



HE FOUND
NOTHING.

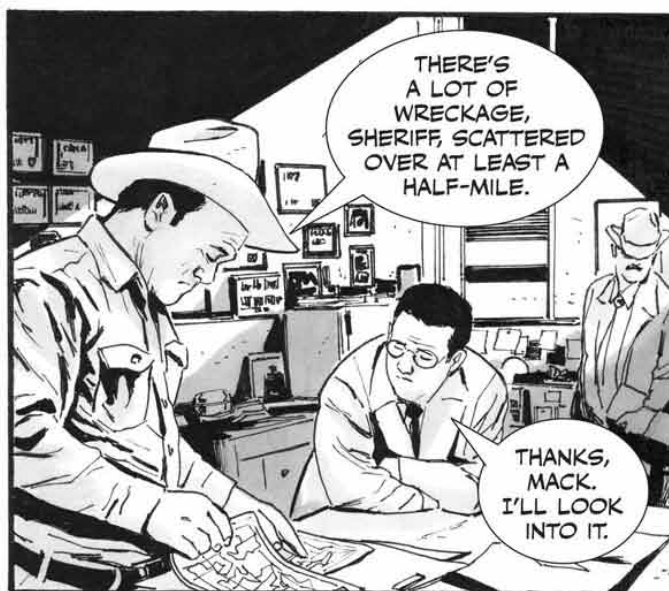
BUT, A FEW DAYS LATER, WILLIAM "MACK" BRAZEL, A FOREMAN
WORKING ON THE FOSTER HOMESTEAD ABOUT
30 MILES NORTH OF ROSWELL,
NEW MEXICO, DID.



WHAT KINDA
AIRCRAFT CRASHED
HERE?



A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER HE MADE HIS FIND, BRAZEL DROVE TO ROSWELL, THE COUNTY SEAT, AND TOLD CHAVES COUNTY **SHERIFF GEORGE WILCOX** OF HIS DISCOVERY.



ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 8, 1947, **1ST LIEUTENANT WALTER HAUT**, 509TH OPERATIONS GROUP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER AT ROSWELL ARMY AIR FIELD, HANDED KGFL RADIO ANNOUNCER **FRANK JOYCE** A PRESS RELEASE.



THREE HOURS LATER, HAUT RETURNED WITH A SECOND PRESS RELEASE.

FORGET THAT FIRST ONE. IT HAD INCORRECT INFORMATION. USE THIS CORRECTED PRESS RELEASE.

TURNS OUT IT WAS WRECKAGE FROM A WEATHER BALLOON.

WILL DO, LIEUTENANT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S MATERIAL FOR A SPECIAL WEATHER BALLOON.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE COMMANDER BRIGADIER **GENERAL ROGER RAMEY**, UNDER WHOSE AUTHORITY THE ROSWELL AREA FELL, QUICKLY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE, SHOWING MATERIAL HE CLAIMED WAS FOUND ON THE CRASH SITE.



WILCOX CONTACTED **MAJOR JESSE MARCEL**, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR THE 509TH BOMB GROUP STATIONED AT ROSWELL ARMY AIR FIELD, WHO WENT TO INVESTIGATE.

THE CRASH SITE WAS IMMEDIATELY SEALED UNTIL RETRIEVAL TEAMS COULD CLEAR THE AREA.

RESTRICTED AREA
NO UNAUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ALLOWED



AS THE AIR FORCE HOPED, THE STORY OF THE ROSWELL INCIDENT FADED AND, FOR THIRTY YEARS, WAS FORGOTTEN. BUT THE BUZZ AND HYSTERIA ABOUT UFOS ONLY GREW. TOO MANY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND IN TOO MANY PLACES HAD SEEN FLYING OBJECTS THAT DEFIED EASY EXPLANATION.

IN JULY 1947, WHEN THE UFO CRAZE (AS IT CAME TO BE KNOWN) BEGAN, 850 UFO SIGHTINGS WERE OFFICIALLY RECORDED.

OF THEM, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FOUND 150 IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO INVESTIGATE.

TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, THE AIR FORCE CREATED TWO PROGRAMS: **PROJECT SIGN** THAT INVESTIGATED ACCOUNTS OF UFO SIGHTINGS...

...AND **PROJECT GRUDGE**, A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO DEBUNK THE EXISTENCE OF UFOS, WHICH AS FAR AS EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED MEANT SPACECRAFT PILOTED BY BEINGS FROM ANOTHER PLANET.

AT WORLD WAR II'S END, TWO SUPERPOWERS EMERGED: THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAD SUFFERED LITTLE DURING THE CONFLICT, AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAD BEEN SAVAGED BY IT.

THEIR VASTLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS--DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM--MADE IT INEVITABLE THAT THE FORMER WORLD WAR II ALLIES WOULD BECOME ENEMIES.

THAT RUPTURE OCCURRED IN 1947 WITH THE COLD WAR, A WORLDWIDE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE THAT MANY FEARED WOULD ERUPT INTO WORLD WAR III.

THIS WAS ALSO THE DAWN OF THE ATOMIC AGE.

TO DETER THE RUSSIANS, AMERICA'S MILITARY WAS CONDUCTING ABOVE GROUND TESTS OF ATOMIC BOMBS, LIKE **OPERATION CROSSROADS** AT BIKINI ATOLL.

THESE BOMBS WERE THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THOSE DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.