

# SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



*Our data demonstrates beyond question not only that weird and erroneous concepts are widely formed, but also that these erroneous concepts are often precisely those that show up in the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps as a result of their popularization in the UFO literature, the phenomenon feeds on itself to a certain extent....the reporting processes are demonstrably such that very low signal-to-noise ratio is generated. That is, certain social forces conflict with clear, concise, and thorough presentation of UFO reports. Sarcasm is employed at the expense of logic. A whole body of literature exists by virtue of the sensational aspects of the problem.*

*Dr. William Hartmann "Process of perception, conception, and reporting"*

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Cover: A weather balloon launch during an astronomy day celebration. I tracked the balloon with a telescope for some time and, with the naked eye, it appeared to be just a white disc moving across the sky. In my review of the Blue Book files, balloons, both weather and research, are a major source of UFO reports.

Left: Spring usually means kite flying weather. I took this picture a few years ago of a potential triangular UFO that was just a kite. The string can be seen in the image if you look close. While kites do not often produce UFO reports, it is a possibility that has to be considered.

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# Spring is coming

With the weather getting ready to warm up, I look forward to thawing out my astronomical equipment and going outside on every clear night. It also means that more people will be out in the evening and report things they are not familiar with to the UFO community. It is too bad that the UFO organizations have yet to establish a system of cameras that can record the sky and verify these reports. I envision something like the ["Sky sentinel network"](#) as a blueprint. Imagine receiving a report and then being able to determine what the source was. Unfortunately, until such a system is developed, UFOlogists are going to be stuck with eyewitness reports that produce inconclusive results.

I continue to find UFOlogy's pursuits less than convincing and very boring. While the news about the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) appears to be something of interest, the more that is revealed, the less impressed I am about what the program even did. It continues to look like a way for a powerful senator to funnel money towards a person he had close ties with under the guise of studying UFOs. What was accomplished with that money was, apparently, nothing important.

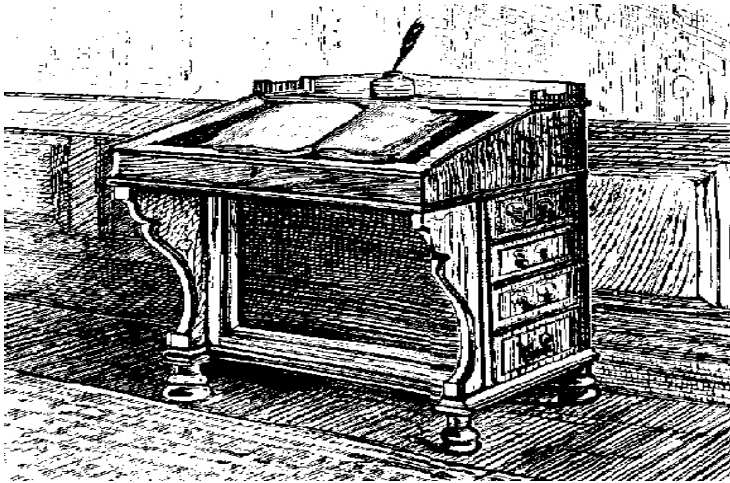
I just can't get that excited about any of the new cases that have been presented as of late. Most of the rather interesting ones are quickly evaluated by groups like Metabunk so they are old news by the time SUNlite comes out. This is why I have been spending time on the old Blue Book and NICAP data. One thing that has stood out on a majority of those "unknowns" is the lack of data/investigation. In that light, to consider listing a bunch of these types of cases as something significant is ignoring how little is contained in most of them. One thousand times nothing, is still nothing.

Beside the Blue Book and NICAP unknowns, I do feel challenged by looking at the old Blue Book case files. It takes a good portion of my free time just reading each of these case files to see if the assessment is correct or not. This issue, I was amazed by the amount of reports for the second half of 1956. There was almost a doubling in the number of UFO reports compared to early 1956. I have to wonder how much of that was influenced by the release of the film, "Unidentified Flying Objects: The True Story of Flying Saucers" in May of 1956. People, reading about that in the news, probably decided to go out, look up, and saw all sorts of objects in the sky they never noticed before. I was not surprised to see that Mars, which had a close opposition with Earth in the early fall, was a large source of these UFO reports (About 10% by my count). The biggest problem continued to be the lack of information in many of these reports, which makes it difficult to determine a source. When it comes to 1957, which had a large number of reports in October-November, I suspect that it will require three issues (SUNlite 11-3 through 11-5) to cover that time period.

As usual, MUFON and the "To the stars academy" (TTSA) continue to make UFOlogical news. MUFON's news involved the usual disension regarding their leadership. The TTSA is related to some of the commentary in that they acquired an alleged alien implant from MUFON. It is a bit confusing and we will have to wait until the dust settles on this dust up. I predict that MUFON will continue to do things their own way and fail to live up to the standards they proclaim they have. Meanwhile, the TTSA will continue to hype just about anything they think is mysterious to them but not so mysterious to others. The end result will be that UFOlogy will be in the same spot they have been since the 1950s. I call that stagnation and not progress.

# Who's blogging UFOs?

## Hot topics and varied opinions



**David Clarke discussed the recent Rendlesham explanation involving some SAS units.** There is nothing wrong with the "Ridpath explanation" and there is no need to involve an SAS team with some sort of pyrotechnics to explain the event. Apparently, the source tried to pawn this idea off on Clarke, who had dismissed it. Now that the source has gone elsewhere for his publicity, Clarke decided to comment about it. Clarke reported that he had talked to some SAS veterans and, based on these conversations, concluded that this "explanation" had no basis in fact.

**Recent postings by UFO proponents and Tom DeLonge indicate that US Submarines are tracking and "cornering" underwater UFOs.** I have heard these stories in the past and have been extremely skeptical of those claims based on my twenty years aboard various subs. Sure, I was just an operator/supervisor for the nuclear propulsion plant but you don't keep secrets of this kind from making the rounds on the sub.

We used to have a team called the tracking party, which assembled in the control room, when a target of interest was being followed by the submarine. Because it was an all hands evolution, two of our less necessary engineering watch standers were sent to the control room to help with collecting the data. If something exotic had happened, it could not have been a secret on board because too many individuals would have been involved. I was also friends with many Sonar Chiefs/operators. Sitting in the chief's quarters, a lot of sea stories were told and we were usually aware of the latest interesting targets that were being tracked. While I heard of many classified events involving other navies, I never recall hearing a single story involving some sort of unexplainable contact. **Somebody else felt there was a need to check up with the sub community and verify some of these claims about exotic contacts that defied explanation.** The various veterans interviewed confirmed my assessment of these stories. Some of them are probably exaggerations of ordinary events or typical UFO stories that were created out of thin air.

**Apparently, Harry Reid has become quite the UFO buff. He now thinks that congress should look into the matter and pilots should have some place to report their experiences with UFOs.** They already do have such organizations. They are called NARCAP, MUFON, and NUFORC. If there is any potential for collision with an object (like a drone or other aircraft), the FAA has channels that allow pilots to report these events. If the UFO is a military threat, then the military has the ability to determine how serious that threat was and what to do about it. It is important to note that I am unaware of any case that can be conclusively shown that UFOs were a collision threat to any aircraft or a true military threat. If they are intelligently controlled craft, they have been much better at avoiding collisions than our own aircraft and seem to have little interest in threatening military targets. That tends to indicate that UFOs are not really much of a threat.

**John Greenewald has made some progress on his FOIAs regarding the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP).** For some time it was thought the second "A" stood for aviation but he confirms that it really was aerospace. More importantly, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) told him there was never any "study" done by the AATIP and it seems that previously identified papers provided by Bigelow Aerospace were the bulk of the AATIP's research. Contrary to the reports by the TTSA, it seems that the AATIP really was not even a UFO program. Based on what I read from Greenewald, it was designed to see what potential aviation threats there were that could appear in the next 40 years. The primary reason for the AATIP seems to be that the DIA was worried about future human technologies that might be developed by somebody other than the United States. The DIA also informed Mr. Greenewald that about two years after it had started, the DIA determined that the AATIP was going to be canceled. Apparently, they saw no progress and determined it was a waste of time and money.

**Jason Colavito and Robert Sheaffer commented about the recent Project Blue Book program on the history channel.** I did not bother to watch much of it. What I saw was not that impressive but I never expected a historically accurate program. Unfortunately, the uninformed viewer might think it is a documentary of some kind. Hopefully, viewers will look beyond the show and try to learn more about the subject.

**Not to be outdone, Leslie Kean and Ralph Blumenthal jumped in and wrote their own opinion about the program.** Recall that Kean and Blumenthal have written many UFO pieces before. However, their research skills were lacking when they promoted some bug videos as being the video that skeptics were dreading. They also promoted a video of an airplane contrail as some sort of mysterious unexplained object. In both cases, when skeptics pointed out the problem with these videos, Kean went into denial about the explanations until UFO proponents told her they were acceptable. Call me biased but Kean and Blumenthal just parrot what various UFO groups tell them. The article is nothing more than these two pontificating and rehashing the standard UFOlogical talking points about Blue Book (including a lack of understanding about the echo flight shutdown). If people really want to know

what went on at Blue Book, I suggest they read the actual case files in addition to reading the writings of Ruppelt, Hynek, Quintanilla, and Condon to best understand everything that transpired during Blue Book.

**[Kean attempted to check up on some of the more bizarre stories that were going to appear on the show.](#)** Kean asked Marc O'Connell if Hynek ever saw an alien body floating in a tank, crashed a plane attempting to duplicating a UFO dogfight, or watch a UFO witness attempt to immolate themselves. Apparently, these ideas were going to be in the show. Needless to say, O'Connell told Kean that all of this was nonsense. I am shocked that Kean had to ask these kinds of questions when Hynek probably would have written about these things if they actually happened.

**[Keith Basterfield posted an interesting article, which documents that, in 1955, Douglas Aircraft showed an interest in UFOs.](#)** I was aware of the Baker evaluation of the Marianna film and his work appears in several documents. I first read about his evaluation in "UFOs: a scientific debate". It is an interesting study by Baker but it does not quite reach the point that falsifies the aircraft explanation for that film.

**[Mr. Basterfield also managed to obtain some slides from the original briefing about the AATIP.](#)** They were interesting and [Robert Sheaffer](#) noted that a lot of pseudoscience was part of the program, where, "extraordinary claims are not challenged and proof is not required". No wonder the DOD had little interest in the program.

**[Jan Harzan went on television to celebrate MUFON's 50th anniversary.](#)** One of the cases he presented was a photograph from 2014, which the MUFON scientific review board considered one of the best cases of the year. Despite the scientific review board's endorsement, [independent investigators determined the object was probably a spot on the windshield of the car!](#) I mentioned this case in SUNlite 10-1's "Who's Blogging UFOs". It seems that one of MUFON's best cases of 2014 is nothing more than a crude hoax that MUFON's scientific review board either could not properly evaluate, or chose to ignore, the evidence in favor of the witness testimony. One would think they would have learned their lesson on this long ago.

**[Speaking of MUFON, Jack Brewer commented about a recent missive written by Phil Leech.](#)** Leech claimed to be the Director of the case review team at MUFON. The point of his critique was that, as usual, MUFON has internal problems. Different individuals have different views of how to conduct the business of dealing with UFOs "scientifically". The major item in Leech's story was that an implant obtained by MUFON from a witness was sent to the "To The Stars Academy" (TTSA). Now it is in the hands of individuals with questionable motives. Stay tuned as the world of UFOs continues to get crazier by the day.

**[An old UFO case was making the rounds.](#)** This involved a video shot from an observatory on the top of Haleakala on the island of Maui in December of 1993. [Dr. Bruce Macabee wrote an extensive report after seeing the video for a Nightline program in 1996.](#) His conclusions were it was probably an airplane. This is where the case resided until the TTSA's Chris Mellon resurrected the video as evidence of something strange because, when the lights passed in front of a bright star, the star did not disappear. [The video is available on-line and people began to analyze it.](#) Metabunk's Mick West feels it was an airplane and that the night camera's technology produced the illusion that the star was not obscured by the object. [He presented a video explaining this.](#) I found his explanation compelling but there are some questions I have regarding the details of the video. Dr. Macabee states the time was at 17:22 local time but the video shows many stars visible. The sun did not set for another twenty minutes so, if this video was recording in the optical wavelength, then the stars should not be visible. I don't even think the technology exists to see faint stars in daytime. That makes me think the time listed may have been local, and not Universal, time. It would also explain why Dr. Macabee could not locate a flight that would have been recorded. Additionally, I am not sure why there was no positioning data available. One would think the azimuth/elevation or Right Ascension/Declination the telescope was pointed at would also have been recorded.

**[John Greenwald has formed his own UFO report investigative team.](#)** From what I have read so far, his investigators seem to take great effort in looking at each case carefully. I am impressed and it seems to be a significant improvement over some of the MUFON investigations I have seen published. Let's hope for continued good work.

**[Robert Hastings is now fishing for USAF missile veterans, who claim to have been abducted.](#)** When you make a call for such testimony, it should be no surprise that some individuals will come forward. He mentions hypnosis as an investigative tool. The history of abduction investigations has shown that this path is full of dangers and can produce a lot of false testimony. Will the next step in Hastings research involve veterans who saw other things paranormal? Maybe the title of his next book be "UFOs, nukes, aliens, haunted missile silos and big foot".



## April 4, 1958 - Santa Monica, California

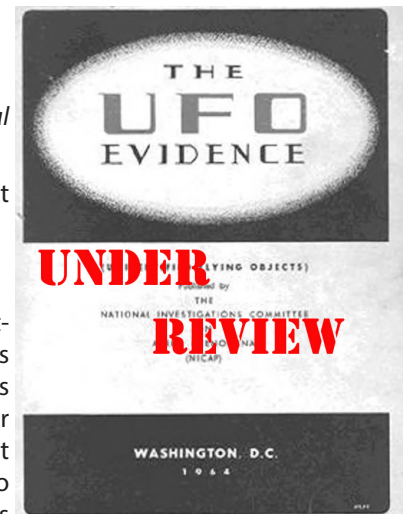
The case is listed in the chronology as:

*April 4, 1958--Santa Monica, Calif. Cigar-shaped UFO with "windows" observed in rapid vertical climb. [XII]*<sup>1</sup>

Section XII gives us a table but really does not provide us much more information other than it was observed at 7:15 PM and it "shot straight up".<sup>2</sup>

### Other sources

There is no case file in the Blue Book system for this sighting. There are also no other sightings in the area in the Blue Book system that verifies something was in the area. Loren Gross wrote about the case in his "UFOs: A History 1958 March—April".<sup>3</sup> The origin of the entry comes from a very short news clipping involving a 9-year old, who saw, through his telescope, a cigar shaped UFO with windows hovering near his house. The object then "shot straight up and out of sight". The boy also commented that he was "not drunk". The time listed was 7:15 but no PM or AM was given. Considering the fact, the boy was outside using his telescope, and it was a Friday during the school year, it can be assumed it was probably an evening event.



**BOY, 9, TELLS OF SEEING 4/5/58  
ZOOMING 'CIGAR SHIP' (L.A.,  
MIRROR NEWS)**

Maybe it's the weather but a young Santa Monica astronomer insists that last night he spotted a "cigar-shaped" craft with windows, hovering near his home. Bobby Young, 9, of 2520 Pearl St., said he first noticed the object at 7:15, and that when he zeroed in with his telescope, the object shot straight up and out of sight.

"And I wasn't drunk, either," added Bobby.

### Analysis

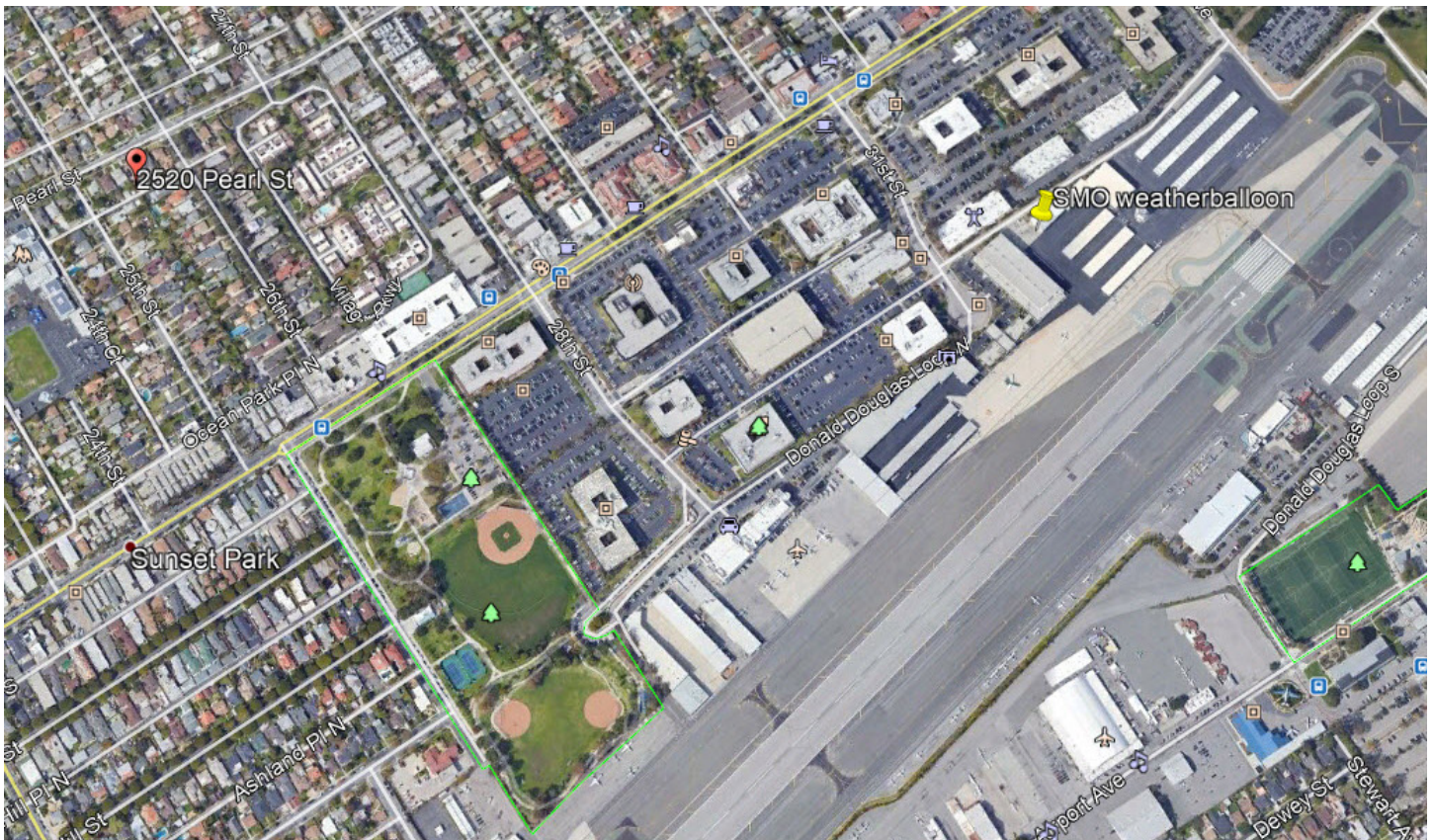
The newspaper report is disturbing in that a 9-year old had to point out that he was not drinking. One also has to wonder about how accurate a report from a 9-year old could be. How much of his observation was influenced by flying saucer movies and stories?

Putting that all aside, we have to wonder what direction he was looking and what the elevation angle was. That data is missing. In 2019, the houses in this area are tightly packed with little in the way of open yard space. Even 1952 aerial photographs show the same design.<sup>4</sup> The most open viewing areas are on the Northwest and Southeastern sides of the house. While this does not mean that was the direction the witness was looking, it is least obstructed. There were no significant astronomical objects in these directions. However, the moon and Jupiter were rising in the ESE.

Weather observations for nearby Los Angeles International airport for that date was clear at 7:15 PM but partly cloudy at 7:15 AM, which tends to confirm the sighting was PM and not AM.<sup>5</sup> Surface winds were from the West and Northwest. Radiosonde data for the SMO (Santa Monica airport) station indicated winds at 0000Z were from the Northwest above 1000meters and the West below that height. At 1200Z, the winds were from Northeast below 2000 meters but switched to from the Northwest and West-Northwest above that level.<sup>6</sup>

The astronomical conditions at 7:15 PM PST was that nautical twilight had just ended. The sky was getting dark and anything that was visible was either very high reflecting the setting sun or lit by its own lighting.

The rest of the story can't be really evaluated because we don't have any other details. However, we can examine possibilities. The



description does not match an astronomical object but it does tend to match things like a balloon or aircraft. If the witness were looking towards the Santa Monica airport, which was 1/2 mile to the east, a balloon launched from there would have appeared to have drifted away from the observer as it rose. This would make it appear to hover/stand still. If the balloon burst, or had a change in wind direction, the balloon would have appeared as if it "shot straight up".

It is also possible that it was a high altitude aircraft that caught the setting sun or lit by its own lighting. When the lighting changed or it was no longer sunlit, the plane would "disappear".

### Conclusion

At best this is a case of "insufficient information". However, with more information, I suspect this case could be explained. Based on what information we do have, it seems possible that what was seen was a balloon or aircraft. A 9-year old's telescope could not have been something of premium optical quality and one has to wonder if the boy's imagination took a blurry object seen in low light and turned it into a cigar with windows. I also have to wonder how this can be considered "best evidence" if it came from a very young individual, who was never interviewed by anybody but a newspaper reporter wanting a flying saucer story to sensationalize. At this point, I would consider it possibly a balloon/aircraft and it really cannot be considered "evidence" of anything significant.

### Notes and references

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2. *ibid*. P. 147.
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4. Hl historic Aerials. Available WWW: <http://historicaerials.com/>
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## THE 701 CLUB: CASE 9345 APRIL 4, 1965 KEESLER AFB MISSISSIPPI

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

*April 4, 1965; Keesler AFB, Mississippi. 4:05 a.m. Witnesses: USAF A/2c Corum, a weather observer; confirmation by college student R. Pittman not clear from available data. One 40' black, oval object with four lights along the bottom, flew in and out of the clouds for 15 seconds.<sup>1</sup>*

Sparks' entry repeats what Berliner wrote. He mentions possible radar contact in his table<sup>2</sup> but I could not find any mention of radar.

### The Blue Book file

Surprisingly, the case file has more than a simple message. The summary mentions that the witness originally only saw four lights. It was only when the object came close to him did he notice a dark object behind the lights. The object went from Southwest to Northeast. There was no sound or trail. There was a cloud layer at 1200 feet and the object was below this. In the original transmitted message, it states, "In & out of bases of clouds at 1200 feet"<sup>3</sup>

The "confirmation" is also included in the file but there seems to be problems with this. The time listed is two hours before the sighting (0805Z vs 1005Z) and it was in the area of Wiggins, Mississippi about 30 miles to the North-Northwest. This was visible for five minutes and traveled towards the South-Southeast.<sup>4</sup>

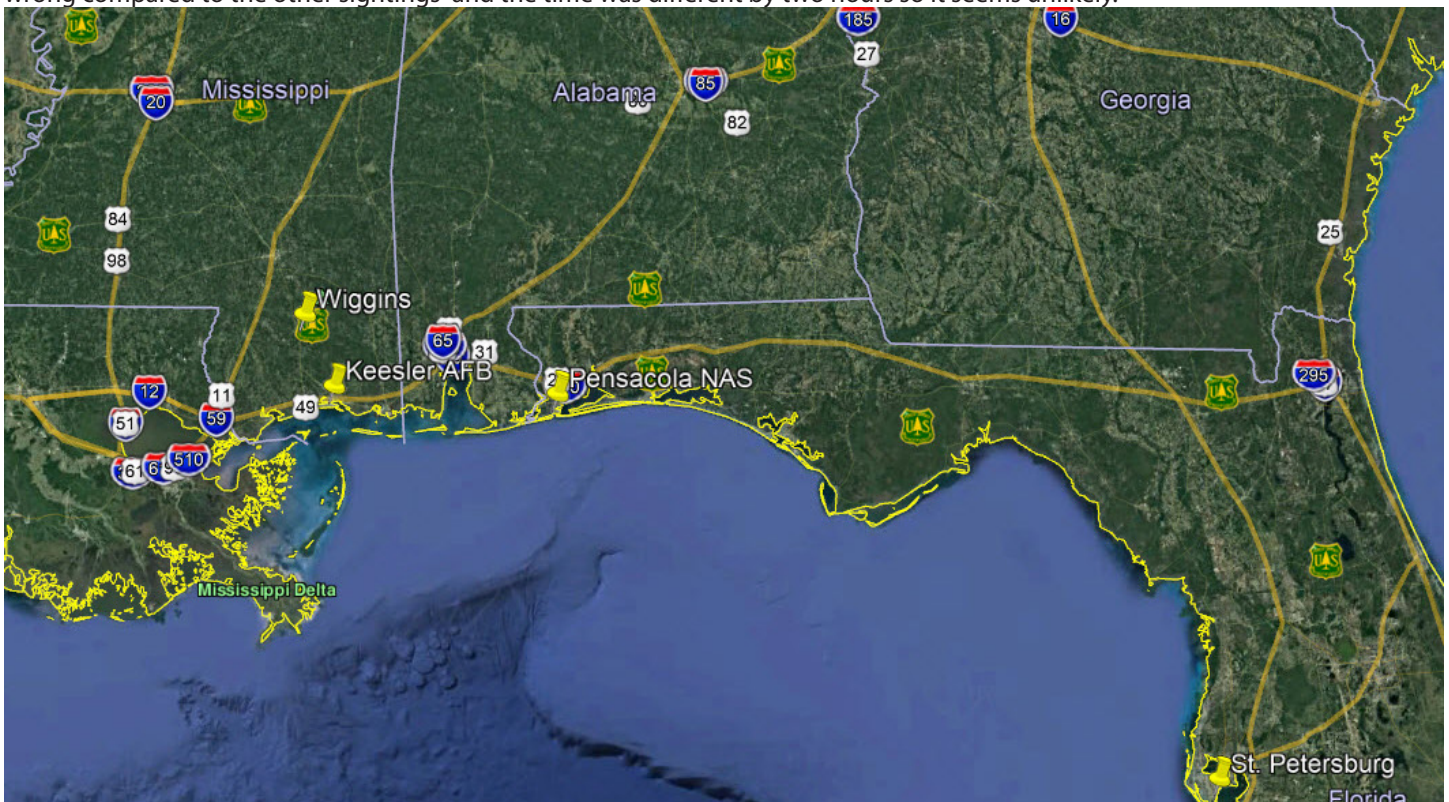
There was also a sighting mentioned about 0930Z in Pensacola (about 100 miles to the east) by two air cadets. They reported seeing a ball of flame from which two objects emerged.<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Hynek became involved and interviewed the witness. The witness mentioned the object disappeared into the clouds. Apparently, Dr. Hynek ran a time study and determined the duration of observation was 17 seconds.<sup>6</sup> However, the witness in the interview stated it only lasted 5-10 seconds. The witness also mentioned that the clouds at 1200 feet were probably the only layer because he could also see stars "sometimes".

There were several case files from the night. They were the Keesler sighting, the Wiggins sighting, and a sighting from St. Petersburg, Florida.<sup>7</sup> The St Petersburg sighting was at 0800Z. It lasted 15 seconds and Blue Book listed this as a rocket body decay. The direction from Northwest to Southeast. Ted Molczan's database indicates there was a decay on that date but it was 15 hours later at 2324Z.<sup>8</sup>

### Analysis

There is a lot of interesting coincidences here. First of all the 0800Z sighting at Wiggins and St. Petersburg were probably related since they were at approximately the same time and the same direction. However, there was no re-entry and it seems this was nothing more than a fragmenting meteor. One has to wonder if these sightings were related to the Keesler event. The direction was wrong compared to the other sightings and the time was different by two hours so it seems unlikely.



This brings up the other sighting that night mentioned in the message traffic thirty-five minutes prior to the sighting. The Keesler sighting mentioned the time was approximately 0405 CST. The Pensacola sighting time could also have been inaccurate. Looking at the American Meteor Society's database of fireballs, variations in time can be as much as an hour or more. Therefore, this is not an unrealistic assumption. If these two sightings were of the same object, then it was much higher than 1200 feet since it could be seen from two locations so far apart.

Weather underground states the weather observations that morning varied from cloudy to partly cloudy. The observation at 0400 was partly cloudy.<sup>9</sup> Pensacola had no observation for 4AM but the 3AM observation was partly cloudy.<sup>10</sup> This tends to confirm what the witness stated in that it was not completely overcast and some stars were visible.

The possibility that a bright meteor could have been misinterpreted as a dark object with lights needs to be considered. The Zond IV event, as well as others, demonstrate that witnesses can, and do, perceive a group of individual lights as being connected to a larger object.

## Conclusion

In my opinion, it is plausible that this was an observation of a bright fireball visible passing between and visible through thin clouds. The witness admitted, and weather records support, the fact the sky was not completely overcast. The fact that bright meteors can be visible under such conditions is documented.<sup>11,12</sup> As a result, this sighting should be reclassified as a "possible meteor".

### Notes and references

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12. "Big meteor through clouds". Youtube. August 16, 2016. Available WWW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hasimPwQ9bs>



## Project Blue Book case review: July-December 1956

This is the eighth edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering the second half of 1956. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate.

### July 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Cairo, Egypt	Birds	(Photographs) Agreed
1	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration given. If duration was short, it probably was a meteor
1	Crescent City, FL	Insufficient data	No report in file but, based on record card description, this was probably some sort of fireworks display.
2	NAS North Island, CA	Balloon	Agreed
2	Winchester, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Kingston, WA	Star	Mars
3	Jackson, MS	Meteor	Agreed
5	Alaska	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Fairbanks, AK	Balloon	Daylight sighting of Venus
5	Stanton, NE	Balloon	Possibly Saturn
6	Euclid, OH	Balloon	Agreed
6	Big Rock Candy Mt, UT	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Arenda, Columbia	Artillery Shell	Agreed
7	Bountiful, UT	Balloon	Agreed
8	Cincinnati, OH	Stars/planets	Probably Mars
8-13	Saugerties, NY	Ground light	Agreed
11	Willmington, DE	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Custer AFS, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed
12	Amarillo, TX	Balloon	Agreed
12	Monrovia, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Greenwood Lake, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reluctant to be interviewed.
16	Puyallup, WA	Balloon	Agreed
16	Oklahoma City, OK	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Homerville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Possibly Mars.
16	Long Beach, CA	Mars	Agreed
16, 19, 30	Van Nuys, CA	Hoax	Agreed
17	Windham Center, CT	Imagination	Agreed. Confusing report made by 16-year old.
17	Mastic Long Island, NY	Flares	Agreed
17	Westover AFB, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed
17	Otis AFB, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Possible astronomical but documents are too faded to be read.
18	Arkansas city, KS	Balloon	Mars.
18	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Seattle, WA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Medway, ME	Meteors	Agreed

19	San Bernardino, CA	Hoax	Agreed
20	Terre Haute, IN	Balloon	Agreed
20-22	Guatemala	Meteor	Agreed
21	Auburn, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Challenge, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Probably a star/planet but no positional data
22	400 mi W of Monterey, CA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Lake Port, CA	Meteor	Agreed
22	Seattle, WA	Balloon	Agreed
23	Hollywood, CA	Meteor	Agreed
23	Alpena, MI	Balloon	Agreed
23	England, AR	Spica	Saturn. Spica not to south but Saturn was.
23	Pensacola, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
23	San Antonio, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Pretoria, South Africa	Hoax	Agreed
26	Bernalillo, NM	Venus	Agreed
26	Atlantic	Meteor	Agreed
26	Macon, GA	Meteor	Agreed
27	Mechanicsburg, OH	Balloon	Agreed
27	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
27	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Chilton, WI and Cadillac, MI	Venus	Agreed
28	Ocala, FL	Balloon	Agreed
28	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Probably Mars rising.
28	Meriden, CT	Insufficient data	Agreed. Description limited to seeing a cigar shaped object that faded after 13 minutes.
28	Commerce, MI	Balloon	Agreed
29	Vancouver, BC and Bellingham, WA	Balloon	Agreed
30	Presque Isle, ME	Venus	Agreed
30	Utica, NY	Balloon	Agreed
30	Annapolis, MD	Mars	Agreed
30	Jacksonville, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Minimal information on record card. Copies in file faded and difficult to read.
30	Rialto, CA	Ground light	Agreed
31	Temple, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
31	St. Augustine, FL	Balloon	Daylight sighting of Venus (262 az 50 deg elevation)
31	Smyrna, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Carrolton, OH	Hoax	Agreed. Report highly exaggerated.
31	Amarillo, TX	Artillery firing	This case appears to be the same one as 2 August. Witness made report in January of 1957. This sighting was evaluated as possible artillery firing because Fort Sill (200miles away) stated they were firing 105mm illumination rounds on the evening of the 31st and the witness was looking towards Fort Sill. Since witness reported this sighting five months later, it makes it unreliable. Unreliable report.



## August 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Mid	Potma, USSR	Lenticular cloud	Insufficient information. Came from prisoners, who told the story almost a year later. It could have been a cloud or it might have been parahelia. There is not enough information to draw any conclusions about this report.
1	Shalimar, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Crescent City, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed
2	Amarillo, TX	Hoax	This case appears to be the same one as 31 July. Witness made report in January of 1957. Th 31 July sighting was evaluated as possible artillery firing because Fort Sill (200miles away) stated they were firing 105mm illumination rounds on the evening of the 31st and the witness was looking towards Fort Sill. Since witness reported this sighting five months later, it makes it unreliable. Unreliable report.
2	Cartersville, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
2	Van Dyke, MI	Mars	Agreed
2	Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Arcturus
3	Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Lafayette, IN	Stars/planets	Probably Altair
4	Norfolk, VA	Meteor	Agreed
4	South Portland, ME	Balloon	Possibly Venus
4	Dallas, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Delamero, ND	Balloon	Agreed
4	Beaverton, OH	Vega	Agreed
4	Keystone Heights, FL	Meteor	Agreed
4	Wall Lake, MI	Aircraft	Arcturus
5	Oklahoma City, OK	Balloon	Agreed
5	One mi E of Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
5	Santa Monica, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Fallon Navy Station, NV	Aircraft	Agreed. Object visible because it passed near the sun and reflected the sun. Once it moved away from sun, it no longer reflected sun and disappeared.
6	Morton Grove, IL	Balloon	Mars
6	La Jolla, CA	Insufficient data	Aircraft seen at sunset
7	Booneville, MO	Meteor	Aircraft
7	Cationsville, MD	Meteor	Agreed
7	Grand Rapids, Detroit, MI	Mars	Mars/Antares/Arcturus (multiple reports from different locations at different times of different objects)
7	Gower, MO	Balloon	Agreed
8	Eaton, OH	Insufficient data	Mars
8	Northville, MI	Venus	Agreed
8	Columbus, OH	Mars	Agreed
8	Kingsville, Canada	Mars/Star	Mars/Antares
8	Terrytown, NY	Mars	Agreed
8	Hosparus, CO	Balloon	Possibly Mars
8	20 South of Quartsite, AZ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
8-10	Cunningham, TN	Meteor/Mars	Agreed

9	Liberty, IN	Meteor	Agreed
9	Patterson AFB, OH	Balloon	Agreed
9	Woborn, MA	Star	Capella
9	Lancaster, TX	Mars	Agreed
9	South Portland, ME	Mars	Agreed
9-12	Camden, AL/Panama City, FL	Star	Agreed. Exact source impossible to identify due to probable error in time (listed as 0012Z but message states it was dawn) and lack of azimuth for object.
10	Washington, DC	Mars	Agreed
10	Creston, IA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Bakersfield, CA	Mars	Agreed
10	San Ramon, CA	Mars	Agreed
10-11	Dallas, TX	1. Aircraft 2. Mars	Agreed
11	Meredith, NH	Stars	Possible moon set. Object low at 240 deg azimuth. Moon setting at 247 deg azimuth.
11	Terre Haute, IN	Mars	Agreed
11	Pueblo, CO	Meteor	Agreed
12	Brockton, MA	Mars	Agreed
12	East Danville, IL	Insufficient data	Mars
12	Manchester, NH	Stars/planets	Agreed. Insufficient information to identify actual object.
12	Denver, CO	Balloon	Agreed
13	Stauton, VA	Balloon	Agreed
13	Hermansville, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data
13	Beatrice, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Possible star.
13-14	Bentwaters, Lakenheath, England	1. Anomalous Propagation 2. Mars	Agreed. This case has been addressed by quite a few people over the years. BB is correct that anomalous propagation was involved as well as sightings of astronomical objects (possibly Mars) and a weather balloon. See David Clarke's summary at <a href="https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/secret-files/lakenheath-bentwaters-ufo/">https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/secret-files/lakenheath-bentwaters-ufo/</a>
14	Colorado Springs, CO	Venus	Agreed
14	Annapolis, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Boston, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Fitchburg, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Richmond, VA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Possible star.
14	Painesville, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Conflicting data. Object visible for over an hour but witness stated it moved faster than a jet.
14	Harvey, IL	Mars	Agreed
14	Kelly AFB, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
15	Shafter, CA	Balloon	Agreed
15	Colonial Hill, PA	Birds	Agreed
15	Columbus, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed
15	Atlantic, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Chicago, IL	Mars	Agreed
15	Yellow Springs, OH	Mars	Agreed
15	Bitter Creek, WY	Insufficient data	Agreed
16	Wheaton City, MD	Aircraft	Agreed



16	New Rochelle, NY	Balloon	Agreed
16	Azores	Stars/Planets	MSG states Eastern flight going from Hudson Valley Airport to La Guardia. Longitude/Latitude given is probably wrong giving the indication it was in the Atlantic. Possible Balloon.
16	Gilmiag NH	Mars	Agreed
16	Lindsay, CA	Stars	Agreed. No positional data to identify which star.
17	Spragueville, ME	Equip Malfunction	Agreed
17	Longview, WA	Stars/Planets	Mars
18	Colorado Springs, CO	Venus	Agreed
18	Pittsburgh, PA	Stars/Planets	Agreed. No positional data to identify which star/planet.
18	Tacoma, WA	Deneb	Vega
19	Kuopio, Finland	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only information is news report, which lacked information.
19	Donora, PA	Mars	Agreed
20	New Boston, NH	Mars	Agreed
20	North Bend, OR	Balloon	Agreed
21	Denver, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Hamilton, CA	Balloon	Agreed
21	Fontana, CA	Aircraft	Mars
22	Fountain, CO	Venus	Agreed
22	Atlanta, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Newburgh, NY	Lens/Reflection	Agreed
22	Bornholm, Denmark	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
22	Dayton, OH	Photo Plane	Agreed
22	Fontana and La Jolla, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Dallas, TX	Meteor	Agreed
24	Canton, OH	Venus	Agreed
24	Westerville, OH	Mars	Agreed
25	New Britton, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed
25	South Salem, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Farmington, NH	Insufficient data	Saturn
25	Bloom, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration missing
25-6	Tangier, Morocco	Insufficient data	Agreed. Brief report with no specifics.
26	West Haven, CT	Capella	Agreed
26	Cheyenne, WY	Meteor	Agreed. Sighting was about twenty minutes before sunset and brief duration of event suggests a potential meteor that was brighter than -4.
26	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
26	Hyattsville, MD	Mars	Agreed
27	Kent, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Detroit, MI	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data, course, or duration.
27	Junista, PA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
28	Buffalo, NY	Mars	Agreed
28	Adona, AR	Venus	Agreed
28-30	Colorado	Mars	Agreed

29	Montgomery, AL	Mars	Agreed
29	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
29	Marshalltown, IA	Mars	Capella
29-31	Fresno, CA	Imagination	Agreed. Witness reported multiple sightings over three day period. Based on the reports, the witness probably did see something but he exaggerated the details.
30	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
30	Omaha, NE	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Probably Mars by description.
31	Worthington, OH	Spotlight	Agreed

### September 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Creston, IA	Balloon	Possible daylight sighting of crescent moon or Venus
1	Denver, CO	Stars/planets	Arcturus
1	Pueblo, CO	Stars	Agreed
1-3	Peyton, CO	Stars/planets	Agreed
2	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
2	Suquamish, WA	Mars	Venus
2	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
2-30	Hastings, MI	Venus	Agreed
3	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
3	Bert, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Silver Springs, MD	Reflection	Agreed
3	Washington DC	Mars	Agreed
3	Henderson Harbor, NY	Balloon	Agreed
3	Kallispell, MT	Mars	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
4	Plymouth, NH	Mars	Agreed
4	Vandalia, OH	Mars	Agreed
4	Parma Heights, OH	Mars	Arcturus
4	Dallas, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Flint, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
5	Concord, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Data confusing. Objects moving fast but visible one hour.
5	Camp Drum, NY	Mars	Agreed
5	Olympia, WA	Balloon	Agreed
6	Pasadena, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Coos Bay - Portland, OR	Photo flaw	Agreed
6	Dorchester, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Odebolt, IA	Arcturus	Agreed
7	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Pasadena, CA	Venus	Agreed
9	Big Bethel, VA	Moon	Agreed
10	Waldoboro, ME	Aircraft	Agreed



11	Los Angeles, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Rossville, GA	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Buffalo, NY	Stars/Planets	Agreed. No positional data. Probably Mars.
13	Naples, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing details such as duration.
13	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
13	Stockton, CA	Balloon	Agreed
14	Highland, NC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Vincennes, IN	Meteor	Agreed
15	Altus, OK	Meteor	Agreed
17	New Castle, DE	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
17	Bloomfield, Crane, Vincennes, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
17	Pueblo, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
19	East Rochester, NH	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Ashford, Kent, England	Insufficient data	Agreed. Possible stars but report insufficient to determine
20	Long Island, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Albany, NY	Balloon	Agreed
20	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible Meteor
20-21	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Ellwood, PA	Balloon	Agreed
22	St. Petersburg, FL	Insufficient data	Mars
22	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
23	Freeport, MI	Insufficient data	Daylight sighting of Venus
24	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
24	Ft. Collins, CO	Star	Arcturus
24	Pueblo, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Cincinnati, OH	Rayon Residue	Agreed
25	Cumberland, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
26	Taft, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Hanover, KS	Insufficient data	Agreed
26	Brooks AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
26	Craig, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
27	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
27	Hancock, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Hamilton, OH	Capella	Agreed
28	Oklahoma City, OK	Balloon	Agreed
29	West Palm Beach, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Three different sightings but not enough data about each to draw a conclusion. It is possible these were birds.
29	NE Prescott, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
30	Whitewater, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data and course.
30	Dallas, PA	Mars	Arcturus

### October 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Oct	Newington, CT	Insufficient data	Agreed. Two-year old photographs.

1	20 mi W of Punk City, TX	Meteor	Agreed
1	10 mi W of Care Islands, NF	Meteor	Agreed
1	New York, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Brooklyn, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Colorado Springs, CO	Capella	Agreed
1	Pueblo, CO	Meteor	Agreed
3	Odebolt, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Lamesa, TX	Aircraft	Summary states aircraft but record card lists as Insufficient data. This was a sighting from an aircraft where the object was visible one second. Very little information can be obtained from such a brief daylight sighting. Insufficient data.
4	Denver, CO	Meteor	Agreed
5	Bridgeboro, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible bird
5	China Lake, CA	Meteor	Agreed
6	Wethersfield Essex, England	Meteor	Agreed
6-7	Wethersfield Essex, England	Insufficient data	Agreed
7	Brannid Field, CT	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Norwalk, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
7	Castel AFB, Merced, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
8	Portland, AR	Hoax	Insufficient data in report. Time listed was 233206Z making it impossible to determine any potential source.
11	Green Bay, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Santee, CA	Balloon	Agreed
11	Crane, IN	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. No positional data.
12	Fairview, NJ	Balloon	Agreed
13	Pottsville, PA	Mars	Insufficient data and confusing report. Message states time was 2000E (EST) but then declares sighting was during day. No positional data to verify if Mars is possible.
13	Newburgh, NY	Balloon	Agreed
14	Ft. Thomas, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Brief summary of sighting supplied by UFO group.
14	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. Brief summary of sighting supplied by UFO group.
14	Batavia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
14	Cincinnati, OH	Internal telescope reflection	Agreed. Photographs taken afocally through telescope of moon. UFO image looks like photograph taken with camera not aligned with eyepiece, which shows an overexposed moon.
15	Cunningham, TN	1. Balloon 2. Aircraft	Agreed
15	Fernley, NV	Balloon	Agreed
15	Colfax, IA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Listed as Aircraft on record card. No duration listed. Appears to be a star.
16	Plano, IL	Insufficient data	Arcturus
17	Tehachapi, CA	Balloon	Agreed
18	Wheelus AB, Lybia	Weather returns	Agreed
18	Ontario, Canada	Meteor	Agreed
19	Point Arguello, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Bostonia, CA	Hoax	Agreed
21	Goose AFB, Newfoundland	Meteor	Agreed

22	Beulah, MI	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
23	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
24	Jackson, MS	Insufficient data	Possible birds
24	Presque Isle, ME	Meteor	Agreed
25	Newburg, NY	Balloon	Capella
25	Pueblo, CO	Birds	Agreed
25	Lubbock, TX	Meteor	Agreed
26	Anita, IA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
27	Crane, IN	Mars	Agreed (also stars for other objects sighted)
28	Tehachapi, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
28	Englewood, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Panama City/Tyndall AFB, FL	Meteor	Agreed
31	Temple City, CA	Aircraft	Balloon
31	Hensley, AR	Meteor	Agreed

### November 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Nov	Uruguay	Insufficient data	Agreed
1	60 mi E of St.Louis, MO	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	San Luis Obispo, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Ventura, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing positional data, course, minimal description.
1	McKeesport, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Pasadena, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Cincinnati, OH	Meteor	Agreed
4	Wilmington, DE	Meteor	Agreed
4	Montreal-Prestwick, Canada	Rocket firing	USS Rushmore in area and was firing rockets in November but No rockets fired on date in question. Possible Meteor
4	Point Arena, CA	Balloon	Agreed
5	Columbus, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
5	Bueyrus, OH	Balloon	Agreed
5	Buffalo, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Objects listed as 15,000 foot in diameter. Probable typographic error. Positional data missing. Course given as NE but no start/stop or elevations.
5	Hollywood, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Englewood, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
6	Copake, NY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data or course.
7	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data/course.
8	Rapid City, SD	Meteor	Agreed
8	Green Bay, WI	Meteor	Agreed
8	Colfax, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
9	San Bernardino, CA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Glen Avon, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Positional data unclear.
9	Coronado Island, CA	Balloon	Agreed
9	Destin, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Linda Vista, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data.
10	WSW Terra Haute, IN	Aurora	Agreed



10	South Weymouth, MA	Venus	Agreed
11	Goose Bay-Frobisher Bay Labrador	Rocket Firing	USS Rushmore in area and was firing rockets in November but No rockets fired on date in question. Possible Meteor
11	Salineville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
11-12	El Toro MCAS, CA	Anomalous Propagation	Agreed
12	Rocky Ford, CO	Insufficient data	Capella and surrounding stars
13	Van Nuys, CA	Meteor	Agreed
13	Pound and Nakoosa, WI	Meteor	Agreed
14	Brainerd, MN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Object landing in field. No location given for site.
14	Delano, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Pittsburgh, PA	Venus/Jupiter	Rigel/Sirius
15	McChord AFB, WA	Meteor	Agreed
16	Newport, OR	Mars	Agreed
16	Fox River Grove, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Marimont, OH	Meteor	Agreed
17	Redfield, McLoughlan, SD	Balloon	Multiple sightings of objects in sky at different times. Evening sightings appear to be Vega. After midnight sightings appear to be Mars.
17	East Gary, IN	Insufficient data	Two balloons launched from Minnesota on the 17th. Possible sighting of one of these balloons.
17	Racine, WI	Meteor	Agreed
18	Xenia, OH	Balloon	Agreed
19	Cape May, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
21	Muehlheim, GE	Insufficient data	Balloon
24	Aberdeen, MD	Insufficient data	Agreed (possible aircraft or meteor-not enough data to tell which)
25	West Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Venus and Jupiter
25	Lexington, KY	Insufficient data	Agreed (probably astronomical but no positional data)
25	Tupelo, MS	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Oklahoma City, OK	Meteor	Agreed
26-7	Kadoka and Clear Lake, SD	Mars	Betelgeuse (Kadoka)/Mars (Clear Lake)
27	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Meteor
28	Washington DC	Insufficient data	Star (Capella, Procyon, or Sirius) seen through window with plastic coating.
30	Charleston AFB, SC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED

### December 1956

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Winter	Philadelphia, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in 1965.
1	Valley City, ND	Insufficient data	Mars
2	Pittsburgh, PA	Searchlight	Agreed
2	Hugo, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
2	Belvidere, SD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
3	NAS Key West, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
4	Nevada	Meteor	Agreed
4	Ridgewood, NY	Chaff	Agreed

5	Amherst, MA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Glenwood, IA	Flare	Agreed
8	Medford, OR	Meteor	Agreed
8	Chandler AFS, MN	Meteor	Agreed
9	Woodstock, MN	Mars	Moon. Object described as "half-sphere". Moon was last quarter and setting in the west.
10	Santa Monica, CA	Meteor	Agreed
10	Victoria, TX	Aircraft	Agreed. Probable U2 sighting.
10	Washington DC	Balloon	Agreed
11	Miami, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Duration missing. No indication where object went.
12	Missoula, MT	Rock	Agreed
12	Cedar Falls, IA	Balloon	Agreed
13	Tampa, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Hamilton AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
16	Biloxi, MS	Balloon	Agreed
17	Itazuke AFB, Japan	1. Balloon 2. False target	Agreed
17	Newberryport, NH	Venus	Venus did not rise until 3 hours later. No positional data but object was probably star or planet. Probably Sirius or Jupiter.
18	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Delaware, NJ and NY area	Meteor	Agreed
18	Orlando, FL	Missile	Agreed. Launch of Jupiter missile from Cape Canaveral.
21	Mexico, ME	Hallucinations	Agreed
26	Defuniak Springs, FL	Aircraft	Rigel
28	Oxnard AFB, CA	Meteor	Agreed
29	Fairbanks, AK	Flare	Agreed
30	Gassoway, WV	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Guam	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
31	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Stars. Probably Capella.

### Reclassification

There were 404 cases in the Blue Book files from July through December of 1956, that I evaluated. In my opinion, of these 69 were improperly classified (about 17%). This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been reclassified. Some of the sightings really did not have enough information for evaluation and other cases that had been listed as "insufficient information" had potential explanations.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
7/1	Crescent City, FL	Insufficient data	No report in file but, based on record card description, this was probably some sort of fireworks display.
7/5	Fairbanks, AK	Balloon	Daylight sighting of Venus
7/5	Stanton, NE	Balloon	Possibly Saturn
7/18	Arkansas city, KS	Balloon	Mars
7/23	England, AR	Spica	Saturn. Spica not to south but Saturn was.
7/31	St. Augustine, FL	Balloon	Daylight sighting of Venus (262 az 50 deg elevation)

7/31	Amarillo, TX	Artillery firing	This case appears to be the same one as 2 August. Witness made report in January of 1957. This sighting was evaluated as possible artillery firing because Fort Sill (200miles away) stated they were firing 105mm illumination rounds on the evening of the 31st and the witness was looking towards Fort Sill. Since witness reported this sighting five months later, it makes it unreliable. Unreliable report.
Mid-August	Potma, USSR	Lenticular cloud	Insufficient information. Came from prisoners, who told the story almost a year later. It could have been a cloud or it might have been parahelia. There is not enough information to draw any conclusions about this report.
8/2	Amarillo, TX	Hoax	This case appears to be the same one as 31 July. Witness made report in January of 1957. The 31 July sighting was evaluated as possible artillery firing because Fort Sill (200miles away) stated they were firing 105mm illumination rounds on the evening of the 31st and the witness was looking towards Fort Sill. Since witness reported this sighting five months later, it makes it unreliable. Unreliable report.
8/2	Carrollton, OH	Insufficient data	Arcturus
8/4	South Portland, ME	Balloon	Possibly Venus
8/4	Wall Lake, MI	Aircraft	Arcturus
8/6	Morton Grove, IL	Balloon	Mars
8/6	La Jolla, CA	Insufficient data	Aircraft seen at sunset
8/7	Booneville, MO	Meteor	Aircraft
8/7	Grand Rapids, Detroit, MI	Mars	Mars/Antares/Arcturus (multiple reports from different locations at different times of different objects)
8/8	Eaton, OH	Insufficient data	Mars
8/8	Hosparus, CO	Balloon	Possibly Mars
8/11	Meredith, NH	Stars	Possible moon set. Object low at 240 deg azimuth. Moon setting at 247 deg azimuth.
8/12	East Danville, IL	Insufficient data	Mars
8/14	Kelly AFB, TX	Aircraft	Possible birds
8/16	Azores	Stars/Planets	MSG states Eastern flight going from Hudson Valley Airport to La Guardia. Longitude/Latitude given is probably wrong giving the indication it was in the Atlantic. Possible Balloon.
8/18	Tacoma, WA	Deneb	Vega
8/21	Fontana, CA	Aircraft	Mars
8/25	Farmington, NH	Insufficient data	Saturn
8/27	Detroit, MI	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data, course, or duration.
8/29	Marshalltown, IA	Mars	Capella
9/1	Creston, IA	Balloon	Possible daylight sighting of crescent moon or Venus
9/2	Suquamish, WA	Mars	Venus
9/17	New Castle, DE	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
9/20	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible Meteor
9/22	St. Petersburg, FL	Insufficient data	Mars
9/22	San Antonio, TX	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
9/23	Freeport, MI	Insufficient data	Daylight sighting of Venus
9/25	Cumberland, VA	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
9/26	Brooks AFB, TX	Insufficient data	Possible meteors
9/29	NE Prescott, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor



9/30	Dallas, PA	Mars	Arcturus
10/3	Lamesa, TX	Aircraft	Summary states aircraft but record card lists as Insufficient data. This was a sighting from an aircraft where the object was visible one second. Very little information can be obtained from such a brief daylight sighting. Insufficient data.
10/5	Bridgeboro, NJ	Insufficient data	Possible bird
10/7	Norwalk, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
10/7	Castel AFB, Merced, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
10/8	Portland, AR	Hoax	Insufficient data in report. Time listed was 233206Z making it impossible to determine any potential source.
10/11	Crane, IN	Unreliable report	Insufficient data. No positional data.
10/13	Pottsville, PA	Mars	Insufficient data and confusing report. Message states time was 2000E (EST) but then declares sighting was during day. No positional data to verify if Mars is possible.
10/22	Beulah, MI	Insufficient data	Possible Balloon
10/24	Jackson, MS	Insufficient data	Possible birds
10/25	Newburg, NY	Balloon	Capella
10/28	Tehachapi, CA	Insufficient data	Possible balloon
10/31	Temple City, CA	Aircraft	Balloon
11/4	Montreal-Prestwick, Canada	Rocket firing	USS Rushmore in area and was firing rockets in November but No rockets fired on date in question. Possible Meteor
11/6	Copake, NY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional data or course.
11/11	Goose Bay-Frobisher Bay Labrador	Rocket Firing	USS Rushmore in area and was firing rockets in November but No rockets fired on date in question. Possible Meteor
11/12	Rocky Ford, CO	Insufficient data	Capella and surrounding stars
11/15	Pittsburgh, PA	Venus/Jupiter	Rigel/Sirius
11/17	Redfield, McLoughlan, SD	Balloon	Multiple sightings of objects in sky at different times. Evening sightings appear to be Vega. After midnight sightings appear to be Mars.
11/17	East Gary, IN	Insufficient data	Two balloons launched from Minnesota on the 17th. Possible sighting of one of these balloons.
11/21	Muehlheim, GE	Insufficient data	Balloon
11/25	West Los Angeles, CA	Insufficient data	Venus and Jupiter
11/26-7	Kadoka and Clear Lake, SD	Mars	Betelgeuse (Kadoka)/Mars (Clear Lake)
11/27	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Meteor
11/28	Washington DC	Insufficient data	Star (Capella, Procyon, or Sirius) seen through window with plastic coating.
12/1	Valley City, ND	Insufficient data	Mars
12/2	Belvidere, SD	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12/3	NAS Key West, FL	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12/9	Woodstock, MN	Mars	Moon. Object described as "half-sphere". Moon was last quarter and setting in the west.
12/17	Newberryport, NH	Venus	Venus did not rise until 3 hours later. No positional data but object was probably star or planet. Probably Sirius or Jupiter.
12/26	Defuniak Springs, FL	Aircraft	Rigel
12/31	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Stars. Probably Capella.

### Summary

The 17% incorrect evaluation value was less than the 20% from the first half of 1956. Lack of information continues to be a big problem with these cases. Mars played a significant role in a lot of the sightings during the late summer. It reached opposition in

mid-September and it was as bright as magnitude -2.5 between mid-August and late September. Because of this, Blue Book tended to identify anything that was red, and in the evening sky, as Mars. In most cases, they were correct. However, a few of them were not (see the reclassification table). They also missed a few that were probably Mars. It depended on the local investigating officer. There were two cases of the moon being the probable source of the report. There were also four possible cases of Venus being seen in daylight. Finally, in early November, two reports were identified as missile sightings. This was due to a message stating that the USS Rushmore was in the North Atlantic firing missiles. However, these sightings were probably meteors instead. There are no records of missiles being fired on the dates in question. Missing in all of these astronomical explanations was Dr. Hynek, the programs scientific consultant. Either he was too busy to write/comment or Blue Book did not send him any reports.

#### References

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